



In the winter 2015 term, McGill University launched a sexual assault climate survey pilot project. The pilot survey modeled after the instrument developed by the US White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault<sup>1</sup> provided by CampusLabs and the MIT 2014 Community Attitudes on Sexual Assault study.

The overall purpose of this survey was to gain a better understanding of the prevalence of violence of a sexual nature on McGill campuses and of safety perceptions regarding sexual harassment and assault at McGill University.

**Below is a brief overview of the methodology:**

- 5,000 randomly selected undergraduate and graduate students were invited to complete the online survey from April 29, 2015 through May 30, 2015.
- Overall 598 students accessed the form and 298 completed the entire survey (or 6% response rate)
- 7% (26) of the respondents completed the French language version. The findings were generally representative by faculty, age and geographic origin. However there was an over-representation of female responses.

**Key Findings:**

<b>Climate and Safety Perceptions</b>	<b>Percentage of respondents who reported knowing where to get help if a student was sexually assaulted:</b>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- at McGill: 44%</li> <li>- off-campus: 49%</li> </ul>			
	<b>Perceptions of safety and sexual violence safety on campus:</b>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 31% reported that sexual violence is a problem on campus</li> <li>- 35% reported that they have confidence that McGill administers the formal procedures to address complaints of sexual assault fairly</li> </ul>			
	<b>% of respondents level of agreement with the following:</b>			
		<b>% Disagree &amp; Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	<b>% Agree &amp; Strongly Agree</b>
	I feel safe at McGill in the day.	2%	2%	96%
	I feel safe at McGill at night.	11%	15%	74%
	McGill University should do more to protect students from harm.	11%	52%	38%
	If a crisis happened on campus, McGill would handle it well.	22%	39%	39%
McGill University responds too slowly in difficult situations.	10%	61%	29%	
McGill handles incidents in a fair and responsible manner.	17%	58%	25%	
McGill does enough to protect the safety of students.	19%	50%	31%	
<b>Respondents reported confusion about where and how to report violence of a sexual nature at McGill.</b>				

<sup>1</sup> Twenty-seven AAU universities participated in this national survey that was contracted to Westat. McGill and five other AAU institutions launched independent surveys.



<b>Personal Attitudes and Behaviours</b>	<p><b>Over 85% of respondents reported (moderately likely and very likely):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Respecting someone who did something to prevent sexual assault</li><li>- Trusting friends would watch out for them if something happened</li><li>- Checking-in with a friend at a party who looked intoxicated</li><li>- Confronting a friend who planned to use alcohol or drugs for sex or heard rumours about it</li></ul> <p><b>72% to 84% (moderately likely and very likely) would:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Challenge gender-based insulting remarks or refuse to participate in activities where women's appearances are ranked/rated</li></ul>
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<b>Consent</b>	<p><b>Over 95% reported (moderately likely and very likely) would:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Respect personal space, stop advances if someone refuses an offer, stop sexual activity when asked even if aroused, and stop sexual activity if asked even if it started consensually</li></ul> <p><b>76%:</b> Decide not to have sex with a partner if they are intoxicated by drugs and/or alcohol</p> <p><b>71%:</b> Ask for verbal consent when I am intimate with someone, even if we are in a long-term relationship</p> <p><b>60%:</b> Decide not to have sex with someone if I'm intoxicated by drugs and/or alcohol</p> <p><b>56%:</b> Ask the person I'm with if they would like to keep going, every step of the way (example: hugging to kissing to having sex)</p>
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<b>Personal Experiences</b>	<p><b>Over 50%</b> reported <b>witnessing</b> inappropriate or crude sexist/gender based remarks, unwelcomed sexual attention, advances, and requests for sexual favours,</p> <p><b>Over 30%</b> received <b>disclosure</b> from friend about sexual assault</p> <p><b>Over 30%</b> have <b>known someone who has been followed and/or watched</b> and made to feel uncomfortable, intimidated, or scared</p> <p><b>30%</b> have been <b>touched sexually without consent</b></p> <p><b>17%</b> have been in a <b>relationship</b> that was controlling or abusive</p> <p><b>10%</b> experienced <b>violence of a sexual nature</b></p>
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Training Sessions of Interest	<b>Interest in attending a session:</b>
	<b>Over 40%</b> Becoming an Active Bystander Workshop Rape Aggression Defence course RAD (offered by McGill Security) <b>Over 30%</b> Consent and Sexual Assault: Raising Awareness Workshop (offered by SEDE) Active Listening Workshop* Sexual Assault Sensitivity* Anti-Oppression* (* = offered by SACOMSS)

### Recommendations and Next Steps:

- 1) Recommendations for future iterations of the survey: Respondents recommended shortening the survey. A significant number of students browsed through the online form. Due to the conditional logic programming, students who browsed the form accessed questions that were not relevant to their experience and abandoned the survey prior to completion.
  - Modify personal experiences and reporting sections and include a question that asks respondents to indicate what they consider the most serious incident.
  - The pilot survey highlighted that students were uncertain about how to report incidents and the difference between informal and formal reporting mechanisms. Questions about the Committee on Discipline are better suited for a separate survey.
  - Remove the *Behaviours engaged in while at McGill* and *past experience with training* sections.
- 2) Conduct focus groups and individual follow-ups to better understand the initial findings of the pilot climate survey. The focus groups will address:
  - Male perceptions of sexual assault climate at university and how to better engage men in the discussion on consent, sexual assault and reporting
  - Survey enhancements, including communications, launch timing, public access to survey, etc.)
  - Incident reporting procedures and accessibility
- 3) Develop a campaign about to how report an incident of sexual harassment, sexual assault and abuse at McGill. The results indicate that there is confusion regarding the formal and informal reporting options on campus, how to file a report, and what the responsibilities of the Committee on Student Discipline.
- 4) Continue to consult with our AAU peers regarding the launch of their National Sexual Assault Climate Survey in April 2015. Compare findings, best practices, next steps, etc.