

Dear members of the Yale community:

I am writing to share an overview of the findings from the 2024 Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Misconduct and Resource Awareness (the Survey), which was offered to all Yale students during the spring of 2024. The results of the Survey, including a Yale-specific report and data tables, can be found on the Title IX website: <https://titleix.yale.edu/education-outreach/2024-yale-sexual-climate-survey>. In addition, you will find an aggregate report with data from all schools that participated in the Survey. I encourage you to review the Yale-specific and aggregate reports, including the methodology and terminology, and I invite you to provide comments and suggestions to the [Title IX Office](#). My colleagues in the Title IX Office and I are extremely grateful to the students who participated in the Survey, and we look forward to continued collaboration and engagement with the community as we proceed with reviewing and analyzing the results.

### **What is the Survey?**

The Yale 2024 Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Misconduct and Resource Awareness was offered to all undergraduate, graduate, and professional students at Yale from April 1-30, 2024. Like its predecessors in 2015 and 2019, the Survey was conducted by Westat, a nationally recognized research organization. (Information about the 2015 and 2019 surveys is available [online](#).) While the previous surveys were organized by the Association of American Universities, the 2024 Survey was administered in a collaboration between Yale and nine other institutions of higher education (including Harvard, Stanford, and the University of Pennsylvania).

The 2024 Survey instrument was designed by Westat with significant input from Yale and other participating schools and is largely the same as the 2015 and 2019 surveys to allow for comparability over time. The survey questions were developed with the primary goal of encouraging broad participation. The questions were structured to be gender neutral, to be descriptive (rather than labeling behaviors), and to cover a range of behaviors that would violate university policies and, in some cases, criminal laws.

The Survey aimed to:

- estimate the prevalence of sexual assault and other misconduct;
- describe the circumstances, student responses, and consequences associated with instances of sexual assault and other misconduct;
- assess student perceptions surrounding sexual assault and other misconduct;
- assess student knowledge of school resources and procedures when responding to instances of sexual assault and other misconduct;
- assess how bystanders react in different situations related to sexual assault and other misconduct; and
- describe how the prevalence of nonconsensual sexual contact and the perceptions and knowledge of school policies and procedures have changed since the 2019 survey.

## **What are our initial observations about the Survey results?**

In reviewing the findings from the 2024 Survey alongside Yale's 2015 and 2019 survey results, we see some signs of progress in addressing sexual misconduct at Yale, and other areas where there is still work to be done. We first highlight that the overall student response rate for the 2024 Survey (19.7%) was significantly lower than in 2015 (51.8%) and 2019 (45.4%). The 2024 response rate, while lower than what we had achieved in the past, puts us in the middle of the pack among other institutions that participated in the Survey and is consistent with the response rate for other student surveys conducted at Yale. The statistical analysis of Yale's results conducted by Westat (see Appendix 6 on non-response bias in the Yale survey results report) provides assurance that we should have confidence in these results.

At Yale, the 2024 Survey results estimate a decrease in student experiences of certain behaviors, while other behaviors have increased. For example, the overall prevalence of sexual assault—a term that encompasses a broad range of experiences under Yale's policies—among all students has decreased in 2024 (14.7%) from 2019 (18.1%). More specifically, the 2024 Survey estimates that women students have experienced decreased rates of sexual assault (27.5%) compared to 2019 (38.7%) and 2015 (38.8%). These rates are still concerningly high, and we will be exploring ways to continue to address this going forward.

The 2024 Survey results estimate an increase in student experiences of intimate partner violence (IPV) and stalking since 2019. Rates of IPV increased to 7.7% in 2024 from 6.7% in 2019, while rates of stalking increased to 7.0% in 2024 from 5.3% in 2019. We will be exploring these increases in much further detail during our continuing analysis of the Survey results.

Sexual harassment remains a persistent issue for our students. The 2024 Survey estimates that 47.8% of all Yale students (49.2% in 2019) experience inappropriate sexual behaviors during their time at Yale. For 24.3% (24.7% in 2019) of these individuals, the experience affected their academic or professional performance, limited their ability to participate in their program, or created an intimidating, offensive, or hostile social, academic, or work environment. The 2024 Survey shows that the primary source of these behaviors is peers; among all students, the Survey estimates that for 89.6% of those who experienced inappropriate sexual behavior, the perpetrator was another student (86.1% in 2019). The Survey also estimates that for 11.5% of all students who experienced inappropriate sexual behavior, the perpetrator was a faculty member or instructor (15.7% in 2019). Graduate and professional women students are estimated to experience a high rate of sexual harassment from faculty members or instructors (23.4% in 2024; 30.6% in 2019), with high levels of harassment also experienced by graduate and professional men students (16.3% in 2024) and students identifying as additional genders (22.8% in 2024). These rates are concerning and unacceptable, and this will be an area that the Title IX Office will be focusing on with schools in the coming year.

We are just starting to analyze results in more detail, but one initial observation is that the Survey estimates that students who identify as having a disability experience higher rates of sexual

misconduct than their peers. This finding is concerning, and the Title IX Office will continue to explore these results with colleagues in Student Accessibility Services and community advocacy groups. The Survey data related to experiences of LGBTQ students and students of color are more nuanced and will be an area of focus for continued analysis and conversation with the community.

The Survey asked students questions that indicate their awareness of campus resources and, for those students who experienced sexual misconduct, whether they contacted a campus resource for support. Overall, knowledge of campus resources has decreased slightly from 2019 but is still generally high, while resource utilization has increased since 2019.

The Survey estimates that Yale students' awareness of campus resources has decreased since 2019, although Yale students' awareness continues to outpace that of their peers at other schools that participated in the Survey (as shown in the aggregate survey data). In particular, awareness of the University-Wide Committee on Sexual Misconduct, which adjudicates formal complaints of sexual misconduct, is estimated to have decreased from 33.8% in 2019 to 18.7% in 2024. With respect to other campus resources, the Survey estimates that 83.7% of all students were aware of the services offered by the Title IX Office and Title IX Coordinators (85.0% in 2019); 65.7% were aware of the SHARE Center (77.4% in 2019); 79.8% were aware of the Yale Police (88.9% in 2019); and 88.4% were aware of Yale Health (93.1% in 2019). We will be further analyzing the overall decrease in awareness of campus resources and exploring opportunities to address this finding through our prevention and education efforts.

Among students who experienced sexual misconduct, the Survey estimates that utilization of campus resources has increased since 2019. For students who experienced any form of sexual misconduct, 22.4% contacted at least one campus resource (16.6% in 2019). For those who experienced sexual harassment, 20.7% sought the assistance of a campus resource, compared to 15.6% in 2019. Students who experienced intimate partner violence contacted a resource 31.6% of the time (22.9% in 2019), while 43.9% of those who experienced stalking sought support from a campus resource (34.8% in 2019). Since 2015, we have seen a four-fold increase in reporting of sexual harassment, a two-fold increase in reporting of intimate partner violence, and a two-fold increase in the rate of women students seeking resources in response to incidents of sexual assault by force.

The Survey also asked students a range of questions regarding the campus climate, regardless of whether they experienced sexual misconduct. One initial observation is that there has been a decrease since 2019 in the perception that sexual misconduct is "very" or "extremely" problematic at Yale (24.7% in 2024; 34.8% in 2019). In addition, Yale students' general knowledge about "where to get help" and "where to make a report" are estimated to have decreased since 2019, although Yale's estimates of student knowledge are significantly higher than the levels at peer schools participating in the Survey.

These are just a few early observations from our preliminary analysis of the Survey results. The Title IX Office and campus partners will conduct additional analyses of the data to further enhance our understanding of student experiences.

### **What will we do next?**

I have already briefed senior university leadership on these results. President McInnis and Vice President Goff-Crews have charged me with establishing a working group to further analyze the Survey results and to present back to me a set of recommendations that will inform our ongoing initiatives to combat sexual misconduct and to foster a campus culture in which all students feel safe, respected, and supported. This working group—with input from students, faculty members, and staff members—will be led by the Title IX Office and supported by the Office of Institutional Research (OIR).

In the coming months, the Title IX Office will provide the deans of the graduate and professional schools and Yale College with school-specific results and will meet with each dean to explore local initiatives that could further expand upon the work being done centrally to follow up on this Survey.

The Title IX Office will continue in partnership with numerous campus stakeholders, including individual schools, to offer trainings for students, staff, and faculty around prevention techniques and resources for responding to incidents that do occur.

The Title IX Office will also be available to provide briefings to departments, student organizations, and interested members of the campus community on the Survey results and our broader work to prevent and address sexual misconduct. Please contact the Title IX Office ([titleix@yale.edu](mailto:titleix@yale.edu)) to request a briefing for your community.

### **In closing**

Combatting sexual misconduct is a community effort—we cannot do this work without your help. The 2024 Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Misconduct and Resource Awareness has given us a sense of what students are experiencing, of which measures of prevention and response seem to be helping, and of areas where we need to focus attention. As we continue to analyze this data, I encourage you to share your observations, thoughts, and ideas on how we can most effectively support students and create and sustain a campus environment in which everyone can thrive.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Conklin

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