

**Executive Summary**

**Westat Report on the AAU Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Assault and Sexual Misconduct:  
Columbia University**

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**This report uses explicit language, including anatomical names of specific body parts and specific behaviors, to discuss survey findings concerning sexual assault, sexual misconduct and intimate partner violence.**

## **Executive Summary**

### **Background**

This report describes the results of the 2015 Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Assault and Sexual Misconduct administered at Columbia University. Columbia participated as part of a consortium of 27 colleges and universities organized by the Association of American Universities (AAU). There were three overall goals of the project: First, to estimate the incidence and prevalence of different forms of sexual assault and misconduct experienced by Columbia students. Second, to collect information on student views of the climate surrounding sexual assault and misconduct at Columbia. Third, to assess student knowledge and assessment of University resources and procedures when responding to instances of sexual assault and misconduct. Addressing each of these goals provides an empirical baseline to evaluate the University's effort to prevent sexual assault and sexual misconduct, strengthen the response to such misconduct when it occurs, and enhance our campus climate.

The research firm Westat led the design effort, carried out the on-line survey, and conducted the analysis presented in the attached report. The content and methodology were developed in consultation with a committee of representatives from the participating universities, which included Professor Debra Kalmuss from Columbia. A common questionnaire was used at each university. Response options for five questions included university-specific responses, e.g., resources related to sexual assault and sexual misconduct. The Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Assault and Sexual Misconduct was launched on April 6, 2015 and closed three weeks later on April 27, 2015. All enrolled students were invited to participate in the survey, and the present report is based on data from the 6,718 Columbia University students that did so.

This document summarizes the results of the attached Westat report and focuses separately on the categories of sexual assault and sexual misconduct, in the following order: nonconsensual sexual penetration, nonconsensual sexual touching, harassment, stalking, and intimate partner violence. For each category there will be a summary of the risk factors associated with sexual assault and misconduct, as well as reporting of assault and misconduct. The report then summarizes data on campus climate and student knowledge. Finally, the sampling and survey procedures are summarized.

In addition to the present release of the Westat report on the Columbia survey, the AAU has publicly released the combined findings from all 27 participating universities. The AAU aggregate report will be an important resource for the Columbia community and analyses comparing the aggregate results to Columbia's will be forthcoming. This document includes just a few preliminary observations about the comparison between the two data sets, focusing on the prevalence rates for each category of sexual assault and misconduct among undergraduate women.

No summary could fully cover all the findings in the lengthy and detailed report by Westat. You are encouraged to study the full Westat report, as well as the AAU report containing the aggregate findings from all participating Universities. Finally, more detailed analyses of the Columbia survey data are planned. For example, the report identified groups of students at particular risk and there is a need to better understand how to further strengthen prevention and support for these students. In addition, the

Westat report includes incidents of sexual assault and misconduct that were not perpetrated by Columbia students, employees or affiliates; that occurred during academic breaks while students were not attending school; and that were not committed on campus or a University affiliated property. Additional analyses are planned to better understand the influence of these factors on the prevalence of sexual assault and misconduct, in order to better shape Columbia's prevention and response strategies.

## **NONCONSENSUAL COMPLETED OR ATTEMPTED SEXUAL PENETRATION INVOLVING FORCE OR INCAPACITATION**

### **Prevalence**

The initial focus is on the prevalence of attempted or completed nonconsensual sexual penetration involving physical force, threat of physical force, or incapacitation by alcohol or drugs. Incapacitation was defined as being "unable to consent or stop what was happening because you were passed out, asleep, or incapacitated due to drugs or alcohol." Sexual penetration included vaginal, anal and oral sex as well as penetration with a finger or object. Prevalence was estimated by counting the number of individuals who experienced the events listed above at least once over a specified time period, either during the past year or since the start of college or graduate school.

The prevalence of completed or attempted penetration involving physical force or incapacitation was higher for women than for men and higher for undergraduates than for graduate students. The highest rate was for undergraduate women: 3.9% in the current school year and 10.9% since entering Columbia. Across the full AAU survey of 27 universities, the comparable rate of completed or attempted penetration involving physical force or incapacitation for female undergraduates since entering college was virtually the same at 10.8%.

Among Columbia female undergraduates, slightly more than half of the incidents of nonconsensual penetration involved physical force. Most of the incidents of penetration were completed, rather than attempted but not completed, (82% in the past year and 65% since entering college). In addition, for female undergraduates, attempted or completed penetration occurred most frequently in the freshman and sophomore years (5.1% and 4.4%, respectively) declining in the junior and senior years to 3.2% and 3.3%, respectively.

For female graduate students the rates of nonconsensual completed or attempted penetration under conditions of force or incapacitation were 1.8% in the current school year and 3.7% since entry to graduate school. The comparable rates for male undergraduate and graduate students were much lower (undergraduates: 0.7% and 1.8%; graduate students 0.6% and 1.2%).

Note: The remainder of this section does not include findings on male students; the rates of reported nonconsensual penetration were so low that the tables were not generated in order to protect the identity of the male students that reported an incident.

### **Who is at greatest risk for attempted or completed nonconsensual penetration?**

Female undergraduate students who identified as lesbian, bisexual, asexual or questioning have a higher rate of nonconsensual penetration (18.9%) since entering college, than did female students who self-identified as heterosexual or straight (9.4%). The same finding, but less pronounced, was observed among female graduate students. (Further research on this issue, looking separately at different

subgroups when sample sizes permit, will be conducted.) In addition, female undergraduate and graduate students reporting a disability registered with the University had a higher prevalence of non-consensual penetration than those without a registered disability (for female undergraduate students, 19.3% versus 10.3%; for female graduate students 13.1% versus 3.4%). (Due to the fact that “disability status” includes a broad array of disabilities and that the survey did not disclose whether the student had registered the disability before or after the reported incident(s), this finding will require more in-depth inquiry than is permitted by the present data.)

In addition to presenting data on nonconsensual penetration for students who identify as male and female, the report also presented data for students who identify as transgender, genderqueer or gender nonconforming, questioning or gender “not listed” (TGQN). TGQN undergraduate students reported higher levels of nonconsensual penetration since entering college (13.3%) than did undergraduate females (10.9%) or undergraduate males (1.8%).<sup>1</sup>

The Westat report also included prevalence rates for students based on race and ethnicity categories.<sup>2</sup> Rates of nonconsensual penetration among undergraduate women were similar across Hispanic, White, Black, and American Indian/Alaskan Native students. The rate was lower for Asian women. Among female graduate students, nonconsensual penetration was slightly higher among White women than among Black, Asian or Hispanic women.

#### **When and where do these events occur?**

The preponderance of undergraduate and graduate women who experienced attempted or completed nonconsensual penetration reported that all of the incidents occurred while Columbia was in session. Smaller percentages reported that either some or all of the incidents occurred during an academic break. For women reporting forced penetration, the percentages were: all of the incidents while School was in session, 70.7%; some incidents during academic break, 13.3%; all incidents during academic break, 16.0%. The comparable percentages for women reporting incapacitated penetration were: 76.8%; 6.9%; 16.3%.

The majority of female students who experienced attempted or completed nonconsensual penetration reported that the incidents occurred on campus or a campus affiliated property (for forced penetration,

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<sup>1</sup> The relatively small number of TGQN respondents at Columbia (1.2% of all who responded to the survey) limited the reliability of the prevalence estimates for these students of each form of sexual assault and sexual misconduct. Still, the pattern of data in the Columbia survey strongly suggests that TGQN students were more likely to experience nonconsensual penetration and touching, sexual harassment, stalking and intimate partner violence. In addition, TGQN respondents were more likely to believe that they would experience sexual assault, more likely to perceive it as a serious issue on campus, and less likely than others to believe they would receive supportive responses from campus officials and other students to reports of assault. In light of the limited reliability of the prevalence estimates, these prevalence rates and other attitudinal findings are not presented here in detail, but granular data on these and a variety of other measures can be found in the tables in the Westat report of Columbia findings, presented on the Sexual Respect website. An advantage of the much larger number of respondents in the AAU 27 University aggregate data is the larger population of TGQN students, allowing more reliable prevalence estimates. Readers are also encouraged to review that report.

<sup>2</sup> Although the Columbia sample included data from students who identified as multiracial, the Westat tables do not present separate prevalence rates for these students. Additional analyses will be conducted to calculate prevalence rates for multiracial students.

64.2%; for incapacitated penetration, 51.6%). A significant minority of incidents did not occur on campus or an affiliated property (for forced penetration, 35.8%; for incapacitated penetration, 48.4%).

### **Characteristic of perpetrators of nonconsensual penetration**

Among women who have experienced attempted or completed nonconsensual penetration, greater than 95% reported that the perpetrators were men. In addition, approximately 60% of those who reported forced penetration indicated that the perpetrator was a Columbia student, and approximately 40% did not know the perpetrator's association with the University. In addition, 2.6% indicated that the perpetrator was a faculty member or instructor.

The minority of female students reported that their experiences involved strangers (27.2% of incidents involving forced penetration and 21.1% of incidents involving incapacitated penetration). The majority of women who experienced nonconsensual penetration reported that the perpetrator was someone they were, or had, dated or been intimate with, or a friend or acquaintance.

### **Are alcohol/drugs involved?**

The large majority of women who experienced nonconsensual penetration reported that alcohol was used at the time of the incident. Two-thirds (63.1%) reported that their perpetrator had been drinking immediately before the incident versus 80.1% of those reporting incapacitated penetration. For both groups, drug use by perpetrators was much less common, although a significant minority of both groups did not know if the perpetrator was using drugs.

A substantial proportion of women who experienced nonconsensual penetration reported that they had been using alcohol immediately before the incident (63.5% for forced penetration and 88.4% for incapacitated penetration). The majority stated that they were not given alcohol or drugs without their consent (82.9% for forced penetration and 66.7% for incapacitated penetration).

### **Physical and emotional consequences of nonconsensual penetration by force or incapacitation**

Among women who experienced penetration by force, 23% reported physical consequences including vaginal or anal tearing, bruises, black eyes, cuts, scratches or swelling. In addition, 3% contacted a sexually transmitted disease and 2.1% became pregnant. Among women who experienced penetration while incapacitated, few reported physical consequences.

Larger percentages of survivors reported one or more emotional consequences. Most frequently mentioned were difficulty concentrating on studies, assignments or exams; feel numb or detached; fearfulness about safety; and loss of interest in daily activities or feelings of helplessness or hopelessness.

### **Reporting of nonconsensual penetration**

The majority of female students who experienced nonconsensual penetration did not report these incidents to a Columbia program or to the NYC police department. When reporting occurred, it was much more likely for penetrative acts involving physical force when compared to penetration by incapacitation (45.6% versus 16.8%).

Among those who did not report their experience, more than half stated that they did not do so because they felt it was not serious enough to report (58.1% for forced penetration, and 52.7% for incapacitated penetration). In addition, over one-third (37.5% for incapacitated penetration) said that they were too embarrassed, or ashamed, or that it would be too emotionally difficult to report, compared to 14.8% for forced penetration. At least one-quarter said they did not report experiences of nonconsensual penetration because they did not think anything would be done (34.6% for forced penetration and 25.7% for incapacitated penetration). Finally, just over 1 in 4 women who had experienced forced or incapacitated penetration stated that they did not report the experience to the University because it did not occur while they were attending school.<sup>3</sup>

The majority of women who experienced nonconsensual penetration told a friend, family member, faculty member or someone else about the experience. However, among women who experienced incapacitated penetration, more than 1 in 5 (22%) reported telling none of these sources.

## **NONCONSENSUAL SEXUAL TOUCHING INVOLVING FORCE OR INCAPACITATION**

### **Prevalence**

This section focuses on the prevalence of nonconsensual sexual touching involving physical force, threat of physical force or incapacitation by alcohol or drugs. As indicated in the previous section, incapacitation was defined as “unable to consent or stop what was happening because you were passed out, asleep, or incapacitated due to drugs or alcohol.” Sexual touching includes:

- kissing
- touching someone’s breast, chest, crotch, groin or buttocks
- grabbing, groping or rubbing against another in a sexual way, even if the touching is over someone’s clothes.

Prevalence is estimated by counting the number of individuals who have experienced any of the events listed above at least once over a specified time period, either during the past year or since the start of college or graduate school.

The prevalence of sexual touching involving physical force or incapacitation was higher for women than for men and higher for undergraduates than for graduate students. The highest rates were for undergraduate women: 9.1% in the current school year and 17.3% since entering Columbia. The comparable rate from the AAU survey of 27 universities for undergraduate women since entering university was 17.7%, compared to the Columbia rate of 17.3%.

For female graduate students, the rates of sexual touching were 3.0% in the current school year and 5.5% since entry to graduate school. The comparable rates for male undergraduate and graduate students were lower (undergraduates: 1.8% and 3.8%; graduate students 0.9% and 1.6 %.)

Overall, the prevalence of nonconsensual sexual touching involving force or incapacitation was much higher than that for nonconsensual penetration. However, the general pattern of findings related to touching parallels that for penetration:

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<sup>3</sup> For the question on reasons for not reporting an incident of sexual assault, respondents were presented with a list of possible reasons and were asked to “mark all that apply.” As a result, the percentage of respondents marking each reason does not add up to 100%.

- For female undergraduates, nonconsensual touching occurred most frequently in the freshman year (16.4%) declining to between 8-12% in subsequent years.
- For female students overall, those who identified as lesbian, bisexual, asexual or questioning were much more likely to experience nonconsensual touching than were those who identify as heterosexual or straight. Moreover, for the composite measure of sexual assault (nonconsensual touching and/or penetration), prevalence rates were higher for both male and female students who identified as gay, lesbian, bisexual, asexual or questioning, than for students who identified as heterosexual or straight.
- Rates of non-consensual sexual touching were lower among Black and Asian women (undergraduate and graduate) than among comparable students in other racial and ethnic groups. Among graduate women, Hispanics, American Indians/Alaska Natives and Whites report similar rates of nonconsensual touching. Among undergraduate women, rates of nonconsensual sexual touching were highest among American Indians/Alaska Natives with comparable rates among Hispanic and White women. Asian and Black undergraduate women had the lowest rates of non-consensual sexual touching.
- Female students and male students reported that 50-65% of incidents occurred on campus or in a University affiliated property.
- For female students overall, 98% reported that the perpetrator of nonconsensual touching was a man. Male students were more likely to report that the perpetrator was a woman: for forced touching 56%; for incapacitated touching 71%.
- Female and male students reported that in 75-85% of incidents of nonconsensual touching, the perpetrator was a Columbia student, with the remainder reporting either that they did not know the perpetrator's association with the University or that the perpetrator was not affiliated with the University.
- The majority of male and female students reported that the perpetrator was either a friend, acquaintance or someone they were, or had been, intimate with. However, for nonconsensual touching, compared to penetration, students were much more likely to report that the perpetrator was a stranger (for both female and male students those percentages ranged from 35-40%).
- The majority of male and female students who experienced nonconsensual touching reported that both they and their perpetrator were voluntarily drinking alcohol immediately before the incident.
- Among male students who experienced nonconsensual touching, no one reported an incident to a Columbia program. Among women, over 85% of sexual touching incidents were not reported to a Columbia program or the NYC police. For men and women the most common reason for non-reporting was not thinking the incident was serious enough (65-75%). Other prevalent reasons included not thinking anything would be done, and, for men, feelings of shame, embarrassment, or that it would be emotionally difficult.

- The majority of male and female students who experienced nonconsensual sexual touching told a friend, but a significant portion (20-40%) did not tell anyone.
- Respondents who experienced nonconsensual penetration or touching and also reported it to a Columbia program were asked about where they had reported the incident. It is important to note that the sample sizes were very small for these analyses and the standard errors of the reported percentages were correspondingly large. As a result, the following findings should only be viewed as suggestive. The most common offices that survivors reported to were: Counseling and Psychological Services/Mental Health Services (72.5%), Columbia Health/Student Health Services (26.7%), Sexual Violence Response (SVR) (25.0%), and the Gender-Based Misconduct Office (19.1%). Most students that reported an incident to the Gender-Based Misconduct Office did so between fall of 2012 and the summer of 2014, prior to the creation of the present office. The University offices of SVR, Counseling and Mental Health Services, and Columbia Health/Student Health Services received the most positive evaluations.

**SEXUAL ASSAULT INVOLVING FORCE OR INCAPACITATION:  
A COMPOSITE MEASURE COMBINING NONCONSENSUAL PENETRATION AND TOUCHING**

In the AAU study, “sexual assault” is a composite measure, which combines the measures of nonconsensual penetration and touching described above. The prevalence of sexual assault is estimated by counting the number of individuals who have experienced either nonconsensual penetration and/or touching involving physical force, threat of physical force, or incapacitation by alcohol or drugs at least once since entering the university. Attempted nonconsensual penetration is also included in the AAU's definition.

The AAU report that includes aggregate data from the 27 universities highlights two prevalence rates of sexual assault since entering the university, one that includes all female undergraduates and a second that includes all students, male and female, graduate and undergraduate. Both estimates include attempted as well as completed nonconsensual penetration. For female undergraduates, the 27 university aggregate prevalence rate of sexual assault was 23.1%. The comparable rate for Columbia was 22.7%. For all students, the AAU aggregate rate of sexual assault was 11.7%. The comparative rate for Columbia was 8.0%.

In other studies, discussion of this issue has often focused on the rate among female undergraduates in their senior year since it reflects their experience over the course of their time in college. A version of this definition is the basis for the “1 in 5” number often reported in the media about undergraduate women’s experience of sexual assault during their years in college, though the “1 in 5” does not take account of attempted nonconsensual penetration. Using these parameters, the AAU survey of 27 universities found that among all participating schools 26.1% of female undergraduate seniors reported that they have experienced sexual assault (completed nonconsensual penetration or nonconsensual sexual touching involving physical force or incapacitation) since starting college. At Columbia the rate was 24.4% of female undergraduate seniors, slightly below the aggregate. It bears note that, to the extent the rates reported in this survey are higher than those previously found in other studies, the differential is due in large part to a higher prevalence of nonconsensual sexual touching, as opposed to a higher rate of nonconsensual penetration.

## COERCION AND ABSENCE OF AFFIRMATIVE CONSENT

In addition to investigating sexual penetration and touching involving force and incapacitation on sexual misconduct, the survey also investigated when these behaviors involved coercion or absence of affirmative consent. Coercion was defined as non-physical harm or promise of rewards or punishments (e.g., threatening to post damaging information on-line; promising good grades or a promotion at work; threatening to give bad grades or cause trouble at work). Absence of affirmative consent (AAC) survey questions were developed to capture emerging university regulations that make it a violation if both parties in a sexual encounter do not explicitly consent. For example, the survey asked: "Has someone had [sexual] contact with you without your active, ongoing voluntary agreement?" Illustrations included: "ignored your cues to stop or slow down; went ahead without checking in or while you were still deciding; otherwise failed to obtain your consent."

### Prevalence

If a respondent reported that an instance of coercion or absence of affirmative consent (AAC) was part of a previously reported incident involving physical force or incapacitation, the event was not counted again in the coercion or AAC prevalence rate.

**Coercion.** Nonconsensual sexual penetration or touching, involving coercion, was reported by less than 1.0% of students, as a result there are no effects of coercion to report.

**AAC.** Among all students, 5.1% report experiencing nonconsensual penetration or touching involving AAC since entering Columbia. More than half of these incidents involved sexual touching and do not involve penetration. A higher percentage of female undergraduates (13.5%) reported at least one of these nonconsensual acts than female graduate students (5.6%), male undergraduates (3.3%) and male graduate students (0.6%).

Given the low prevalence of AAC among men, the remainder of the comments focus on the responses of female students. Many of the results involving AAC parallel those involving force or incapacitation. There was higher prevalence of nonconsensual penetration and touching among students who identified as lesbian, bisexual, asexual or questioning; and among disabled students. Female students reported that their perpetrators were overwhelmingly male and that two-thirds were Columbia students, with the remainder reporting either that they did not know the perpetrator's association with the University or that the perpetrator was not affiliated with the University. The majority of female students reported that the perpetrator was either a friend, acquaintance or someone they were, or had been, intimate with. However, for the few male students reporting penetration involving AAC, 48% reported that the perpetrator was a stranger.

## SEXUAL HARASSMENT

In addition to nonconsensual penetration and sexual touching, the survey included measures of three other forms of sexual misconduct: sexual harassment, intimate partner violence, and stalking.

Sexual harassment was defined as saying or doing something that: interfered with academic or professional performance; limited ability to participate in an academic program; or created an intimidating, hostile, or offensive social, academic or work environment. The five specific questions assessing harassment referred to such behaviors as: made inappropriate or offensive comments about

your or someone else's body, appearance, or sexual activities; made sexual remarks or told jokes or stories that were insulting or offensive to you; and continued to ask you to go out, get dinner, have drinks, or have sex even though you said "no." Prevalence is estimated by counting the number of individuals who have experienced any of the five harassing behaviors at least once over a specified time period, during the current year or since the start of college or graduate school.

Among all Columbia students, 41.9% indicated they had experienced sexual harassment since entering college or graduate school. Female undergraduates reported this most often (66.1%). The comparable rate for female undergraduates from the AAU 27 university aggregate data was 61.9%.

Among female undergraduates, the most common form of harassment involved inappropriate comments about their body appearance or sexual behavior (55.2%); followed by sexual remarks, or insulting or offensive jokes or stories (48.4%).

The prevalence rates of harassment for male undergraduates and female graduate students were 43.8% and 43.3%, respectively. Male graduate students had the lowest rate of harassment (27.1%).

Just over half of students reporting harassment said that it occurred more than once during the 2014-15 academic year with 22.7% reporting that it occurred twice and 26.7% indicating that it happened 3 to 5 times. The perpetrators were most frequently Columbia students. It is important to note that a larger percentage of graduate students experiencing harassment than of undergraduate students indicated that the perpetrator was a faculty member (26.3% of female, and 19.6% of male graduate students versus 6.0% of female and 4.4% of male undergraduates). Similarly, female graduate students, in comparison to female undergraduates, more commonly described the perpetrator as "other member of the university staff or administration" (12.1% versus 7.1%).

Students who experienced harassment rarely reported the incident to a Columbia program (less than 10% of incidents experienced by male undergraduates and female and male graduate students, and 17.6% for female undergraduates). The primary reason for non-reporting among all students, was not thinking it was serious enough to report (76.1%), followed by not thinking anything would be done (21.7%).

### **INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE (IPV)**

Questions about intimate partner violence (IPV) were included in the questionnaire to assess violence associated with relationships that would not be captured in the sections on nonconsensual penetration or touching. The IPV section was only administered to students who said they had been in any partnered relationship since entering college. Partnered relationships included: casual relationship or hook up; steady or serious relationship; marriage; civil union; domestic partnership; or cohabitation.

The questions about IPV asked whether a partner had ever done any to the following: a) controlled or tried to control you; b) threatened to physically harm you, someone you love, or themselves; c) used any kind of physical force against you. Prevalence is estimated by counting the number of individuals who have experienced any of the three IPV behaviors at least once during the current year or since the start of college or graduate school.

IPV was experienced by 7.2% of the Columbia students who had been in a partnered relationship since the start of college or graduate school. The prevalence for female undergraduates was 11.6%. The comparable rate from the AAU 27 university aggregate data was 12.8%.

Male undergraduate and graduate students had prevalence rates of 8.7% and 6.1%, respectively. Female graduate students had the lowest rate (5.5%). Among all students, the most common form of IPV was controlling or trying to control the student (4.3%); followed by using physical force (3.3%); and threatening to harm the student, family, or themselves (2.8%). It is notable that for students experiencing IPV since the beginning of the 2014 term, approximately half report more than one incident.

The frequency of reporting IPV to a Columbia program was highest for female undergraduates (32.9%), followed by female graduate students (23.0%) and male undergraduates (18.3%). Virtually no male graduate students reported IPV to a Columbia program. The primary reason for non-reporting, among all students, was not thinking it was serious enough to report (52.5%), followed by the incident did not occur on campus or was not associated with Columbia (26.3%), and not wanting to get the person in trouble (23.6%).

## STALKING

To assess stalking, students were asked whether someone had engaged in any of the following three behaviors, in a way that made “you afraid for your personal safety”:

- made unwanted phone calls, sent emails, voice, text or instant messages, or posted messages, pictures or videos on social networking sites in a way that made you afraid for your personal safety?
- showed up somewhere or waited for you when you did not want that person to be there in a way that made you afraid for your personal safety?
- spied on, watched or followed you, either in person or using devices or software that made you afraid for your personal safety?

To be considered stalking, the respondent also needed to indicate that these behaviors, either singly or in combination, occurred more than once and were committed by the same person.

Female undergraduates experienced stalking most often (7.5%). The comparable rate for female undergraduates from the AAU 27 university aggregate data was 6.7%.

The stalking rate for female graduate students was 4.6%, followed by male undergraduates (2.3%) and male graduate students (1.5%). Students who identified as lesbian, bisexual, asexual or questioning were more likely to experience stalking than were those who identify as heterosexual or straight, 6.0% versus 3.3%.

For students who experienced stalking, the most common form of stalking was “unwanted calls, emails, messages, pictures, video or social networking” (2.2%), followed by “showed up somewhere or waited for you when you did not want that person to be there” (1.7%), and “spied on, or watched, or followed you” (1.2%).

Among all students who experienced stalking, the perpetrator was most often described as a Columbia student, particularly among undergraduates: 63% for women; and 82.7% for men. While most students report that their stalker was known to them (a friend, acquaintance or someone they were, or had been,

intimate with), among female and male graduate students a substantial proportion indicated the perpetrator was a stranger (30.6% and 23.9% respectively).

The frequency of reporting stalking to a Columbia program was highest for male graduate students (45.2%), followed by female undergraduates (37.1%), female graduate students (27.6%) and male undergraduates (17.5%). The primary reason for non-reporting among all students, was not thinking that it was serious enough to report (54.1%), followed by not thinking anything would be done (36.1%), and the incident did not occur on campus or was not associated with Columbia (29.0%).

## **STUDENT ATTITUDES AND PERCEPTIONS REGARDING CAMPUS CLIMATE**

### **Bystander intervention upon witnessing sexual assault and sexual misconduct**

A set of bystander intervention questions presented students with different situations in which they may have been a bystander to the occurrence of sexual assault or sexual misconduct. Follow-up questions assessed: whether they had been exposed to each situation, the extent to which they intervened, and the reason(s) for not intervening if they did nothing.

Undergraduates were more likely than graduates to have witnessed sexual assault or misconduct. Over half of female (56.4%) and male undergraduates (53.3%) had witnessed a drunk person heading for a sexual encounter, compared to 25.7% of female graduate students and 28.3% of male graduate students. One-third (32.2%) of female undergraduates suspected that a friend of theirs had been sexually assaulted compared to one-fifth (19.6%) of male undergraduates, 10.8% of female graduate and 7.8% of male graduate students. The same pattern applied to witnessing someone acting in a sexually violent and harassing manner. Undergraduate women were most likely to report this experience (31.9%), followed by undergraduate men (22.6%), then female graduate students (15.5%) and finally male graduate students (9.5%).

The majority of students intervened when they suspected that a friend was sexually assaulted. Female students were more likely to intervene (70.1% of undergraduates and 69.4% of graduates) than male students (59.3% of undergraduates and 60.2% of graduates). The most commonly specified action across all groups was to speak to their friend or to someone else about the situation.

Intervention levels range from 40-44% across the four student groups in situations where students witnessed someone acting in a sexually violent or harassing manner. Substantially smaller percentages of students intervened when they witnessed someone who was drunk and heading for a sexual encounter. Female undergraduates were most likely to intervene (28.1%) and male graduate students were least likely to do so (14.5%).

### **Attitudes toward how campus officials would respond to a reported case of sexual assault or sexual misconduct**

Female students' responses to a series of questions indicate that they have less confidence than male students in how campus officials treat cases of sexual assault. For example, only 30.9% of female undergraduates and 38.9% of female graduate students, compared to 54.0% of male undergraduates and 57.7% of male graduate students, thought it would be "very" or "extremely" likely that campus officials would take a reported case of sexual assault seriously. Similarly, only 18.1% of female undergraduates thought it would be very or extremely likely that campus officials would conduct a fair

investigation of a reported case of sexual assault or sexual misconduct, followed by 27.6% of female graduate students, 35.3% of male undergraduates, and 40.4% of male graduate students. In addition, 18.6% of female undergraduates thought it would be very or extremely likely that campus officials would take action to address factors that may have led to the sexual assault or sexual misconduct, followed by 22.5% of female graduate students, 30.9% of male undergraduates, and 36.7% of male graduate students.

### **Perceptions about sexual assault and sexual misconduct on campus**

Female undergraduates view sexual assault and sexual misconduct to be more of a problem on campus than other groups (38.3% rate the problem as very or extremely serious) and male graduate students perceive it to be less of a problem than other groups (14.3% rate the problem as very or extremely serious). Graduate women and undergraduate men fall in-between the two groups with 24.1% of the former and 21.8% of the latter rating the problem as very or extremely serious.

Female undergraduate students perceive a higher likelihood that they will experience sexual assault or sexual misconduct on campus than other students (11.7% perceive that it is very or extremely likely that they will experience sexual assault or sexual misconduct on campus, as compared to 4.3% for female graduate students, 1.8% for male undergraduates and 1.4% for male graduate students).

### **Knowledge about University resources for those affected by sexual assault and misconduct**

Awareness of the resources at the University available to students affected by sexual assault or sexual misconduct is notably higher among undergraduates than among graduate students. Among the undergraduates, more than three-quarters of both men and women were aware of the following offices: Columbia Health/Student Health Services, Counseling and Psychological Services/Mental Health Services, SVR, Public Safety, and Alice Health Promotion. Substantial majorities of graduate students were aware of Columbia Health/Student Health Services (85.2% of women and 79.1% of men) and for female graduate students, Counseling and Psychological Services/Mental Health Services (75.5%). Just slightly over half of female (58.4%) and male (55.7) graduate students reported an awareness of the services offered by SVR.

## **SURVEY PROCEDURES AND RESPONSE RATES**

Email invitations to participate in the survey were sent to the Columbia email accounts of all 25,622 Columbia students who were 18 years of age or older and enrolled in a degree program in April of 2015. The initial invitation was sent April 6, and reminder emails were sent on April 13 and 23. The invitation and reminder emails were sent from a Westat email account and the invitation and reminder emails were signed by the Provost. All students were offered a \$5 Amazon gift card to complete the survey. Individual school Deans or Deans of students also sent reminders to the students in their schools, and the chair-elect of the University Senate's Student Affairs Committee sent a reminder to all students, which included a link to videos made by Columbia students explaining why the survey was important to them.

The Columbia response rate was 26.2%, as presented below. In comparison, the AAU 27 university aggregate response rate was 19.3%.

N = 25,622	Female			Male			Combined		
	n	resp	%	n	resp	%	n	resp	%
Graduate or Professional	9,186	2,842	30.9	8,383	1,816	21.7	17,569	4,658	26.5
Undergraduates	3,851	1,189	30.9	4,202	871	20.7	8,053	2,060	25.6
	13,037	4,031	30.9	12,585	2,687	21.4	<b>25,622</b>	<b>6,718</b>	<b>26.2</b>

You are encouraged to also read the full Westat report of the Columbia findings, which is presented on the Sexual Respect website.