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How Does Training Related to Sexual Assault Awareness and Resources Relate to Perceptions of Campus Climate?

Skyfactor Research Note

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In response to recent incidents of sexual assault and violence on college campuses, many institutions have focused increased effort on resources related to sexual assault awareness. Part of this effort often includes training sessions and program for students on general awareness, prevention, and reporting.

How many students are receiving this type of training? Is the training effective? Does participation in and/or satisfaction with training related to sexual assault awareness resources relate to students' perceptions of the institution, the administration, campus safety, and overall satisfaction with their college experience?

This research note explores the topic of campus training programs related to instances of sexual assault. Using data from the 2016-2017 Benchworks Campus Climate, Safety, and Sexual Assault Assessment, this research note examines whether or not participation in training has a relationship to perceptions of campus climate and safety.

> **Key Points**
> - Students who participated in training related to sexual assault awareness and prevention reported being highly satisfied with the quality of the training.
> - Generally, students who were satisfied with campus training related to sexual assault incidents and awareness were more likely to indicate positive perceptions of other aspects of campus, in particular the institution as a whole and campus administration.
> - Students who were dissatisfied with campus training on sexual assault awareness were less likely to indicate positive perceptions of other aspects of campus, even more so than students who did not participate in any training.
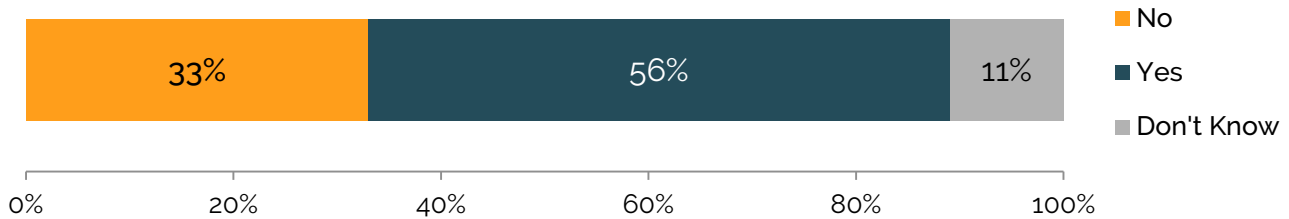
Key Questions:

1. How many students participated in training related to sexual assault awareness and incidents?
2. How satisfied were participants in training related to sexual assault awareness and incidents?
3. How does satisfaction with sexual assault awareness and incident training relate to perceptions of sexual assault incidents?
4. How does satisfaction with sexual assault awareness and incident training relate to broader perceptions of campus climate and safety?

How many students participated in training related to sexual assault awareness, policies, and resources?

When students were asked if they had been trained in policies and procedures regarding incidents of sexual assault (e.g., what is defined as sexual assault, how to report an incident, confidential resources, procedures for investigating, etc.), over half (56%) responded that they had, while a third responded that they had not and 11% were unsure. Figure 1 depicts the responses to this question.

Figure 1: Campus Training

Distribution of responses to the survey question, "Have you received training in policies and procedures regarding incidents of sexual assault (e.g., what is defined as sexual assault, how to report an incident, confidential resources, procedures for investigating, etc.)?"

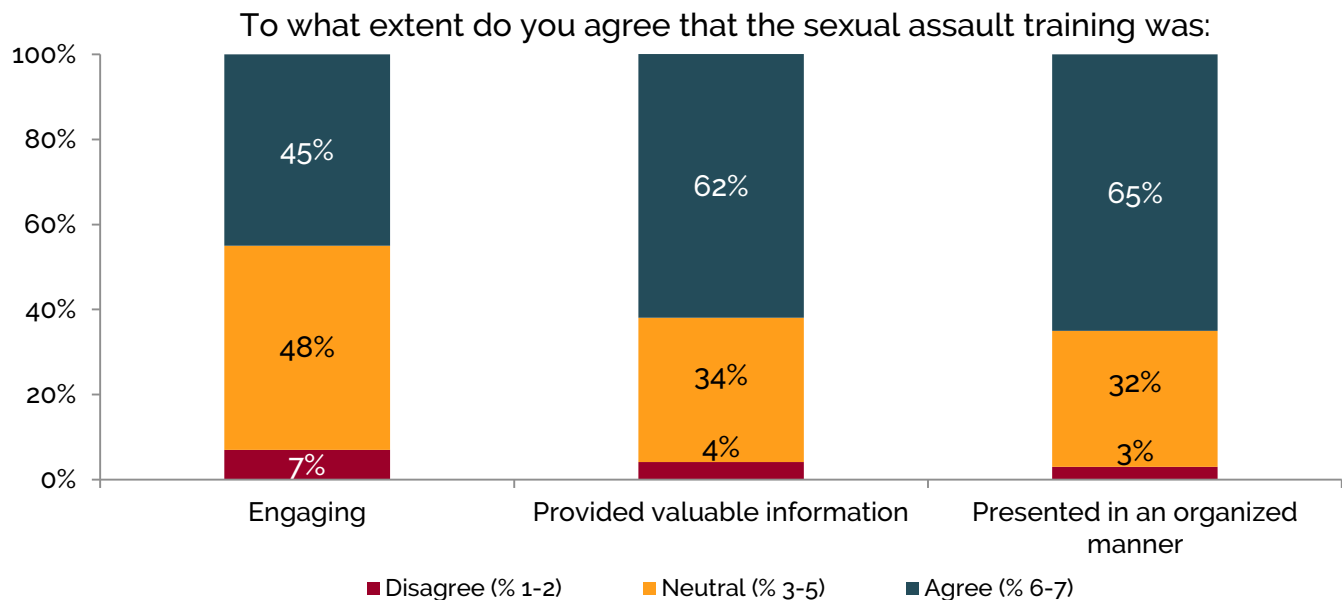| No	Yes	Don't Know
33%	56%	11%

Students who indicated "Don't know" to whether or not they participated in campus training were excluded from the remaining analysis in this note.

How satisfied were participants in training related to incidents of sexual assault?

Figure 2 displays the distribution of student responses to questions related to the quality of sexual assault awareness and incident training. Figure 3 displays the bucketed average scores of internship participants across all three training satisfaction questions. Responses were grouped into low (average score of less than 3), moderate (average score between 3 and 5.9), and high (average score 6 or higher). Generally, students who participated in this type of training agreed that the training was engaging, provided valuable information, and was presented in an organized manner.

Figure 2: Training Satisfaction

Percentage of students selecting "1" or "2" (disagree), "3," "4," or "5" (neutral), or "6" or "7" (agree) on questions related to satisfaction with sexual assault awareness and incident training.

To what extent do you agree that the sexual assault training was:

	Engaging	Provided valuable information	Presented in an organized manner
Agree (% 6-7)	45%	62%	65%
Neutral (% 3-5)	48%	34%	32%
Disagree (% 1-2)	7%	4%	3%

Disagree (% 1-2) Neutral (% 3-5) Agree (% 6-7)

Figure 3: Training Satisfaction Average
Percentage of training participants averaging a low (1.0-2.9), moderate (3.0-5.9) and high (6.0-7.0) mean
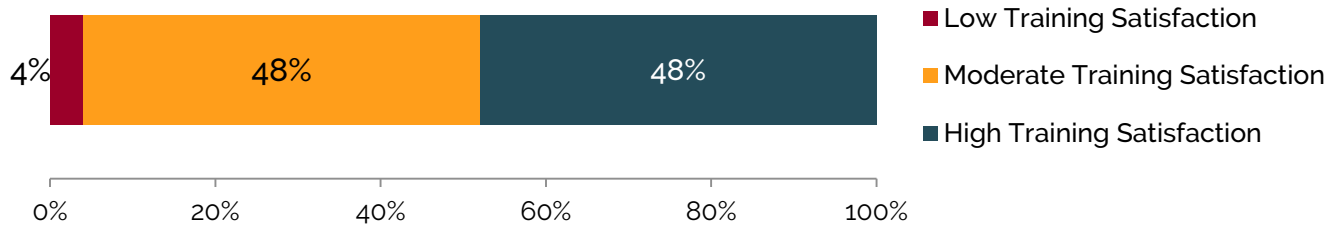
Legend: Low Training Satisfaction — Moderate Training Satisfaction — High Training Satisfaction
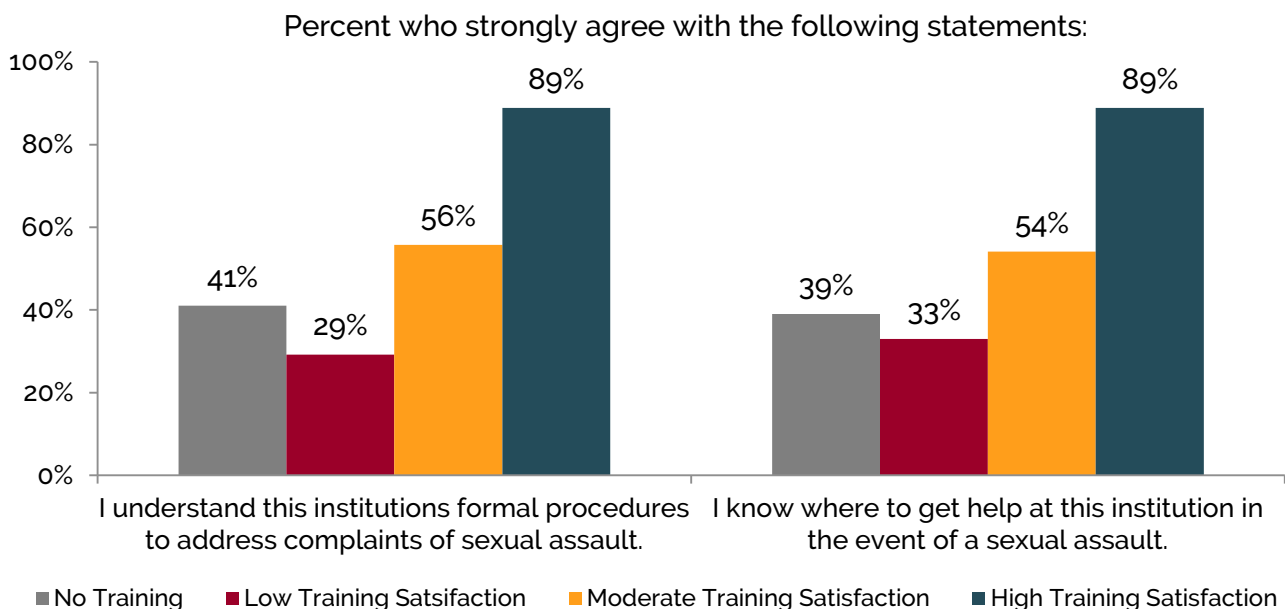
Bar values: 4% — 48% — 48%

How does satisfaction with sexual assault awareness and incident training relate to perceptions of sexual assault incidents?

Figures 4, 5, and 6 display the percentage of students who strongly agreed with statements related to their knowledge of resources related to sexual assault and their perceptions of how their institution would respond to incidents of sexual assault. Generally, students who indicated high satisfaction with training were more likely to strongly agree to statements related to perceptions of institutional response to a sexual assault and knowledge of sexual assault resources. Additionally, students who indicated low satisfaction with training were less likely to agree with statements than those who did not participate in training at all.
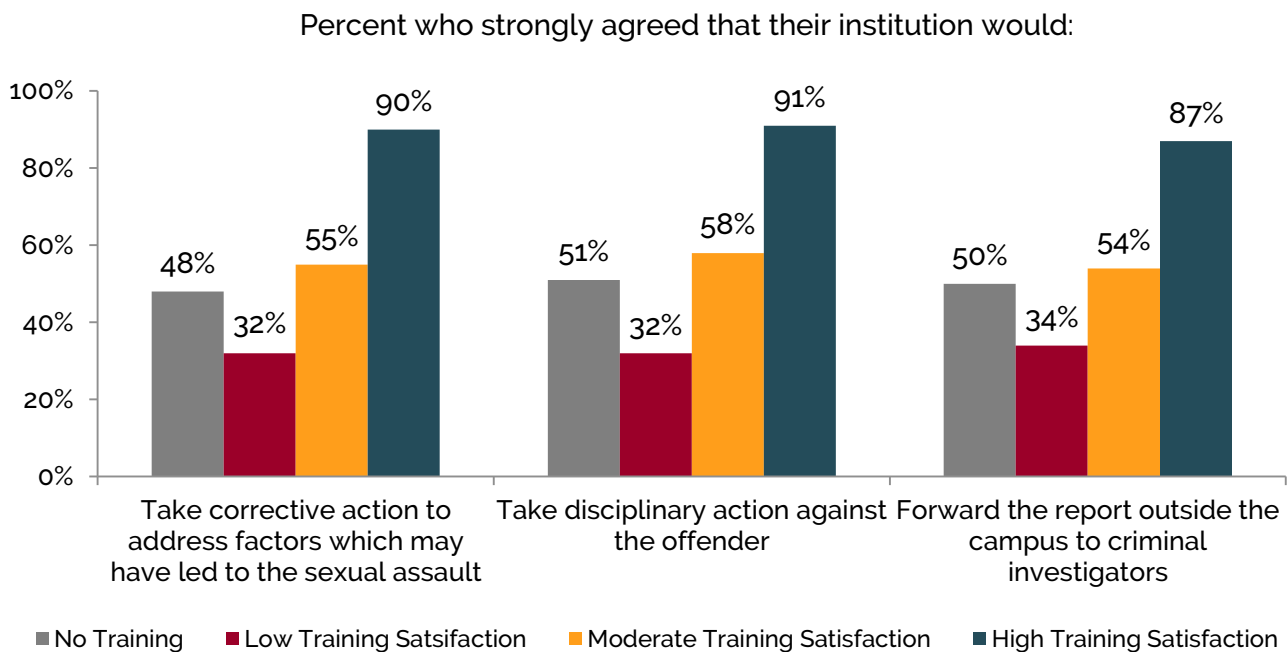
Figure 4: Training Satisfaction and Knowledge of Sexual Assault Resources
Percentage of students selecting "6" or "7" (Strongly agree) on questions about their knowledge of sexual assault resources grouped by whether they had high, moderate, or low satisfaction with training or if they had no training at all.

Percent who strongly agree with the following statements:

I understand this institutions formal procedures to address complaints of sexual assault.
- No Training: 41%
- Low Training Satisfaction: 29%
- Moderate Training Satisfaction: 56%
- High Training Satisfaction: 89%

I know where to get help at this institution in the event of a sexual assault.
- No Training: 39%
- Low Training Satisfaction: 33%
- Moderate Training Satisfaction: 54%
- High Training Satisfaction: 89%

Legend: No Training — Low Training Satsifaction — Moderate Training Satisfaction — High Training Satisfaction

Figures 5 and 6: Training Satisfaction and Perceptions of Institutional Response to Sexual Assault Incidents

Percentage of students selecting "6" or "7" (Strongly agree) on questions about their perceptions of their institution's response to a sexual assault incident grouped by whether they had high, moderate, or low satisfaction with training or if they had no training at all.

Percent who strongly agreed that their institution would:

Keep knowledge of the report limited to those who need to know
- No Training: 50%
- Low Training Satisfaction: 37%
- Moderate Training Satisfaction: 58%
- High Training Satisfaction: 89%

Support the person making the report
- No Training: 51%
- Low Training Satisfaction: 35%
- Moderate Training Satisfaction: 57%
- High Training Satisfaction: 90%

Take steps to protect the person making the report from retaliation
- No Training: 49%
- Low Training Satisfaction: 34%
- Moderate Training Satisfaction: 56%
- High Training Satisfaction: 89%

■ No Training ■ Low Training Satsifaction ■ Moderate Training Satisfaction ■ High Training Satisfaction

Percent who strongly agreed that their institution would:

Take corrective action to address factors which may have led to the sexual assault
- No Training: 48%
- Low Training Satisfaction: 32%
- Moderate Training Satisfaction: 55%
- High Training Satisfaction: 90%

Take disciplinary action against the offender
- No Training: 51%
- Low Training Satisfaction: 32%
- Moderate Training Satisfaction: 58%
- High Training Satisfaction: 91%

Forward the report outside the campus to criminal investigators
- No Training: 50%
- Low Training Satisfaction: 34%
- Moderate Training Satisfaction: 54%
- High Training Satisfaction: 87%

■ No Training ■ Low Training Satsifaction ■ Moderate Training Satisfaction ■ High Training Satisfaction

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The following sections detail analysis exploring the relationship between training satisfaction and broader student perceptions of campus climate and safety.

Perceptions of the Institution

Figure 7 displays the percentage of students who strongly agreed with statements related to their perceptions of their institution based on satisfaction with training related to sexual assault awareness and incidents. Students who indicated high satisfaction with training were more likely to strongly agree to statements related to perceptions of their institution than students with moderate satisfaction with training. However, students who indicated low satisfaction with training were less likely to agree with statements related to campus safety than those who did not participate at all. For example, more than nine out of ten students who indicated high satisfaction with training strongly agreed their institution was welcoming, compared to 74% of students with moderate training satisfaction, 45% of students with low training satisfaction, and 75% of students who did not participate in training.

Figure 7: Training Satisfaction and Perceptions of the Institution
Percentage of students selecting "6" or "7" (Strongly agree) on questions about perceptions of the institution grouped by whether they had high, moderate, or low satisfaction with training or if they had no training at all.

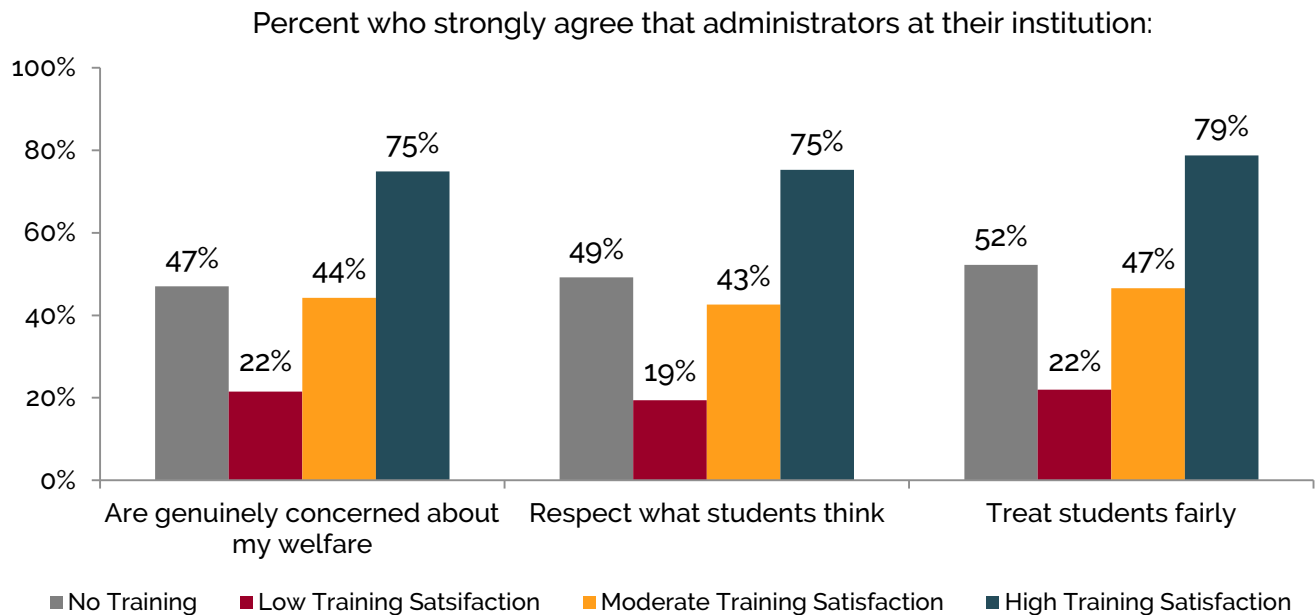Percent who strongly agree that their institution is:
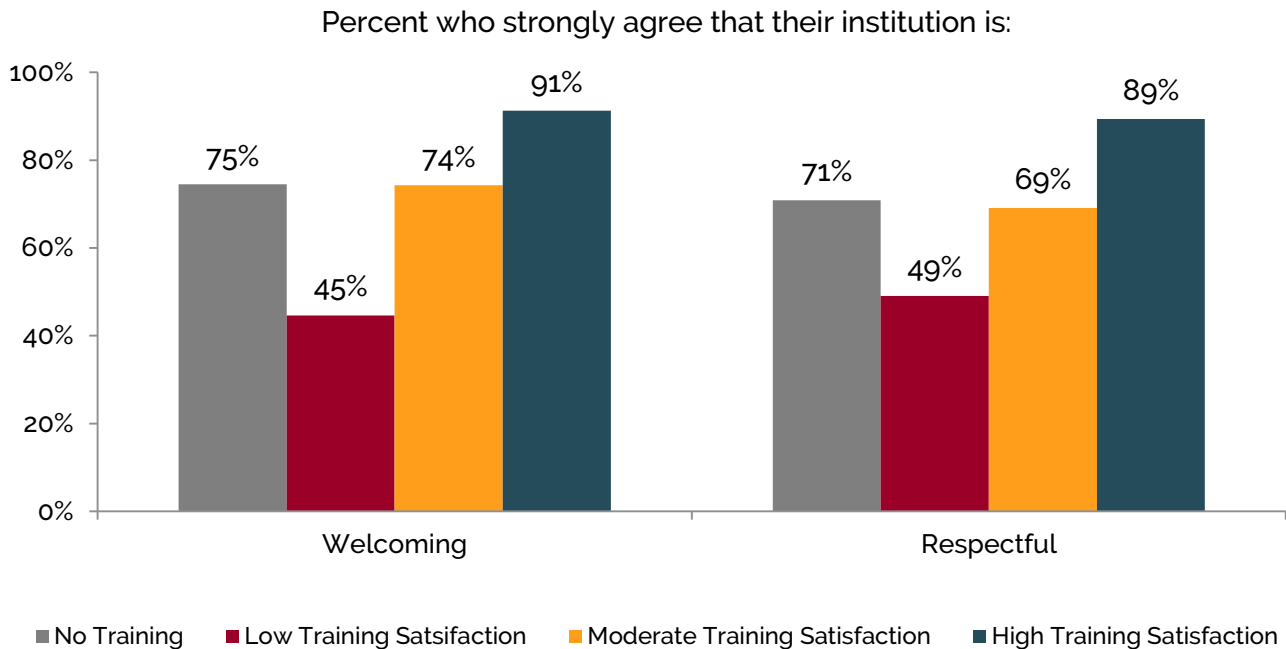
Perceptions of Campus Administration

Figure 8 displays the percentage of students who strongly agreed with statements related to their perceptions of campus administration based on satisfaction with training related to sexual assault awareness and incidents. Students who indicated high satisfaction with training were more likely to strongly agree to statements related to perceptions of campus administration than students with moderate satisfaction with training. However, students who indicated low satisfaction with training were less likely to agree with statements related to campus safety than those who did not participate at all.

For example, three out of four students who indicated high satisfaction with training strongly agreed that administrators at their institution were genuinely concerned about the welfare of students, compared to 44% of students with moderate training satisfaction, 22% of students with low training satisfaction, and 47% of students who did not participate in training.

Figure 8: Training Satisfaction and Perceptions of Campus Administration
Percentage of students selecting "6" or "7" (Strongly agree) on questions about perceptions of the campus administration grouped by whether they had high, moderate, or low satisfaction with training or if they had no training at all.

Percent who strongly agree that administrators at their institution:

Statement	No Training	Low Training Satisfaction	Moderate Training Satisfaction	High Training Satisfaction
Are genuinely concerned about my welfare	47%	22%	44%	75%
Respect what students think	49%	19%	43%	75%
Treat students fairly	52%	22%	47%	79%

■ No Training ■ Low Training Satsifaction ■ Moderate Training Satisfaction ■ High Training Satisfaction
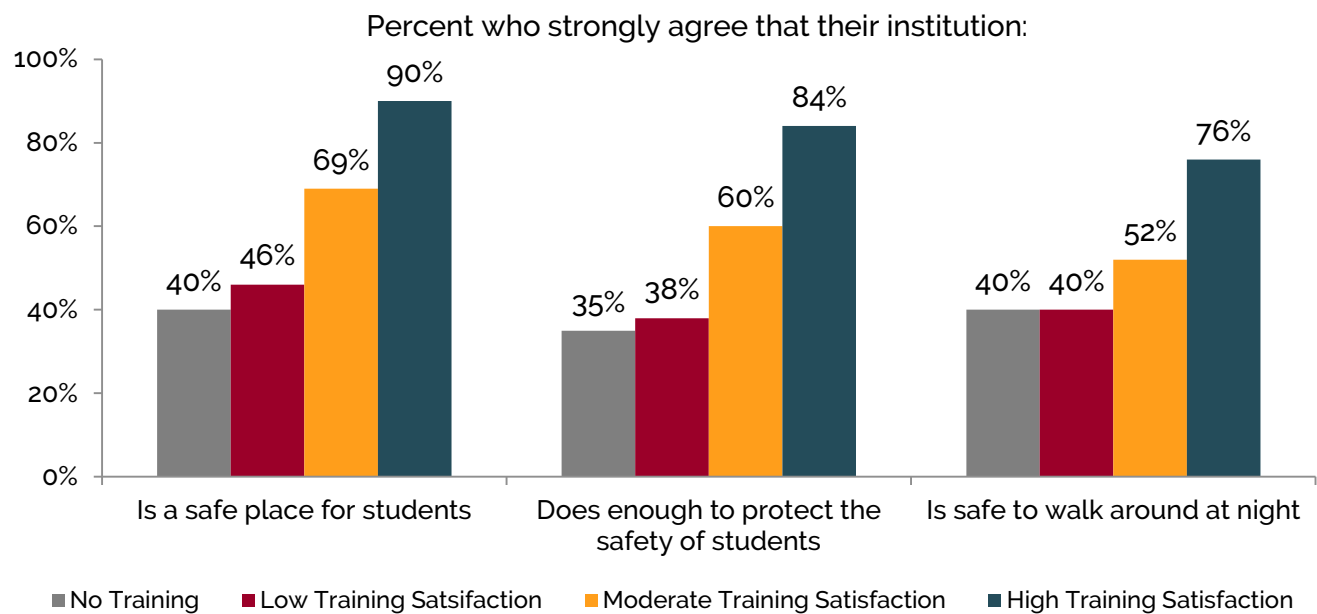
Campus Safety

Figure 9 displays the percentage of students who strongly agreed with statements related to their perceptions of campus safety based on satisfaction with training related to sexual assault awareness and incidents. Students who indicated high satisfaction with training were more likely to strongly agree to statements related to campus safety than students with moderate or low satisfaction with training. However, students who indicated low satisfaction with training were still

more likely to agree with statements related to campus safety than those who did not participate at all.

For example, 90% of students who indicated high satisfaction with training strongly agreed that their institution was a safe place for students, compared to 69% of students with moderate training satisfaction, 46% of students with low training satisfaction, and 40% of students who did not participate in training.

Figure 9: Training Satisfaction and Perceptions of Campus Safety

Percentage of students selecting "6" or "7" (Strongly agree) on questions about perceptions of campus safety grouped by whether they had high, moderate, or low satisfaction with training or if they had no training at all.

Percent who strongly agree that their institution:

■ No Training   ■ Low Training Satsifaction   ■ Moderate Training Satisfaction   ■ High Training Satisfaction
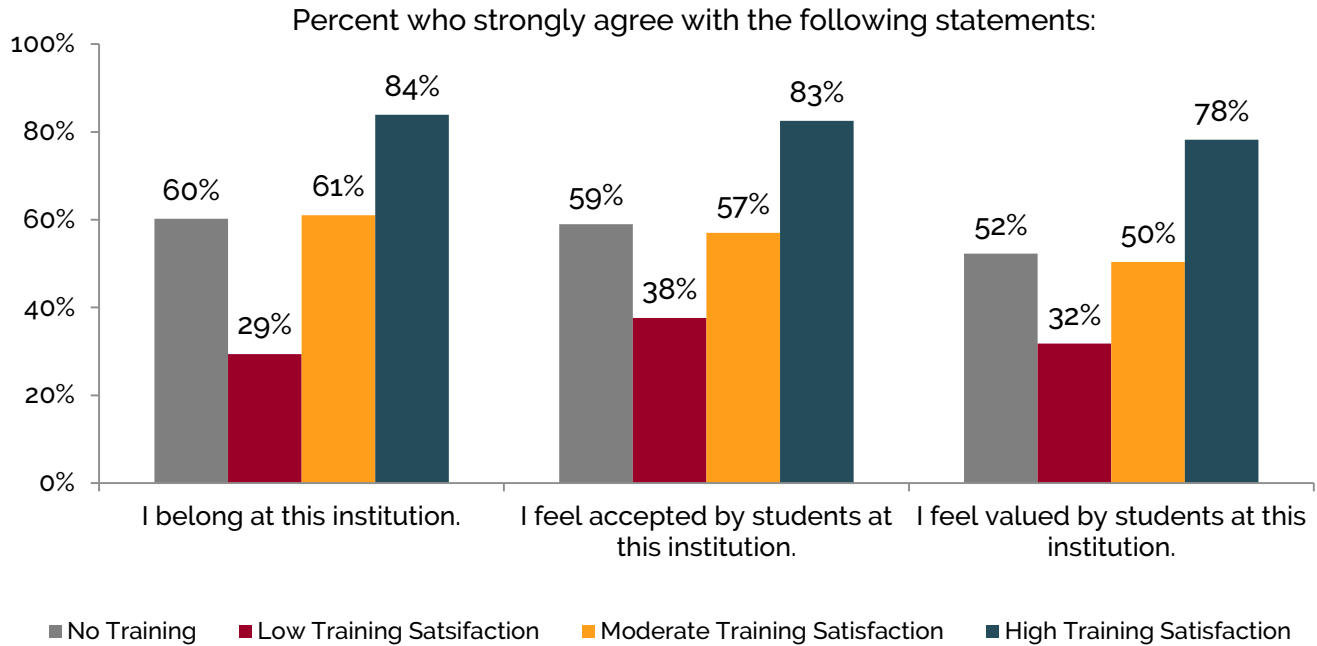
Sense of Belonging

Figure 10 displays the percentage of students who strongly agreed with statements related to their perception of belonging based on satisfaction with training related to sexual assault awareness and incidents. Students who indicated high satisfaction with training were more likely to strongly agree to statements regarding their sense of belonging at their institution than students with moderate satisfaction with training and those who had not participated in training. Again, students who indicated low satisfaction with training were less likely than all other groups to strongly agree with statements related to their sense of belonging.

For instance, 84% of students who indicated high satisfaction with training strongly agreed that they belonged at their institution compared to 61% of students with moderate training satisfaction, 29% of students with low training satisfaction, and 60% of students who did not participate in training.

Figure 10: Training Satisfaction and Sense of Belonging

Percentage of students selecting "6" or "7" (Strongly agree) on questions about perceptions of belonging grouped by whether they had high, moderate, or low satisfaction with training or if they had no training at all.

Percent who strongly agree with the following statements:

Legend: No Training | Low Training Satsifaction | Moderate Training Satisfaction | High Training Satisfaction

Statement	No Training	Low Training Satsifaction	Moderate Training Satisfaction	High Training Satisfaction
I belong at this institution.	60%	29%	61%	84%
I feel accepted by students at this institution.	59%	38%	57%	83%
I feel valued by students at this institution.	52%	32%	50%	78%

Conclusion

Training in an institution's policies and procedures related to sexual assault can be highly beneficial, but only if the training is well-received. Students who indicated high satisfaction with the quality of their training related to sexual assault awareness and incidents were more likely to agree with positive statements related to their perceptions of the administration, campus community, safety, and sense of belonging. However, those participants who were not satisfied with their training were less likely to agree with positive statements about their broader perceptions of campus than even students who did not participate in training at all. While the difference between the percentage of students with moderate or low ratings of their training and those who have received no training at all is small, the fact that it is even similar raises significant questions about potential unanticipated effects of poor training on sensitive issues such as sexual assault resources and awareness.

About the Data

The data used in this research note are from the 2016-2017 Benchworks Climate Survey. The survey was designed by the research team at Skyfactor in 2014 and helps institutions assess student perceptions on topics related to campus climate, safety, diversity, and sexual assault. The data in this research note are from 7,165 college students from 14 four-year institutions in the United States.

About Skyfactor

Since 1994, Skyfactor (formerly EBI MAP-Works) has been dedicated to improving retention, student success, and the quality of the college student experience. Our products and services have empowered over 1,500 colleges and universities to positively impact student development, learning, retention and satisfaction through the Mapworks student success and retention system, and through Benchworks national benchmarking assessments.

Mapworks is a research-based, comprehensive, student retention and success platform created through a partnership between Skyfactor and Ball State University. It capitalizes on Ball State's 20+ years of experience with the original Making Achievement Possible (MAP) program and Skyfactor's expertise in national benchmarking assessments. Mapworks leverages predictive analytics to identify at-risk students. It presents that information in a format that makes it easy for an institution's faculty and staff to focus on the needs of students early in the term and to have a positive impact on student success and retention.

Benchworks includes over 50 easy-to-use student affairs and academic affairs program assessments. These assessments are rooted in accreditation and professional standards and are designed to support a culture of continuous program improvement. Assessment reports include longitudinal data, the ability to benchmark against peer institutions, and interactive dashboards that enable rapid identification of critical issues.

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