



# University of Wisconsin-Madison

## Association of American Universities Sexual Misconduct and Sexual Assault Climate Survey

**This document addresses the issue of campus sexual violence, which may be a difficult topic for some readers. Please see the end of the document for available resources.**

Sexual assault, stalking, intimate partner violence, and sexual harassment are a devastating reality on college campuses, including UW-Madison. Students who experience these incidents are at risk for long-term physical and mental health problems, and may leave school or not complete their education.

Last year, the White House made a call to action for academic institutions to protect college students from sexual assault. The call to action included recommendations such as the administration of campus sexual assault climate surveys. Subsequently, the Association of American Universities (AAU) announced that it would lead the creation of a sexual assault climate survey to examine the prevalence of and attitudes about gender-based violence. UW-Madison is one of 27 institutions that volunteered to take part. Administered in April and May, the survey provided an opportunity to obtain valuable data specific to UW-Madison which can be used to respond to and reduce gender-based violence on our campus.

Sexual assault and sexual misconduct affect the entire campus community. Safety is a shared responsibility that we must all address together. When sexual assault occurs, UW-Madison will continue to respond promptly and compassionately to all reports, while providing resources and support where needed. Above all, the university is committed to working to reduce sexual violence on this campus, making this a safe place for everyone to live and learn.

For complete information, visit [www.uhs.wisc.edu/AAUSurvey.html](http://www.uhs.wisc.edu/AAUSurvey.html)

### WHAT DID THE SURVEY FIND?

***Sexual assault and sexual misconduct\* affect students of all genders and sexual orientations. Undergraduate women are most likely to say they've experienced it.***

- More than one in four (27.6 percent) undergraduate female students reported experiencing nonconsensual penetration or sexual touching.
- Perpetrators were overwhelmingly identified as fellow students who are male, often a friend or acquaintance.

***Alcohol is a common factor in sexual assault at UW-Madison.***

- Female students who experienced nonconsensual penetration by force indicated that the offender was drinking alcohol 76.1 percent of the time.

***Sexual assault and sexual misconduct often go unreported.***

- Of students who experienced penetration by force, 26.1 percent reported the incident.

***UW-Madison undergraduates report greater knowledge about sexual assault and awareness of campus resources than the national average.***

- This may suggest that our required first-year prevention programs are having an impact.
- There are opportunities for improvement. Graduate and professional students, both at UW-Madison and nationally, report less knowledge.
- UW-Madison undergraduates report largely positive attitudes about campus resources and response.
- More than 70 percent of all students at UW-Madison think that campus officials would take a report of sexual misconduct or sexual assault seriously.

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\* **Sexual assault** includes both penetration and sexual touching without consent and/or by force or incapacitation. **Sexual misconduct** includes sexual harassment, intimate partner violence, and stalking.