



The University of Chicago conducted the Sexual Misconduct Survey: Attitudes, Knowledge and Experience, or the Spring 2015 Climate Survey, to examine the campus climate, with a particular focus on questions of sexual misconduct, including sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and sexual harassment. This document constitutes a preliminary report on the outcomes of the survey, which was administered in April 2015 and included all enrolled students 18-years-of-age and older. Detailed information about the survey and the survey process, including a copy of the Provost's letter to the campus community accompanying the publication of this report, is available here:

<http://csl.uchicago.edu/get-involved/climate-survey-project/spring-2015-climate-survey-materials>

This preliminary report is intended to provide immediate feedback to the University community. It is not a definitive analysis of the survey's results. A more in-depth report of survey responses will follow. To this end, NORC will further analyze the survey results and produce a full report. The goal for the full report is to provide empirical data that will foster a better understanding of how sexual misconduct impacts our learning and living environments, and inform strategies for improving our campus climate. This report, and further analysis of the data, will inform our ongoing efforts to improve sexual misconduct prevention, education and awareness programs, as well as how we provide resources to victims and survivors.

The Spring 2015 survey instrument was designed by a University faculty committee, who referenced a similar survey conducted by MIT, as well as the "Not Alone" survey toolkit created by the White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault. Individual and groups of students representing a diverse cross section from across the University were asked to provide feedback, which informed the survey itself, how it was administered and the communication efforts to maximize participation. The University also collaborated with peer institutions in developing the survey, and this engagement provided an avenue for further faculty and student input into the survey content and associated process.

The Spring 2015 Climate Survey was sponsored by the Office of the President, the Office of the Provost, and Campus and Student Life. It was administered by NORC at the University of Chicago and had a field period of two weeks, ending on April 28. The figures and the data analysis in the tables of this report were provided by NORC.

## Survey Response Rate

The survey was sent to 14,752 students, and the overall response rate was 28%. As the table below shows, the response rate varied by subpopulation, as is generally the case with such census surveys, regardless of subject matter. In the response rate breakdown, we make a distinction between graduate and professional students who spend most of their program time on the Hyde Park campus, and those who study mostly at the Gleacher Center and other University locations in the U.S. and abroad. Because the response rate is very low among graduate students outside Hyde Park, a different approach may be needed to gather data about this population in order to evaluate their experiences and perspectives.

Subpopulation	Sex*	Number responding	Number in population	Response rate
Undergraduate	Female	1,093	2,669	41.0%
	Male	928	2,960	31.4%
	Total	2,021	5,629	35.9%
Graduate and professional – Hyde Park	Female	946	2,900	32.6%
	Male	977	3,956	24.7%
	Total	1,923	6,856	28.0%
Graduate and professional – Other locations	Female	59	649	9.1%
	Male	113	1,618	7.0%
	Total	172	2,267	7.6%
Grand total		4,116	14,752	27.9%

\* For the purpose of calculating response rates, students were categorized by their sex in the University system of record.

Respondents were also asked to self-identify by gender in the survey itself. The following table shows the breakdown of responses to that question:

Gender response	Number of respondents	Percentage of all respondents
Female	2,034	49.4%
Male	1,954	47.5%
Female to male transgender or trans man	7	0.2%
Male to female transgender or trans woman	*	≤0.1%
Genderqueer/gender non-conforming	35	0.9%
Other term specified (write-in)	29	0.7%
Multiple specified	54	1.3%
Total	4,116	100%

\* To ensure confidentiality, the exact response counts of identities with fewer than five responses (but at least one) are omitted from the report

During the survey deployment, a sample of students (~20% of the population) was randomly selected and received additional email reminders about taking the survey. This group's response rate was five to ten percentage points higher in each population segment. In this preliminary report, we do not make any distinction between responses from the sample and the general population. However, we expect to use the sample, in the full report and subsequent analysis, to test for differences in specific results related to non-response.

## Specific Question Results

This preliminary report contains the results from three specific sets of questions, giving an overview of the incidence of sexual assault, abuse, and misconduct; intimate partner violence; and climate and sexual harassment.

Although we present percentages *of respondents* who have experienced various forms of sexual misconduct in the tables below, it is not yet possible to draw conclusions from these results about the incidence of these events *across the University population as a whole*. As with results from similar surveys recently conducted at other institutions, these numbers should be understood only to represent the incidence of such events *among the students who responded to the survey*.

Within each set of questions, respondents were asked separately about each kind of behavior or experience, and they could reply yes, no, or unsure for each one. Because each student could report more than one kind of experience, the percentages in the tables below cannot meaningfully be added up across the rows of the tables.

Since the number of responses from graduate and professional students who spend most of their program time at locations other than Hyde Park is small, we do not present those results in this preliminary report. The full report will examine this group to determine how their responses compare to the Hyde Park graduate and professional student population.

In order to preserve confidentiality of responses, when fewer than five students (but at least one) responded affirmatively to a question, the exact number and percentage is omitted from the table, and an indication to this effect is included in place of the actual number.

### Explicit Language

Some of the survey questions used explicit language, including names of body parts and specific sexual behaviors. The survey also asked about sexual assault and other forms of sexual violence. This report contains the specific wording used for each question, which some may find disturbing. Information on University support resources is available here: <http://csl.uchicago.edu/get-help>.

### Sexual Assault, Sexual Abuse, and Other Misconduct

Respondents were able to indicate whether they had ever experienced any of several types of behaviors without their consent since coming to the University of Chicago (regardless of where the event occurred). Respondents could select from “No”, “Yes, once”, “Yes, more than once”, and “Unsure” for each item. The two tables below show the incidence rate among subpopulations of the respondent group for each item, with respondents counted who said either “Yes, once” or “Yes, more than once” to any given item. Note that the percentages shown are the percentage of students responding to the survey who experienced each event, not percentages in the general student population.

The first table on the next page reports responses from all survey respondents. The second table is based on those cases in which the respondent reported that the episode involved the use of force, threat of physical harm, or incapacitation. The information in the second table corresponds more closely to both the University’s definition of sexual assault and to the definition of sexual assault in Illinois law.

## ALL RESPONDENTS

<b>“Have you experienced any of the following, without your consent, since you came to UChicago”‡</b>	UG - F	UG - M	Grad (HP) – F	Grad (HP) – M
Number of survey respondents	1,093	928	946	977
<b>Sexual assault</b>				
Someone put a penis or inserted fingers or objects into my vagina or anus without my consent	107 (9.8%)	10 (1.1%)	17 (1.8%)	* (≤0.5%)
Someone performed oral sex on me or made me give them oral sex without my consent	53 (4.8%)	19 (2.0%)	8 (0.8%)	* (≤0.5%)
Someone put my penis or fingers in their vagina or anus, or made me put objects in their vagina or anus without my consent	21 (1.9%)	18 (1.9%)	* (≤0.5%)	* (≤0.5%)
<b>Sexual abuse and other misconduct</b>				
Someone removed some of my clothes without my consent	104 (9.5%)	23 (2.5%)	18 (1.9%)	8 (0.8%)
Someone kissed me without my consent	225 (20.6%)	82 (8.8%)	60 (6.3%)	33 (3.4%)
Someone touched, fondled, or rubbed up against private areas of my body (breast/chest, crotch or butt) without my consent	389 (35.6%)	119 (12.8%)	79 (8.4%)	39 (4.0%)

\* To ensure confidentiality, the exact counts with fewer than five responses (but at least one) are omitted from the report

‡ Graduate and professional students were asked “... since you started graduate school at UChicago”.

## OF THE INCIDENTS REPORTED ABOVE, DID SUCH INCIDENTS INVOLVE THE USE OF FORCE, THREAT OF PHYSICAL HARM, OR INCAPACITATION

	UG - F	UG - M	Grad (HP) – F	Grad (HP) – M
Number of survey respondents	1,093	928	946	977
<b>Sexual assault</b>				
Someone put a penis or inserted fingers or objects into my vagina or anus without my consent	85 ( 7.8 %)	6 ( 0.6 %)	11 ( 1.2 %)	* (≤0.5%)
Someone performed oral sex on me or made me give them oral sex without my consent	45 ( 4.1 %)	10 ( 1.1 %)	7 ( 0.7 %)	* (≤0.5%)
Someone put my penis or fingers in their vagina or anus, or made me put objects in their vagina or anus without my consent	19 ( 1.7 %)	10 ( 1.1 %)	* (≤0.5%)	* (≤0.5%)
<b>Sexual abuse and other misconduct</b>				
Someone removed some of my clothes without my consent	86 ( 7.9 %)	16 ( 1.7 %)	12 ( 1.3 %)	6 ( 0.6 %)
Someone kissed me without my consent	172 ( 15.7 %)	57 ( 6.1 %)	36 ( 3.8 %)	18 ( 1.8 %)
Someone touched, fondled, or rubbed up against private areas of my body (breast/chest, crotch or butt) without my consent	280 ( 25.6 %)	71 ( 7.7 %)	42 ( 4.4 %)	17 ( 1.7 %)

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‡ Graduate and professional students were asked “... since you started graduate school at UChicago”.

## Intimate Partner Violence

Students who indicated that they had had some kind of intimate relationship with another individual (not necessarily another student) since arriving at the University were asked questions related to violent encounters in that relationship. In the table below, we show the number of students by subgroup who responded “yes” to each item. This number is also shown as a percentage of those students who were asked the question (i.e., those who had indicated having a partner during their time at the University).

<b><i>“How often has a casual, steady, or serious dating/intimate partner or spouse done the following to you against your will since you came to UChicago?” ‡</i></b>	UG - F	UG - M	G (HP) - F	G (HP) - M
Students asked the question (percentage of all respondents)	921 (84.3%)	759 (81.8%)	837 (88.5%)	846 (86.6%)
Scratched, bent your fingers, slapped, twisted your arm, bit, pushed, grabbed and/or shoved you	80 (8.7%)	54 (7.1%)	48 (5.7%)	44 (5.2%)
Kicked you, burned you, hit you with a fist, thrown items that hit you and/or slammed you against a wall	19 (2.1%)	16 (2.1%)	18 (2.2%)	18 (2.1%)
Choked or strangled you	25 (2.7%)	* (≤0.5%)	15 (1.8%)	6 (0.7%)
Beaten you, hit you with a hard object, or assaulted you with a gun, knife or other weapon	* (≤0.5%)	* (≤0.5%)	* (≤0.5%)	10 (1.2%)

\* To ensure confidentiality, the exact number of events with fewer than five responses (but at least one) are omitted from the report

‡ Graduate and professional students were asked “... since you started graduate school at UChicago”.

## Climate and Sexual Harassment

Survey respondents were asked about their experiences with a variety of verbal and other behaviors in a variety of contexts. For each possibility, respondents could select “No”, or could select one or more of the following options: “Yes, in a class setting”, “Yes, in a lab or work setting”, “Yes, in some other UChicago setting”. In the table below, we show the number and percentage of students in each respondent subgroup who reported observing or experiencing each type of incident in at least one setting.

<b><i>“Has anyone ever done the following since you came to UChicago?” ‡</i></b>	UG - F	UG - M	G (HP) - F	G (HP) - M
<i>Made sexist remarks or jokes about women in your presence</i>	922 (84.4%)	688 (74.1%)	582 (61.5%)	441 (45.1%)
<i>Made sexist remarks or jokes about men in your presence</i>	517 (47.3%)	535 (57.7%)	278 (29.4%)	346 (35.4%)
<i>Made inappropriate comments about your or someone else’s body, appearance or attractiveness in your presence</i>	897 (82.1%)	650 (70.0%)	528 (55.8%)	439 (44.9%)
<i>Suggested or implied in your presence that women don’t have to meet the same intellectual standards that men do in order to get into UChicago</i>	350 (32.0%)	165 (17.8%)	252 (26.6%)	161 (16.5%)
<i>Told offensive jokes about lesbians, gay men or bisexual people (for example, ‘fag’ jokes)</i>	636 (58.2%)	509 (54.8%)	236 (24.9%)	244 (25.0%)
<i>Made crude or offensive remarks about gay people (for example, saying they’re ‘sick’)</i>	338 (30.9%)	261 (28.1%)	127 (13.4%)	112 (11.5%)
<i>Called someone else homophobic names (like ‘dyke,’ ‘fence-sitter,’ ‘faggot,’ etc.) in your presence</i>	347 (31.7%)	317 (34.2%)	88 (9.3%)	108 (11.1%)
<i>Said crude or gross sexual things to you, or tried to get you to talk about sexual matters when you didn’t want to</i>	551 (50.4%)	284 (30.6%)	193 (20.4%)	151 (15.5%)
<i>E-mailed, texted, posted on social media or instant messaged offensive sexual jokes, stories, or pictures to you</i>	223 (20.4%)	165 (17.8%)	79 (8.4%)	83 (8.5%)
<i>Told you about their sexual experiences when you did not want to hear them</i>	426 (39.0%)	341 (36.7%)	172 (18.2%)	161 (16.5%)
<i>Repeatedly asked you on dates, to go out, or hook up even after you’ve said no</i>	355 (32.5%)	75 (8.1%)	125 (13.2%)	39 (4.0%)
<i>Seemed to be bribing you with some sort of reward if you agreed to engage in a romantic or sexual relationship with that person</i>	95 (8.7%)	38 (4.1%)	27 (2.9%)	11 (1.1%)

‡ Graduate and professional students were asked “... since you started graduate school at UChicago”.

## Next Steps

The Spring 2015 Climate Survey is one of several initiatives intended to understand and to improve the climate on campus for our students. And this preliminary report is only the first step in using the Spring 2015 Survey to achieve those ends. Here is an outline of how we expect to use the data from the survey, and what we expect to report to the University community as our efforts continue.

NORC will provide the University with a more detailed report on survey results. This report will include greater detail on the questions reported in this preliminary report, as well as analysis of other questions asked in the survey. We expect the fuller report to address such questions as the contexts in which inappropriate behaviors, abuse, and assault occur, whether there are groups who are at higher risk of these episodes than others, the extent to which alcohol or substance use affects risks of experiencing particular behaviors, perceptions about the University's responses to misconduct, and knowledge of resources available.

Provided that the number of responses from each group is sufficient to preserve confidentiality, the report will also seek to analyze some specific questions as they relate to additional subpopulations, such as:

- Students of color
- LGBTQ students
- Undergraduates living in and outside of College Housing system
- Graduate and professional students in specific Divisions and Schools
- Graduate and professional students whose programs take place at locations other than Hyde Park

Following submission of NORC's full report, the University will use the survey data to address specific questions that may be raised, either by the full report itself, or in the process of examining possible initiatives to improve education about, prevention of, or responses to sexual misconduct. For instance, we hope to use the sample pool data to shed light on the extent to which these results reported here can be reliably extrapolated to the full University population. A working group, to be convened during the Summer Quarter, will guide these additional analysis efforts. The University will seek input and involvement from students, faculty and staff regarding further questions to be addressed in this report, or potentially in future analysis of this topic. Individuals interested in providing such input may also send it to: [climate-survey-project@uchicago.edu](mailto:climate-survey-project@uchicago.edu)

Individuals who wish to raise concerns or file a report of misconduct under the University policy on Unlawful Discrimination and Sexual Misconduct or Title IX should contact: Belinda Cortez Vazquez, Interim Title IX Coordinator for the University and Title IX Coordinator for Students: [belinda@uchicago.edu](mailto:belinda@uchicago.edu).

For more information about the Spring 2015 Climate Survey, please visit: <http://csl.uchicago.edu/get-involved/climate-survey-project/spring-2015-climate-survey-materials>