



WE ARE NEW YORK'S LAW SCHOOL

New York Law School 2022–23 Title IX Campus Survey

INTRODUCTION

In Spring 2023, in accordance with New York State's Enough is Enough legislation (Article 129-B), New York Law School (NYLS) administered its fourth biennial campus climate student survey. The inaugural survey was administered in the Spring of 2017. This report provides student feedback about the campus climate concerning sexual misconduct. The Spring 2023 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.

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 2023 SURVEY

The survey link was emailed to all 1,005 enrolled students in the J.D. (Day and Evening Divisions) and LL.M. cohorts during the spring 2023 semester. The survey opened on April 24, 2023 and closed on May 8, 2023. NYLS received a 19% response rate (191 students) which is lower than the previous survey's response rate of 32% in 2021. 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, 65% of responding students reported they are female; 29% self-reported as male; and 6% 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 95.5% of respondents either somewhat agreeing or agreeing that they feel safe on campus. This is higher than in 2021 when 85% agreed with this statement. 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 majority of responding students were aware of NYLS's Sexual Misconduct policies (88.5%) and were aware that NYLS has procedures for dealing with reported incidents of sexual misconduct (92.3%).

Over 85% of respondents reported that they understand the Title IX Coordinators' roles with respect to complaints of sex- or gender-based misconduct. Nearly 90% 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, 76% of responding students were aware of how to report sexual misconduct.

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; 125 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 majority (about 83%) of responding students indicated that they had not experienced, observed, or been informed of instances of sexual harassment, and 93% reported they had not experienced, observed, or been informed of instances of sexual assault at NYLS during the 2022-23 academic year. 66 respondents skipped these questions.

There were 11 reported incidents of personal experiences with sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, or non-consensual sexual contact. In 2021, there were 15 such reported incidents on the survey.

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

Of the students who responded that they experienced, observed, or heard about sexual misconduct, five indicated that they reported the incident to NYLS faculty or administrators and two indicated they reported the incident to law enforcement.

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 or that the victim did not wish it to be reported, that they did not know where to go to make the report, they feared retaliation, they didn't recognize it as sexual misconduct at the time, 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

These percentages are similar to the responses in 2021. A smaller percentage (66.2%) indicated they would make a report if other students engaged in sexist comments, gestures, or jokes in their presence. This compares to 76.5% who answered the question in that way in 2021.

Training:

Most of the 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 (83%), how to report sexual misconduct (79%), and how to intervene as a "bystander" to prevent the occurrence of sexual assault against another student (83%). These percentages are nearly identical to the results of the 2021 survey.

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 foster a safe and respectful campus environment.