

Dickinson College – HEDS Sexual Assault Survey 2024

About the HEDS Survey

Dickinson College administered the [HEDS Sexual Assault Campus Climate Survey](#) in the Spring of 2024. HEDS is a questionnaire for undergraduate students developed and administered by the Higher Education Data-Sharing Consortium, which is a membership organization of private colleges and universities that share knowledge and expertise to advance undergraduate liberal arts education, inclusive excellence, and student success.

The questionnaire asks students about their perceptions of their campus's climate for unwanted sexual contact and sexual assault, their perceptions of how their institution responds to sexual assaults, and whether and how often they have experienced unwanted sexual contact or sexual assault. Through this survey, the college is able to understand the overall campus climate and consider the data gathered to inform how we address sexual and gender-based misconduct, and further consider ways in which we can improve our practices and programs to best support a campus where we can all study, work and live in a safe and respectful environment. This summary of the data was prepared by the Office of Analytics & Institutional Research.

Response Rate

The survey was administered to students at Dickinson College in spring 2024 and results are compared to over 13,538 undergraduates at the 51 baccalaureate colleges that administered the HEDS Sexual Assault Campus Climate Survey during the current and prior three academic years.

We invited 2,095 students to take the survey. A total of 164 Dickinson College students responded for an overall response rate of 8%. This response rate is somewhat lower than the 12% of Dickinson students who took the survey last year and the response rate of 18% at all baccalaureate institutions.

- 59% of Dickinson students who took the survey identified as female; 29% of students identified as male; 11% of students identified as non-binary.
- 47% identified as heterosexual; 53% identified their sexual orientation as something other than heterosexual.
- 88% identified as white; 12% selected an ethnicity other than white.

We note that the demographic breakdown of Dickinson students who took the survey was quite similar to that of the students who took the survey across all baccalaureate institutions.

The results provide insight into the perceptions and experiences of many Dickinson College students and their peers at other liberal arts colleges.

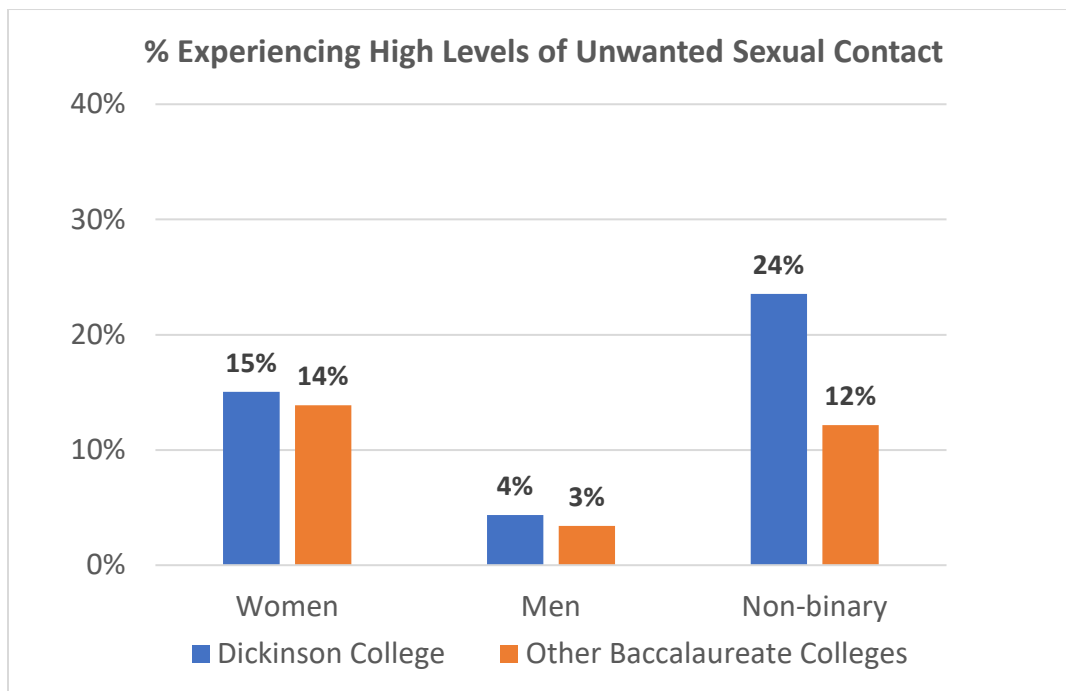
Spring 2024 Results and Key Findings

Unwanted Sexual Contact

We designated students as experiencing high levels of unwanted sexual contact when they reported that they experienced one or more of the following kinds of unwanted sexual contact "Often" or "Very often":

- Unwanted verbal behaviors – e.g., someone making sexual comments about your body or making unwelcome sexual advances
- Unwanted nonverbal behaviors – e.g., someone sending you sexual emails/texts, leering at you, or making lewd gestures
- Unwanted brief physical contact – e.g., someone engaging in any brief inappropriate or unwelcome touching of your body

The graph below depicts the percentage of Dickinson College students who experienced high levels of unwanted sexual contact compared to other baccalaureate institutions.



The most common form of unwanted sexual contact reported by all respondents, both at Dickinson College and at other schools, is unwanted verbal behavior. The following chart shows the percentage of respondents who said they "sometimes", "often", or "very often" experience each of the following:

<u>Type of unwanted sexual contact</u>	<u>Dickinson College</u>	<u>Baccalaureate Institutions</u>
Verbal (sexual comments about the respondent's body; sexual propositions or jokes)	28%	27%
Nonverbal (sending or showing sexual texts or pictures; posting sexual comments about the respondent; making lewd gestures)	12%	11%
Brief physical contact (brief groping, brief rubbing or brushing against the respondent)	14%	18%

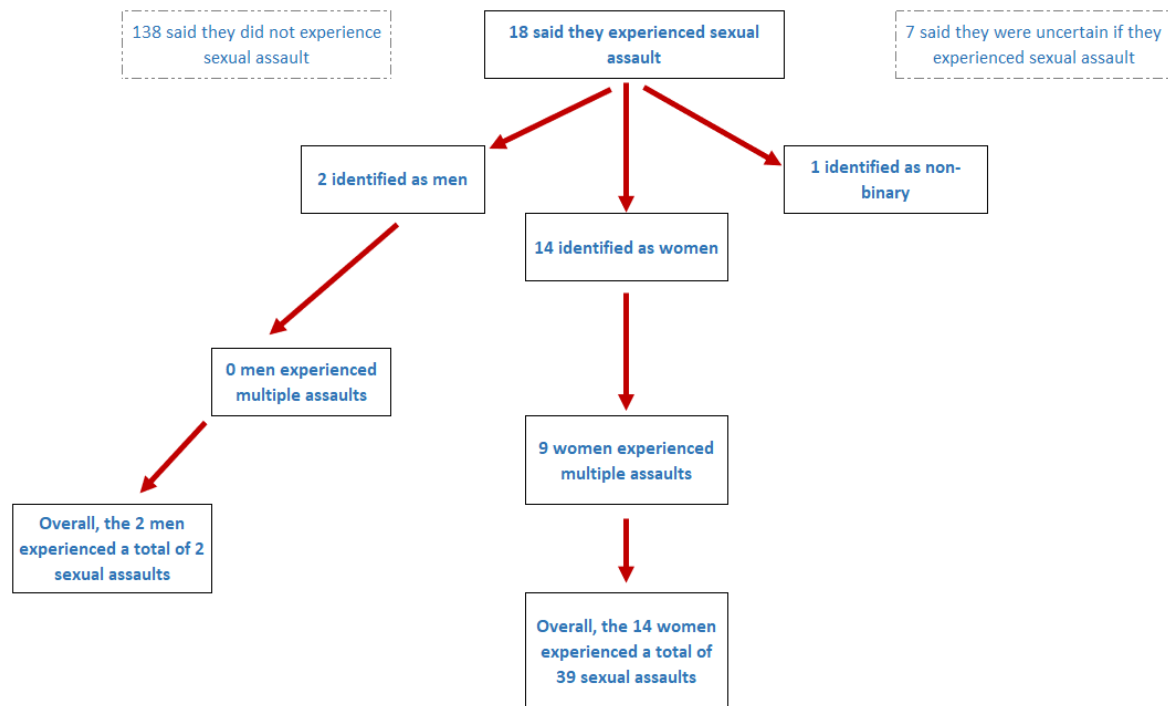
Sexual Assault Data

In the 2023–2024 survey, 163 undergraduate students from Dickinson College responded to the question:

“Since starting at your institution, have you been sexually assaulted while you were (a) on campus; (b) off campus at an event or program connected with your institution, including study abroad and internships; or (c) at a social activity or party near campus such as at an apartment, restaurant, or bar?”

When we asked this question, we provided students with the following definition of sexual assault:

- Touching of a sexual nature (kissing you, touching of private parts, grabbing, fondling, rubbing up against you in a sexual way, even if it was over your clothes)
- Oral sex (someone's mouth or tongue making contact with your genitals, or your mouth or tongue making contact with someone else's genitals)
- Vaginal sex (someone's penis being put in your vagina, or your penis being put into someone's vagina)
- Anal sex (someone's penis being put in your anus, or your penis being put into someone else's anus)
- Anal or vaginal penetration with a body part other than a penis or tongue, or by an object, like a bottle or candle
- Unwanted and nonconsensual sexual contact involving a penetrative act, including oral sex, anal sex, vaginal penetration, or sexual penetration with a finger



How does this compare to other institutions?

The reported rates of sexual assault at Dickinson are comparable to the other baccalaureate institutions:

- At Dickinson, 1 in 23 students who identify as male reported experiencing assault, compared to 1 in 24 at our peer schools.
- At Dickinson, 1 in 7 students who identify as female reported experiencing assault, compared to 1 in 8 at our peer schools.
- At Dickinson, 1 in 18 non-binary students reported experiencing assault, compared to 1 in 9 male students at our peer schools.

Where did the Sexual Assault(s) Occur?

For all 41 assaults reported, the victim was asked where the assault took place.

- 61% of assaults were said to have occurred in residential buildings.
- 13% of assaults occurred in a fraternity or sorority house.
- 4% occurred in study abroad, study away, or other off-campus study program.
- 17% occurred on campus, but not in a residential building.
- 2% occurred off-campus.

Of the incidents reported by Dickinson College students, 61% occurred in a residential building. At other baccalaureate colleges, the majority of assaults reported by respondents occurred in residence halls at a rate of 52%, while 22% took place off-campus.

Types of Sexual Assault

Students who had been the victim of sexual assaults were each asked to describe the details of one of the assaults that had occurred.

Dickinson students reported that of the 18 assaults described in detail:

- 100% were unwanted touching.
- 22% were vaginal sex.
- 28% were oral sex.
- 6% were penetration with an object; and
- 0% were anal sex.

At the other baccalaureate institutions in the survey, these are the comparable figures:

- 87% were unwanted touching.
- 38% were vaginal sex.
- 23% were oral sex.
- 8% were penetration with an object; and
- 6% were anal sex.

Who committed the Sexual Assault(s)?

Students who had been the victim of sexual assaults were each asked to describe the details of one of the assaults that had occurred.

Of the 18 sexual assaults that were described:

- 44% of the time the person who assaulted them was said to be a non-romantic friend or acquaintance.
- 44% were a casual date, or a hookup.
- 22% were a current romantic partner.
- 17% were a stranger.
- 11% were an ex-partner.

At the other participating baccalaureate colleges, these are the comparable figures:

- 48% were committed by a non-romantic friend or acquaintance.
- 30% was a casual date, or a hookup.
- 6% was a current romantic partner.
- 23% were committed by a stranger.

- 12% was an ex-partner.

Sexual Assault and Alcohol, Incapacitation, Force

Use of alcohol, drugs, incapacitation and physical force are common elements of assaults both at Dickinson College and elsewhere. The following statistics are based on the 18 Dickinson assaults that were described in detail.

Alcohol

- 72% of Dickinson students who reported having been assaulted indicated that the perpetrator had been drinking. At other baccalaureate schools, 65% of students who reported having been assaulted indicated that the perpetrator had been drinking.
- 50% of Dickinson students who reported having been assaulted indicated they themselves had been drinking. At other baccalaureate schools, 58% of students who reported having been assaulted indicated they themselves had been drinking.

Drugs

- 11% of Dickinson students who reported having been assaulted indicated that the perpetrator had been using drugs. In the comparison group, 24% of students who reported having been indicated that the perpetrator had been using drugs.
- 6% of Dickinson students who reported having been assaulted indicated they themselves had voluntarily taken or used drugs other than alcohol. In the comparison group, 13% of the students who reporting having been assaulted indicated they themselves had voluntarily taken or used drugs other than alcohol.
- 11% of Dickinson students who reported having been assaulted indicated they had been given a drug without their knowledge or consent. In the comparison group, 6% of the students who reporting having been assaulted indicated they had been given a drug without their knowledge or consent.

Incapacitation

- 44% of assaulted Dickinson students, and 43% of assaulted students at other baccalaureate schools, indicated that they were unable to provide consent because they were incapacitated (asleep, drugged, drunk, or passed out).

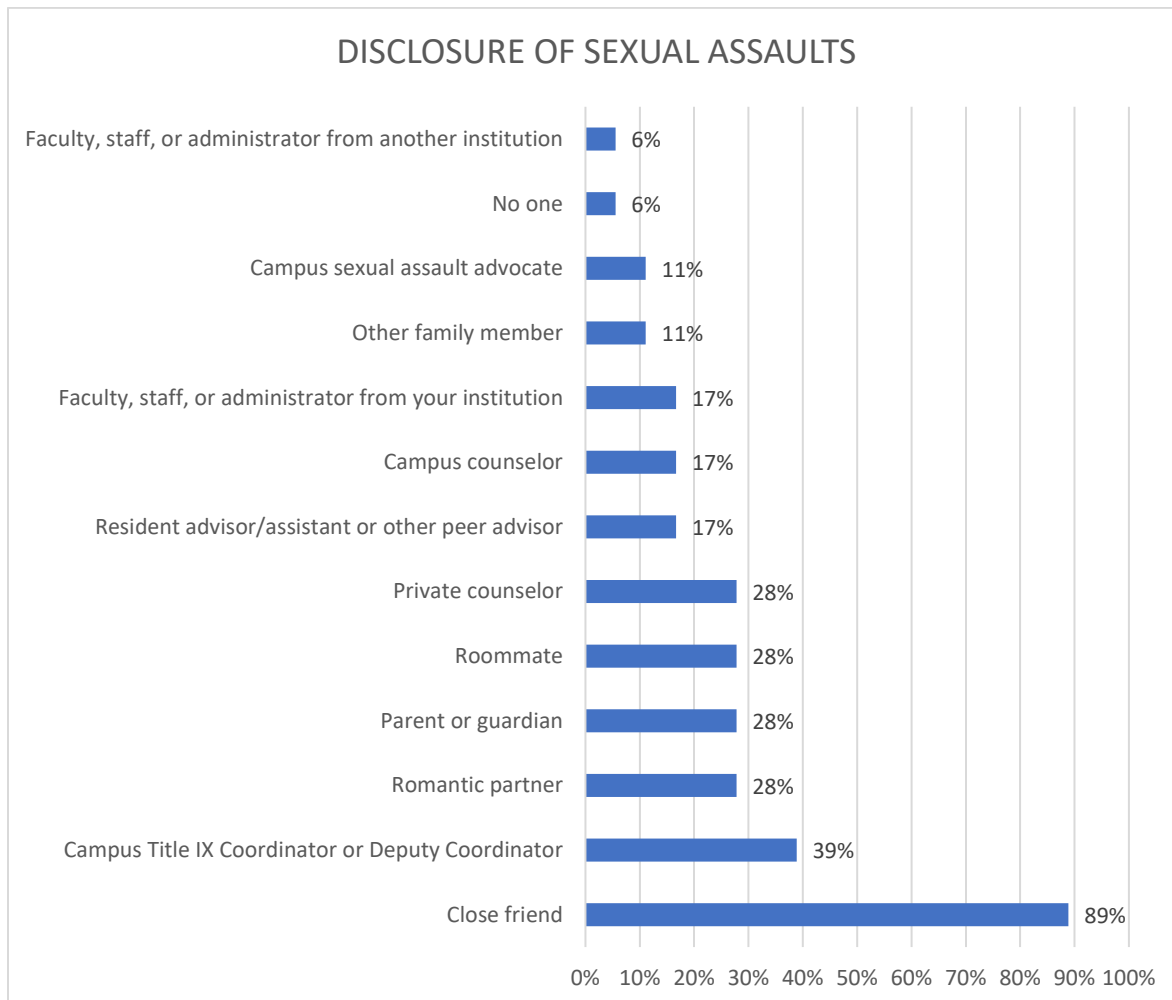
Force

- Dickinson students shared that in 29% of the assaults, physical force was used. In the comparison group, 42% of assaults involved physical force.
- 28% shared that threats to use force, coercion, or intimidation were used. In the comparison group, 40% of assaults involved use force, coercion, or intimidation.

The findings about sexual assaults at Dickinson are in line with national data as well as the results from the other Baccalaureate institutions participating in the HEDS survey, although drugs other than alcohol seem less common at Dickinson than at our peers.

Disclosure of Sexual Assaults

Most survey respondents who reported having been sexually assaulted, whether at Dickinson College or at the other participating institutions, chose not to use their college's procedures to file a formal report, but did choose to disclose the assault to someone.



Of those who reported a sexual assault, most confided in a close friend about their experience. 89% of the 18 students said they told a close friend, 28% said they told a roommate, 39% told the Title IX Coordinator or Deputy TIX Coordinator, 17% said they told a campus counselor, and 28% said they told a romantic partner. Only 6% indicated that they did not tell anyone.

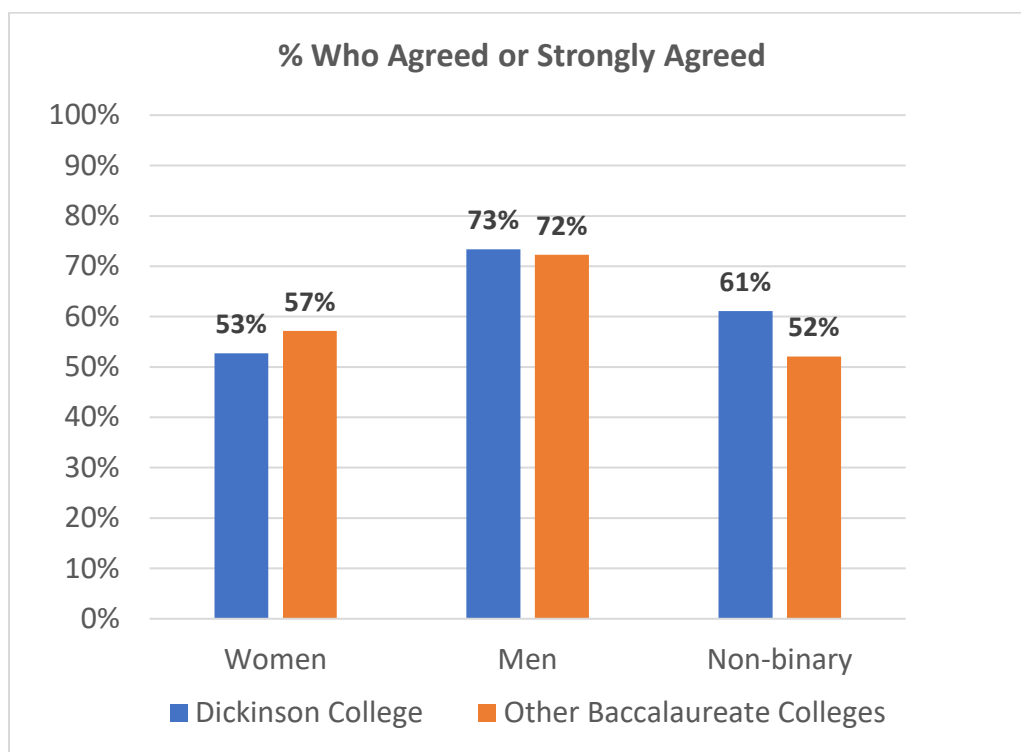
Of the 2 men who reported a sexual assault, one indicated that they told a close friend, while the other indicated they told a private counselor.

While only 35% of the Dickinson students indicated that they had used their school's formal reporting process, and only 23% of responding students at other institutions.

Bystander Beliefs and Behaviors

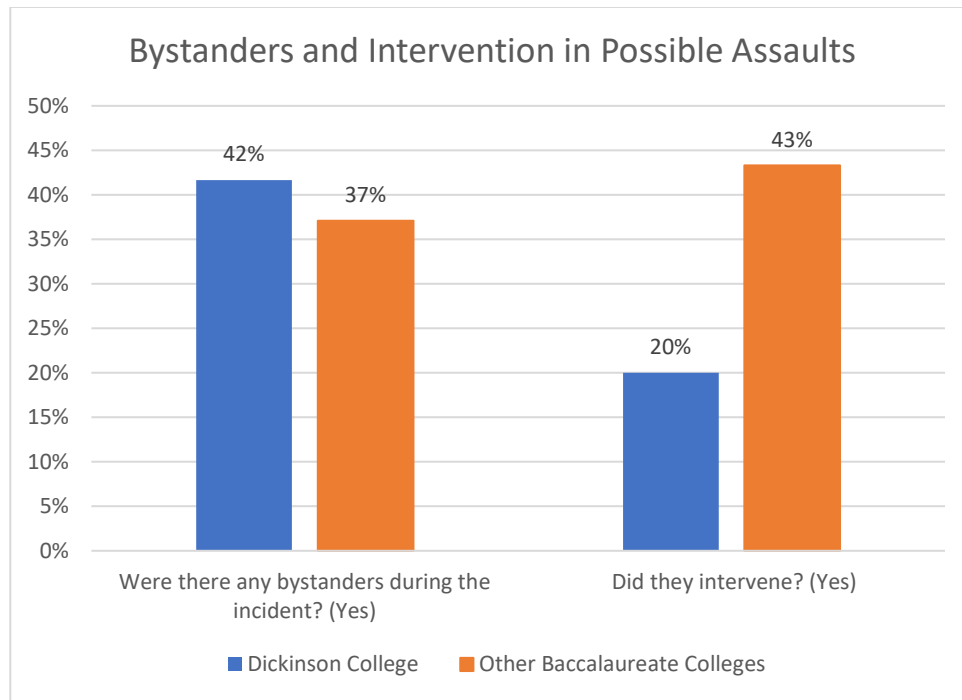
Similar to students at other institutions, a majority of the responding Dickinson College students believed that students would intervene if they witnessed a sexual assault. However, women were less likely to think that bystanders would intervene.

In answer to the question, "I believe that students at this institution would intervene if they witnessed a sexual assault" students responded in the following way:



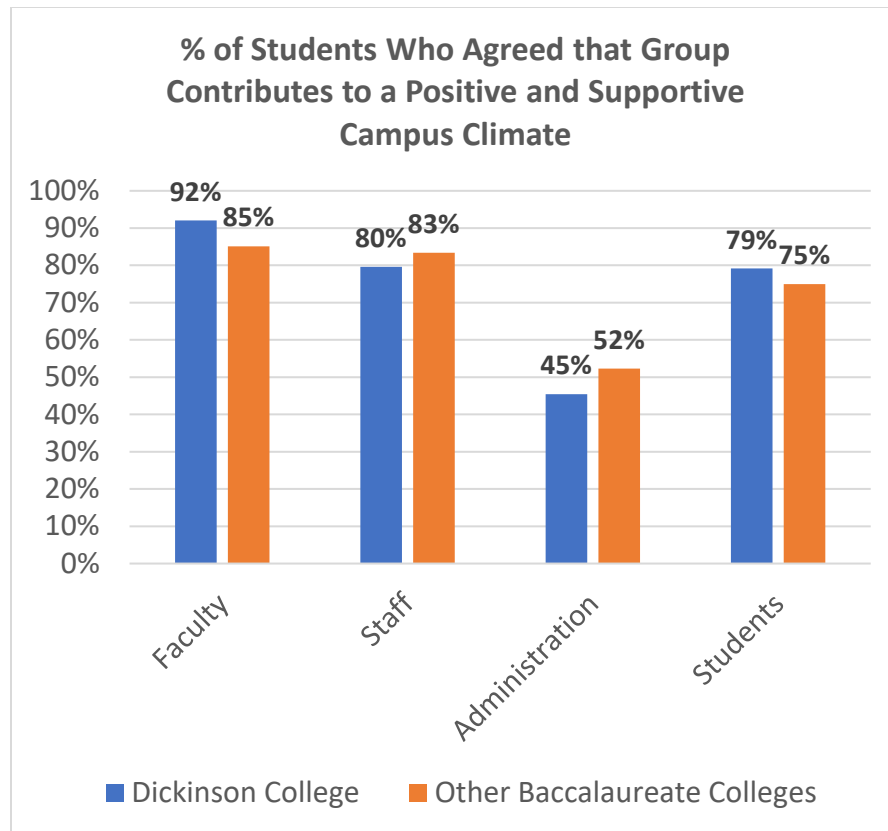
In practice, Dickinson students reported that bystanders were present at assaults much less frequently than students at the schools in the comparison group. Of the 18 sexual assaults described at Dickinson, bystanders were present at only one of them and in this case did not intervene. At other institutions 33% of assaults had bystanders present and 28% of the time a bystander intervened.

When the question is broadened to include not only actual assaults but also attempted assaults or incidents where the victim is not sure whether it was a sexual assault, the data is somewhat different as seen in the following table:



Campus Climate and Sexual Assault

The survey also asked students the extent to which different groups of people contribute to a positive and supportive campus climate at their institution. As before, we show the percentage of students who selected "Agree" or "Strongly Agree" for each group on campus, comparing responses of women and men at Dickinson with those of women and men at all baccalaureate institutions.



When asked about their own safety at college events, 27% of students said they either agree or strongly agree with the statement that “I do not believe that I or one of my friends is at risk for being sexually assaulted”, with 48% of students identifying as men and only 17% of students identifying as women sharing this belief. These numbers are somewhat lower than our peer institutions, where 35% of all students (29% of women and 52% of men) agree or strongly agree with that statement. If a sexual assault was reported then 60% of students either agree or strongly agree with the statement that “Campus officials would take the report seriously”, compared with 64% of students at participating baccalaureate institutions.