

2025 Lesley University Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Misconduct Summary for Website

Lesley University conducted the 2025 Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Misconduct in spring 2025 to better understand students' experiences, perceptions of safety, and awareness of campus resources. The Massachusetts Campus Sexual Assault Law requires this climate survey, and the University used the model questions provided by the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education.

All enrolled students were invited to complete the online survey. Participation was voluntary and anonymous to support honest feedback and student privacy.

Who Responded

A total of 47 students responded to the survey. Among those who shared demographic information:

- 48% were undergraduate students.
- 44% were graduate students.
- 8% were Threshold students.
- 22% lived on campus.
- 78% lived off campus.

Due to the small number of respondents, the resulting percentages reflect a limited sample and should be interpreted with care.

Sexual Violence Incidents

Most respondents reported that they did not experience incidents of sexual violence or sexual assault while enrolled at Lesley. Among the small number who did:

- 75% said that the person responsible was not affiliated with Lesley.
- All the incidents that were reported involved an acquaintance or a former romantic partner of the student respondent.
- All incidents occurred offline.

Campus Perceptions & Reporting Awareness

Student responses highlighted significant areas of strength and areas for continued improvement:

- A majority of respondents believed the University would take reports seriously and maintain privacy.
- Fewer students felt confident that they would receive accommodations or that they fully understood how the University supports someone who reports sexual misconduct.
- Some students expressed concern about potential negative labels or uncertainty about institutional follow-through.

Knowledge of Resources

- 75% of respondents reported receiving information about Title IX since enrolling at Lesley.¹
- 63% felt at least somewhat aware of the Office of Equal Opportunity.²
- Awareness of confidential resources and reporting pathways was more limited.
- Many students (64%) were unsure of where to go on campus if they or a friend needed support related to sexual misconduct.

Other Forms of Sexual Misconduct

Several respondents reported incidents involving the following:

- Sexual harassment by faculty or staff (13 of 43 respondents).
- Sexual harassment by peers (14 of 45 respondents).
- Stalking behaviors (12 of 45 respondents).
- Dating violence (10 of 37 respondents).
- Sexual orientation–based violence (11 of 46 respondents).

Most of these incidents were not formally reported to Lesley University. Students were more likely to confide in friends, partners, or family members. Some respondents said that aspects of their identity—such as gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, or race—played a role in the incidents.

Bystander Intervention

Students reported mixed experiences with stepping in to help someone in a potentially harmful situation:

- Many said that they “sometimes” or “most of the time” intervened or checked on peers.
- Others indicated uncertainty about what to do, pointing to opportunities for more education on bystander strategies and campus safety.

Key Themes

- **Identity-Based Harm:** Some respondents believed identity factors contributed to the incidents experienced or witnessed.
- **Knowledge Gaps:** Many students were unsure where to go for help or how the reporting process works.
- **Moderate Trust, but Uneven Confidence:** A majority of students believed that reports would be taken seriously (56% of respondents) and privacy would be maintained (65% of respondents), though confidence varied regarding available supports and outcomes.
- **Resource Visibility:** Students were more aware of some campus supports (e.g., Counseling Center) than others.

- **Underreporting:** Students often chose not to report incidents formally, even when they experienced or witnessed harm.

Our Commitment & Next Steps

Lesley University is committed to cultivating a campus where every student feels safe, respected, and supported. Based on the survey findings, the University will:

Address Knowledge Gaps & Improve Resource Visibility

- Increase visibility of reporting options, confidential resources, and campus offices
- Enhance communication about supportive measures, including academic, residential, and safety accommodations
- Offer clear, accessible explanations of reporting processes and available pathways

Build Trust & Confidence in Institutional Processes

- Strengthen messaging about how reports are handled, including privacy protections and follow-up procedures
- Provide regular updates on policy enhancements and response protocols to increase transparency

Prevent and Respond to Identity-Based Harm

- Expand identity-informed training for students, faculty, and staff
- Collaborate with EDIJ, LUCC, Student Life, and OEO to ensure prevention efforts and responses account for students' intersecting identities

Reduce Underreporting Through Education & Skill-Building

- Strengthen bystander intervention education programs
- Provide additional training that empowers students to recognize harm and understand the value of reporting
- Promote multiple reporting avenues—including confidential and anonymous options—to reduce barriers

Enhance Collaboration Across Offices

- Continue coordinated efforts across OEO, EDIJ, LUCC, Student Life, and other units to sustain a shared, campus-wide approach to safety, prevention, and support

Lesley will conduct its next Climate Survey on Sexual Misconduct during or before 2029, as required by state law.

Support Resources

If you or someone you know needs support, the following resources are available:

- **Lesley University Counseling Center (LUCC)** – confidential counseling and support
- **Lesley Student Health Services** – confidential health services
- **Lesley Office of Equal Opportunity (OEO)** – non-confidential, reporting options, supportive measures, and referrals
- **Lesley Public Safety (617-349-8888)** – non-confidential, immediate assistance or safety concerns
- **Lesley Confidential Resource Providers for Sexual Misconduct** – confidential, supportive measures, referrals
- **Local and state crisis centers** – confidential, some provide 24/7 support

Creating a safe and respectful campus community is a shared responsibility. We are grateful to every student who participated in the survey and helped guide our ongoing work.

¹ Of the 47 total students who responded to the Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Misconduct, 32 provided information on the educational materials they had received from Lesley.

² Of the 47 total students who responded to the Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Misconduct, 43 provided information on their awareness of relevant offices on campus.