



WE ARE NEW YORK'S LAW SCHOOL

New York Law School 2020–21 Title IX Campus Survey

INTRODUCTION

In Spring 2021, in accordance with New York State's Enough is Enough legislation (Article 129-B), New York Law School (NYLS) administered its third biennial campus climate student survey. The inaugural survey was administered in the Spring of 2017. This report provides student feedback about the current campus climate concerning sexual misconduct. The Spring 2021 survey inquired about unwanted sexual contact and sexual assault; student perceptions surrounding institutional response to sexual misconduct; incidents of sexual misconduct experienced by, observed by, or reported to student survey respondents; and insight into students' knowledge of applicable policies, services, and resources.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, starting in March 2020, all NYLS courses and programs were held in a remote or hybrid setting, so most students were not physically present on the NYLS campus from March 2020 through the survey administration in April 2021. The wording on some questions was modified to reflect the virtual setting of courses and events over the past year.

The information gathered from this survey will serve as a valuable resource as NYLS continues its efforts to enhance services and educational programming related to awareness, and prevention of sexual misconduct.

THE SPRING 2021 SURVEY

The survey link was emailed to all 1,041 enrolled students in the J.D. (Day and Evening Divisions) and LL.M. cohorts during the Spring 2021 semester. The survey opened on March 30, 2021 and closed on April 30, 2021. NYLS received a 32% response rate (336 students) which is higher than the previous survey's response rate of 26% in 2019. The survey was administered in accordance with accepted standards, and NYLS solicited responses from active enrolled students across all class years, races and ethnicities, and sexual orientations. With respect to gender identity, 59% of responding students reported they are female; 36% self-reported as male; and 5% self-reported as genderqueer/gender non-conforming, questioning, or declined to state.

All responses were submitted anonymously. Respondents were not compelled to answer every question. The percentages indicated below are based on the number of students who answered a particular survey question.

KEY SURVEY RESULTS:

Perceptions of Safety and Law School Responsiveness:

Student sentiment about campus safety was overwhelmingly positive with 85% of respondents either somewhat agreeing or agreeing that they feel safe on campus. This is lower than in 2019 when 97% agreed with this statement, but it should be noted that 10% responded "not applicable" likely because they had not physically been on campus. Nearly 96% responded that they agree or somewhat agree with the statement "I feel safe when participating in remote activities."

Knowledge of Title IX Policies, Title IX Personnel, and Resources:

The vast majority of responding students (at least 90%) were aware of NYLS's Sexual Misconduct policies and were aware that NYLS has procedures for dealing with reported incidents of sexual misconduct.

Over 85% of respondents reported that they understand the Title IX and Deputy Title IX Coordinators' roles with respect to complaints of sex- or gender-based misconduct. Over 95% responded that they were aware that NYLS has internal procedures

for handling issues relating to the Sexual Misconduct Policy and also that there are also remedies available within the criminal justice system. About 75% reported that they were aware of resources for individuals who experience sexual misconduct. Additionally, 70% of responding students were aware of how to report sexual misconduct. These figures are all similar to what was reported in 2019.

Incidents Involving Sexual Misconduct (personally experienced, observed, or informed of):

Students were surveyed about incidents of sexual misconduct they personally experienced, personally observed, or were informed of; 225 students responded to a question about whether such misconduct (experienced or observed/informed of) created an exclusionary, intimidating, offensive, or hostile learning environment at NYLS. Overall, they reported feeling safe on campus. The vast majority (93%) of responding students indicated that they had not experienced, observed, or been informed of instances of sexual harassment, and 98% reported they had not experienced, observed, or been informed of instances of sexual assault at NYLS during the 2020-21 academic year.

There were reports of 15 incidents of personal experiences with sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, or non-consensual sexual contact.

Reporting Incidents Involving Sexual Misconduct (personally experienced, observed, or informed of):

Of students who responded that they experienced, observed, or heard about sexual misconduct, six indicated that they reported the incident to NYLS faculty or administrators.

Students who did not make a report about sexual misconduct to NYLS administration indicated that their reasons included that the incident did not affect them at the time, that they did not know where to go to make the report, they feared retaliation, and/or they were unsure of how the report would be viewed.

Bystander Intervention Readiness:

Overall, the vast majority of NYLS students (over 90%) reported that they would take action if prohibited misconduct occurred in their presence. Such action would include:

- Confronting other students who make inappropriate or negative sexually related comments and gestures in their presence, to get them to stop
- Reporting when other students engaged in sexually harassing or unwanted behavior in their presence
- Reporting, if aware, that a student used force or pressure to engage in sexual contact with another person
- Agreeing to be interviewed if they witnessed or had information relevant to a sexual misconduct case

A smaller percentage (76.5%) indicated they would make a report if other students engaged in sexist comments, gestures, or jokes in their presence. This compares to 63% who answered the question in that way in 2019.

Training:

The majority of students who participated in the training program reported that the program was “informative” or “very informative” with respect to their understanding of the definition of sexual misconduct (84%), the definition of affirmative consent (84%), how to report sexual misconduct (81%), and how to intervene as a “bystander” to prevent the occurrence of sexual assault against another student (83%).

MOVING FORWARD

Results of the survey have been shared with the NYLS senior administration. As with any survey data it collects, NYLS will use information from this survey to enhance its program of education, awareness, prevention, and support as part of its continued efforts to achieve a campus environment that is free of sexual misconduct.