

Student Life Survey:

Student Relationships and Campus Climate

Center for the Study of Student Life

October 2011

INTRODUCTION

The Student Life survey, conducted in spring, 2011, measured aspects of students' outside-the-classroom experiences. The survey included items regarding the Ohio Union, Student Health Services, involvement and culture at Ohio State, and questions asked by Student Life Marketing.

Five thousand full-time students on the Columbus campus were randomly selected (in a sample stratified by class ranks) to receive survey invitations. Twelve hundred students responded, for a 24.0% response rate.

This brief highlights students' social and relational attitudes, behaviors, and feelings students have about Ohio State.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **76.8%** of students who lived on-campus often interacted with student peers outside the classroom, as compared to **62.9%** who lived off-campus..
- White students were the most likely (**72.1%**) to turn to family members for educational issues while black students are the least likely (**53.6%**).
- Students whose families had an annual income of less than \$25,000 were only half as likely (**33.3%**) to take part in Ohio State traditions as were other students (**60.1%**).
- White (**61.3%**) and Hispanic (**58.6%**) students participated in Ohio State traditions at higher rates than did Asian American (**43.2%**) and Black (**36.7%**) students.
- **61.2%** of students whose families had an annual income of less than \$25,000 were satisfied with their experiences at Ohio State, as compared with **80.0%** of other students.
- **100%** of Hispanic survey-takers indicated they feel they are a member of the Ohio State community and **80.0%** of Black students agreed.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Most of the students (76.6%) who took the survey lived off-campus; 23.4% of the survey respondents were on-campus students. Women and first-year students were somewhat under-represented on the survey, while Asian American students were somewhat over-represented.

Class Rank	%
First-Years	6.0%
Sophomores	14.1%
Juniors	19.3%
Seniors	34.9%
Graduates	20.0%
Professionals	5.8%

Ethnicity	%
Asian American	9.6%
Black	5.7%
Hispanic	2.7%
White	74.7%
Undisclosed	6.0%

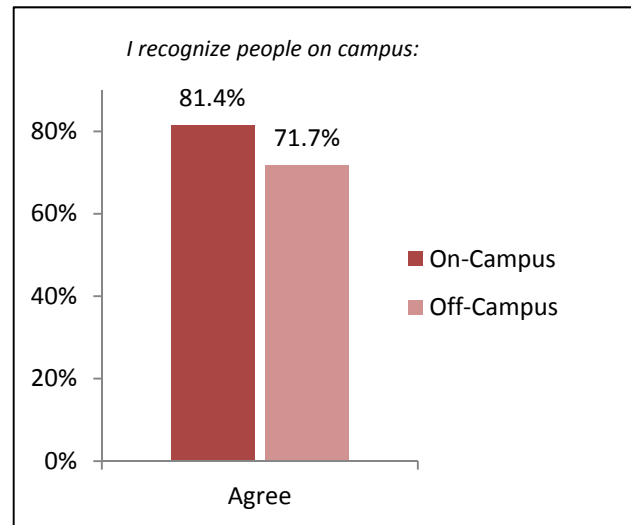
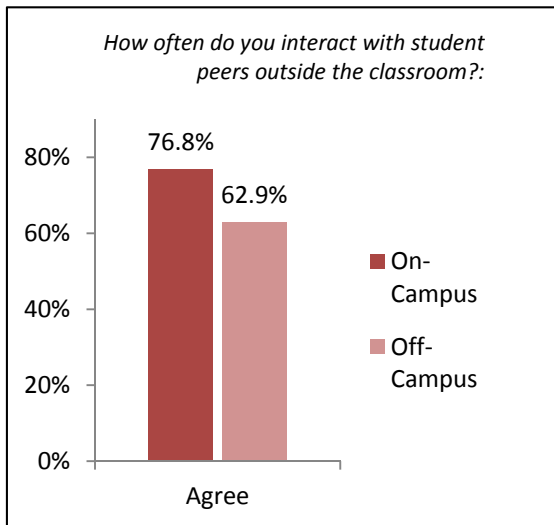
FINDINGS

This section highlights findings between demographic groups. **Any differences reported in this brief are significant at the $p < .05$ level.**

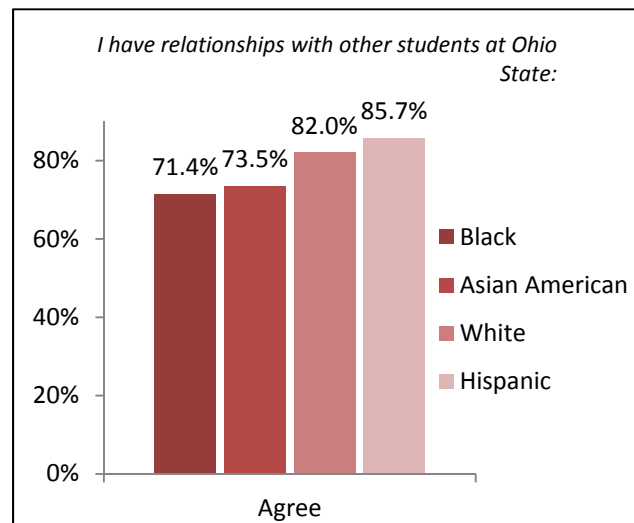
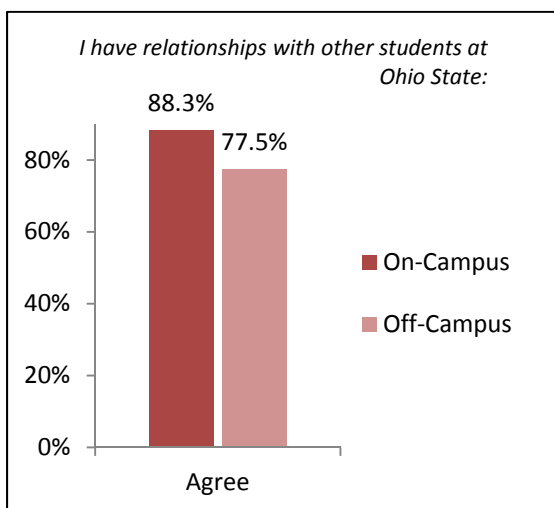
Throughout the brief, *Very Often* includes *Often*, *Very Often*, and *Always*.

STUDENT RELATIONSHIPS

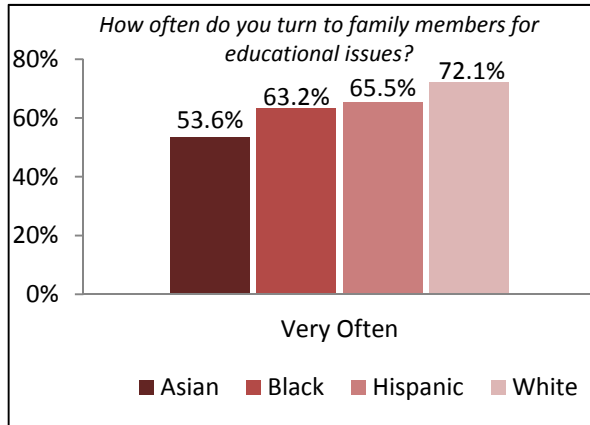
Students were asked about their interactions with peers *on campus* and *outside the classroom*. Differences were seen between students who lived on-campus and students who lived off-campus.



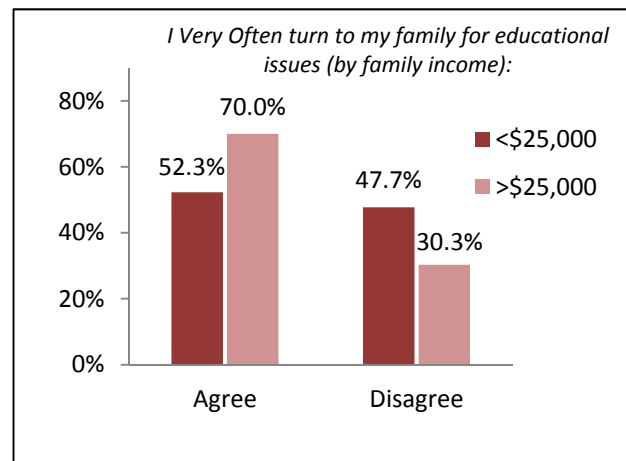
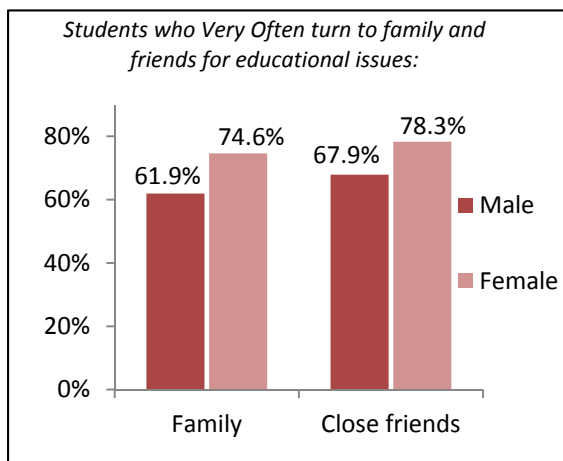
Students were also asked about their relationships with other students. Black and Asian American students reported having relationships with peers at a lower rate than their White or Hispanic counterparts.



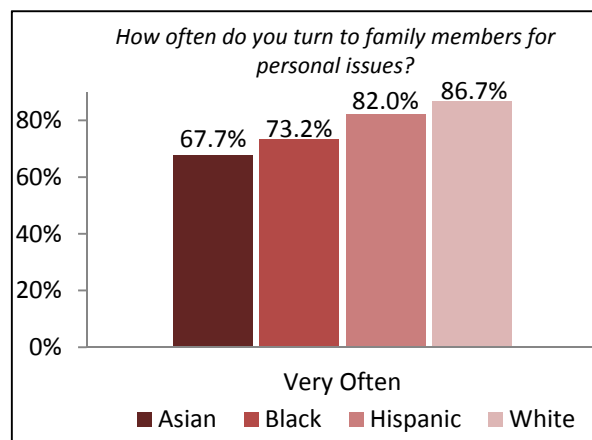
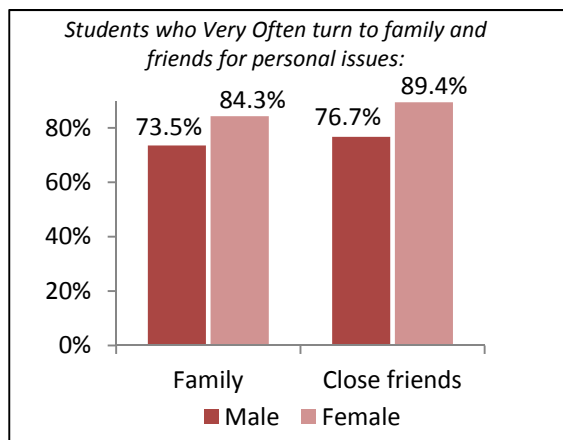
PERSONAL SUPPORT SYSTEMS



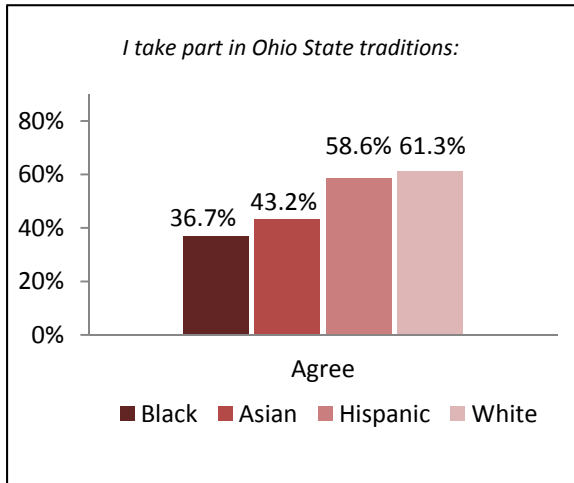
Asian American students were least likely to turn to family members for education-related issues, such as choosing a major or making long-term educational plans. Females turned to their family and friends for these issues at a higher rate than did males.



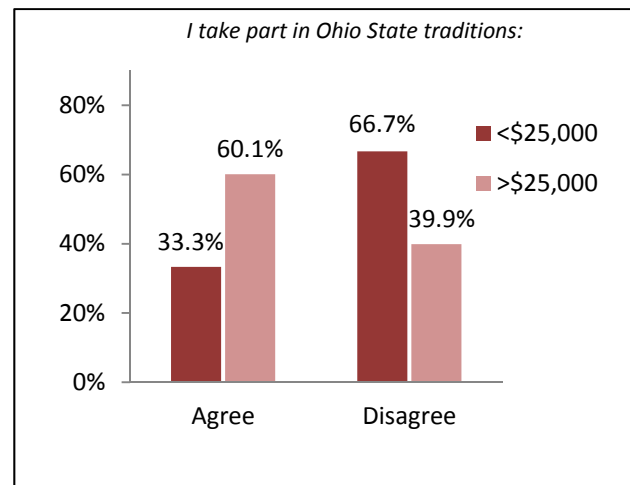
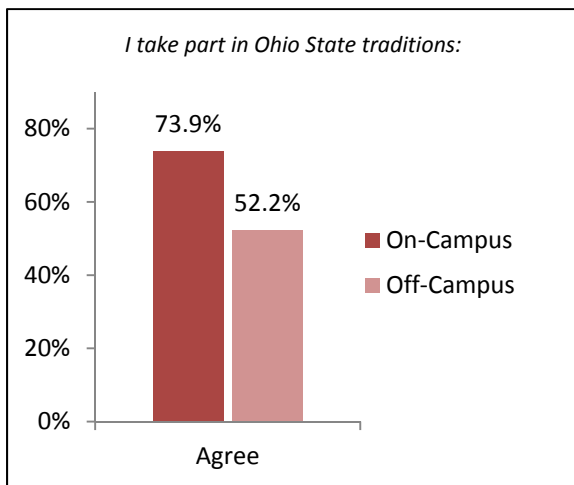
Other questions asked students who they turn to for personal issues such as making career choices, setting life goals, or handling relationship problems. The majority of Hispanic students (86.7%) turned to close friends for personal issues, as compared to only 76.4% of Asian American students.



TRADITIONS

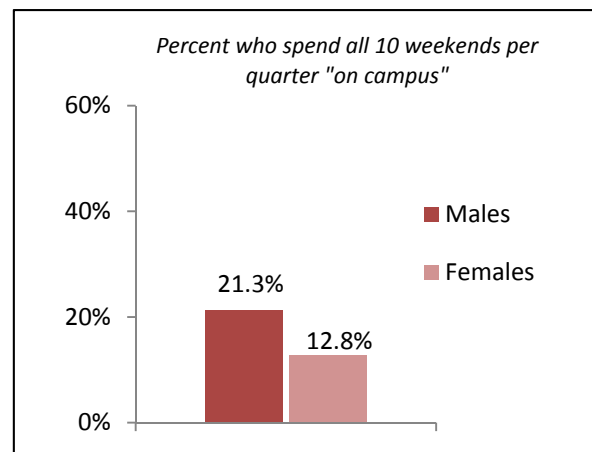
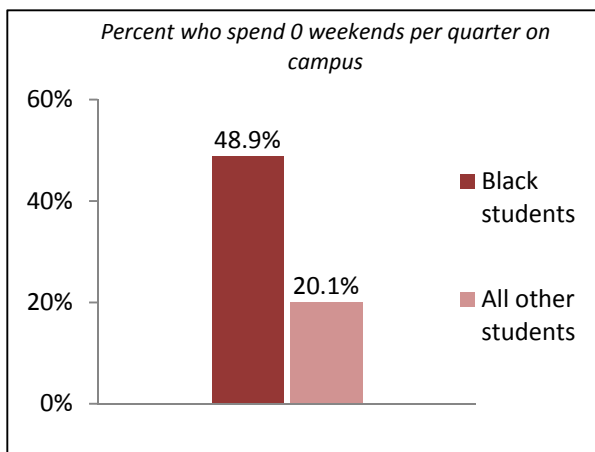


When asked about participation in Ohio State traditions, students in differing racial/ethnic groups reported large differences. Black students were 40% less likely than White students to say they took part in Ohio State traditions.



WEEKENDS ON CAMPUS

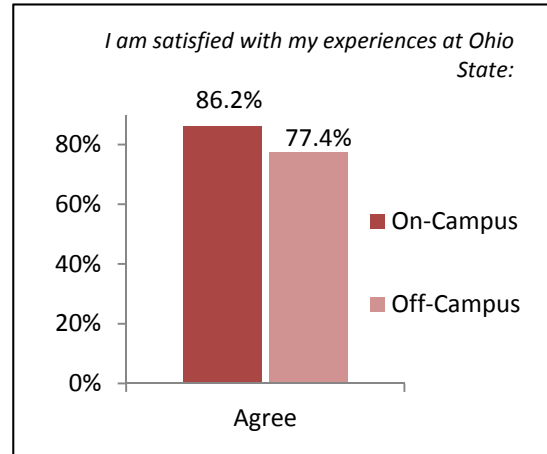
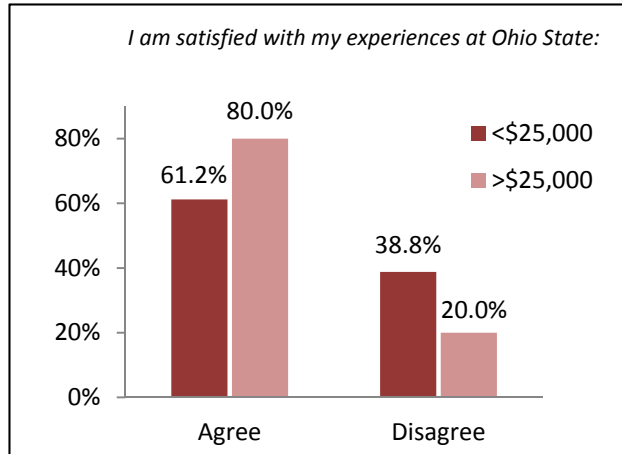
The survey asked students how many weekends per quarter (out of 10) they stay on campus. There may have been multiple interpretations of the phrase *stay on campus*, so the results of this item cannot be clearly interpreted. For example, the reason why Black students were more likely than other students to spend no weekends on campus may be explained in part because only 49% of Black survey participants



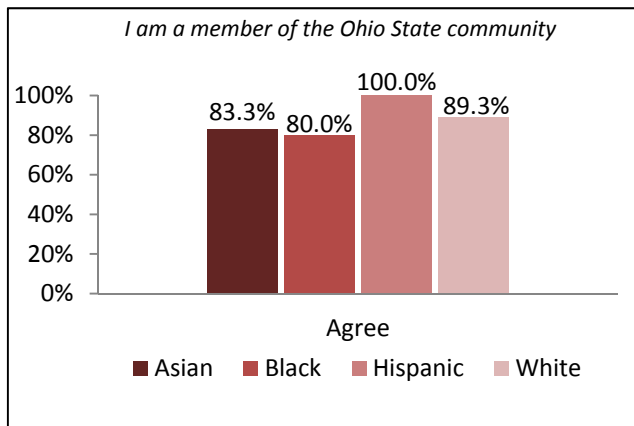
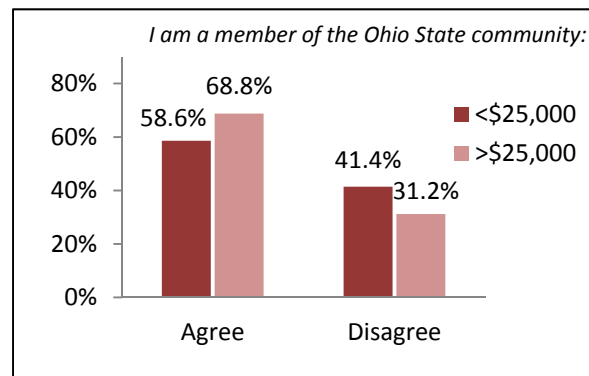
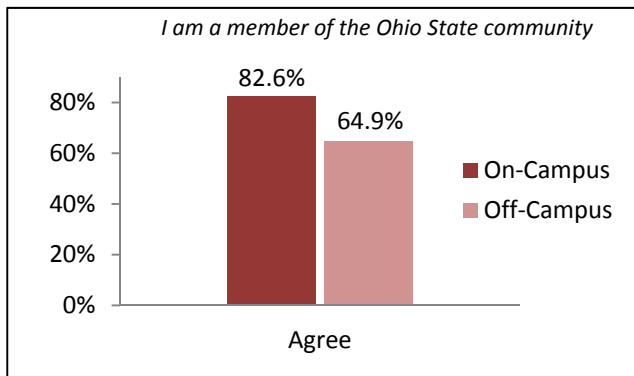
lived on campus or within walking distance of campus, as compared with 66% of other survey participants.

SATISFACTION

A higher percentage of students who lived on campus were satisfied with their experiences at Ohio State than were students who lived off campus. Students who come from low income family households were about 25% less likely than other students to say they were satisfied with their experiences at Ohio State.



COMMUNITY



Demographics, such as residence, family income, and ethnic group identity may be factors of whether students felt that they were members of the Ohio State community. There is a strong correlation ($r=.62$) between feeling that one is a member of the Ohio State community and feeling satisfied with one's experience at Ohio State.