

# Campus Safety Survey Report

## Introduction

The Campus Safety Student Survey was developed by the Undergraduate Student Government Safety and Wellness Committee in conjunction with the Ohio State University Police Department and Student Life Research and Assessment. The survey was deployed in the Spring of 2009 to 5000 undergraduate students at The Ohio State University with a response rate of 17.7% (n=887).

The survey was constructed with a broad audience in mind; items can be used for various campus services such as University Housing, Campus Escort Services, CABS (University Bus Service), and most departments in the Office of Student Life. Undergraduate Student Government can also use this data to inform their practices as well, specifically with the Safety and Wellness Committee.

In the original random sample, 47.2% of the sample was female, while the responding sample was 61.1% female. This does not pass a test of representativeness, though some research does say that college women complete more online surveys than men (Sax, et. al, 2003)<sup>1</sup>. Caution should be used in the any generalization of this study, which had a response rate of 17.7% (n = 881). More upperclass students (rank 3 and 4) answered the survey than underclass students, as well.

In late August, a group of stakeholders from The Ohio State University met around the data to determine the major questions this report will explore. After viewing the data, the group primarily identified various cross tabulations that would help inform their offices and organizations using the Campus Safety Survey data. The following explores these questions, which are intended primarily to answer the questions of Undergraduate Student Government (USG), the OSU Police Department, University Housing, The Student Wellness Center, Counseling and Consultation Services, Risk Management, and Student Judicial Affairs. However, the intent of this data collection was to serve multiple departments across campus, and the variety of the data could be useful to Ohio State staff, students, and faculty.

## Highlights:

- 26% of the respondents reported being a victim of crime, with theft/burglary as the highest reported crime.
- **87% of the respondents said that they "strongly agreed" or "agreed" that the university was invested in their personal safety**

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<sup>1</sup> Sax, L. J., Gilmartin, S. K., & Bryant, A. N. (2003). Assessing response rates and nonresponse bias in web and paper surveys. *Research in Higher Education*, 44, 409-432.

- For those that live in residence halls, 96.9% of the respondents said they felt safe in their residence hall. However, for those that live in apartments, houses, etc., 78.6% reported feeling safe.
- 61.3% of respondents said they felt safe walking ON campus alone at night, while only 24% percent said they "strongly agreed" or "agreed" that they felt safe walking OFF campus alone at night.
- 88.6% of the female respondents did not feel safe walking alone OFF campus, while 53.2% of females feeling unsafe walking alone ON campus. Note: there were not students who responded to the sample that identified as transgender.
- 68.3% of the respondents reported that they "strongly agreed" or "agreed" that there were certain areas of campus that they would not travel alone. **79.4% of the female respondents said they "strongly agreed" or "agreed" with this statement. 81% of the African American respondents "agreed" or "strongly agreed" with this statement, while 80% of the Asian American respondents answered in this way as well.**
- When **these** respondents were asked where specifically they felt unsafe, students identified 13th to 18th Ave, East of High Street (65.9%), 5th to 11th Ave., west of High (64.4%), Woodruff to Hudson, East of High (61.7%) and 5th to 11th Ave, East of High (86.9%) the most unsafe, and **Ohio State campus area (9.7%) and Lane to Hudson, West of High (29.6%) as the least unsafe.**
- Only 32.6% of respondents said that they "strongly agreed" or "agreed" that there were enough street lights off campus.
- 71.2% of the respondents said that they "strongly agree" or "agreed" that panhandlers made them feel unsafe.
- 74.7% of the respondents said that they "strongly agree" or "agree" that theft was a major issue on campus.
- 84.9% of the respondents said they felt the OSU police treated them with respect.
- 87.9% of the respondents said that if they used the blue light boxes around campus, authorities would be able to find them anywhere on campus.

**Group initiated questions -**

**“The university is invested in my personal safety” by “Gender”**

	Male (n=342)	Female (n=536)	Total (n=878)
Strongly Agree	21.6%	15.7%	18.0%
Agree	65.5%	71.1%	68.9%
Disagree	9.9%	11.2%	10.7%
Strongly Disagree	2.9%	2.1%	2.4%

**“The university is invested in my personal safety” by “Residence”**

	On campus (n=257)	Off-campus (n = 512)	Commuter (n=111)	Total (n=880)
Strongly Agree	25.3%	13.9%	19.8%	18.0%
Agree	70.4%	68.6%	67.6%	69.0%
Disagree	3.5%	15.0%	7.2%	10.7%
Strongly Disagree	.8%	2.5%	5.4%	2.4%

**“I worry that my residence will be broken into” by “Residence”**

	On campus (n=254)	Off-campus (n = 510)	Commuter (n=102)	Total (n=866)
Strongly Agree	5.9%	27.6%	10.8%	19.3%
Agree	27.6%	41.8%	27.5%	35.9%
Disagree	55.1%	27.1%	52.0%	38.2%
Strongly Disagree	11.4%	3.5%	9.8%	6.6%

**“I feel that if I needed emergency help (i.e. if I were mugged, if my car were broken into, if I had been hurt, etc.) I would receive it promptly” by “Residence”**

	On campus (n=250)	Off-campus (n = 505)	Commuter (n=107)	Total (n=862)
Strongly Agree	8.4%	7.9%	10.3%	8.4%
Agree	69.6%	55.0%	70.1%	61.1%
Disagree	21.2%	28.7%	14.0%	24.7%
Strongly Disagree	.80%	8.3%	5.6%	5.8%

**“I find panhandlers (anyone who approaches you on the street for money) to be a nuisance” by “Undergraduate rank”**

	1 (n=124)	2 (n=150)	3 (n=221)	4 (n=324)	5 (n=51)	Total
Strongly Agree	44.4%	45.3%	47.1%	51.2%	54.9%	48.4%
Agree	43.5%	38.0%	40.7%	39.2%	31.4%	39.5%
Disagree	12.1%	16.7%	10.0%	9.3%	13.7%	11.4%
Strongly Disagree	0%	0%	2.3%	.3%	0%	.7%

**“I am aware that undercover officers are operating in the off-campus area during football game days” by “Residence”**

	On campus (n=253)	Off-campus (n = 506)	Commuter (n=108)	Total (n=867)
Strongly Agree	13.8%	28.5%	12.0%	22.1%
Agree	37.5%	39.9%	34.3%	38.5%
Disagree	32.8%	21.7%	38.9%	27.1%
Strongly Disagree	15.8%	9.9%	14.8%	12.2%

**“Have you ever come into contact with an undercover officer on a game day?” by “Residence”**

	On campus (n=252)	Off-campus (n = 504)	Commuter (n=108)	Total (n=864)
Yes	4.4%	13.3%	3.7%	9.5%
No	95.6%	86.7%	96.3%	90.5%

**“Has someone you know ever come into contact with an undercover officer on a game day?” by “Residence”**

	On campus (n=253)	Off-campus (n = 507)	Commuter (n=108)	Total (n=868)
Yes	25.3%	46.7%	13.0%	36.3%
No	74.7%	53.3%	87.0%	63.7%

**“I feel that undercover initiatives such as the STOP program (a Franklin County program which seeks to combat the sale of alcohol to minors) victimizes students” by “Residence”**

	On campus (n=252)	Off-campus (n = 501)	Commuter (n=108)	Total (n=861)
Strongly Agree	17.9%	25.0%	11.1%	21.1%
Agree	29.4%	28.9%	14.8%	27.3%
Disagree	42.5%	37.5%	47.2%	40.2%
Strongly Disagree	10.3%	8.6%	26.9%	11.4%

If you have further questions about this report, or would like analyses run that the report does not include, please contact Daniel Newhart, Senior Research Associate and Assistant director, at [dnewhart@studentlife.osu.edu](mailto:dnewhart@studentlife.osu.edu).