

## Faculty Perceptions of Campus Safety & How to Improve Support

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Please take a moment to complete the handout survey questions. Your responses will NOT be collected.

## Agenda

1. Complete the session's survey questions
2. What's happening on your campus?
3. What's happening in the field?
4. Brief overview of FSSE, data, and analyses
5. FSSE findings, discussion
6. Discussion about support and change

## Framing Question

What conversations are happening on your campus about campus climate, safety, crisis response, and sexual assault?

## Background Literature – Campus climate, Safety, & Sexual Assault

- Walsh (1978) & Cress (2008)- Students are impacted by their environment and a negative campus climate can be detrimental to student development.
- Cress and Sax (1998)- perceptions of campus climate impact retention and plays a role in recruitment of future students.
- Roark (2013)- "The *perception* lack of safety has an impact on behavior as forceful as does a realistic assessment of an unsafe situation" (p. 20).
- The Not Alone Report (2014)- urges campuses to better understand and improve their response to issues of sexual violence

## Background Literature – Why Faculty?

- Hall and Sandler (1986)- Faculty contribute to the environment through their actions (e.g. ignoring, interrupting, avoiding eye contact).
- Rao (2004)- Faculty members who were more knowledgeable about disabilities and institutional policies regarding disabilities had more positive attitudes toward their students with disabilities.
- Cress (2008)- "Students are more likely than are faculty to be perceived as the culprits of creating a discriminatory learning environment. However, this does not absolve faculty from their responsibility in creating positive and supportive learning communities" (p. 103).
- Amar, Strout, Simpson, Cardiello & Beckford (2014)- Having an understanding of policies and procedures related to sexual assault and crisis response are important for ensuring students receive access to resources and needed support.

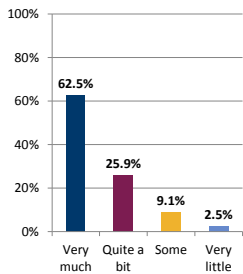
## FSSE

- Faculty Survey of Student Engagement
  - Faculty perceptions of an involvement in undergraduate student engagement at four-year colleges and universities
- 2015 experimental item set
  - Over 2,900 faculty
  - 16 institutions
- Descriptive analyses

## Results

- In the following section we will present
  - Faculty feelings of safety and perspectives on crisis response
  - Faculty perspectives on sexual assault
- Each grouping of items will be followed by a brief discussion.

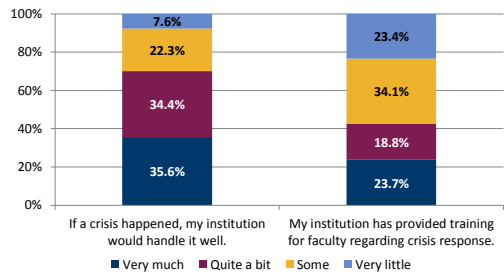
## I feel safe at my institution.



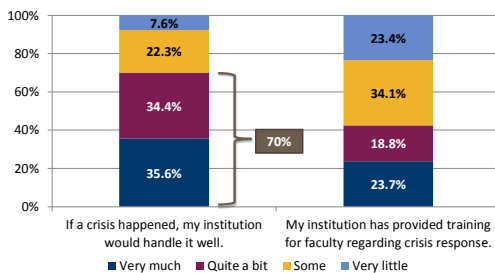
- Average faculty feeling safe<sup>a</sup> ranged 75%-98% by institution
- Men felt slightly safer than women ( $p < .001$ ,  $d=.19$ )
- No difference by racial/ethnic identification or sexual orientation

a. "Very much" or "Quite a bit"

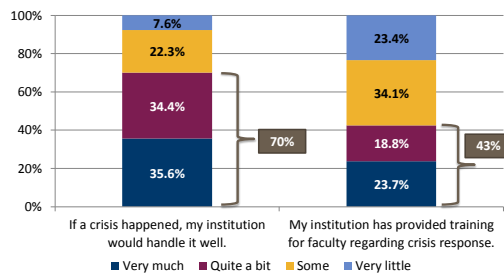
## Crisis Response



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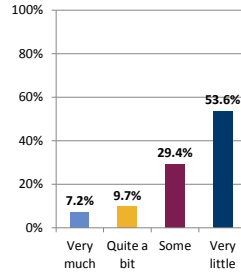
## Discussion Questions

How do these results compare to your responses?

Does anything surprise or disappoint you about these results?

How do these results inform your role on campus?

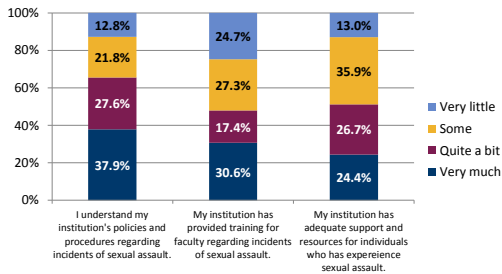
## I think my institution deals poorly with sexual assault.



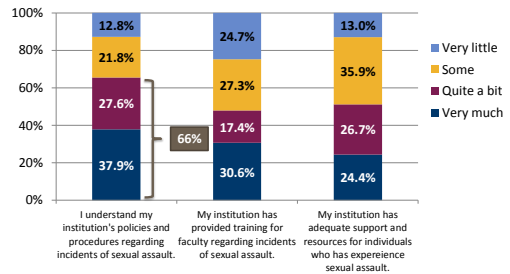
- Average faculty feeling their institution deals well<sup>a</sup> ranged 64%-98% by institution
- No difference by gender identity, racial/ethnic identification, or sexual orientation

a. "Some" or "Very little"

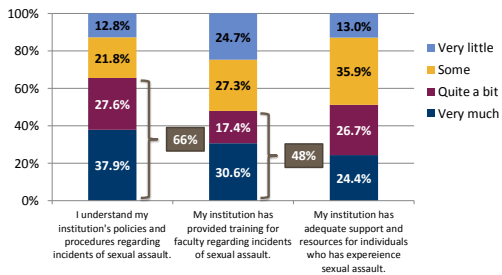
## I understand my institution's policies and procedures regarding incidents of sexual assault.



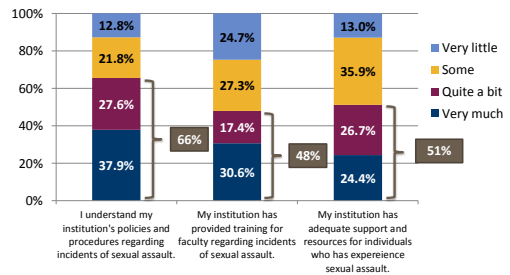
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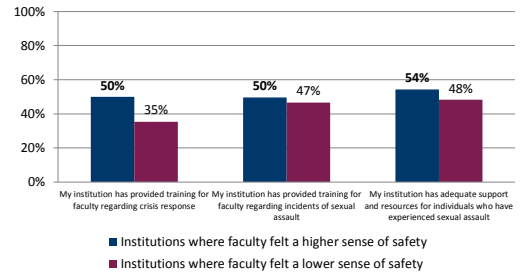
## Discussion Questions

How do these results compare to your responses?

Does anything surprise or disappoint you about these results?

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## Comparing Safety and Support



Percentages represent responses of "Very much" or "Quite a bit."

## Framing Question

What is the responsibility of faculty with regard to campus climate, safety, crisis response and sexual assault?

What could faculty on your campus do to make the environment at your institution more supportive?

### General Themes

- This institution is supportive!
- General sense of fear
- Create a more diverse faculty and/or student body
- Create connections between disciplines, departments, colleges etc.
- Be more available, approachable, accessible for students
- Make sure diversity includes all kinds of diversity
  - "There are a number of people who are supportive of some forms of diversity, but discriminatory with respect to others—for example, being advocates for racial diversity, but showing bias toward women and sexual minorities."

What could faculty on your campus do to make the environment at your institution more supportive?

### General Themes

- Increase diversity training
  - Give specific training on micro aggressions
  - "I think it would be important for faculty to engage in ongoing training/professional development around the various aspects of identity."
  - "Get some training on how to modify the curriculum to have all their students see themselves reflected in the curriculum."
  - "[This institution] needs to work on having the traditional students be more aware of other lifestyles other than their own. Many come from privileged families and don't have contact with others outside of the world they live in."

What could faculty on your campus do to make the environment at your institution more supportive?

### Specific Suggestions

- Be part of more activities and social events on campus outside of the classroom
- Be more familiar with or become involved in available support resources
- Develop interdisciplinary courses and find opportunities to co-teach
- Get more involved with student-led or student-focused minority organizations

What could faculty on your campus do to make the environment at your institution more supportive?

**Specific Suggestions**

- Establish multicultural spaces where students of differing beliefs could “hang out,” read resources, receive peer support, etc.
- Create learning communities related to diversity, identity, or interculturalism for students and for faculty
- Include statements on anti-discrimination and sexual misconduct policies and reporting procedures in syllabi (similar to disability statements)

## Discussion Questions

What are other ideas for how faculty can be part of creating supportive environments?

What has worked and not worked on your campus for creating supportive environments?



## Questions?

Presentation and more information about FSSE at [fsse.iub.edu](http://fsse.iub.edu)

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