

# Northeastern University

## *Student Affairs*

Dear Members of the Northeastern community,

A top priority for Northeastern, and for colleges and universities across the country, remains enhancing efforts to prevent incidents of sexual violence. From conducting proactive campus climate surveys to being the first higher education institution in Boston to execute a cooperation agreement with local law enforcement, Northeastern is a recognized leader in working to foster a safe and supportive campus community.

Earlier this year, we conducted our second annual university-wide campus climate survey. The survey gives us an opportunity to not only gauge students' perception of prohibited sexual conduct, but also determine areas where the university can improve its educational, support, and response programs.

We are sharing the results of this survey now, early in the academic year, to raise the community's awareness about the continued importance of our work in this area.

About 21 percent of undergraduate and graduate students responded to this voluntary and confidential survey. While that is a slight decrease from the first survey conducted last year, we remain encouraged by this response and are assured these results are a strong representation of the greater university community.

We continue to be heartened by the confidence and preparedness students show to help peers who are victims of sexual violence. In fact, more than 95 percent of respondents said they were likely or very likely to "assist a peer who is a victim of sexual assault." Ninety-seven percent said they were likely or very likely to "support and encourage a peer to report an incident of sexual assault." And some 93 percent of respondents said they would "intervene if they believed a peer might become a victim of sexual assault." These rates mirror last year's survey responses and demonstrate the effectiveness of the bystander training and other prevention initiatives recently implemented by the university.

For the first time this year, we directly asked students about incidents of sexual assault they experienced during their time at Northeastern. Transparency is paramount in openly addressing this vital issue. We encourage you to review the results of these questions.

While these incidence rates are lower than reported national averages from other (or different) campus climate surveys, they are nevertheless deeply concerning. When it comes to unwanted sexual contact, we must have a policy of zero tolerance. These responses serve as a call to all members of our community to redouble our efforts to prevent sexual violence at every turn.

Some efforts already in place have yielded greater familiarity among students in regards to on-campus support. Between the first and second survey, we saw a 10 percent increase among respondents who strongly agree the university offers beneficial resources, including increased knowledge about the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution, that housing arrangements and class schedules can be changed for victims of sexual violence, and that students generally feel safe on campus. But still, too many students are not aware of the various resources at their disposal so we must continue to get that information to them.

Using the feedback from the first survey, the university has made a large commitment to the enhancement of this work. We created new staff positions and established a resource center. We are committed to continuously reviewing our work and are engaged with students regarding the conduct process, including the use of the student conduct board by the Office for Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution.

Here are some of the steps we've taken in the last year as part of our continued work on this issue:

### **Office for Gender Equity and Compliance and Title IX coordinator**

This new office was created last year and included a national search for a new Title IX coordinator. That search yielded Mark Jannoni, who joined the university in January to serve in the newly created position of assistant vice president for Title IX initiatives and Title IX coordinator.

### **ViSION Resource Center**

The Violence Support, Intervention and Outreach Network (ViSION) has existed for the past five years as a way for students to access resources, support, and reporting options for sexual violence. Building upon its work, a space was designated to further these efforts. The ViSION Resource Center houses information about sexual violence resources and reporting options for students. It also serves as a central space for sexual violence prevention programming and dialogue. The Office of Prevention and Education at Northeastern (OPEN) provides staffing at the ViSION Resource Center in addition to coordinating student-focused education and programming, including a Northeastern-specific bystander intervention program.

### **Student education**

All incoming students are required to complete an online and interactive interpersonal violence prevention program. This video-based program provides critical information about consent, bystander intervention, sexual assault, dating and domestic violence, stalking, and much more. [Students can access the program here: <https://studentsuccess.org/SP/northeastern>] The discussion of Title IX compliance was enhanced during new student orientation and includes a Welcome Week performance-based presentation.

### **Faculty and staff education**

All new faculty members receive Title IX training and we will launch an online, interactive training program for all faculty during this semester. In addition, all new employees receive Title IX information at their orientation. Staff training is on-going.

### **Available campus resources**

Sexual violence is not tolerated at Northeastern. Incidents of sexual violence should be reported to the Northeastern University Police Department or the Office of Gender Equity and Compliance. In addition, the university provides victims with a number of on-campus and off-campus resources to facilitate access to immediate confidential medical care and counseling services, incident reporting, and access to legal counsel. Information on services and resources of campus and community partners targeting sexual violence, stalking, and dating violence, can be found on the ViSION webpage at [www.northeastern.edu/vision](http://www.northeastern.edu/vision). The university's WeCare team is also available to provide academic and personal support.

### **Next survey**

Our third annual Campus Climate Survey is slated to be conducted in November-December 2016.

As we move forward, these new data points will help to build a more robust picture of how effective our educational and preventative measures are in addressing sexual violence. We are making impactful changes. But there are still challenges. Together, the entire campus community must work collaboratively and transparently to intensify outreach and programming.

Northeastern University will continue its commitment to fostering a safe environment free of all forms of harassment, where students, faculty, and staff alike should feel inspired and welcomed to realize their passions and dreams.

This work is the responsibility of each one of us and on behalf of the university, I ask for your participation in these community efforts. I invite anyone on campus to contact me personally at [m.estabrook@northeastern.edu](mailto:m.estabrook@northeastern.edu) with any inquiry or question.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Madeleine Estabrook". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Madeleine" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Estabrook".

Madeleine Estabrook  
Vice President for Student Affairs

**Q1. What is your class year?****Percent**

23.95%	First Year
25.08%	Second Year
19.26%	Third year
13.35%	Fourth Year
11.65%	Fifth Year
1.38%	Sixth Year or beyond
5.34%	Not classified by year

**Q2. What is your student level?****Percent**

80.06%	Undergraduate
19.85%	Graduate
0.08%	Law Student

**Q3. In which college is your primary major?****Percent**

6.91%	College of Arts, Media and Design
15.85%	D'Amore-McKim School of Business
8.13%	College of Computer and Information Science
28.21%	College of Engineering
13.50%	Bouve College of Health Sciences
0.24%	College of Professional Studies
12.93%	College of Social Sciences and Humanities
0.08%	School of Law
1.63%	University Programs (undeclared and general studies)
12.52%	College of Science

**Q4. With which gender do you identify?****Percent**

48.26%	Man
49.39%	Woman
0.49%	Transgender/Non-conforming
0.97%	Another gender identity
0.89%	I prefer not to respond

**Q5. Are you an international student or foreign national?****Percent**

23.41%	Yes
76.59%	No

**Q6. In the past year, have you taken an on-ground course on the Boston campus of Northeastern University?**

**Percent**

92.62%	Yes
7.38%	No

**Q7. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statement:**

**If a friend or I were to be a victim of sexual violence, I know where to go to get help.**

**Percent**

4.03%	Strongly disagree
21.97%	Disagree
55.36%	Agree
18.63%	Strongly agree

**Q8. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statement:**

**I have confidence that the University addresses reports of sexual violence fairly.**

**Percent**

6.61%	Strongly disagree
24.12%	Disagree
56.65%	Agree
12.62%	Strongly agree

**Q9. Where have you received information regarding sexual violence? (Check all the apply)**

**Respondent %**

**Response %**

44.89%	11.57%	Presentations
59.85%	15.43%	Orientation
48.54%	12.51%	Posters
22.90%	5.90%	Handouts
37.32%	9.62%	University Health and Counseling Services (UHCS)
29.11%	7.50%	Awareness weeks
19.25%	4.96%	Tables around campus
32.76%	8.45%	Residence Halls
3.10%	0.80%	Administrative Office
8.03%	2.07%	Snell Library
3.92%	1.01%	Marino/Cabot/Squashbusters
11.77%	3.03%	Curry Student Center
29.84%	7.69%	Northeastern websites
8.30%	2.14%	Northeastern University Police Department (NUPD) waiting area
2.92%	0.75%	Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion (OIDI)
11.86%	3.06%	Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSSCR)
3.74%	0.96%	Office of the Vice President of Student Affairs
9.76%	2.52%	Other (please specify)

**Q10. Where would you go to report an incident of sexual violence? (Check all that apply)**

<b>Respondent %</b>	<b>Response %</b>	
82.95%	29.24%	Northeastern University Police Department (NUPD)
7.11%	2.51%	Academic Advisor
3.60%	1.27%	Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion (OIDI)
59.90%	21.11%	University Health and Counseling Services (UHCS)
33.25%	11.72%	Violence Support, Intervention and Outreach Network (ViSION)
9.00%	3.17%	WeCare
1.29%	0.45%	Athletic Coach
6.26%	2.20%	Faculty Member
4.03%	1.42%	Co-op advisor
19.97%	7.04%	Title IX Coordinator
2.83%	1.00%	Office of the Vice President of Student Affairs
19.37%	6.83%	Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSSCR)
4.46%	1.57%	Spiritual Advisor
1.29%	0.45%	Cultural Center Staff
2.40%	0.85%	International Student and Scholar Institute (ISSI)
1.20%	0.42%	Center for Student Involvement (CSI)
1.11%	0.39%	Student Athlete Support Services
10.80%	3.81%	Residential Life Staff/RAs/RDs
8.48%	2.99%	Other (please specify)
4.46%	1.57%	I do not know where to go to report an incident

**Q11. Please respond to the following questions: - Do you know that if you were a victim of sexual violence: -You could receive counseling and medical care?**

<b>Percent</b>	
86.17%	Yes
13.83%	No

**Q12. Please respond to the following questions: - Do you know that if you were a victim of sexual violence: -You could have an OSSCR no-contact order issued to your alleged assailant?**

<b>Percent</b>	
46.79%	Yes
53.21%	No

**Q13. Please respond to the following questions: - Do you know that if you were a victim of sexual violence: -You could seek disciplinary action through OSSCR?**

<b>Percent</b>	
67.25%	Yes
32.75%	No

**Q14. Please respond to the following questions: - Do you know that if you were a victim of sexual violence: -You could seek a judicial order/restraining order?**

<b>Percent</b>	
85.52%	Yes

**Q14. Please respond to the following questions: - Do you know that if you were a victim of sexual violence: -You could seek a judicial order/restraining order?**

**Percent**

14.48% No

**Q15. Please respond to the following questions: - Do you know that if you were a victim of sexual violence: -You could get alternative housing arrangements?**

**Percent**

57.85% Yes

42.15% No

**Q16. Please respond to the following questions: - Do you know that if you were a victim of sexual violence: -You could have your class sections or other sections changed?**

**Percent**

46.51% Yes

53.49% No

**Q17. Please respond to the following questions: - Do you know that if you were a victim of sexual violence: You could meet with an Assistant District Attorney?**

**Percent**

41.44% Yes

58.56% No

**Q18. Please respond to the following questions: - Do you know that if you were a victim of sexual violence: You could report the incident without facing disciplinary action for other conduct violations such as alcohol or drug use?**

**Percent**

59.54% Yes

40.46% No

**Q19. Did you know that the Code of Student Conduct's definition of consent is the following?**

"CONSENT is a voluntary, affirmative agreement to engage in sexual activity proposed by another and requires mutually understandable and communicated words and/or actions that would demonstrate to a reasonable person agreement by both parties to participate in sexual activity. Sexual activity requires consent from all involved parties. Consent must be freely given, without physical force, threats, intimidating behavior, duress or coercion. Silence, a lack of resistance, previous sexual relationships or experiences and/or a current relationship may not, in itself, constitute consent. The initiator, or the person who wants to engage on the specific sexual activity, must obtain consent from the partner(s) for each sexual act. Both parties may be initiators at different points of sexual activity. A person's initiation of a sexual act constitutes consent to that act, but not necessarily to subsequent acts. Consent to sexual activity may be withdrawn at any time, and the withdrawal must be communicated in mutually understandable words and/or actions; if so, sexual activity must cease immediately. Consent may never be given: by minors (in Massachusetts, those not yet 16 years of age), mentally disabled persons, or those who are incapacitated as a result of intoxication by alcohol or other drug consumption (voluntary or involuntary) or those who are unconscious, unaware, or otherwise physically helpless. A person who is incapacitated as a result of intoxication cannot give consent to sexual activity. Incapacitation is a state where one cannot make a rational, reasonable decision because they lack the ability to understand the who, what when, where, why, or how of their sexual activities. Use of alcohol or other drugs by the charged student does not mitigate a violation of the Inappropriate Sexual Behavior Policy."

**Percent**

82.22%	Yes
17.78%	No

**Q20. What are the three (3) best ways for the University to communicate to students about sexual violence support and services? (Check up to 3)**

Respondent %	Response %	
60.48%	20.89%	Orientation
34.22%	11.82%	RA/Hall meetings
12.44%	4.30%	Large campus presentations
14.73%	5.09%	Small workshops
33.67%	11.63%	Social media
26.26%	9.07%	Posters
7.14%	2.47%	Handouts
22.87%	7.90%	In-class presentations
12.44%	4.30%	In students organizations
20.68%	7.14%	Online education/training
33.67%	11.63%	Email
9.70%	3.35%	Websites
1.19%	0.41%	Other (please specify)

**Q21. Please respond to the following questions: - Since you've been at Northeastern, were you sexually touched without your consent?**

**Percent**

14.22%	Yes
85.78%	No

**Q22. Please respond to the following questions: - Since you've been at Northeastern, was sexual penetration attempted without your consent?**

**Percent**

6.09%	Yes
93.91%	No



**Q23. Please respond to the following questions: - Since you've been at Northeastern, were you sexually penetrated without your consent?**

**Percent**

3.62%	Yes
96.38%	No

**Q24. In the event that you encountered sexual violence, please indicate your likelihood of using campus services/support concerning sexual violence:**

**Percent**

30.04%	Very likely
46.64%	Likely
18.47%	Unlikely
4.85%	Very unlikely

**Q25. If you or a friend were a victim of sexual violence while a student at Northeastern, and decided not to report the incident, why did you, or they, decide not to report the incident? (Check all that apply)**

**Respondent %      Response %**

72.45%	41.53%	Not applicable. I was not a victim of sexual violence while a student at Northeastern and did not know anyone who was a victim.
6.29%	3.61%	Felt ashamed
7.82%	4.48%	Felt embarrassed
9.06%	5.19%	It is a private matter, wanted to deal with it on my/their own
3.91%	2.24%	Concerned others would find out
2.76%	1.58%	Didn't want the person who did it to get in trouble
4.67%	2.68%	Fear of retribution from the person who did it
5.43%	3.11%	Fear of not being believed
5.05%	2.90%	Thought I/they would be blamed for what happened
4.86%	2.79%	Didn't think others would think it was important
3.72%	2.13%	Didn't think others would understand
4.29%	2.46%	Didn't have time to deal with it due to academics, work, etc.
2.86%	1.64%	Didn't know reporting procedure on campus
1.91%	1.09%	Feared I/they or another would be punished for infractions, such as underage drinking
3.91%	2.24%	Did not feel campus leadership would do anything about my problems
3.15%	1.80%	Feared others would harass me or react negatively towards me
4.48%	2.57%	Thought nothing would be done
2.57%	1.48%	Didn't want others to worry about me/them
5.53%	3.17%	Wanted to forget it happened
5.15%	2.95%	Didn't want my/their family to find out
0.95%	0.55%	Thought it would distract me/them from work
0.67%	0.38%	Where I/they come from, these things aren't talked about
1.33%	0.77%	I was/they were away from campus or on co-op or study abroad
5.05%	2.90%	Not clear that harm was intended
3.72%	2.13%	Other (please specify)
2.86%	1.64%	Don't know

**Q26. Please indicate how likely you are to engage in the following behavior: - Assist a peer who is a victim of sexual violence**

**Percent**

71.29%	Very likely
25.41%	Likely
2.23%	Unlikely
1.07%	Very unlikely

**Q27. Please indicate how likely you are to engage in the following behavior: - Assist a peer who reports an instance of sexual violence**

**Percent**

68.25%	Very likely
28.17%	Likely
2.90%	Unlikely
0.68%	Very unlikely

**Q28. Please indicate how likely you are to engage in the following behavior: - Intervene when you suspect a peer might become a victim of sexual violence**

**Percent**

54.49%	Very likely
38.26%	Likely
6.57%	Unlikely
0.68%	Very unlikely

**Q29. Please indicate how likely you are to engage in the following behavior: - Asking someone who has had too much to drink if they need help getting home**

**Percent**

62.44%	Very likely
28.85%	Likely
7.16%	Unlikely
1.55%	Very unlikely

**Q30. Please indicate how likely you are to support and encourage your peers to report an instance of sexual violence:**

**Percent**

60.48%	Very likely
36.63%	Likely
2.79%	Unlikely
0.10%	Very unlikely

**Q31. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements:**

**If someone were to report an instance of sexual violence on campus . . . - The University would take the report seriously**

**Percent**

3.27%	Strongly disagree
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**Q31. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements:**

**If someone were to report an instance of sexual violence on campus . . . - The University would take the report seriously**

**Percent**

10.39%	Disagree
51.20%	Agree
35.13%	Strongly agree

**Q32. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements:**

**If someone were to report an instance of sexual violence on campus . . . - The University would limit the disclosure of information to those who need to know**

**Percent**

3.40%	Strongly disagree
8.84%	Disagree
51.80%	Agree
35.96%	Strongly agree

**Q33. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements:**

**If someone were to report an instance of sexual violence on campus . . . - The University would take steps to protect the safety of the person making the report**

**Percent**

2.63%	Strongly disagree
10.63%	Disagree
52.68%	Agree
34.05%	Strongly agree

**Q34. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements:**

**If someone were to report an instance of sexual violence on campus . . . - The University would take corrective action against the offender**

**Percent**

5.05%	Strongly disagree
18.37%	Disagree
50.83%	Agree
25.75%	Strongly agree

**Q35. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements:**

**If someone were to report an instance of sexual violence on campus . . . - The University would take steps to protect the person making the report from retaliation**

**Percent**

3.89%	Strongly disagree
16.36%	Disagree
51.02%	Agree

**Q35. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements:**

**If someone were to report an instance of sexual violence on campus . . . - The University would take steps to protect the person making the report from retaliation**

**Percent**

28.72% Strongly agree

**Q36. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements: - I trust that my friends would watch out for me if it seemed like something bad might happen to me at a party or social event.**

**Percent**

2.92% Strongly disagree

4.58% Disagree

39.63% Agree

52.87% Strongly agree

**Q37. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements: - Most Northeastern students would support someone who did something to prevent an instance of sexual violence.**

**Percent**

2.34% Strongly disagree

10.15% Disagree

56.39% Agree

31.12% Strongly agree

**Q38. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements: - I feel confident in my ability to judge when someone is too intoxicated to give consent.**

**Percent**

3.21% Strongly disagree

10.03% Disagree

42.94% Agree

43.82% Strongly agree

**Q39. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements: - Northeastern students would support the person making a report of an instance of sexual violence.**

**Percent**

2.43% Strongly disagree

7.59% Disagree

60.99% Agree

28.99% Strongly agree

**Q40. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements: - Northeastern students would ostracize or stigmatize a person making the report of an instance of sexual violence.**

**Percent**

21.19% Strongly disagree

52.44% Disagree

**Q40. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements: - Northeastern students would ostracize or stigmatize a person making the report of an instance of sexual violence.**

**Percent**

19.53%	Agree
6.84%	Strongly agree

**Q41. How often do you do the following? - Hear Northeastern students make jokes about sexual violence**

**Percent**

4.15%	Very frequently
15.93%	Frequently
47.59%	Infrequently
32.34%	Very infrequently

**Q42. How often do you do the following? - See online posts from Northeastern students that make jokes about sexual violence**

**Percent**

1.26%	Very frequently
5.61%	Frequently
36.94%	Infrequently
56.19%	Very infrequently

**Q43. How often do you do the following? - See Northeastern students describe other students in sexually explicit, graphic or degrading ways in group texts/messages or social media sites that you belong to**

**Percent**

4.73%	Very frequently
16.33%	Frequently
39.42%	Infrequently
39.52%	Very infrequently

**Q44. How often do you do the following? - Hear Northeastern students make sexist remarks**

**Percent**

11.07%	Very frequently
29.42%	Frequently
41.17%	Infrequently
18.35%	Very infrequently

**Q45. How often do you do the following? - Receive pictures of a sexual nature that you found offensive**

**Percent**

1.46%	Very frequently
2.73%	Frequently
27.90%	Infrequently
67.90%	Very infrequently

**Q46. How often do you do the following? - Hear Northeastern students make negative comments about someone else's body or attractiveness**

**Percent**

16.28%	Very frequently
32.75%	Frequently
32.75%	Infrequently
18.22%	Very infrequently

**Q47. How often do you do the following? - Hear Northeastern students make negative comments about you or someone else's sexual orientation**

**Percent**

3.50%	Very frequently
11.56%	Frequently
38.29%	Infrequently
46.65%	Very infrequently

**Q48. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements: - I feel safe on this campus.**

**Percent**

1.54%	Strongly disagree
3.37%	Disagree
49.90%	Agree
45.18%	Strongly agree

**Q49. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements: - There is a good support system on campus for students going through difficult times.**

**Percent**

5.32%	Strongly disagree
15.10%	Disagree
56.63%	Agree
22.94%	Strongly agree

**Q50. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements: - I have a role in making Northeastern a safe and supportive community.**

**Percent**

1.64%	Strongly disagree
6.77%	Disagree
52.32%	Agree
39.26%	Strongly agree