

## **Mercy College**

### **Campus Climate Survey**

#### **Sexual Misconduct Prevention & Response**

#### **Calendar Years 2020 & 2021**

#### **Administered November 2021**

## **SUMMARY REPORT**

### **Introduction**

The Mercy College Campus Survey on Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Response was administered in November 2021. A total of 483 students completed the survey, representing the Bronx, Dobbs Ferry, and Manhattan campuses. The results showed areas where Mercy College did well and should continue to build upon. The survey also showed areas in which Mercy College can improve.

### **Survey Results**

94% of the students were aware of that affirmative consent is a knowing, voluntary, and mutual decision to engage in sexual activity.

90% of the students were aware that bystander intervention is when they help or get help for someone who is a victim of sexual violence.

86% of the students were aware that Mercy College has policies and procedures in place to prevent and respond to sexual violence, including sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

86% of the students were aware that they could report incidents of sexual violence to the Title IX Coordinator, Campus Safety, the Counseling Center, the Health Center, Student Affairs, and local law enforcement, as well as online.

80% of the students were aware that Mercy College can help students access confidential support services, on an off campus, including counseling, medical care, and help filing a police report.

79% of the students were aware that Mercy College has a process for investigating and adjudicating reports of sexual violence.

73% of the students were aware of the Mercy College Amnesty Policy, which assures students who were victims of sexual misconduct while using drugs and/or alcohol, will not be penalized for the drug and/or alcohol use.

73% of the students were aware that they could receive support services without having to file a report or agree to an investigation.

There was an optional section on the survey that asked if during the past two years at Mercy College survey participants experienced sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual harassment, stalking, or another form of sexual violence. Out of the 356 students who completed this optional section, 16 reported being the victim of sexual misconduct as follows: 4 sexual assault; 1 domestic or dating violence; 3 stalking; and 8 sexual harassment, with incidents occurring both on and off campus. While some victims filed reports with Mercy College and/or local law enforcement, most did not.

## **Analysis**

The results showed that most student participants knew about important information on support services, affirmative consent, and bystander intervention, as well as related policies, procedures, and reporting options. This is a positive and shows education and outreach efforts are effective in raising awareness. However, attention needs to be paid to the fact that some students lacked awareness of these key areas, particularly about the Mercy College Amnesty Policy and a student's right to support services without having to file a report or agree to an investigation. Another area of concern is the relatively small percentage of the overall student population that took the survey.

## **Recommendations**

Meet with students and campus leaders to determine ways to increase student participation in the 2023 survey.

Meet with students and campus leaders to determine the most effective ways to ensure students are aware of important information.

Explore the use of social media to increase student awareness.

Consider including faculty and staff in the 2023 survey.

Continue to offer educational programs including workshops on affirmative consent and healthy relationships.

Explore partnering with faculty to promote awareness of resources and reporting options for victims of sexual violence, including domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

Continue and enhance existing education and awareness programs, including in-person and online workshops.

Continue posting fliers in all campus buildings and ask offices and departments on campus to post these fliers.

Collaborate with other colleges to discuss best practices and share ideas on how to continue supporting students.

Consider posters and social media outreach that are short and focus on singular bits of information including reporting options, available resources, and the Amnesty Policy.

Utilize student groups, such as the Art Club and Student Government, to help increase awareness and motivate students to participate in future resources.

Anyone who has questions about this summary report can write to the Title IX Coordinator at [titleIX.equity@mercy.edu](mailto:titleIX.equity@mercy.edu).