



**MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE *of* PHARMACY  
*and* HEALTH SCIENCES**

**Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences  
Massachusetts Sexual Misconduct Climate Survey  
2024 Summary Data Report**

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## Introduction

Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (MCPHS) is pleased to provide this results summary of the 2024 Massachusetts Sexual Misconduct Climate Survey. The survey was distributed to comply with the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education statutory requirements outlined in Chapter 337 of the 2020 Act, commonly referred to as the 2021 Campus Sexual Assault Law.

The survey is based on the [Administrator Researcher Campus Climate Collaborative \(ARC3\)](#). MCPHS reviewed the base survey and adjusted response options to align with our campuses and resources. In the survey, students were asked to answer questions regarding their experiences with, outcomes, and perceptions of campus sexual misconduct and campus safety.

The Office of Institutional Research and Assessment (OIRA) administered the survey during the 2024 fall term. It was open for four weeks, from October 16<sup>th</sup> through November 15<sup>th</sup>. The survey was sent to all Massachusetts-based students, as well as fully online students who reside in Massachusetts, for a total of 5,338. The survey was completed by 824 students, for a response rate of 15%.

Questions about the administration of this survey or its results may be directed to Rachel Andoscia, MCPHS Title IX Coordinator, at [titleIX@mcphs.edu](mailto:titleIX@mcphs.edu). You may find more information about Title IX at MCPHS here: <https://www.mcphs.edu/about/legal/title-ix>.

## Response Rate and Demographics

The Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (MCPHS) is renowned for its strong focus on healthcare education. The Boston campus, located in the Longwood Medical and Academic Area, provides students access to premier hospitals, research facilities, and an urban academic environment. This campus offers a variety of programs in health sciences and serves both undergraduate and graduate students. The Worcester campus is situated in a more suburban setting, offering a supportive learning environment with state-of-the-art facilities. This campus focuses on graduate and professional programs in pharmacy, physical therapy, and optometry, among others. Both campuses offer on-campus residential housing to students.

All students enrolled at the MCPHS Massachusetts campuses (Boston and Worcester, n=5,005), as well as fully online students who reside in Massachusetts (n=333), were invited to participate in the climate survey. The survey was sent to 5,338 students and was completed by 824 students, for a response rate of 15%. The survey was completely voluntary, and respondents could choose the questions they wished to answer and could exit at any point. Therefore, the number of responses presented in the following tables may vary by question due to respondents skipping questions.

<b>Table 1: Respondent Demographics</b>	<b>n</b>	<b>% of Respondents<sup>1</sup></b>
<b><i>Age Range</i></b>		
18-20	248	31%
21-25	368	45%
26-30	110	14%
31-40	44	5%
41-50	29	4%
51-60	10	1%
<b><i>Gender Identity</i></b>		
Man	148	18%
Woman	652	80%
Nonbinary or gender expansive	14	2%
Prefer not to say	<10	-
<b><i>Identify as Trans</i></b>		
Yes	<10	-
No	795	97%
Not Sure	<10	-
Prefer not to say	11	1%

<sup>1</sup> Some of the measures in this table allowed students to check all that apply, so cumulative percentages may exceed 100%

<b><i>Race/Ethnicity</i></b>		
Asian or Asian American	266	32%
Black/African	105	13%
Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0	0%
Hispanic or Latino/a	104	13%
Native American or Alaskan native	<10	-
White/Caucasian	367	45%
A race/ethnicity not listed	43	5%
Prefer not to say	23	3%
<b><i>International Student</i></b>		
Yes	128	16%
No	683	83%
Prefer not to say	<10	-
<b><i>Sexual Orientation</i></b>		
Asexual	<10	-
Bisexual	74	9%
Gay	18	2%
Heterosexual/straight	663	81%
Lesbian	11	1%
Queer	<10	-
Prefer not to say	27	3%
A sexual orientation not listed	10	1%

<b>Table 2: Additional Respondent Characteristics</b>	<b>n</b>	<b>% of Respondents<sup>2</sup></b>
<b><i>Take Courses 100% Online</i></b>		
Yes	72	9%
No	744	91%
<b><i>Year of School</i></b>		
First year undergraduate	183	22%
Second year undergraduate	99	12%
Third year undergraduate	79	10%
Fourth year undergraduate	49	6%
Fifth or more year undergraduate	35	4%
Graduate/Professional	372	46%
<b><i>Participation while at MCPHS</i></b>		

<sup>2</sup> Some of the measures in this table allowed students to check all that apply, so cumulative percentages may exceed 100%

Honor society or professional group related to your field of study	161	20%
Student government	49	6%
Other student organization or group	342	42%
<b><i>Living Situation</i></b>		
On-campus	260	32%
Off-campus, renting	280	34%
Off-campus, own	61	7%
Off-campus, living with family	213	26%
Housing insecure	<10	-

Table 3 indicates that 94% of survey respondents agree or strongly agree that they generally feel safe on campus at MCPHS.

<b>Table 3: Campus Safety</b>	<b>n</b>	<b>% of Response</b>
<b><i>I generally feel safe on campus at MCPHS</i></b>		
Strongly agree	392	50%
Agree	341	44%
Disagree	14	2%
Strongly disagree	31	4%

## Perceptions of Campus Climate Regarding Sexual Misconduct

### A. Institutional Response

Respondents were asked to respond to statements describing how they thought MCPHS might handle it if a student reported a sexual misconduct incident. Sexual Misconduct refers to an incident of sexual violence, dating violence, domestic violence, gender-based violence, violence based on sexual orientation or gender identity or expression, sexual assault, sexual harassment or stalking.

Table 4 summarizes participants' perceptions of how "likely" or "very likely" they believe MCPHS would be able to handle a report of sexual misconduct.

<b>Table 4: Perceptions of How MCPHS Might Handle a Report of Sexual Misconduct</b>	<b>n</b>	<b>% of Response to Statements with Likely/Very Likely</b>
<i>The following statements describe how MCPHS might handle it if a student reported an incident of sexual misconduct. Using the scale provided, please indicate the likelihood of each statement.</i>		
The institution would take the report seriously.	674	82%
The institution would maintain the privacy of the person making the report.	699	85%
The institution would do its best to honor the request of the person about how to go forward with the case.	678	82%
The institution would take steps to protect the safety of the person making the report.	692	84%
The institution would provide supportive measures to the person who made the report (e.g. academic, housing).	621	75%
The institution would take action to address factors that may have led to the sexual misconduct.	650	79%
The institution would punish the person who made the report.	369	45%
The institution would handle the report fairly.	649	79%

## B. Student Awareness of Institutional Policies and Procedures

Table 5 presents the percentage of participants who “agree” or “strongly agree” with statements about the institutional policies and procedures of reporting sexual misconduct at MCPHS.

<b>Table 5: Student Awareness of Institutional Policies and Procedures</b>	<b>n</b>	<b>% of Response to Statements with Agree/Strongly Agree</b>
<i>Using the scale provided, please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements.</i>		
I would know how to make a report of sexual misconduct.	485	59%
I understand what happens when a student makes a sexual misconduct report at MCPHS.	439	53%

## C. Exposure to Sexual Misconduct Information/Education

<b>Table 6: Exposure to Sexual Misconduct Information/Education</b>	<b>n</b>	<b>% of Respondents<sup>3</sup></b>
<i>Since coming to MCPHS, have you received written (e.g., brochures, emails, on-line module) or verbal information (e.g., presentations, trainings) from anyone at MCPHS about the following? Please check all that apply.</i>		
The definitions of types of sexual misconduct	280	34%
How to report a sexual misconduct incident	273	33%
Where to go to get help if someone you know experiences sexual misconduct	301	37%
Title IX protections against sexual misconduct	424	51%
How to help prevent sexual misconduct	238	29%
Student code of conduct	563	68%
Protection from retaliation against someone who reported, or supported someone else who reported, sexual misconduct	171	21%
Other resources to help you or someone you know deal with a sexual misconduct incident (i.e., community-based crisis center)	255	31%

Students were asked to indicate how aware they are of the function of the campus and community resources specifically related to sexual misconduct at MCPHS. Table 7 shows that the resources for which the greatest proportion of students were very or extremely aware of their function were Counseling Services (57%) and Public Safety (52%).

<sup>3</sup> The measures in this table allowed students to check all that apply, so cumulative percentages exceed 100%.



<b>Table 7: Awareness of the Function of Sexual Misconduct Related Campus and Community Resources at MCPHS</b>	<b>n</b>	<b>% of Response to Statements with Very Aware/Extremely Aware</b>
<i>Using the scales provided, indicate how aware you are of the function of the campus and community resources specifically related to sexual misconduct response at MCPHS.</i>		
Office of Student Affairs	258	31%
Public Safety	429	52%
Counseling Services	468	57%
Title IX Coordinator	228	28%

## Sexual Misconduct

The types of victimization measured in the sexual misconduct climate survey included participant reports of sexual harassment by students, stalking, dating violence, sexual violence, and sexual harassment by a faculty and/or staff member. Participants were asked to identify all the victimization types they experienced “since you enrolled at MCPHS.”

Participants who indicated experiencing at least one instance of a given type of victimization (mentioned above) were asked follow-up questions for that section. The data presented are not mutually exclusive, meaning that individuals could be counted in each subcategory more than once (i.e., they experienced more than one type of victimization).

Students rated the frequency with which situations relating to sexual misconduct had occurred since enrolling at their college as never, once, twice, or more than two times. Any answer other than never for each type of sexual misconduct was treated as an affirmative response. For each situation of sexual misconduct, the number (n) and percent (%) of participants who reported at least one instance of the given situation is reported.

## A. Sexual Harassment by Students

Students were asked about sexual harassment situations initiated by another student(s) at MCPHS, as well as a visitor(s) and guest(s) of a student.

Table 8 summarizes participants' reported rates of sexual harassment perpetrated by a student, visitor, and/or guest.

<b>Table 8: Reported Sexual Harassment by Students</b>	<b>n</b>	<b>% of Respondents Who Experienced At Least One Instance</b>
<b><i>How many times, if at all, have you been in a situation in which a student, visitor, and/or guest has done the following things to you, since you enrolled at MCPHS?</i></b>		
Cat-called, followed, honked or whistled at you, flashed you, or directed other sexually aggressive actions towards you in public	140	17%
Was condescending to you, or treated you negatively because of your sex or gender identity	129	16%
Made sexual remarks, jokes or stories that were insulting or offensive to you	113	14%
Displayed, used, or distributed sexually graphic or suggestive materials	52	6%
Made offensive sexist remarks	129	16%
Publicly shamed/humiliated you regarding your sexual activity or experiences	34	4%
Repeatedly told sexual stories or jokes that were offensive to you	71	9%
Made unwelcome attempts to draw you into a discussion of sexual matters	68	8%
Made gestures or used body language of a sexual nature which embarrassed or offended you	60	7%
Made unwanted attempts to establish a romantic or sexual relationship with you (i.e., ask you for dates, drinks, dinner, etc.)	87	11%
Sent or posted unwelcome sexual comments, jokes, or pictures by text, email, Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter, TikTok, or other electronic means	40	5%
Spread unwelcome sexual rumors about you through spoken comments or by text, email, or social media (i.e., Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok)	36	4%

## B. Stalking Victimization

Students were asked about whether they had experienced a set of situations relating to stalking since they enrolled at MCPHS. Overall, 120 participants (14%) reported experiencing at least one instance of stalking victimization (Table 9).

<b>Table 9: Stalking</b>	<b>n</b>	<b>% of Respondents Who Experienced At Least One Instance</b>
Individuals Reporting Stalking Victimization	120	14%

Table 10 summarizes participants' reported instances of stalking victimization.

<b>Table 10: Reported Stalking Victimization</b>	<b>n</b>	<b>% of Respondents Who Experienced At Least One Instance</b>
<b><i>How many times, if at all, have one or more people done the following things to you since you enrolled at MCPHS?</i></b>		
Sent you unwanted emails, text messages, or social media comments/direct messages?	78	9%
Watched or followed you from a distance, or spied on you with a location tracking app, camera, or other device (i.e., AirTags, Find My..., Snap Map, etc.)?	41	5%
Approached you or showed up in places, such as your home, workplace, or school when you didn't want them to be there?	40	5%
Left strange or potentially threatening items for you to find?	16	2%
Snuck into your home or car and did things to scare you by letting you know they had been there?	5	1%
Left you unwanted messages (including text or voice messages)?	44	5%
Made unwanted phone calls to you (including hang up calls)?	30	4%
Left you cards, letters, flowers, or presents when they knew you didn't want them to?	12	2%
Made threats to your physical or emotional safety online?	21	3%
Spread rumors about you online, whether they were true or not?	32	4%
Used coercion, threats, or intimidation to gain access to your phone, email, or other accounts?	18	2%

### C. Dating Violence Victimization

Students were asked whether they had experienced a set of situations relating to dating violence since they enrolled at MCPHS. Overall, 75 participants (9%) reported experiencing at least one instance of dating violence victimization (Table 11).

<b>Table 11: Dating Violence</b>	<b>n</b>	<b>% of Respondents Who Experienced At Least One Instance</b>
Individuals Reporting Dating Violence Victimization	75	9%

Table 12 summarizes participants' reported instances of dating violence victimization.

<b>Table 12: Reported Dating Violence Victimization</b>	<b>n</b>	<b>% of Respondents Who Experienced At Least One Instance</b>
<b><i>How many times, if at all, has a current or former hookup, boyfriend, girlfriend, partner, and/or spouse done any of the following things to you, regardless of the length of the relationship, since you enrolled at MCPHS?</i></b>		
The person threatened me and I was concerned for my safety or wellbeing	28	3%
The person threatened to harm people close to me	18	2%
The person pushed, grabbed, hit, or shook me	34	4%
The person choked me or applied pressure to my throat or neck in a way that was not OK with me	16	2%
The person punched a wall or other object, or engaged in another physically violent act near me	30	4%
The person stole or destroyed my property	23	3%
The person said they would disclose my personal or private information to others	27	3%
The person attempted to or did control my personal life, such as where I went, what I wore, who I saw, or how I spent my money	35	4%
The person repeatedly humiliated me or put me down	38	5%
The person kept tabs on me by following me in person, monitoring my location, or gaining access to my accounts/devices	33	4%

## D. Sexual Violence Victimization

Students were asked about whether they had experienced four different forms of sexual violence since they enrolled at MCPHS, whether on-campus, off-campus, during a break, or when school was in session. Overall, 45 participants (6%) reported experiencing at least one instance of sexual violence victimization (Table 13).

<b>Table 13: Sexual Violence</b>	<b>n</b>	<b>% of Respondents Who Experienced At Least One Instance</b>
Individuals Reporting Sexual Violence Victimization	46	6%

Table 14 summarizes participants' reported instances of sexual violence victimization.

<b>Table 14: Reported Sexual Violence Victimization</b>	<b>n</b>	<b>% of Respondents Who Experienced At Least One Instance</b>
<b><i>Incident(s) where someone:</i></b>		
Touched, kissed, or rubbed up against the private areas of my body, removed some of my clothes, or made me touch them sexually, without my consent (but did not attempt sexual penetration)	47	6%
Performed oral sex on me or made me perform oral sex on them without my consent	10	1%
Penetrated my vagina or anus with their body part or an object, or made me penetrate their vagina or anus, without my consent	9	1%
ATTEMPTED to have oral, anal, or vaginal penetration with me without my consent	15	2%

## E. Sexual Harassment by Faculty/Staff

Students were asked about sexual harassment situations initiated by a current or former faculty and/or staff member at MCPHS.

Table 15 summarizes participants' reported rates of sexual harassment perpetrated by faculty/staff.

<b>Table 15: Reported Sexual Harassment by Faculty/Staff</b>	<b>n</b>	<b>% of Respondents Who Experienced At Least One Instance</b>
<b><i>Since you enrolled at MCPHS, have you been in a situation in which a faculty member, instructor, or staff member has done the following to you?</i></b>		
A faculty or staff member put you down, was condescending to you, or treated you negatively because of your sex, gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation.	30	4%
A faculty or staff member made sexual remarks, jokes, or stories that were insulting or offensive to you.	19	2%
A faculty or staff member displayed, used, or distributed sexually graphic or suggestive materials outside of course materials.	5	1%
A faculty or staff member made offensive sexist remarks.	22	3%
A faculty or staff member repeatedly told sexual stories or jokes that were offensive to you.	11	1%
A faculty or staff member made unwelcome attempts to draw you into a discussion of sexual matters.	4	0.5%
A faculty or staff member made gestures or used body language of a sexual nature which embarrassed or offended you.	4	0.5%
A faculty or staff member made unwanted attempts to establish a romantic or sexual relationship with you (i.e., ask you for dates, drinks, dinner, etc.).	2	0.2%
A faculty or staff member touched you in a way that made you feel uncomfortable.	6	1%
A faculty or staff member made unwanted attempts to touch or kiss you.	1	0.1%
A faculty or staff member attempted to bribe you or implied better treatment to engage in sexual behavior.	0	0%
A faculty or staff member mistreated you or threatened you with some sort of retaliation for not being sexually cooperative.	0	0%

## Institutional Responses

### A. Reporting Experiences

Students who reported experiencing at least one instance of one or more of the five types of sexual misconduct captured in the survey were asked if they told someone about the incident. Thirty-five percent of students told someone about the incident of sexual misconduct victimization before responding to this survey (Table 16).

<b>Table 16: Telling Someone About Sexual Misconduct Victimization</b>	<b>n</b>	<b>% of Respondents Who Answered Yes</b>
Individual told someone about the experience(s)	105	35%

Students who told someone were asked to indicate whom they told. Table 17 shows that the highest proportion of students who reported sexual misconduct told a close friend other than their roommate (74%).

<b>Table 17: Whom Students Told About the Sexual Misconduct</b>	<b>n</b>	<b>% of Respondents<sup>4</sup></b>
<b><i>Students who told someone about the incident told:</i></b>		
Roommate	45	43%
Close friend other than roommate	78	74%
Off-campus counselor/therapist	12	11%
On-campus counselor/therapist	10	10%
Confidential Resource Advisor	4	4%
Title IX Coordinator	8	8%
Romantic partner	33	31%
Institution health services	1	1%
Parent or guardian	25	24%
Other family member	15	14%
Campus Public Safety	3	3%
Local/State police	4	4%
Doctor/nurse	3	3%
Office of Student Affairs	3	3%
Religious or congregational leader, including Clergy, Pastor, Rabbi, Imam or another religious leader	1	1%
Resident Assistant or Residence Life staff	2	2%
Off-campus rape crisis center staff	0	0%
Institution faculty or staff	9	9%
Other	7	7%

<sup>4</sup> The measure in this table allowed students to check all that apply, so the cumulative percentage exceeds 100%.



If students indicated that they told specific campus resources about the incident, they were asked how useful those resources were in helping them deal with the incident and institutional response to reporting. Less than 10 respondents used these specific resources. This data is not shared in the report for privacy reasons.

Students who did not tell someone were asked what factors contributed to their decision not to tell anyone about the experience(s). Table 18 shows that the highest proportion of students who did not report sexual misconduct felt it was a private matter and wanted to deal with it on their own (42%).

<b>Table 18: Factors Contributing to Not Telling Someone</b>	<b>n</b>	<b>% of Respondents<sup>5</sup></b>
Ashamed/embarrassed	38	19%
Is a private matter – wanted to deal with it on my own	82	42%
Concerned others would find out	23	12%
Didn't want the person who did it to get in trouble	15	8%
Fear of retribution from the person who did it	18	9%
Fear of not being believed	26	13%
I thought I would be blamed for what happened	15	8%
Didn't think what happened was serious enough to talk about	42	21%
Didn't think others would think it was serious	26	13%
Thought people would try to tell me what to do	14	7%
Would feel like an admission of failure	8	4%
Didn't think others would understand	20	10%
Didn't have time to deal with it due to academics, work, etc.	26	13%
Didn't know reporting procedure on campus	10	5%
Feared I or another would be punished for infractions or violations (such as underage drinking)	5	3%
Did not feel the campus leadership would solve my problems	13	7%
Feared others would harass me or react negatively toward me	11	6%
Thought nothing would be done	23	12%
Other	43	22%

<sup>5</sup> The measure in this table allowed students to check all that apply, so the cumulative percentage exceeds 100%.

## Campus Safety

All survey respondents were asked a series of questions relating to campus safety.

### A. Sense of Safety

Table 19 presents the percentage of participants who “agree” or “strongly agree” with statements about their sense of safety as a student. The majority of respondents feel safe from the four forms of sexual misconduct asked about.

<b>Table 19: Sense of Safety</b>	<b>n</b>	<b>% of Response to Statements with Agree/Strongly Agree</b>
On or around this campus, I feel safe from sexual harassment.	670	91%
On or around this campus, I feel safe from dating violence.	671	94%
On or around this campus, I feel safe from sexual violence.	668	93%
On or around this campus, I feel safe from stalking.	630	90%

### B. Perception of Sexual Misconduct as Part of Campus Life

Students’ agreement with statements about sexual misconduct are presented in Table 20.

<b>Table 20: Sense of Safety</b>	<b>n</b>	<b>% of Response to Statements with Agree/Strongly Agree</b>
I don’t think sexual misconduct is a problem at MCPHS.	476	81%
I don’t think there is much I can do about sexual misconduct at MCPHS.	245	39%
There isn’t much need for me to think about sexual misconduct while at college.	322	49%

## Bystander Intervention

All survey respondents were asked about their response when/if certain situations arose.

Table 21 presents the percentage of participants who did/would take the action “most of the time” or “always” when/if the specific situation arose.

<b>Table 21: Bystander Intervention</b>	<b>n</b>	<b>% of Response to Statements with Most of the Time/Always</b>
Walked a friend who has had too much to drink or is very high home from a party, or other social event	100	18%
Talked to the friends of a drunk or high person to make sure they don't leave them behind at a party, bar, or other social event	109	20%
Spoke up against sexist jokes	112	21%
Tried to distract someone who was trying to take a drunk or high person to another room or trying to get them to do something sexual	72	15%
Ask someone who looks very upset at a party if they are okay or need help	140	27%
Intervene with a friend who was being physically abusive to another person	93	20%