

# Survey details likelihood of rape

*Female grad students  
at the UO are less  
likely than undergrads  
to be assaulted*

**BY DIANE DIETZ**  
*The Register-Guard*

Female graduate students at the University of Oregon are significantly less likely than female undergraduates to be raped while in school, according to the latest "campus climate" survey.

While 13 percent of UO female undergraduate students surveyed reported they were raped, just 4 percent of female graduate students reported being raped.

That was among the more encouraging news in the survey results presented by UO psychology professor Jennifer Freyd on Monday at the 20th International Summit & Training on Violence, Abuse & Trauma in San Diego.

The survey also found that 38 percent of female graduate students reported that a faculty member harassed them with behaviors such as telling sexual jokes, making offensive remarks about a student's appearance or being condescending to a female student because of her sex.

"It's always so disconcerting to see such high numbers," said Robin Holmes, UO vice president for student life, in response to the survey findings. "But anecdotally, it fits with the experiences that I have had with talking to graduate students or talking to my staff who provide support to graduate students."

Female law students, in particular, reported the highest rates — 57 percent said they had been harassed by faculty or staff.

"It's all part of a climate they're swimming in," Freyd said. "Whatever we call it, it's not a good thing. It's not a healthy thing."

Freyd and her co-authors surveyed 1,334 randomly selected UO undergraduate and graduate students from May 26 to June 5. No margin of



**Jennifer Freyd**

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## Survey: Fewer than half say they feel safe on campus

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error was immediately available.

The extensive online survey probed students' experiences and their perceptions. Students who took the 30-minute survey were rewarded with a \$15 Amazon gift certificate. The UO paid for the rewards and also for a graduate student to work on the survey, Freyd said.

The Freyd survey is aligned with a national Administrator Researcher Campus Climate Collaboration, or ARC3, that involves researchers from 20 U.S. university campuses.

In addition, the UO is participating in a survey by the Association of American Universities, a nonprofit higher education trade group, which linked UO students to an online questionnaire in April.

A sampling of participants got a \$5 gift card and the rest were entered into a drawing for \$500.

The AAU covered similar ground as the Freyd survey, with questions about sexual assault, sexual harassment, relationship violence and stalking on campus.

More than 28 campuses nationally participated in the AAU survey, which was administered by a private Maryland-based research firm. The cost per campus was \$85,000.

"We will be able to benchmark ourselves in comparison with other institutions," Holmes said.

That survey has been controversial in large part because the AAU said it would release the results only in aggregate form. But UO officials say they will publish the university's portion of the data when it becomes available in mid-September.

Holmes said both surveys will provide invaluable data to administrators in charge of reducing the incidence of assault on campus.

"It's really going to help us to focus our efforts," she said.

The Freyd results would indicate that the university has a distance to go to make its students feel safe and confident on campus.

Only 48 percent of female undergraduates (and 87 percent of males) agreed or strongly agreed with this statement: "On or around this campus, I feel safe from sexual violence."

"To me, these numbers are tragic," Freyd said. "There is a huge cost in feeling unsafe. Women are bearing this cost all the

### SURVEY RESULTS

Here are some results from the UO 2015 Sexual Violence Survey completed by 1,334 randomly selected UO undergraduate and graduate students online from May 26 to June 5. The questions are about their on-campus experiences:

#### Percent of female students reporting that they feel safe on or around the UO campus:

48 percent undergraduate, 47 percent graduate students

#### Percent of female students reporting they've experienced sexual penetration without consent:

13 percent of undergraduates, 4 percent of graduate students

#### Percent of female students who've experienced attempted or completed vaginal, oral or anal contact without consent:

20 percent undergraduates, 8 percent graduate students

#### Percent of female students experiencing sexual harassment by other students:

68 percent undergraduate, 58 percent graduate students

#### Percent of female students experiencing sexual harassment by faculty or staff:

28 percent undergraduate, 38 percent graduate

#### Percent of undergraduate students saying they are "not at all aware" of the following sources of on-campus assistance:

52 percent, Title IX Compliance; 50 percent, Bias Response Team; 39 percent, Student Legal Services; 33 percent, Sexual Assault Support Services; 28 percent, Office of Student Conduct

#### Percent of undergraduate students who'd expect the university to handle well a report of sexual assault:

60 percent said the institution would take the report seriously, 45 percent said the institution would support the person making the report

Source: Jennifer Freyd

time. It's using up mental space and emotional resources."

Many undergraduate students said they were "not at all aware" of the university's anti-discrimination and sexual assault response programs and personnel. About one-third of students were ignorant, for example, of the university's contracted services with the Sexual Assault Support Services (SASS) agency.

"Efforts have been made," but those efforts need to be more engaging and pertinent to students so they don't tune out, Freyd said.

Jennifer Gómez, Marina Rosenthal, Alec Smidt and Carly Parnitzke Smith also worked on Freyd's survey.

### Changes on campus

Since early 2014, when the White House announced a national push to end campus sexual assault — and the UO was the scene of a high-profile incident involving three basketball players and a freshman woman — the UO officials have made dozens of changes on campus.

The university has completed 49 of 108 recommendations that three independent committees made in the wake of the alleged assault and national criticism of the administration's response.

The university hired a consultant to start work on the recommendations. The university added a new sexual assault prevention specialist and an affirmative action investigator.

The university hired a recruiting firm to fill a new position — an associate vice president — in charge of Title IX, including compliance with federal rules on sexual assault prevention.

The university hopes to have the new seat filled in winter term. Title IX is the federal law that bans discrimination on the basis of sex.

The university commissioned an external review of UO fraternities and sororities after Freyd's earlier survey found that sorority members are significantly more likely than other students to be raped or experience other unwanted sexual contact.

The university also developed sanctions for fraternities and sororities that fail to adequately address sexual misconduct issues and related issues of alcohol and drug abuse. It also executed a temporary moratorium on adding new fraternities or sororities.

The athletic department put athletes through the UO's Sexual Awareness Advocacy Team (SWAT) training last spring.

Fall-sport athletes report to campus in late

summer — ahead of the general student body — and so the university hired a director and SWAT members to deliver their message about sexual health and the meaning of consent to the early arrivals. The athletic department chipped in on the cost, Holmes said.

Head coaches and staff are taking workshops and trainings on sexual assault prevention. An executive senior associate athletic director attended the annual Take Back the Night rally, according to the university.

The university is including new questions on its student admissions application regarding criminal history and disciplinary action at former schools.

And the university is making a major effort to provide peer-to-peer training to freshmen, according to a university document. Research shows that the first six weeks of college is the danger zone for sexual assault, Holmes said.

"You really want to acclimate freshmen right away and give them as much information as possible," she said.

Freshmen who live in dormitories will join peer-led discussions of about healthy relationships, boundaries, consent, social norms and bystander intervention.

The program was inspired by the University of Michigan's "Sexploration 101" program; the UO's version is called "Get Explicit."

By the end of their freshman year, the incoming class will have at least three opportunities to get the message.

"I do think it will reduce unwanted sexual assaults. I do," Holmes said.

New UO President Michael Schill in September will appoint an ongoing advisory group to recommend continued and improved efforts to reduce sexual assault.

"I've been really just absolutely blown away with the amount of engagement that President Schill has demonstrated right away," Holmes said.

Freyd presented her survey findings to Schill in the past month, Holmes said.

"He asked really good questions and we spent more than an hour," she said. "I'm very heartened by some of the changes (he) is making."

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