

THE STUDENT VOICES ON SEXUAL VIOLENCE SURVEY

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Please note that this is the draft of the FAQ's for students and may be subject to change. You will be provided with updated versions as they are available.

1. Why is this survey being conducted?

The Student Voices on Sexual Violence survey is an important tool for gathering information from postsecondary students about their experiences, general attitudes, and beliefs related to personal safety and sexual violence. The survey results will help you and your institution identify and address issues, improve services, build awareness, and update policies and processes related to addressing issues of sexual violence.

2. What is the survey about?

The survey will provide you, your institution, and the Ontario government with information about students' perceptions and experiences of sexual violence. The survey includes questions on the following themes:

- Knowledge of sexual violence supports, services and reporting procedures
- Perceptions of consent
- Experiences of sexual violence
- Satisfaction with institutional responses to sexual violence
- Behaviour of bystanders

3. What is "sexual violence"?

The *Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities Act* (MTCU Act) and the *Private Career Colleges Act, 2005* (PCC Act) define sexual violence broadly as "any sexual act or act targeting a person's sexuality, gender identity or gender expression, whether the act is physical or psychological in nature, that is committed, threatened or attempted against a person without the person's consent, and includes sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, indecent exposure, voyeurism and sexual exploitation." The definition draws on

definitions previously used in Ontario and on language adopted by the United Nations and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

4. Who can participate in the survey?

There are approximately 650,000 Ontario postsecondary students who will be invited to participate in the online survey in Winter 2018. The survey will include all full-time undergraduate and graduate university, college and private career college students who are 18 years of age and older

5. Who is excluded from participating in the survey?

The survey will not include part-time public college, part-time university undergraduate students and students under the age of 18.

6. How do I participate in the survey?

When the survey becomes available, eligible postsecondary students will be sent an email inviting you to participate in the survey. The invitation will include a link to the survey landing page with more information about the survey. From the landing page you can access the survey directly.

7. Can I do the survey on my smartphone or mobile device?

Yes. You can complete the survey on a mobile device, such as a smartphone, as long as an internet browser is available on the device.

8. What is the format of the survey questions?

Each survey question will give you a set of responses to choose from. Sometimes you will be asked to select one response and at other times you will be asked to select all responses that apply. The survey does not ask for any written responses.

9. How long will it take to complete the survey?

The survey is estimated to take an average of 15 to 20 minutes to complete, depending on your experiences.

10. Is the survey voluntary?

Yes. All postsecondary students in Ontario are invited to participate, but the survey is completely voluntary.

11. Am I required to answer every question in the survey?

No. You can choose which questions you want to answer and are not required to complete the survey once you start it. However, you need to answer at least 65% of the questions to receive a \$5.00 gift card.

12. Can I participate if I have not experienced sexual violence?

Yes. All student voices are important in this survey. It is important that all students share their views to improve an understanding of campus cultures and support safer campuses. We appreciate participation from everyone.

13. What do I do if I want my survey responses removed after I have submitted my survey?

You can contact the Student Voices on Sexual Violence survey telephone number at CCI Research to request that your responses be removed. The telephone number is 866-450-4907.

14. When will the survey be administered?

The survey will be administered during a 4-week period in 2018:

At private career colleges – February 16 to March 16,

At universities – February 26 to March 26, and

At colleges – March 5 to April 2.

15. Why was this time of year chosen for the survey?

We recognize that there are many demands on your time and that the largest group of postsecondary students in Ontario begin their studies in the Fall. February and March were chosen to allow most new students enough time on campus to become familiar with sexual violence policies and awareness programs, while not interfering with the most common winter break or final exam schedules.

16. How often is this survey going to be conducted?

The survey is planned for Winter 2018, and will be repeated once every three years. We believe this gives your institution sufficient time to review the results and to make necessary changes where gaps may have been identified.

17. Will I receive an incentive for completing the survey?

Yes. As a token of thanks, you are provided with a \$5.00 electronic gift card if you submit an online survey. This is an important survey and we ask that you complete all the questions that you can. Although you can skip any individual question, you must answer at least 65% of the questions to receive this incentive. After the survey is submitted, you are asked for your email address so that the electronic gift card can be sent to you.

18. If I receive an incentive, how will confidentiality be maintained?

CCI Research is obligated to protect the privacy of students and keep your responses to the survey confidential. To ensure this, your survey responses and the information you provide to receive your incentive will be kept completely separate.

19. Will the survey be available in both official languages?

Yes. The survey will be available in both English and French.

20. What support services are available to me if I need them as a result of the survey subject matter?

If at any time during the survey you feel upset or experience anxiety, the following options will be available to you through the online survey:

- Quick Exit Button: This will take you out of the survey. You can choose to re-enter the survey later. If you do not go on to complete the survey by pressing the 'submit' button at the end of the survey, then your responses will not be used.
- Support Button: This will provide you with information about the support services available at your institution or in the province.
- In addition, during the survey preparations beginning in October, the public information site for this survey, www.sv-vs.ca, will provide information about support services available at each institution.

21. What if I cannot complete the survey from start to finish?

There will be a "Save and Continue Later" button on each page of the online survey which will allow you to exit the survey and return to complete it at a later time. Responses will only be used if you press "Submit" at the end of the survey.

22. Will technical support be available if I have trouble with the survey?

Yes. You can reach technical support at info@cci-research.com or by calling 1-866-450-4907. Contact information for technical support is also included in the email invitation and is available on the survey landing page.

23. Will the survey be available in an alternative format if I have a disability?

The online survey is consistent with web accessibility guidelines and is compatible with computer-assisted reading support systems such as read&write, Zoomtext, Kurzweil, JAWS, NVDA, and Orca. If you require another format, please contact your institution (typically, the Disability or Accessibility Services Office).

24. When will the results of the survey be available?

The survey results will be shared with your institution in the Summer of 2018.

25. Will my responses be kept confidential?

CCI Research will conduct this survey in a manner that protects your identity. Your name, student ID and email address will never be saved with your survey responses. Results will only ever be reported in a format that preserves confidentiality.

26. If my institution is very small, how will the results be shown?

Results will only ever be reported in a format that preserves confidentiality. To protect the identity of students, the following rules will be applied by CCI Research before providing data and results to your institution:

- No data file will be provided to an institution if there are not at least 300 responses from that institution,
- No campus or other location, faculty or clustering of programs, will be identified in the data file if there are not at least 100 responses for that group,
- No breakdown of information by individual program of study will be provided in the data file,
- No personal demographic information will be provided by campus, faculty or other location or program clustering in the data if there are not at least 20 respondents included in each response item (excluding 'Not Applicable' and 'Don't Know' responses).
 - For example, if you self-identify as a transwoman and only 18 other transwomen students at your campus complete the survey,

we will not produce a report which compares the responses of transwomen students on any question with responses of other genders to that question.

- All institutions will receive institution level results which will not identify any individual.

27. How was the survey developed?

The survey was developed in consultation with an expert panel made up of representatives from student groups, private career colleges, colleges and universities, including researchers working on sexual violence. The panel examined a number of existing Sexual Violence Campus Climate Surveys developed or administered by institutions and organizations.

Using existing surveys as reliable models, the expert panel made recommendations regarding the sections and questions that should be included in the Ontario survey. CCI Research was then contracted to refine the survey for use in pre-testing, focus groups and a pilot in the fall of 2017.

28. Have students and institutions been involved in the process of creating the survey?

The ministry's Sexual Violence Reporting Advisory Committee was formed in 2015 and has been providing advice to the ministry related to this survey, and more broadly on measuring and reporting the prevalence of sexual violence at Ontario postsecondary education campuses. There are representatives on the Advisory Committee from:

- The Canadian Federation of Students - Ontario
- The Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance
- The College Student Alliance
- Violence Against Women Researchers
- Violence Against Women Community Partners
- Universities
- Colleges
- The Council of Ontario Universities
- Colleges Ontario
- Career Colleges Ontario
- The Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development
- The Ontario Ministry of the Status of Women

29. Why is the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development involved in this survey?

On March 8, 2016, the government amended the *Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities Act* and the *Private Career Colleges Act, 2005* to require institutions to have sexual violence policies and report to the Minister or the Superintendent on the effectiveness of those policies. To support these changes the ministry developed this survey as one of two reporting mechanisms. The ministry is working on two projects intended to take a survivor-centric approach to data collection: this Student Voices on Sexual Violence survey and a set of Common Institutional Metrics.

The relevant legislation can be found at:

- Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. M.19: <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90m19>
- O. Reg. 131/16: Sexual Violence at Colleges and Universities: <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/160131>
- Private Career Colleges Act, 2005, S.O. 2005, c. 28, Sched. L: <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/05p28>

The ministry owns the data and has contracted CCI Research to conduct the survey on their behalf.

30. Who is conducting the survey?

An independent firm, CCI Research, has refined and is administering the survey in consultation with students and postsecondary institutions. CCI Research is a full-service Ontario-based survey research firm with over 25 years of experience specializing in survey research, assessments and evaluations for government ministries, educational institutions and organizations, public health units, municipal governments, and both private and publicly-owned business enterprises. CCI Research has conducted many large multi-institutional projects with colleges, private career colleges and universities, including many provincial projects in the postsecondary education sector in Ontario (e.g., the Student Satisfaction and Engagement survey with college students and the Ontario University Graduate Survey with university students).

31. What is the government going to do with the data?

The reporting requirements outlined in the legislation will provide the government with information that can be used to assess an institution's efforts

to address sexual violence and support students. The government's public reporting of the data supports transparency and improves public confidence that institutions are aware of the issues of sexual violence on their campuses and have the information to take meaningful steps to respond and to promote the safety and security of their students.

32. What are institutions going to do with the results?

Institutions will analyze the results to enhance their understanding of students' perceptions of and experiences with sexual violence. The information will be used to assess the effectiveness of institutions' sexual violence policies and supports in consultation with students. The information will help colleges and universities:

- Build awareness of sexual violence issues
- Improve their sexual violence policies and processes
- Improve their services and supports for survivors

33. Will the government publish the results?

Some results will be made available. For example, the overall Ontario results and a breakdown by type of institution (e.g. university, public college, private career college) will be published.

34. Who do I contact if I have questions or want more information?

Information is available at www.sv-vs.ca. Your institution's contact is listed at the site. If you have questions beyond what is available here or from your institution's contact, you may email info@cci-research.com, or if you prefer, call CCI Research at 866-450-4907.

35. How does this project complement other work the ministry is doing on sexual violence prevention and response?

The ministry is working on two projects intended to take a survivor-centric approach to data collection: this Student Voices on Sexual Violence survey and a set of Common Institutional Metrics. The Common Institutional Metrics are ongoing measurements of formal complaints/reports of sexual violence made by students.

The results of this survey along with the common institutional metrics are expected to create a robust and comprehensive narrative of students' experiences with and perceptions of this issue. Together these projects satisfy institutions' legal reporting requirements included in amendments to the

Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU) Act and Private Career Colleges (PCC) Act.

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