

RSA 188-H Sexual Misconduct Climate Survey Task Force

April 2024

GUIDANCE ON REPORTING CELL SIZE IN SUMMARY REPORTS AND IN RAW ANONYMIZED DATA SUBMITTED TO NH ED

Several Institutions of Higher Education (IHE) have asked for guidance regarding how to report data with small cell sizes. The RSA 188-H Task Force recommends the following guidance on reporting small cell sizes for demographic and all other questions. Overall, we remind IHEs that they will need to balance the need for protecting the identities of students who responded to the survey with the need to be open and transparent with their communities about the survey findings. As such, we offer the following guidance.

Demographic Questions:

As noted in the [RSA 188-H Campus Climate Base Survey Implementation Guide](#), the RSA 188-H Task Force (Task Force) recommends that, “if there are less than 10 (1-9) students who respond to demographic questions, IHEs indicate this by reporting ‘n<10’ to protect students’ identities. If there are no responses, that should be reported as ‘o’. This guidance applies to both raw data reports and summaries.” (page 14)

All Other Questions:

For all other questions, the Task Force recommends that IHEs use their discretion on reporting data with cell sizes less than 5 (1-4). For example, we recommend that IHEs carefully consider the costs and benefits of reporting a cell size of, for example, “2” if there are any concerns that these two people can be identified. If this concern is valid, we suggest reporting “n=<5”. However, if there are no concerns about that these two individuals can be identified, we suggest noting the actual cell size as “2”. As with demographic data, if there are no responses, that should be reported as “o”.

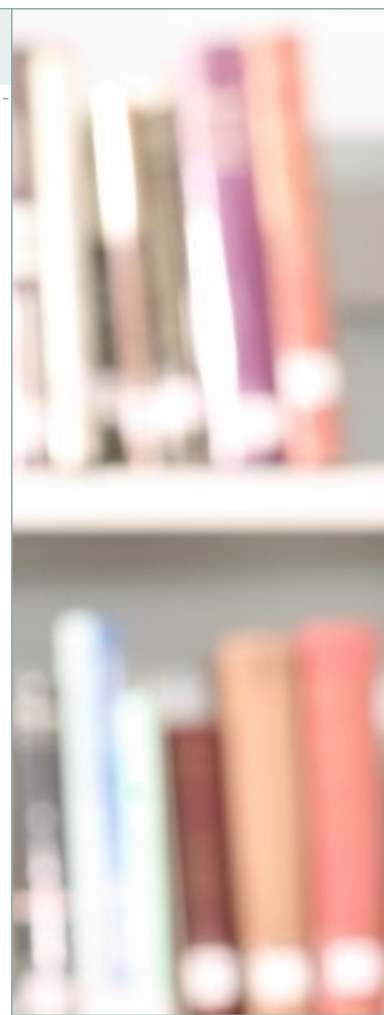
Reporting Numbers and Percentages in Summary Reports

The Task Force recommends that IHEs report both the Number of Students who responded to each question, as well as the Percent of Students who responded to each response category. This is best practice in survey research because it more accurately portrays the meaning of the data. This is particularly important because students were able to skip any question. Thus, it is difficult to understand the meaning of the Percent of Students who indicated a particular response if you don’t know the Number of Students who responded to each question.

Age Categories

The RSA 188-H Base Survey presented the Age question as an open-ended question where students entered their age. When IHEs report Age in their summary report, the Task Force recommends collapsing the Age data into the following categories:

18-20 21-23 24-29 30+



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OTHER REMINDERS FROM THE TASK FORCE

We appreciate all of the NH IHEs' efforts to recruit survey participants and to prepare the data to share with their communities and the NH Department of Education, as well as their efforts to meet the standards set forth in the overall RSA 188-H legislation. As such, we offer the following other reminders and guidance.



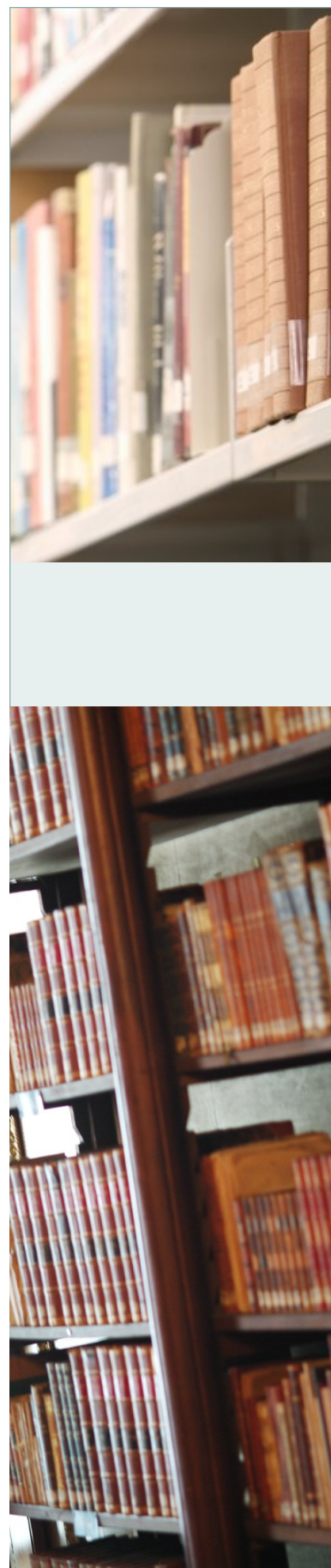
- The Task Force, in collaboration with the New Hampshire Campus Consortium Against Sexual and Interpersonal Violence, will once again be gathering feedback from IHEs regarding this year's survey administration later this spring. We will be in touch with IHEs about the mechanisms to collect this feedback. We encourage IHEs to gather feedback from students on their experiences and feedback on the survey and campus partners and community members on the survey administration, reporting of data and using data to inform prevention, response and policies on campus.
- All campuses must upload their summary data report on their institution's website by July 29, 2024 (120 days after the survey close date of March 31, 2024). Additionally, all campuses must submit their raw anonymized data, summary data reports, and survey with campus-specific adaptation to the NH Department of Education. The Task Force will be sending out a follow-up email to institutions with instructions on uploading data to the NH Department of Education's secure FTP site. Please note that campuses that closed their respective surveys prior to March 31, 2024 are still in compliance if they submit their final materials by July 29, 2024.
- IHEs are reminded that they will need to submit their sexual misconduct data using the form by October 1st for the prior academic year. The form will be available on the RSA 188 web page, and will also be emailed to institutions later this summer.

GUIDANCE: DEVELOPING A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN LAW ENFORCEMENT AND INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

[RSA 188-H](#) Sexual Misconduct at Institutions of Higher Education was enacted by the General Court of New Hampshire in 2020. This statute requires institutions of higher education (IHEs) to take numerous actions in addressing sexual misconduct in their campus community. Chapter 188-H contains a section on collaboration with Law Enforcement (**[188-H:6](#)**). Section 188-H: 6, paragraph I, requires IHEs to “*adopt policies and procedures with the local law enforcement agency having primary jurisdiction over the city or town wherein the institution’s primary campus is located to establish the respective roles and responsibilities of each party related to the prevention of and response to on-campus and off-campus sexual misconduct.*”

[Guidance documentation](#) provided by the NH Campus Consortium is available on the RSA 188-H web page. Please note that the document is a resource created by Consortium members and does not reflect requirements issued by the New Hampshire Department of Education.

Training to accompany this guidance is currently being developed. The goals of this training will be to provide information about the roles and responsibilities of both law enforcement and institutions, and to help facilitate the process of creating an effective MOU.



ABOUT RSA 188:H

On July 20th, near the end of the 2019-2020 legislative session, a bill written by students, advocated for by survivor advocates, and supported by New Hampshire colleges and universities in that state was signed into law; marking the first bill in New Hampshire state history aimed at curbing campus sexual violence. This law, [RSA 188:H relative to sexual misconduct at institutions of higher education](#), carries components that mandate Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs) in the state to adopt comprehensive policies on sexual misconduct, offer support for students experiencing issues relative to campus sexual violence, and implement various preventative measures.

PLEASE SHARE THIS NEWSLETTER

The Task Force would also like to ask campus representatives to help circulate these newsletters widely among campus stakeholders. Certain members of the Task Force have been designated to share these newsletters with their constituencies, but there are many additional campus professionals involved in the successful implementation of RSA 188-H. Depending on the focus of each newsletter, appropriate departments or colleagues might include, but not be limited to: presidents and provosts, Title IX coordinators, departments or offices that focus on sexual misconduct, student conduct or equity, personnel within institutional research departments, legal counsel, campus law enforcement or campus safety personnel, confidential resource advisors under RSA 188-H:7, and staff at campus counseling or wellness centers. Campuses may also want to share newsletters with their local crisis center as part of efforts to enhance collaboration.

Questions, Comments, Concerns?

Please contact the Task Force at: RSA188TaskForce@doe.nh.gov

[Sexual Misconduct at Higher Education Institutions | Department of Education \(nh.gov\)](#)

Institutions of Higher Education are encouraged to review RSA 188-H in its entirety and the law can be accessed here:

<http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/XV/188-H/188-H-mrg.htm>