

2024 Brandeis Student Climate Survey on Sexual Violence

The Brandeis Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Violence was administered from March 5-25, 2024, to all enrolled undergraduate and graduate students (excluding Rabb School of Continuing Studies students). The Prevention, Advocacy & Resource Center, the Office of Equal Opportunity, and the Office of Institutional Research collaboratively administered the survey, with support from the Office of the Vice President of Student Affairs.

Brandeis University is committed to fostering a safe environment where all members of the University community can work, learn, and thrive. Collecting accurate information about how Brandeis students experience sexual violence, relationship violence, stalking, sexual harassment and related concerns informs our community's prevention, advocacy and response efforts. Conducting this campus climate survey and publicly posting the results also fulfills the Massachusetts State Campus Safety Act mandatory requirement to assess the impact of sexual and interpersonal violence and harassment among students.

The 2024 Brandeis Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Violence was anonymous, confidential, and utilized a survey instrument developed by the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education.

This report is designed to summarize the results of the data collected. For questions regarding the content of this summary report of the campus climate survey, please contact OEO@brandeis.edu.

If you are a student who would like to talk with someone confidentially about issues addressed in this report, we encourage you to connect with the Prevention, Advocacy & Resource Center (PARC). Students are welcome to book appointments with PARC's [professional staff members](#). For more information, please email parc@brandeis.edu.

Additionally, the [Brandeis Counseling Center](#) is available 24/7 to support students: 781-736-3730. Our community partners, the [Boston Area Rape Crisis Center](#), and [REACH Beyond Domestic Violence](#), also offer 24/7 hotline support.

If you are interested in reporting an experience of sexual violence, relationship violence, stalking, harassment or discrimination to the University, please contact the [Office of Equal Opportunity](#).

Key Findings

Survey respondents

The survey was emailed to 4,788 Brandeis students; the survey closed with 1,114 responses, for an overall response rate of 23.3%. We appreciate the time and effort of all student respondents.

Of the students who participated in the survey:

- 83% were undergraduate students
- 17% were graduate students
- 61% identified as women
- 30% identified as men
- 9% identified as another gender identity
- 57% identified as domestic White students
- 14% identified as domestic Asian students
- 14% identified as domestic URM students (in this survey, URM stands for underrepresented minority students which includes those who identify as Black/African American, Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, Native American or Alaskan Native, or Hispanic or Latino/a).
- 15% identified as international students

Sexual Violence

Respondents were asked a series of questions concerning incidents of unwanted sexual contact since they were enrolled at Brandeis (regardless of whether the incidents occurred on- or off-campus, when school was in session, or during a break).

- 26.7% of respondents reported that they had experienced at least one of the types of sexual violence asked about since enrolling.
- 73.3% of respondents reported that they had not experienced any of the types of sexual violence asked about since enrolling.
 - Undergraduate respondents reported experiencing more sexual violence than graduate respondents:
 - 9.3% of graduate respondents experienced sexual violence
 - 30.1% of undergraduate respondents experienced sexual violence

- A higher percentage of respondents who identified as another gender or as women reported experiencing sexual violence compared to men:
 - 19.2% of male respondents experienced sexual violence
 - 29.2% of female respondents experienced sexual violence
 - 33.3% of respondents of another gender identified experienced sexual violence
 - A higher percentage of respondents who identified as an identity other than straight reported experiencing sexual violence compared to respondents who identified as straight:
 - 21.9% of straight respondents experienced sexual violence
 - 34.1% of respondents with an identity other than straight experienced sexual violence
 - Respondents whose racial or ethnic identity was categorized as URM reported experiencing the highest rates of sexual violence:
 - 16.3% of international respondents experienced sexual violence
 - 18.3% of domestic Asian respondents experienced sexual violence
 - 28.1% of domestic White respondents experienced sexual violence
 - 31.4% of domestic URM respondents experienced sexual violence
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Dating violence

Respondents were asked questions about their personal experience with partners or ex-partners since the time they had been enrolled at Brandeis.

- 10% of respondents reported that they had experienced behaviors indicating dating violence since enrolling.
- 90% of respondents reported that they had not experienced any of the behaviors indicating dating violence asked about since enrolling.
- Undergraduate respondents reported experiencing more dating violence than graduate respondents:
 - 8.7% of graduate respondents experienced dating violence
 - 10% of undergraduate respondents experienced dating violence
- A higher percentage of respondents who identified as another gender or as women reported experiencing dating violence compared to men:

- 5.6% of male respondents experienced dating violence
 - 10.8% of female respondents experienced dating violence
 - 15.6% of respondents of another gender identified experienced dating violence
- A higher percentage of respondents who identified as an identity other than straight reported experiencing dating violence compared to respondents who identified as straight:
 - 7.2% of straight respondents experienced dating violence
 - 13.9% respondents with an identity other than straight experienced dating violence
 - Respondents who identified as domestic White respondents reported experiencing dating violence at slightly higher rates than other categories:
 - 7.2% of international respondents experienced dating violence
 - 7.8% of domestic Asian respondents experienced dating violence
 - 8.3% of domestic URM respondents experienced dating violence
 - 10.9% of domestic White respondents experienced dating violence
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Stalking

Stalking is a pattern of behavior directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear or substantial emotional distress. Stalking-related behaviors should be examined within the context of a specific relationship or pattern of behaviors. For the purposes of this survey, respondents were asked questions about several concerning behaviors that do or potentially could indicate stalking.

Respondents were asked: *Since you enrolled at Brandeis have you been in a situation in which one or more people have done the following things to you?*

Question	Percent
Approached you or showed up in places, such as your home, workplace, or school when you didn't want them to be there	14.6%
Left you unwanted messages (including text or voice messages)	14.5%
Sent you unwanted emails, instant messages, or sent messages through social media apps	11.8%
Spread rumors about you online, whether they were true or not	11.1%
Watched or followed you from a distance, or spied on you with a listening device, camera, or GPS	10.7%

Made rude or mean comments to you online	9.9%
Made unwanted phone calls to you	7.5%
Left you cards, letters, flowers, or presents when they knew you didn't want them to	3.3%
Left strange or potentially threatening items for you to find	2.6%
Sneaked into your home or car and did things to scare you by letting you know they had been there	1.6%

- More undergraduate respondents reported experiencing the assessed behaviors than graduate respondents:
 - 17.5% of graduate respondents experienced the assessed behaviors
 - 39.1% of undergraduate respondents experienced the assessed behaviors
- A higher percentage of respondents who identified as another gender reported experiencing the assessed behaviors compared to women and men:
 - 30% of male respondents experienced the assessed behaviors
 - 36.5% of female respondents experienced the assessed behaviors
 - 49% of respondents of another gender identified experienced the assessed behaviors
- A higher percentage of respondents who identified as an identity other than straight reported experiencing the assessed behaviors compared to respondents who identified as straight:
 - 30.2% of straight respondents experienced dating violence
 - 43.3% respondents with an identity other than straight experienced dating violence
- Respondents whose racial or ethnic identity was categorized as URM reported experiencing the highest rates of the assessed behaviors:
 - 26.1% of international respondents experienced the assessed behaviors
 - 29.8% of domestic Asian respondents experienced the assessed behaviors
 - 36.9% of domestic White respondents experienced the assessed behaviors
 - 39.1% of domestic URM respondents experienced the assessed behaviors

Sexual Harassment

Respondents were asked a series of questions about behaviors related to sexual harassment or differential treatment that they had experienced by other students, as well as by faculty and staff.

The tables below indicate the percentage of respondents who reported that they had experienced these behaviors at least once since enrolling.

Respondents were asked: *Since you enrolled at Brandeis, have you been in a situation in which a student:*

Question	Percent
Treated you "differently" because of your sex	40.2%
Put you down or was condescending to you because of your sex	34.1%
Made offensive sexist remarks	33.8%
Made unwelcome attempts to draw you into a discussion of sexual matters	24.7%
Repeatedly told sexual stories or jokes that were offensive to you	24.1%
Displayed, used, or distributed sexist or suggestive materials	19.9%
Made unwanted attempts to establish a romantic sexual relationship with you despite your efforts to discourage it	19.1%
Made gestures or used body language of a sexual nature which embarrassed or offended you?	17.7%
Continued to ask you for dates, drinks, dinner, etc., even though you said "no"	12.3%
Sent or posted unwelcome sexual comments, jokes or pictures by text, email, social media, or other electronic means	11.5%
Spread unwelcome sexual rumors about you by text, email, social media, or other electronic means	9.8%
Targeted you with homophobic or transphobic comments or images by text, email, social media, or other electronic means	5.2%

Respondents were asked: *Since you enrolled at Brandeis, have you been in a situation in which a faculty member, instructor, or staff member:*

Question	Percent
Treated you "differently" because of your sex	21.1%
Made offensive sexist remarks	14.2%
Put you down or was condescending to you because of your sex	13.8%
Displayed, used, or distributed sexist or suggestive materials	10.9%
Made offensive remarks about your appearance, body, or sexual activities	7.3%

Repeatedly told sexual stories or jokes that were offensive to you	6.6%
Made gestures or used body language of a sexual nature which embarrassed or offended you	4.3%
Made unwelcome attempts to draw you into a discussion of sexual matters	3.6%
Touched you in a way that made you feel uncomfortable	2.9%
Made unwanted attempts to establish a romantic sexual relationship with you despite your efforts to discourage it	2.7%
Made you feel like you were being bribed with some sort of reward or special treatment to engage in sexual behavior	1.8%
Made you feel threatened with some sort of retaliation for not being sexually cooperative	1.5%
Implied better treatment if you were sexually cooperative	1.5%
Made unwanted attempts to stroke, fondle, or kiss you	1.4%
Treated you badly for refusing to have sex	1.3%

Perceptions of Campus Climate

The survey included questions that asked students to reflect on their overall experience with the Brandeis campus community and were asked specifically about the institutional support they or another student would receive if an incident of sexual misconduct took place.

- A majority of respondents (76.7%) indicated that they “agree” or “strongly agree” that they know where to go to get information, support, and help on campus if themselves or another student experienced sexual misconduct. Conversely, 11.2% of respondents indicated that they “disagree” or “strongly disagree” that they know where to go for this information or support.
- Among respondents, 64.6% indicated that they believe it is “likely” or “very likely” that Brandeis would take the report seriously if a student reported an incident of sexual misconduct. Conversely, 15.6% of respondents indicated that they believe it is “unlikely” or “very unlikely” that Brandeis would take the report seriously.
- A majority of respondents indicated they “agree” or “strongly agree” that Brandeis would support a person reporting sexual misconduct (59.7%) and take steps to protect the safety of that person (59.4%). Conversely, 16% of respondents indicated that they “disagree” or “strongly disagree” that Brandeis would support a person reporting sexual misconduct, and 17.2% of respondents indicated that they “disagree” or “strongly disagree” that Brandeis would protect the safety of that person.

- Fewer than half of students responding (42.1%) felt it was “likely” or “very likely” that Brandeis would take action to address factors that may have led to the sexual misconduct, while 32.2% felt it was “unlikely” or “very unlikely.”

Student Awareness of Campus Resources Related to Sexual Misconduct

The survey also sought to gauge student knowledge about available resources related to sexual assault and misconduct at Brandeis, including services, policies and procedures, and training and informational sessions.

Respondents were asked: *How aware are you of the function of the campus and community resources specifically related to sexual misconduct response?*

Campus/Community Resource	Percent Somewhat/ Very/Extremely Aware
Prevention, Advocacy & Resource Center (PARC)	87.9%
Dean of Students Office (DOSO)	51.6%
Office of Equal Opportunity (OEO)	79.2%
Brandeis Counseling Center (BCC)	89.6%
Health Center	84.2%

Perceptions of Institutional Response

Respondents who reported any incident of misconduct (36.8% percent of respondents, n=410) were asked additional questions about their engagement with Brandeis and the institution’s response.

- A majority of respondents who experienced an incident of misconduct (59.5%, n=224) did not tell anyone or report before answering this survey.
- The most common reasons (students could select multiple reasons) cited for not reporting incidents of misconduct were:
 - “I did not think it was serious enough to contact any of these programs or services” (46.4%, n=104)
 - “I could handle it myself” (38.8%, n=87)
 - “I felt embarrassed, ashamed, or that it would be too emotionally difficult” (22.3%, n=50)
 - “I didn’t think these resources would give me the help I needed” (21.0%, n=47)

The 104 respondents who indicated they experienced an incident of misconduct and did not report because they did not think it was serious enough were asked follow up questions. The most common reasons respondents did not think an incident was serious enough were:

- “I was not injured or hurt” (83.7%, n=87)
- “Events like this seem common” (47.1%, n=49)
- “The event happened in a context that began consensually” (44.2%, n=46)

Bystander Intervention

The survey asked students how often they engaged in various bystander intervention behaviors. Because of the way these questions were worded, it is possible that respondents did not understand that "N/A" should be used if a respondent never had to intervene in the way described, and "Never" should be used if they had an opportunity to intervene and did not do so.

- A majority of respondents (65.4%) engaged in at least one bystander intervention behavior "Sometimes," "Most of the Time," or "Always."

Respondents were asked: *When the following situations arose at Brandeis, how often did you do any of the following?*

Behavior	Percent of respondents who indicated "sometimes," "most of the time," or "always" (not including those who indicated "N/A")
Walked a friend who has had too much to drink or is very high home from a party, bar, or other social event	62.8%
Ask someone who looks very upset at a party if they are okay or need help	59.8%
Talked to the friends of a drunk or high person to make sure they don't leave him/her/them behind at a party, bar, or other social event	59.5%
Spoke up against sexist jokes	56.3%
Intervene with a friend who was being verbally abusive to another person	37.2%
Intervene with a friend who was being physically abusive to another person	29.1%
Tried to distract someone who was trying to take a drunk or high person to another room or trying to get them to do something sexual	27.7%