

Massachusetts' Sexual Misconduct Climate Survey

Elms College

Spring 2024 Survey Summary

In Massachusetts, all public and private institutions of higher education are required by law to conduct a sexual misconduct climate survey at least once every four (4) years. Elms College conducted its first Massachusetts Title IX Campus Climate Survey in spring 2024. Elms College used the model survey and the questions developed and provided by the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education. The anonymous survey asked students about their experiences with or knowledge of incidents of sexual misconduct and their knowledge of how Elms College responds to any reports of sexual misconduct. The survey was sent out to all Elms College students through the Student Affairs. The survey was promoted and incentives were offered to complete the survey. In total, the response rate was low, 7% for all students and 9% for all undergraduate students. A total of 85 students responded to the survey, with only 52 students completing the entire survey.

Demographics of Participants

- 44% of the participants identified as living on campus
- 42% off campus
- 75% identified gender as woman
- 20% identified gender as man
- 1% transgender
- 4% preferred not to respond
- under 10% of responses were from graduate students and the remaining identified as undergraduate students.

Sexual Harassment and Sexual Assault

82% of participants reported that they had **not** experienced:

- Non-consensual contact (non-penetrative)
- Non-consensual oral sex
- Non-consensual penetrative sex
- Attempted non-consensual contact or sexual intercourse

Of those 18% of participants that reported they had experienced any of the above:

- 79% reported they did not believe their identity was a factor in the incident
- 86% reported the other person involved was not an Elms College Student
- 93% reported the incident took place off campus

Drug and alcohol use did not appear statistically significant in participant's responses but about 1/3 of the responses indicated the other person had been using alcohol.

Knowledge of Elm's Process

Based on the overall responses indicating knowledge of campus and community resources, specifically related to sexual misconduct, our students reported only being somewhat aware of the resources.

Elms College Climate

91% reported they were never subject to sexist remarks or sexist materials

89% reported since enrolled in Elms College they were never “put down” or experienced condescending remarks based on their sex

Next Steps

Elms College has initiated a multi-year ["Respect Campaign"](#) launching in the fall 2024 semester, designed to be a collaborative effort among students, faculty, and staff. Data from the climate survey 2024 will inform the content of the campaign as it continues over the next academic year and beyond. The campaign aims to enhance the campus experience for all, by focusing on creating an environment where students feel supported and can thrive. In the spirit of our founders, the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Springfield, the campaign aims to cultivate a positive campus culture where all the students feel respected, valued, and empowered to reach their full potential.

Based on the survey data, programs will aim to improve students' understanding of reporting procedures, the process, available campus resources, and how to be an active bystander on and off campus. Elms College will continue to implement workshops and trainings for faculty and staff as well to continue educating the campus community.