

Executive Summary

The Champlain Culture of Consent survey was conducted for multiple purposes that included assessing the prevalence of sexual violence on our campus and the campus climate around sexual violence in order to both understand our own setting and to develop appropriate educational programs for the campus.

All traditional undergraduate students, both full and part-time, in Burlington, Montreal and Dublin, along with MFA students studying on our Burlington campus, were invited to participate (n=2136). Of those, 873 students clicked through to the survey, 790 completed some portion of the survey, and 699 answered nearly all questions resulting in a response rate of 32.7%. A higher proportion of respondents were females (47%, versus 38% of the invitees) and residential students (70%, versus 63% of the invitees).

How extensive is nonconsensual sexual contact¹? What do we know about those incidents?

These statistics are based on the students who responded to most questions on the survey.

1. Nonconsensual sexual contact by physical force or threat of force: 13.7% (96/699 students)
2. Nonconsensual sexual contact while incapacitated: 7.9% (55/699 students, some overlapping with #1)
3. Overall estimate of likelihood of nonconsensual sexual contact:
 - a. Raw estimate: 21.6% (151 incidents indicated on the survey, 699 students)
 - b. Adjusted estimate: 18.0% (adjusted to account for the disproportionate response by female identifying students)
4. Additionally, 15.6% (109 students) indicated attempted, but uncompleted, sexual contact by force or threat of force
5. A total of 260 “nonconsensual sexual acts or attempts” were indicated by 180 different students.

Students who identify as women, live off-campus and are LGBQA+² are more likely to report incidents of nonconsensual sexual contact than would be expected by their representation in our survey respondents.

The vast majority of incidents (87%) involved individuals that students knew prior to the incident. Forty-one respondents indicated incidents that involved Champlain students and one indicated the involvement of a Champlain faculty or staff member. Where the gender of the offender was indicated, 87% were reported to be men.

While the vast majority (79%) of Champlain students providing details about an indicated incident of nonconsensual sexual violence (n=96) told someone about the incident, only nine (9%) students said they had used the College’s formal procedures for reporting. A total of 21 students said they spoke to a counselor, residential life, student life, or campus public safety staff member. Those who didn’t tell anyone most commonly offered: wanting to forget, thinking the incident wasn’t serious enough, or not

¹ Nonconsensual contact is defined as forced touching of sexual nature, oral sex or sexual penetration as a result of coercion, physical force, threatening to harm physically or emotionally, or while incapacitated.

² LGBQA+ = Lesbian, gay, bisexual, questioning, asexual or other sexual orientations