



**Key Findings of Student Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Assault and Misconduct**  
Conducted in partnership with the American Association of Universities (AAU)

Vanderbilt was one of 33 institutions to partner with the [Association of American Universities](#) to conduct the [Student Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Assault and Misconduct](#) of undergraduate, graduate and professional students in February 2019.

A total of 12,201 Vanderbilt undergraduate, graduate and professional students were invited to complete the survey. The response rate was 32.9 percent or 4,018 students – this was higher than AAU peers. Overall, results showed that Vanderbilt students better understand how to report an incident than their AAU peers, reflecting campus-wide efforts to enhance programming and resources to address sexual assault and misconduct.

***The key Vanderbilt findings are:***

- Twenty-seven percent of undergraduate women have experienced nonconsensual sexual contact involving physical force or inability to consent at some point in their time at Vanderbilt, and 12 percent of undergraduate women have experienced this during the 2018-2019 academic year – the year of the survey.
  - 7.8 percent of undergraduate men had this experience during their time at the university, and 3.6 percent during the 2018-2019 academic year.
  - 6.6 percent of graduate/professional women had this experience while at Vanderbilt, and 2.2 percent during 2018-2019.
  - Two percent of graduate/professional men had this experience while at Vanderbilt, and 1.1 percent during 2018-2019.
  - 29.8 percent of students who identified as transgender, genderqueer, or gender nonbinary had this experience at some point in their time at Vanderbilt, and 10.3 percent during the 2018-2019 school year.
- Perpetrators were usually someone they knew, but not always a friend.
- Most victims tell someone – most frequently a friend.
- Forty-four percent of students have been subject to sexually harassing behavior at some point in their time at Vanderbilt.
- Of the students who reported witnessing a situation that could have led to sexual assault, 77 percent of them said they intervened or took some other type of bystander action.

- 32.6 percent of students responding believe sexual violence is “very” or “extremely problematic at Vanderbilt, but only six percent are “very” or “extremely” concerned that they will be a victim in the future.
- Well over 90 percent report having completed training and know Vanderbilt’s policies and where to find help.
- 98 percent have confidence that a report would be taken seriously.

### **Comparisons with AAU peers**

When compared with findings across the other universities that participated in the AAU survey, prevalence rates for most groups and types of incidents were comparable. However, prevalence for students who identified as transgender, genderqueer, questioning or not identified/nonbinary appear to be higher at Vanderbilt – total of 29.8 percent of students self-identifying this way experienced nonconsensual sexual contact involving physical force or inability to consent while at Vanderbilt versus 22 percent for undergraduates and 14 percent for graduate/professional students identifying in this category for AAU.

Across the participating AAU universities, including at Vanderbilt, first-year undergraduate women were more likely to be victims than those in later years or those in graduate/professional programs.

A greater percentage of Vanderbilt students see sexual assault and harassment as a problem, than for AAU as a whole; however, there were no differences in Vanderbilt students’ belief of their personal likelihood of experiencing an assault in the future compared to those students at other surveyed institutions.

Vanderbilt students do appear to be more knowledgeable of how to report an incident than their AAU peers, likely a reflection of the breadth and depth of programming and resources available at Vanderbilt.

For more information about the aggregate results of the AAU survey, which provide a broader look at how sexual assault and sexual misconduct are impacting colleges and universities across country, visit the [AAU website](#).