

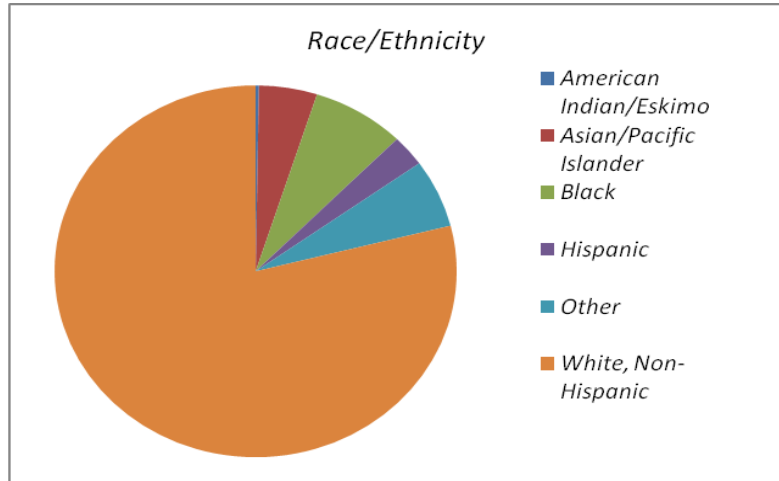
*Student Involvement Survey: A closer look at the
ethnicity of our students*

*Student Life Research
and Assessment*

April, 2010

INTRODUCTION

The Ohio State Student Involvement Survey is designed to collect information on the extent to which students participate in social and academic activities, and utilize university services and resources. Questions are also included in hopes of understanding students' expectations of, and satisfaction with, their OSU experience. The information provided by this survey



will help inform the university of the needs of diverse student groups, based on which effective policies and practices may be identified to improve student college integration and satisfaction.

This survey was conducted through the Office of Student Life Research and Assessment at the Ohio State University.

Participation in this survey was completely voluntary and all responses were confidential, with the reporting done in the aggregate so that no individual can be identified. Students were sent an initial email requesting their participation. In order to take the survey, students were asked to click on a web link to continue and had the opportunity even once the link was clicked to opt out of the survey. All students were sent two reminders before the survey closed.

The survey was sent to a random sample of approximately 10,000 undergraduate students at Ohio State University during the winter quarter of 2009. The sample was drawn from the Office of Student Life Research and Assessment. Out of the entire sample, a total of 1,957 students responded for a response rate of 19.6%.

ANALYSIS

The survey can be broken down and analyzed from several angles. Race/ethnicity has been a longstanding point of interest for many researchers. It gives us a picture of what students tend to be more involved. More importantly however, it provides us with information to make decisions as to how we can target underserved populations in the future. The following brief will focus on several questions related to student involvement and their experiences at The Ohio State University through the lens of the student's ethnic background.

DEMOGRAPHIC HIGHLIGHTS

The following general demographic information also provides a more detailed look at Ohio State's ethnic student population:

Race/Ethnicity

	Frequency	Percent
American Indian/Eskimo	5	.3
Asian/Pacific Islander	91	4.7
Black	145	7.5
Hispanic	53	2.7
Other	115	5.9
White, Non-Hispanic	1,534	79.0
Total	1,943	100.0

Minority groups, in particular American Indian and Asian are underrepresented in the survey results, only accounting for 15% of the total student population who responded.

Gender

	Male	Female	Total
American Indian/Eskimo	2	3	5
Asian/Pacific Islander	51	40	91
Black	59	86	145
Hispanic	32	21	53
Other	69	46	115
White, Non-Hispanic	824	710	1,534
Total	1,037	906	1,943

Student status upon entering Ohio State

There was not one class of students that dominated the survey results. Ohio State seniors were the largest group, accounting for 39% of the total number of survey respondents.

	New First Quarter Freshmen	Transfer	Total
American Indian/Eskimo	4	1	5
Asian/Pacific Islander	75	16	91
Black	110	34	144
Hispanic	43	10	53
Other	70	35	105
White, Non-Hispanic	1,143	374	1,517
Total	1,445	470	1,915

Class rank

	Freshmen	Sophomore	Junior	Senior	Special Student CPS	Irregular	Special student	Total
American Indian/Eskimo	1	0	1	2	0	1	0	5
Asian/Pacific Islander	12	20	18	41	0	0	0	91
Black	23	29	37	52	1	3	0	145
Hispanic	11	5	14	22	0	1	0	53
Other	21	21	22	49	0	2	0	115
White, Non-Hispanic	204	331	387	601	0	10	1	1,534
Total	272	406	479	767	1	17	1	1,943

QUESTIONS OF INTEREST

The following survey questions provide a further look at the level of involvement commitment and satisfaction each ethnic group has to Ohio State.

52% of students who took this survey are participating in campus events and activities on a regular basis.

How often do you participate in campus events and activities (e.g. lectures, cultural festivals, athletic events)?

	Never	Occasionally	Sometimes	Often	Very often	Always	Total
American Indian/Eskimo	0	0	3	0	2	0	5
Asian/Pacific Islander	1	15	28	19	21	3	87
Black	7	18	35	44	22	9	135
Hispanic	1	4	11	17	13	4	50
Other	6	12	26	33	28	6	111
White, Non-Hispanic	83	234	393	346	299	82	1,437
Total	98	283	496	459	385	104	1,825

I expected to feel overwhelmed at such a large university:

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Somewhat disagree	Somewhat agree	Agree	Strongly agree	Total
American Indian/Eskimo	0	1	0	0	1	0	2
Asian/Pacific Islander	15	4	10	10	6	2	47
Black	11	13	7	8	11	5	55
Hispanic	5	3	3	5	9	3	28
Other	14	13	6	14	8	4	59
White, Non-Hispanic	157	155	112	146	100	69	739
Total	202	189	138	183	135	83	930

How often do you contact the following for academic purposes (discuss assignments, grades, course related topics and subjects, etc.)?

Faculty members are seen as the primary source of information and assistance on academic questions and concerns. 51% of students contact faculty members, 49% contact peers, and academic advisors are only contacted by 33% of the student population.

Faculty members

	Never	Occasionally	Sometimes	Often	Very often	Always	Total
American	0	1	2	1	1	0	5
Asian/Pacific Islander	6	13	27	18	14	10	88
Black	6	21	38	37	21	17	140
Hispanic	3	5	14	13	14	3	52
Other	5	19	29	30	20	9	112
White, Non-Hispanic	66	236	423	369	285	102	1,481
Total	86	295	533	468	355	141	1,878

Student peers

	Never	Occasionally	Sometimes	Often	Very often	Always	Total
American Indian/Eskimo	0	2	0	3	0	0	5
Asian/Pacific Islander	6	20	22	18	12	10	88
Black	8	23	40	43	18	8	140
Hispanic	6	11	8	11	12	4	52
Other	12	17	28	26	17	12	112
White, Non-Hispanic	144	288	328	325	289	107	1,481
Total	176	361	426	426	348	141	1,878

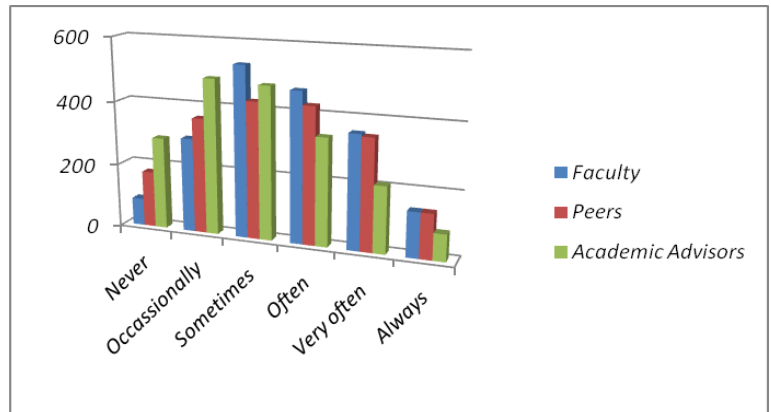
Academic advisor

	Never	Occasionally	Sometimes	Often	Very often	Always	Total
American Indian/Eskimo	0	2	1	2	0	0	5
Asian/Pacific Islander	12	22	23	17	9	5	88
Black	12	40	40	25	15	8	140
Hispanic	9	11	11	13	7	1	52
Other	9	43	28	14	13	5	112
White, Non-Hispanic	246	368	373	265	164	65	1,481
Total	288	486	476	336	208	84	1,878

ANALYSIS

As we look at the level of involvement of students at Ohio State University, there is valuable information we can gather.

On a whole, the majority of students are involved in some type of campus activity on a regular basis. They also feel a sense of comfort and camaraderie as an active member of the university. However, additional followup is recommended for minority students as they are largely



underrepresented in this survey. While they are feeling a sense of contentment, the question as to why more members of these subpopulations did not participate in this survey still remains. In addition, it would be also valuable to further investigate student connection with their academic advisors and their role in student success and achievement.

IMPLICATIONS

As indicated by the aforementioned charts and text, these survey results shed light on some interesting facts about the student body at Ohio State. So, now we must turn our attention to the next steps. How does this information now influence strategic planning in the Office of Student Life for the coming year? How does it impact my own job on a daily basis? The report indicates that minority students are under represented in the survey results. What can we do in our individual areas to better reach these students? What activities and forums can we provide to help them feel a part of the larger Ohio State community? How can we better target these students in our admissions process? The sample drawn for this study is representative of our overall undergraduate student population which is weighted heavily towards Caucasian students.

The Academic Services Department is comprised of a group of individuals dedicated to assisting students achieve academic success. Why are students not utilizing this service on a more regular basis? How can we start directing students to this resource that is available to them? What is currently missing in our efforts to reach undergraduate students?