

2015 National College Health Assessment: UW-Green Bay

SNAPSHOT: Sexual Health

About the NCHA

In spring 2015, 255 UW-Green Bay students participated in the National College Health Assessment (NCHA), an online survey done each year by the American College Health Association. These snapshot reports examine some of the topics covered by the survey. For more information about the survey, contact the Counseling & Health Center at UW-Green Bay at (920)465-2380.

UW-Green Bay has participated in surveys similar to the NCHA several times over the past decade. Figure 1 shows that respondents to the 2015 survey were much less likely to define themselves as heterosexual than in the past. Furthermore, in previous surveys, responses from the UW-Green Bay students have mirrored those from around the UW System, but the drop at UW-Green Bay in 2015 was unique. UW-Green Bay may indeed be serving a higher percent of LGBTQ students who have self-selected attendance here based on perceived openness. Equally likely, LGBTQ students attending UW-Green Bay may have had a higher likelihood to respond because the campus's Pride Center for LGBTQ resources actively recruited respondents to the survey.

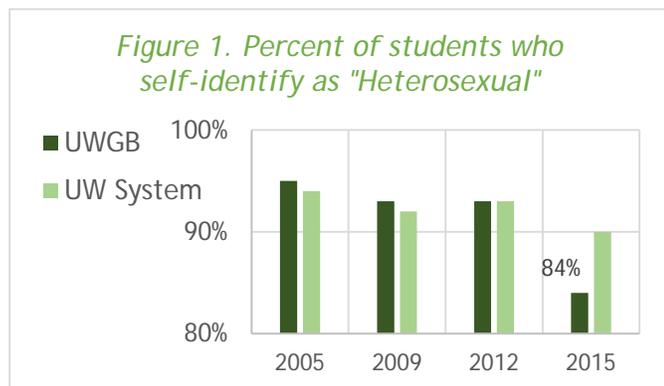


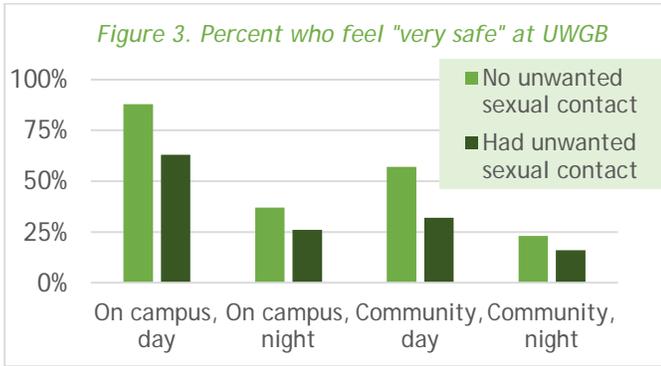
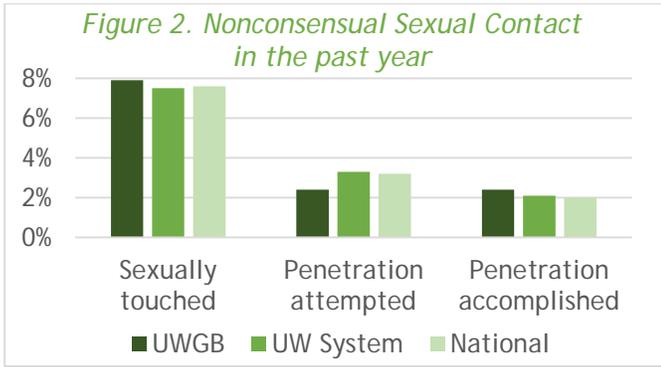
Table 1 shows that students attending UW-Green Bay have sexual behaviors that generally mirror those found on other college campuses across the state and the nation. UW-Green Bay has a relatively high percentage of women using birth control pills to prevent pregnancy (73% versus 63% nationwide), but continues to have over a third of sexually active women relying on withdrawal (35%). A very small percentage of students - under 1% -- report having unintentional pregnancies in the past year.

Table 1. Sexual Behaviors

Measure	UWGB	UW System	National (2014)
Have ever had oral sex	72%	72%	72%
Have ever had vaginal intercourse	66%	69%	68%
Have ever had anal intercourse	25%	24%	23%
Never use condoms when having oral sex*	64%	65%	63%
Always use condoms when having vaginal intercourse*	30%	28%	26%
Always use condoms when having anal intercourse*	10%	8%	7%
Use birth control pills to prevent pregnancy**	73%	62%	63%
Use condoms to prevent pregnancy**	62%	63%	62%
Use withdrawal to prevent pregnancy**	35%	35%	32%
Have used the "morning after" pill within the past year**	21%	17%	18%

*Percentage of respondents who do this activity.
**Percentage of sexually active women.

In recent years, sexual assault on college campuses has garnered much attention across the nation. Incidence of sexual contact without consent at UW-Green Bay mirrors rates found across the state and nation (figure 2). Victims of unwanted sexual contact feel significantly less safe on campus and in the community surrounding UW-Green Bay (figure 3). In addition, victims of unwanted sexual contact are almost twice as likely to have ever accessed mental health services (84% versus 44%) and to have been diagnosed with depression (50% versus 26%), and they are significantly more likely to want the campus to provide information about sexual assault and relationship violence prevention (75% versus 46%).



Experiencing nonconsensual sexual contact does not correlate significantly with alcohol use, gender, year in school, full-time enrollment status, transfer status, race or ethnicity, or on- or off-campus residence status.

The number of sexual partners UW-Green Bay students report generally mirrors patterns found in other college student populations. UW-Green Bay has relatively fewer students reporting having had three or more partners in the past year, which holds the average number of partners for UW-Green Bay down (1.3, 23% lower than the national value of 1.6). The number of sexual partners a student reports correlates positively and significantly with alcohol use ($R = .19$), marijuana use ($R = .27$), a range of negative mental health outcomes such as anxiety ($R = .20$) and depression ($R = .30$), urinary tract infections ($R = .21$), HPV ($R = .20$) and chlamydia ($R = .26$).

Table 2. Number of Sexual Partners in the Past 12 Months

Measure	UWGB	UW System	National (2014)
None	32%	32%	31%
One	46%	45%	42%
Two	11%	10%	11%
Three or more	11%	13%	16%
Average Number	1.3	1.5	1.6

As one would expect among any population in the 18 - 25 year range, students become increasingly sexually active as they age (figure 4). In this sample, a third of freshmen surveyed during the spring of their first year remain sexually inactive. They have never had oral sex or intercourse. By the senior year, only 14% of students remain completely inactive. The percent of students one might consider currently active, having had intercourse in the past month, grows from 38% for freshmen and sophomores to 58% of juniors to 66% of seniors. This pattern in the evolution of student sexuality raises special challenges for student health services. Many upper-class students remain interested in getting information about sexually transmitted diseases (33%), sexual assault (44%), and pregnancy prevention (32%), but communicating with students becomes more difficult as they get more involved with their academic pursuits and move away from campus.

