PRELIMINARY REPORT FROM THE
2018 CLIMATE SURVEY

California State University, Chico

CHICO SPEAKS
Survey is open from April 9th-29th

IN SUPPORT OF
SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH
April 2019

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I. INTRODUCTION

The Chico Speaks climate survey was initially developed in 2014 by a firm known as EAB. EAB is a technology, research and consulting firm located in Washington, DC with a focus on serving student affairs professionals. The EAB Campus Climate Survey is an anonymous online instrument to assess students’ experiences, behaviors, attitudes and perceptions about sexual violence on campus. In spring 2018, Chico State was one of 42 college institutions in the United States and Canada that participated in the survey. Participating institutions (sometimes called “the cohort”) were instructed to conduct the survey over a three-week period sometime between January and May 1, 2018. Chico State conducted the survey between April 9 and 29, and called the survey Chico Speaks. The survey opened with warnings concerning the sensitive nature of the subject matter, and survey respondents were offered resource information at the conclusion of the survey.

To solicit participation, all Chico State students were contacted through their University-provided email address and given a link to the anonymous Chico Speaks survey. Messages encouraging participation came from a number of faculty and administrators on campus as well as the Associated Students president. FAQs about the Chico Speaks survey were accessible through the Title IX Chico State website, and posters and stickers were dispersed throughout the campus. The survey was also advertised through various social media platforms. Prize opportunities were offered as a way to incentivize students to participate in the survey. Upon survey completion, students could click a link to visit the Chico Speaks prize entry webpage. The prize page was housed outside the survey site to protect the anonymity of survey takers. On the prize page, identifying information was entered by the student who was then entered into a prize drawing. Prizes included a $5 coffee credit for the first 1,500 participants, as well as iPad Minis, a bicycle store gift certificate, textbook credits, and other prizes offered by random lottery selection. The assumption was that by offering prizes throughout the three-week survey period, students would be more likely to complete the survey. A prize was also given to the student club that had the highest ratio of participation.

A total of 4,138 students started the survey, representing a 23% response rate out of an estimated population of 18,000. The participation rate for Chico State students was higher (23%) than the average of the cohort (17%) participating in the EAB survey.
II. REASON FOR THE PRELIMINARY REPORT

In support of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, the University is releasing this preliminary report focusing on sexual assault prevalence rates and the pervasiveness of certain “rape myths.” The hope is that this data can be part of the wider discussion taking place on campus. We will release the full report in the coming months, and plan to issue a report similar to this in October 2019 in support of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. In October, we will highlight the information we gathered related to healthy relationships (and incidents of unhealthy behaviors such as intimate partner/domestic violence) and stalking behaviors.

III. UNDERSTANDING THE DATA REPORTED

A total of 4,138 students started the survey. Of those who started it, 69% of them (2,863) fully completed it. Some students stopped taking the survey along the way. This is indicated by a varying number of responses for each question. Data in this report is compared against the number of people who actually answered each specific question (as opposed to assuming that 4,138 answered each question). An “n” is reported for each question to contextualize the data for the reader.

Many sections of the survey, including much of what is reported here, relied on the term “sexual violence” to refer to “a range of sexual behaviors that are unwanted by an individual.” When asking about specific forms of sexual violence, the survey asked respondents whether they had experienced specific types of behaviors as opposed to asking about the general term “sexual violence.” The reason for asking specific questions is that people often do not label experiences as “sexual violence” even though it might meet the definition. Generally, the logic of the survey asked further more specific questions if the person answered either “yes” or “unsure.” People who answered a survey question are referred to as “respondents.”

IV. DEMOGRAPHICS: WHO TOOK THE SURVEY

The survey collected demographic data to help the University understand who was taking the survey, and learn how sexual violence may impact certain students differently than others. Some of that data is reported below.

Gender
3,820 students answered this question:
- 67.8% identified as female,
- 30.8% identified as male, and
- 1.4% identified as Trans/Gender Non-Conforming (“GNC”).
Sexual Orientation
3,821 students responded to the question about sexual orientation:

- 82.3% reported that they were heterosexual,
- 8.6% bisexual,
- 3.5% gay or lesbian,
- 2.4% identified as “other,”
- 1.4% asexual and
- 1.9% identified as questioning.

Class Standing
3,931 students answered this question:

- 14.2% were first year,
- 14.8% were second year,
- 28.9% were third year,
- 22.9% were fourth year,
- 12.7% were fifth year or higher, and
- 6.6% were graduate students.

Student Group Participation
For the student group participation question, students were allowed to select multiple options:

- 83 students were on an intercollegiate sports team,
- 110 in student government,
- 109 in performing arts,
- 209 participated in club sports,
- 287 participated in intramurals,
- 411 in a cultural, religious or spiritual group,
- 718 students participated in fraternities or sororities,
- 797 reported in participating in other groups that were not listed, and
- 1,896 students reported that they did not participate in any student group.

Physical Disability or Long-Term Physical Health Condition
3,814 students responded to this question: 90.7% reported that they did not have a physical disability or long-term physical health condition, and 9.3% reported that they did.

Mental Disability or Long-Term Mental Health Condition
3,841 students responded to this question: 77.3% reported that they did not have a mental disability or long-term mental health condition, and 22.7% reported that they did.
V. UNWANTED SEXUAL CONTACT PRIOR TO COLLEGE

The survey found that nearly 25% of the respondents experienced unwanted sexual contact prior to coming to college. Trans/GNC students have the highest rate of unwanted sexual contact prior to coming to Chico State (almost 44%). Women are next with almost 31% and the rate is lowest for men at just under 11%.

VI. UNWANTED SEXUAL CONTACT DURING THE YEAR

a. What incidents of sexual violence are occurring?

In the 2018 Chico Speaks survey, specific descriptions of certain sexual activities were used to survey respondents about whether they had experienced any of those unwanted activities since the 2017–18 school year started. Specifically, respondents were asked to answer this question:

Since the beginning of the current school year (fall 2017), have you had ANY of the following experiences?

- Someone fondled, kissed, or rubbed up against the private areas of my body or removed some of my clothes even though I didn’t want to.
- Someone TRIED to sexually penetrate me (i.e. someone tried to put a penis or insert fingers or objects into my vagina or anus) even though I didn’t want to.
- Someone sexually penetrated me (i.e. someone put a penis or inserted fingers or objects into my vagina or anus) even though I didn’t want to.
- Someone TRIED to perform oral sex on me or make me give them oral sex even though I didn't want to.
• Someone performed oral sex on me or made me give them oral sex even though I didn't want to.

Twelve percent (12%) of the Chico State survey respondents indicated that they had experienced at least one incident of the defined acts of sexual violence between the beginning of the 2017 school year and the time the survey was administered in April 2018. This percentage was higher than the 7% prevalence rate of the other universities and colleges in the cohort.

Exactly 3,119 respondents answered the question about whether they had any of the specific sexual violence experiences described below, 358 indicated that they had experienced at least one of these behaviors, and an additional 3% indicated they were “unsure” (n=85). In the following descriptions, the “n” indicates the number of respondents who answered “yes” to experiencing the specific type of sexual violence detailed.

• Someone fondled, kissed, or rubbed up against the private areas of my body or removed some of my clothes even though I didn’t want to.
  o 80% (n=336) of the people who answered “yes” or said they were “unsure” experienced this type of conduct. This means 10.77% of students answering the question experienced this.

• Someone TRIED to sexually penetrate me (i.e., someone tried to put a penis or insert fingers or objects into my vagina or anus) even though I didn’t want to.
  o 36% (n=157) of the people who answered “yes” or said they were “unsure” experienced this type of conduct. This means 5.03% of students answering the question experienced this.

• Someone sexually penetrated me (i.e., someone put a penis or inserted fingers or objects into my vagina or anus) even though I didn’t want to.
  o 28% (n=122) of the people who answered “yes” or said they were “unsure” experienced this type of conduct. This means 3.91% of students answering the question experienced this.

• Someone TRIED to perform oral sex on me or make me give them oral sex even though I didn’t want to.
  o 26% (n=115) of the people who answered “yes” or said they were “unsure” experienced this type of conduct. This means 3.69% of students answering the question experienced this.

• Someone performed oral sex on me or made me give them oral sex even though I didn’t want to.
  o 22% (n=94) of the people who answered “yes” or said they were “unsure” experienced this type of conduct. This means 3.01% of students answering the question experienced this.
b. Who is affected by Sexual Violence?

Campus sexual violence affects all student demographics, including all genders, all races and ethnicities, all sexual orientations, and all years and levels of school. However, based on the survey results, some groups of students are at a higher risk to have acts of sexual violence committed against them. The following tables and/or graphics represent prevalence rates among some of the different student demographics. This report focuses on demographic breakdowns that demonstrate statistically significant differences amongst the groups.

The graphs below depict prevalence rates of sexual violence occurring between the start of the school year 2017 and the survey in April 2018.

1. By Gender

![Graph showing experienced sexual violence since start of Fall 2017]

Trans/GNC students and women respondents had very similar rates of experiencing sexual violence (over 16%) since the start of fall 2017 until the survey in April 2018, and both with a statistically significant higher rate than men.
2. **By Sexual Orientation**

The LGBTQ+ community had a significantly higher rate of sexual violence incidents than straight/heterosexual student respondents for the time period surveyed.

3. **By Citizenship**

Students who identified as something other than a US citizen such as permanent US residents, foreign nationals or those on a student visa, or undocumented reported statistically significant higher rates of sexual violence than those who are citizens.
4. By Disability

Student respondents who reported physical disabilities did not have an increased rate of sexually violent experiences than those without physical disabilities. However, student respondents who reported having a mental disability or long-term mental health condition, which could include conditions such as dyslexia, long-term depression, or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), experienced sexual violence at significantly statistical higher rates than those who did not report a mental disability.
5. Class Standing of Students Who Experienced Sexual Violence

First- and second-year students are at the highest risk of experiencing sexual violence.
6. **By Extracurricular Activity**

In reviewing the data, the researchers sought to identify what, if any, extracurricular activities showed statistically significant increases in risk of being a victim of sexual violence. While participation in the majority of activities presented no statistically significant differences, respondents who participated in **club sports teams**, and **fraternity or sorority** activities were at a higher risk of becoming victims of sexual violence.

**Rates of sexual violence for those who participate in Greek Life**

![Experienced Sexual Violence Since Start of Fall 2017](chart)

718 students responding to the survey participated in fraternities or sororities and nearly 24% of them reported experiencing sexual violence between the start of the school year in fall 2017 and the survey dates in April 2018. This is nearly twice the rate for those who do not participate in fraternities and sororities.
By Sports Participation

Students who responded to the survey and participated in intercollegiate or intramural sports did not experience sexual violence at statistically higher rates than non-intercollegiate or intramural sports participants. However, students who participated in club sports, which are competitive team sports organized with support of the University, reported statistically significant higher rates of sexual violence than those who do not participate in club sports.

![Bar chart showing experienced sexual violence since start of Fall 2017]

Two hundred nine (209) students responding to the survey participated in club sports and 23.4% of those reported experiencing sexual violence between the start of the school year in fall 2017 and the survey dates in April 2018.
c. Who is Committing Acts of Unwanted Sexual Behavior?

Those respondents who indicated they had experienced an incident of sexual violence were asked about their relationship with the person who conducted the unwanted behavior.

More than 60% of the respondents indicated that there was some type of relationship prior to the incident. It is unclear how respondents answered the question for someone they had met on the day that the incident occurred.
d. Where Did the Sexual Violence Incident Occur?

Students who indicated that had experienced unwanted sexual activity were asked where the incident occurred. A variety of locations were reported, with the most common location at an off-campus residence.

![Pie chart showing the distribution of locations where sexual violence incidents occurred.](chart)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>On-campus residence</td>
<td>1.98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Off-campus residence</td>
<td>7.92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fraternity</td>
<td>4.95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sorority</td>
<td>12.62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bar, Night Club, or Dance Club</td>
<td>6.44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoors</td>
<td>0.74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other on-campus location</td>
<td>0.74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other off-campus location</td>
<td>55.20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

VII. ACCEPTANCE OF “RAPE MYTHS”

Part of the education related to sexual assault awareness is to help students and others understand the harmful stereotypes and assumptions made about what factors can result in sexual assault. Blaming victims for what happens to them is common, and can further lead to trauma for an individual who has been victimized. Therefore, evaluating what myths persist in students’ understanding helps improve training and education. The survey collected data to evaluate the pervasiveness of commonly held “rape myths.” The term was not used in the survey, but rather respondents were asked whether or not they agreed with certain statements which have often served to excuse behavior that is otherwise a violation of the law or policy. The questions in the survey were “intentionally heteronormative and based on sexual situations that occur between men and women,” so that the rape myth it was testing could be explored.

In every instance, men were more likely than women to agree or strongly agree with the myth being tested, and at times the views were two or three times more pervasive. The percentage of respondents who agree or strongly agree with the statements below is broken down by total, female, male and trans/GNC. The number of students responding to this set of questions ranged from 2,834 to 2,841 (e.g., not every student answered every rape myth statement).
• A person who is sexually assaulted or raped while she or he is drunk is at least somewhat responsible for putting themselves in that position.
  o Total agree n = 298 (10.5%)
  o Women agree n = 125 (6.4%)
  o Men agree n = 166 (19.8%)
  o Trans/GNC agree n = 3 (7.9%)
• If a woman hooks up with a lot of men, eventually she is going to get into trouble.
  o Total agree n = 668 (23.5%)
  o Women agree n = 360 (18.6%)
  o Men agree n = 298 (35.3%)
  o Trans/GNC agree n = 5 (13.2%)
• Sexual violence and rape happen because people put themselves in bad situations.
  o Total agree n = 270 (9.5%)
  o Women agree n = 129 (6.7%)
  o Men agree n = 135 (16%)
  o Trans/GNC agree n = 3 (7.9%)
• Sexual violence and rape happen because men can get carried away in sexual situations once they’ve started.
  o Total agree n = 901 (31.7%)
  o Women agree n = 587 (30.3%)
  o Men agree n = 298 (35.4%)
  o Trans/GNC agree n = 12 (31.6%)
• When someone is raped or sexually assaulted, it’s often because the way they said “no” was unclear or there was some miscommunication.
  o Total agree n = 304 (10.7%)
  o Women agree n = 174 (9%)
  o Men agree n = 121 (14.4%)
  o Trans/GNC agree n = 6 (15.8%)
• Rape and sexual violence can happen unintentionally, especially if alcohol is involved.
  o Total agree n = 1171 (41.3%)
  o Women agree n = 701 (36.2%)
  o Men agree n = 444 (52.8%)
  o Trans/GNC agree n = 13 (34.2%)
• It is not necessary to get consent before sexual activity if you are in a relationship with that person.
  o Total agree n = 179 (6.3%)
  o Women agree n = 81 (4.2%)
  o Men agree n = 95 (11.3%)
  o Trans/GNC agree n = 2 (5.4%)
• A lot of times, women who say they were raped agreed to have sex and then regretted it afterward.
  o Total agree n = 453 (16%)
  o Women agree n = 224 (11.6%)
  o Men agree n = 223 (26.5%)
  o Trans/GNC agree n = 4 (10.5%)

• It shouldn’t be considered rape if a man is drunk and didn’t realize what he was doing.
  o Total agree n = 127 (4.5%)
  o Women agree n = 50 (2.6%)
  o Men agree n = 73 (8.7%)
  o Trans/GNC agree n = 2 (5.3%)

VIII. INITIAL RESPONSE FROM CHICO STATE

The data revealed through the survey highlights some of the work that we need to do as an institution. Given the rates of sexual violence reported through the survey, it is clear we need to increase support for victims of sexual violence on campus. The data shows that people experience sexual violence both before and after arriving at Chico State, and we will use the summer to determine what we can do to better support these students, both through current programming and additional actions or programs that may be needed.

Additionally, while it is important that we direct resources towards supporting students who have experienced sexual violence, we also need to take greater steps to prevent instances of sexual violence from happening. Research continues to show that the most effective prevention efforts come from bystander intervention programs that engage peers as well as the entire campus community. The goal will be to build understanding that interpersonal violence has no place in our campus community and that everyone has a role to play in its prevention. To support this idea, we will be sending a team of employees to be trained on bystander intervention programming, and then tasking them with rolling out and delivering such a program on our campus.

Further data pulled from the Chico Speaks climate survey will be shared with the community as the final report becomes available. The hope is that the conversations started by this data will continue, and we will be better able to refine our efforts based on what we learn.

We want to thank the many students who completed the survey. Without your input, we would not have the data to help guide our decisions and best serve you as an institution.

Finally, to the many survivors of sexual violence who walk amongst us, thank for you helping us shine a light on this subject and for sharing your experiences through the survey.