



## **SUMMARY REPORT OF THE EMORY UNIVERSITY STUDENT CAMPUS CLIMATE SURVEY 2015**

### ***Overview***

In April 2015, Emory University conducted a comprehensive campus climate survey of undergraduate, graduate, and professional students to capture students' experiences and attitudes about sexual violence, from physical assault to stalking and harassment. The survey also collected student perceptions, knowledge, and use of Emory's sexual assault prevention, advocacy and response programs (for example, the Respect Program) as well as the university's sexual misconduct policy and process.

As a result of recommendations from the White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault, similar surveys have been conducted at universities across the country. The inaugural Emory survey was one of the first actions of the University Senate Committee for the Prevention of Sexual Violence. The committee's primary role is to support data-driven, comprehensive, and cohesive sexual violence prevention efforts across Emory, using a comprehensive public health approach. Its members believe that surveillance capacity is fundamental for successful prevention programming, and the committee works to ensure that current and future prevention efforts are coordinated to inform a broader, data-driven prevention effort on campus. It also works closely with campus response efforts to develop comprehensive prevention and intervention strategies.

### ***Methods***

The Campus Climate Survey Subcommittee, formed in December 2014, is comprised of students, faculty, and staff who have held campus leadership positions and have expertise in sexual violence and/ or methodological expertise in survey design and analysis. To compose Emory's survey, they drew on examples set by the White House Task Force and other universities that have published their survey questionnaires. Emory's subcommittee designed a questionnaire to capture a range of experiences related to sexual violence, as well as student awareness of Emory-specific resources and programs.

Emory undergraduates matriculate at either the Atlanta or the Oxford campus. Graduate students attend the Laney Graduate School or one of six professional schools on the Atlanta campus. All currently enrolled undergraduate and graduate students were invited to participate in the survey via email, having opportunities to complete it online in April, 2015.

Experts often describe sexual violence as a continuum that begins with offensive jokes and harassment and extends to more severe forms such as intimate partner violence and rape. Given that context, the campus climate survey asked students to disclose their experiences since coming to Emory that included:

- Witnessing or being targeted for sexual harassment (e.g., being in the presence of inappropriate jokes or being targeted for sexual quid pro quo);
- Stalking (e.g., unwanted or persistent contact);
- Intimate partner violence (e.g., emotional, physical, and sexual abuse);
- Sexual coercion and unwanted sexual contact (i.e., nonconsensual, noncriminal, coercive acts involving forced touching of a sexual nature or penetration);
- Sexual assault and rape (i.e., nonconsensual criminal acts achieved by the use of threat of force, or were drug-facilitated, involving forced touching of a sexual nature or penetration).

#### Study population and response rate

Out of 13,952 students contacted, 2,804 students (20%) accessed the survey, and 2,615 of those (18.7%) answered at least one question. Of the 2,615 respondents, 66.8% identified as women, 31.6% as men, 0.4% as transgender, and less than 1% as other or with a preference not to respond. Of the respondents, 1,061 identified as undergraduates from the Atlanta campus, 211 were undergraduates from Oxford, and 1,341 respondents identified as graduate students. Two respondents failed to provide their affiliation and were not included in analyses.

### ***Key Findings***

#### Experiences

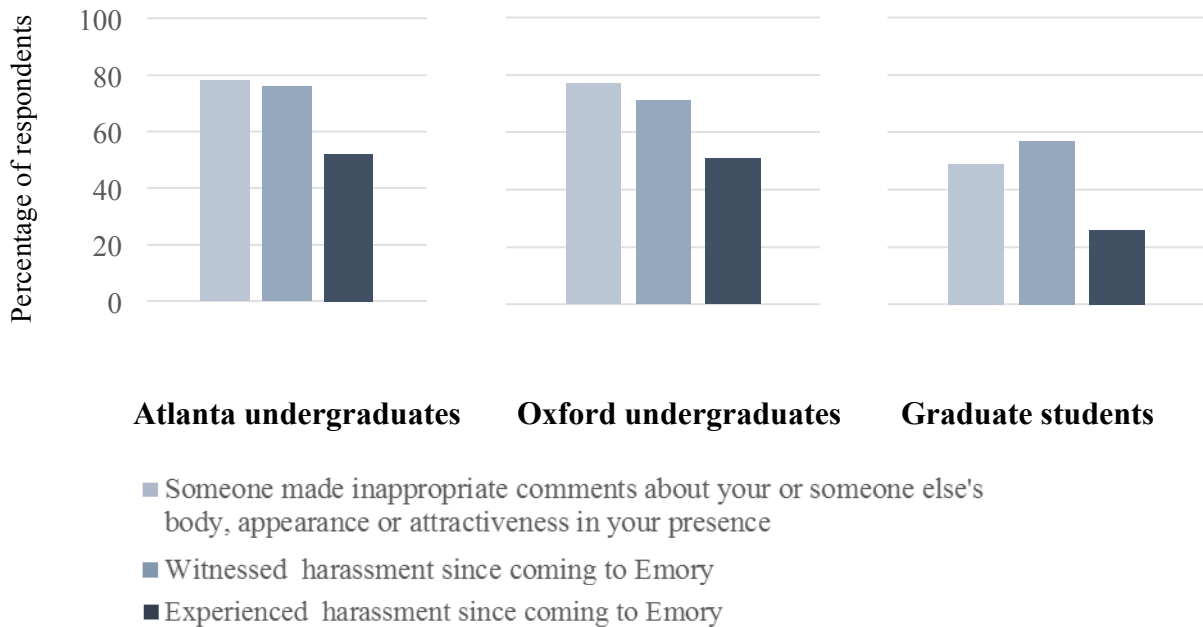
##### **Harassment**

*Atlanta undergraduates:* Since coming to Emory, 78.2% of respondents reported having experienced an inappropriate comment about their own or someone else's body, appearance, or attractiveness. While this question captures a climate of harassment that a respondent may have witnessed or experienced, the survey separated all other harassment questions into either witnessing or experiencing harassment. 75.9% of respondents have witnessed sexual harassment, and 52.2% of respondents have experienced sexual harassment.

*Oxford undergraduates:* Since coming to Emory, 70.6% of respondents reported having experienced an inappropriate comment about their own or someone else's body, appearance, or attractiveness, 70.6% of respondents have witnessed sexual harassment, and 51.2% of respondents have experienced sexual harassment.

*Graduate students:* Since coming to Emory, 49.0% of respondents reported having experienced an inappropriate comment about their own or someone else's body, appearance, or attractiveness, 57.1% of respondents have witnessed sexual harassment, and 25.7% of respondents have experienced sexual harassment.

## Experiences of Harassment



### Stalking, intimate partner violence, sexual assault, and rape

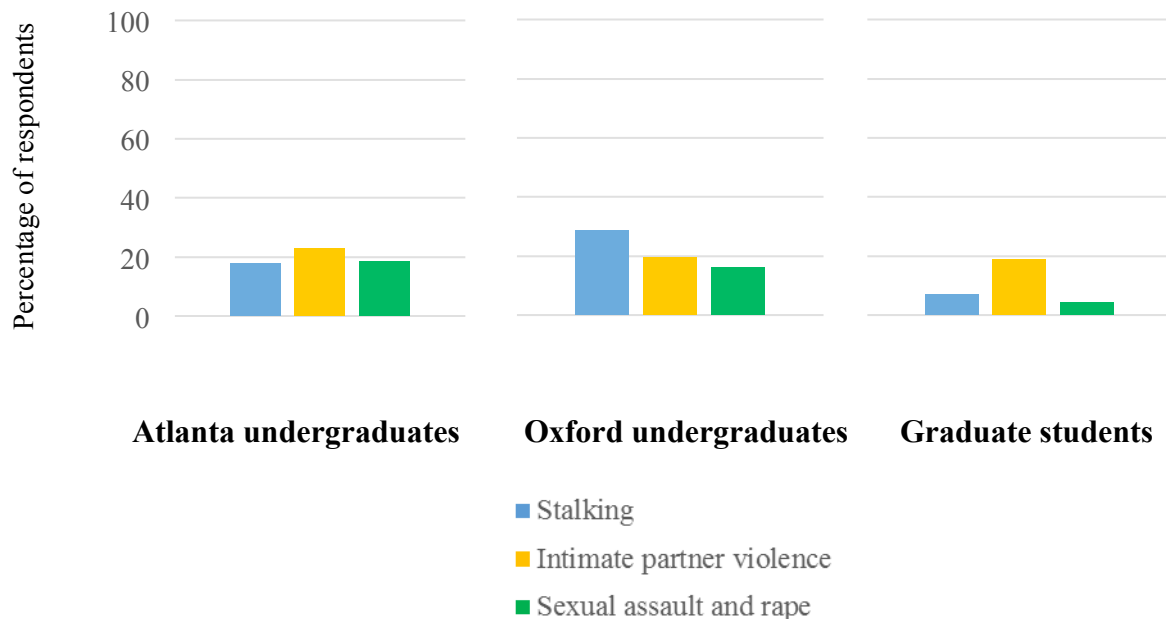
*Atlanta undergraduates:* Since coming to Emory, 17.7% of respondents have experienced stalking, 22.9% intimate partner violence, and 18.3% attempted or completed sexual assault or rape. Among respondents who have been in a committed relationship since coming to Emory, 33.4% have experienced intimate partner violence. Of the attempted or completed incidents of sexual assault and rape, 74.9% were reported as alcohol/drug-facilitated, meaning that the survivor was unable to provide consent or stop what was happening due to being passed out, drugged, drunk, incapacitated, or asleep.

*Oxford undergraduates:* Since coming to Emory, 28.6% of respondents have experienced stalking, 19.4% intimate partner violence, and 16.3% attempted or completed sexual assault or rape. Among respondents who have been in a committed relationship since coming to Emory, 36.5% have experienced intimate partner violence. Respondents reported 73.3% of attempted or completed sexual assaults and rapes as alcohol/drug-facilitated.

*Graduate students:* Since coming to Emory, 6.8% of respondents have experienced stalking, 18.9% intimate partner violence, and 4.2% attempted or completed sexual assault or rape. Among respondents who have been in a committed relationship since coming to Emory, 23.1% have experienced intimate partner violence. Respondents reported 59.6% of attempted or completed sexual assaults and rapes as alcohol/drug-facilitated.

Looking across all student groups, 10.7% of students reported that they experienced attempted or completed incidents of sexual assault or rape. Among these students, 6.6% used Emory's formal procedures to report the incident.

## Experiences of Stalking, Intimate Partner Violence, Sexual Assault and Rape



### Knowledge

Each student group reported similar levels of knowledge about Emory policies and programs. More than 50% of respondents are unfamiliar with Emory’s Equal Opportunity and Harassment policy, Title IX Coordinators, and the Respect Program. More than 50% of all respondents do not know where to learn more about the Emory policy and Title IX Coordinators. More than 50% of Oxford respondents do not know where to find more information about the Respect Program. A large minority of respondents from Atlanta campus undergraduate (45.8%) and graduate (48.9%) students groups do not know where to learn more about the Respect Program.

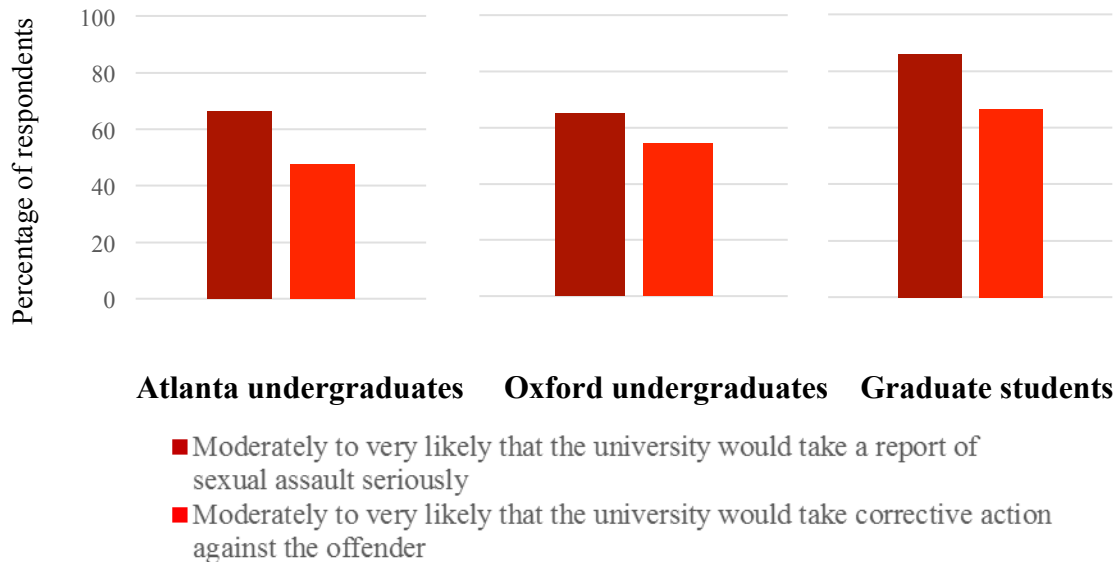
### Attitudes

*Atlanta undergraduates:* 66.3% of respondents believe that it is moderately to very likely that the university would take a report of sexual assault seriously, and 47.6% believe that it is moderately to very likely that the university would take corrective action against the offender.

*Oxford undergraduates:* 65.0% of respondents believe that it is moderately to very likely that the university would take a report of sexual assault seriously, and 54.5% believe that it is moderately to very likely that the university would take corrective action against the offender.

*Graduate students:* 86.0% of respondents believe that it is moderately to very likely that the university would take a report of sexual assault seriously, and 66.5% believe that it is moderately to very likely that the university would take corrective action against the offender.

## Attitudes about University Response



### Beliefs

Each student group reported similar beliefs related to sexual assault. The majority of respondents believe that they would intervene to prevent sexual assault.

*Atlanta undergraduates:* 49.5% of respondents have received a disclosure from a peer who experienced either sexual harassment, intimate partner violence, or sexual assault/rape since coming to Emory. Of this group, 55.4% felt prepared to assist their peer.

*Oxford undergraduates:* 45.4% of respondents have received a disclosure from a peer who experienced sexual harassment, intimate partner violence, or sexual assault/rape since coming to Emory. Of this group, 60.9% felt prepared to assist their peer.

*Graduate students:* 30.8% of respondents have received a disclosure from a peer who experienced either sexual harassment, intimate partner violence, or sexual assault/rape since coming to Emory. Of this group, 58.9% felt prepared to assist their peer.

### Summary

There are common findings across all Emory student types and campuses. Respondents reported a range of sexual violence experiences including sexual harassment, stalking, intimate partner violence, sexual assault, and rape, since coming to Emory. A majority of students are unfamiliar with prevention and response programs and services to address sexual violence, such as Emory's Equal Opportunity and Harassment policy, Title IX Coordinators, and the Respect Program. A majority of respondents believed that the University would take a report of sexual assault seriously. Most respondents believed that they would intervene to prevent sexual assault. Most respondents who received a disclosure from a peer felt prepared to assist their peer.

## *Recommendations*

- **Enhance existing prevention strategies that address a full scope of sexual violence, which includes harassment, stalking, and intimate partner violence, in addition to sexual assault and rape.** Programming should simultaneously acknowledge multiple forms of sexual violence and allocate resources to address each of its specific forms.
- **Increase visibility of existing prevention and response resources, including programs offered through the Respect Program.** Many students are unfamiliar with or do not know where to learn more about existing Emory programs.
- **Increase student awareness of the Title IX processes, procedures, and resources to reduce confusion and mistrust and to increase knowledge and confidence in the process. Also explore how the university can enhance existing processes, procedures, and resources to meet the needs of students.** Offer students increased transparency and share information about Title IX and Sexual Misconduct processes and cases while maintaining confidentiality. Implementation of the Title IX process itself also can be reviewed to respond to student needs and concerns.
- **Use qualitative methods, including focus groups, to engage with students to understand their interpretations of survey questions and revise questions to enhance clarity for the next survey.** Questions relating to perceptions of Emory procedures should align with the procedures that Title IX dictates for investigation and reporting. Some students reported confusion with the wording of some questions.
- **Offer bystander intervention programming that builds skills for how to intervene before, during, and after an assault occurs.** Students need skills to intervene effectively and in situations involving a friend.
- **Develop multilevel prevention strategies that address the intersection of alcohol/drug use and sexual violence.** More than 70.0% of undergraduate respondents who experienced completed sexual assault or rape reported that the violence co-occurred with alcohol/drug use. While alcohol and drug use do not cause, excuse, or explain sexual assault, prevention programming must acknowledge such co-occurrence. Enforcement of university policies related to alcohol and other drug use at individual, campus, and community levels can support sexual assault prevention efforts.

## *Next steps*

- The Executive Summary and the survey questionnaire will be publicly available on the Emory University Office of the Provost website.
- The results of the faculty and staff climate survey will be available in Spring 2016.
- The Committee for the Prevention of Sexual Violence will convene the Prevention Planning and the Academic and Community Engagement subcommittees in Fall 2015 to make strategies about implementing these recommendations. As a starting point, the committee will use the

prevention strategies outlined in the Sexual Violence Prevention Visioning Task Force Report from October 2014.

- To advance a focus on prevention, it is crucial to frame preventing sexual violence as everyone's issue and ensure intervention across all groups at Emory. The committee anticipates the creation of an integrated, campus-wide approach to prevention that addresses common needs among undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and staff. As a result of surveying the entire Emory community, leaders can identify cross-cutting campus themes and needs to develop multilevel, campus-wide prevention programming.