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## INTRODUCTION

*Note: This document addresses the sensitive topic of sexual violence and might be difficult for some readers. Please see the section “[For More Information](#)” at the end of this report for sexual violence resources.*

The issue of campus sexual violence has gained growing attention as a major problem at colleges and universities throughout the country. Addressing the problem of campus sexual violence has emerged as a national priority, evidenced by the creation of The White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault (hereinafter The White House Task Force) and the release of its report, *Not Alone*, in 2014. The White House Task Force and the U.S. Department of Justice’s Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) invited the Rutgers School of Social Work’s Center on Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC) to pilot a campus climate survey developed by OVW regarding students’ experiences, behaviors, and attitudes related to sexual violence. During the 2014-2015 academic year, VAWC piloted the survey as a part of a comprehensive campus climate assessment on the Rutgers–New Brunswick campus that included a resource and policy audit and focus groups. After completing this process, VAWC made improvements to the assessment tools. In 2015, VAWC further revised and tailored the assessment tools for Rutgers–Camden, with the extensive help of the Rutgers–Camden campus climate Advisory Board, comprised of key stakeholders from multiple departments across Camden’s campus. This report focuses on the findings for the Rutgers–Camden campus climate assessment.

The Rutgers–Camden campus climate assessment, called #iSPEAK–Camden, was conducted during the 2015-2016 academic year and mirrored the process of the Rutgers–New Brunswick campus climate assessment. This included three main components: a resource and policy audit, a campus climate survey, and focus groups.

This report presents descriptive analyses of the main components of the campus climate assessment in four parts:

**Part I:** An executive summary, complete with an integrated look at the survey and focus group key findings and implications;

**Part II:** #iSPEAK–Camden survey findings;

**Part III:** Focus group findings;

**Part IV:** Conclusion.

## PART I: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The #iSPEAK–Camden assessment yielded a tremendous amount of rich information about the campus climate regarding sexual violence, including the experiences, attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors of students.<sup>1</sup> Making sense of such a wealth of both quantitative and qualitative information is a lengthy process, and it will continue well beyond the submission of this report. However, the key findings that have emerged from analysis thus far include the following:

### Key Finding #1

**Students at Rutgers–Camden experienced unwanted sexual contact at rates similar to students at other universities. Additionally, the experience of sexual violence is common among students before they even begin college.**

Sexual violence remains a problem at large, but certain segments of the student population are at higher risk. For women living on campus the risk is greater, with 15 percent of this population experiencing unwanted sexual contact during their time at Rutgers–Camden. Additionally, many undergraduate women (24 percent) came to campus having experienced sexual violence before college. Finally, students who identified as not 100 percent heterosexual, compared to 100 percent heterosexual students, are more likely to be victims<sup>2</sup> of sexual violence both before and at Rutgers.<sup>3</sup>

**Implication:** The victimization statistics at Rutgers–Camden are similar to colleges and universities around the country,<sup>4,5</sup> indicating that undergraduate women and lesbian, gay, and bisexual (LGB) students are at greater risk. Particular attention and efforts should be directed to students living on campus. Many students coming into Rutgers—Camden have already experienced sexual violence and might continue to need services once on campus. LGB students face increased rates of victimization both before

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<sup>1</sup> On the campus climate survey administered on Rutgers–Camden campus, students were asked about experiences related to “unwanted sexual contact.” Throughout this report, the terms “unwanted sexual contact” and “sexual violence” will be used when referring to various forms of unwanted sexual contact.

<sup>2</sup> Both the terms “victim” and “survivor” are used in this report, as each individual who experiences sexual violence may identify differently throughout the recovery process.

<sup>3</sup> This is in line with research that indicates that LGB populations are at an elevated risk of sexual victimization throughout their lifetimes. For a systematic review of the literature on the sexual victimization of lesbian, gay, and bisexual individuals in the United States, see Rothman, E., Exner, D., & Baughman, A. (2011). The Prevalence of Sexual Assault Against People Who Identify as Gay, Lesbian, or Bisexual in the United States: A Systematic Review. *Trauma Violence & Abuse, 12*(2), 55-66.

<sup>4</sup> A survey of 27 American Association Universities (AAU) found that 11.7 percent of student respondents reported experiencing nonconsensual sexual contact since they enrolled in college, and incidence among undergraduate women was 23.2%. See David Cantor et al., Report on the AAU Climate Survey on Sexual Assault and Sexual Misconduct. The Association of American Universities, 2015.

<sup>5</sup> A survey of nine universities found that the average prevalence rate for sexual assault since entering college for undergraduate women was 21%, with rates varying across the schools from 12% to 38% for undergraduate women. See Christopher Krebs, Ph.D., Christine Lindquist, Marcus Berzofsky, Bonnie E. Shook-Sa, M.A.S., Kimberly Peterson, RTI International, Michael G. Planty, Ph.D., Lynn Langton, Ph.D., Jessica Stroop, Bureau of Justice Statistics, January 20, 2016: NCJ 249545.



attending college and once on campus. These students might benefit from increased programming with a particular focus on awareness-raising around available resources.

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### **Key Finding #2**

**Most sexual violence was perpetrated by someone known to the survivor, occurred in a residence, and often in the context of consuming alcohol. Many incidents of sexual violence occurred within a context familiar to the survivors.**

Most sexual violence occurred in a context that is familiar to students – in a residence, perpetrated by someone known to the victim, and often while using alcohol. Alcohol and parties particularly were identified by focus group students as main factors that they perceived as facilitating sexual violence among students.

**Implication:** Prevention programs should work to address sexual violence in the context under which it most frequently occurs. Education about the role of alcohol as a facilitator of sexual violence and the relationship with consent should be provided to students. When providing services to survivors, it is important to consider that the person who committed the offense might also be on campus.

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### **Key Finding #3**

**Students were confident that Rutgers-Camden as an institution would respond appropriately to sexual violence.**

Students reported higher than average scores on a scale measuring their confidence in the institution's ability to handle incidents of sexual violence. Students' own peers received an average rating of confidence.

**Implication:** The campus might benefit from exploring methods of educating peers on appropriate ways to provide support for victims of sexual violence to improve students' perceived supportiveness of peers. Rutgers-Camden can also build upon students' confidence in the institution by continuing to provide information about the resources available at the university.

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### **Key Finding #4**

**Many students reported knowing someone who has been victimized and most survivors of sexual violence told someone, often a peer, about the incident.**

One in ten students have had a friend disclose an experience of sexual violence to them and over one in four students know someone (a friend, family member, peer etc.) who has been victimized. Furthermore, most survivors of sexual violence (66 percent of undergraduate survivors) told someone, most often a friend, about the incident.

**Implication:** The campus might wish to provide information for students on how to connect survivors of sexual violence to suitable resources and how to provide support to a peer who has experienced sexual violence, as response to initial disclosure is key in survivors' recovery from the incident.

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#### **Key Finding #5**

**Students generally had low awareness and utilization of resources to address sexual violence at Rutgers–Camden.**

Students at Rutgers–Camden reported low awareness of campus-based resources related to sexual violence. In particular, prevention programming and resources for survivors were not well known. Relatedly, many survivors of sexual violence did not access or use campus-based resources after experiencing unwanted sexual contact.

**Implication:** Most sexual violence survivors in the study did not access sexual violence resources provided by the university. Programming on sexual violence that focuses on identifying and accessing resources, as well as the expansion of the available resources to include those specialized for survivors, might be advantageous.

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#### **Key Finding #6**

**Students expressed the belief that sexual violence is an issue on campus and wanted to learn more about this issue.**

Nearly half of students who took the survey reported wanting to learn more about sexual violence. Correspondingly, students' scores on the Bystander Attitudes scales indicated that many students intend to step in to prevent incidents of sexual violence from occurring. However, focus group participants discussed multiple barriers to intervening, including physical safety concerns, feeling uncomfortable, fear of being wrong, and/or feeling unsure about how to best handle the situation.

**Implication:** Students would likely benefit from education that explicitly addresses the definitions of sexual assault and consent. Bystander intervention training can also help students act on their inclinations to help fellow students by teaching suitable and safe methods of intervening in incidents of sexual violence.

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These findings begin to illuminate some of the ways Rutgers–Camden can build on its strengths as it continues to develop the university response to sexual violence and enhance the campus climate.



## PART II: SURVEY FINDINGS

The #iSPEAK–Camden survey, as it was named by the Camden campus, was designed to capture information about:

- the scope and nature of unwanted sexual contact among students;
- use of campus resources among victims of sexual violence;
- knowledge and awareness of campus resources; and
- opinions and beliefs about how the university and its students would respond following incidents of sexual violence.

For assessing victimization, six survey items asked respondents about whether or not they experienced different types of unwanted sexual contact; if they endorsed one or more of these items, they were categorized as having experienced sexual violence.

All students at Rutgers–Camden were invited to take the online campus climate survey. A broad outreach campaign, including print materials, social media, and direct communications publicized the survey (see the [Appendix A](#) for detailed methods). Over the 18-day survey period, 1,627 students (25 percent of all students invited to participate) accessed the #iSPEAK–Camden survey.

- Four out of every five survey respondents (82 percent) were undergraduates.
- Of the students who took the survey, 66 percent identified as women, 34 percent identified as men, and less than one percent identified as transgender or another gender.

### SURVEY SAMPLE

Tables 1 and 2 present demographic information describing all #iSPEAK–Camden survey respondents. Survey demographic data is presented as a whole for all participants (“All”), as well as by graduate and undergraduate status.

**Table 1. Survey Participant Demographics**

	All (n=1,404)		Graduate Students (n=250)		Undergraduates (n=1,154)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
<b>Age</b>						
18	96	7*	-	-	96	8*
19	128	9	-	-	128	11
20	176	13	-	-	176	15
21	188	13	-	-	188	16
22-23	279	20	44	18	235	20
24-25	152	11	70	28	82	7
26-30	151	11	57	23	94	8
31 or older	166	12	46	18	120	10
<i>Missing</i>	68	5	33	13	35	3

	All (n=1,404)		Graduate Students (n=250)		Undergraduates (n=1,154)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
<b>Class (Undergraduates Only)</b>						
First-year					146	13*
Sophomore					165	14
Junior					344	30
Senior					492	43
Missing					6	1
<b>Gender Identity</b>						
Male	472	34	112	45	360	31
Female	922	66	138	55	784	68
Transgender Male	NR	<1	-	-	NR	<1
Transgender Female	NR	<1	-	-	NR	<1
Other	7	<1	-	-	7	1
Missing	NR	<1	-	-	NR	<1
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>						
100% Heterosexual/Straight	1,110	79	196	78*	914	79
Other	292	21	53	21	239	21
Missing	NR	<1	NR	<1	NR	<1
<b>Disability Status</b>						
No	1,294	92*	222	89	1,072	93
Yes	104	7	27	11	77	7
Missing	6	<1	NR	<1	5	<1
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>						
African American	227	16	32	13	195	17*
American Indian	NR	<1	NR	<1	-	-
Asian American	142	10	19	8	123	11
Hispanic	178	13	21	8	157	14
White	776	55	167	67	609	53
Other	80	6	10	4	70	6
Missing	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Currently Serving/Served in the U.S Military</b>						
No	1,322	94	234	94	1,088	94
Yes	81	6	16	6	65	6
Missing	NR	<1	-	-	NR	<1
<b>Branches Serving/Served<sup>6</sup></b>						
U.S. Air Force	22	27	NR	25	18	28
U.S. Army	38	47	5	31	33	51
U.S. Navy	12	15	5	31	7	11
U.S. Marines	10	12	NR	19	7	11
U.S. Coast Guard	NR	4	NR	6	NR	3
Other	NR	1	-	-	NR	2
<b>Time served in the U.S Military<sup>7</sup></b>						

<sup>6</sup> Percentages are of those who are serving in the military. Percentages might not add up to 100% as participants could select multiple responses.

<sup>7</sup> Missing percentages are of those who are serving in the military.

	All (n=1,404)		Graduate Students (n=250)		Undergraduates (n=1,154)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Average years served – mean (standard deviation)	78	9 years (6.6)	15	11 years (8.0)	63	9 years (6.2)
<i>Missing</i>	<i>NR</i>	4	<i>NR</i>	6	<i>NR</i>	3
<b>Time in combat in the U.S Military<sup>8</sup></b>						
Average years in combat – mean (standard deviation)	74	1 year (1.9)	15	1 year (3.1)	59	1 year (1.5)
<i>Missing</i>	7	9	<i>NR</i>	6	6	9
<b>Athlete</b>						
No	1,326	94	248	99	1,078	93
Yes	70	5	-	-	70	6
<i>Missing</i>	8	1	<i>NR</i>	1	6	1
<b>Fraternity or Sorority Member</b>						
No	1,255	89	234	94*	1,021	89*
Yes	139	10	14	6	125	11
<i>Missing</i>	10	1	<i>NR</i>	1	8	1
<b>Student Organization Member</b>						
No	873	62*	163	65	710	62
Yes	524	37	85	34	439	38
<i>Missing</i>	7	<1	<i>NR</i>	1	5	<1
<b>On-Campus Employee</b>						
No	1,189	85*	198	79	991	86
Yes	207	15	49	20	158	14
<i>Missing</i>	8	<1	<i>NR</i>	1	5	<1
<b>On-Campus Employment Position<sup>9</sup></b>						
Resident Assistant	11	5	-	-	11	7
Orientation Leader	17	8	-	-	17	11
Campus Center Building Manager	10	5	<i>NR</i>	2	9	6
Recreation Center Building Manager	11	5	<i>NR</i>	4	9	6
Academic Tutor	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	152	73	43	88	109	69
<b>Online Classes</b>						
No	902	64	224	90	678	59
Yes	498	36	26	10	472	41
<i>Missing</i>	<i>NR</i>	<1	-	-	<i>NR</i>	<1
<b>Frequency of Online Classes<sup>10</sup></b>						
Most of my classes are online	25	5	<i>NR</i>	15	21	4*
About half of my classes are online	55	11	6	23	49	10
A few of my classes are online	102	21	<i>NR</i>	8	100	21
Only one class is online	314	63	14	54	300	64
<i>Missing</i>	<i>NR</i>	<1	-	-	<i>NR</i>	<1

<sup>8</sup> Missing percentages are of those who are serving in the military.

<sup>9</sup> Percentages are of those who are employed on campus. Percentages might not add up to 100% as participants could select multiple responses.

<sup>10</sup> Percentages are of those who take online classes.

	All (n=1,404)		Graduate Students (n=250)		Undergraduates (n=1,154)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
<b>Campus Residence</b>						
Off Campus	1,199	85	215	86	984	85*
On Campus	198	14	32	13	166	14
<i>Missing</i>	7	1	NR	1	NR	<1
<b>Primary Residence</b>						
On-Campus Housing	195	14	32	13*	163	14*
Off-Campus Apartment/House	330	24	110	44	220	19
At Home with Parent(s) or Guardian(s)	697	50	62	25	635	55
At Home with Partner and/or Children	170	12	43	17	127	11
Fraternity or Sorority House	NR	<1	-	-	NR	<1
Other	NR	<1	-	-	NR	<1
<i>Missing</i>	7	<1	NR	1	4	<1

NR: Not reported; cell size smaller than 5. The symbol “-” represents zero, indicating no students affirmed that question. Cells that are empty represent a question not asked to the respondents in that cell.

\*Percentages in this column do not add up to 100% as they are rounded to the nearest percent.

**Table 2. Participants’ Family Backgrounds**

	All (n=1,404)		Graduate Students (n=250)		Undergraduates (n=1,154)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
<b>Family</b>						
Raised by both biological parents	1,017	72*	200	80	817	71
Raised by one biological parent	202	14	31	12	171	15
Raised with one biological parent and a step parent	104	7	8	3	96	8
Raised by a biological family member who was not a parent	22	2	NR	2	18	2
Raised by an adopted family	16	1	NR	1	14	1
Raised by foster care/by foster parents	NR	<1	-	-	-	-
Parent(s) deceased	15	1	NR	<1	14	1
Other	24	2	200	2	20	2
<i>Missing</i>	NR	<1	-	-	NR	<1
<b>Age of Parent’s death<sup>11</sup></b>						
Average age – mean (Standard Deviation)	12	20 (14.7)	NR	66 (0.0)	11	16 (2.4)
<i>Missing</i>	NR	20	-	-	NR	21
<b>Highest Level of Parent/Guardian Education</b>						
Elementary School	22	2*	NR	1*	19	2
Some High School - not a	50	4	7	3	43	4

<sup>11</sup> This question only appeared for those students who affirmed having a deceased parent. Percentages are out of those students who reported having a deceased parent. Students were given the option to provide two ages for parents’ deaths. When respondents provided two ages, the reported means are for the younger age

	All (n=1,404)		Graduate Students (n=250)		Undergraduates (n=1,154)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Graduate						
High School Graduate	276	20	34	14	242	21
Some College or Professional School	291	21	24	10	267	23
Professional School Certificate	52	4	7	3	45	4
AA/AS Achieved	103	7	9	4	94	8
BA/BS Achieved	335	24	76	30	259	22
Masters Achieved	210	15	77	31	133	12
PhD Achieved	47	3	10	4	37	3
I Don't Know	10	<1	-	-	-	<1
Other	6	<1	NR	<1	NR	<1
Missing	NR	<1	NR	<1	NR	<1

NR: Not reported; cell size smaller than 5. The symbol “-” represents zero, indicating no students affirmed that question. Cells that are empty represent a question not asked to the respondents in that cell.

\*Percentages in this column do not add up to 100% as they are rounded to the nearest percent.

### Representativeness of Survey Sample

Students who participated in the #iSPEAK–Camden survey comprise a diverse group. Although chi-square analysis indicates that the final analytic sample is not perfectly statistically representative of the student population (e.g. women are overrepresented), the group percentages in the sample were fairly similar to those in the population in most categories. Furthermore, there was no significant difference between the ethnicity of the student body and the analytic sample, meaning the sample was representative of the study population for this demographic category.

## RESULTS

The results of the entire #iSPEAK–Camden survey administered to all students at Rutgers–Camden appear below. The findings presented in this section of the report appear approximately in the order the questions were displayed in the survey.

### COMMUTER STUDENTS' PERCEPTIONS OF SAFETY

As the campus of Rutgers–Camden is largely made up of commuter students, additional questions asked students about their perceptions of safety while commuting or walking to class.

#### Commuter Students

Students were first asked if they commute to campus, then were asked a series of follow-up questions regarding their commute, including the method of travel and, for those who drive, mileage and where they park. As seen in Table 3, 80 percent of students reported being commuters at Rutgers–Camden. The most common method of commuting was via car and a majority of students (84 percent) who commute by vehicle drive 20 miles or less.

**Table 3. Commuter Students**

	All (n=1,404)		Graduate Students (n=250)		Undergraduates (n=1,154)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
<b>Commute to Campus</b>						
No	77	6	20	8	57	5
Yes	1,125	80	195	78	930	81
Missing	202	14	35	14	167	15
	All (n=1,125)		Graduate Students (n=195)		Undergraduates (n=930)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
<b>Method of Commute<sup>12</sup></b>						
Drive	841	75	139	71	702	76
Take the campus shuttle	NR	<1	-	-	NR	<1
Walk	24	2	7	4	17	2
Take public transportation	256	23	49	25	207	22
Missing	NR	<1	-	-	NR	<1
	All (n=841)		Graduate Students (n=139)		Undergraduates (n=702)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
<b>Miles of Commute<sup>13</sup></b>						
Under 5 miles	80	10*	14	10	66	9*
5-10 miles	245	29	38	27	207	29
10-15 miles	208	25	37	27	171	24
15-20 miles	164	20	24	17	140	20
Over 20 miles	144	17	26	19	118	17
Missing	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Park in lot on Campus<sup>14</sup></b>						
No	258	31	46	33	212	30
Yes	582	69	92	66	490	70
Missing	NR	<1	NR	1	-	-

NR: Not reported; cell size smaller than 5. The symbol “-” represents zero, indicating no students affirmed that question. Cells that are empty represent a question not asked to the respondents in that cell.

\*Percentages in this column do not add up to 100% as they are rounded to the nearest percent.

### Sense of Campus Safety

The survey asked several questions to assess students’ perceptions of safety around the campus and public transport venues. A majority of students (95 percent) felt safe walking from their residence halls to campus buildings. Students also felt safe at public transport venues, although slightly less so, as 90 percent of students reported that they felt safe taking public transport, and another 82 percent reported feeling safe waiting at platforms or other waiting areas. These percentages are large, indicating that most students feel safe on campus.

<sup>12</sup> The following percentages are for students who commute.

<sup>13</sup> The following percentages are for students who commute by driving.

<sup>14</sup> The following percentages are for students who commute by driving.



**Table 4. Sense of Campus Safety<sup>15</sup>**

	All (n=195)		Graduate Students (n=32)		Undergraduates (n=163)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
<b>Feel safe walking from your residence hall to campus buildings<sup>16</sup></b>						
No	10	5	NR	6	8	5
Yes	184	95	30	94	154	95
Missing	NR	<1	-	-	NR	<1
	All (n=256)		Graduate Students (n=49)		Undergraduates (n=207)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
<b>Feel safe when you take public transportation to campus<sup>17</sup></b>						
No	22	9	5	10	17	8*
Yes	231	90	44	90	187	90
Missing	NR	1	-	-	NR	1
<b>Feel safe on the platforms/waiting areas<sup>18</sup></b>						
No	42	16*	9	18	33	16
Yes	211	82	40	82	171	83
Missing	NR	1	-	-	NR	1

NR: Not reported; cell size smaller than 5. The symbol “-” represents zero, indicating no students affirmed that question. Cells that are empty represent a question not asked to the respondents in that cell.

\*Percentages in this column do not add up to 100% as they are rounded to the nearest percent.

## MENTAL HEALTH

At the request of the Advisory Board for #iSPEAK–Camden, the survey asked a series of questions regarding students’ mental health prior to attending Rutgers–Camden and while at Rutgers–Camden. These questions were modeled on questions used at Rutgers–Camden’s counseling center during the intake process. These questions did not ask specifically about sexual violence, but rather asked about students’ responses to “traumatic events” that they might have experienced. For the purpose of the questions, “traumatic event” was defined as “an event which has had a significant impact or effect on your life.” Additional clarification was provided through the statement that the event should have been one that “caused interference in significant parts of your life.”

### Response to Traumatic Event before Attending Rutgers—Camden

Table 5 shows that 51 percent of students did not experience a traumatic event before attending Rutgers–Camden. Among the students who did experience a traumatic event, one quarter of students reported that “I have been bothered by poor sleep, poor concentration, or feeling watchful around me” (25 percent), or “I have felt sad or depressed more often than not” (24 percent).

<sup>15</sup> Additional questions were asked regarding the perceived safety of taking the shuttle. Due to small sample size, this data is not included in this table. All students who reported taking the shuttle (n=3) reporting feeling safe.

<sup>16</sup> The following percentages are for students who live on campus.

<sup>17</sup> The following percentages are for students who reported taking public transportation to campus.

<sup>18</sup> The following percentages are for students who reported taking public transportation to campus.

**Table 5. Mental Health: Response to Traumatic Event before Attending Rutgers—Camden (%)**

	All (n=1,404)	Graduate Students (n=250)	Under- graduates (n=1,154)
Does not apply	51	50	51
I have been bothered by poor sleep, poor concentration, or feeling watchful around me	25	27	24
I have felt sad or depressed more often than not	24	22	25
I have been bothered by unwanted memories, nightmares, or reminders of a traumatic event	19	19	18
I have been making an effort to avoid thinking or talking about a traumatic event, or doing things which remind me of a traumatic event	17	14	18
I have lost enjoyment for things, kept my distance from people or found it difficult to experience feelings	17	17	18
I have experienced other mental health problems	12	12	12
I have used alcohol or drugs to cope with my problems	11	14	11

### Response to Traumatic Event While Attending Rutgers—Camden

Table 6 displays students’ responses to a traumatic event, not related to sexual violence, while at Rutgers–Camden. Nearly one in two students (45 percent) reported that this question did not apply to them. The most common mental health response was “poor sleep, poor concentration, or feeling watchful around me,” which was reported by one in four (25 percent) students. The least common mental health response reported by slightly less than one in ten (9 percent) students was using drugs or alcohol to cope with problems.

**Table 6. Response to Traumatic Event at Rutgers—Camden (%)**

	All (n=1,404)	Graduate Students (n=250)	Under- graduates (n=1,154)
Does not apply	45	39	46
I have been bothered by poor sleep, poor concentration, or feeling watchful around me	25	25	25
I have felt sad or depressed more often than not	22	21	23
I have been bothered by unwanted memories, nightmares, or reminders of a traumatic event	15	14	15
I have been making an effort to avoid thinking or talking about a traumatic event, or doing things which remind me of a traumatic event	14	10	15
I have lost enjoyment for things, kept my distance from people or found it difficult to experience feelings	15	15	15
I have experienced other mental health problems	11	8	11
I have used alcohol or drugs to cope with my problems	9	11	9

## PERCEPTIONS OF THE CAMPUS CLIMATE

The #iSPEAK–Camden survey included several scales that measured students’ perceptions of the campus climate at Rutgers–Camden in general and with regard to sexual violence in particular. These scales included measures regarding students’ sense of community, perceptions of how the

university responds to nonspecific crisis incidents and sexual violence, and perceptions of how supportive students believe their peers are in cases of sexual violence.

### Sense of Community

The extent to which students feel that they belong and are valued as members of the Rutgers–Camden community is an important facet of the campus climate. Therefore, a widely used Brief Sense of Community scale<sup>19</sup> was adapted and used in the Rutgers–Camden survey. Along with total sense of community scores, the scale calculated four subscale scores, reflecting: the degree to which students felt their needs are met (Needs Fulfillment), feelings of belonging (Group Membership), ability to effect change (Influence), and emotional connection to the community (Emotional Connection). Researchers made modifications to the wording of the scale’s items, specifying that the community in question was the Rutgers–Camden campus.

Table 7 and several tables in subsequent sections show results for four groups of respondents who took the survey: all respondents, graduate students, undergraduates, and undergraduate women. *Subgroup analysis for undergraduate women was conducted because members of this group are consistently shown to have a disproportionately high risk of experiencing sexual violence. Men can, however, experience sexual violence too, and members of other groups also have elevated risk.*

As illustrated in Table 7, among all four of the groups presented, students’ sense of community at Rutgers–Camden was generally moderate. Individual item responses (not shown due to limited space but available upon request), subscale scores, and total scores all reflected a limited sense of community. It should be noted that there was a great deal of diversity reported in students’ involvement in campus life.

In the follow-up focus groups, students were asked about their connection to the campus. Many focus group students reported feeling connected to Rutgers–Camden through their involvement in various student organizations. Students who were not involved in student organizations, particularly commuter students and adult students not involved in on-campus activities, were more likely to describe that they felt “disconnected” from the school. Many students often cited Rutgers–Camden’s small size as an asset, describing the campus as a “community.”

**Table 7. Sense of Community Scale: Subscale and Total Score: Means (Standard Deviations)**

	Needs Fulfillment	Group Membership	Influence	Emotional Connection	Total
All	3.62 (0.85)	3.59 (0.94)	3.48 (0.80)	3.55 (0.91)	3.56 (0.78)
Graduate Students	3.49 (0.81)	3.51 (0.87)	3.38 (0.69)	3.46 (0.85)	3.46 (0.70)
Undergraduates	3.65 (0.86)	3.60 (0.95)	3.51 (0.82)	3.57 (0.92)	3.58 (0.79)
Undergraduate Women	3.66 (0.85)	3.61 (0.93)	3.49 (0.81)	3.57 (0.91)	3.58 (0.79)

Note: all means and standard deviations have been calculated using only those students who had no missing values on any scale items.  
 n: All = 1,404; Graduate Student = 250; Undergraduates = 1,154; Undergraduate Women = 784  
 Cronbach’s Alpha for complete scale: All = .92; Graduate Students = .91; Undergraduates = .92; Undergraduate Women = .93

<sup>19</sup> Peterson, N.A., Speer, P.W. & McMillan, D. (2008). Validation of a brief sense of community scale: Confirmation of the principal theory of sense of community. *Journal of Community Psychology*, 36, 61-73.

## Perceived University Responsiveness

The campus climate regarding sexual violence is significantly influenced by how students perceive the university’s responsiveness to general crises and to incidents of sexual violence specifically. The *#iSPEAK*–Camden survey contained two scales to assess university responsiveness, both of which were included in the *Not Alone toolkit*. Table 8 displays responses regarding how students think the university would respond to crises or other unspecified serious events,<sup>20</sup> and Table 9 shows how students believe the university would handle a report of sexual violence.<sup>21</sup> Both scales demonstrated high reliability in the sample.

Students were moderately confident that Rutgers–Camden would handle a crisis (not necessarily related to sexual violence) swiftly, fairly, and appropriately (Table 8). Approximately half of respondents indicated that they “Agree[d]” or “Strongly Agree[d]” that the university’s response to serious incidents was adequate. Graduate students had the lowest average score for perceived university responsiveness to crises or other unspecified incidents.

When asked in the survey about Rutgers–Camden’s actions following a report of sexual violence, students gave the university positive marks (Table 9). Respondents generally indicated feeling confident that the school would take appropriate action, support and protect the person making the report, and handle the report fairly. Graduate students had the lowest average score for perceived university responsiveness to a student reporting sexual violence.

During the focus groups, students’ perceptions of the Rutgers–Camden response to sexual violence were mixed. Participants noted that they believed the university adequately refers students to suitable victim services in the community, yet some students expressed a desire to have more sexual assault resources available on campus.

**Table 8. Perceived University Responsiveness to Crises or Other Unspecified Incidents: Distribution of Scores (%) and Means (Standard Deviations)**

	Strongly Disagree (1)	Disagree (2)	Neutral (3)	Agree (4)	Strongly Agree (5)	Missing	M (SD)
<b>If a crisis happened at Rutgers University–Camden, the university would handle it well.</b>							
All	3	6	35	38	15	3	3.59 (0.92)
Graduate Students	4	7	36	40	9	4	3.44 (0.93)
Undergraduates	3	5	35	38	16	3	3.62 (0.92)
Undergraduate Women	2	5	37	39	15	2	3.61 (0.88)
<b>The university responds rapidly in difficult situations.</b>							
All	3	6	40	36	12	3	3.51 (0.89)
Graduate Students	3	5	44	32	12	4	3.46 (0.88)
Undergraduates	3	6	39	37	12	3	3.52 (0.90)
Undergraduate Women	3*	6	41	38	11	2	3.50 (0.87)
<b>University officials handle incidents in a fair and responsible manner.</b>							

<sup>20</sup> Adapted from Sulkowski, M. (2011). An investigation of students’ willingness to report threats of violence in campus communities. *Psychology of Violence, 1*, 53-65.

<sup>21</sup> Adapted from Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute. (2014). DEOMI Organizational Climate Survey. Retrieved from: [http://deocs.net/docdownloads/sampledeocs\\_2014jan.pdf](http://deocs.net/docdownloads/sampledeocs_2014jan.pdf).

	Strongly Disagree (1)	Disagree (2)	Neutral (3)	Agree (4)	Strongly Agree (5)	Missing	M (SD)
All	2	5	41	37	12	3	3.52 (0.86)
Graduate Students	3	5	44	36	8	4	3.43 (0.84)
Undergraduates	2	5	41	37	12	3	3.54 (0.86)
Undergraduate Women	2	4	42	39	11	2	3.53 (0.83)

**Rutgers University–Camden does enough to protect the safety of students.**

All	3	8	24	44	18	3	3.69 (0.97)
Graduate Students	3	8	26	47	13	4	3.61 (0.92)
Undergraduates	3*	8	24	43	20	3	3.70 (0.98)
Undergraduate Women	3	9	26	44	16	2	3.62 (0.97)

**Average Perceived University Responsiveness**

All						3	3.57 (0.77)
Graduate Students						4	3.48 (0.76)
Undergraduates						3	3.59 (0.77)
Undergraduate Women						2	3.56 (0.74)

n: All = 1,404; Graduate Student = 250; Undergraduates = 1,154; Undergraduate Women = 784

Cronbach's Alpha: All = .86; Graduate Students = .87; Undergraduates = .86; Undergraduate Women = .85

NR: Not reported; cell size smaller than 5. The symbol “-” represents zero, indicating no students affirmed that question. Cells that are empty represent a question not asked to the respondents in that cell.

\*Percentages in this row do not add up to 100% as they are rounded to the nearest percent.

**Table 9. Perceived University Responsiveness to Individual Reporting Sexual Violence: Distribution of Scores (%) and Means (Standard Deviations)**

	Very Unlikely (1)	Unlikely (2)	Neutral (3)	Likely (4)	Very Likely (5)	Missing	M (SD)
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**Rutgers University–Camden provides enough education about sexual violence on campus.**

All	4	13	34	32	14	3	3.41 (1.02)
Graduate Students	1	12	45	28	10	4	3.34 (0.88)
Undergraduates	4	13	32	33	15	3	3.42 (1.04)
Undergraduate Women	5*	15	32	34	13	2	3.35 (1.04)

**The university would take the report seriously.**

All	1	2	14	38	39	6	4.20 (0.83)
Graduate Students	<1*	3	16	45	26	9	4.02 (0.80)
Undergraduates	1*	2	13	37	42	6	4.23 (0.83)
Undergraduate Women	1	2	13	38	40	5	4.20 (0.84)

**The university would maintain the privacy of the person making the report.**

All	1*	2	16	39	37	6	4.16 (0.83)
Graduate Students	1*	2	20	39	29	9	4.03 (0.84)
Undergraduates	1*	2	15	39	38	6	4.18 (0.82)
Undergraduate Women	1*	2	14	40	39	5	4.17 (0.84)

**If requested by the victim, the university would forward the report to criminal investigators (for example, the police).**

All	1	2	15	38	38	6	4.19 (0.81)
Graduate Students	<1*	2	21	38	30	9	4.05 (0.82)
Undergraduates	1*	2	14	39	40	6	4.22 (0.81)
Undergraduate Women	1*	2	14	40	39	5	4.21 (0.81)

**The university would take steps to protect the safety of the person making the report.**

	Very Unlikely (1)	Unlikely (2)	Neutral (3)	Likely (4)	Very Likely (5)	Missing	M (SD)
All	1*	2	17	41	32	6	4.08 (0.86)
Graduate Students	2	2	22	40	25	10	3.93 (0.90)
Undergraduates	1	2	16	41	34	6	4.11 (0.84)
Undergraduate Women	1*	3	16	43	33	5	4.08 (0.86)
<b>The university would support the person making the report.</b>							
All	1*	2	22	39	29	6	3.99 (0.85)
Graduate Students	2*	4	26	39	21	19	3.80 (0.90)
Undergraduates	1	2	21	39	31	6	4.03 (0.86)
Undergraduate Women	1	2	23	39	30	5	4.00 (0.86)
<b>The university would take action to address factors that may have led to the sexual assault.</b>							
All	1*	4	19	42	28	7	3.99 (0.86)
Graduate Students	1*	4	24	44	18	9	3.81 (0.85)
Undergraduates	1*	4	19	41	30	6	4.02 (0.86)
Undergraduate Women	1	4	19	42	29	5	3.99 (0.88)
<b>The university would handle the report fairly.</b>							
All	1	3	20	42	27	7	3.97 (0.87)
Graduate Students	1	3	23	44	19	9	3.85 (0.84)
Undergraduates	1	3	19	42	29	6	3.99 (0.88)
Undergraduate Women	1	3	20	43	28	5	3.99 (0.87)
<b>Average Perceived University Responsiveness</b>							
All						3	3.98 (0.72)
Graduate Students						4	3.82 (0.74)
Undergraduates						3	4.01 (0.71)
Undergraduate Women						2	3.98 (0.71)

n: All = 1,404; Graduate Student = 250; Undergraduates = 1,154; Undergraduate Women = 784

Cronbach's Alpha: All = .92; Graduate Students = .93; Undergraduates = .92; Undergraduate Women = .92

NR: Not reported; cell size smaller than 5. The symbol "-" represents zero, indicating no students affirmed that question. Cells that are empty represent a question not asked to the respondents in that cell.

\*Percentages in this row do not add up to 100% as they are rounded to the nearest percent.

## Perceived Student Supportiveness

Another important indicator of campus climate is students' perception of how their peers react when someone reports having been a survivor of sexual violence.<sup>22</sup> To gauge how supportive respondents think their fellow students are, a brief, three-item scale was included in the survey.<sup>23</sup> Although the items are negatively worded in this scale, responses were reverse-coded so that higher scores correspond with more positive views of student supportiveness.

Table 10 displays results for the perceived student supportiveness scale. While students had generally positive views about Rutgers–Camden's institutional response to sexual violence, they had less confidence in their peers.

<sup>22</sup> Both the terms "victim" and "survivor" are used in this report, as each individual who experiences sexual violence may identify differently throughout the recovery process.

<sup>23</sup> Adapted from Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute. (2014). DEOMI Organizational Climate Survey. Retrieved from: [http://deocs.net/docdownloads/sampledeocs\\_2014jan.pdf](http://deocs.net/docdownloads/sampledeocs_2014jan.pdf).



The question with the lowest mean score was “The alleged offender(s) or their friends would try to get back at the person who made the report” indicating that in this area, students felt least supported by their peers.

In the focus groups, about half of participants described their peers' reactions to a survivor's disclosure of sexual violence or what they believe their peers' reactions would be, as generally supportive of survivors. However, some of the students that reported knowing a survivor of sexual violence noted that their peers' reactions were unsupportive, and at times victim-blaming.

**Table 10. Perceived Student Supportiveness of Individual Reporting Sexual Violence: Distribution of Responses (%) and Means (Standard Deviations)<sup>24</sup>**

	Very Likely (1)	Likely (2)	Neutral (3)	Unlikely (4)	Very Unlikely (5)	Missing	M (SD)
<b>Students would label the person making the report a troublemaker.</b>							
All	4	13	27	33	17	6	3.51 (1.06)
Graduate Students	3*	11	32	34	10	9	3.41 (0.97)
Undergraduates	4*	13	26	33	19	6	3.53 (1.08)
Undergraduate Women	4	15	26	32	18	5	3.49 (1.09)
<b>Students would have a hard time supporting the person who made the report.</b>							
All	2	11	28	37	16	6	3.57 (0.99)
Graduate Students	2*	10	31	36	11	9	3.48 (0.93)
Undergraduates	3*	11	27	37	17	6	3.59 (1.00)
Undergraduate Women	3	12	27	37	16	5	3.54 (1.01)
<b>The alleged offender(s) or their friends would try to get back at the person who made the report.</b>							
All	6	23	38	18	9	6	3.00 (1.03)
Graduate Students	6	20	42	19	4	9	2.94 (0.92)
Undergraduates	6*	24	37	18	10	6	3.01 (1.05)
Undergraduate Women	6	26	36	18	9	5	2.98 (1.04)
<b>Average Perceived Student Supportiveness</b>							
All						67	3.36 (0.88)
Graduate Students						10	3.28 (0.79)
Undergraduates						6	3.38 (0.89)
Undergraduate Women						5	3.34 (0.90)

n: All = 1,404; Graduate Student = 250; Undergraduates = 1,154; Undergraduate Women = 784

Cronbach's Alpha: All = .81; Graduate Students = .80; Undergraduates = .82; Undergraduate Women = .82

NR: Not reported; cell size smaller than 5. The symbol “-” represents zero, indicating no students affirmed that question. Cells that are empty represent a question not asked to the respondents in that cell.

\*Percentages in this row do not add up to 100% as they are rounded to the nearest percent.

## **AWARENESS, EFFICACY, EXPOSURE**

In order to estimate students' understanding of campus resources for sexual violence, the campus climate assessment measured the student body's awareness of resources, efficacy to seek assistance, and exposure to resources and information about sexual violence.

<sup>24</sup> Students were also asked if “The academic achievement of the person making the report would suffer.” This question is not included in this table or scale. The mean score on this question for the total sample was 3.12 (SD: 1.18).

## Awareness of Campus Services

Using a five-point, Likert-type scale, students were asked to rate their level of awareness of campus resources that address sexual violence from “Not at all Aware” to “Extremely Aware.” The list of programs and offices was generated from the results of the resource audit conducted at Rutgers–Camden in the fall preceding the survey. Results, presented in Table 11, indicate that, while students’ awareness of available services varied by entity, sexual violence resources were generally not widely known. Additional analysis examined awareness of resources for students who indicated serving previously or currently in the military.<sup>25</sup> These students had statistically similar awareness of campus services (mean score) as those students who were not previously or currently in the military.

Students were most aware of the functions of the Rutgers University Police Department and Student Health Services. Forty-nine percent of respondents reported that they were “Very Aware” or “Extremely Aware” of the function of Student Health Services; 57 percent provided these responses regarding the Rutgers University Police Department.

The Dean of Students Office had the next highest level of familiarity among students. However, only 34 percent of students were “Very Aware” or “Extremely Aware” of its function. Students were less familiar with offices that were related to students’ understanding of what happens following an incident of sexual violence or harassment: 58 percent of students indicated that they were “Not at all Aware” of the Office of Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance (VPVA); 43 percent provided those responses regarding the Title IX Compliance Office. Students were also unfamiliar with agencies providing sexual assault services. Forty-seven percent of students were “Not at all Aware” of the Camden County Women’s Center and 51 percent of students were “Not at all Aware” of Services Empowering Rights of Victims (SERV).

Similarly, in the focus groups, students had difficulty listing available resources on campus and only a few students in the focus groups knew another student who had accessed on-campus services and/or gone through the formal reporting process for sexual violence.

**Table 11. Awareness of Campus Resources: Distribution of Responses (%) and Means (Standard Deviations)**

	Not at all aware (1)	Slightly aware (2)	Somewhat aware (3)	Very aware (4)	Extremely aware (5)	Missing	M (SD)
<b>Student Health Services</b>							
All	10	8	23	24	25	10	3.53 (1.28)
Graduate Students	12	10	25	21	19	13	3.28 (1.32)
Undergraduates	9	8	22	25	27	9	3.58 (1.26)
Undergraduate Women	9*	7	24	25	28	8	3.60 (1.26)
<b>Alcohol and Other Drug Assistance</b>							
All	35*	16	20	13	8	10	2.37 (1.34)

<sup>25</sup> A one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) was conducted for the total sample, graduate, undergraduate, and undergraduate female students currently or previously in the military on mean awareness of campus resources scores.

	Not at all aware (1)	Slightly aware (2)	Somewhat aware (3)	Very aware (4)	Extremely aware (5)	Missing	M (SD)
Graduate Students	36*	18	17	11	5	14	2.2 (1.26)
Undergraduates	34*	15	20	13	8	9	2.41 (1.35)
Undergraduate Women	39	14	20	13	7	7	2.30 (1.33)
<b>Dean of Students Office</b>							
All	19	13	24	19	15	10	2.97 (1.36)
Graduate Students	19*	12	26	16	13	13	2.89 (1.34)
Undergraduates	19	13	24	20	15	9	2.99 (1.37)
Undergraduate Women	21	13	24	20	15	7	2.95 (1.39)
<b>Title IX Compliance Office</b>							
All	43*	13	18	9	8	10	2.16 (1.34)
Graduate Students	45	14	19	6	2	14	1.93 (1.14)
Undergraduates	43	13	17	9	9	9	2.21 (1.38)
Undergraduate Women	47*	13	16	9	9	7	2.14 (1.37)
<b>Office of Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance (VPVA) at Rutgers University</b>							
All	58*	10	14	5	4	10	1.74 (1.15)
Graduate Students	59	10	12	4	2	13	1.63 (1.05)
Undergraduates	57*	10	14	5	4	9	1.77 (1.16)
Undergraduate Women	62	10	13	5	3	7	1.66 (1.10)
<b>University Human Resource/Office of Employment Equity</b>							
All	40	15	19	9	7	10	2.20 (1.30)
Graduate Students	41	16	15	9	5	14	2.07 (1.25)
Undergraduates	39	15	20	10	7	9	2.23 (1.31)
Undergraduate Women	44	15	19	9	6	7	2.12 (1.27)
<b>Rutgers University Police Department (RUPD)</b>							
All	7	6	20	27	30	10	3.75 (1.19)
Graduate Students	11*	6	23	26	23	12	3.50 (1.28)
Undergraduates	6	6	20	28	31	9	3.80 (1.17)
Undergraduate Women	6	6	21	29	31	7	3.77 (1.17)
<b>Services Empowering Rights of Victims (SERV)</b>							
All	51*	13	16	6	5	10	1.91 (1.21)
Graduate Students	53	12	15	2	5	13	1.79 (1.18)
Undergraduates	50	13	17	7	4	9	1.93 (1.21)
Undergraduate Women	54*	12	15	7	4	7	1.87 (1.21)
<b>Camden County Women's Center</b>							
All	47*	13	18	8	5	10	2.02 (1.25)
Graduate Students	48*	13	16	5	4	13	1.89 (1.19)
Undergraduates	46	13	18	9	5	9	2.05 (1.26)
Undergraduate Women	49	13	17	9	5	7	2.01 (1.26)
<b>Average Awareness</b>							
All						9	2.52 (0.93)
Graduate Students						12	2.37 (0.93)
Undergraduates						9	2.55 (0.93)
Undergraduate Women						7	2.49 (0.90)

n: All = 1,404; Graduate Student = 250; Undergraduates = 1,154; Undergraduate Women = 784

Cronbach's Alpha: All = .89; Graduate Students = .89; Undergraduates = .89; Undergraduate Women = .88

NR: Not reported; cell size smaller than 5. The symbol "-" represents zero, indicating no students affirmed that question. Cells that are empty represent a question not asked to the respondents in that cell.

	Not at all aware (1)	Slightly aware (2)	Somewhat aware (3)	Very aware (4)	Extremely aware (5)	Missing	M (SD)
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\*Percentages in this row do not add up to 100% as they are rounded to the nearest percent.

## Efficacy

To gauge how confident students were that they would know what to do if they or a friend experienced an incident of sexual violence, survey participants were presented with three statements and a five-point, Likert-type response scale measuring agreement. Table 12 presents results for all respondents, graduates, undergraduates, and undergraduate women. For all items, most students fell in the middle range. Considering most students had limited knowledge about what to do and how Rutgers–Camden responds when sexual violence occurs, there is ample opportunity for educational efforts to increase student efficacy.

A majority of students within the focus groups had difficulty explaining on-campus policies regarding sexual violence, including how to report an incident of sexual violence on campus. This finding was consistent across all student populations that participated in the focus groups, including students involved in groups that received specialized training on sexual violence.

While findings regarding student efficacy are similar to those found at other universities,<sup>26</sup> this presents an opportunity for Rutgers–Camden to improve the way that information is conveyed about policies and resources on campus to all students, including those who are already receiving training, in order to increase the utilization of resources among student survivors.

**Table 12. Agreement with Statements about Efficacy in the Event of Sexual Violence: Distribution of Responses (%) and Means (Standard Deviations)**

	Strongly Disagree (1)	Disagree (2)	Neutral (3)	Agree (4)	Strongly Agree (5)	Missing	M (SD)
<b>If I or a friend experienced unwanted sexual contact, I would know where to go to get help on campus.</b>							
All	7*	23	15	31	18	7	3.33 (1.23)
Graduate Students	6*	24	14	34	14	9	3.29 (1.20)
Undergraduates	7*	23	16	30	19	6	3.34 (1.24)
Undergraduate Women	8	25	14	30	18	5	3.25 (1.28)
<b>I understand what happens when a student reports a claim of sexual assault at Rutgers.</b>							
All	7	24	20	28	14	7	3.21 (1.19)
Graduate Students	6*	34	26	19	7	9	2.87 (1.06)
Undergraduates	7	22	19	30	16	6	3.28 (1.20)
Undergraduate Women	8	25	16	29	16	6	3.19 (1.25)
<b>If I or a friend experienced unwanted sexual contact, I know where to go to make a report of sexual assault.</b>							
All	7	24	14	30	18	7	3.31 (1.26)
Graduate Students	6	23	15	34	14	8	3.29 (1.18)

<sup>26</sup> In a study of 27 American Association Universities, only 11.4 percent of student respondents across all 27 schools reported that they are “Very” or “Extremely Knowledgeable” about what happens when students make a report of unwanted sexual contact. See David Cantor et al., Report on the AAU Climate Survey on Sexual Assault and Sexual Misconduct. The Association of American Universities, 2015.

	Strongly Disagree (1)	Disagree (2)	Neutral (3)	Agree (4)	Strongly Agree (5)	Missing	M (SD)
Undergraduates	8	24	13	30	19	6	3.32 (1.27)
Undergraduate Women	9	27	11	29	18	6	3.21 (1.31)
<b>I understand what happens when a student is accused of unwanted sexual contact.</b>							
All	5*	22	18	31	18	7	3.35 (1.19)
Graduate Students	4	35	21	21	10	9	2.97 (1.11)
Undergraduates	6	19	17	33	19	6	3.43 (1.20)
Undergraduate Women	7	22	15	31	19	6	3.36 (1.23)

n: All = 1,404; Graduate Student = 250; Undergraduates = 1,154; Undergraduate Women = 784

Cronbach's alpha for these questions was not calculated as they have not been treated as a scale in previous published uses.

\*Percentages in this row do not add up to 100% as they are rounded to the nearest percent.

## Exposure to Messages about Identifying, Preventing, and Responding to Sexual Violence

The survey presented students with a list of venues at Rutgers–Camden in which they might have received educational and informational messages about sexual violence, how they might prevent it, and what to do if a sexual assault occurs. Respondents could check “yes” or “no” to indicate whether they had been exposed to each message in the list.<sup>27</sup> Tables 13 and 14 present results for all survey respondents, graduates, undergraduates, and undergraduate women.

As might be expected, passive exposures, such as seeing posters or being exposed to written or verbal information regarding the definition of consent and the Student Code of Conduct protections against sexual misconduct, were more common than active exposures like volunteering or taking a class to learn more about sexual violence. Seeing posters was most commonly reported, with more than half (58 percent) of students reporting this exposure. More than a third of students reported being exposed to definitions related to unwanted sexual contact, such as sexual assault, sexual violence, and/or consent, or discussed the topic of unwanted sexual contact with a friend. One-third of students reported that they have seen crime alerts about sexual violence (These are email messages delivered to students’ Rutgers email addresses following a report of a crime to the police, detailing the time, location, and nature of an incident). Table 14 shows that on average, in the survey, students reported about six exposures to messages about sexual violence. Some of the more common exposure types, like posters, are likely repeated many times in the course of a student’s time at Rutgers–Camden.

In the focus groups, *Raptor Welcome* (new student orientation), was cited as the most common way that students received information regarding sexual violence. Many focus group students also cited one time programming on campus, such as attending the interactive *Tunnel of Oppression* program and the screening of *The Hunting Ground* and subsequent discussion as additional ways they received such information. Additionally, a number of students in the focus groups mentioned receiving such information regarding resources, and Title IX specifically, through trainings for their on-campus employment and presentations done with their student organizations.

<sup>27</sup> McMahan, S. (2014). Level of Exposure Scale. #iSPEAK: Rutgers Campus Climate Survey. Available at: [http://socialwork.rutgers.edu/Libraries/VAWC/new\\_doc\\_to\\_upload\\_for\\_ispeak.sflb.ashx](http://socialwork.rutgers.edu/Libraries/VAWC/new_doc_to_upload_for_ispeak.sflb.ashx).

**Table 13. Level of Exposure Scale: Students Exposed to Messages about Sexual Violence (%)**

	All (n=1,404)	Graduate Students (n=250)	Under- graduates (n=1,154)	Undergraduate Women (n=784)
Seen posters about sexual assault	58	49	60	61
Received written (i.e. brochures, emails) or verbal information (presentations, trainings) from anyone at Rutgers about the definition of consent	39	29	41	42
Received written (i.e. brochures, emails) or verbal information (presentations, trainings) from anyone at Rutgers about the Student Code of Conduct protections against sexual misconduct	36	32	37	37
Discussed the topic of unwanted sexual contact with a friend	34	32	34	36
Received written (i.e. brochures, emails) or verbal information (presentations, trainings) from anyone at Rutgers about the definition of unwanted sexual contact	33	24	35	36
Seen crime alerts about sexual violence	33	38	32	31
Received written (i.e. brochures, emails) or verbal information (presentations, trainings) from anyone at Rutgers about Title IX protections against unwanted sexual contact	30	19	33	34
Discussed sexual assault/rape in class	28	28	28	28
Attended an Advising & Registration Day in which the Student Code of Conduct was discussed	24	11	27	27
Discussed the topic of sexual assault with a family member	22	19	22	25
Received written (i.e. brochures, emails) or verbal information (presentations, trainings) from anyone at Rutgers about where to go to get help if someone you know experiences unwanted sexual contact	21	15	23	23
Received written (i.e. brochures, emails) or verbal information (presentations, trainings) from anyone at Rutgers about how to help prevent unwanted sexual contact	21	15	22	22
Received written (i.e. brochures, emails) or verbal information (presentations, trainings) from anyone at Rutgers about how to report an incident of unwanted sexual contact	20	13	22	21
Seen or heard campus administrators or staff address sexual assault	17	16	18	17
Received written (i.e. brochures, emails) or verbal information (presentations, trainings) from anyone at Rutgers about information regarding bystander intervention	17	9	19	18
Seen or heard about sexual assault in a student	16	12	17	16



	All (n=1,404)	Graduate Students (n=250)	Under- graduates (n=1,154)	Undergraduate Women (n=784)
publication or media outlet				
Read a report about sexual violence rates in a Rutgers publication	14	13	14	14
Attended an event or program about what you can do as a bystander to stop sexual assault	14	8	15	15
Participated in Who R U <sup>28</sup>	14	5	16	15
Attended a program on consent, domestic violence and/or sexual violence	13	9	14	15
Visited a Rutgers website with information on sexual assault	11	10	12	11
Attended a rally or other campus event about sexual assault/rape	6	3	7	6
Taken a class to learn more about sexual assault	6	8	5	5
Volunteered or interned at an organization that addresses sexual assault	5	6	5	5
Received written (i.e. brochures, emails) or verbal information (presentations, trainings) from anyone at Rutgers regarding information about SANE exams (i.e., rape kits)	4	1	5	5

**Table 14. Average Number of Exposures**

	Average Number of Exposures (SD)
All (n=1,404)	6.23 (4.42)
Graduate Students (n=250)	5.33 (4.07)
Undergraduates (n=1,154)	6.41 (4.47)
Undergraduate Women (n=784)	6.35 (4.34)

### **Exposure to Messages about Sexual Violence while Attending Rutgers by Subgroups**

For students who indicated they were a member of an athletic team, a Greek organization, and/or another student organization, a follow-up question on the survey asked whether students received any educational or informational messages about sexual violence from their student organizations at Rutgers–Camden. Table 15 is organized into the following categories: athletes, Greeks, and other student organization members. Students from Greek organizations reported the highest exposure (72 percent) to messages about sexual violence, compared to students from other organizations.

**Table 15. Exposure to Messages about Sexual Violence from Student Groups**

Since coming to Rutgers, have any of the topics related to this survey been discussed by your:						
	n	%	n	%	n	%
<b>Athlete</b>	All (n=70)		Graduates (n=0)		Undergraduates (n=70)	
Coach	20	29	-	-	20	29

<sup>28</sup> *Who R U* prevention program is an effort within Rutgers–Camden to promote bystander intervention among students. The program is based on a short film promoting bystander behavior.

<i>Missing</i>	NR	3	-	-	NR	3
<b>Greek Life</b>	All (n=139)		Graduates (n=14)		Undergraduates (n=125)	
Fraternity or sorority	100	72	6	43	94	75
<i>Missing</i>	12	9	NR	21	9	7
<b>Who specifically discussed the topic?</b>						
Fraternity/Sorority chapter member	83	60	NR	29	79	63
Fraternity/Sorority advisor	43	31	NR	21	40	32
Fraternity/Sorority professional staff	54	39	NR	14	52	42
Other	10	7	NR	14	8	6
<b>Student Organization</b>	All (n=524)		Graduates (n=85)		Undergraduates (n=439)	
Student organization	124	24	17	20	107	24
<i>Missing</i>	42	8	8	9	34	8
<b>Who specifically discussed the topic?</b>						
Executive board of the organization	40	8	8	9	32	7
Student organization advisors	52	10	7	8	45	10
Office of Campus Involvement or other student affairs staff	55	11	5	6	50	11
Other	32	6	8	9	24	6

NR: Not reported; cell size smaller than 5. The symbol “-” represents zero, indicating no students affirmed that question. Cells that are empty represent a question not asked to the respondents in that cell.

### **Exposure to Messages about Sexual Violence Prior to Attending Rutgers**

As part of the section of the survey that asked students about exposure to messages regarding sexual violence, students were asked if they had received information about sexual violence before attending Rutgers–Camden. Table 16 provides a look at students’ exposure to messages about sexual violence prior to coming to Rutgers–Camden. Overall, a majority of students (71 percent) reported receiving information or education about unwanted sexual contact before coming to Rutgers–Camden. The most frequent source of this information was an educational program in high school (54 percent), followed by discussion with family (30 percent) or social media (29 percent). Students were least likely to receive this information from an education program in middle school.

**Table 16. Exposure to Messages about Sexual Violence before Rutgers–Camden (%)**

	All (n=1,404)	Graduate Students (n=250)	Undergraduates (n=1,154)
Received any messages before attending Rutgers	71	68	72
<i>Missing</i>	6	8	6
Education program in high school	54	42	56
Discussion with family	30	22	32
Social Media	29	21	30
Media	28	28	28
Discussion with friends	26	24	26
Education program in middle school	21	13	23
Other	13	23	11

## VICTIMIZATION

To assess victimization, a series of questions was asked about whether students experienced various types of unwanted sexual contact at Rutgers–Camden. Students who reported a completed act of unwanted sexual contact were asked a series of follow-up questions on the nature of the sexual violence they had experienced and what happened afterward, including any disclosure of the incident to others and use of campus resources. In addition, students were asked how many of their peers had disclosed an experience of sexual violence to them. *As a reminder, the information presented in this section may be especially sensitive and difficult for some readers.*

### Experience of Sexual Violence

To better understand the relationship between the campus climate and sexual violence, it is necessary to gather information about the scope and nature of sexual violence among students. For this section of the #iSPEAK–Camden survey, the research team drew many of the items and scales from the [Not Alone toolkit](#), produced by The White House, and modified the items with additional input from the Camden campus climate Advisory Board to tailor the survey to Rutgers–Camden.

Before asking participants about their experiences with victimization, the #iSPEAK–Camden survey provided students with the definition of unwanted sexual contact as stated in the Rutgers University Student Policy Prohibiting Sexual Harassment, Sexual Violence, Relationship Violence, Stalking and Related Misconduct<sup>29</sup> (see [Appendix B](#) for the exact definition of unwanted sexual contact used in the #iSPEAK–Camden survey).

Following the definition, students were asked whether they had experienced sexual violence prior to coming to Rutgers–Camden. Next, they were asked to answer six questions about whether or not they had experienced various types of unwanted sexual contact since coming to Rutgers. This included:

- Four questions about unwanted sexual contact that involved force or threats of force, explained as: “This could include someone holding you down with his or her body weight, pinning your arms, hitting or kicking you, or threatening to use a weapon against you.”
- Two questions about experiences with unwanted sexual contact while being unable to provide consent or to stop what was happening because “you were passed out, drugged, incapacitated or asleep.”

Four of the six questions in this section asked about completed acts of sexual violence and two asked about attempted acts. If a student endorsed any of the four items referring to a completed act of unwanted sexual contact (not attempted) since coming to Rutgers–Camden, the student was presented with several follow-up questions about the incident or incidents. Through the use of skip logic programmed into the online survey, students who did not report an act of completed unwanted sexual contact (this included students who reported an incident or incidents of

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<sup>29</sup> Definition adapted from Rutgers University. (2015). [Student Policy Prohibiting Sexual Harassment, Sexual Violence, Relationship Violence, Stalking and Related Misconduct](#).

attempted unwanted sexual contact or reported no experiences of victimization) since coming to Rutgers–Camden were taken directly to the next section of the survey.

### **Prior Victimization**

Before being presented with questions about their experiences at Rutgers–Camden, students were asked if they had experienced any sexual violence before coming to campus. One in five students (20 percent) affirmed experiencing unwanted sexual contact before entering Rutgers–Camden. Among undergraduate women, the percentage of those who experienced sexual violence before college is even higher (24 percent). The rates of unwanted sexual contact prior to attending Rutgers–Camden for undergraduate men were lower, with seven percent of men affirming this type of victimization.

**Table 17. Victimization Prior to Coming to Campus**

	All (n=1,404)		Graduate Students (n=250)		Under- graduates (n=1,154)		Under- graduate Women (n=784)		Under- graduate Men (n=360)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Did you ever experience any form of sexual violence before coming to Rutgers?	276	20	56	22	220	19	190	24	26	7

For students who reported experiencing sexual violence before coming to Rutgers–Camden, respondents were asked the age at which “the most serious incident”<sup>30</sup> of sexual violence occurred (Table 18). The average age of respondents ranged from 15 years old for undergraduates to 16 years old for all other groups of students (the total sample, graduate students and undergraduate women).

**Table 18. Mean Age of Unwanted Sexual Contact Experience Prior to Rutgers—Camden**

	All (n=276)	Graduate Students (n=222)	Undergraduates (n=220)	Undergraduate Women (n=190)
Average (mean) Age	16 years old	16 years old	15 years old	16 years old
Standard Deviation	6.45	6.05	6.55	6.58
Missing %	9	5	10	7

### **Victimization since Coming to Rutgers–Camden**

In Table 19, the first row shows the composite rates of sexual violence for students who indicated experiencing any one of six types of sexual violence. Questions one through six in Table 19 refer to experiences of attempted or completed unwanted sexual contact that occurred since students came to Rutgers–Camden. The rates of unwanted sexual contact ranged from one to four percent. The most common types of sexual violence were unwanted sexual contact by physical force and attempted unwanted sexual contact by physical force.

<sup>30</sup> The “Most Serious Incident” terminology was recommended by the White House [Not Alone toolkit](#).

**Table 19. Victimization since Coming to Rutgers—Camden (%)**

	All (n=1,404)		Graduate Students (n=250)		Under- graduates (n=1,154)		Under- graduate Women (n=784)		Under- graduate Men (n=360)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Experienced any unwanted sexual contact since coming to Rutgers	94	7	16	6	78	7	68	9	8	2
1. Since coming to Rutgers University–Camden, has anyone had unwanted sexual contact with you by using physical force?	38	3	NR	1	35	3	33	4	NR	1
2. Since coming to Rutgers University–Camden, has anyone had unwanted sexual contact with you by coercing you or threatening to use physical force?	38	3	5	2	33	3	26	3	5	1
3. Has anyone <i>attempted</i> but not succeeded in having unwanted sexual contact with you by using physical force against you?	27	2	NR	1	25	2	20	3	5	1
4. Has anyone <i>attempted</i> but not succeeded in having unwanted sexual contact with you by coercing you or threatening to use physical force against you?	37	3	7	3	30	3	25	3	NR	1
5. Since coming to Rutgers University–Camden, has someone had unwanted sexual contact with you when you were unable to provide consent or stop what was happening because you were passed out, drugged, drunk, incapacitated, or asleep? This question refers to incidents you are CERTAIN happened.	27	2	NR	1	24	2	22	3	NR	<1
6. Since coming to Rutgers University–Camden, has someone had unwanted sexual contact with you when you were unable to provide consent or stop what was happening because you were passed out, drugged, drunk, incapacitated, or asleep? This question refers to incidents you are NOT CERTAIN happened.	17	1	NR	1	14	1	11	1	NR	1

NR: Not reported; cell size smaller than 5. The symbol “-” represents zero, indicating no students affirmed that question. Cells that are empty represent a question not asked to the respondents in that cell.

Note. Missing data ranged from 6%-15%

Further categories of unwanted sexual contact experienced by students are described below in Table 20. As noted, for *undergraduate women*:

- Five percent experienced attempted or completed unwanted sexual contact involving physical force.
- Seven percent experienced attempted or completed unwanted sexual contact involving physical force, coercion, or threats.
- Three percent experienced unwanted sexual contact when unable to provide consent because they were passed out, drugged, drunk, incapacitated, or asleep.

For undergraduate men, the rates of sexual violence were much lower and ranged from one to two percent while at Rutgers–Camden.

**Table 20. Number and Percentage of Types of Unwanted Sexual Contact**

	All (n=1,404)		Graduate Students (n=250)		Under- graduates (n=1,154)		Undergraduate Women (n=784)		Under- graduate Men (n=360)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Unwanted sexual contact involving physical force (Questions 2 & 4)	47	3	NR	2	43	4	37	5	6	2
Unwanted sexual contact involving threats of physical force (Questions 3 & 5)	51	4	9	4	42	4	35	4	5	1
Unwanted sexual contact involving physical force (completed or attempted but not completed) or threats of physical force or coercion (completed) (Questions 2, 3, & 4)	65	5	8	3	57	5	48	6	7	2
Unwanted sexual contact involving physical force (completed or attempted) or threats of physical force or coercion (completed or attempted) (Questions 2, 3, 4, & 5)	77	5	12	5	65	6	56	7	7	2
Attempted but not completed unwanted sexual contact (Questions 4 & 5)	47	3	8	3	39	3	33	4	5	1
Unwanted sexual contact that occurred when respondent could not consent (Questions 6 & 7)	34	2	6	2	28	2	24	3	NR	1

NR: Not reported; cell size smaller than 5. The symbol “-” represents zero, indicating no students affirmed that question. Cells that are empty represent a question not asked to the respondents in that cell.

Note. Missing data ranged from 6%-15%

The percentages of students who reported experiencing any type of unwanted sexual contact since coming to Rutgers–Camden are presented in Table 21. For the total survey sample, seven percent of students reported experiencing one or more of the six types of unwanted sexual contact since entering Rutgers–Camden. For undergraduate women, the rate of unwanted sexual contact is greater with nearly one in ten (9 percent) being victimized once in college.

Half of the students (46 percent of undergraduate women) who experienced unwanted sexual contact since coming to Rutgers–Camden reported more than one type of victimization (Table 21). Additionally, of undergraduate women who experienced unwanted sexual contact at

Rutgers–Camden, 53 percent also experienced sexual violence prior to coming to campus. For undergraduate men, the rates of multiple victimization was higher; however, the sample size for men is extremely small (n=8) limiting the conclusions or inferences that can be drawn from this data. The finding in Table 21 may conservatively be interpreted as a measure of multiple exposures to sexual violence; the data do not allow investigators to know how many experiences respondents have had within a given type of sexual violence.

Half of all focus group participants reported knowing at least one student that had experienced sexual violence since starting at Rutgers–Camden. Most of the survivors described during the focus groups were female.

**Table 21. Students’ Experience of Attempted or Completed Unwanted Sexual Contact since Coming to Rutgers—Camden (%)**

	All (n=1,404)	Graduate Students (n=250)	Under- graduates (n=1,154)	Under- graduate Women (n=784)	Undergraduate Men (n=360)
Experienced any unwanted sexual contact since coming to Rutgers	7	6	7	9	2

**Among those reporting unwanted sexual contact since coming to Rutgers: Number of Types of Violence Experienced Since Coming to Rutgers**

	(n=94)	(n=16)	(n=78)	(n=68)	(n=8)
1	54*	69	51	54	38*
2	24	31	23	24	13
3 or more	21	-	26	22	50

Missing data ranged from 8 to 15%

\*Percentages in this column do not add up to 100% as they are rounded to the nearest percent.

NR: Not reported; cell size smaller than 5. The symbol “-” represents zero, indicating no students affirmed that question. Cells that are empty represent a question not asked to the respondents in that cell.

Table 22 presents victimization rates for one of the highest at risk groups—undergraduate women living on campus—for whom the rate of unwanted sexual contact was 15 percent.

**Table 22. Victimization Since Coming to Rutgers–Camden by Residence and Year (%)**

All (n=1,404)		Undergraduates (n=1,154)		Undergraduate Women (n=784)		Undergraduate Women On-campus resident (n=105)	
n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
94	7	78	7	68	9	16	15

Missing data ranged from 8 to 10%

### **Nature of Experienced Sexual Violence**

As indicated in [Appendix B](#) the survey asked respondents who affirmed any of the seven types of unwanted sexual contact follow-up questions regarding the nature of this contact. The questions used in this survey asked behaviorally specific questions as recommended by researcher scholars.<sup>31</sup> Behaviorally specific question inquire about certain incidences that students may have

<sup>31</sup> Cook, S., Gidycz, C., Koss, M., & Murphy, M. (2011). Emerging issues in the measurement of rape victimization. *Violence Against Women, 17*(2), 201-218.



experienced as opposed to broader question such as “have you been sexually assaulted.”<sup>32</sup> In this way respondents identify and affirm the behavior that reflects their experience. The first follow-up question asked about the nature of the sexual violence, meaning whether it was “unwanted sexual touching,” “unwanted sexual penetration” or “other.” Respondents could select any or all options regarding the nature of the unwanted sexual contact (see [Appendix C](#) for the victimization questions used in the #iSPEAK–Camden campus climate survey). Those respondents who selected more than option regarding the nature of the unwanted sexual contact, are classified in the Table 23 as experiencing more than one type of sexual violence. Table 23 displays each of the seven types of unwanted sexual contact and respondents’ classification of the nature of the contact. Across all seven types of unwanted sexual contact, most students who reported experiencing sexual violence described it as “unwanted touching of a sexual nature.”

**Table 23. Nature of Sexual Violence (Unwanted Sexual Touching, Penetration, Multi-type or Other)**

	Sexual Touching		Sexual Penetration		More Than One Type		Missing or Other	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
<b>Did you ever experience any form of sexual violence before coming to Rutgers?</b>								
All (n=272)	152	55	39	14	71	26	14	5
Graduate Students (n=56)	29	52	10	18	17	30	-	-
Undergraduates (n=220)	123	56*	29	13	54	25	14	7
Undergraduate Women (n=190)	104	55*	28	15	49	26	9	5
<b>Since coming to Rutgers, has anyone had unwanted sexual contact with you by using physical force?</b>								
All (n=38)	22	58*	NR	8	32	32	NR	3
Graduate Students (n=3)	NR	100	-	-	-	-	-	-
Undergraduates (n=35)	19	54	NR	9	12	34	NR	3
Undergraduate Women (n=33)	18	55	NR	6	12	36	NR	3
<b>Since coming to Rutgers, has anyone had unwanted sexual contact with you by coercing you or threatening to use physical force?</b>								
All (n=38)	24	63*	5	13	7	18	NR	5
Graduate Students (n=5)	NR	40	-	-	NR	40	NR	20
Undergraduates (n=33)	22	67	5	15	5	15	NR	3
Undergraduate Women (n=26)	18	69	NR	8	5	19	NR	4
<b>Has anyone attempted but not succeeded in having unwanted sexual contact with you by using physical force against you?</b>								
All (n=27)	19	70	NR	15	NR	15	-	-
Graduate Students (n=5)	NR	100	-	-	-	-	-	-
Undergraduates (n=25)	17	68	NR	16	NR	16	-	-
Undergraduate Women (n=17)	14	70	NR	10	NR	20	-	-
<b>Has anyone attempted but not succeeded in having unwanted sexual contact with you by coercing you or threatening to use physical force against you?</b>								
All (n=37)	28	76*	5	14	NR	11	-	-
Graduate Students (n=7)	5	71	-	-	NR	29	-	-
Undergraduates (n=30)	23	77*	5	17	NR	7	-	-
Undergraduate Women (n=25)	21	84	NR	8	NR	8	-	-

<sup>32</sup> Fisher, B. S., Cullen F. T., & Turner M. G. (2000). The sexual victimization of college women. U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice. Research Report 182369.

	Sexual Touching		Sexual Penetration		More Than One Type		Missing or Other	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
<b>Has someone had unwanted sexual contact with you when you were unable to provide consent or stop what was happening because you were passed out, drugged, drunk, incapacitated, or asleep? This question refers to incidents you are CERTAIN happened.</b>								
All (n=27)	14	52	6	22	6	22	NR	4
Graduate Students (n=3)	NR	67	-	-	NR	33	-	-
Undergraduates (n=24)	12	50	6	25	5	21	NR	4
Undergraduate Women (n=22)	11	50*	5	23	5	23	NR	5
<b>Has someone had unwanted sexual contact with you when you were unable to provide consent or stop what was happening because you were passed out, drugged, drunk, incapacitated, or asleep? This question refers to incidents you are NOT CERTAIN happened.</b>								
All (n=17)	11	65*	NR	24	NR	12	-	-
Graduate Students (n=3)	NR	67	NR	33	-	-	-	-
Undergraduates (n=14)	9	64*	NR	21	NR	14	-	-
Undergraduate Women (n=11)	7	64	NR	18	NR	18	-	-

\*Percentages in this row do not add up to 100% as they are rounded to the nearest percent.

NR: Not reported; cell size smaller than 5. The symbol “-” represents zero, indicating no students affirmed that question. Cells that are empty represent a question not asked to the respondents in that cell.

### **Victimization Among Various Groups**

The odds of victimization while being a student at Rutgers–Camden were not significantly different based on race or ethnicity.<sup>33</sup> For all students, undergraduate students, and undergraduate women, Asian American students had approximately half the odds of having experienced prior victimization before coming to Rutgers–Camden than other groups.

Across all groups, sexual orientation had a strong relationship with sexual violence. Among all students, those who identified as anything other than 100 percent heterosexual/straight had nearly three (2.75) to four times the odds of experiencing unwanted sexual contact than those who identified as 100 percent heterosexual.

For those students who had previously or currently serve(d) in the military, the odds of experiencing sexual violence while at Rutgers–Camden were the same as other students who had not served in the military. For experiences of sexual violence before attending Rutgers–Camden, the odds were the same for military and non-military students. The exception is for female undergraduate current or former military students who had two and half (2.67) times the odds of experiencing sexual violence before college compared to non-military female undergraduate students.<sup>34</sup>

Students with a disability were not at increased risk of experiencing sexual violence while at Rutgers–Camden. Those students with a disability were more likely to experience sexual

<sup>33</sup> Statistical analyses for victimization by race and ethnicity were based on White students being the reference group.

<sup>34</sup> All other groups of students (the total sample, undergraduates and undergraduate males) who had previously or currently serve(d) in the military were not at increased risk of sexual violence before college when compared to non-military students.

violence before attending Rutgers–Camden when compared to students without a disability.<sup>35</sup> For the total sample, students with a disability had two and half (2.58) times the odds compared to students without a disability of experiencing sexual violence before college.

### **Drug and Alcohol Use**

In order to understand the influence of drugs and alcohol during incidents of unwanted sexual contact, survey participants who indicated that they had experienced some form of sexual violence since coming to campus were presented with two subsets of questions. First, for all students who indicated experiencing completed unwanted sexual contact, respondents were asked about drug and alcohol use by the perpetrator (Table 24) and victim during the unwanted sexual contact (Table 25).

Table 24 shows that for all students who reported a completed incident of sexual violence, one in three (46 percent) indicated that their perpetrator was using alcohol and/or drugs, while just under one third (29 percent) were using neither drugs nor alcohol and 21 percent were unsure if their perpetrator had been using alcohol and/or drugs. Across the other populations (graduate, undergraduate and undergraduate women) 45 percent to 60 percent of students reported that the perpetrator was using alcohol and/or drugs at the time of the incident.

Drug and/or alcohol use by victims of sexual violence was common as indicated in Table 25. For victims, alcohol use was the most common substance used prior to the sexual violence with 45 percent to 80 percent of survivors reporting alcohol use at the time of the incident. A smaller percent of sexual violence survivors reported drug use or being given a drug without their consent prior to the incident. Ten to 30 percent of students who experienced sexual violence reported being given a drug without their consent. The sample size for graduate students was very small (n=10) and thus cannot be used to generalize to the larger graduate student population.

**Table 24. Drug and Alcohol Use by the Perpetrator**

	All (n=75)		Graduate Students (n=10)		Undergraduates (n=64)		Undergraduate Women (n=56)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Drugs and alcohol	7	9	NR	10	6	9	NR	7
Drugs only	NR	4	-	-	NR	5	NR	4
Alcohol only	25	33	5	50	20	31	20	36
Neither	22	29	-	-	22	34	19	34
I don't know	16	21	NR	30	13	20	10	18
<i>Missing</i>	<i>NR</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>NR</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>NR</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>NR</i>	<i>2</i>

<sup>†</sup> Percentages in this column do not add up to 100% as they are rounded to the nearest percent.

NR: Not reported; cell size smaller than 5. The symbol “-” represents zero, indicating no students affirmed that question. Cells that are empty represent a question not asked to the respondents in that cell.

**Table 25. Drug and Alcohol Use by the Victim**

<sup>35</sup> Undergraduate male students with a disability did not have increased odds of experiencing sexual violence before Rutgers–Camden, however all other groups (the total sample, undergraduates and undergraduate females) with a disability had an increased risk of sexual violence before college when compared to students without a disability. Female undergraduate students with a disability had the highest increased risk of sexual violence before college (five times the odds).

	All (n=75)		Graduate Students (n=10)		Undergraduates (n=65)		Undergraduate Women (n=56)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Drugs and alcohol	NR	5	NR	10	NR	5	NR	4
<i>Missing</i>	NR	3	NR	10	NR	2	NR	2
Drugs	8	11	NR	10	7	11	NR	7
<i>Missing</i>	NR	3	NR	10	NR	2	NR	2
Given a drug without consent	10	13	NR	30	7	11	7	13
<i>Missing</i>	NR	3	NR	10	NR	2	NR	2
Alcohol <sup>36</sup>	37	49	8	80	29	45	27	48
<i>Missing</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

NR: Not reported; cell size smaller than 5. The symbol “-” represents zero, indicating no students affirmed that question. Cells that are empty represent a question not asked to the respondents in that cell.

### Location of Victimization

For those students who indicated that they had experienced unwanted sexual contact, the survey asked the location of the unwanted sexual contact. Table 26 is divided into three sections. The first section displays whether the unwanted sexual contact occurred in the student’s own home/room or somewhere else. The second and third sections of Table 26 provide a breakdown of where the unwanted sexual contact occurred.

Table 26 reveals that most students’ experiences of unwanted sexual contact occurred in a location that was *somewhere other than the students’ own home or room* (84 percent for undergraduate women). For undergraduate female students who live on-campus, the highest risk group for sexual violence, the pattern is similar with 81 percent indicating that the unwanted sexual contact occurred *somewhere other than the students’ own home or room*.

For those students who reported the unwanted sexual contact occurred *somewhere other than their home or room*, nearly half (49 percent of undergraduate women) reported that the location of the unwanted sexual contact was “other,” which included responses such as at the perpetrator’s home or an off-campus apartment. The percentages for graduate students followed different patterns although the sample size was very small (n=6) and thus cannot be used to generalize to the larger graduate student population.

For those students who reported that the sexual violence occurred in *their own* home or room, the most commonly reported location was “your own home where you reside with a parent/guardian” with one in two students (50 percent) indicating this location.

**Table 26. Location of Unwanted Sexual Contact**

	All (n=75)		Graduate Students (n=10)		Undergraduates (n=65)		Undergraduate Women (n=56)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Somewhere other than own home or room	57	76	6	60	51	78	47	84
Own home or room	16	21	NR	30	13	20	8	14

<sup>36</sup> For those who had been using alcohol, 38 to 76% of students reported being drunk at the time of the unwanted sexual contact.

<i>Missing</i>	<i>NR</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>NR</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>NR</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>NR</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>The incident happened somewhere other than own home or room<sup>37</sup></i>								
	All (n=57)		Graduate Students (n=6)		Undergraduates (n=51)		Undergraduate Women (n=36)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Residence hall	5	9	NR	17	NR	8	NR	6
Greek house	NR	7	-	-	NR	8	NR	9
On-campus apartment	6	11	NR	33	NR	8	NR	9
Off-campus apartment	16	28	NR	50	13	25	12	26
Other <sup>38</sup>	25	44	-	-	25	49	23	49
<i>Missing</i>	<i>NR</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>NR</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>NR</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>The incident happened in own home or room<sup>39</sup></i>								
	All (n=16)		Graduate Students (n=3)		Undergraduates (n=13)		Undergraduate Women (n=8)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Own residence hall	NR	19*	NR	33	NR	15*	NR	13*
Own Greek house	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Own on-campus apartment	NR	13	-	-	NR	15	NR	25
Own off-campus apartment	NR	19	NR	33	NR	15	-	-
Own home with parent/guardian	8	50	NR	33	7	54	5	63
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Missing</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>

\*Percentages in this column do not add up to 100% as they are rounded to the nearest percent.

NR: Not reported; cell size smaller than 5. The symbol “-” represents zero, indicating no students affirmed that question. Cells that are empty represent a question not asked to the respondents in that cell.

## Perpetrators

Students who reported a completed act of unwanted sexual contact since coming to Rutgers–Camden were presented with additional questions about the circumstances surrounding the “most serious” incident of unwanted sexual contact. As seen in Table 27, the majority of perpetrators were reported to be male and known (non-strangers) to the victim. For those students who reported knowing their perpetrator, the relationship they most frequently cited having with the perpetrator was that of a “casual acquaintance or hookup” or a “friend.” (Table 28).

**Table 27. Perpetrators (%)**

	All (n= 75)	Graduate Students (n=10)	Undergraduates (n=65)	Undergraduate Women (n=56)
<b>Perpetrator’s Gender</b>				
Man	93	90	94*	98
Woman	4	-	5	-
Transgender Man, Transgender Woman, I don’t know, or other	-	-	-	-
<i>Missing</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>2</i>

<sup>37</sup> The percentages that follow are for participants who indicated they had been victimized and indicated that the unwanted sexual contact occurred somewhere *other* than their own home or room.

<sup>38</sup> Includes another university’s campus.

<sup>39</sup> The percentages that follow are for participants who indicated they had been victimized and indicated that the unwanted sexual contact occurred in their *own* home or room.

	All (n= 75)	Graduate Students (n=10)	Undergraduates (n=65)	Undergraduate Women (n=56)
<b>Perpetrator’s Student Status</b>				
Student	47*	80	42*	45*
Non-Student	43	10	48	43
Don’t Know	-	-	-	-
Missing	11	10	11	13
<b>Online Meeting</b>				
Did not meet online	89	90	89	91
Met online	8	-	9	7
Missing	3	10	2	2
<b>Perpetrator’s Relationship to Victim</b>				
Non-Stranger	76	60	78*	75
Stranger	11	-	12	14
Missing	13	40	9	11

\*Percentages in this column do not add up to 100% as they are rounded to the nearest percent.

NR: Not reported; cell size smaller than 5. The symbol “-” represents zero, indicating no students affirmed that question. Cells that are empty represent a question not asked to the respondents in that cell.

**Table 28. Non-Stranger Perpetrators (%)**

	All (n=57)	Graduate Students (n=6)	Undergraduates (n=51)	Undergraduate Women (n=42)
Casual acquaintance or hookup	35	67*	31	26
Friend	33	17	35	38
Other <sup>1</sup>	14	-	16	17
Ex-romantic partner (ex-boyfriend or ex-girlfriend)	11	-	12	14
Current romantic partner (boyfriend or girlfriend)	7	17	6	5
Coworker	5	-	6	7
Family member	5	-	6	5

<sup>1</sup> “Other” includes categories for perpetrators accounting for five percent or less of responses in all groups. These categories, which were provided to respondents, include: Employer/Supervisor, University professor/instructor; and Other. Missing % is zero for all cells.

\*Percentages in this column do not add up to 100% as they are rounded to the nearest percent

NR: Not reported; cell size smaller than 5. The symbol “-” represents zero indicating no students affirmed that question. Cells that are empty represent a question not asked to the respondents in that cell.

### Effect of Victimization on Sexual Violence Survivors

For students who reported experiencing a completed act of unwanted sexual contact since coming to Rutgers–Camden, a series of questions were asked regarding the effect of the sexual violence on the survivor.<sup>40</sup> Table 29 shows the actions that sexual violence survivors took in dealing with the sexual violence.

<sup>40</sup> Questions adapted from Noel Busch-Armendariz et al., University of Texas-Austin Campus Climate Survey Tool (2015).

As shown in Table 29, the most common effects of the sexual violence on the survivors were needing medical care, attending counseling; and/or having to repeat a class, with 18 percent of undergraduate women survivors having to repeat a class as a result of their victimization. The least common effects were changing majors, requiring tutoring, and completing a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner exam (i.e., rape kit).

A follow-up set of questions examined the enumerated effects of sexual violence victimization. These questions asked survivors about the monetary value and/or time spent in receiving services or other after effects of the sexual violence (e.g., medical care). As the number of students seeking these services was low (see Table 29), the sample sizes for the follow-up questions on the enumerated effects were even lower.<sup>41</sup> As a result, the data for these questions is not reported here. For additional questions regarding this data, please contact the authors of this report.

**Table 29. Effect of Victimization on Sexual Violence Survivors**

	All Survivors (n=75)		Graduate Survivors (n=10)		Undergraduate Survivors (n=65)		Undergraduate Women Survivors (n=56)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Need medical care	12	16	NR	20	10	15	9	16
Have to repeat a class	11	15	NR	10	10	15	10	18
Receive follow up counseling	11	15	-	-	11	17	10	18
Take time off school	6	8	-	-	6	9	6	11
Utilize a victim's advocate	6	8	-	-	6	9	5	9
Drop any courses	5	7	-	-	5	8	5	9
Utilize legal services	5	7	-	-	5	8	NR	7
Take time off work	5	7	-	-	5	8	NR	7
Have to relocate residences	5	7	-	-	5	8	NR	7
Change majors	NR	5	-	-	NR	6	NR	5
Complete a SANE exam	NR	5	NR	10	NR	5	NR	4
Require tutoring	NR	5	-	-	NR	6	NR	7

Missing % ranges from 4 to 25 percent

NR: Not reported; cell size smaller than 5. The symbol “-” represents zero, indicating no students affirmed that question. Cells that are empty represent a question not asked to the respondents in that cell.

## Disclosure and Accessing Resources

Students who reported a completed act of unwanted sexual contact were asked whether or not they told anyone about what happened to them. Although most services are available to all students, they were most heavily publicized to and accessed by undergraduates. As such, **the following tables focus on undergraduate students exclusively.** Again, results for undergraduate women are presented because this group is disproportionately at risk for sexual violence.

### Who Disclosed Unwanted Sexual Contact

Table 30 shows that for undergraduate students who experienced a completed incidence of sexual violence, the majority (66 percent) told someone about the incident. Students who did tell someone, were asked follow-up questions regarding the timeframe in which the disclosure

<sup>41</sup> The samples sizes for the questions not reported here range from zero to seven respondents.



occurred (Table 31). The majority of undergraduate students (53 percent) told someone within 24 hours of the incident of unwanted sexual contact occurring and 81 percent told someone within the first week.

**Table 30. Disclosure of Unwanted Sexual Contact (%)**

	Undergraduate Survivors (n=65)	Undergraduate Women Survivors (n=56)
<b>Did you tell anyone about the [most serious] incident?</b>		
Yes	66	66
No	31	30
Missing	3	4

**Table 31. Time to Report**

	Undergraduates (n=43)		Undergraduate Women (n=37)	
	n	%	n	%
Within the first 24 hours	23	53	21	57
Within one week	12	28	11	30
Within one month	NR	5	-	-
Within one year	NR	7	NR	5
More than a year	NR	7	NR	8
Missing	-	-	-	-

NR: Not reported; cell size smaller than 5. The symbol “-” represents zero, indicating no students affirmed that question. Cells that are empty represent a question not asked to the respondents in that cell.

### **Reasons Students Did Not Disclose**

Respondents who did not tell anyone about what happened to them were asked why they did not disclose and were presented with a list of options. Multiple responses could be selected. Results are presented in Table 32. The top reasons for not disclosing included, “Didn’t think what happened was serious enough to talk about,” “Wanted to forget it happened,” and “Didn’t want others to worry about me.” Of those students in the survey who said they did not disclose to anyone, at least 50 percent of undergraduate respondents reported not telling someone about the incident for each of these three reasons.

Four response options were related to the school’s response to sexual violence: “Didn’t know reporting procedure on campus,” “Didn’t think the school would do anything about my report,” “Feared I or another would be punished for infractions or violations (for example, underage drinking),” and “I didn’t feel campus leadership would solve my problem.” Notably, these reasons for nondisclosure were not selected by respondents in this section. However, it should be remembered that these items were only presented to students who did not tell anyone about what happened; students who disclosed but chose not to tell school personnel specifically were not asked why they made that decision.

**Table 32. Reasons for Nondisclosure (%)**

	Undergraduate Survivors Who Did Not Disclose (n=20)	Undergraduate Women Survivors Who Did Not Disclose (n=17)
Didn't think what happened was serious enough to talk about	60	59
Wanted to forget it happened	55	53
Didn't want others to worry about me	50	53
Didn't think others would understand	40	35
Didn't think others would think it was serious	40	29
It is a private matter; I wanted to deal with it on my own	35	35
I thought I would be blamed for what happened	35	35
I thought nothing would be done	30	18
Ashamed/embarrassed	30	24
Had other things I needed to focus on and was concerned about	25	24
It was partially my fault	25	29
Didn't want the person who did it to get in trouble	20	24
Fear of not being believed	20	18
Fear the person who did it would try to get back at me	20	24
I feared others would harass me or react negatively toward me	10	6
It would feel like an admission of failure	10	12
Didn't think others would think it was important	15	-
Concerned others would find out	5	6
Thought people would try to tell me what to do	-	-
Didn't know reporting procedure on campus	-	-
Didn't think the school would do anything about my report	-	-
Feared I or another would be punished for infractions or violations	-	-
I didn't feel that campus leadership would solve my problem	-	-
Other	-	-

NR: Not reported; cell size smaller than 5. The symbol “-” represents zero, indicating no students affirmed that question. Cells that are empty represent a question not asked to the respondents in that cell.

### ***Among Those Who Did Disclose, to Whom They Disclosed***

Table 33 shows both off-campus/informal resources and campus resources to whom undergraduate survivors disclosed incidents of sexual violence. Respondents could select multiple resources to whom they disclosed. The most common off-campus/informal resource or person was a friend other than a roommate. The second most common person to whom respondents reported disclosing was a roommate. These responses indicated that peers were often the first people to whom survivors of sexual violence disclosed.

Twenty percent of undergraduate survivors who told anyone about their experience of sexual violence said they had accessed on-campus services. For on-campus resources, Rutgers Health Services and an on-campus counselor/therapist were most commonly selected as recipients of disclosures. The least utilized on-campus resources were the Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance (VPVA), Resident Advisor (RA) or Residence Life staff, University staff or administrator, and University advisor (academic advisor, EOF counselor, TRiO counselor, athletic coach). Two of the least accessed resources, for both on and off-campus resources (off-campus rape crisis center staff and VPVA) are specifically geared for sexual violence survivors.

Because VPVA is located on the New Brunswick campus, this might be one reason it is not accessed frequently.

**Table 33. Among Students Who Disclosed, To Whom They Disclosed (%)**

	Undergraduate Survivors Who Disclosed (n=43)	Undergraduate Women Survivors Who Disclosed (n=37)
<b>Off-Campus or Informal</b>		
Friend other than roommate	67	65
Roommate	30	32
Romantic partner (other than the person who did this to you)	26	27
Parent or guardian	26	27
Other family member	23	24
Local police	14	14
Doctor/nurse	14	14
Religious leader	9	11
Off-campus counselor/therapist	8	11
Other	3	3
Local Community support offices (Domestic Violence Clinic, SERV, Camden County Women’s Center, William Way Center)	2	3
Off-campus rape crisis center staff	-	-
<b>Campus Resources</b>		
Rutgers Health Services	14	14
On-campus counselor/therapist	7	8
University faculty (Professor or instructor)	5	5
Rutgers University Police Department	5	5
Dean of Students	5	5
University staff or administrator	2	3
University advisor (academic advisor, EOF counselor, TRiO counselor, athletic coach)	2	3
Resident Advisor (RA) or Residence Life staff	2	3
Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance (VPVA)	-	-

\* Percentages of students who used at least one of the following resources; students may use more than one resource.  
 NR: Not reported; cell size smaller than 5. The symbol “-” represents zero, indicating no students affirmed that question. Cells that are empty represent a question not asked to the respondents in that cell.

### **Usefulness of Campus Services**

A series of questions evaluated the usefulness of on-campus services for those students who accessed them. However, because only a few students (zero to six students) accessed these services, these respondents’ answers are not reported here. For additional questions on this data, please contact the authors of this report.

In the focus groups, there was a sense that the general student body is largely unaware of resources for students who experience sexual violence on campus. The focus group composed of survivors also expressed concerns with the lack of sexual violence specific resources available on campus and the need for a centralized office for victim services and trauma-informed counselors.

## Disclosure of Victimization from Other Students

Survey participants were asked whether or not another Rutgers student had told them that s/he had been a victim of sexual violence. Table 34 shows the percentage of students who had another student disclose to them an experience of sexual violence. One in ten students at Rutgers–Camden had another student disclose an experience of sexual violence to them. Those respondents to whom another student has disclosed were then asked how many women and how many men have told them that they have experienced sexual violence (Table 35). Of the students who had a female peer disclose to them, one in three (35 percent) had two or more women disclose an experience of sexual violence.

**Table 34. Students Who Have Had another Student Disclose an Experience of Sexual Violence to Them (%)**

	All (n=1,404)		Graduate Students (n=250)		Undergraduates (n=1,154)		Undergraduate Women (n=784)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Yes	135	10*	19	8	116	10	82	10
No	1,078	77	185	74	893	77	610	78
Missing	191	14	46	18	145	13	92	12

\*Percentages in this column do not add up to 100% as they are rounded to the nearest percent.

**Table 35. Of Those Who Have Had another Rutgers Student Disclose Victimization, Number of Women/Men Who Have Disclosed (%)**

	All	Graduates	Undergraduates	Undergraduate Women
How many women disclosed to you?	(n=123)	(n=19)	(n=104)	(n=74)
1	65	58*	66	69*
2	23	32	21	18
3 or more	12	11	13	14
How many men disclosed to you?	(n=19)	(n=1)	(n=18)	(n=8)
1	89*	100	89*	100
2	5	-	6	-
3 or more	5	-	6	-

\*Percentages in this column do not add up to 100% as they are rounded to the nearest percent.

NR: Not reported; cell size smaller than 5. The symbol “-” represents zero, indicating no students affirmed that question. Cells that are empty represent a question not asked to the respondents in that cell.

## Knowing Someone Who Experienced Sexual Violence

In addition to asking about other students’ disclosures of sexual violence, the survey asked if respondents knew someone—“a friend or a family member”—who had experienced sexual violence (Table 36). Of students who responded to this question, over one in four (29 percent) reported knowing a friend or family member who had experienced sexual violence.

**Table 36. Students Who Know Someone Who Experienced Sexual Violence**

	All (n=1,404)		Graduate Students (n=250)		Undergraduates (n=1,154)		Undergraduate Women (n=784)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Yes	401	29*	74	30	327	28	228	29
No	813	58	131	52	682	59	464	59

Missing	190	14	45	18	145	13	92	12
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\*Percentages in this column do not add up to 100% as they are rounded to the nearest percent.

## PERPETRATION

Per request of the Advisory Board, the campus climate survey at Rutgers–Camden included a scale used to assess students’ behaviors related to sexual violence perpetration.<sup>42</sup> A vast majority of students reported never participating in any of these behaviors and a number of students skipped these questions.<sup>43</sup> Because so few respondents (0.1 to 0.5 percent of the total sample) admitted to participating in these behaviors, the data for these questions are not reported here. For more information regarding this data please contact the authors of this report.

## BYSTANDER INTERVENTION

At Rutgers and across the country, the potential of bystanders to prevent or interrupt situations involving campus sexual violence has been elevated. #iSPEAK–Camden included scales to assess students’ readiness to help their peers, their attitudes about intervening to stop sexual violence, and their bystander actions. All respondents were asked to complete the following scales.

### Readiness to Help

The Readiness to Help Scale<sup>44</sup> evaluated the extent to which students think sexual violence is a problem at Rutgers–Camden and their level of intention to do something about it. Responses to the 12-item scale are presented in Table 37. Previously published work using the scale suggests how scores may be used to sort respondents into three groups based on their level of readiness to help. These groups have been described under the headings, “No Awareness,” “Taking Responsibility,” and “Action,” in order of activation. The questions on this scale with the highest mean scores were on the statements “I think I can do something about sexual violence”, “sometimes I think I should learn more about sexual violence” and “I am planning to learn more about the problem of sexual violence on campus.” The questions on this scale with the lowest mean scores were “Doing something about sexual violence is solely the job of the crisis center”, “I am actively involved in projects to deal with sexual violence at Rutgers University–Camden”, and “I have recently taken part in activities or volunteered my time on projects focused on ending sexual violence on campus.”(Table 37). These scores indicate that many students felt they wanted to learn about sexual violence and can do something to address the issue in the future, even if students were not currently involved in the issue.

<sup>42</sup> Questions adapted from Koss, M.P., Abbey, A., Campbell, R., Cook, S; Norris, J., Testa, C., Ullman, S., West, C., & White, J. (2007). Revising the SES: A collaborative process to improve assessment of sexual aggression and victimization. *Psychology of Women Quarterly*, 31, 357-370.

<sup>43</sup> Eighty seven percent of students said “I have never participated in any of these behaviors” and 13% of respondents did not answer this question. The question most frequently affirmed by students was “fondled, kissed, or rubbed up against private areas of someone’s body or removed clothes without their consent,” in which less than a percent (.5%) of the sample reported participating. These numbers add to slightly more than 100% due to rounding with .5% (n=7) of the total student population indicating perpetration behaviors.

<sup>44</sup> Adapted from Banyard, V.L., Moynihan, M.M., Cares, A.C., & Warner, R. (2014). How do we know it works? Measuring outcomes in bystander-focused abuse prevention on campus. *Psychology of Violence*, 4(1), 101-115.

**Table 37. Readiness to Help Scale: Distribution of Responses (%) and Means (Standard Deviations)**

	Not True At All (1)	Not True (2)	Neutral (3)	True (4)	Very Much True (5)	Missing	M(SD)
<b>I don't think sexual violence is a problem at Rutgers University–Camden</b>							
All	11	19	37	14	3	16	2.77 (1.00)
Graduate Students	10	21	38	11	-	20	2.64 (0.89)
Undergraduates	11*	18	37	15	4	16	2.79 (1.02)
Undergraduate Women	12	20	37	13	3	15	2.72 (1.02)
<b>I don't think there is much I can do about sexual violence at Rutgers University–Camden</b>							
All	17*	32	26	8	2	16	2.34 (0.96)
Graduate Students	16*	25	27	12	1	20	2.47 (1.00)
Undergraduates	17*	33	26	7	2	16	2.32 (0.95)
Undergraduate Women	19*	33	25	6	1	15	2.27 (0.94)
<b>There isn't much need for me to think about sexual violence at Rutgers University–Camden</b>							
All	18	28	22	12	4	16	2.46 (1.11)
Graduate Students	15	25	22	14	4	20	2.59 (1.13)
Undergraduates	19*	29	22	11	4	16	2.43 (1.10)
Undergraduate Women	20	30	22	11	2	15	2.36 (1.06)
<b>Doing something about sexual violence is solely the job of the crisis center.</b>							
All	35	32	13	3	1	16	1.84 (0.89)
Graduate Students	38	31	10	1	-	20	1.67 (0.73)
Undergraduates	35	32	13	4	1	15	1.87 (0.92)
Undergraduate Women	35	33	12	4	1	15	1.87 (0.92)
<b>Sometimes I think I should learn more about sexual violence.</b>							
All	7	11	24	32	10	16	3.34 (1.09)
Graduate Students	10*	14	25	26	6	20	3.07 (1.14)
Undergraduates	6	10	24	33	11	16	3.39 (1.08)
Undergraduate Women	5	8	22	36	14	15	3.54 (1.04)
<b>I have not yet done anything to learn more about sexual violence.</b>							
All	13*	24	20	22	6	16	2.82 (1.18)
Graduate Students	13*	22	14	27	5	20	2.85 (1.22)
Undergraduates	12	24	22	21	6	15	2.82 (1.17)
Undergraduate Women	12	23	22	21	7	15	2.85 (1.18)
<b>I think I can do something about sexual violence.</b>							
All	3*	7	29	34	10	16	3.50 (0.94)
Graduate Students	2	9	31	30	8	20	3.40 (0.91)
Undergraduates	3	6	29	35	11	16	3.53 (0.94)
Undergraduate Women	2	7	29	36	11	15	3.55 (0.92)
<b>I am planning to learn more about the problem of sexual violence on campus.</b>							
All	9*	13	31	24	6	16	3.06 (1.08)
Graduate Students	14	18	31	14	3	20	2.67 (1.07)
Undergraduates	8*	12	32	26	7	16	3.14 (1.07)
Undergraduate Women	6*	10	31	29	8	15	3.26 (1.03)
<b>I have recently attended a program about sexual violence.</b>							
All	33*	30	9	10	2	17	2.01 (1.09)
Graduate Students	37	28	7	7	1	20	1.84 (0.99)

	Not True At All (1)	Not True (2)	Neutral (3)	True (4)	Very Much True (5)	Missing	M(SD)
Undergraduates	33*	30	10	10	2	16	2.05 (1.11)
Undergraduate Women	33	31	9	10	2	15	2.03 (1.10)
<b>I am actively involved in projects to deal with sexual violence at Rutgers University–Camden</b>							
All	35	32	13	3	1	16	1.85 (0.91)
Graduate Students	39	30	9	2	-	20	1.70 (0.81)
Undergraduates	34*	32	14	3	1	15	1.88 (0.92)
Undergraduate Women	34*	34	12	3	1	15	1.87 (0.91)
<b>I have recently taken part in activities or volunteered my time on projects focused on ending sexual violence on campus.</b>							
All	35	31	11	5	2	16	1.91 (0.99)
Graduate Students	36*	30	9	5	1	20	1.82 (0.93)
Undergraduates	34*	32	11	5	2	15	1.93 (1.00)
Undergraduate Women	33	34	11	5	2	15	1.91 (0.97)
<b>I have been or am currently involved in ongoing efforts to end sexual violence on campus.</b>							
All	29*	33	17	5	1	16	2.01 (0.94)
Graduate Students	33	32	11	3	1	20	1.85 (0.90)
Undergraduates	28	33	18	5	1	15	2.04 (0.95)
Undergraduate Women	29*	35	16	5	1	15	1.99 (0.92)

n: All = 1,404; Graduate Student = 250; Undergraduates = 1,154; Undergraduate Women = 784

Cronbach's Alpha, No Awareness Subscale\*: All = .59; Graduate Students = .61; Undergraduates = .59; Undergraduate Women = .60

Cronbach's Alpha, Taking Responsibility Subscale\*: All = .68; Graduate Students = .67; Undergraduates = .67; Undergraduate Women = .66

Cronbach's Alpha, Action Subscale\*: All = .87; Graduate Students = .84; Undergraduates = .87; Undergraduate Women = .87

\*Percentages in this row do not add up to 100% as they are rounded to the nearest percent.

NR: Not reported; cell size smaller than 5. The symbol “-” represents zero, indicating no students affirmed that question. Cells that are empty represent a question not asked to the respondents in that cell.

Table 38 shows the breakdown of the Rutgers–Camden sample into the three categories (“No Awareness,” “Taking Responsibility” and “Action”). Sixty percent of all students fell into the “Taking Responsibility” category, indicating acknowledgement that sexual violence is a problem and consideration of doing something to learn more or help. Seventeen percent of students fell into the “No Awareness” category signifying that these students are not yet aware of the issue of campus sexual assault. Finally, only four percent of students were addressing the issues of sexual violence as indicated by those in the “Action” category of the Readiness to Help Scale. Approximately half of the students in the focus groups agreed that sexual violence is a problem at Rutgers–Camden, while many expressed uncertainty when asked.

**Table 38. Readiness to Help Subgroup Size (%)**

	No Awareness	Taking Responsibility	Action	Missing or Ambiguous
All	17*	60	4	21
Graduate Students	23	51	3	23
Undergraduates	15*	62	4	20
Undergraduate Women	14*	65	3	19

n: All = 1,404; Graduate Student = 250; Undergraduates = 1,154; Undergraduate Women = 784

Please note that subscales will undergo further testing to confirm the dimensionality of the construct.

\*Percentages in this row do not add up to 100% as they are rounded to the nearest percent.



## Bystander Attitudes

Table 39 reports composite results from the Bystander Attitudes Scale,<sup>45</sup> which described actions students might take to prevent or respond to sexual violence and asked how likely they would be to take those actions in the future. Response options ranged from “Very Unlikely (1)” to “Very Likely (5).” Higher scores indicated a more positive attitude about intervening to stop sexual violence.

In general, respondents described themselves as quite likely to do something to defuse a situation that could result in sexual violence, help a friend who has been raped, or confront possible perpetrators. Across items, the majority of students reported that they were “Likely” or “Very Likely” to take action in the future, if given the opportunity (mean score = 4.42 out of five points). These average scores indicate that Rutgers–Camden students would like to help their peers, which challenges the somewhat dim view respondents had on how supportive their fellow students would be to a student disclosing an incident of sexual violence (Table 10).

**Table 39. Bystander Attitudes Scale: Composite Scores**

	All (n=1,404)	Graduate Students (n=250)	Undergraduates (n=1,154)
Mean	4.41	4.37	4.42
Standard Deviation	0.61	0.64	0.60
Missing	17%	20%	16%

Scores range from 0-5; higher scores representing more positive attitudes about intervening to stop possible sexual violence.  
Cronbach’s Alpha: All = .86.; Graduate Students = .87; Undergraduates = .86

## Bystander Opportunities and Behaviors

To determine how often students really take action when presented with the opportunity to prevent an incident of sexual violence, a scale of seven two-part questions was included in the survey.<sup>46</sup> First, students were asked if they had ever seen or heard something that suggested sexual violence might occur. Next, those who responded “yes” were asked whether they did anything.

Table 40 provides a summary score to describe how often students intervened to stop an act of potential sexual violence when given the opportunity. This score is a ratio, dividing the number of times someone intervened by the number of opportunities they had; a score of one would indicate that students intervened every time they had an opportunity. Only those students who reported having any of the opportunities listed were included in this calculation. The summary scores indicate that students intervened 39 percent of the time when presented with the opportunity to do so.

<sup>45</sup> Adapted from Bystander Attitudes Scale-Revised (adapted from Bystander Scale (Banyard, et al., 2005)); Scale development information: McMahon, S., Postmus, J., & Koenick, R.A. (2011). Engaging Bystanders: A primary prevention approach to sexual violence on campus. *Journal of College Student Development*, 15 (1), 115 – 130 and McMahon, S., Allen, C. T., Postmus, J. L., McMahon, S. M., Peterson, N. A., & Lowe Hoffman, M. (2014). Measuring bystander attitudes and behavior to prevent sexual violence. *Journal of American College Health*, 62(1), 58-66.

<sup>46</sup> Adapted from Bystander Behavior Scale-Revised (adapted from Bystander Scale (Banyard, et al., 2005)); Ibid.

This figure is likely skewed downward by two items which asked about intervening in order to stop someone taking a drunk person back to their room. Many students reported observing this situation occur, but few stepped in to do anything. It is possible that this situation appears more ambiguous to students, or that they lack suitable strategies for intervening safely.

Almost every focus group at Rutgers–Camden had a participant disclose that they have personally intervened in a situation themselves and of those who had the opportunity to intervene and chose not to, many expressed regret for not stopping what they knew, “shouldn’t have been going on.” The most common method of intervention discussed by participants was “checking-in” with an intoxicated friend. Almost every situation described took place at a party and alcohol was involved, with many mentioning that a friend’s level of intoxication was a main deciding factor as to why the participant felt it necessary to intervene. Many focus group members reported barriers to acting as a prosocial bystander, including not wanting to “be wrong,” “general awkwardness,” not knowing what to do, fear of retaliation and fear for one’s personal safety. Students emphasized the need for increased education on how to effectively intervene, reflecting a lack of awareness of the existing bystander training programming at Rutgers–Camden.

**Table 40. Bystander Behavior Summary Score: Mean (Standard Deviation)**

	Bystander Behavior Score (# Intervening Behaviors/# Opportunities)	n
All	0.39 (0.45)	179
Graduate Students	0.43 (0.46)	28
Undergraduates	0.39 (0.45)	151

n: All = 1,404; Graduate Student = 250; Undergraduates = 1,154; Undergraduate Women = 784

## SOCIAL DESIRABILITY SCALE

The research team included a scale designed to measure respondents’ tendencies to provide socially desirable answers. Table 41 includes the results of this scale. This 16 item scale measures participants desire to skew their answers in order to place themselves in a more favorable light ( $\alpha=.68$ ). This scale is adapted from a validated instrument<sup>47</sup> and contains dichotomized responses of “true” or false” to statements such as “I sometimes litter.” Scores are reported as means (out of 16) with higher scores indicating higher levels of students’ tendencies to provide socially desirable answers. The scores here indicate that students may be influenced by their desire to provide answers that are socially desirable. The social desirability scores were not used in analyses for this report, but may be used as a control variable in future analyses.

**Table 41. Social Desirability Scale**

	Mean	Standard Deviation	Missing (%)
All (n=1,404)	9.75	3.23	17
Undergraduates (n=250)	8.54	3.58	19
Graduates (n=1,154)	10	3.09	16

Cronbach’s Alpha: All = .73; Graduate Students = .78; Undergraduates = .71

<sup>47</sup> Stöber, J. (2001). The Social Desirability Scale-17 (SDS-17) Convergent Validity, Discriminant Validity, and Relationship with Age. *European Journal of Psychological Assessment*, 17(3), 222-232.

## SURVEY LIMITATIONS

The results of this study need to be interpreted within the context of several limitations. First, although a large number of students participated in the survey and the response rate was consistent with other online census surveys, many students did not participate, which may introduce bias into the results. Additionally, chi-square analyses indicated that the demographics of the analytic sample were not perfectly statistically representative of the student population, although they were fairly similar in most categories. For the analyses, the full sample or subsample was used as the denominator, thereby including missing cases. This offered consistency across percentages, but missing responses may also introduce bias.

Another limitation is that follow-up questions concerning sexual violence (e.g., the resources used by the student who had been victimized, if the student disclosed the sexual violence to anyone, who the disclosure was made to etc.) were only asked of students who reported a *completed* sexual assault. Those students who endorsed having experienced an attempted sexual assault, were not asked any follow-up questions about the reported sexual violence.

Due to small sample sizes, particularly for graduate students who experienced an incident of sexual violence, some data presented within this report should be interpreted with caution. With only ten graduate students included in the sample for the follow-up questions regarding sexual violence, all findings should be used judiciously and cautiously when generalizing to the larger graduate student population. Additional analyses were not included in this report due to small samples sizes. When such analyses were excluded from this report, the authors have noted it within the body of the report.

Finally, there are also a number of ways that the wording of certain items can continue to be improved and refined. The *#iSPEAK*–Camden survey represents a tool that was revised from its initial use on the Rutgers–New Brunswick campus, and the VAWC researchers are continuing to seek ways to improve the survey. A number of researchers around the country are currently piloting ways to ask campus climate questions, including victimization questions and follow up questions. This collective knowledge will offer important suggestions for improving survey questions.

## PART III: FOCUS GROUP FINDINGS

The focus groups were completed following the conclusion of the #iSPEAK–Camden survey as a way to gather more in-depth information about the issue of sexual violence. The focus groups were designed to address topics in coordination with the survey, as well as collect additional information from students about:

- general campus climate;
- general thoughts regarding sexual assault and how the term is defined by students;
- perception of the issue of sexual violence at Rutgers–Camden;
- perceived university responsiveness and peer supportiveness;
- awareness of policies and resources regarding sexual assault on campus; and
- willingness to intervene as a prosocial bystander in potential situations of sexual assault.

A total of nine focus groups were conducted with 41 participants. Students from both the general student body as well as specific subsets of the student population were invited to participate in the focus groups. Subsets of the student body included students from Greek life, student government representatives, on-campus residents, lesbian, gay and bisexual (LGB) students, and student sexual violence survivors. Because these groups differ in their risk factors for both sexual violence victimization and perpetration and specific groups of students may have been under-represented in the survey sample, the research team felt it was important to hear from these students in the focus groups. In order to gain a variety of perspectives on the issue of sexual violence and the campus climate at Rutgers–Camden, focus group recruitment required tailored efforts with various student groups on campus, which included attending organization meetings to discuss the focus groups as well as sending out organization specific emails (see the [Appendix D](#) for detailed focus group methods).

The findings in this report are general, broad findings that were discovered across focus groups.

### FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS

Table 42 shows the types of focus groups conducted as well as the number of students who attended these groups. A majority of the students (85 percent) who participated were undergraduate students and more than half of the participants (61 percent) were female. Other demographic characteristics of the student participants are found in Table 43.

**Table 42. Focus Group Types**

	Type of Group	Gender	Number of Groups	Number of Students
1	Student Leaders	Female(1), Male(1)	2	11
2	Veterans	Female	1	4
3	LGB	Mixed	1	2
4	Sexual Violence Survivors	Female	1	6
5	Law Students	Mixed	1	4
6	General Undergraduates	Female(1), Male(1), Mixed(1)	3	14
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>9</b>	<b>41</b>

**Table 43. Focus Group Participant Demographics**

	(n=41)	
	n	%
<b>Gender Identity</b>		
Man	14	34
Woman	25	61
Another	NR	5
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>		
100% Heterosexual/Straight	27	66
Not 100% Heterosexual/Straight	14	34
<b>Class</b>		
Undergraduate	35	85
Graduate	6	15
<b>Student Organization Membership</b>		
Yes	36	88
No	5	12
<b>Living Situation</b>		
On Campus	11	27
Off Campus	30	73
<b>Race</b>		
African American	8	20
Asian American	5	12
White	22	54
Other <sup>48</sup>	6	14
<b>Latino</b>		
No	36	88
Yes	5	12
<b>Disability Status</b>		
No	34	83
Yes	7	17

NR: Not reported; cell size smaller than 5. The symbol “-” represents zero, indicating no students affirmed that question. Cells that are empty represent a question not asked to the respondents in that cell

## RESULTS

Content analysis of the focus groups examined broad, overarching themes based on the questions asked within the focus group guide. For this analysis and summary report, the results are reported from all (n=9) of the focus groups held at Rutgers–Camden. The main findings are listed below and include the following areas:

- general campus climate;
- general sexual violence knowledge;
- perception of the issue of sexual violence on campus;
- perceived university responsiveness;
- perceived peer supportiveness;
- exposure to messages about sexual violence while attending Rutgers–Camden; and
- bystander intervention.

<sup>48</sup> “Other” includes students who selected “other” on the demographic form, as well as students who selected more than one race.

## **General Campus Climate**

*Many focus group participants reported that they felt safe on campus.* Students cited security measures such as the late-night shuttle, blue lights, Rutgers University Police Department, Camden Police and crime alerts as reasons for feeling safe most or all of the time on campus. Several focus group members, however, acknowledged that their peers might be “fearful” on campus, and that the city of Camden has a reputation of being unsafe or “scary.” Participants who did express feeling unsafe on campus during the focus groups reported that they felt this way after hearing about a friend’s experience or because of a basic awareness of the crime rates in the surrounding area.

Similarly on the campus climate survey, most students (94 percent) felt safe walking from their residence halls to campus buildings. A majority of undergraduate students (95 percent) also reported feeling safe taking the campus shuttle to different campus buildings. Fewer students, however, reported that they felt safe at public transport venues located in the surrounding community.

## **General Sexual Violence Knowledge**

*Many focus group participants defined “sexual assault” as a wide range of behaviors, including behaviors that constitute sexual harassment, however many participants believed that their peers have a much more narrow definition of sexual assault which would primarily include forcible rape.* Some focus group members perceived sexual assault as inclusive of verbal acts in addition to physical, often including the definition of sexual harassment within their provided definition of sexual assault. For example, a female student leader, when asked to define sexual assault, said, “Anything that makes you feel uncomfortable, in any type of sexual situation, whether touching, saying something, or forcing you into something.”

Many focus group participants believed that their peers held misconceptions about which behaviors they would characterize as sexual assault, and would not agree with the wide range of behaviors that focus group students provided in their definitions. Many participants expressed the belief that their peers view sexual assault as only “rape” or as an act that must be physically forced. A female student from the survivor focus group stated, “People think sexual assault is very physical harassment or rape and there’s nothing before that or there’s no gray area.” This highlights a gap in how students’ themselves define sexual assault and their perception of their peers’ definitions of sexual assault.

Other focus group participants believed that the definition of sexual assault varies depending on the person. For example, when asked how their peers would define sexual assault, a female student leader said, “I think depending on people’s gender and background and demographic, it changes their perspective on what is sexual assault. People have different ideas of what is consent, some people don’t agree that if you don’t say anything, that’s consent.”

Focus group participants reported learning about sexual assault prior to entering Rutgers–Camden predominately in their primary school education or through job and/or military trainings. However, some participants reported not hearing about sexual assault at all until they arrived at Rutgers–Camden. A law student stated, “My parents did not want me to go to college

because they didn't want me to leave the safety [of home]. When I got to college I realized that sexual assault is real."

Similarly, on the campus climate survey, a majority (71 percent) of all students who completed the survey reported receiving some information or education about sexual assault before coming to Rutgers–Camden. The most frequent sources of information included high school educational programs (54 percent), discussions with family (30 percent), and social media (29 percent).

### **Perception of the Issue of Sexual Violence on Campus**

*Focus group members were divided about whether sexual violence was a problem on campus. A question on the campus climate survey asked students to rate their agreement with the statement "I don't think sexual violence is a problem at Rutgers." Approximately one in three students (30 percent) either felt that statement was "Not True At All" or "not true." In the focus groups, some participants expressed uncertainty when asked if sexual assault was a problem at Rutgers–Camden, citing the underreporting of incidents of sexual assault as justification. However, some focus group participants reported that sexual assault was a problem on campus, with half of all focus group participants personally knowing at least one victim on campus.*

Many of the focus group participants that knew a victim discussed the issue of underreporting of sexual assault on campus, citing stories of friends who were sexually assaulted while on campus and chose to not report the incident or seek services because they were, "either too scared to come forward or they just brushed it off because they don't think it's a big deal," as one female student survivor stated. Similarly on the campus climate survey, a majority of students (60 percent) who did not disclose an incident of sexual violence indicated that their reason for their nondisclosure was that they thought the incident was not serious enough to talk about.

Other focus group participants explained that they had friends who chose to not report an incident of sexual assault because, as another female student survivor stated, "the real problem is people not wanting to speak out because they're going to get someone in trouble."

Many focus group participants also reported that often sexual assault occurs when alcohol is involved, and that parties often facilitate sexual assault, which could also complicate students' likelihood to report an incident. For example, a female undergraduate student said,

*Specifically on Camden, since we are smaller and there are less things going on in terms of parties, when there is a party people get out of control, they let loose too much because it's not like there's a party all the time. Alcohol is a big component of these things [sexual assault] happening. You may not remember, maybe you didn't say no, but maybe you wake up and you didn't want to do that. Also because [it's a] small campus, you see the same faces at these parties, so you think they're your friend so it's not going to be bad and then you feel pressure to not say no because you know them.*



On the campus climate survey, students were not asked about their perception of the causes of sexual violence, however a majority of assaults occurred when the victim was under the influence of alcohol or drugs and one in three incidents occurred while the perpetrator was under the influence of alcohol.

### **Perceived University Responsiveness**

*Focus group participants had mixed feelings in how the university responds to incidents of sexual assault. Some focus group participants reported a positive perception of Rutgers–Camden’s response to sexual assault and others reported a negative perception of how the university has or would respond to an incident. For example, some focus group participants felt that Rutgers–Camden staff were supportive of student survivors and offer students referrals to suitable community resources for sexual violence response.*

A female student from the sexual assault survivor group commented on available resources in the community and the Rutgers–Camden referral process,

*We’re lucky enough to be in a city where they can refer you to Cooper, Planned Parenthood’s down the street, so being in this area with a bunch of different options is helpful and it’s helpful to have people that can refer you to those things so you are not on your own looking for them.*

However, while participants in the survivor focus group stated that community resources might adequately address the needs of those who have experienced sexual violence, there is a lack of additional resources on campus that focus more on the particular needs of college students who have experienced sexual violence. Suggestions to address this gap included: increased mental health resources such as support groups for students who have experienced sexual violence, a centralized office for victim services to house information and trauma-informed counselors, a “reentry” program to help survivors “adjust to life outside of what happened,” as well as an upgraded reporting system, and advertising more explicitly to students that any incident of sexual violence is serious and, “anything can be reported” to the university.

### **Perceived Student Supportiveness**

*Students in the focus groups had mixed perceptions regarding their peers’ responses to disclosures of sexual violence. About half of the focus group participants reported positive peer reactions to students’ disclosures of sexual violence, while the other half noted that there were instances of victim blaming and/or minimizing the victim’s experience. This was highlighted by a member of the LGB group who stated,*

*There were barriers to acceptance and confrontation. In other cases, it [the incident] was very well-known and well-liked people on campus who were the perpetrators and it was either treated as a non-issue or held within their own circle.*

This demonstrates the need for increased education for students on how to handle a peer's disclosure in a supportive manner, as according to the survey results, a majority (67 percent) of undergraduate survivors who disclosed told a close friend, while only 10 percent of students reported the incident to Rutgers–Camden (to either the Dean of Students or the Rutgers University Police Department) and 21 percent disclosed to Rutgers Health Services or an on-campus counselor/therapist.

### **Exposure to Messages About Sexual Violence While Attending Rutgers**

*Frequently, focus group participants reported that during their studies at Rutgers–Camden, they had received at least some education about sexual assault.* Focus group participants identified sources of sexual assault education on campus with new student orientation, *Raptor Welcome*, most cited by participants. As one female undergraduate student stated, “I remember freshman orientation at *Raptor Welcome* there was a video and discussion about it. That’s where I first heard about it on campus...it was not until recently that I learned the difference between sexual assault and rape though. I was always confused and didn’t understand the difference.” Many participants also referenced the *Tunnel of Oppression* and *The Hunting Ground* screening and subsequent discussion as positive methods by which they became aware of the issue of campus sexual violence and of available resources. Focus group participants also noted that they have heard several faculty/staff members, as well as administrative staff on Camden campus talk about sexual violence.

A majority of focus group participants were not aware of specific policies at Rutgers–Camden. When asked about sexual assault policies at Rutgers–Camden, one female student veteran replied, “I know that at orientation we covered it. Could I tell you where to find it? Somewhere on the website?”

In terms of resources for sexual violence, focus group participants most often identified the campus Health Center as an available resource. Participants also mentioned, although less frequently, the Dean of Students, the Title IX Office, Rutgers University Police Department (RUPD), and community resources. Similarly, on the campus climate survey, students were most aware of the functions of the Rutgers University Police Department and Student Health Services, while fewer students reported awareness of VPVA, community resources, and the Title IX Compliance Office.

### **Bystander Intervention**

*Many focus group students discussed bystander intervention as a form of promising sexual violence prevention.* When asked how Rutgers University–Camden can prevent sexual violence, participants cited existing efforts such as bystander intervention trainings and consent programming on campus. Despite these efforts, many participants reported never acting as a prosocial bystander during their time at Rutgers University–Camden. Of those who had the opportunity to intervene and chose not to, many expressed regret for not stopping what they knew “shouldn’t have been going on.” Many focus group members reported barriers to acting as a prosocial bystander, including not wanting to “be wrong,” “general awkwardness,” not knowing what to do, fear of retaliation and fear for their personal safety. For example, a female undergraduate reported that she, “stepped into a situation, but it escalated because the guys were getting mad that I’m pulling my friend away and she’s drunk. Then they’re getting mad at me

because I'm stepping in so then I gotta bring out my claws. But yeah, I think that's a big issue because now it becomes a fight over this one girl you're trying to do something wrong to." During the survey, only 39 percent of students reported intervening in a situation when presented with the opportunity to do so. However, a majority of students were willing to intervene, prevent, or respond to sexual violence in the future as seen on the Bystander Attitude scale of the survey.

Students had less confidence, however, in whether their peers would step in to prevent an instance of sexual violence from occurring, with some students noting that many of their peers would not want to be the first one to intervene, but may support another person doing so. A member of the LGB focus group exemplified this, by stating, "I think they would if someone said we should do this, because I've definitely had friends who have not stepped in."

Participants in the focus groups expressed a desire to receive more information about sexual violence on campus, particularly for students who are not involved in on campus activities/organizations and that commute to campus. Students specifically expressed a desire to have additional interactive programming regarding sexual violence on campus like *Tunnel of Oppression* regarding ways to effectively intervene as a prosocial bystander and additional education regarding the reporting process on campus. Some participants suggested a short, required course for students that would inform them about ways to intervene to prevent sexual assault, available campus/community resources, how to report incidents of sexual violence on campus, punishments for students that perpetrate sexual assault, as well as the definition of sexual assault on campus.

## **FOCUS GROUP LIMITATIONS**

Although the findings of the focus groups are not generalizable beyond this sample, as no focus group results can be generalizable, focus groups can indicate trends and ideas for future exploration. The limitations of the focus groups include small sample sizes for some of the focus groups. Focus groups that contain too few participants may limit the quantity and diversity of experience that can be drawn upon.<sup>49</sup> In general, the recommended size for focus groups is five to eight participants.<sup>50</sup> While individual summaries have been presented for each focus group, the summaries provided for groups with less than five participants should be interpreted with particular caution when extending the results to larger segments of student populations. While many efforts were made to recruit larger numbers of students for each focus group such as sending out multiple reminders and electronic announcements as well as offering students a \$10.00 cash incentive at the end of each group, certain difficulties posed an issue with participation numbers. Difficulties included students confirming then not showing up for a scheduled group, cancelling right before the start of the group, and students' failure to respond to emails confirming an assigned group. Another limitation with the focus groups is that there may likely be limitations based on selectivity in the people who chose to participate in the focus groups.<sup>51</sup>

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<sup>49</sup> Krueger, R. A. & Casey, M. A. (2000). *A practical guide for applied research* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

<sup>50</sup> Ibid.

<sup>51</sup> Ibid.

While small focus group sizes and selectivity may challenge the generalizability of the results, the meaningfulness and insights generated from the groups due to the richness of the information collected, should not be overlooked.<sup>52</sup>

In conjunction with the campus climate survey administered at Rutgers–Camden, the results from the focus groups present an integrated description of how students perceive sexual violence on their campus. The major findings from the focus groups are supported by the campus climate survey results as summarized in the findings section of this report. Taken together, the focus group and survey data indicate that while students perceive sexual violence as a problem on campus, many lack a complete understanding of the definition of sexual violence, what to do in order to prevent it from occurring, and of the full range of resources and policies available on campus regarding sexual violence. This presents an opportunity to capitalize on students’ acknowledgement that sexual violence is an issue on campus and their desire to learn more about it, in order to further educate the student body on the severity of the problem, the resources available on campus, and how they can be prosocial bystanders.

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<sup>52</sup> Patton, M. Q. (2015). *Qualitative research and evaluation methods* (4th ed.). Newbury Park, CA: Sage Publications.

## **PART IV: CONCLUSION**

A number of strengths were found in the analysis of the #iSPEAK–Camden campus climate assessment, while there were also areas identified that indicate gaps in the current response. Strengths that emerged from the analysis of the #iSPEAK–Camden assessment include: students are confident that Rutgers–Camden as an institution will respond appropriately to sexual violence on campus; students want to learn more about the issue of campus sexual violence; and many students indicated that they intend to step in to prevent sexual violence from occurring. In addition to the many strengths identified in the assessments conducted in 2015-2016, the following areas for improvement emerged: many survivors of sexual violence do not access or use campus-based resources after experiencing unwanted sexual contact; students generally have low awareness of resources at Rutgers–Camden that address, prevent, and assist survivors of sexual violence; and students do not feel confident in their peers’ responses to incidents of sexual violence. The strengths identified from analyses, however, provide Rutgers–Camden with a strong foundation upon which to build and move forward.

In addition to the identified strengths on campus, by proactively engaging in a comprehensive campus climate assessment, Rutgers–Camden has demonstrated a commitment to creating an environment where sexual violence is not tolerated, and including students’ voices in this process. Additionally, the extensive involvement and support of the many key stakeholders that participated in the Camden campus climate Advisory Board, as well as from the campus’ administration, and numerous student leaders not only largely contributed to the completion of the campus climate assessment process, but also further highlights the campus-wide effort and solidarity in working to address and prevent campus sexual violence.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The research team thanks the many members of the Rutgers–Camden community who contributed to the campus climate assessment project. This report and the project as a whole are the result of the enthusiastic support and participation of administrators, faculty, staff, and students across Rutgers. This report is dedicated to all those who are survivors of sexual violence. We hope our efforts can help contribute to creating campus communities that are free of all forms of violence.

We would especially like to thank the following members of the Rutgers community who provided support to the project:

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## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Details about the campus climate assessment can be found on the website of the Rutgers' Center on Violence Against Women and Children, at <http://vawc.rutgers.edu>.

Email the research team (Principal Investigator Sarah McMahon and research team members Julia O'Connor, and Julia Cusano) at [campusclimatestudy@ssw.rutgers.edu](mailto:campusclimatestudy@ssw.rutgers.edu).

The research team at the Center on Violence Against Women and Children compiled a resource for higher education institutions embarking on campus climate assessments. *Understanding and Responding to Campus Sexual Assault: A Guide for Colleges and Universities* (<http://socialwork.rutgers.edu/CentersandPrograms/VAWC/researchevaluation/CampusClimateProject.aspx>) documents methodological issues for consideration, lessons learned, and recommendations across dimensions of the campus climate assessment process, including: fostering campus collaborations, conducting a resource audit, conducting a student survey, collecting qualitative data, and developing an action planning.

To speak confidentially with a trained advocate or counselor, contact Services Empowering the Rights of Victims (SERV) 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at 866-295-7378. For assistance outside of Rutgers, please visit the New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Assault (<http://njcasa.org>) or the Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network (<https://rainn.org>).



## **APPENDIX A: SURVEY METHODS**

The survey instrument originally developed by the White House Task Force was adapted for use at Rutgers-New Brunswick and then further revised and tailored for Rutgers–Camden, with the extensive help of the Rutgers–Camden campus climate Advisory Board, comprised of key stakeholders across multiple departments on Camden’s campus. The survey tool was also piloted with a small group of students. The questionnaire was finalized in Qualtrics, an online survey tool, and administered between February 8 and February 26, 2016. The survey was approved by the Rutgers University Institutional Review Board, and, before completing the survey, students were provided with an informed consent and the option to participate in the survey.

All students enrolled at Rutgers–Camden during the spring semester of 2016, including both undergraduates and graduates, were invited to participate in the survey. Students were notified about the survey through a broad outreach effort, including direct e-mails, a participatory social media campaign, printed advertisements, and tabling in the student center, dining halls and libraries.

To incentivize participation, the research team awarded cash prizes to randomly selected students who completed the survey. Prizes ranged from \$50 to \$150; a total of \$3,000 was distributed. A tiered incentive structure was designed to encourage students to take the survey early in the administration period. Those who submitted surveys in the first three days were eligible to win the largest cash prizes. Additional drawings took place throughout the administration period, but the amount of each prize decreased at each drawing. The incentive structure was as follows:

- Ten \$150 prizes awarded on February 10
- Ten \$100 prizes awarded on February 15
- Ten \$50 prizes awarded on February 26

### **Response**

During the administration period, 1,627 of 6,384 eligible students (25 percent) accessed the survey. The largest single-day percentage of students (22 percent of the final sample) logged into the survey on the first day it was available.

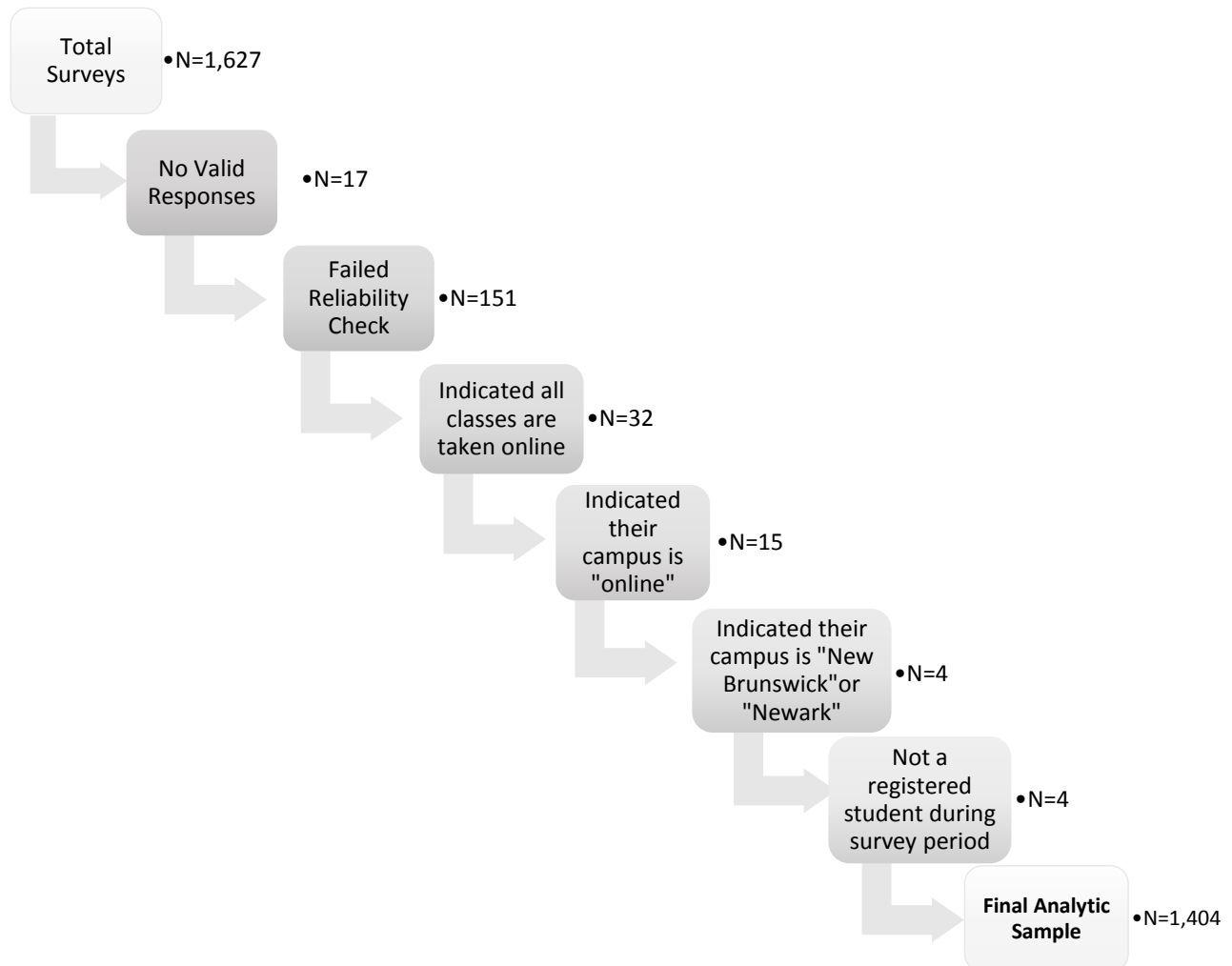
The response rate continued to increase over the course of the 18-day administration period, with one notable spike. On February 16, an alert appeared on each eligible student’s MyRutgers page, a personalized, web-based portal, reminding him or her to take the survey. This type of alert is sent infrequently, and students must click on such alerts to indicate acknowledgement and stop reminder emails. Following the MyRutgers alert on February 16, 21 percent of the final sample accessed the survey between February 16 and February 17.

Lastly, in a final push to encourage students to respond to the survey, an email was sent out to all students on Camden campus from a student leader encouraging students to participate in the survey and announcing that 10 drawings for \$50 cash prizes were still available. Eight percent of the final sample participated in the final three days of the survey administration.

## Survey Exclusions

Of the 1,627 students who accessed the survey and provided their informed consent for participation, 223 cases were excluded from the final analytic sample. The largest number of excluded cases (151) were removed from the sample because they failed to correctly respond to a question designed to gauge whether respondents were checking answers without reading the survey items (“If you are still reading this survey, please check ‘very much true.’”). Respondents who logged into the online survey but declined to participate by providing no answer, account for 17 exclusions. The remaining cases were removed because students indicated that they did not take the majority of their classes on the Camden campus (meaning that they took all their classes online; reported their main campus as “online” “New Brunswick” or “Newark”; or were not registered students during the survey period).<sup>53</sup> Figure 1 illustrates the refinement of the analytic sample.

**Figure 1. Refinement of Analytic Sample**



<sup>53</sup> These students were sent the survey but administrative records indicate they were not registered students at the time of the survey administration.

## APPENDIX B: DEFINITION OF UNWANTED SEXUAL CONTACT

Below is the text that appeared in the #iSPEAK–Camden survey about the definition of “unwanted sexual contact.” The introductory text and definition below appear as they did to students on the survey.

*This section asks about nonconsensual or unwanted sexual contact you may have experienced. The person who had the unwanted sexual contact with you could have been a stranger or someone you know, such as a family member or someone you were dating or going out with.*<sup>54</sup>

*As a reminder, unwanted sexual contact may involve the following acts:*

<b>Unwanted touching of a sexual nature</b>	<b>Unwanted penetrative contact</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Touching of an unwilling or non-consenting person’s intimate parts (such as genitalia, groin, breast, buttocks, or mouth under or over a person’s clothes).</li><li>• Touching an unwilling person or non-consenting person with one’s own intimate parts.</li><li>• Forcing an unwilling or non-consenting person to touch another’s intimate parts.</li><li>• Kissing an unwilling or non-consenting person.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• An unwilling or non-consenting person being made to penetrate someone else orally, anally, or vaginally with any object or body part.</li><li>• Penetrating an unwilling or non-consenting person orally, anally, or vaginally with any object or body part.</li><li>• Includes oral contact, which includes either of the following:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ An unwilling or non-consenting person’s mouth or tongue making contact with someone else’s genitals.</li><li>○ The mouth or tongue making contact with genitals of an unwilling or non-consenting person.</li></ul></li></ul>

<sup>54</sup> Definition adapted from Rutgers University. (2015). [Student Policy Prohibiting Sexual Harassment, Sexual Violence, Relationship Violence, Stalking and Related Misconduct](#).

## APPENDIX C: VICTIMIZATION QUESTIONS

Below is the section of the campus climate survey that asked about students' experiences of unwanted sexual contact. The instructions and questions below appear as they did to students on the #iSPEAK–Camden survey.

The following questions ask about the **MOST SERIOUS INCIDENT** of unwanted sexual contact that you may have experienced. This does not imply that other incidents you may have experienced are less serious.

1. Did you ever experience any form of unwanted sexual contact before coming to Rutgers?
  - Yes *CONTINUE TO QUESTION 1a then 1b.*
  - No *SKIP TO QUESTION 2*
    - a. How old were you when this occurred? If it occurred more than once, please respond for the **MOST SERIOUS INCIDENT**. \_\_\_\_\_
    - b. During this experience of unwanted sexual contact, which of the following happened? Check all that apply. If it occurred more than once, please respond for the **MOST SERIOUS INCIDENT**.
      - Unwanted touching of a sexual nature (see definition above)
      - Unwanted penetrative contact (includes oral, anal, vaginal) (see definition above)
      - Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

The following questions below are about unwanted sexual contact that involved **force or threats of force** against you. This could include someone holding you down with their body weight, pinning your arms, hitting or kicking you, or threatening to use a weapon against you.

2. **Since coming to Rutgers**, has anyone had unwanted sexual contact with you by using physical force?
  - Yes *CONTINUE TO QUESTION 2a.*
  - No *SKIP TO QUESTION 3*
    - a. During this unwanted sexual contact, which of the following happened during the **MOST SERIOUS INCIDENT**? Check all that apply
      - Unwanted touching of a sexual nature (see definition above)
      - Unwanted penetrative contact (includes oral, anal, vaginal) (see definition above)
      - Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_
3. Since coming to Rutgers, has anyone had unwanted sexual contact with you by **coercing you or threatening** to use physical force?
  - Yes *CONTINUE TO QUESTION 3a.*
  - No *SKIP TO QUESTION 4*
    - a. During this unwanted sexual contact, which of the following happened during the **MOST SERIOUS INCIDENT**? Check all that apply
      - Unwanted touching of a sexual nature (see definition above)

- Unwanted penetrative contact (includes oral, anal, vaginal) (see definition above)
  - Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_
4. **Since coming to Rutgers**, has anyone attempted but not succeeded in having unwanted sexual contact with you **by using physical force against you**?
- Yes *CONTINUE TO QUESTION 4a.*
  - No *SKIP TO QUESTION 5*
    - a. During this unwanted sexual contact, which of the following happened during the **MOST SERIOUS INCIDENT**? Check all that apply
      - Unwanted touching of a sexual nature (see definition above)
      - Unwanted penetrative contact (includes oral, anal, vaginal) (see definition above)
      - Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_
5. **Since coming to Rutgers**, has anyone attempted but not succeeded in having unwanted sexual contact with you **by coercing you or threatening** to use physical force against you?
- Yes *CONTINUE TO QUESTION 5a.*
  - No *SKIP TO QUESTION 6*
    - a. During this unwanted sexual contact, which of the following happened during the **MOST SERIOUS INCIDENT**? Check all that apply
      - Unwanted touching of a sexual nature (see definition above)
      - Unwanted penetrative contact (includes oral, anal, vaginal) (see definition above)
      - Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

The next set of questions ask about your experiences with unwanted sexual contact **while you were unable to provide consent or stop what was happening because you were passed out, drugged, drunk, incapacitated, or asleep**. These situations might include times that you voluntarily consumed alcohol or drugs and times that you were given alcohol or drugs without your knowledge or consent.

6. **Since coming to Rutgers**, has someone had sexual contact with you when you were unable to provide consent or stop what was happening because you were passed out, drugged, drunk, incapacitated, or asleep? This question asks about incidents **you are certain** happened.
- Yes *CONTINUE TO QUESTION 6a.*
  - No *SKIP TO QUESTION 7*
    - a. During this unwanted sexual contact, which of the following happened during the **MOST SERIOUS INCIDENT**? Check all that apply
      - Unwanted touching of a sexual nature (see previously stated definition)
      - Unwanted penetrative contact (includes oral, anal, vaginal) (see previously stated definition)
      - Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_
7. **Since coming to Rutgers**, has someone had sexual contact with you when you were unable to provide consent or stop what was happening because you were passed out, drugged, drunk, incapacitated, or asleep? This question asks about incidents **you think (but are not certain)** happened.

- Yes *CONTINUE TO QUESTION 7a.*
- No *SKIP TO QUESTION*
  - a. During this unwanted sexual contact, which of the following happened during the **MOST SERIOUS INCIDENT**? Check all that apply
    - Unwanted touching of a sexual nature (see previously stated definition)
    - Unwanted penetrative contact (includes oral, anal, vaginal) (see previously stated definition)
    - Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

*If respondent answered yes to questions 2, 3, 6, or 7, he/she was taken to a series of follow-up questions that asked about the incident details and their subsequent experience on campus.*

## APPENDIX D: FOCUS GROUP METHODS

In order to gain a variety of perspectives on the issue of sexual violence and the campus climate and culture at Rutgers–Camden, two different sampling methods were used. First, for five of the focus groups conducted with subsets of the student population, which included student leaders, LGB students, student veterans, on-campus residents, and sexual violence survivors, participants were recruited through different student organizations. Participants for each of these groups were directly recruited through a university affiliate who worked with the student population. An additional three focus groups were conducted with the general student population. Participants for these groups were recruited through a mass listserv announcement as well as postings to university-affiliated websites. Students interested in participating were directed to a website where they could sign up. All participants who signed up for the general student focus groups were randomly assigned to a focus group.

The groups were one hour long and were conducted by two facilitators, ranging in size from two to seven participants. All facilitators were hired by the Rutgers–Camden Office of Student Affairs and received training on reviewing informed consent with students, notetaking, answering students’ questions regarding confidentiality and the informed consent, asking the questions outlined in the focus group guide, techniques for eliciting responses from students, and the protocol for distressed participants developed by the research team. The focus groups used semi-structured interviews based on a guide developed by the research team for a previous campus climate study.<sup>55</sup>

The guide started with a brief introduction, including a summary of the current study and detailed information about the consent form, disclosure, and confidentiality. To further protect participants’ confidentiality, focus group participants were instructed to refrain from disclosing personal experiences, and instead instructed to talk about personal experiences as something that happened to a “friend.”<sup>56</sup> At the conclusion of each focus group, resources were made available to all students and students received a \$10.00 cash incentive. All materials used during the focus groups conducted on Rutgers–Camden campus, including the focus group guide, consent form, and distressed participants protocol, was submitted to the Institutional Review Board. The study was presented to students as voluntary and confidential and students were informed that they could leave the group at any time. Each focus group participant completed an informed consent prior to the start of each focus group.

Questions addressed during the focus groups included the following broad topic areas: 1) Students’ sense of safety and overall connection to Rutgers–Camden and the campus as a whole; 2) General thoughts about sexual assault including how the term is defined by students; 3) Views

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<sup>55</sup> McMahan, S., O’Connor, J. & Cusano, J. (2016). *iSPEAK campus climate focus group guide*. Center on Violence Against Women and Children, School of Social Work. Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey: New Brunswick, NJ.

<sup>56</sup> Unlike other focus groups, members of the all-survivors group were asked to talk about experiences either as experiences that occurred to a “friend,” or to recount experiences in the first person. According to the focus group guide, facilitators did not ask survivors to recount the details of their assaults. An on-call advocate was available from victim services during the focus group.



on factors leading to risk of sexual assault victimization and perpetration at Rutgers–Camden; 4) Knowledge of resources and policies for sexual violence; 5) Students’ willingness to serve as prosocial bystanders.

All groups were audio-taped and one facilitator took detailed notes. Once all focus groups were conducted, a member of the research team listened to each focus group audio file, while cross-checking with the detailed notes taken during the group to check for accuracy and fill in students’ responses. The project coordinator reviewed each set of focus group notes after they were cross-checked to review for accuracy. Over a two-month period, the research team analyzed the focus group data by using systematic coding processes.<sup>57</sup> The coding schemes were developed by VAWC researchers based on a similar previous study.<sup>58</sup> To ensure reliability, three of the nine focus group transcripts were double-coded. In order to double-code the focus groups, three transcripts were randomly selected and assigned to a second coder who independently coded the focus group. The project coordinator then reviewed both of the coded transcripts to ensure that the codes were similar. All coding was done in ATLAS.ti (version 7.5) coding software. Qualitative analysis allowed the researchers to group the codes into general themes.

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<sup>57</sup> Doody, O., Slevin, E., & Taggart, L. (2013). Focus group interviews. Part 3: analysis. *British Journal Of Nursing*, 22(5), 266-269.

<sup>58</sup> McMahon, S., Stepleton, K., Cusano, J. & O’Connor, J. (2016). *iSPEAK campus climate survey*. Center on Violence Against Women and Children, School of Social Work. Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey: New Brunswick, NJ.

