

**2024-25 SEXUAL VIOLENCE PREVALENCE (SVP)  
CAMPUS CLIMATE SURVEY  
State University of New York**

**PROJECT PLAN**  
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**Table of Contents**

Goal and Use ..... 1

Benefits of the SVP .....2

Survey Instrument .....2

Study Population .....2

Sampling Construction .....3

Survey Administration .....3

Informed Consent.....4

Reports and Raw Data .....4

Risk/Benefit Assessment .....4

Principal Investigators .....4

Ethics .....4

# 2024-25 SVP PROJECT PLAN

## 2024-25 SEXUAL VIOLENCE PREVALENCE (SVP) CAMPUS CLIMATE SURVEY

Per State Education Law §129-B and SUNY Board of Trustees policy, all SUNY campuses are required to administer a Sexual Violence Prevalence (SVP) Campus Climate Survey at least every other year. This project is designed to meet that mandate and entails surveying employees and students as appropriate, utilizing controls to protect the privacy of survey participants. See <http://system.suny.edu/sexual-violence-prevalence-workgroup/policies/campus-climate/> for more detailed information about SUNY's Campus Climate Assessment Policy.

## GOAL AND USE

The goal of the SVP is to evaluate the climate experienced by students and employees at SUNY campuses in regards to sexual violence. Climate assessments afford institutions the opportunity to better understand their campus and to make informed decisions when it comes to providing a safe educational environment.

The survey will address student and employee knowledge about:

- The Title IX Coordinator's role;
- Campus policies and procedures addressing sexual assault;
- How and where to report sexual violence as a victim/survivor or witness;
- The availability of resources on and off campus, such as counseling, health, academic assistance;
- The prevalence of victimization and perpetration of sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking on and off campus during a set time period;
- Bystander attitudes and behavior;
- Whether reporting individuals disclosed to the College/University and/or police, and reasons why they did or did not report;
- The general awareness of the difference, if any, between the institution's policies and the penal law; and
- The general awareness of the definition of affirmative consent.

Individual participation in the SVP is voluntary and the responses to survey questions are not disclosed or used to make any judgments concerning individuals.

The 2024-25 SVP is the fifth System-wide administration of this survey following its initial administration in the 2016-17 academic year. The SVP is implemented every two years by SUNY state-operated and community colleges in accordance with SUNY's Campus Climate Assessment Policy. Many of the same questions will be asked in this and subsequent administrations of the SVP, allowing the SVP to be used as a rich source of information charting change and improvement.

# 2024-25 SVP PROJECT PLAN

## BENEFITS OF THE SVP

This SVP is intended to gather information about sexual and interpersonal violence and harassment as well as student and employee knowledge of related policies and resources on SUNY campuses. While SUNY's colleges and universities are highly complex institutions with many varied missions, understanding how students and employees view programs and services related to the campus climate is fundamental in evaluating how well SUNY's colleges and universities perform their missions. The data gathered in this survey will help SUNY campuses provide a safe learning and working environment for their students, faculty, and staff.

Further, the SVP is an essential element of SUNY's Campus Climate Assessment Policy, and as such, contributes to a culture of continuous improvement and establishes benchmarks for charting progress over time. Viewed in this context, the SVP is of high value to decision makers at all levels.

## SURVEY INSTRUMENT

The first SVP survey was developed by a system-wide task force led by a campus president and consisting of campus representatives from a wide array of offices and then administered in conjunction with Campus Labs. It was piloted by a group of campuses in Fall 2016 and administered to the rest of the campuses in Spring 2017. Based on feedback from the pilot administration, carefully considered edits were made to the survey questions and format to ensure the questions were as relevant and clearly worded as possible. After the initial administration, it was also determined that going forward, the survey would be administered using a new survey tool developed by SUNY System Office of Institutional Research and Data Analytics and SUNY System Office of Information Technology. By not using an outside vendor, SUNY saves considerable funds while providing the University and its campuses more short-term and long-term control over the survey tool itself and the data collected.

The 2024-25 SVP is designed to be completed in 10 to 15 minutes. In accordance with the SUNY Campus Climate Assessment Policy, this is a standardized survey, and campuses will not be able to modify the SVP. Summary results are to be published on each campus's website, and no personally identifiable information shall be shared.

The survey instrument for the 2024-25 administration of the SVP will be the same as it was for both the 2022-23 and the 2020-21 administrations.

## STUDY POPULATION

The SVP study population is undergraduate and graduate home institution students 18 years of age and older who are enrolled in at least one class for credit at the surveying institution during the Spring 2025 semester and all faculty and staff 18 years of age and older employed at the surveying campus in Spring 2025. Age criterion is to be calculated as of the first date of the survey administration. Please note that, regardless of age, all high school students and all

incarcerated persons are to be excluded from the study population.

Students and employees meeting the above qualifications will be invited to participate in the SVP. Responses to the SVP will be kept confidential. Individual responses are used by researchers for analytical purposes only and are not shared with instructors or other campus officials/administrators. SUNY will not be able to match a result to any individual by name, e-mail address, or any other identifying elements. Further, once the survey window closes, **names and email addresses** are permanently deleted.

### SAMPLING CONSTRUCTION

The goal is to survey the entire population of interest. All students 18 years or older, excluding high school students and students participating in the Higher Education in Prison program, and faculty and staff should be invited to participate. In special circumstances, a school may choose to carefully select an appropriately sized representative sample of students for the student survey administration.

### SURVEY ADMINISTRATION

The 2024-25 SVP will be administered online for 3 weeks between March 1, 2025 to May 1, 2025. Campuses have latitude in determining when to administer the SVP during within this timeframe. Administration of the survey will proceed as follows:

- Campuses identify the population of home institution students 18 years of age and older who are enrolled in at least one class for credit at their institution (excluding all high school students and incarcerated, regardless of age) and employees 18 years of age and older during the Spring 2025 semester.
- Campuses send a pre-message to the Spring 2025 students and employees alerting them that an email from SUNY is coming.
- Campuses provide SUNY the names and email addresses of students and employees.
- Campuses ensure **IP addresses are whitelisted**, so students receive the email invitation.
- SUNY sends a personalized email message to the students and employees with a link to the survey.
- SUNY's online features allow students and employees to complete part of the survey, save their responses, and return to complete the rest of the survey later.
- SUNY's survey tool automatically tracks responses and sends up to four reminder messages to non-respondents.
- Reminders are automatically sent to non-respondents on days 4, 9, 14, and 18, as applicable.

## INFORMED CONSENT

Individual participation in the SVP is voluntary. On the first page of the survey, participants are informed that their responses will be confidential and reported in terms of groups of individuals rather than as individuals.

## REPORTS AND RAW DATA

SUNY will process the completed surveys for reporting purposes. SUNY provides each campus with their de-identified unit record survey responses for their own analytical purposes. SUNY also provides campuses a basic report summarizing the responses to each question and prepares various reports from the electronic files. The reports may highlight differences between campuses and sectors, as well as other relevant factors, such as institution size, location, and mission. Any external disclosures by SUNY will always be in aggregate and include appropriate protections to ensure both respondent and institutional anonymity.

SUNY's policy is to direct external requests for campus-specific information about the SVP to individual campuses.

SUNY is not authorized to release any SVP data to a third party without SUNY and campus approval or unless otherwise required by law.

## RISK/BENEFIT ASSESSMENT

The SVP project as proposed here achieves the goals of the study while resulting in negligible risk to participants and campuses. In fact, SUNY anticipates that students will welcome the opportunity to make their views known given the positive uses of the SVP.

In addition to aggregate reports, SUNY will return electronic files containing de-identified unit record responses to the SVP to each campus. All electronic files must be maintained in a secure, password-protected medium. A Statement of Data Confidentiality must be executed by the campus designee before access to the data will be granted.

## PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS

The 2024-25 SVP survey project is under the direction of the State University of New York's Office of Institutional Research and Data Analytics. For additional information, please contact the co-principal investigators listed on the front page of this project document.

## ETHICS

For questions about the ethics of this survey, please contact the State University of New York at New Paltz Human Research Ethics Board (which is a group of people who review the research to

## 2024-25 SVP PROJECT PLAN

protect participants' rights) at 845-257-3282. The Human Research Ethics Board of the State University of New York at New Paltz serves as the IRB of record for research conducted by SUNY System Administration.