

Office of Compliance, Risk, and Ethics

MONTGOMERY COLLEGE

Compliance Matters

Fall 2018

Special Edition

SpeakUpMC 2018 Climate Survey Results

In 2016, in accordance with Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) requirements, Montgomery College conducted its first climate survey on sexual violence, which had two main goals: to measure prevalence of sexual assault, and to measure how much students knew about Montgomery College's sexual misconduct policies and reporting procedures.

The 2016 survey results indicated that MC students experience sexual assault at rates generally equivalent to the national average. The majority of assaults reported did not occur on campus. While students felt strongly that Montgomery College would handle sexual misconduct seriously and appropriately, over half of the students reported that they did not know about the resources available.

Montgomery College spent the last two years engaged in building a Culture of Respect and the 2018 climate survey was designed to:

- **Measure perceptions of the campus climate and to compare the 2018 data with the 2016 data.**
- **Measure experiences of sexual misconduct and to compare the 2018 data with the 2016 data.**
- **Measure perceptions of bystander behavior and a general culture of respect.**

In February 2018, 1,188 students participated online in the *SpeakUpMC Climate Survey on Sexual Violence*. The following information is a summary of the findings from that survey.

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Perception of the Campus Climate

Students' expectations that the College will respond in a positive way to reports of sexual assault is very high, with 83% of students agreeing or strongly agreeing that they feel safe on campus, which is 15 percentage points higher than 2016 responses.

In the past two years, Montgomery College has increased awareness of resources available to students who experience sexual misconduct. As the table below demonstrates, students have received written information about a variety of resources on campus, which increases the likelihood that they can locate resources when needed. In fact, 52.2% of students surveyed indicate that they would "know where to go to make a report of sexual misconduct," an increase of 5.8 percentage points from 2016.

Kinds of Information	Respondents Who Answered Yes	
	2016 Results	2018 Results
Student Code of Conduct	55.6%	57.9%
The Title IX Office	23.8%	27.0%
Where To Go to Report Sexual Misconduct	21.8%	29.1%
How to Report Sexual Misconduct	22.4%	33.7%

In addition, students indicate that if they were to experience an incident of sexual misconduct, they are very likely to seek assistance from internal offices such as the Title IX Office (19.6%), Counseling and Advising (34.5%), Public Safety and Security (48.6%), Student Life (18.5%), Student Affairs (17.0%), Athletics (8.2%), or an MC faculty member (21.7%). This highlights the importance of clarifying the role of faculty and staff as "Responsible Employees," who are required to notify the Title IX Coordinator of reports and who are strategic allies in making connections with campus and community resources.

Since 2016, there has also been an increase in the number of students who have received education about sexual misconduct. In 2016, 37.6% of students indicated that they had received no prior information or education about sexual misconduct before coming to Montgomery College. In 2018, this number decreased to 26.8%.

Overall, the topic of sexual misconduct is being infused in the classroom and non-academic spaces. In 2018, 32.8% of students reported that they had discussed sexual misconduct in class, compared to 23.3% in 2016. In addition, 15.3% had attended a Montgomery College event or program on the topic, compared to 9.6% in 2016.

Experiences of Sexual Assault and Violence

In the 2018 survey, 9.5% of students surveyed reported that since coming to the College, they have experienced unwanted sexual violence or contact. The most common forms reported include sexual harassment, defined as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or other unwanted behavior of a sexual or gender-based nature; stalking, defined as engaging in a pattern of behavior such as following someone or leaving repeated unwanted messages, texts, emails, etc. that would cause a reasonable person to fear for their safety or to suffer substantial emotional distress; and nonconsensual sexual activity. While a majority of respondents reported the incident, they are less likely to tell someone at Montgomery College about this, which means that they are less likely to learn about the resources available to them to mitigate the impacts of such trauma on their educational success.

SpeakUpMC

Voices Against Sexual Violence

2018 Climate Survey Results

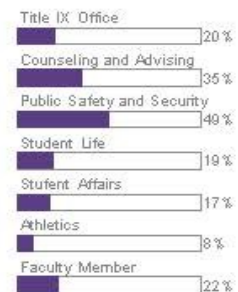
In February 2018, 1,188 students participated in the SpeakUpMC Climate Survey on Sexual Violence. Here's what they said about their perceptions and experiences:



Since coming to college, **14% of students** surveyed have **experienced sexual assault.**

Students are most likely to report experiencing **sexual harassment, stalking,** and **nonconsensual sexual activity.**

Students are very likely to report sexual misconduct to:



The survey indicates that Montgomery College has a **culture of respect** where students feel **empowered** to **speak up** against sexual violence, to **intervene** in inappropriate situations, and to create an environment where **survivors are supported.**

Building a Culture of Respect

Understand MC Policy

Visit the SpeakUpMC website and read the MC Sexual Misconduct Policy and Procedure.

Know Where to Report

Title IX Coordinator
Christopher Moy
240-567-5412

titleix@montgomerycollege.edu

Get Involved

- **Students**-Take the Sexual Assault Prevention for Community Colleges Training.
- **Faculty**-Request Bystander Training in your courses.
- **Everyone**-Take the It's On Us Pledge.

For more details, visit cms.montgomerycollege.edu/SpeakUpMC/

Experiences of Sexual Assault and Violence

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As was shown in the 2016 survey and again in the 2018 survey, those students who experience sexual violence reported they feel depressed (64%), have difficulty focusing on schoolwork (58%), arrive late to class (31%), miss an assignment (28%), miss one or more classes (25%), or fail a class (19%).

This data highlights the negative academic outcomes that often result from experiencing sexual misconduct. Further, this supports the critical role of the Title IX Program in ensuring access to educational accommodations designed to mitigate the effects of experiencing gender based violence. It also reinforces the urgency in reporting to the Title IX Coordinator.

Perceptions of Bystander Behavior and a Culture of Respect

Some misconceptions about sexual misconduct still exist and in some cases, have gained support within the college community. For instance, in 2018, 42.9% of students surveyed agree or strongly agree that sexual assault happens because “men get carried away.” Similarly, 32.9% agree or strongly agree that rape and sexual assault happens because people put themselves in bad situations. While more efforts should be focused on combating these rape myths, there are other areas where institutional efforts such as consent workshops have helped to produce desired effects. In 2018, 20.3% of surveyed students strongly disagree or disagree that “consent to engage in sexual activity can be withdrawn at any time,” a decrease of 10 percentage points from 2016.

Since 2016, Montgomery College has increased programming about bystander intervention, and baseline data indicate that students are willing to intervene in situations when necessary. For instance, 76.9% of students indicate that they are likely or very likely to call campus security if they saw a group bothering someone in a parking lot or similar setting. In addition, 87.5% of students agreed or strongly agreed that they would confront a friend who was hooking up with someone who was passed out. In addition, 93.8% of students surveyed indicated that they would go with a friend to the police department if the friend said she or he was raped. These results are encouraging, suggesting that institutional efforts to promote prosocial bystander behavior resonate with the student population and may likely be used in situations to de-escalate problematic behavior.

Suggestions for Future Research

In looking ahead to 2020, MC will continue to educate students and the community about ways to foster a culture of respect. MC has introduced a Title IX module via the online new student orientation, while also updating its online sexual assault prevention training from *Haven* to *Sexual Assault Prevention for Community Colleges*. The training is available on the [Title IX homepage](#). Additionally, MC will continue to offer bystander intervention training; contact the Title IX Office to request a training.

New Student Training!

Sexual Assault Prevention for Community Colleges

Our previous Haven training module has been replaced with a new module tailored to two-year institutions, entitled “[Sexual Assault Prevention for Community Colleges](#).” This is available online to all students. Please help to make students aware of the training and promote its value.

Sexual Assault Prevention
for Community Colleges

Q & A—Bringing Children to Class



Q: A student has asked me if he can bring his child with him to class every Tuesday evening in order to address a childcare gap. Is this allowable?

A: No. While it's important to allow some flexibility for child care emergencies, it is not appropriate to make a plan for the routine presence of a child in the classroom. Students should make childcare arrangements for periods when they will be on campus. In an occasional emergency situation, and only with permission of the instructor, a student may bring a child to class provided that the situation does not interfere with other students' educational experience. If the instructor does not grant permission for the child to be present, the student must remove the child from College premises.

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