

Vanderbilt University 2015 Campus Climate Survey

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction and Methodology

Vanderbilt University launched an online campus climate survey on sexual assault/sexual misconduct in spring 2015. Two survey instruments were selected for use in this study, both produced by external companies. One survey, created by EverFi, contained 144 items. The other, created by the Education Advisory Board (EAB), was shorter, containing 60 items.

All undergraduate, graduate, and professional students¹ ($n=11,615$) were randomly assigned to receive one of the two surveys. Students received an email invitation from Provost Susan Wentz encouraging them to complete the assigned survey, explaining that survey responses would be anonymous, and containing a link to the survey. Both surveys were live for three weeks (March 30 – April 19, 2015), and students received three emails reminding them to complete their assigned survey.

Students were informed that by completing their assigned survey, they would have the opportunity to be entered into a drawing for one of ten \$100 Amazon gift cards.

This process was administered by the Office of the Dean of Students and approved by the Institutional Review Board (IRB).

Notes: In the tables throughout this document, undergraduate students may be abbreviated “U,” and graduate/professional students may be abbreviated “G/P”.

The term sexual assault/sexual misconduct is used as an umbrella term to capture sexual violence, sexual assault, and other forms of unwanted sexual contact or sexual misconduct. Please note that where a more specific term was used in connection with a survey question, that term is used in this report.

¹ Law students were not included due to the other surveys they received as part of the law school's reaccreditation process.

I. SURVEY RESPONSE RATES

Each survey was distributed to a total of 5,807 undergraduate, graduate, and professional students. The EAB survey had a higher overall response rate (28%); the response rate for the EverFi survey was 24%. Detailed response rate information follows in Table 1.

*Table 1.
Survey Response Rates.*

Survey	Total Respondents²	Response Rate
EAB		
All Respondents	1,651	28%
Undergraduate (U)	874	26%
Graduate/Professional (G/P)	662	27%
EverFi		
All Respondents	1,402	24%
Undergraduate (U)	745	22%
Graduate/Professional (G/P)	556	22%

Data presented in this report reflect information received from survey respondents, who may or may not be representative of the student body as a whole.

Not all survey respondents who started a survey completed it. The percentage of respondents who started but did not complete a survey is known as the attrition rate. The attrition rate for the EverFi survey (43%) slightly exceeded that for the EAB survey (31%).

As a result, figures and statistics throughout this document are calculated based on the number of respondents for a particular survey question, and total number of responses may fluctuate from one item to the next due to survey attrition.

² "Total Respondents" is the number of students who responded to one of the surveys and responded to at least one question. Some respondents did not identify themselves as undergraduate or graduate/professional students. Therefore, "Total Respondents" is greater than the sum of self-identified undergraduate and graduate/professional student respondents.

II. DEMOGRAPHICS OF RESPONDENTS

Demographic information for respondents compared to the entire 2014-2015 Vanderbilt student body is shown in Table 2.

Table 2.
Demographic Characteristics of Survey Respondents.

Demographic Categories	EAB U (n=874)		EAB G/P (n=602)		EverFi U (n=745)		EverFi G/P (n=556)		Vanderbilt U		Vanderbilt G/P	
	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n
Gender Identity												
Female	59.7%	522	63.0%	417	62.8%	467	64.8%	359	50.1%	3,414	57.5%	3,318
Male	35.6%	311	34.6%	229	36.2%	269	33.6%	186	49.9%	3,404	42.5%	2,449
Other ³	*	*	*	*	.8%	6	1.0%	5	--	--	--	--
Race/Ethnicity⁴												
Asian/Pacific Islander	16.9%	148	12.1%	80	16.1%	120	14.2%	79	10.2%	693	4.9%	281
Black/African American	6.2%	54	8.0%	53	9.5%	71	6.1%	34	8.1%	551	6.5%	377
Hispanic/Latino	7.2%	63	5.3%	35	6.8%	51	8.8%	49	8.1%	549	4.4%	260
Native American	2.6%	23	1.2%	8	1.5%	11	1.4%	8	.3%	21	.2%	14
White/Caucasian (non-Hispanic)	73.0%	638	78.2%	518	73.7%	549	75.7%	421	58.3%	3,972	63.0%	3,634
Two or more races	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	4.9%	331	2.1%	122
Unknown	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	4.1%	277	5.5%	319
Other	3.0%	26	3.2%	21	1.9%	14	.9%	5	--	--	--	--
Sexual Orientation												
Asexual	--	--	--	--	1.8%	13	2.2%	12	--	--	--	--
Bisexual	3.0%	26	3.6%	24	4.5%	33	5.3%	29	--	--	--	--
Gay	1.6%	14	2.4%	16	3.1%	23	3.1%	17	--	--	--	--
Heterosexual/Straight	88.6%	774	87.3%	578	87.4%	648	85.5%	470	--	--	--	--
Lesbian	*	*	1.5%	10	0.7%	5	0.9%	5	--	--	--	--
Questioning	1.9%	17	1.2%	8	1.5%	11	*	*	--	--	--	--
Other	2.9%	26	2.9%	31	3.3%	24	4.0%	22	--	--	--	--

Note: To ensure confidentiality, the exact counts of cells with fewer than five responses (but at least one) are omitted from the report and indicated with an asterisk ("*"). A dashed line ("--") indicates that the category was not included in this particular dataset.

³ "Other" includes transgender, genderqueer, and gender-nonconforming.

⁴ Totals exceed 100% in some cases due to question wording. There are slight differences between the datasets reflecting differences in the phrasing of race and ethnicity questions.

III. PREVALENCE OF SEXUAL ASSAULT/SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

The two surveys measured sexual assault/sexual misconduct differently. Because of the different definitions of sexual assault, the prevalence rates are shown in separate tables.

EAB Prevalence Rates

Approximately 12% (n=156) of all EAB respondents indicated that they had experienced at least one incident of sexual assault since the beginning of the school year (fall 2014).

Sexual assault, as used in the EAB survey, includes unwanted incidents of being fondled, kissed, or rubbed up against, attempted sexual penetration, sexual penetration, attempted oral sex, and oral sex.

A detailed breakdown of specific acts of sexual assault by student type is set forth in Table 3 below.

*Table 3.
Prevalence of Sexual Assault Reported by EAB Survey Respondents, By Student Type.⁵*

Type of Sexual Assault	All		U		G/P	
	%	n	%	n	%	n
Someone fondled, kissed or rubbed up against the private areas of my body or removed some of my clothes even though I didn't want to.	10.9%	138	17.5%	121	2.7%	15
Someone TRIED to sexually penetrate me.	4.0%	51	6.4%	44	1%	6
Someone sexually penetrated me.	2.1%	27	3.4%	24	*	*
Someone TRIED to perform oral sex on me or make me give them oral sex even though I didn't want to.	2.4%	31	4.3%	30	*	*
Someone performed oral sex on me or made me give them oral sex even though I didn't want to.	1.5%	19	2.6%	18	*	*
Any Sexual Assault: Experienced at least one of the five acts of sexual assault above	12.3%	156	19.8%	137	3.1%	17

Note. To ensure confidentiality, the exact counts of cells with fewer than five responses (but at least one) are omitted from the report and indicated with an asterisk (" * ").

⁵ Respondents who indicated that they had experienced an act of sexual assault at least once are included in the prevalence rate. Respondents who indicated they were unsure are not included in the prevalence rate.

Prevalence of sexual assault is broken down in Table 4 by gender identity. A total of nine survey respondents reported a gender identity other than male or female. In light of the small number of such survey respondents, further analysis was not conducted on gender identities beyond male or female.

*Table 4.
Prevalence of Sexual Assault Reported by EAB Survey Respondents, By Gender Identity.⁶*

Type of Sexual Assault	U Females		U Males		G/P Females		G/P Males	
	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n
Someone fondled, kissed or rubbed up against the private areas of my body or removed some of my clothes even though I didn't want to.	24.6%	104	5.5%	14	3.7%	13	*	*
Someone TRIED to sexually penetrate me.	10.1%	43	*	*	*	*	*	*
Someone sexually penetrated me.	5.4%	23	*	*	*	*	0 %	0
Someone TRIED to perform oral sex on me or make me give them oral sex even though I didn't want to.	6.4%	27	*	*	0 %	0	0 %	0
Someone performed oral sex on me or made me give them oral sex even though I didn't want to.	3.8%	16	*	*	0%	0	0%	0
Any Sexual Assault: Experienced at least one of the five acts of sexual assault above	28%	119	5.9%	15	4.0 %	14	*	*

Note. To ensure confidentiality, the exact counts of cells with fewer than five responses (but at least one) are omitted from the report and indicated with an asterisk (" * ").

⁶ Respondents who indicated that they had experienced an act of sexual assault at least once are included in the prevalence rate. Respondents who indicated they were unsure are not included in the prevalence rate.

Prior Sexual Assault/Sexual Misconduct

EAB survey respondents were asked, “Has anyone had or attempted to have unwanted sexual contact with you prior to you going to college?” Across all respondents, 17.5% indicated they had experienced unwanted sexual contact prior to college. Detailed information is available in Table 5.

*Table 5.
Sexual Assault/Sexual Misconduct Reported Prior to College.*

Student Type	%	<i>n</i>
Undergraduate Females	20.3%	106
Undergraduate Males	18.6%	58
Graduate/Professional Females	15.8%	66
Graduate/Professional Males	17.0%	39

EverFi Prevalence Rates

EverFi presented respondents with a list of situations (seen in Table 6) and asked them to indicate if they had or had not experienced each situation. Respondents who answered yes were asked to specify when (before arriving on campus, on campus, or both).

More than 13% ($n=140$) of EverFi survey respondents indicated they had experienced unwanted sexual contact or attempted unwanted sexual contact as the result of physical force, the threat of physical force, or when they were unable to provide consent.

Table 6.

Prevalence of Sexual Assault/Sexual Misconduct Reported by EverFi Survey Respondents.

Type of Sexual Assault/Sexual Misconduct	Yes, <u>before</u> I arrived on my campus as a student						Yes, <u>after</u> I arrived on my campus as a student						Yes, <u>both before and after</u> I arrived on campus as a student					
	All		U		G/P		All		U		G/P		All		U		G/P	
	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n
Has anyone had sexual contact with you by using physical force or threatening to physically harm you?	5.5%	58	3.8%	23	7.8%	35	3.2%	34	4.3%	26	1.6%	7	1.1%	12	.8%	5	1.6%	7
Has anyone attempted but not succeeded in having sexual contact with you by using or threatening to use physical force against you or threatening to physically harm you?	4.1%	44	2.1%	13	6.9%	31	3.0%	32	4.5%	27	.9%	5	1.2%	13	1.5%	9	*	*
Has anyone had sexual contact with you by using verbal or non-physical coercion?	7.9%	83	6.3%	38	10.0%	45	6.9%	73	10.0%	60	2.7%	12	3.2%	34	4.0%	24	2.2%	10
Has anyone attempted but not succeeded in having sexual contact with you by using verbal or non-physical coercion?	7.8%	82	4.0%	24	12.9%	58	8.7%	92	13.0%	78	2.9%	13	5.7%	60	6.8%	41	4.2%	19

Note. To ensure confidentiality, the exact counts of cells with fewer than five responses (but at least one) are omitted from the report and indicated with an asterisk (“*”).

Table 6 - Continued.

Prevalence of Sexual Assault/Sexual Misconduct Reported by EverFi Survey Respondents.

Type of Sexual Assault/Sexual Misconduct	Yes, <u>before</u> I arrived on my campus as a student			Yes, <u>after</u> I arrived on my campus as a student			Yes, <u>both before and after</u> I arrived on campus as a student		
	All	U	G/P	All	U	G/P	All	U	G/P
	% n	% n	% n	% n	% n	% n	% n	% n	% n
Have you suspected that someone had sexual contact with you when you were unable to provide consent or stop what was happening because you were passed out, drugged, drunk, incapacitated, or asleep? This question asks about events that you think (but are not certain) happened.	3.6% 38	1.3% 8	6.7% 30	5.2% 54	7.9% 47	1.3% 6	1.3% 14	1.5% 9	1.1% 5
Has someone had sexual contact with you when you were unable to provide consent or stop what was happening because you were passed out, drugged, drunk, incapacitated, or asleep? This question asks about events that you are certain happened.	4.4% 46	2.2% 13	7.3% 33	6.1% 64	9.1% 54	2.0% 9	.9% 9	1.0% 6	* *

Note. To ensure confidentiality, the exact counts of cells with fewer than five responses (but at least one) are omitted from the report and indicated with an asterisk (" * ").

Perpetrator Behavior and Incident Details

Most respondents who indicated that they had been the victim of sexual assault/sexual misconduct were asked additional questions.

Table 7.
Reported Perpetrator Behavior and Incident Details.

Reported Perpetrator Behavior and Incident Details	EAB U (avg. n=146)		EAB G/P (avg. n = 23)		EverFi U (avg. n=111)		EverFi G/P (avg. n=37)	
	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n
Perpetrator Relationship⁷								
Acquaintance or peer	38.0%	57	50.0%	12	--	--	--	--
Friend	25.3%	38	33.3%	8	--	--	--	--
No prior relationship	40.7%	61	*	*	--	--	--	--
Current romantic partner or spouse	4.0%	6	*	*	*	*	21.1%	8
Ex-romantic partner or spouse	5.3%	8	*	*	9.2%	12	*	*
Casual or first date	--	--	--	--	19.2%	25	*	*
Stranger	--	--	--	--	10.8%	14	23.7%	9
Acquaintance	--	--	--	--	35.4%	46	18.4%	7
Non-romantic friend	--	--	--	--	19.2%	25	*	*
Other	5.3%	8	*	*	*	*	*	*
Perpetrator Gender								
Male	86.6%	123	68.2%	15	87.1%	88	94.3%	33
Female	9.2%	13	22.7%	5	12.9%	13	*	*
Vanderbilt Affiliation								
Affiliated with this school	75.4%	107	50%	12	--	--	--	--
Student at this school	--	--	--	--	90.3%	93	34.3%	12
Employee, staff, faculty at this school	--	--	--	--	6.9%	7	*	*
Location of Incident⁸								
Off-campus	--	--	--	--	18.6%	19	73.5%	25
On-campus	--	--	--	--	80.3%	82	20.6%	7
Residence Hall	43.3%	65	*	*	--	--	--	--
Fraternity House	28.0%	42	0%	0	--	--	--	--
Off-campus residence	7.3%	11	29.2%	7	--	--	--	--
Bar, night club, dance club	22.0%	33	25.0%	6	--	--	--	--
Outdoors (on campus)	6.0%	9	*	*	--	--	--	--
Other	6.7%	10	*	*	--	--	--	--

Note. To ensure confidentiality, the exact counts of cells with fewer than five responses (but at least one) are omitted and indicated with an asterisk (“*”). A dash (“--”) indicates the item was not asked on the survey.

⁷ Both surveys included additional categories of “perpetrator relationship.” Categories with fewer than five respondents of both undergraduate and graduate respondents are not included in this table. These categories include: teaching assistant, professor/advisor, college administrator, family member, co-worker, employer and supervisor. EverFi respondents could select only one answer choice; EAB could select all that apply.

⁸ The EAB survey included additional categories for “location of incident.” Categories with fewer than five respondents of both undergraduate and graduate respondents are not included in this table. These categories include: school trip, employment, academic building, and sports facility.

Reporting of Incident

As shown in Table 8, a majority of students who experienced a sexual assault/sexual misconduct incident told at least one person about the incident. The most frequent reported confidant was a close friend or roommate.

*Table 8.
Reported Incident Reporting Behaviors.*

Incident Reporting Behaviors	EAB U (avg. n=150)		EAB G/P (avg. n = 24)		EverFi U (avg. n=103)		EverFi G/P (avg. n=35)	
	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n
Who did you tell about the incident? ⁹								
No one	25.3%	38	37.5%	9	15.5%	16	28.6%	10
Dating/romantic partner	9.3%	14	*	*	24.3%	25	17.1%	6
Residence hall staff	*	*	0%	0	*	*	0%	0
Police	*	*	0%	0	*	*	*	*
Roommate/friend/classmate	60.0%	90	37.5%	9	--	--	--	--
Family member	8.7%	13	*	*	--	--	--	--
Medical professional	5.3%	8	0%	0	--	--	--	--
Professor/teaching assistant	0%	0	*	*	--	--	--	--
Campus sexual violence advocate/counselor	*	*	0%	0	--	--	--	--
Spiritual advisor	*	*	0%	0	--	--	--	--
Employer/boss	*	*	0%	0	--	--	--	--
Counselor	--	--	--	--	17.4%	18	28.6%	10
Parent or guardian	--	--	--	--	10.7%	11	*	*
Campus sexual assault advocate	--	--	--	--	5.8%	6	0%	0
Community sexual assault advocate	--	--	--	--	*	*	0%	0
Roommate	--	--	--	--	46.6%	48	14.2%	5
Close friend other than roommate	--	--	--	--	75.7%	78	54.3%	19
Other family member	--	--	--	--	8.7%	9	*	*
Other	6.0%	9	*	*	4.9%	5	14.2%	5
Did you use the formal procedures available at your school to report the incident?¹⁰								
Yes	*	*	0%	0	5.0%	5	*	*

Note. To ensure confidentiality, the exact counts of cells with fewer than five responses (but at least one) are omitted from the report and indicated with an asterisk (“*”). A dash (“--”) indicates the item was not asked on the survey.

Both surveys asked respondents who had experienced sexual assault/sexual misconduct why they did or did not tell other individuals about the incident.

⁹ Respondents were allowed to select more than one answer.

¹⁰ The term “formal procedures” is not defined in either survey instrument.

All EAB survey respondents who reported having been the victim of sexual assault /sexual misconduct (n=145) were asked if certain specified thoughts or concerns occurred to them when deciding whether or not to [formally] report their experience. The top three reported thoughts and concerns when deciding whether or not to share their experiences are:

- Wasn't clear that the offender intended harm (58%)
- Felt ashamed or embarrassed, didn't want anyone to know what happened (29%)
- Wanted to forget it happened (27%)

EverFi asked survey respondents reporting (a) having been the victim of sexual assault/sexual misconduct, and (b) having told no one about the incident (n=26), why they did not report it. The most frequent reasons given by this group are:

- Wanted to forget it happened (50%)
- It's a private matter – wanted to deal with it on my own (46%)
- Thought I would be blamed for what happened (46%)

IV. PREVENTION

The two instruments measured training on sexual assault/sexual misconduct in different ways, but results of both surveys indicate that the majority of respondents reported having received training on sexual assault/sexual misconduct.

EverFi

EverFi presented respondents with a list of topics and asked them to indicate if they did/did not receive training on each topic. Of the five topics measured, the majority of respondents answered that they had received training on four of the five topics below.

Table 9.

Percentage of Respondents Reporting to Have Received Training.

Training Topics	U	G/P	All
1. Availability of confidential on-campus resources to help victims	76.8%	63.4%	71.2%
2. What behaviors are defined as sexual assault	78.3%	60.8%	70.9%
3. Prevention of sexual assault	80.8%	57.3%	70.8%
4. How to report a complaint of sexual assault	57.8%	53.8%	56.2%
5. The procedures followed to investigate a complaint of sexual assault	44.4%	41.0%	43.2%

On a different question measuring knowledge of campus resources, nearly two-thirds of respondents (64%) reported that they “know where to go to get help regarding sexual assault at my school.” However, only 35% of respondents reported that they “understand my school’s formal procedures to address complaints of sexual assault.”

EAB

EAB asked respondents if they had received sexual violence prevention information or training, and then asked them to rate the usefulness of each training. Overall, 56% of respondents indicated they had received training, and almost 90% of first-year students reported that they had received prevention training. Note: During the 2014-2015 academic year, an online sexual assault/sexual misconduct prevention module was required for all incoming first-year and transfer students. Training records confirm that 100% of this group completed the required module.

Only 34% of EAB respondents said that they understood the formal procedure for investigating an incident of sexual violence (defined as “a range of sexual behaviors that are unwanted by an individual”).

V. RESPONSE

Most respondents believe that Vanderbilt would take sexual assault/sexual misconduct threats and allegations seriously, but many students also believe that the individual making a report would face retaliation by the accused or their friends and associates.

In the table below, note that the EAB and EverFi instruments used different scales to indicate agreement. EverFi percentages represent the number of respondents who find a statement very or moderately likely. EAB percentages reflect the number of respondents who agree or strongly agree.

*Table 10.
Respondent Perception of Reporting Sexual Violence.¹¹*

Survey Statements	EAB U	EAB G/P	EverFi U	EverFi G/P
The school/ administrators ¹² would take the report seriously.	87%	89%	83%	83%
The school/administrators would support the person making the report.	84%	84%	71%	75%
The school/administrators would take corrective action against the offender.	74%	77%	61%	68%
The school would take steps to protect the person making the report from retaliation.	71%	75%	61%	67%
The accused or their friends would retaliate against the person making the report.	70%	66%	52%	41%
Students would support the person making the report.	--	--	73%	67%

Note. A dash (“--”) indicates the item was not asked on the survey.

¹¹ The EAB and EverFi instruments used different scales to indicate agreement. EverFi percentages represent the number of respondents who find a statement very or moderately likely. EAB percentages reflect the number of respondents who agree or strongly agree.

¹² The EverFi instrument used the term “administrators”; EAB used the term “school.”

VI. SUPPORT

The majority of survey respondents have a positive perception of campus climate insofar as sexual assault/sexual misconduct is concerned. In particular, respondents overwhelmingly reported feeling safe at Vanderbilt and that they believe that the faculty are concerned about their welfare. Respondents also believe that administrators are concerned about their welfare, but not to the same extent as faculty.

Note: Both surveys asked respondents to indicate their level of agreement with several statements but used different scales. EAB presented respondents with four possible choices: strongly agree, agree, disagree, and strongly disagree. No neutral option was offered.

EverFi presented five choices including a neutral option. As a result, EAB shows a more favorable perception on certain items, with the vast majority of the discrepancy due to EverFi's neutral option.

*Table 11.
Student Perception of Campus Climate.¹³*

Survey Statements	EAB U	EAB G/P	EverFi U	EverFi G/P
I feel safe at this school.	94%	93%	81%	83%
I feel close to people at this school.	89%	82%	76%	69%
Faculty are genuinely concerned about my welfare.	91%	92%	78%	82%
Administrators are genuinely concerned about my welfare.	72%	80%	53%	65%

¹³ The percentage represents students who agree or strongly agree with the statement.

VII. STUDY LIMITATIONS

Response Rate

Approximately three-quarters of Vanderbilt's students did not complete a survey, and those who did complete a survey are not a random sample. Consequently, the survey data are not generalizable to the entire Vanderbilt student body or to students at other institutions across the country.

Attrition Rates

Not all survey respondents who started a survey completed it. Respondents who completed a survey in its entirety may have different experiences, thoughts, and opinions than respondents who answered one or more but not all questions.

The percentage of respondents who started but did not complete a survey is known as the attrition rate. The attrition rate for the EverFi survey (43%) slightly exceeded that for the EAB survey (31%).

Item Creation

Because Vanderbilt University used surveys developed by outside firms, Vanderbilt had no direct control over item creation and a very limited ability to customize questions in the EAB survey only. Some items may have been unclear to survey respondents. For example, neither survey defines *formal procedures*. Likewise, timeframes such as *since you began college* introduce ambiguity in prevalence items since respondents were undergraduate and graduate students. This makes interpreting some data problematic.

Furthermore, the two surveys are not directly comparable. Questions about prevalence are worded differently, making comparisons challenging. There are other notable differences, as well. For instance, one survey asked a follow-up question of all victims whereas the other survey limited follow-up to victims who responded in a particular way.

Additionally, even when items in the two surveys are very similar, answer choices may be different. For example, on some items, EverFi survey respondents had a neutral option while EAB respondents did not.