Campus Climate Survey Report on Sexual Victimization

On January 20, 2016, the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), within the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), released the results of a campus climate survey that collected data on sexual victimization of undergraduate students from nine pilot schools during the 2014-15 academic year. The report, *Campus Climate Survey Validation Study Final Technical Report*, provides a thorough explanation of the data collection methodology, including school recruitment and student sampling, as well as data assessment and weighting. The climate survey itself addressed the topic areas of: 1) sexual assault, rape, and battery, 2) sexual harassment and coercion, 3) intimate partner violence victimization, 4) sexual harassment and sexual assault perpetration, and 5) school connectedness and campus climate.

The results of the new BJS study confirm many previous campus climate studies:

- An average of 21% of females confirmed they had experienced sexual assault since entering college.
- First year female undergraduates reported the highest number of sexual assault incidents, particularly in September and October (2014), known to many as "the Red Zone."
- The majority of incidents (including rape and sexual battery, 64% and 68%, respectively) were disclosed to a friend, roommate, or family member. However, official reporting was much lower. Only 12.5% of rape and 4.3% of sexual battery incidents were reported to any official (this includes campus officials, crisis hotlines, campus police/security, and local law enforcement).
- The impact for victims of rape is far-reaching. For 21.7% of rape incidents, the victim "thought about taking some time off from school, transferring, or dropping out." For 8.4%, the victim dropped classes or changed her schedule, while 11.4% wanted to change her schedule or drop classes.

It's important to note the differences between schools and how the prevalence of sexual assault between schools may differ. The rate of sexual assault at one school was nearly five times higher than the lowest school. How a school responds to sexual assault, with training, prevention, education, and other proactive practices may be making a difference, according to the BJA.

At NOVA, the college police and Sexual Assault Services offer a series of briefings, workshops and other activities to minimize the prospects of sexual assault and respond in an appropriate, timely and sensitive manner when it occurs. You can report incidents of assault to or get information about services 24/7 from NOVA Police Dispatch (703-764-5000) or SAS (703-338-0834).

Stalking Resources:

Don’t Forget About Winter Weather!

Having just weathered a historic snow storm, we offer some pointers that can keep you safe and get you back on your feet as soon as possible.

**Be safe on Campus.** When on a NOVA Campus, remember:
- **Have sturdy boots for walking.**
- **During winter weather, walk carefully on sidewalks and pavement.**
- **When outside, wear layered lightweight clothing to keep you warm. This works better than a single heavy coat.**
- **Be familiar with NOVA’s Inclement Weather Procedures. If the College is going to be closed, a text alert will be sent to cell phones registered with NOVA Alert, a notice will be posted on the College’s website, and major local media outlets will broadcast the closing information.**

**Prepare your car.** Keep some supplies in your car for when it is safe to be on the road again:
- Ice scraper for windows.
- Shovel and broom.
- Water and a few nonperishable snacks (crackers, granola bars, trail mix).
- Flashlight.
- Emergency flares.
- Sand, rock salt or even kitty litter (fresh) to give you traction if you get stuck.
- Extra socks, gloves, and a blanket

**Get a kit.** Imagine that you cannot leave your home for three days. You need these basic emergency supplies:
- Three days’ food that does not need refrigeration or electricity to prepare it.
- Three days’ water (a gallon per person per day).
- A battery-powered and/or hand-crank radio with extra batteries.
- After you have these essentials, then add a first aid kit, supply of prescription medications, blankets and warm clothing, supplies for infants/toddlers and anyone with special needs, and pet items.

**Make a plan.** Everyone needs an emergency plan:
- **Decide who your out-of-town emergency contact will be.**
- **Where will you meet up with family members if you cannot return home?**

**Stay informed.** Before, during and after a winter storm, you should:
- **Listen to local media for information and instructions from emergency officials.**
- **Be aware of winter storm watches and warnings and road conditions.**
- **Get where you need to go before the weather gets bad.**
- **Get road condition information 24/7 by calling 511 or checking [www.511Virginia.org](http://www.511Virginia.org).**

**Download the Ready Virginia app.** This app features:
- Location-specific weather watches and warnings issued by NWS.
- "I'm Safe!" notification that allows users to quickly send a text message to let family and friends know they are safe.
- A customizable family emergency plan that can be easily shared.
- A checklist for gathering emergency supplies.
- Links to register for local emergency alerts, and more.

For more information, visit [www.ReadyVirginia.gov](http://www.ReadyVirginia.gov)
The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) recently issued a National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS) Bulletin. The bulletin highlights the need for increased security, vigilance and awareness based on the global threat and concerns that homegrown violent extremists may be inspired to target public events or places. This is the first advisory DHS has issued since it dropped the color code system in 2011.

Here is a simple, four-step action plan to consider when thinking about your safety and security:

"Plan - Train - Connect - Report."

**PLAN:** Don’t wait for something to happen. Take the time now to plan on how you will handle a security event should one occur. Familiarize yourself with the potentially life-saving information in the DHS resources, listed below.
- Develop plans for security, emergency response, and emergency communications.
- Familiarize yourself with access points, closed-circuit television locations, signs, suspicious activity reporting, parking security, and explosive standoff distances.
- Become aware of evacuation and shelter in place plans and potential evacuation routes.

**TRAIN:** Participate in exercises of your personal and NOVA Emergency plans. The best laid plans must be exercised in order to be effective.
- Attend training on active shooter scenarios, what to do if you suspect an improvised explosive device (IED), and NOVA’s safety and security resources, such as the information contained and the training announced in this monthly newsletter.

**CONNECT:** Don’t just call your local law enforcement when an incident occurs; reach out and develop relationships beforehand.
- Connect with NOVA police, local law enforcement, and community security and preparedness organizations such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation.
- Stop by any NOVA police office to discuss your safety and security concerns or to become aware of NOVA’s resources.

**REPORT:** "If You See Something, Say Something™" is more than just a slogan
- Program NOVA Police Dispatch’s 24/7 telephone number (703-764-5000) of into your cell phone and download the free LiveSafe mobile safety app. Go to nvcc.edu/police for a link to LiveSafe.
- Report suspicious activities, such as unattended vehicles, abandoned parcels, suitcases, backpacks, and packages, people who are inappropriately dressed for the weather, and seemingly unusual activity.
- When reporting suspicious activity to NOVA Police Dispatch or 9-1-1, tell us who or what you saw, when you saw it, where it occurred, and why it’s suspicious.

**Resources to Support PLAN - TRAIN - CONNECT - REPORT**
- DHS Active Shooter resources are available at the following links: http://www.dhs.gov/active-shooter-preparedness; Active Shooter Booklet: http://www.dhs.gov/publication/active-shooter-how-to-respond; and Active Shooter Pamphlet: http://www.dhs.gov/publication/active-shooter-pamphlet
- "If You See Something, Say Something™" campaign information is available at: http://www.dhs.gov/see-something-say-something
- Counter-Improvised Explosive Devices information and resources are available at: www.dhs.gov/tripwire
Upcoming NOVA Police Training

NOVA Police will present “how to stay safe” training college wide. Below are dates and times for this upcoming training.

**Topics Include:**
- NOVA safety resources
- Personal safety tips
- Active shooter response overview
- And much more

**Dates and Times:** (All training will be held from noon to 1:00 PM)
- Alexandria Campus, February 16, AA-454
- Annandale Campus, February 18, CC-114
- Loudoun Campus, February 18, LR-226
- Manassas Campus, February 23, Colgan theater
- Woodbridge Campus, February 25, Seefeldt 329
- Medical Education Campus, February 29, Room 255

**Call NOVA Police Dispatch 24/7/365**
**703-764-5000**