

October 22, 2019

Dear Students, Faculty and Staff,

Today we are releasing the results of the [Emory Student Community Well-Being Survey](#) conducted in Spring 2018. This is the second time the university conducted a comprehensive climate survey to learn about students' experiences with unwanted sexual activity. The [first was done in 2015](#).

The survey is an opportunity for the university to better understand students' perceptions and incidents surrounding a range of unwanted encounters and harassment, from offensive comments to intimate partner violence and sexual assault. The anonymous survey also sought student views on education, prevention and response initiatives.

We encourage everyone to read the full report. We understand this information may be difficult for some, especially those who are survivors of violence. Please know we are here for you and offer [resources](#) within the Office of Equity and Inclusion to support you.

Emory will use the survey findings to better identify and comprehend the climate on campus and our students' experiences so we can determine how to enhance, modify or change our programming. We want Emory students affected by issues of sexual violence to get the [support they need](#) and we will continue to promote prevention education programs.

According to the results, about 15 percent of undergraduate women on Emory's Atlanta campus and 15.5 percent of undergraduate women on Emory's Oxford campus who responded to the survey experienced sexual assault during the 2017-18 year. Although the majority of students who completed the survey reported that they told someone close to them about their experiences, official reporting was very low. Among Atlanta undergraduate women 7 percent of sexual battery incidents and 9 percent of rape incidents were reported to an on-campus official.

On a more encouraging note, students reported high participation in training on campus and said the training was helpful. For example, 54.6 percent of undergraduate Emory men and 47.5 percent of undergraduate Emory women attended bystander training to learn skills to intervene and prevent unwanted encounters, and more than 80 percent said the training was helpful or very helpful.

It is disturbing to see members of our community experience these acts of violence. Sexual violence is not tolerated at Emory, and we will continue to take prompt and equitable action when misconduct occurs. We will continue to encourage our community to report all incidents of sexual misconduct. While we have made progress in our goal to reduce incidents of sexual violence in our community, there is more work to do. We will improve.

We will use these results to enhance the campus climate for all members of the Emory community. Following the 2015 survey, Emory implemented new sexual harassment and

community safety training facilitated by the Office of Title IX and the Office of Equity and Inclusion for faculty and staff. Also, the Office of Respect was moved under the Center for Student Success Programs and Services to provide holistic support to survivors. The university also hired additional staff members, increased collaboration and training efforts with the Office of Sorority and Fraternity Life and implemented new sexual harassment training for the Jones Program in Ethics in Laney Graduate School.

Last month Yolanda Buckner started as Emory's new University Title IX coordinator. In this role she oversees the university's training, policy recommendations and responsibilities related to [Title IX complaints and compliance](#). The Office of Title IX provides the campus with [multiple resources](#) 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The team works collaboratively with other units across campus including, Campus Life, Human Resources, the Emory Police Department and the Offices of the Provost and President.

The Office of Title IX, along with groups like Emory's Committee for the Prevention of Sexual Violence, are reviewing the latest survey results and looking for ways to further expand support for sexual violence prevention programming that addresses the full spectrum of incidents and experiences reported by undergraduate, graduate and professional students.

We want to thank everyone who took the time to complete the survey. We will continue to provide the campus community with updates on programming and new initiatives. Our goal remains to ensure that all members of our community feel safe, secure and respected.

Sincerely,

Carol E. Henderson  
Vice Provost for Diversity and Inclusion and Chief Diversity Officer

Dwight A. McBride  
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs