



## CONDUCTING A VALID CAMPUS CLIMATE SURVEY

The [Campus Climate Survey Validation Study](#) and accompanying survey instrument provide a methodology that generates essential data to make effective policies and implement best practices for preventing and better responding to campus sexual assault.

The methodology in the *Study* and the survey instrument were tested and proven to produce high-quality data for understanding attitudes and behaviors related to sexual assault.

The study offers guidance for conducting a survey and gives results from the nine-school pilot with more than 23,000 undergraduate men and women.

The results showed that rates of sexual assault vary greatly from school to school, as do student perceptions, so it is crucial for schools to conduct their own campus climate surveys to understand the unique problems and opportunities on their specific campuses.

Findings reported in the *Study*:

- The average prevalence rate for sexual assault since entering college reported by women varied from 12% to 38% across the nine schools; the average was 21%. For men, the average was 7%.
- Among fourth-year women, 1 out of 4 reported they had experienced sexual assault since entering college.
- Only 13% of rape incidents and 4% of sexual battery incidents were reported to an official, such as an administrator, faculty, staff, campus police, or local law enforcement.
- Women, younger students, and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students were most at risk for sexual assault. For lesbian and gay students, the prevalence rate of sexual assault since entering school was 22% across the nine schools; for bisexual students, it was 35%; and for transgender students, it was 28%.

### Benefits

#### **Rigorously tested.**

The [Campus Climate Survey Instrument](#) validated by the study is state of the art.

#### **Evidence-based.**

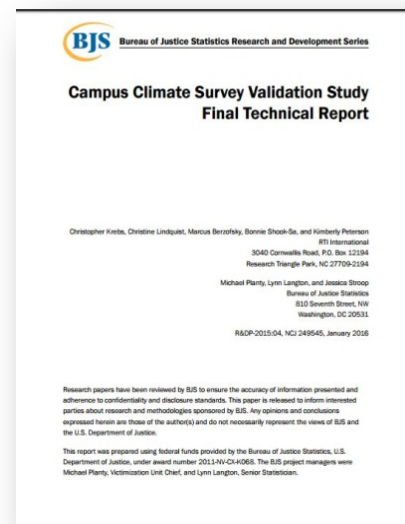
Policies and practices are more effective when they are based on results from state-of-the-art tools such as the [Campus Climate Survey Validation Study](#).

#### **Free and Customizable.**

The questionnaire in the *Study* is free and can be customized to meet an institution's unique needs.

#### **Accuracy.**

Sexual violence is under-reported. Collecting data based on a high-quality campus climate survey provides data not available from existing data collection mechanisms, which capture only a fraction of incidents.



The [Campus Climate Survey Validation Study](#) gives detailed guidance about how to conduct a campus climate survey more effectively, including specific guidance on using the findings to get reliable and useful results that keep students safer.

### Learn More

- **Download the *Campus Climate Survey Validation Study***  
[www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/ccsvsfr.pdf](http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/ccsvsfr.pdf)
- **Download the Campus Climate Survey Instrument**  
[http://changingourcampus.org/application/files/4214/5381/9882/RevisedInstrumentModules\\_1\\_21\\_16\\_cleanCombined\\_psg.pdf](http://changingourcampus.org/application/files/4214/5381/9882/RevisedInstrumentModules_1_21_16_cleanCombined_psg.pdf)
- **Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice**  
[www.justice.gov/ovw/responding-campus-sexual-assault](http://www.justice.gov/ovw/responding-campus-sexual-assault)
- **ChangingOurCampus.org**  
[www.changingourcampus.org/resources/research](http://www.changingourcampus.org/resources/research)

### Definitions

**Campus climate:** Student perceptions on school connectedness; general perceptions of campus police, faculty, and university leadership; perceptions of leadership around sexual assault prevention and response; student norms related to sexual conduct; and attitudes about sexual assault.

**Sexual assault:** Any unwanted and nonconsensual contact that involved either rape or sexual battery. It does not include sexual harassment or coerced sexual contact.

**Rape:** Any unwanted and nonconsensual contact that involved a penetrative act.

**Sexual battery:** Any unwanted and nonconsensual contact that involved forced touching of a sexual nature not involving penetration.