Objectives

• Partner institutions and context
• Overview of definitions
• Key findings from literature review
• Overview of two stage community engagement process
• Key Conclusions
• Taking Action
SFU Context

Undergraduate Student Population

- Domestic: 79.10%
- International: 20.90%

International Undergraduates - Country of Origin

- China: 49.70%
- Other: 50.30%
SFU Context Cont’d

Graduate Student Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Domestic</th>
<th>International Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>67.90%</td>
<td>32.10%</td>
</tr>
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</table>

International Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>China</th>
<th>India</th>
<th>Iran</th>
<th>United States</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23.70%</td>
<td>18.30%</td>
<td>14.80%</td>
<td>9.40%</td>
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Fraser International College
Sexual Violence Support and Prevention Office

The SVSPO Provides:
Free support, information, and advice to members of the SFU community
Referrals to on and off campus supports
Personalized safety planning
Transportation to medical or other emergency services
Information packages
Help with academic, workplace and other accommodations at SFU
Support and advice for those who have received a disclosure
Information on reporting options
Definitions

• Students on International Pathways (SIPs)

Those students who have arrived in Canada within the last eight years and could include permanent residents, refugees and international students. SIPs could also include Canadians who may have been previously living outside of Canada, and have now arrived in Canada within the last eight years.
Sexual Violence & Misconduct

Umbrella terms encompassing sexual acts targeting an individual’s sexual, gender identity or gender expression without that individual’s consent.
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Can be physical or psychological, spiritual, financial.

Can be threatened, attempted, or committed.
Sexual Violence & Misconduct Cont’d

Umbrella terms encompassing sexual acts targeting an individual’s sexual, gender identity or gender expression without that individual’s consent.

- Voyeurism
- Sexual Harassment
- Sexual Assault
- Stalking
- Distribution of sexually explicit photographs or videos
Key findings from Literature Review

While there’s little research in this area, studies show that international students often face many barriers to disclosing or reporting sexual violence.

Lack an understanding of what constitutes as sexual violence.

Students may also be afraid that they will lose their student visas as a result of disclosing an incident. (Crace, 2017)
Key findings from Literature Review Cont’d

Sexual violence education course content is not culturally sensitive to the needs of students on international pathways. (Reid and Dunlap, 2017)

Academic research highlights that immigrant and refugee women are more vulnerable to gender-based violence because they may be isolated from family and community (Status of Women Canada, Communications and Public Affairs Directorate, 2016)
Overview of Community Engagement Process

First Stage:

*Conversations with key campus community partners*

- Campus Public Safety
- Refugee and New Canadian Support Programs, International Services for Students
- Sexual Violence Counselor, Health & Counselling
- Mental Health Nurses, Health & Counselling
- Simon Fraser Student Society Women’s Centre
- Student Engagement and Retention Services
- Interfaith Centre
- Residence Life
Questions

1. From your experience in working with students on international pathways (international students, permanent residents, refugees), what are the barriers you’ve identified in them accessing sexual violence support services on campus? Can you share with us trends you’ve notices or areas of challenge?

- Lack of awareness of the existence of the SVSPO office
- Stigmatization surrounding accessing sexual violence support services or other counselling services on campus
- Students from some cultures are not encouraged to talk about their problems or reach out for help externally
- Lack of diversified staff
- Perception that reporting to school or other authorities may jeopardize immigration status and/or academic record.
2. What are the barriers you’ve identified in them engaging in sexual violence educational initiatives on campus? Can you share with us trends you’ve noticed or areas of challenge?

Language should be simplified. Cultural references don’t translate ("netflix & chill")

Workshops need to be dynamic, relatable, and creative

Most student’s understanding of sexual violence beyond ‘rape’ is limited
3. Could you share with us any of your observations around newcomer student’s base knowledge around sexual health?

Both domestic and SIPs have a very low base knowledge

Culture and religion may impact information received about sexual health, sexuality and sexual acts

Sex education workshops should be offered to all incoming students
Overview of Community Engagement Process

Cont’d

Second Stage:

Development of two surveys tailored for SFU and FIC SIPs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Personal Information Section</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Please tick the appropriate box or provide answers for each of the questions given below.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Age range**
- □ 16 – 18
- □ 19 – 21
- □ 22 – 24
- □ 25 – 27
- □ 28 – 30
- □ 31+

**Gender that you identify with:**
- □ Male
- □ Female
- □ Trans
- □ Non-binary
- □ Prefer to self-describe: ________________________________
- □ Prefer not to say

**How comfortable are you discussing sexual health issues?**
- □ Extremely
- □ Very
- □ Moderately
- □ Slightly
- □ Not at all

**Would you be interested in attending a sexual health workshop if this was offered on campus?**
- □ Extremely interested
- □ Very interested
- □ Moderately interested
- □ Slightly interested
- □ Not at all interested

**If you indicated you would be interested in attending a sexual health workshop, please indicate the reason(s) why you would like to attend:**

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
## Survey Design

- **9 pages**
- Preamble explaining definitions, comprehensive resource guide
- Demographic questions
- Awareness of resources and educational initiatives
- Understanding of sexual violence and general sexual health knowledge
- Attitude and suggestions for future programming
Distribution

- Posters with online and hard copy information
- Surveys and collection boxes posted at Residence & Housing, International Student Services, FIC Front Desk
- Surveys done in classes at FIC
- Incentives: gift cards
Responses

- Total: Collected 464, Analyzed 427
- SFU: Collected 197, Analyzed 166
- FIC: Collected 267, Analyzed 261
Age Range - Demographics

Fraser International College

Simon Fraser University
5 Countries Most Represented in the Surveys (FIC & SFU)

India  
China  
Bangladesh  
Iran  
Pakistan
Is English your first language?

**Fraser International College**
- Yes: 91%
- No: 9%

**Simon Fraser University**
- Yes: 73%
- No: 27%
How long have you been living in Canada?

Fraser International College

- 0 - 1 year: 89.70%
- 1 - 2 years: 6.50%
- 2 - 5 years: 3.10%
- 5 + years: 0.40%

Simon Fraser University

- 0 - 1 year: 44.00%
- 1 - 2 years: 14.50%
- 2 - 5 years: 21.00%
- 5 + years: 20.50%
What is your status in Canada?

Fraser International College

- International Student: 99.60%
- Canadian Citizen: 0.40%

Simon Fraser University

- International Student: 15%
- Canadian Citizen: 78%
- Permanent Resident: 6%
- Other: 1%
Key Findings: Are you familiar with the definition of sexual violence?

Fraser International College

- Yes: 82.60%
- No: 17.40%

Simon Fraser University

- Yes: 77.70%
- No: 22.30%
Key Findings: If yes, please describe sexual violence as you understand the term.

“[a] sexual act that may harm victim [sic] in some way.”

“[v]iolence of a sexual nature including assault and rape.”

“HURTING YOUR PARTNER WITH ACTIONS OR WORDS [sic].”

“Violence that has a sexual nature to it such [sic] as rape.”
Key Findings: What are some of the reasons why you may choose not to use SVSPO/FIC Wellness Centre services?

“Because of shame”

“Language barriers”

“Privacy”

“Being in such situation may be embarrassing to talk about to begin with [sic]”
What topics would you be interested in learning more about related to sexual health? - SFU

- Healthy Relationships: 76.50%
- Dating Culture in Canada: 61.40%
- Assertiveness and boundaries: 51.80%
- Consent: 50.00%
- Safer Partying: 49.40%
- Other: 6.60%
What topics would you be interested in learning more about related to sexual health? - FIC

- Healthy Relationships: 62.10%
- Dating culture in Canada: 49.40%
- Consent: 35.60%
- Safer Partying: 34.20%
- Assertiveness and boundaries: 27.20%
- Other: 5.40%
Are you aware of existence of SFU’s SVSPO or FIC’s Wellness Office?

- SFU: 68.10% Aware of SVSPO
  - 26.50% b/c of class

- FIC: 88.10% Aware of SVSPO
  - 52.30% b/c of class
Key Conclusions

Promotion: must be language-accessible, highlight confidentiality

Centralize information through social media

Basic understanding of sexual violence is prevalent, create diversity-informed, culturally-sensitive, safety-focused long-term content moving toward a deeper understanding

Integrate consent into wider educational initiatives on sexual health, healthy relationships, and healthy sexuality
## Taking Action

- Translate existing documents to top languages: Korean, Traditional Chinese, Simplified Chinese, Bengali, Punjabi and Spanish
- Video project to address barriers around accessing support
- Launch Sexual Violence Support Certificate for faculty and staff
- Partner with campus programs to expand sexuality, sexual health and healthy relationship education
- Develop a Gender & Sexuality Living Learning Community
References


Questions?

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