

Augustana Sexual Violence and Sexual Health Support Survey

March 7, 2022

Prepared for VPSL Talia Dixon



Overview and Key Findings

This survey (n=35) went solely to Augustana Campus students, a historically under-engaged population. Though this small sample size poses challenges, as detailed below, students still provided a wealth of information.

Most respondents feel that they probably or definitely do not receive enough information and resources on sexual health and sexual violence. This is particularly true for cisgender men and racial/ethnic minorities. Respondents are very unlikely to know what off-campus/in-person and remote/online resources are available.

Opinions were deeply divided on the quality of sexual health/violence resources and information. Over $\frac{1}{3}$ of women and gender minority respondents, when asked about the quality of resources/information, selected "Can't think of any/haven't encountered them."

Racial/ethnic minority students had a variety of opinions about whether available student services are culturally competent.

There is no consensus about what the average student would do if they needed serious help and all in-person support was off-campus. It is clear that going off-campus is very commonly viewed as an impediment serious enough to make students decide against accessing in-person professional help (rather than relying on friends and remote services). When asked about what they would *personally* do, serious gender and racial/ethnic disparities appeared. This is an area where we strongly encourage the University to take a closer look.

Respondents overwhelmingly believe additional in-person supports are necessary, specific to sexual health and sexual violence. Respondents (especially women and gender minorities) also tend to believe that additional remote supports are necessary. Cisgender men were divided on the need for more remote supports, but highly likely to want more in-person supports.

Respondents are overwhelmingly likely to feel safe on campus, and no respondents feel very unsafe there. However, roughly $\frac{1}{3}$ of students who live in residence or spend time there feel unsafe there. We recommend the University engage with the relevant student associations to understand why.

When asked what resources would be most beneficial for students, respondents overwhelmingly described in-person supports of one kind or another.

Demographic Factors and Challenges

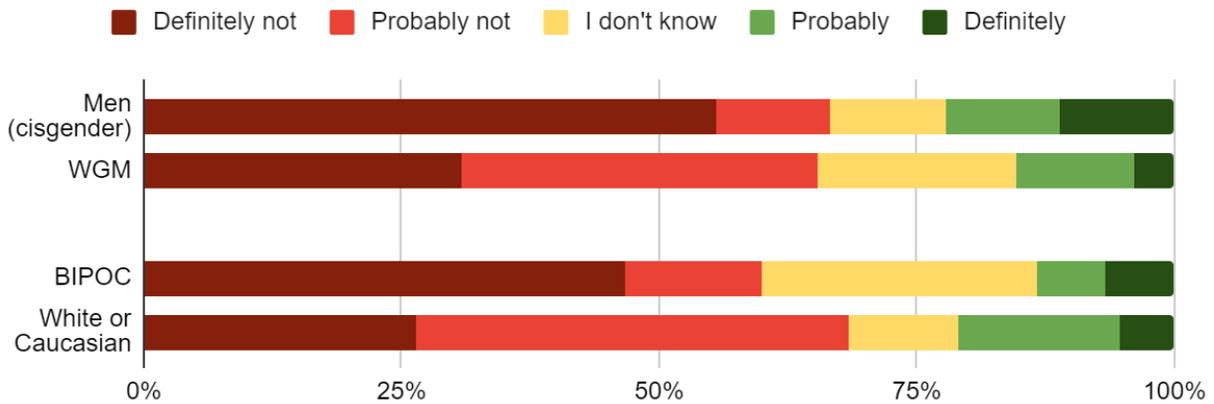
The sample size is too small for us to generalize the results to all Augustana students, or to meaningfully cross-tabulate the data by demographic in many cases. Small numbers of respondents (5 or less) self-identified as non-binary or other genders, as Black, as other racial or ethnic minorities, as transgender, or as disabled. While analyzing the following questions, we provide as much information as possible, but the privacy of individual respondents is paramount.

Looking specifically at gender disparities in answers to key questions (e.g. about safety), we have opted to include the small number of non-binary and/or transgender students in a broader equity-seeking category of women and gender minorities (WGM). This approach allows us to include these students' responses in these analyses without making their responses potentially identifiable.

Out of necessity, we took a similarly sub-optimal approach to race and ethnicity. The catchall category 'BIPOC' (Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour) has been widely criticized. From larger surveys on a variety of topics, we know that students from racial and ethnic minorities have a wide variety of experiences and priorities.

We strongly encourage the reader to understand that the BIPOC and WGM categories are heterogeneous, and to take the results as a stepping stone for further inquiry and communication.

Thinking broadly about sexual health education (including physical health, healthy and safe relationships, sexual violence, and consent), do you feel like students at Augustana Campus receive enough information and resources?



The majority of respondents feel that they probably or definitely do not receive enough information and resources on sexual health and sexual violence. This is particularly true for cisgender men and racial/ethnic minorities. South Asian respondents were especially likely to select 'definitely not.'

So far as you're aware, what off-campus, in-person sexual health/sexual violence resources do you have access to as an Augustana student?

In the past, the University has argued that a combination of remote and off-campus resources are sufficient. This question demonstrates that respondents are very unlikely to know what off-campus in-person resources are available. Responses for this and the following qualitative questions are presented verbatim.

Men (Cisgender)

- 911, distress centre
- All resources I know of are located in Edmonton
- All that I am aware of it the sexual assault center at North Campus
- I really don't know, if I found myself in need I would likely google for resources
- I'm not aware of any resources
- No
- None
- Women's shelter, help lines

Women and Gender Minorities

- All I know outside of Augustana would be family doctor
- Basic counselling services?
- Don't know

- For sexual health there is the community health centre. For sexual violence there is the Association for Communities Against Abuse which (apparently) has an office in Camrose.
- I have no idea
- I haven't looked into it but I know there are some
- I know about the women's shelter and counselling (although I'm not sure if sexual health/violence is something they cover)
- I'm not sure
- IDS first year workshop, counsellors, pamphlets, open dialogue and awareness (eg. #ibelieveyou), mental health resources
- I'm not sure
- Local distress centre
- No
- None
- None that I know of
- None? I don't know
- Part-time councillor
- Police, Hospital, Drop-In Medical Centres
- The therapist and the hospital
- They provide a list of phone numbers
- Women's shelter, hospital
- Yes I think so

So far as you're aware, what remote/online sexual health/sexual violence resources do you have access to as an Augustana student?

This question demonstrates that students are very unlikely to know what remote resources are available.

Men (Cisgender)

- 911, distress centre
- Counselling
- I have no idea
- I'm sure that there are some out there, but I am not aware of them
- No
- None
- None to my knowledge
- Not sure
- Wello? but it is a referral

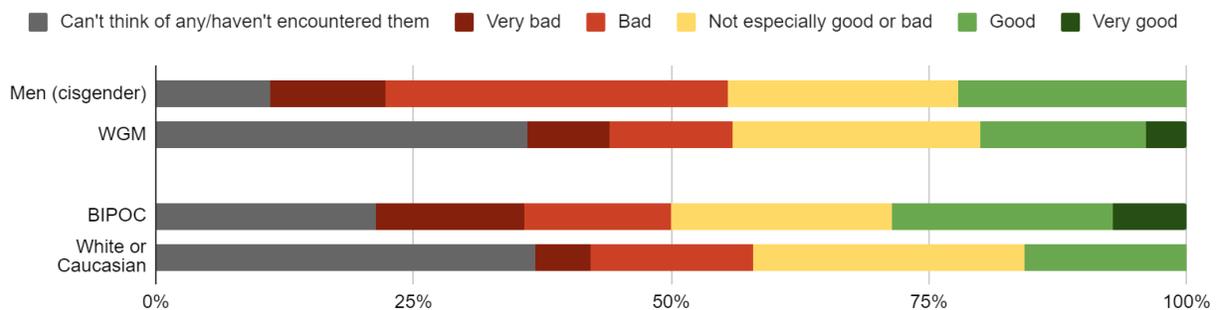
Women and Gender Minorities

- Again haven't looked into but I remember seeing emails about online support
- Alberta One-Line, SACE (Sexual Assault Centre of Edmonton) website, probably other websites but SACE's is good and informative, and for the most part inclusive of more than just women and children
- Don't know
- I don't know

- I don't know
- I have no idea
- I know we can use the north campus one but that's not local or helpful as far as I hear
- I'm sure there's a link somewhere I just have never seen it
- I'm not sure
- I'm not sure
- Just the hotline
- No
- No idea
- None
- Not sure
- Website with information, resources, and counselling (eg. Wello)
- Wello
- Wello, Virtual Meetings With Therapists and Psychologists
- Yes I think so

Thinking about the sexual health resources and information you've received or encountered at Augustana, how would you rate their quality?

Over 1/3 of women and gender minority respondents couldn't think of any examples, or hadn't received or encountered any sexual health resources or information at Augustana. Out of the respondents who had received or encountered sexual health resources/information, opinions on quality were deeply divided.



For many students, one important aspect of quality services is whether they are 'culturally competent' — whether these services are supportive of, and avoid discriminating against, students' heritage and lived experiences. If this is relevant to your student services needs, can you tell us whether you consider the available services to be culturally competent?

BIPOC Responses

- I believe they are
- I haven't used any of the university's resources, so I'm not sure. I'm sure they would strive to be culturally competent. But the off-campus online resources I

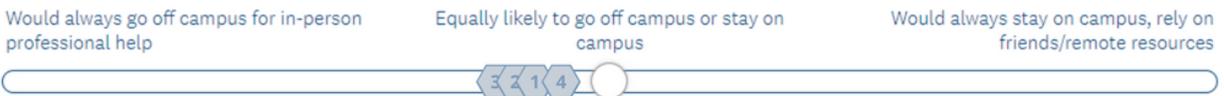
have accessed seem to try to be culturally competent, even though I can still sense some Western thinking.

- I think so
- N/A
- No
- No. I don't think the available resources are structured around diversity
- Not competent
- The student service I have received so far is culturally competent.
- Yes

Neither positive nor negative responses appeared to be associated with any particular racial/ethnic group.

If the **AVERAGE STUDENT** needed professional help for a serious sexual health issue, and most or all of the in-person resources were off-campus, what do you think the average student would do? There is no right or wrong answer.

This question used a slider scale. The markers denote average responses.



- 1: Men (Cisgender)
- 2: Women and Gender Minorities
- 3: BIPOC
- 4: White or Caucasian

The averages for this question clustered around the middle for all groups because the individual responses varied widely. A simple histogram:



There is no consensus about what the average student would do if they needed serious help and all in-person support was off-campus. It is clear that going off-campus is very commonly viewed as an impediment serious enough to make students decide against accessing in-person professional help.

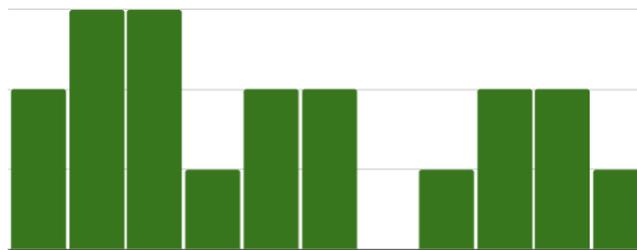
If you needed professional help for a serious sexual health issue, and most or all of the in-person resources were off-campus, what do you think YOU would do? There is no right or wrong answer.

This question used a slider scale. The markers denote average responses.



- 1: Men (Cisgender)
- 2: Women and Gender Minorities
- 3: BIPOC
- 4: White or Caucasian

Again, this question saw huge variation. A simple histogram:

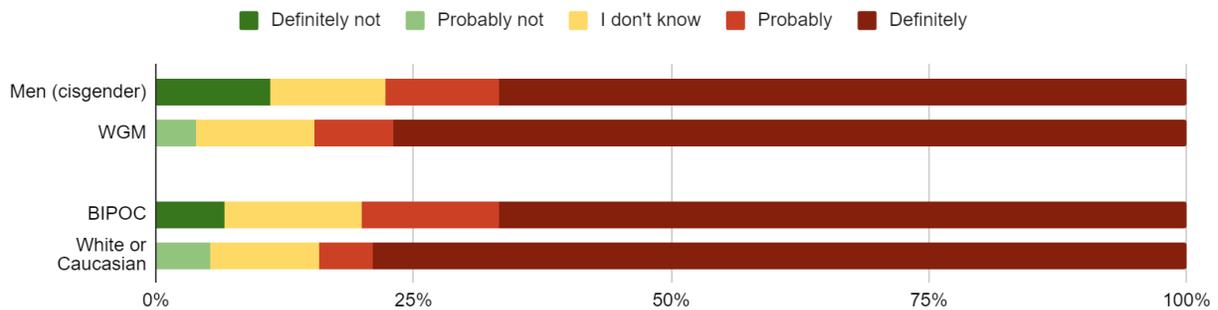


Unlike the previous question, however ('the average student'), this question revealed massive gender and racial/ethnic disparities that are worthy of further study. Given the choice that Augustana students currently face (A, stay on campus and rely on friends and remote resources, or B, go off-campus for in-person professional help), women and gender minorities (WGM) were far more likely than cisgender men to choose B. This likely speaks to the seriousness of sexual violence and many sexual health issues (e.g. pregnancy) for WGM students, but may have wider implications. It should NOT be taken as indicating that needing to leave campus to access services is a desirable choice.

Conversely, BIPOC students were far less likely than white/Caucasian students to say they would always go off campus. One factor might be the extra challenges that international students face. Another element might be anti-Black racism. (Without a number of 'would always stay on campus' responses from some Black students, the averages might look very different.) This is an area where we strongly encourage the University to take a closer look.

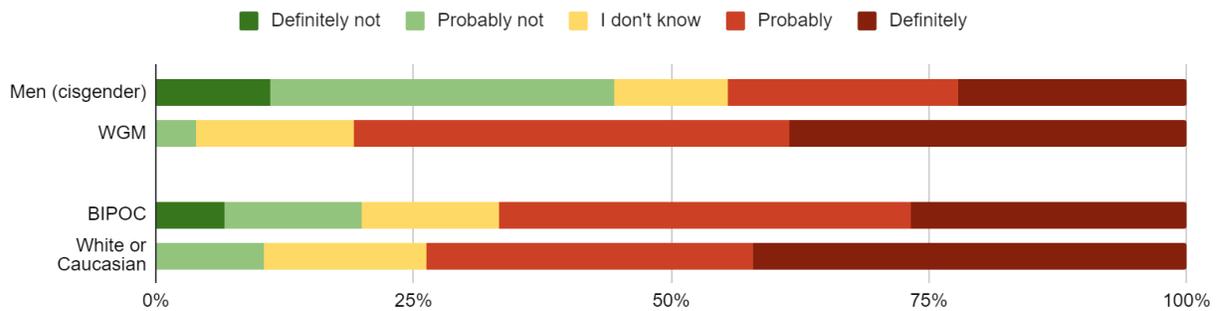
Disabled students generally preferred not to answer this question.

Thinking about support for sexual violence and sexual health, do you feel additional IN-PERSON support is necessary?



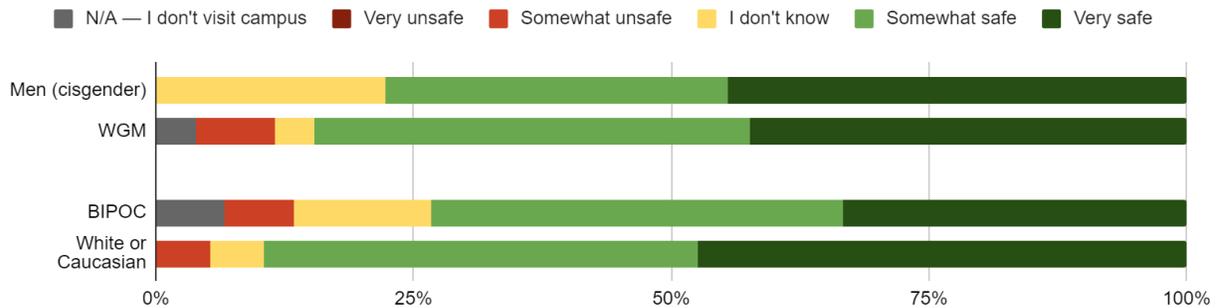
Respondents overwhelmingly believe additional in-person supports are necessary, specific to sexual health and sexual violence.

Thinking about support for sexual violence and sexual health, do you feel additional REMOTE/ONLINE support is necessary?



Respondents tend to believe that additional remote supports are necessary. In this question we note a major gender disparity. While cisgender men's opinions are evenly split, women and gender minorities overwhelmingly feel that additional remote support is needed.

How safe do you feel on campus, on average?

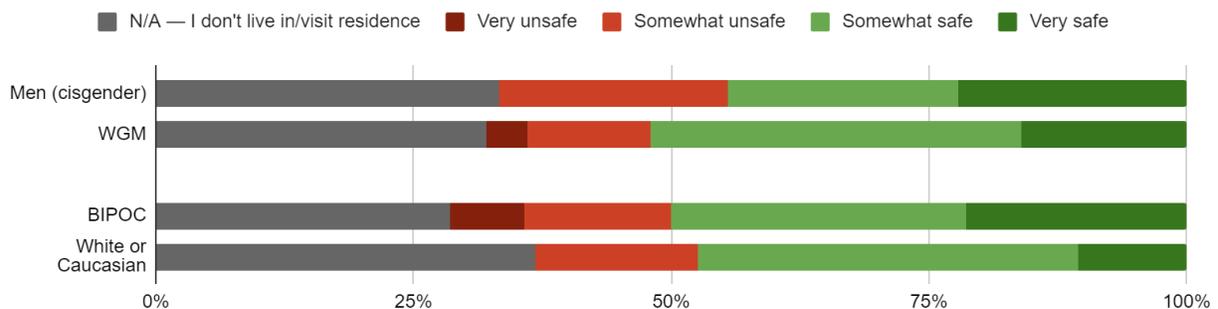


Respondents are overwhelmingly likely to feel safe on campus, and no respondents feel very unsafe there.

How safe do you feel in residence, on average?

Unlike the previous question, this question used a four-point Likert scale, which forces a choice. The inconsistency was a matter of human error.

However, this question still indicates that a significant portion (roughly 1/3) of students who spend time in residence feel unsafe there. A small number (WGM and/or BIPOC) feel very unsafe. We recommend the University engage with the relevant student associations to understand why.



Thinking about sexual health/sexual violence resources, what resources would be most beneficial for students? What would you like to see made available?

Men (Cisgender)

- An available counsellor or even just someone to talk to - I think knowledge of the resources has to be more widespread because I have not heard of many resources other than seeing a phone number or two that I can call
- I would like to see a branch of the Sexual Assault Center to be brought on campus, barring that at least a designated councilor

- IDK
- More specific resources, not broad ones that encompass sexual violence
- More staff to support us
- Not sure
- Therapy and professional help on campus and on call
- Tik Tok and Instagram

Women and Gender Minorities (BIPOC)

- Anonymous help lines or discrete in person help
- Having someone people can comfortably talk to
- I would love this to be a more open convo with our RA and each floor have their own open space and people who they can reach out to. An anonymous online discussion if someone does not want to reveal who they are but, still want to let others know what has happened.
- I'd possibly like to see an advisor specifically dedicated to sexual health issues, but in a comfortable manner that doesn't make people ashamed. Events surrounding sexual health would be nice too
- I'm not sure
- SACE. also I think even though there are sexual assault resources at Main Campus (like counselling), there should be something at Augustana too

Women and Gender Minorities (Other than BIPOC)

- A resource center for disclosures
- Adding more lights to walkways and making the trip between residence and classes safer
- FAQ's, information on contraceptives and their importance, information about global contraceptive inequity and privilege
- I think just doing the one presentation about it in first year is not enough. Students don't know who to contact and many don't feel heard when they do speak up
- I think resources available at North Campus like Safewalk and having an area specifically designed to help people with these questions or concerns should be something we implement at Augustana.
- I would like more information to where a student has to go in order to access these services
- In-person counselling for students
- More information shared to the public
- On campus therapist that specializes in trauma
- On-campus resources
- Sexual assault victim support on campus
- Where exactly to go if anything happens, who to contact, what to do as a potential bystander