

# **Sexual Violence and Consent: Results from the 2009, 2012 and 2014 National College Health Assessment**

Center for the Study of Student Life

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report examines sexual violence, assault, and consent among undergraduate and graduate/professional students at The Ohio State University using data from the American College Health Association's National College Health Assessment II (NCHA-II). Data from the 2009, 2012, and 2014 administrations are compared. All data points refer to 2014 in the executive summary.

### SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND ASSAULT

- 7.5% of undergraduate and 2.9% of graduate student respondents report being sexually touched without their consent in the past 12 months
- 2.0% of undergraduate and 0.7% of graduate student respondents report that they were sexually penetrated without their consent in the past 12 months
- 3.9% of undergraduate and 2.9% of graduate student respondents report that they were a victim of stalking the last 12 months
- 1.9% of undergraduate and 1.1% of graduate student respondents report that they were in a sexually abusive intimate relationship in the last 12 months
- Among students who drink alcohol, 1.4% of undergraduate and 0.9% of graduate student respondents report that "someone had sex with me without my consent" in the last 12 months
- Among students who drink alcohol, 0.3% of undergraduate and 0.0% of graduate student respondents report they "had sex with someone without their consent" while they were drinking alcohol in the last 12 months
- Among undergraduate student who experienced a sexual assault in the last 12 months, 31.3% report the assault had a negative impact on their academics

### CAMPUS CLIMATE ON SEXUAL VIOLENCE

- 38.4% of undergraduate and 47.4% of graduate student respondents *agree or strongly agree* that sexual violence is a problem on campus
- 26.8% of undergraduate and 28.2% of graduate student respondents *agree or strongly agree* that they think they can personally help prevent sexual violence on campus

### SEXUAL CONSENT

- 85.9% of undergraduate and 88.9% of graduate student respondents *agree* that they would confront a friend who plans to give someone alcohol or drugs to get sex
- 76.7% of undergraduate and 83.7% of graduate student respondents *agree* that consent cannot be given by a person who is intoxicated or unconscious as a result of alcohol or drugs
- 50.4% of undergraduate and 56.6% of graduate student respondents *disagree or strongly disagree* that verbally asking for sexual consent is awkward
- 77.3% of undergraduate and 80.4% of graduate student respondents *disagree* with the statement "the absence of 'no' means 'yes'"

## INTRODUCTION

The American College Health Association's National College Health Assessment II (NCHA-II) is a voluntary, web-based survey that assesses topics of general health and wellness. The Ohio State University participates in this national survey every two to three years. In Spring 2014, we administered the survey to 10,000 of students in and yielded a response rate of 11.1%. The survey was also conducted in 2012 (15.3% response rate) and 2009 (21.2% response rate). Please note that given the low response rates in 2012 and 2014, results should be interpreted with caution and should not be assumed to be generalizable.

The purpose of this report is to summarize findings on the topic of sexual violence and consent, comparing findings from the 2009, 2012 and 2014 administrations for students attending the Ohio State University – Columbus campus. The three datasets were combined for analysis, including a total of 4,585 respondents. This report summarizes the findings for undergraduate respondents (3,364) and graduate and professional students (1,111) separately. In 2014, the Ohio State University included 8 additional questions regarding sexual violence on campus and sexual consent. Not every respondent answered each question. Statistically significant changes over time are noted at the  $p < .05$  level or below.

## DEMOGRAPHICS

<b>Gender</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2014</b>
Female	61.2%	62.9%	65.1%
Male	38.6%	36.9%	34.7%
Transgender	0.2%	0.1%	0.2%

<b>Class Rank</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2014</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> year	20.1%	16.2%	13.8%
2 <sup>nd</sup> year	20.0%	15.3%	18.5%
3 <sup>rd</sup> year	19.1%	17.4%	20.6%
4 <sup>th</sup> year	14.5%	17.1%	14.8%
5 <sup>th</sup> year or later	5.1%	5.5%	5.5%
Graduate/Professional Student	21.4%	28.5%	26.8%

<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2014</b>
African American or Black	4.8%	4.2%	4.0%
American Indian, Native American or Alaskan Native	0.2%	0.3%	0.1%
Asian American	8.2%	9.3%	10.4%
Hispanic or Latino	1.9%	2.2%	2.2%
White or Caucasian	80.4%	79.5%	79.5%
Biracial or Multiracial	2.9%	2.1%	2.2%
Other Race	1.8%	2.5%	1.7%

## FINDINGS FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

### SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND ASSAULT

#### Experiences of Sexual Violence or Assault (% Responding Yes), Undergraduates

Within the last 12 months...	2009	2012	2014	Statistically significant change over time? <sup>1</sup>
Were you sexually touched without your consent?	8.0%	6.1%	7.5%	No
Was sexual penetration attempted (vaginal, anal, oral) without your consent?	2.9%	1.9%	3.1%	No
Were you sexually penetrated (vaginal, anal, oral) without your consent?	1.2%	1.3%	2.0%	No
Were you the victim of stalking (e.g. waiting for you outside your classroom, residence, or office; repeated emails/phone calls?)	5.7%	6.0%	3.9%	No

#### Experiences of Intimate Relationship Abuse (% Responding Yes), Undergraduates

Within the last 12 months, have you been in an intimate (coupled/partnered) relationship that was...	2009	2012	2014	Statistically significant change over time?
Emotionally abusive? (e.g., called derogatory names, yelled at, ridiculed)	10.6%	8.0%	8.2%	Yes
Physically abusive? (e.g., kicked, slapped, punched)	2.6%	1.9%	1.9%	No
Sexually abusive? (e.g., forced to have sex when you didn't want it, forced to perform or have an unwanted sexual act performed on you)	1.4%	1.2%	1.9%	No

#### Experiences of Sexual Assault While Drinking Alcohol (% Responding Yes), Undergraduates

Within the last 12 months, have you experienced the following while drinking alcohol...	2009	2012	2014	Statistically significant change over time?
<b>All students</b>				
Someone had sex with me without my consent	1.4%	1.5%	1.1%	No
Had sex with someone without their consent	0.3%	1.0%	0.3%	No
<b>Among students who reported that they drink alcohol</b>				
Someone had sex with me without my consent	1.7%	1.9%	1.4%	No
Had sex with someone without their consent	0.4%	1.3%	0.3%	Yes

*Note: Answer options included Yes, No, and Not applicable -I do not drink*

<sup>1</sup> Statistical significance at the  $p < .05$  level.

### The Effect of Sexual Assault on Academics (% Responding Yes), Undergraduates

Within the last 12 months...	2009	2012	2014	Statistically significant change over time?
<b>All students</b>				
Has a sexual assault affected your academic performance?	0.6%	0.3%	0.7%	No
<b>Among students who reported that they experienced a sexual assault</b>				
Has a sexual assault affected your academic performance?	23.8%	12.0%	31.3%	No

*Note: Academic performance includes received a lower grade on an exam, important project or in the course, received an incomplete or dropped the course, or significant disruption in thesis, dissertation, research, or practicum work*

## CAMPUS CLIMATE ON SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND CONSENT

### Sexual Violence and Sexual Consent, Undergraduates, 2014

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Sexual violence is a problem on campus	5.8%	22.1%	33.7%	30.1%	8.3%
I think that I can prevent sexual violence on campus	8.8%	24.4%	40.0%	22.4%	4.4%
I would confront a friend who plans to give someone alcohol or drugs to get sex	1.7%	2.6%	9.8%	38.7%	47.2%
Verbally asking for consent is awkward	19.3%	31.1%	25.7%	18.5%	5.4%

### Sexual Consent, Undergraduates, 2014

	Disagree	Not Sure	Agree
Consent must be asked for every step of the way before moving to the next level	10.1%	23.1%	66.9%
The absence of "no" means "yes"	77.3%	17.7%	5.0%
Consent cannot be given by a person who is intoxicated or unconscious as a result of drugs or alcohol	9.0%	14.3%	76.7%
Consent can be implied or assumed if you have previously been intimate	62.7%	22.8%	14.6%

## FINDINGS FOR GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENTS

### SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND ASSAULT

#### Experiences of Sexual Violence or Assault (% Responding Yes), Graduate Students

Within the last 12 months...	2009	2012	2014	Statistically significant change over time?
Were you sexually touched without your consent?	2.8%	2.3%	2.9%	No
Was sexual penetration attempted (vaginal, anal, oral) without your consent?	0.7%	1.0%	0.0%	No
Were you sexually penetrated (vaginal, anal, oral) without your consent?	0.5%	1.0%	0.7%	No
Were you the victim of stalking (e.g. waiting for you outside your classroom, residence, or office; repeated emails/phone calls?)	4.3%	2.8%	2.9%	No

#### Experiences of Intimate Relationship Abuse (% Responding Yes), Graduate Students

Within the last 12 months, have you been in an intimate (coupled/partnered) relationship that was...	2009	2012	2014	Statistically significant change over time?
Emotionally abusive? (e.g., called derogatory names, yelled at, ridiculed)	7.5%	5.6%	6.2%	No
Physically abusive? (e.g., kicked, slapped, punched)	1.8%	1.0%	1.5%	No
Sexually abusive? (e.g., forced to have sex when you didn't want it, forced to perform or have an unwanted sexual act performed on you)	1.4%	0.5%	1.1%	No

#### Experiences of Sexual Assault While Drinking Alcohol (% Responding Yes), Graduate Students

Within the last 12 months, have you experienced the following while drinking alcohol...	2009	2012	2014	Statistically significant change over time?
<b>All students</b>				
Someone had sex with me without my consent	0.0%	0.5%	0.7%	No
Had sex with someone without their consent	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%	No
<b>Among students who reported that they drink alcohol</b>				
Someone had sex with me without my consent	0.0%	0.6%	0.9%	No
Had sex with someone without their consent	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%	No

*Note: Answer options included Yes, No, and Not applicable, I do not drink*

### The Effect of Sexual Assault on Academics (% Responding Yes), Graduate Students

Within the last 12 months...	2009	2012	2014	Statistically significant change over time?
<b>All students</b>				
Has a sexual assault affected your academic performance?	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	No
<b>Among students who reported that they experienced a sexual assault</b>				
Has a sexual assault affected your academic performance?	28.6%	0.0%	0.0%	No

*Note: Academic performance includes received a lower grade on an exam, important project or in the course, received an incomplete or dropped the course, or significant disruption in thesis, dissertation, research, or practicum work*

## CAMPUS CLIMATE ON SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND CONSENT

### Sexual Violence and Sexual Consent, Graduate Students, 2014

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Sexual violence is a problem on campus	7.0%	12.9%	32.7%	38.6%	8.8%
I think that I can prevent sexual violence on campus	12.2%	19.3%	40.4%	23.3%	4.8%
I would confront a friend who plans to give someone alcohol or drugs to get sex	3.3%	0.7%	7.0%	32.8%	56.1%
Verbally asking for consent is awkward	27.2%	29.4%	21.7%	17.7%	4.0%

### Sexual Consent, Graduate Students, 2014

	Disagree	Not Sure	Agree
Consent must be asked for every step of the way before moving to the next level	13.2%	16.2%	70.6%
The absence of "no" means "yes"	80.4%	14.0%	5.5%
Consent cannot be given by a person who is intoxicated or unconscious as a result of drugs or alcohol	5.2%	11.1%	83.7%
Consent can be implied or assumed if you have previously been intimate	62.4%	22.5%	15.1%