

# Highlights of 2016 CardSafe Survey Results

## Background

On February 22, 2016, the CardSafe Survey was launched to a random sample of 4304 University of Louisville (UofL) students. Of the 4304 students who received the survey, 613 completed the survey (384 female; 229 male). The survey was designed to help the University measure our progress toward sexual assault and interpersonal violence education and prevention efforts on campus, as well as student perceptions of safety and University response. Our intention is to administer a version of this survey on a regular basis and propose specific changes based on the results. Recommendations appearing at the end of this summary are based upon the 2016 survey's results. The purpose of these recommendations is to create a safe campus environment that leads to the success and retention of UofL students.

## Safety

The majority of respondents (89%,  $n=542$ ) believe UofL cares about their personal safety with 97% reporting ( $n=592$ ) they feel safe on campus during the day, while 63% ( $n=378$ ) felt safe at night on campus. Fewer female respondents reported feeling safe at night (females—52%,  $n=199$ ; males—81%,  $n=176$ ). More female respondents believed that sexual violence is a problem at UofL (males—34%,  $n=45$ ; females—52%,  $n=197$ ).

## Sexual Assault

4% ( $n=27$ ) of respondents said they had unwanted sex during the past 12 months (7% females,  $n=26$ ); less than 1% males ( $n=1$ ). 48% ( $n=292$ ) of respondents did not know how to report a sexual assault at UofL. However, 63% ( $n=379$ ) of respondents knew where to go to get help at the University if they or a friend were sexually assaulted. The data suggests there is confusion around the reporting process at UofL, with uncertainty around what services are confidential (38%,  $n=231$  of respondents) and only 12% ( $n=71$ ) of respondents know that not all sexual assault cases lead to an investigation.

Nonetheless, respondents suggested that they had confidence in UofL's ability to respond should a report be made. 62.34% ( $n=379$ ) agree, and 23.85% ( $n=145$ ) strongly agree, that

UofL Police would be helpful to a person reporting an assault. 58.98% ( $n=358$ ) agree and 19.28% ( $n=117$ ) strongly agree that UofL administrators would handle the report fairly. 59.34% ( $n=359$ ) agree and 17.85% ( $n=108$ ) strongly agree that if a report were filed, steps would be taken to prevent retaliation and make sure the reporting person felt safe on campus.

Of the 27 respondents who reported they had been sexually assaulted, the majority of those respondents reported the sexual assault occurred off campus. Of the 27 respondents who reported they had been sexually assaulted, 43% ( $n=12$ ) of those respondents reported that the person with whom the student experienced unwanted sex had no connection to UofL. Of the 27 respondents who reported they had been sexually assaulted, 47% ( $n=15$ ) told a peer about the incident and 28% ( $n=9$ ) told no one about the incident.

### **Social Risk Factors**

Results indicate that of the 27 respondents who reported an incident of sexual assault in the last 12 months, 41% ( $n=11$ ) were taken advantage of when unable to say no due to alcohol or substance abuse. Of the 27 respondents reporting an incident of sexual assault that arose because they were physically unable to say no, threatened with physical harm, or were physically forced, 58% ( $n=15$ ) reported serious emotional difficulties.

Of the 26 respondents that responded to the following question:

*“If you did not seek help from any UofL employee, staff, official, or faculty, why not?”*

The top five responses included (respondents were able to select as many selections as applied):

1. Felt it was a private matter ( $n=18$ )
2. Wanted to forget it happened ( $n=10$ )
3. Did not want to deal with all of the formal procedures ( $n=9$ )
4. Embarrassed or ashamed ( $n=8$ )
5. Did not think others would understand and/or would not think it was important/serious ( $n=8$ )

### **Perceptions of the importance of consent, and what constitutes consent**

The survey results reflect widespread understanding of the critical role of consent in sexual interactions between individuals. In response to the query “If someone seems interested in you sexually, it is OK to have sex with them without asking,” 79.21% ( $n=484$ ) strongly disagreed, and 17.02% ( $n=104$ ) disagreed. Similarly, in response to the statement “If you had sex with someone before, you can assume they have agreed to have sex with you now,” 75.45% ( $n=461$ ) strongly disagreed, and 20.13% ( $n=123$ ) disagreed. Moreover, regarding the statement “Even if some sexual activity has started, either person has the right to change their mind and stop,” 82.65% ( $n=505$ ) of respondents strongly agreed, and 14.24% ( $n=87$ ) agreed, and as to “Agreeing to have one type of sex (e.g. oral sex) doesn’t mean the person has agreed to other types (e.g. intercourse),” 71.26% ( $n=434$ ) strongly agreed, and 24.79% ( $n=151$ ) agreed.

## **Violence Prevention Opportunities**

Respondents reported they received information or attended a program in the following areas:

- Green Dot Bystander Training (31.2%,  $n=191$ )
- How to report a complaint on sexual assault (40%,  $n=245$ )
- Resources to help victims of sexual assault (50.1%,  $n=308$ )
- Alcohol and substance abuse programs (46.6%,  $n=284$ )

The majority of respondents ( $n=587$ ) reported that they received information about violence prevention resources, as described in the areas above, during orientation and welcome week.

There continues to be a misperception with our respondents around how to prevent the forms of interpersonal violence that this study addressed. Student comments in the survey suggested additional lighting, carrying a weapon, and more police presence would make UofL a safer place. Yet, national aggregate data from EverFi tells us that these safety precautions are not effective forms of prevention for sexual assault, stalking, and relationship violence.

## **Bystander attitudes**

Among respondents to the statement “If a student is hurting another student, I would...Not get involved if I might lose friends,” 45.25% ( $n=275$ ) strongly disagreed, and 44.59% ( $n=272$ )

disagreed. 20.92% ( $n=127$ ) strongly agreed that they would “Personally try to change the situation;” an additional 65.73% ( $n=399$ ) agreed.

31.74% ( $n=193$ ) strongly disagreed and 49.34% ( $n=300$ ) disagreed that they would “not report it if I might get into trouble (underage drinking, drug use or having a fake ID).” This is noteworthy particularly in light of UofL’s practice of avoiding imposing penalties for lesser related offenses (e.g., underage alcohol consumption), which is intended to avoid discouraging victims of or witnesses to more serious misconduct (e.g. sexual assault) from coming forward.

95% ( $n=578$ ) of respondents said they would respect someone who did something to stop or prevent someone from being hurt, 87% ( $n=526$ ) of respondents said they would personally try to change the situation if a student was hurting another student, and about 40% ( $n=25$ ) of the 64 respondents to this question said that within the last 12 months they have personally tried to stop a sexual assault at least one time.

## Key Recommendations

- Increase education efforts regarding Title IX, through:
  - o Additional Welcome Week programming efforts/activities/events regarding Title IX.
  - o Additional programming time during New Student Orientation efforts regarding Title IX.
  - o Increased education in Gen 101 courses.
  - o Creation of Resident Assistant Leader (RAL) bulletin board kits for RALs to use in their halls.
    - o Announcements and information placed on monitors in the Student Activities Center and Student Recreational Center.
    - o Launch of the Green Dot Bystander Campaign, a campus-wide evidence-based, primary prevention strategy that focuses on the power of the bystander, emphasizing skill-building that builds on the intervention approach featured in Haven.
    - o An implementation plan incorporating student feedback into an appropriately augmented bystander and alcohol awareness training program is in progress, with an eye toward launching a revised training program in fall 2017.
    - o Creation of a positive social norming campaign in partnership with BRICC (Alcohol Coalition) for fall 2017, that includes posters, yard signs, and social media targeted at first-

year students during the first six weeks of school that reveals key positive data points from this survey and the AlcoholEdu survey.

- o Creation of a benchmark survey or develop a best practices strategic plan regarding Title IX services, education, and training.

- These Title IX education efforts should address:

- o How a student or employee can file a complaint/report a sexual assault.

- o How a student can help a peer who shares information with them about a sexual assault.

- o The emotional difficulty of sexual assault.

- o Shifting the campus culture to recognize the critical role of the bystander to prevent sexual assault and interpersonal violence.

- o The skills and knowledge needed to step in and help a friend in a high-risk situation.

- Re-evaluate the CardSafe campaign and determine how the campaign needs to be adjusted to better inform students about safety efforts on campus.

- Focus on enhanced lighting efforts throughout campus.