

BARNARD COLLEGE CAMPUS CLIMATE SURVEY

2023 SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Sensitivity Warning: the following summary includes information regarding students' reported experience of incidents of harassment and sexual violence.

INTRODUCTION

In April 2023, all enrolled students (N=3,034) were invited to respond to the Barnard Student Campus Climate Survey. The survey was designed to gather information about student knowledge and experience related to discrimination and harassment, to raise awareness about student experiences and campus resources, and to expand the conversation and engagement opportunities related to these important issues. Of the 476 students who responded to the survey, 267 indicated an identity part of the LGBTQIA¹ community and 261 were "students of color"². The overall response rate was 15.6%.

BARNARD RESOURCES AND EDUCATION

Resources are not effective unless students are familiar with what is available and how to access support options. A strong majority of Barnard students indicate familiarity with a range of medical and mental health resources, as well as campus programs. We continue to seek to increase student awareness of all programs and resources, as well as staff and faculty awareness, so they are able to refer students accordingly.

Detailed resource information can be found on Barnard's website at

<https://barnard.edu/cares/nondiscrimination-and-title-ix/support>

Students may seek support at Furman Counseling Center by calling 212-854-2092. Any student seeking support or resources related to sexual violence/intimate partner violence can access the SVR Rape Crisis/AntiViolence Support Center by calling 212-854-4357 (HELP); off-campus support at Mt. Sinai St. Luke's Crime Victim's Treatment Center (CVTC) at 212-523-4728 or New York City Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project at 212-714-1141; or online support and information at www.rainn.org. During the 2021-22 academic year, all Barnard incoming first-year and transfer students received policy education and sexual violence and bystander intervention introduction workshops during the New Student Orientation Program (NSOP). The Barnard-Columbia committee of staff continued to offer Step Up! bystander intervention training throughout the year. Some staff and more than 21 Peer Educators (Well Woman, now The Wellness Spot, and Barnard SVR volunteers) completed 'train the trainer' education to assist in providing bystander intervention workshops and discussions across our community. Barnard staff in Community Safety, Residential Life & Housing, Health Services, Student Experience and Engagement, and across student services, also receive an introduction to bystander intervention training at least once a year.

¹ Whether a respondent is coded as LGBTQIA is based on a question asking respondents to select their identity from various sexuality and gender options. Respondents who selected any combination besides "heterosexual" and "woman" were given a LGBTQIA tag.

² Student of Color includes the race and ethnicity categories of Hispanic or Latino, American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Black or African American, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and Middle Eastern/ North African

Survey Results

The following discussion of survey results is organized by five categories:

- I. student perceptions of Barnard's campus climate;
- II. student experiences of harassment and sexual violence;
- III. student perceptions of Barnard's response to harassment and sexual violence; and
- IV. student awareness of policy, procedures, and resources;
- V. student participation in prevention education and willingness to help.

STUDENT PERCEPTIONS OF CAMPUS CLIMATE

Students were asked the following questions about the general campus climate and their sense of belonging at Barnard and at Columbia. Those surveyed reported positive experiences related to connecting with other students, feeling safe on campus, feeling valued in the classroom, and relationships with faculty, staff, and administrators. Some individuals surveyed reported varied experiences related to belonging at both Barnard and Columbia (see following table).

Table 1.1

Below are statements about the general climate at Barnard. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each.

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
Faculty, staff, and administrators at Barnard are genuinely concerned about students' welfare	25%	55%	8%	9%	3%
Faculty, staff, and administrators at Barnard treat students fairly	24%	54%	11%	9%	2%
Barnard students are genuinely concerned about the welfare of other students	38%	43%	11%	5%	2%
I feel valued in the classroom/learning environment	33%	43%	15%	8%	2%
I feel like I am a part of the Barnard community	32%	41%	15%	9%	4%
I feel like I am a part of the Columbia community	11%	44%	22%	18%	6%
I feel safe on this campus	37%	42%	13%	5%	3%

STUDENT EXPERIENCES OF HARRASSMENT AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

78% of responding students reported that they know someone who has been sexually assaulted. When broken down by sexuality, 81% of LGBTQIA students know someone who has been sexually assaulted.

Table 2.1

Do you know anyone who has ever been sexually assaulted?			
	All Respondents	LGBTQIA+	Student of Color
Yes	78%	81%	69%
No	12%	11%	17%
Unsure	10%	8%	13%

The following table shows the overall percentages of individuals surveyed who reported experiencing each behavior in the previous twelve months alongside results for on-campus³ and off-campus locations for each behavior. The most prevalent experience was receiving unwelcome sexual comments, jokes, gestures, or looks (much more heavily off-campus at 49%). Next most common was hearing derogatory comments, jokes, or gestures regarding race or ethnicity, experienced by almost 29% of respondents. Most, but not all, behaviors were experienced by more students off campus than on campus.

Table 2.2

In the last twelve months, have you experienced someone engaging in the following behaviors toward you?
[All Respondents]

	On campus	Off campus	Total
Made derogatory comments, jokes, or gestures regarding race or ethnicity	16%	24%	29%
Expressed derogatory comments, jokes, or names regarding a person's religion or cultural beliefs	11%	11%	19%
Called you a homophobic name	1%	12%	12%
Made unwelcome sexual comments, jokes, gestures, or looks	20%	49%	53%
Showed, gave, or left sexual pictures, web pages, illustrations, or messages you didn't want to see	6%	10%	13%
Touched, grabbed, or pinched you in an unwelcome sexual way	9%	15%	21%
Asked you to do something sexual in exchange for something (e.g., a better grade, a recommendation, class notes)	1%	2%	2%
Blocked your path, cornered you, or followed you in an unwelcome sexual way	6%	21%	22%
Forced you to kiss them	2%	4%	5%
Forced you to do something sexual, other than kissing	3%	3%	5%
A course of conduct sufficient to cause you to fear for your personal safety or the safety of others; or suffer substantial emotional distress (stalking behavior)	6%	8%	12%
Violence toward you, when you are or have been in a romantic or intimate relationship with that individual (dating violence)	2%	2%	3%

Respondents who are students of color were more likely to report experiencing “derogatory comments, jokes, or gestures regarding race or ethnicity” and “derogatory comments, jokes, or names regarding a person's religion or cultural beliefs”.

³ On campus includes the following: at a college event, on Barnard campus, on Columbia campus, in a residence hall, in a Barnard class, in a Columbia class, and at an on-campus job. Off campus includes the following: at an off campus job, on the street surrounding campus, in the subway, and other non-campus locations.

Table 2.3

In the last twelve months, have you experienced someone engaging in the following behaviors toward you?
[% responding yes]

	All Respondents	LGBTQIA+	Student of Color
Made derogatory comments, jokes, or gestures regarding race or ethnicity	29%	30%	41%
Expressed derogatory comments, jokes, or names regarding a person's religion or cultural beliefs	19%	19%	20%
Called you a homophobic name	12%	20%	11%
Made unwelcome sexual comments, jokes, gestures, or looks	53%	59%	45%
Showed, gave, or left sexual pictures, web pages, illustrations, or messages you didn't want to see	13%	14%	14%
Touched, grabbed, or pinched you in an unwelcome sexual way	21%	26%	18%
Asked you to do something sexual in exchange for something (e.g., a better grade, a recommendation, class notes)	2%	3%	2%
Blocked your path, cornered you, or followed you in an unwelcome sexual way	22%	23%	20%
Forced you to kiss them	5%	7%	6%
Forced you to do something sexual, other than kissing	5%	6%	4%
A course of conduct sufficient to cause you to fear for your personal safety or the safety of others; or suffer substantial emotional distress (stalking behavior)	12%	11%	11%
Violence toward you, when you are or have been in a romantic or intimate relationship with that individual (dating violence)	3%	5%	3%

The following table shows the percentages of respondents reporting that they witnessed each behavior in the previous twelve months and results for on-campus and off-campus locations for each behavior.

Table 2.4

**In the last twelve months, have you witnessed someone engaging in the following behaviors toward others?
[All Respondents]**

	On campus	Off campus	Total
Made derogatory comments, jokes, or gestures regarding a person's race or ethnicity	19%	26%	35%
Expressed derogatory comments, jokes, or names regarding a person's religion or cultural beliefs	15%	17%	25%
Called another person a homophobic name	7%	15%	19%
Made unwelcome sexual comments, jokes, gestures, or looks	16%	34%	41%
Touched, grabbed, or pinched someone in an unwelcome sexual way	7%	11%	15%
Asked another person to do something sexual in exchange for something (e.g., a better grade, a recommendation, class notes)	1%	2%	3%
Blocked another person's way, cornered, or followed another person in a sexual way	3%	9%	11%
Forced another person to kiss them	4%	3%	6%
Forced another person to do something sexual, other than kissing	3%	2%	4%
A course of conduct directed toward a specific individual, sufficient to cause a reasonable person to fear for personal safety or the safety of others; or suffer substantial emotional distress (stalking behavior)	3%	6%	7%
Violence by a person toward another individual, when they are or have been in a romantic or intimate relationship (dating violence)	1%	3%	4%

15% of respondents experienced at least one type of sexual assault in the past 12 months (see the following table). The most common circumstance was being overwhelmed by pressure to have sex play (experienced by 10% of respondents), followed by unwanted sex play or intercourse while under the influence of alcohol or other substances (10%).

Table 2.5

**During the past twelve months, have you had sex play (fondling, kissing, touching, but not intercourse) when you didn't want to because...
[% responding yes]**

	All Respondents	LGBTQIA+	Student of Color
you were overwhelmed by the other person's arguments and/or pressure?	13%	16%	12%
the other person used their position of authority (boss, teacher, supervisor) to make you?	2%	1%	2%
the other person threatened or used some degree of physical force (twisting your arm, holding you down etc.) to make you?	2%	2%	2%
you were under the influence of alcohol or other substances?	7%	10%	6%
you were given alcohol or other substances?	3%	5%	3%
you were pressured, forced or otherwise did not provide consent?	6%	8%	5%
Any experience	17%	21%	16%

Students reporting any experience of sexual assault were asked about the identity of the perpetrator(s). This question was not linked to the specific experiences, and students could identify more than one category to account for multiple assaults. The most commonly mentioned perpetrators are Columbia University students (33%), acquaintances not affiliated with the College or University (28%), followed by students from other colleges or universities (22%) and unknown strangers (19%). No respondents selected Columbia or Barnard faculty or staff

Table 2.6

67% of respondents who were assaulted disclosed to friends or roommates. 14% disclosed to an off campus counselor/treatment provider and 17% reported to their family members.

Table 2.7

**With whom, if anyone, did you speak about the experience?
(among the 58 students reporting assault)**

Relationship	% disclosed
No one, I have not told anyone	22%
Friend(s) or roommate(s)	67%
Intimate partner	21%
Family member(s)	17%
Off campus counselor/treatment provider	14%
On campus counselor (confidential resource)	9%
Other (please specify)	9%
Campus authorities (Director of Nondiscrimination & Title IX or Community Safety)	7%
On campus survivor advocate (confidential resource)	5%
College staff member (e.g., RA, Res Life staff, Dean, Professor)	3%
Law enforcement	2%
Off campus survivor advocate	0%

In a more general question, students were asked about their likelihood of reporting harassment or discrimination (including sexual harassment, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking), should they experience it.

Following are the percentages of respondents indicating they were very or somewhat likely to report by various mechanisms:

Table 2.8

If you were to experience harassment or discrimination (including sexual harassment, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking), how likely would you be to report your concern to:
[% reporting "Very likely" or "Somewhat likely"]

	All respondents	LGBTQIA+	Student of Color
Title IX Coordinator	68%	68%	70%
Via electronic form	62%	64%	63%
Barnard Community Safety	48%	47%	50%
Residential Life staff member (RA, HD, Associate Director, Office Staff)	43%	43%	45%
Another staff or faculty member	39%	40%	39%
None of the above	30%	31%	29%
Class Dean	27%	24%	29%

Students who expressed no willingness to report discrimination or harassment were then asked why they were reluctant to do so. Note that there was no connection between answers to these questions and the specific roles they were uncomfortable with. Following are the percentages of respondents who selected each reason for any reluctance to report harassment or discrimination:

Table 2.9

303	
Reason for expressed reluctance to report	
Concern that matter will not being taken seriously	55%
Knowing these staff are not completely confidential	47%
Concern related to my own reputation	44%
Fear of retaliation	41%
Don't know the procedure	40%
Fear of not being believed	36%
Feeling responsible/blaming self	32%
Concern related to the reputation of another involved party	26%

STUDENT PERCEPTIONS OF BARNARD'S RESPONSE TO MISCONDUCT

Students were asked whether Barnard proactively informs students of their rights and responsibilities as they pertain to sexual discrimination, harassment, and violence.

Table 3.1

Would you say Barnard proactively informs students of their rights and responsibilities as they pertain to incidents of discrimination/harassment and violence (including sexual harassment and assault)?

	All Respondents	LGBTQIA+	Student of Color
Yes	50%	49%	50%
No	20%	21%	20%
Unsure	31%	30%	29%

At least 50% of respondents agreed that Barnard would follow-through with the following responses to misconduct.

Table 3.2

To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

If a student were to report sexual misconduct, Barnard would...

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Not sure	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
Provide support for the person making the report.	30%	43%	17%	7%	2%
Keep knowledge of the report limited to those who need to know in order for the College to respond properly.	41%	35%	16%	5%	2%
Take steps to protect the safety of the person making the report.	31%	34%	22%	8%	4%
Take steps to protect the person making the report from retaliation.	27%	33%	28%	10%	3%
Investigate the report promptly.	23%	31%	29%	13%	4%
Take action to remedy any underlying factors on campus that may have led to sexual misconduct.	18%	30%	28%	16%	8%

STUDENT AWARENESS OF POLICY, PROCEDURES, AND RESOURCES

A series of questions asked about students' awareness of Barnard's procedures for addressing complaints of sexual discrimination or harassment and sexual violence. About 81% of respondents were confident they could locate contact information for Barnard's Title IX Coordinator.

Most students are at least somewhat familiar with a range of campus programs and resources, as shown in the following table. Being Barnard and the Rape Crisis /Anti-Violence Support Center are the programs least known to Barnard students

Table 4.1

How familiar are you with each of the following campus programs?

	Completely familiar	Somewhat familiar	Not familiar
Furman Counseling Center	41%	45%	14%
Primary Care Health Service	49%	39%	12%
Being Barnard Violence Prevention Program	5%	23%	72%
The Wellness Spot	18%	45%	37%
Residential Life Programs	26%	48%	26%
Rape Crisis /Anti-Violence Support Center (SVR, RC/AVSC)	7%	29%	64%
ASAP (Alcohol and Substance Awareness Program)	8%	35%	56%
Barnard Student Government Association meetings	17%	51%	32%
Barnard Student Life-sponsored events (such as Barnard Blue, heritage month events, etc.)	14%	45%	41%
Barnard recognized organization events (such as McAc, Skip Stop, etc.)	26%	52%	23%
Columbia recognized events (such as Inter-Greek Council organization, cultural organization, etc.)	17%	41%	42%

Forty-five percent (45%) of respondents were not aware that the campus definition of affirmative consent differs from criminal definitions of consent in New York State. Students were then asked if they believed these definitions **should** differ. Following are responses to this question:

Table 4.2

Do you believe the campus definition of consent should differ from the criminal definitions of consent in the State of New York?

Yes, it makes sense that these definitions would differ	36%
No, I do not think these definitions should differ	14%
I am unsure	50%

STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN PREVENTION EDUCATION AND WILLINGNESS TO HELP

Students were asked about participation/attendance at prevention education opportunities during the 2022-2023 academic year. Following are the responses.

Table 5.1

Have you attended any of the following during the current academic year? Select all that apply

A Step Up! Bystander Intervention presentation or training	13%
A Being Barnard presentation, event, or training	17%
A workshop, speaker, discussion, or campus event related to sexual violence prevention (including discussion of relationship violence, stalking, rape culture)	22%
None of the above	67%

Most students feel confident that they could be supportive if someone disclosed to them that they had been sexually assaulted. Only 14% said that they don't feel prepared.

Table 5.2

If someone you know disclosed to you that they were recently sexually assaulted, do you feel prepared (sufficiently aware of resources) to provide a supportive response?

Yes, I'm aware of a range of resources on and off campus and am confident I could offer options and support	24%
Yes, I have some information and feel I could help locate information about reporting options and support resources	61%
No, I don't feel prepared	14%

In response to a series of ten questions about likelihood to help in a series of circumstances (the “bystander willingness to help scale”), the vast majority of students (94% or more) indicated at least some likelihood to help in each situation (see following table). Students expressed the least comfort with helping in situations of possible relationship abuse. Consistent with research, when there is less ambiguity there is greater likelihood to intervene, with 86% of students indicating they would be extremely likely to “Tell someone if I think their drink was spiked with a drug.”

Table 5.3

For each of the following statements, please indicate how likely you would be to engage in the stated behavior to help someone familiar to you (as in, someone within the campus community).

	Very likely	Somewhat likely	Somewhat unlikely	Very unlikely
I would approach someone I know if I think they are in an abusive relationship and let them know I'm here to help.	47%	43%	8%	1%
I would let someone who I suspect has been sexually assaulted know I'm available for help and support.	52%	38%	8%	2%
I would ask someone who seems upset if they are okay or need help.	64%	32%	4%	0%
If someone said they had an unwanted sexual experience, but don't call it rape, I would express concern or offer to help.	67%	30%	1%	1%
I would express concern to someone I know who has unexplained bruises that may be signs of abuse in the relationship.	59%	33%	7%	1%
I would stop and check in on someone who looks intoxicated when they are being taken upstairs at a party.	63%	30%	6%	1%
If I were to see someone sitting close to a woman I know, and by the look on the woman's face I can tell she is uncomfortable, I would ask the woman if she is okay or try to start a conversation with her.	61%	31%	6%	1%
If I were to see a person and their partner's fist was clenched around their arm and the person looked upset, I would ask if everything is okay.	42%	39%	19%	1%
I would ask someone who is being shoved or yelled at by their partner if they need help.	56%	30%	12%	2%
I would tell someone if I think their drink was spiked with a drug.	86%	12%	2%	0%