



Sexual Violence Prevalence (SVP) Campus Climate Survey Report

SUNY Sullivan

August 2023

Provided by:

State University of New York System Administration

Office of University of Life,

Office of Institutional Research and Data Analytics,

and

Office of General Counsel (Risk Management and Compliance)

Prepared by: Dr. Jennifer Wrage, Title IX Coordinator
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SUNY's Sexual Violence Prevalence (SVP) Campus Climate Survey is intended to gather information about the rate of incidents of sexual violence and about the knowledge of policies and resources. Per [NYS Education Law](#)¹ and [SUNY BOT policy](#)², every SUNY campus is required to participate in this uniform survey project bi-annually. As per SUNY policy (see [Appendix E](#)), "results will be published on the campus website providing no personally identifiable information shall be shared." This report contains details from the surveys as well as recommendations for further action.

Executive Summary

From March 20th, 2023 through April 10th, 2023, our campus conducted an online administration of the Sexual Violence Prevalence (SVP) Campus Climate Survey. This survey was administered to students and employees and is required to address, at minimum, student and employee knowledge about:

- The Title IX Coordinator's role;
- Campus policies and procedures addressing sexual assault;
- How and where to report sexual violence as a victim/survivor or witness;
- The availability of resources on and off campus, such as counseling, health, academic assistance;
- The prevalence of victimization and perpetration of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking on and off campus during a set time period (for example, the last two years);
- Bystander attitudes and behavior;
- Whether victims/survivors reported to the College/University and/or police, and reasons why they did or did not report.
- The general awareness of the difference, if any, between the institution's policies and the penal law; and
- The general awareness of the definition of affirmative consent.

SUNY Sullivan distributed 985 surveys campus-wide, 799 surveys to students and 186 to employees. Our overall response rate was 14.6% with 144 surveys completed. Faculty and staff comprised the employee category. Staff had the highest response rate, 60.2%. The faculty response rate was 37.3%. Students had a very low response rate of 7.6%. Due to the low student response rate and low number of incidents on campus (6), no survey data on specific incidents or outcomes was available to report.

In reviewing the results, we highlight that the survey indicated:

- Of the 55 employees who responded, 92.8% knew of the Title IX Coordinators role on campus, yet only 70.5% knew how to contact the Title IX Coordinator;
- Comparatively, 17 students respondents or 28.3% answered that they knew how to contact the Title IX Coordinator
- Overall, students are less aware of how to contact the Title IX Coordinator than are employees;
- Students, faculty, and staff are unfamiliar with SUNY's alcohol and/or drug amnesty policy in reporting sexual violence;
- Students are generally aware of our counseling, health, and support services available to them;
- Students are less aware of local, off-campus resources such as the local police and health care facilities
- Approximately a third of our student body recall having attended Title IX training or having received written information about Title IX policies and where to go for help;
- 100% of students, faculty, and staff who completed the survey stated that during the last year, they had not experienced any unwanted sexual comments, sexual slurs, or demeaning jokes;
- More information, outreach, and follow-up are needed to provide up-to-date information to students and employees in regard to policies, laws, available resources

Results are being reviewed by Dr. Jennifer Wrage, Dean of Student Success and Workforce Development and Title IX Coordinator, Rose Hanofee, Interim VP of Academic and Student Affairs, Andrew Becker, Director of Institutional Research and Information Technology, Stephanie Hance, Institutional Research Assistant, Jennifer King, Director of Learning and Student Development Services Counselor, and Nicole Slevin Nikolados, Director of Human Resources.

If you have any questions about the survey or the results included in this report, please contact *Dr. Jennifer Wrage, Dean of Student Success and Workforce Development and Title IX Coordinator* at jwrage@sunysullivan.edu.

Background

The SVP survey is administered every other year by all SUNY campuses, who work closely with SUNY System Administration to coordinate the survey administration itself. An effort is made to keep the questions from one administration to the next as consistent as possible to allow for reliable and meaningful longitudinal data. System-wide IRB review takes place for each survey administration (See [Appendix D](#) for IRB/HREB letter).

Our campus administered both the student and employee surveys between March 20, 2023, and April 10, 2023. Excluded survey populations were individuals under 18 years of age, all incarcerated individuals regardless of age, and all students concurrently enrolled in high school regardless of age. Surveys were sent to all eligible students and employees and did NOT offer any incentives for participation. Our campus provided survey outreach in the form of email notifications explaining the purpose of the survey as well as email reminders to please complete. Informational flyers were hung in all of the academic buildings, the field house, and the dormitory.

Through this survey, we look to gain a more thorough understanding of our strengths as well as weaknesses regarding our ability to respond to incidents of sexual violence on campus. By highlighting our available resources, such as our Student Health Center, we can celebrate the staff and departments who are working so hard to make the students feel safe.

In the Spring of 2023, the College updated its Institutional Strategic Plan, identifying Enrollment and Student Success as its first priority. Our goal is to use the data from the SVP Survey to inform us on additional strategies to ensure student success. We can then focus more of our efforts and funding on the identified gaps to add resources, training and communication where they were previously lacking.

Perceptions of the campus are that it is a small and safe community. Like all colleges, SUNY Sullivan does experience sexual misconduct incidences and code of conduct infractions. However, the number of incidences of sexual assault, domestic/ dating violence, and stalking on campus is low with six (6) reported cases for the period. This number may be reflective of the actual number of incidences. However, it could also be due to students or employees not reporting incidences of sexual misconduct as they are unsure of whom they can speak to about their concerns. We expect that the SVP Survey will provide us with information to help us address any gaps to ensure that our small community remains a safe place for our students.

Survey Participant Information

	Students	Employees- Staff	Employees- Faculty	All Employees*	Overall Surveyed Population
Number of Surveys Sent	799	-	-	186	985
Number of Survey Responses	61	50	31	83	144
Survey Response Rate	7.6%	60.2%	37.3%	44.6%	14.6%
SUNY Benchmark- Community Colleges	6.4%	57%	42.4%	-	-

*Out of the 83 Employees who responded, 31 self-reported as Faculty, 50 self-reported as Staff, and 2 declined to respond

	Student Respondent Demographics	SUNY Sullivan Student Body Demographics**
Age 18-20	30	368
Age 21-24	11	134
Age 25 and Older	20	297
Female	51	434
Male	10	365
Full-Time Status	36	455
Part-Time Status	25	344
American Indian or Alaskan Native	1	6
Asian	1	9
Black	6	147
Hispanic/ Latino	11	233
Non-Resident Alien	2	14
Two or More Races	4	31
Unknown	2	51

**No SUNY Sullivan Students currently report as being of Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander heritage

Survey Results and Discussion

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic and all colleges in New York having to close, the last time SUNY Sullivan Community College disseminated the SVP Survey was in 2017. The challenges identified in the 2017 report included a low student response rate, 1.8% and insufficient employee knowledge regarding that Title IX reporting is mandatory and of the college's alcohol/drug amnesty policy when reporting sexual misconduct.

In 2017, students were notified of the survey through email only. The report conveyed the low student response rate was due to students not reading their email. For the 2023 survey, an email was sent to the students, as well as reminder emails were sent asking students to participate in the survey. Flyers were also distributed on campus, and the SVP was advertised in the weekly student activity email announcement. The student response rate tripled compared to 2017. In 2023, 61 students completed the survey compared to only 19 in 2017, an increase from 1.8% to 7.6%. While a still seemingly low response rate, our student response rate is higher than the Benchmark response rate for SUNY Community Colleges, which is at 6.4%. We aim to continue the trend of increased survey response rates in the future by further developing our outreach and awareness strategies.

From this survey, we can see that student knowledge of campus-wide sexual and interpersonal violence-related policies and resources is mixed. 67.8% of students reported being aware that there are policies in place, and an even greater number, 72.7%, know the definition of Affirmative Consent. Students are also generally aware of many of the offices with whom they may file a formal complaint. The Student Counseling Center was the most recognized office, with 72.5% of respondents being aware that they could file a report there. Campus Security followed closely at 70.7%, the Title IX Coordinator at 69%, and then the Health Center, which 66.7% of respondents identified.

Even being aware of such confidential resources, there is still a general lack in understanding as to how a student would actually contact these offices to file a report. Only 28.3% of student respondents report knowing how to contact the Title IX Coordinator, with a range of 34-37.7% of students stating that they know how to file a report for stalking, sexual assault, sexual harassment, or domestic/ dating violence. 56.6% of students stated that they were unaware as to how to file a complaint for any of these matters. 49% of students reported that they do not recall being provided with any information by the college, written or verbal, as to the definition of sexual assault, how to report an incident, with whom they can speak confidentially about an incident, or the actual policies prohibiting such conduct.

Further, only 37.7% are aware of SUNY's alcohol and/ or drug use amnesty policy in reporting sexual violence. This highlights an area where we can work to improve the knowledge that students have regarding sexual violence. While SUNY Sullivan employees provide this information to students several times throughout their time here on campus, including orientation day, it is clear that the information needs to be reiterated more often and potentially in new formats.

Through increased education on our alcohol/drug amnesty policy when reporting cases of sexual misconduct, we hope to decrease the negative stigma that is often attached to incidents of sexual misconduct and the feeling that alcohol/ drug use somehow equates to the victim being at fault. Our goal is to create a campus-wide sense of safety and understanding that will encourage victims to come forward and seek out help when needed, with the knowledge that they will not be judged or looked down upon. A person who is intoxicated by drugs or alcohol or who is otherwise incapacitated is not capable of providing consent. We hope to continue to inform our entire campus of this message so that if an incident occurs, there will be less hesitation to report an already traumatizing event.

Increasing student awareness of on-campus and community resources will be a priority for our campus over the next few years. While 55.6% of students reported that they are aware of the Campus Health Services and 50% are aware of the Counseling Center, only 30.6% were aware of the Office of Student Conduct and 33.3% were aware of the Human Resources offices being available to them as resources in times of need. Knowledge of off-campus services is also lacking. Only 44.4% of students reported being aware that the local police, Sullivan County Sheriff's Office, is considered as a resource, and even fewer, 41.7%, were aware that local health service providers, including the Garnet Health Medical Center and Hospital, were resources for students to reach out to in case of an incident. This highlights an especially important knowledge gap for our students. Many of our students are not native to Sullivan County. This puts them at a disadvantage as to knowing what services are offered here as well as in the greater community. Therefore, it is especially important for us to ensure that we, as a campus, do our best to inform our students as to what is available and ensure that they have the most up-to-date contact information for those services possible.

Survey results of employee responses on Bystander Attitudes and Behaviors are encouraging. The following tables are presented to highlight the results, with Tables 1, 2, and 3 showcasing results from the employee survey, while Tables 4 and 5 highlight the results from the students' survey responses.

Table 1 (below) shows employees beliefs on how the college would respond to notification of a sexual violence incidence on campus, with the vast majority, 89,9%, reporting that the college would take the report seriously, 80.3% that they would conduct a fair investigation, and 79.1% agreeing that the college would provide the student with necessary supports.

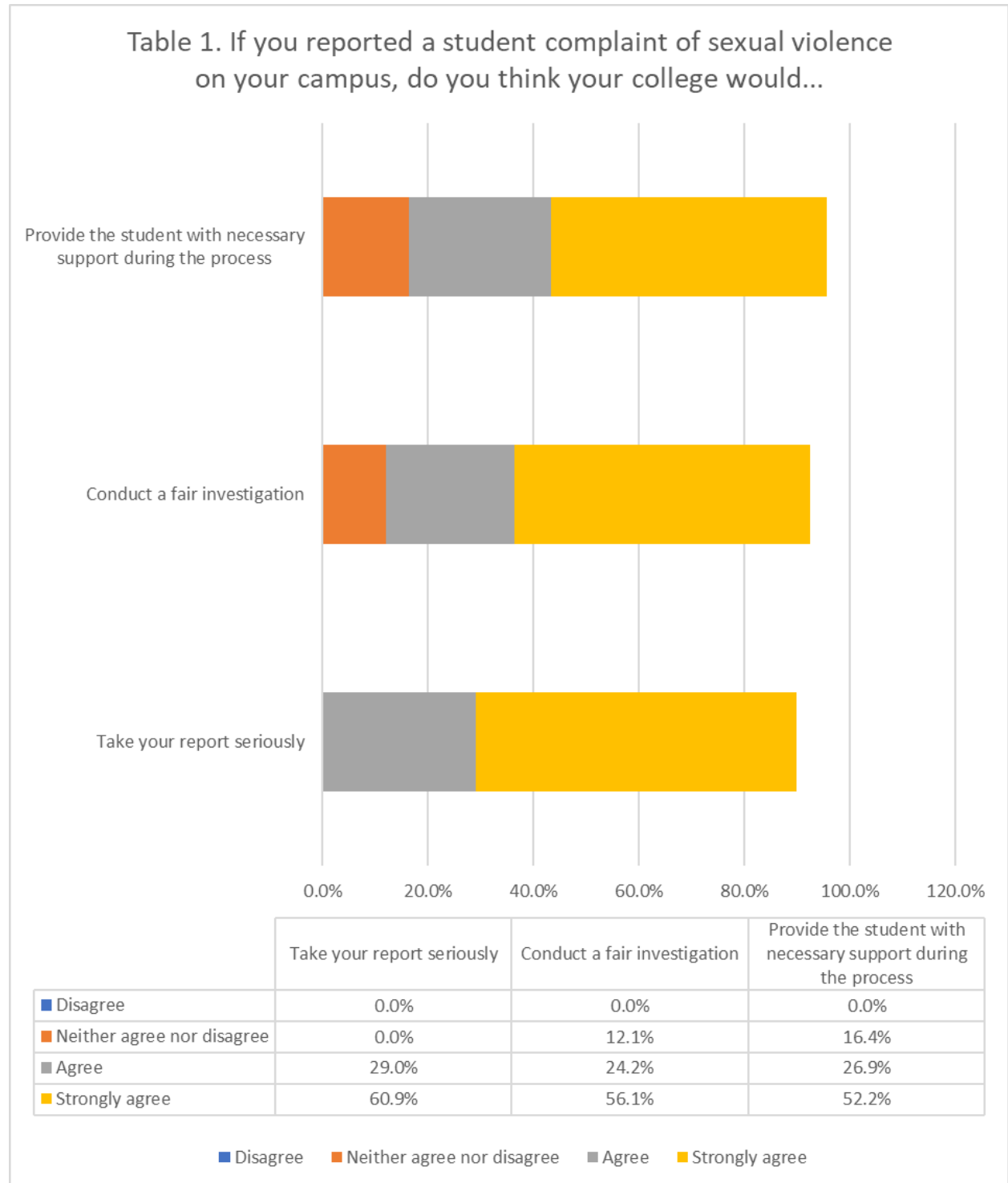


Table 2 (below) also shows that the majority of employees, 69.2%, either agree or strongly agree with the statements that they understand what happens on campus when a student reports a sexual assault, and 82.3% stated that they feel capable of advising the student on where to get help.

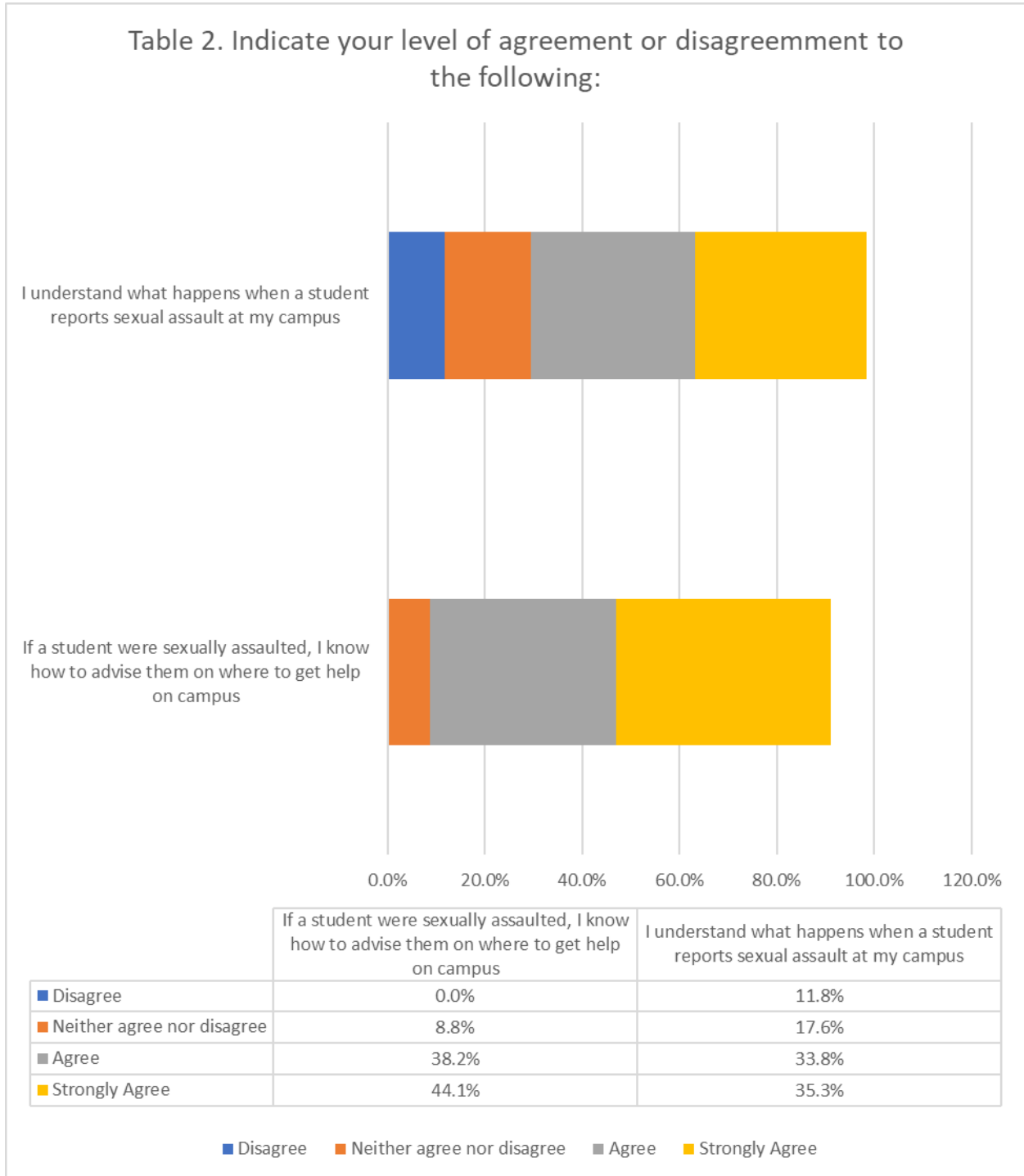


Table 3 (below) represents employees' beliefs about their fellow employees' willingness to help in the event that they become aware of an incident. Again, the results are encouraging, with the vast majority of respondents, 86.1%, stating that they think it likely or very likely that their fellow coworkers would intervene if they heard someone call out for help, 67.7% would talk to a student they felt was in a dangerous situation, 81.5% would help to provide them with resources after an assault, and 75.4% would contact a campus authority for further assistance.

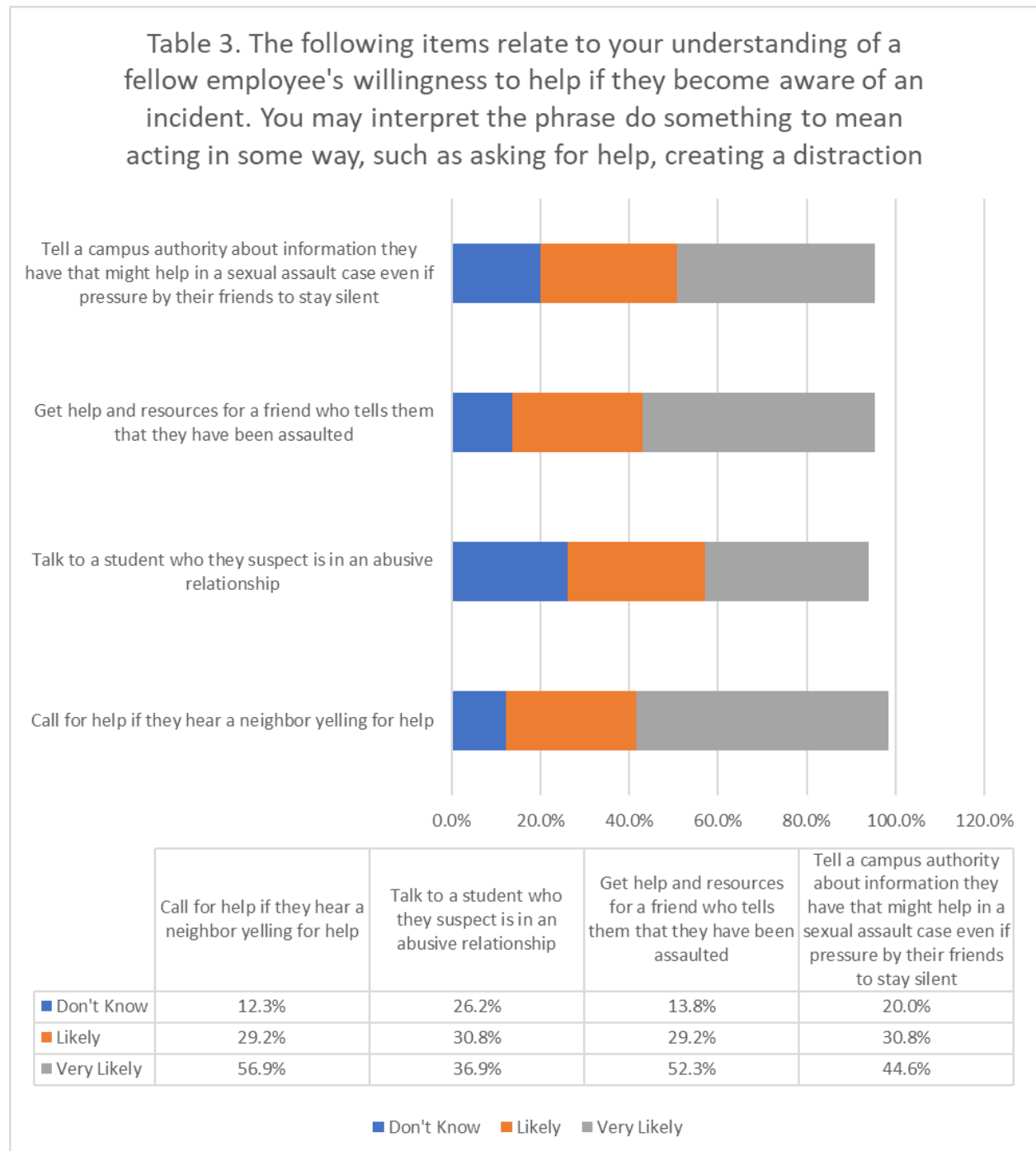


Table 4 (below) illustrates student beliefs on how likely they believe their fellow students would be to help out another student who has been assaulted. Results are more mixed than that of employee responses. The vast majority of students, 62.5%, believe that their peers are likely to get help for someone who has been assaulted, 54.5% would call for help if they heard someone else calling out for help. However, only 39.3% stated that they thought their peers would speak out at someone making jokes about someone's body, while only 37.6% would confront a friend who reports having sex with someone who passed out or did not give consent. 100% of students stated that they did not know if their peers would reach out to a campus authority figure with information on a sexual assault if they were pressured by friends to remain silent.

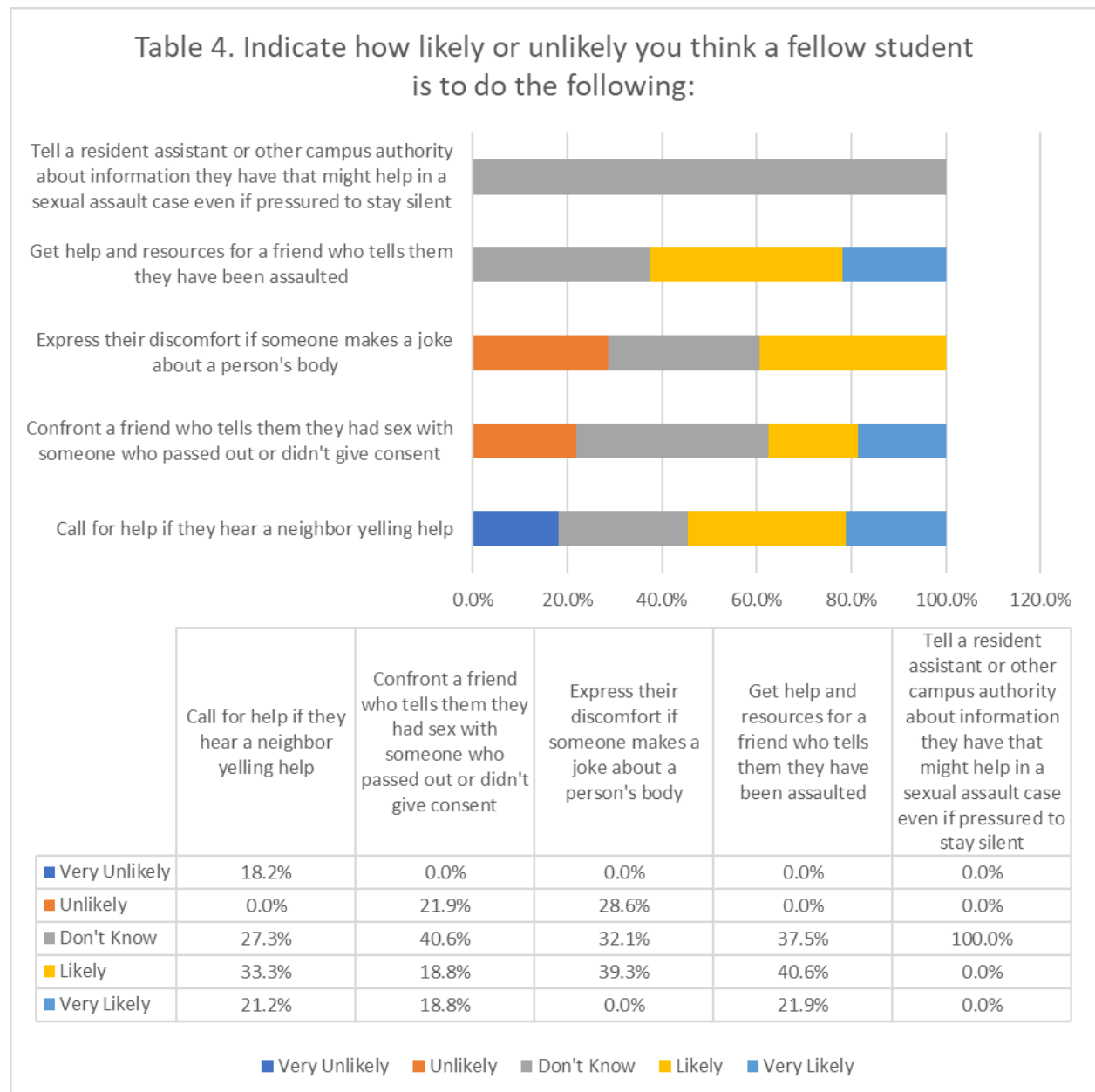
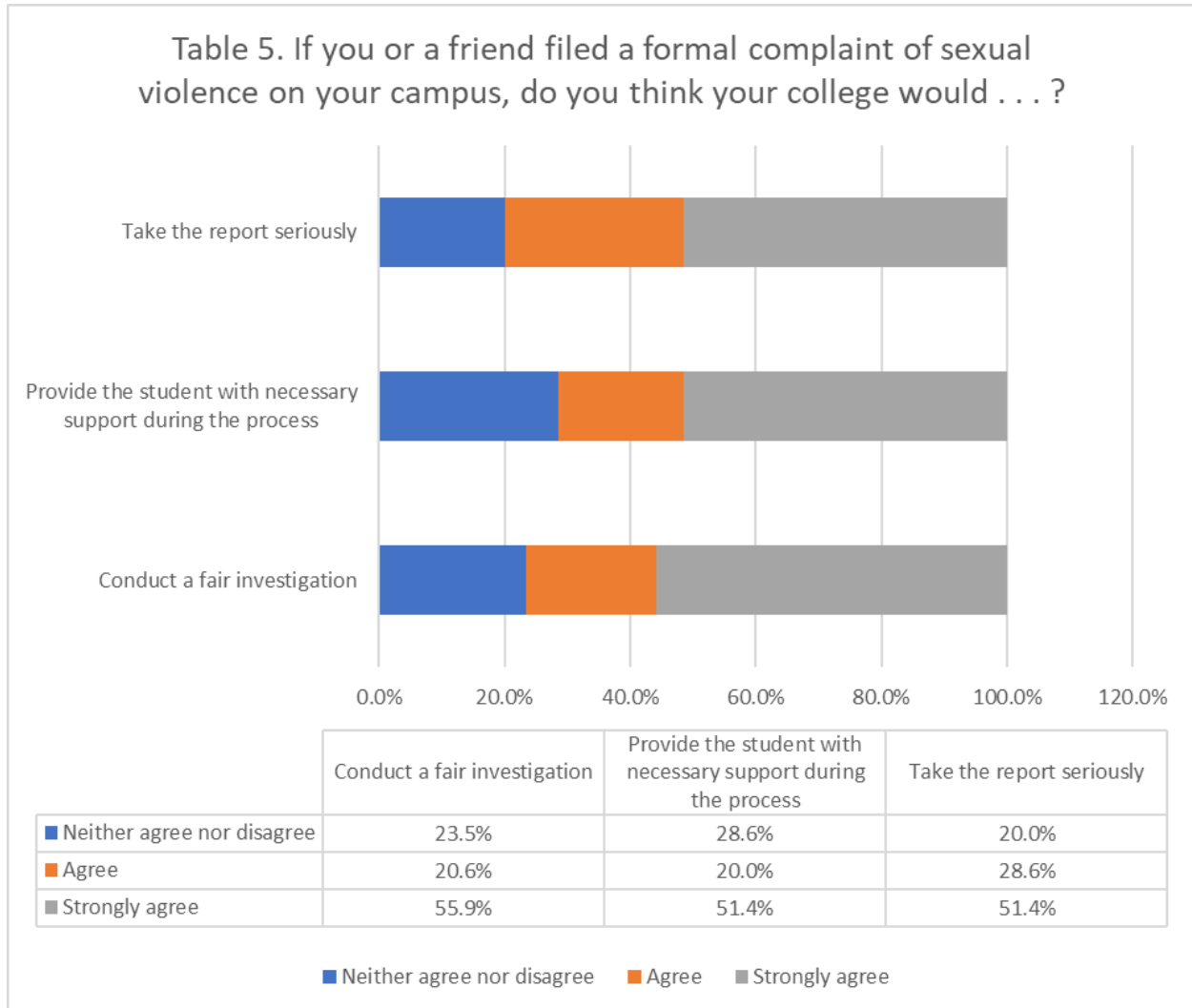


Table 5 (below) is again a very encouraging sign as to how students feel about the campus climate here at SUNY Sullivan. 80% of students stated that they either agree or strongly agree that the college would take a report on sexual violence seriously, 71% agree or strongly agree that the college would provide the student with necessary support, and 76% agree or strongly agree that the college would conduct a fair investigation.



A total of six (6) incidents regarding some sort of sexual misconduct were reported in total by students on the survey. Due to the low number of incidents reported and the need to ensure that all reported information is unidentifiable, no specific data regarding those incidents and whether they included stalking, harassment, domestic/ dating violence, or sexual assault will be released per SUNY policy.

Next Steps

The survey results indicated more communication about Title IX, policies and services available to students and employees is our greatest challenge. In the 2017 SVP report, the College was working to implement SPARC to help educate students. The College experienced leadership turnover and the program was put on hold. During the COVID 19 pandemic, an online Title IX training was created in the College's learning management system to support students who were all working remotely. Students were asked to complete the training during their remote orientation, however, only a small number of students completed the online training. Moving forward, the College will investigate the steps necessary to implement the SPARC training for the Fall 2024 incoming class.

Recently, the College has partnered with FEARLESS, a company that provides education, prevention, advocacy, and comprehensive services such as counseling to victims and survivors of interpersonal violence, human trafficking, and sexual violence. The college plans to share the results with FEARLESS to help us develop a plan to better communicate with students about the role of the Title IX Coordinator, the alcohol and drug amnesty policy, and how to report incidents of sexual misconduct or assault. Additionally, we will work closely with FEARLESS and our Counseling Office to schedule activities throughout the academic year to foster awareness about prevention and services for victims of sexual assault.

Title IX training is provided to students during freshman orientation. Students are receiving a tremendous amount of information during orientation and it is easy for them to forget information that is shared with them. To supplement the training, a flier communicating the name and location of the Title IX Coordinator, the steps to file a complaint and the alcohol and drug amnesty policy will be created and distributed to students. The same information will be distributed to all students via email and through our Student Activities announcements. The College will also post this information through the College's Student Facebook page.

This past fall semester, the College provided residence hall students with additional Title IX training specifically tailored to living in a close community. It is our plan to continue to provide specific training to residential students for each entering class.

Every employee is required to participate in Title IX online training each year. Additionally, the Title IX Coordinator will collaborate with the HR Director to discuss avenues to provide more communication to faculty and staff regarding prevention and services for victims of sexual assault.

Appendix A: SVP Email to Employees

Email subject line: Take the Sexual Violence Prevalence (SVP) Campus Climate Survey for Employees

Dear [Employee's first name]:

Please help us foster healthier campus communities by taking the SUNY Sexual Violence Prevalence (SVP) Campus Climate Survey for employees.

This survey is intended to gather information about the incidence of sexual and interpersonal violence and knowledge of related policies and resources available on campus. The survey takes 10-15 minutes to complete. Your participation is voluntary. You may choose to skip questions, or stop responding at any point.

Your answers are confidential and will only be reported in aggregate groups of employees, rather than as individuals.

This survey does ask some questions about sexual and interpersonal violence - both your own experiences and your experiences with students who have experienced sexual/interpersonal violence. Some of the language used in this survey is explicit, and some people may find it uncomfortable. Information on how to get help, if you need it, appears at the bottom of each page and is available anonymously at any time on the SAVR resource at <https://www.suny.edu/violence-response/>.

Thank you for your honest feedback and responses. Your participation will help make our campus community a better place to live, work, and learn.

Appendix B: SVP Email to Students

Email subject line: Take the SUNY Sexual Violence Prevalence (SVP) Campus Climate Survey for Students

Dear [Student's first name]:

Please help us foster healthier campus communities by taking the SUNY Sexual Violence Prevalence (SVP) Campus Climate Survey for students.

This survey is intended to gather information about the incidence of sexual and interpersonal violence and knowledge of related policies and resources available on campus. The survey takes 10-15 minutes to complete. Your participation is voluntary. You may choose to skip questions, or stop responding at any point.

Your answers are confidential and will only be reported in aggregate groups of students, rather than as individuals.

This survey does ask some questions about sexual and interpersonal violence. Some of the language used in this survey is explicit, and some people may find it uncomfortable. Information on how to get help, if you need it, appears at the bottom of each page and is available anonymously at any time on the SAVR resource at <https://www.suny.edu/violence-response/>.

Thank you for your honest feedback and responses. Your participation will help make our campus community a better place to live, work, and learn.

Appendix C:

Flyer Promoting the SVP Campus Climate Survey

DO YOU FEEL SAFE ON CAMPUS?

SEXUAL VIOLENCE HAPPENS. MAYBE
NOT TO YOU, BUT TO SOMEONE YOU
KNOW. AND IT AFFECTS *EVERYONE*.



March 20th expect to receive a survey from
Survey@suny.edu

All Responses Are Anonymous

*Respond From Your Phone Or Computer, But Please
Respond!*

WE HAVE TO BE THE CHANGE WE WANT TO SEE IN THE
WORLD!



SUNY SULLIVAN

Questions or Concerns? Email IR@sunysullivan.edu

Appendix D:

SUNY NEW Paltz Human Research Ethics Board Study Exemption Letter



Human Research Ethics Board
Sponsored Programs & Research Compliance
1 Hawk Drive, New Paltz, NY 12561
Faculty Office Building, Office N2

STUDY EXEMPTION

February 21, 2023

Teresa Foster
P O Box 9,
Albany, NY
teresa.foster@suny.edu

Dear Teresa Foster:

On 2/19/2023, the Human Research Ethics Board (HREB) approved the following submission:

Type of Review:	Initial Study
Title of Study:	SSA: SUNY Sexual Violence Prevalence (SVP) Campus Climate Survey, 2022-23
Investigator:	Teresa Foster
IRB ID:	STUDY00004043
Funding:	None
Grant ID:	None

Documents Reviewed:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2022-23 SVP email address submission file data dictionary employee.docx, Category: Other; • 2022-23 SVP email address submission file data dictionary student.docx, Category: Other; • 2023 Reminder Emails.pdf, Category: Recruitment Materials; • 2023 Student and Employee Emails.pdf, Category: Recruitment Materials; • 2023-Employee-Survey-Instrument updated 02.18.23.pdf, Category: Surveys/Questionnaires; • 2023-Student-Survey-Instrument updated 02.18.23.pdf, Category: Surveys/Questionnaires; • NP Template Survey Interview Research Exemption 2022 TO USE V2.pdf, Category: IRB Protocol; • SVP FAQs 2022-23 updated 02.18.23.pdf, Category: Other; • SVP Project Plan 2022-23 updated 02.18.23.pdf, Category: Other;
Exemption	104 (d)(2)(iii)

The Human Research Ethics Board (HREB) has considered the submission for the project referenced above and determined it to be Exempt under one of the categories specifically waived under Section 104 (d) (1-6) or 101(i) of the Code of Federal Regulations (45 CFR 46).

IRB exemption is given with the understanding that the most recently approved procedures will be followed and the most recently approved consenting documents will be used, if applicable. If modifications are needed, those changes may not be initiated until such modifications have been submitted to the HREB for review and have been granted approval.

As principal investigator for this study involving human participants, you have institutional responsibilities as follows:

1. Ensuring that no subjects are enrolled prior to the study's approval date.
2. Ensuring that the HREB is notified via PACS IRB module of:
 - All Reportable Information in accordance with the "Reportable New Information" Smart Form.
 - Project closure/completion by the "Continuing Review/Modification/Study Closure" Smart Form in PACS.
3. Ensuring that the protocol is followed as approved by the HREB unless minor changes that do not impact the exempt determination are made.
4. Ensuring that the study is conducted in compliance with all HREB decisions, conditions, and requirements.

5. Bearing responsibility for all actions of the staff and sub-investigators with regard to the protocol.

6. Bearing responsibility for securing any other required approvals before research begins.

If you have any questions, please contact the Human Research Ethics Board (HREB) at either (845) 257-3282 or by email:

HREB Chair: hrebchair@newpaltz.edu

HREB Coordinator: hrebcoordinator@newpaltz.edu

SUNY New Paltz entered into a Memorandum of Understanding on April 9, 2018 with SUNY System Administration & Rockefeller Institute of Government (RIG). The SUNY New Paltz Human Research Ethics Board (HREB) is the IRB of record for this study.

Appendix E:

SUNY Policies on Sexual Violence Prevention and Response

SUNY Policies on Sexual Violence Prevention and Response <http://system.suny.edu/sexual-violenceprevention-workgroup/policies/> and <http://system.suny.edu/sexual-violence-preventionworkgroup/policies/response/>

SUNY Sullivan Title IX Sex & Discrimination Information and Related Services
<https://sunysullivan.edu/title-ix-sex-discrimination/>

Campus Resources and Best Practices <http://system.suny.edu/university-life/sexual-assault-prevention/>

Sexual Assault and Violence Response Resources

<https://www.suny.edu/violence-response/> with resources on or off campus by location, campus, city. This website offers an emergency “Exit Site” link, and use of the <Esc> key, which will erase the browsing history and redirect the page to the Google search engine. This is meant as a precautionary measure in circumstances where visiting the site could result in harm to the person, as in a domestic violence incident capacity.