

2018 SEXUAL ASSAULT BELIEFS AND EXPERIENCES SURVEY FACT SHEET

Keene State College has provided leadership within the University System of New Hampshire around sexual violence prevention for decades. This ranges from creating the campus Coordinator of Sexual Violence Prevention position 20 years ago, to administering the Sexual Assault Beliefs and Experiences Survey (SABES) in 2015--the first sexual misconduct survey conducted on a University System of New Hampshire campus, to recently securing a \$300,000 U.S. Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women Campus Grant.

KSC created the SABES in 2015 through a multidepartment collaboration with the support of the President's office following recommendations from the White House. This locally-developed online survey asks questions that assess perceptions of the College's response to reports of sexual violence, knowledge of key aspects of the Sexual Misconduct Policy, likelihood of taking actions to prevent or stop acts of sexual violence, and experience with sexual violence. Data from this survey have helped Keene State shape its robust sexual violence prevention efforts, addressing the real needs of our students, and provided inspiration and rationale for the Office on Violence Against Women Campus Grant.

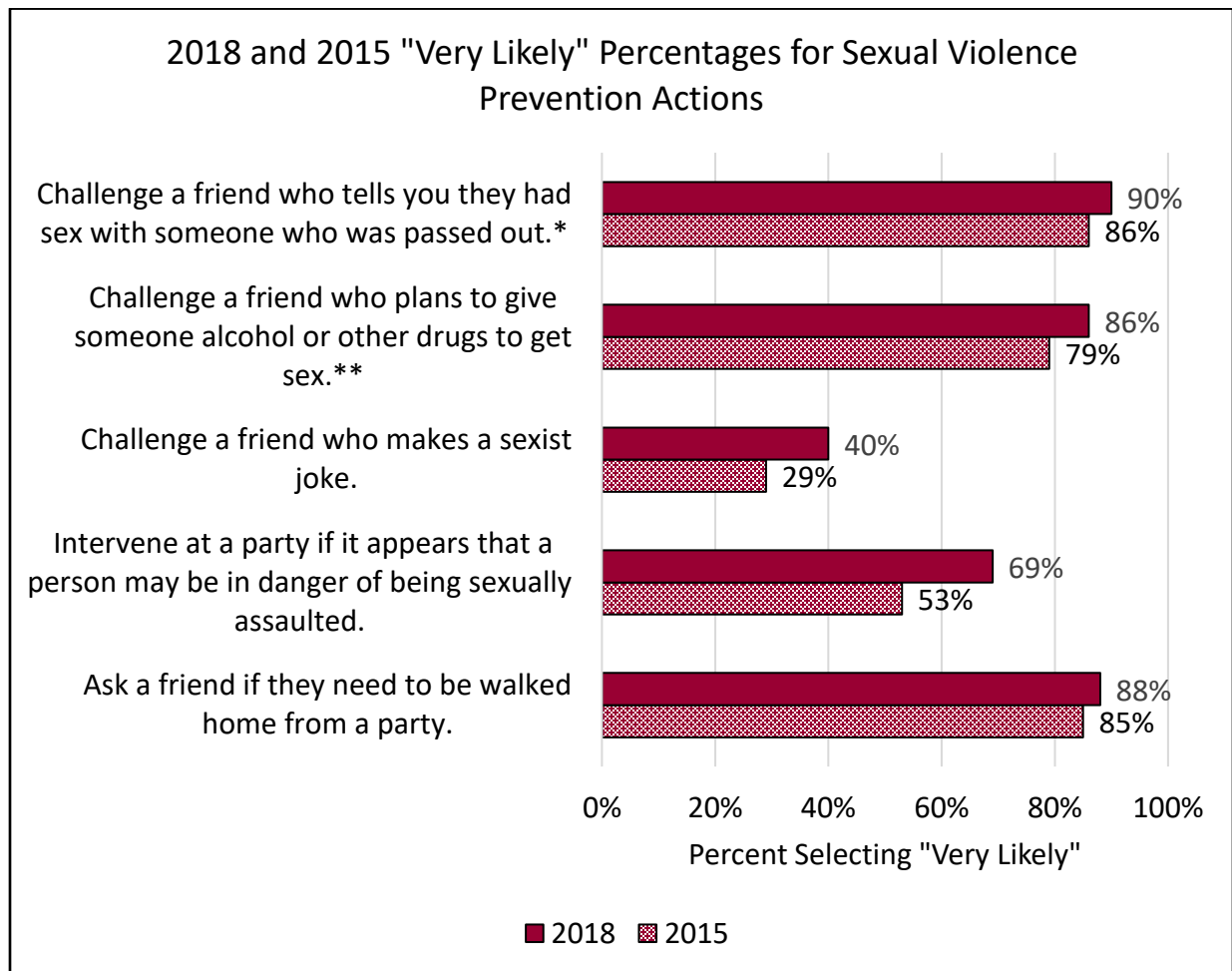
During the Fall 2018 term, Keene State College once again invited all students to respond to the SABES. We obtained responses from 616 students--486 who identified as women (26% of the 2018 female student body), 125 as men (8% of male students), and five who selected non-binary or "other." Twelve students identified as transgender. In the findings summarized below, references to "men" and "women" include all students who identify with one of those genders regardless of whether or not that was their birth gender. The percentage of women participants experiencing sexual violence involving force or incapacitation (15%) was nearly half of the rate reported by women in a national survey of U.S. college and university students (26%). This and other key findings from this survey are presented below. For a detailed report on these and additional findings, please see the ["2018 Sexual Assault Beliefs and Experience Survey Findings"](#) report. Findings included in this report will inform the College's response to sexual misconduct and development of prevention programming. Although sexual violence continues to plague our communities and our campuses, Keene State continues to model courageous commitment, creativity and transparency in efforts to change this.

- **Sexual Violence prevention and intervention social norms.** Responses to survey questions indicate that KSC's sexual violence prevention efforts are effective in fostering attitudes and beliefs that are incompatible with sexual misconduct.
 - *Perceptions of KSC's Sexual Misconduct Policy (SMP).* Higher percentages of students 2018 agreed with key statements about the SMP than was the case in 2015.
 - Understand meaning of "consent" in SMP 92% (85% in 2015)
 - KSC is clear that sexual assault is unacceptable 89% (85% in 2015)
 - Understand SMP 87% (79% in 2015)
 - KSC provides enough support for survivors 69% (67% in 2015)
 - Know which offices provide support 63% (58% in 2015)

- *Effect of attending a sexual violence prevention presentation such as “No Zebras, No Excuses” on perceptions of SMP components.* Consistent with findings from 2015, students attending one or more sexual violence prevention presentations expressed significantly more awareness of policy components, and reported more favorable perceptions of how the college responds to reports of sexual violence.

	Attended	Did not Attend
▪ Understand meaning of “consent” in SMP	95%	53%
▪ KSC is clear that sexual assault is unacceptable	92%	53%
▪ Understand SMP	91%	44%

- *Sexual violence prevention and intervention action likelihood.* Approximately 90% of participants indicated that it is very likely that they would challenge a friend who told them they had sex with someone who was passed out, challenge a friend who plans to give alcohol or other drugs to get sex, and ask a friend if they need to be walked home from a party. The 2018 “Very Likely” likelihood averages for each item exceeded those from 2015.

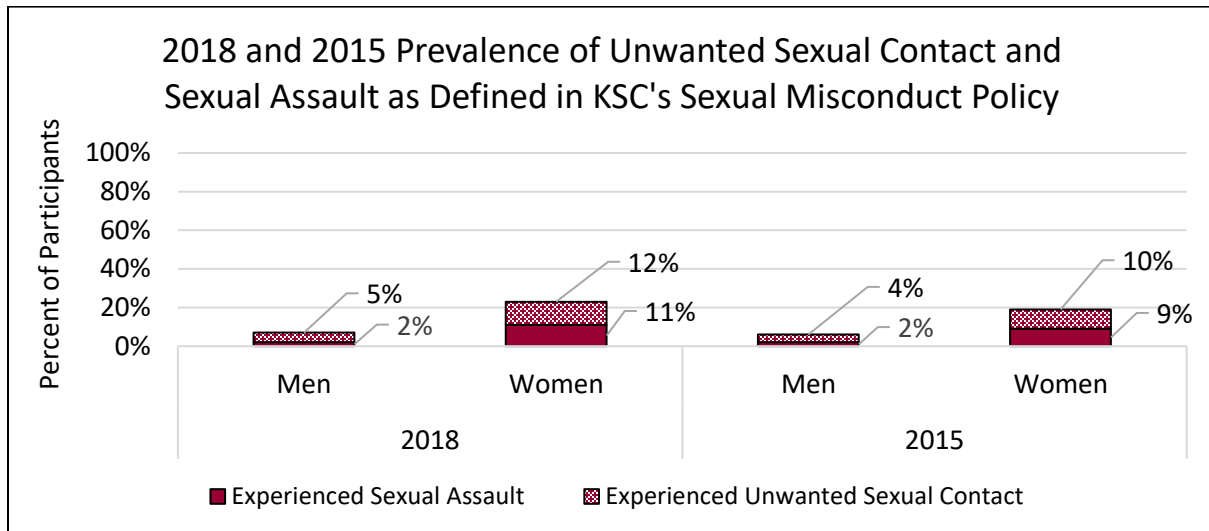


*Item reworded in 2018. Worded as, “Criticize a friend...” in 2015.

**Item reworded in 2018. Worded as “Confront a friend...” in 2015.

- **Prevalence of sexual violence**

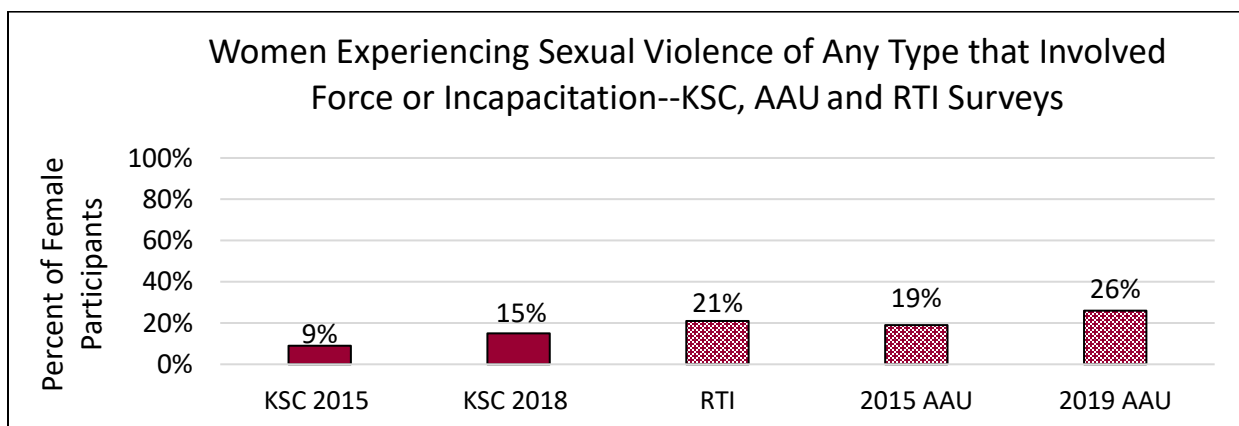
- *Students experiencing sexual violence as defined by SMP.* While enrolled at KSC, 23% of women-- up from 19% in 2015, and 7% of men reported an experience meeting the requirements for sexual violence specified in the KSC's Sexual Misconduct Policy (unwanted acts of sexual touching, oral sex, sexual intercourse, anal sex, or sexual penetration with a finger or object).



For definitions of sexual assault and unwanted sexual contact, see:

<https://www.keene.edu/administration/policy/detail/handbook/sexual-misconduct/>

- *Comparisons with Findings from National Studies of Campus Sexual Violence Involving Force or Incapacitation (excludes incidents involving only verbal pressure).* The three most recent national studies of sexual violence in higher education examined nonconsensual sexual contact involving either physical force and/or incapacitation. They found that 19-26% of female students experienced this form of sexual assault. By contrast, 15% of KSC's 2018 female sample reported an incident of this nature.

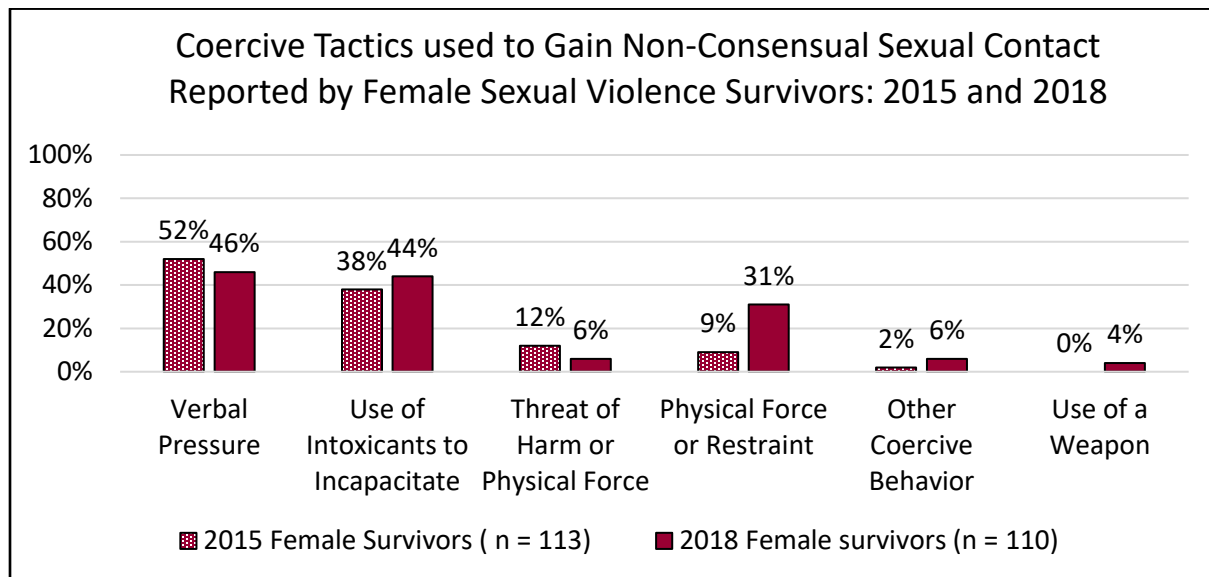


RTI--The 2015 Research Triangle Institute Survey

2015 AAU--The Association of American Universities 2015

2019 AAU--The AAU's 2019 Climate Survey on Sexual Assault and Sexual Misconduct

- **Aspects of initial experience with non-consensual sexual contact**
 - *Incident timing.* Of those experiencing sexual violence, 58% reported that the incident took place during their freshman year.
 - *Incident setting.* More took place on campus (49%) than off-campus near KSC (39%).
 - *Perpetrator characteristics.* Perpetrators were known by 67% of those experiencing sexual violence, and 85% reported that the perpetrator was a KSC student.
 - *Tactics used by perpetrator.* Tactics most frequently used to gain non-consensual sexual contact from women included verbal pressure (46%) and the use of intoxicants to incapacitate (44%). Since 2015, the percentage of women reporting verbal pressure declined from 52% to 46%, but the percentages increased for use of intoxicants (38% to 44%) and physical force or restraint (9% to 31%).



- **Incident reporting findings**
 - *Reporting options identified by participants.* When asked to state the person(s) or office(s) to whom they could report an act of sexual violence, 47% provided an appropriate reporting option—down from 50% in 2015.
 - *Persons or offices survivors disclosed experiences of sexual violence.* Six percent of sexual violence survivors reported the incident to KSC’s Campus Safety. Survivors most frequently disclosed incidents to a friend (63%), or a roommate (37%).
 - *Reasons for not disclosing.* Reasons for not reporting incidents of sexual violence included the belief that the incident was not serious enough to merit a report (52%), being embarrassed or ashamed (46%), and assuming that their report would not be believed (24%). Only 10% indicated that they did not know how to report the incident.