

LGBT Campus Climate Assessment

UC Riverside
2004

Survey History

- 2001 Survey - 74 respondents, all LGBT
- 2004 Survey - 289 respondents, including 136 LGBTQ and 153 heterosexual allies
- Both assessments conducted by Rankin & Associates
- Surveys online and anonymous
- Additional analysis by Jami Grosser comparing 2001 and 2004 results

Survey Participants

- Lesbian: 28% (2001) to 16.2% (2004)
- Gay: 48% (2001) to 28.7% (2004)
- Queer: n/a (2001) to 14% (2004)
- Uncertain: 1.3% (2001) to 15.6% (2004)
- Gender Identity: n/a (2001) to 4 respondents (2004)

LGBTQ Participants By Position

Students = 82% (87)
Staff = 12.3% (13)
Faculty = 3.8% (4)
Administrators = 1.9% (2)
TOTAL = 106

“People of Color” by Sexual Identity

Gay = 40.4% (21)
Lesbian = 21.2% (11)
Bisexual = 21.2% (11)
Queer = 17.3% (9)
TOTAL = 52

Survey Participants

The majority of respondents indicated that they were out to others about their sexual/gender identity or ally status, yet most respondents stated that they had never interacted with the LGBT Resource Center (48%-78%).

Positive Changes in Personal Experiences (2001 to 2004)

- LGBQ respondents who “feared for safety” decreased (25.3% to 19.1%)
- “concealed sexual orientation/gender identity” decreased (61.3% to 47.1%)
- “avoided disclosing identity” decreased (46.7% to 35.3%)
- “experienced harassment due to sexual orientation/gender identity” decreased (38.7% to 16.2%)

Forms of Harassment, 2004

- Threats of exposing sexual orientation / gender identity = 14.3% (up from 10.3%)
- Physical assault = 3.6% (up from 0%)
- Derogatory remarks = 85.7% (down from 90%)
- Pressure to be silent about sexual orientation / gender identity = 17.9% (down from 45%)
- Written comments = 10.7% (down from 34.4%)

Locations of Harassment, 2004

- Classroom = 17.9% (down from 41.3%)
- Public spaces on campus = 17.9% (down from 48.2%)
- Walking on campus = 14.3% (down from 48.2%)
- Residence halls = 39.3 % (from 38%)

Sources of Harassment, 2004

- Students = 78.6% (down from 89.6%)
- Faculty = 3.6% (down from 20.7%)
- Staff = 14.3% (up from 10.3%)

Climate Perceptions, 2004

- Gay men and lesbians are very likely or somewhat likely to be harassed = 47.7% (down from 56%)
- Bisexuals are very likely to be harassed = 5.8% (down from 6.7%)
- Trans persons are very likely to be harassed = 24.1% (down from 38.7%)

Perceptions of Climate, 2004

- Agree or strongly agree that the curriculum represents contributions of LGBT people = 19.7% (down from 30.7%)
- Agree or strongly agree that UCR provides visible resources = 67.2% (down from 77.3%)

Perceptions of Climate, 2004

- Very likely to avoid LGBT areas on campus for fear of label = 2.3% (down from 8%)
- Agreed or strongly agreed that UCR responds to LGBT harassment = 35% (up from 20%)
- Agreed or strongly agreed that UCR responds to LGBT discrimination = 29.3% (up from 16%)

Perceptions of Climate, 2004

- Feel that campus is homophobic = 22.7 % (down from 46.7%)
- Feel that campus is racist = 22.1% (down from 28%)
- Feel that campus is sexist = 26.4% (down from 40%)

Respondents Suggestions to Improve Climate

- More representation and action from University administration
- Inclusion of more LGBT-related topics in the academic curriculum
- Professional development/education for faculty and staff
- Increase in LGBT-related events, programs, and organizations

Queer People of Color

“...I have experienced and heard many things that make this campus unsafe for LGBTs of color. I would imagine that white students and staff and faculty on campus feel safe, but I think and feel that it is a whole different story for queers of color”

Bisexual People

“I would say that the climate for bisexuals is pretty bad, particularly within the LGBT community itself. There is a lot of speculation that those coming out as bisexual are merely too scared to come out as “entirely” gay. Since I am only a first year student I don't know if the situation is better or worse that it once was, but I can say that it is a constant problem for me.”

Recommend UCR?

“Yes. I know a number of people who either work in or use the center and that community is great. I've also found that there are a good number of people who are Allies or accepting and open-minded.”

Recommend UCR?

"Yes! We have probably the best LGBT center in California, BUT NO ONE knows of it, not even UCR students. The act of even going into the center is quite arduous, you have to face your sexual oriented reality and go inside, it is quite hard to come to this realization."

Two Worlds

"Many of us have decided that there must be two different types of LGBT communities on campus - the center and the rest of us... [I want to] make the center aware that there is a tension on campus between those who go to the center and those who don't."

Peer Connections Program

Peer Connections Mentors are undergraduate and graduate students who are knowledgeable of the issues related to coming out and how they may affect the lives of their peers. Mentors use their life experiences, a training program, and ongoing education to assist their peers. Peer Connections Mentors are available to listen to concerns, offer insight on certain issues, and make referrals to campus and community resources. Peer Connections Mentors are listeners, not counselors.