



# Campus Safety Survey

Task Force on Community  
Safety and Well-Being

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July 2021



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Feelings of Safety

- Students reported feeling much safer on campus (**85.8%** reported feeling safe or very safe) than off campus (**33.5%** reported feeling safe or very safe).
- The primary safety concerns among students were: crimes against people, sexual assault and crimes against property.
- The top three recommendations from students regarding safety improvement were: improving quality of life in the surrounding area, increased police presence and infrastructure changes.

### Crime and Resource Awareness

- Students reported more awareness of on-campus crime (**55.8%** aware) than off-campus crime (**43.7%** aware).
- Students reported being most aware of Buckeye Alerts (**98%** aware), university safety emails (**84.3%** aware) and the Lyft Ride Smart program (**74.2%** aware).
- Fewer students reported awareness of Community Crime Patrol (**5.3%**), the Community Police Academy (**3.8%**), University District (**1.8%**) and Off-Campus and Commuter Student Services resources (**5-10%** were aware of different programs).

### Police Interactions

- Students were much less likely to call the police to report information regarding a crime (**57.3%**) than to report being a victim (**87.8%**) or a witness (**84.5%**) of a crime.
- Over half of students respondents reported feeling safe (**59%**) interacting with the Ohio State Police Division.
- Around half of students respondents reported feeling safe (**52.3%**) interacting with the Columbus Police Division.

### Differences Between Race/Ethnicity, Gender and Educational Level

- African American students were less likely to feel safe *on campus* (**75.2%** reported feeling safe) than any other race or ethnicity; White students and multiracial students were less likely to feel safe *off campus* (~**33%** reported feeling safe) than any other race or ethnicity. African American, Asian or Asian American and Hispanic/Latinx students also indicated much higher rates of concern for crimes based on race (~**65%** or more).
- African American and Asian or Asian American students were less likely to indicate they would call the police as a victim or as a witness of a crime (~**80%** indicated they would call the police in these scenarios) than any other race or ethnicity.
- Students who identify as transgender or gender non-conforming reported feeling less safe *on campus* (**77.7%** reported feeling safe) than those who identify as men or women; women reported feeling less safe *off campus* (**24.5%** reported feeling safe) than those who identify as men or transgender/gender non-conforming.
- Men reported more awareness of campus boundaries and when to call OSUPD versus CPD (**45.6%**) compared to women (**33.8%**) and transgender or gender non-conforming students (**37.9%**).
- Undergraduate students reported feeling less safe *off campus* (**29.9%** reported feeling safe) than graduate (**49%**) or professional students (**41%**).
- Undergraduate students reported more awareness of campus boundaries and when to call OSUPD versus CPD (**41.4%**) compared to graduate (**32.4%**) and professional students (**30.5%**).



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY CONTINUED

### “Safety, to me, means...”

- For over one-third of students (**33.4%**), safety was defined as living without worry or fear
- Students also mentioned the environment (**9.9%**), a culture of collective care (**5.5%**), protecting oneself (**5.1%**) and public health (**2.5%**) in response to the question asking what safety meant to them
- Most sub-populations noted the absence of worry or fear as their definition of safety; however, the top safety theme for students identifying as Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming was a feeling of holistic safety (mental, emotional and physical) and for those who identified as women, a general feeling of comfort was what safety meant to them

### Unsafe in Off-Campus Areas

- **38.0%** of the students who provided open-ended feedback at the end of the survey wrote about feeling unsafe off campus
- Fear around off-campus safety was the top theme addressed by undergraduate students (**42.2%**), professional students (**26.3%**), men (**38.0%**), women (**42.2%**), White students (**41.7%**) and those with more than one race/ethnicity (**38.3%**)
- **15.8%** of students’ comments would like to see police patrolling the off-campus neighborhoods

### Police

- **12.8%** of the students expressed negative opinions of the Columbus Division of Police (CPD)
- The most common feedback provided by African American/Black students (**31.3%**) and graduate students (**21.7%**) were negative opinions about CPD
- The top theme for students identifying as Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming was the suggestion to minimize police presence (**50.0%**)

### University Communication

- **10.0%** of the students wrote about Public and Neighborhood Safety Notices and Buckeye Alerts, requesting to be notified immediately and with as much detail as possible
- **11.1%** of women, **7.8%** of men, **8.8%** of undergraduate students and **13.3%** of graduate students requested more educational opportunities, such as self-defense classes and education around how to respond to dangerous situations

### Positive Feedback

- **16.0%** of all students had generally positive feedback about safety
- **20.7%** of White students, **19.8%** of men and **18.2%** of undergraduate students wrote positive comments about safety



## INTRODUCTION

This report summarizes data collected during the spring 2021 semester regarding students' perceptions of and experiences with safety on and off campus. Data were collected via a Qualtrics survey, which was sent to a random sample of 8,000 students on the Columbus campus (5,000 undergraduate students, 2,250 graduate students and 750 professional students). Demographic groups with historically low survey response rates (i.e., African-American, Latinx and Asian students, those who identify as another race/ethnicity, students who have not disclosed their race/ethnicity to the University and first-generation students) were oversampled ( $n = 6,097$ ). A total of 1,706 students responded out of the 14,097 students invited to take the survey. The overall response rate was 12.1% (20.2% for undergraduate students, 23.8% for graduate students and 21.3% for professional students).

This survey was recommended by the Task Force on Community Safety and Well-Being. The goal of this survey was to gauge the overall student perception of safety both on and off campus and use that information, where applicable, to help inform other recommendations. The survey covered topics related to safety awareness and resources, police interactions and suggestions for improving safety on campus and in the surrounding area. The first question on the survey asked students how they define safety. Specifically, students were asked to complete the sentence "Safety, to me, means \_\_\_\_\_", which identified several different perceptions of the concept of safety.

At the end of the survey, students had the opportunity to provide open-ended feedback about safety. Specifically, the item read "Please use this space to include any additional comments or suggestions you would like to share about safety on and off campus." Respondents wrote about their feelings and experiences and offered suggestions on ways to improve safety. Overall, students expressed feeling that their safety should be a higher priority for Ohio State leadership.

This report is organized into three sections: quantitative responses, students' definitions of safety and open-ended feedback. Each section summarizes data in aggregate, followed by sections disaggregating the data by race/ethnicity, gender identity and educational level. Data are not reported when there are fewer than 10 respondents in a demographic group. Data in this report were analyzed by the Center for the Study of Student Life; the qualitative section on safety definitions was a joint effort with partners in the College of Education and Human Ecology.

Out of 1,706 students who responded to the survey, 1,574 students provided definitions of safety (the first question on the survey) and 401 students provided additional comments or feedback (the last question on the survey). The responses for each of these questions were coded into common themes. Many individual comments addressed more than one theme.

Responses were weighted to address differences between the demographic characteristics of the survey respondents compared to the general student population at Ohio State and to adjust for the oversampling of specific student populations. A base weight of 1 was adjusted to reflect non-response. A raking procedure adjusted the base weight to the demographic data available on the sampling frame using gender, race/ethnicity and student educational level (i.e., undergraduate, graduate or professional). Weights were adjusted so the survey data are representative of the student population at Ohio State, based on demographic data from the Student Information System. For example, 63% of the survey respondents were female, but 52% of the student population is female. The survey weight adjusts for the over-representation of females in the data to make responses more reflective of the student population, thus making the data more generalizable to Ohio State students. Percentages in this report reflect weighted percentages, and number of respondents reflect weighted numbers of respondents, unless otherwise noted. In some cases, this means the percentages are different from what would be calculated by hand.



## PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS

	Weighted		Unweighted	
	<i>n</i>	Percent	<i>n</i>	Percent
<b>Total</b>	1,706	100.0%	1,706	100.0%
<b>Educational Level</b>				
Undergraduate	1,331	78.0%	1,010	59.2%
Graduate	288	16.9%	536	31.4%
Professional	87	5.1%	160	9.4%
<b>Gender Identity<sup>1</sup></b>				
Agender	2	0.1%	4	0.3%
Genderqueer or gender fluid	9	0.6%	7	0.5%
Man	691	42.8%	495	32.1%
Non-binary	11	0.7%	10	0.6%
Trans Man	3	0.2%	2	0.2%
Trans Woman	1	0.1%	1	0.1%
Woman	817	50.6%	945	61.2%
Two or more genders selected	16	1.0%	14	0.9%
Preferred identity not listed	2	0.1%	1	0.1%
Prefer not to answer	62	3.9%	65	4.2%
<b>Sex<sup>2</sup></b>				
Female	887	52.0%	1,075	63.0%
Male	819	48.0%	621	36.4%
Unknown	0	0.0%	10	0.6%
<b>Race/Ethnicity<sup>3</sup></b>				
African American/Black or African descent	125	7.3%	110	6.4%
Asian/Asian American	125	7.3%	350	20.5%
Hispanic and/or Latinx	90	5.3%	115	6.7%
Middle Eastern/Arab American	18	1.1%	25	1.5%
Native American/American Indian/Alaska Native	2	0.1%	20	1.2%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	2	0.1%	9	0.5%
White or European American	1,104	64.7%	728	42.7%
Other	26	1.5%	34	2.0%
Two or more races	147	4.0%	152	8.9%
Prefer not to answer/unknown	68	8.6%	163	9.6%
<b>First-Generation Status<sup>2</sup></b>				
First-generation student	399	23.4%	364	21.3%
Continuing-generation student	1,307	76.6%	1,342	78.7%

<sup>1</sup>This demographic was self-identified.

<sup>2</sup>Data are from the Student Information System and language/terms used reflect those used in the Student Information System.

<sup>3</sup>This demographic was a combination of self-identified data and those from the Student Information System.



## PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS CONTINUED

	Weighted		Unweighted	
	<i>n</i>	Percent	<i>n</i>	Percent
<b>Age<sup>2</sup></b>				
18-24	1,376	80.6%	1,192	69.9%
25-34	244	14.3%	392	23.0%
35-44	55	3.2%	82	4.8%
45-54	22	1.3%	33	1.9%
55+	9	0.5%	7	0.4%
<b>Enrollment Status<sup>2</sup></b>				
Full-time	1,543	90.4%	1,488	87.2%
Part-time	163	9.6%	218	12.8%
<b>Residence<sup>2</sup></b>				
On-campus	449	26.3%	353	20.7%
Off-campus	1,257	73.7%	1,353	79.3%
<b>International Student Status<sup>2</sup></b>				
International student	99	5.8%	241	14.1%
Domestic student	1,607	94.2%	1,465	85.9%

<sup>2</sup>Data are from the Student Information System and language/terms used reflect those used in the Student Information System.



## QUANTITATIVE FINDINGS

The following questions identified students who have been on or near Ohio State's Columbus campus in the past 18 months. Students who answered "No" to all four questions only saw questions about safety perceptions and resources. If a student answered "Yes" to at least one of the four questions, they saw the entire survey. A total of 9.7% of the respondents answered "No" to all four questions. These screening questions were not weighted, but all other percentages in the report reflect weighted percentages and *n*'s.

### In the past 18 months, have you... (*n* = 1,706)

	% Yes	% No
Taken any in-person classes on the Columbus campus?	75.8%	24.2%
Regularly visited the Columbus campus?	79.0%	21.0%
Lived on campus in university housing?	30.5%	69.5%
Lived in off-campus housing within walking distance to the Columbus campus?	45.4%	54.6%

## SAFETY PERCEPTIONS

### Overall, how safe do you feel... (*n* = 1,541)

	% Very unsafe	% Unsafe	% Neither safe nor unsafe	% Safe	% Very safe	% N/A
On campus?	0.9%	3.1%	9.4%	54.1%	31.7%	0.8%
Off campus?	9.0%	26.1%	31.0%	29.0%	4.5%	0.5%





**Which of the following are your primary safety concerns?<sup>4</sup> (n = 1,542)**

	<b>% Primary Concern</b>
Crimes against people	84.5%
Sexual assault/rape	60.0%
Crimes against property/belongings	55.8%
Crimes based on gender/sex	47.6%
Crimes based on race/ethnicity/national origin	36.7%
Not being taken seriously when a crime occurs	33.5%
Unaware of how to report issues or crimes	27.7%
Fear/distrust of police	27.0%
Crimes based on sexual orientation	25.8%
Outdoor lighting	22.9%
Crimes based on political affiliation	21.4%
Crimes based on immigration status	19.0%
Scam/fraudulent activity awareness	18.2%
Unavailability of police after hours	15.4%
Alcohol or other drug violations	10.0%
Emergency phone access	8.6%
Traffic law violations	8.3%
Landscaping (e.g., overgrown trees, bushes)	4.6%
Pedestrian law violations	4.6%
None of the above	3.0%

<sup>4</sup>The sum of percentages exceeds 100% because participants could select more than one option.

**How can we improve safety on campus? Please select up to three.<sup>4</sup> (n = 1,541)**

	<b>%</b>
Improve quality of life in surrounding communities	51.8%
Have a more visible police presence	37.0%
Infrastructure changes (e.g., lighting, emergency phones)	36.1%
Increase crisis/social worker engagement with community	28.7%
Increase diversity among police officers	24.7%
Increase police engagement with the community	22.4%
Increase safety education	22.1%
Alternate patrols (foot, bike)	18.1%
Hire more police officers	10.8%
Increase vehicle traffic enforcement	3.5%
Increase pedestrian traffic enforcement	2.1%
Increase bicycle traffic enforcement	1.8%
None of the above	4.0%

<sup>4</sup>The sum of percentages exceeds 100% because participants could select more than one option.



## SAFETY RESOURCES

### Which of the following resources are you aware of?<sup>4</sup> (n = 1,696)

	%
Buckeye Alerts (text or push notifications)	98.0%
University safety emails (e.g., Public Safety Notices, Neighborhood Safety Notices)	84.3%
Lyft Ride Smart at Ohio State	74.2%
Columbus Police Department non-emergency phone number (614-645-4545)	32.6%
Surviving an Active Aggressor video	30.3%
Ohio State Office of Institutional Equity (sexual assault, harassment, discrimination and Title IX)	26.0%
City of Columbus non-emergency City Services Call Center request number (3-1-1)	22.2%
Ohio State Police Department non-emergency phone number (614-292-2121)	20.9%
Columbus Police Crime Map	13.8%
Rave Guardian	10.5%
Ohio State Rape Aggression Defense (R.A.D.) classes	10.3%
Ohio State Daily Crime Log	9.8%
Ohio State Off-Campus and Commuter Student Services – other resources (e.g., Buckeye Block Watch)	8.6%
Columbus Police mobile app	7.9%
Ohio State Off-Campus and Commuter Student Services – Housing Walk-Throughs	7.6%
Ohio State Community Ambassador Program	6.1%
Community Crime Patrol	5.3%
Ohio State Community Police Academy	5.0%
Ohio State Housing Excellence Program	4.9%
Ohio State Party Smart Program	4.0%
Columbus Citizen Police Academy	3.8%
University District Special Improvement District	1.8%
None of the above	0.4%

<sup>4</sup>The sum of percentages exceeds 100% because participants could select more than one option.



**Which of the following do you currently use to obtain safety information?<sup>4</sup> (n = 1,672)**

	%
Buckeye Alerts (text or push notifications)	92.9%
University safety emails (e.g., Public Safety Notices, Neighborhood safety Notices)	68.5%
Email from Ohio State leadership	54.6%
Friends and family	52.8%
Ohio State app	44.2%
News media	38.6%
University newsletters (e.g., onCampus Weekly)	29.3%
Twitter – official Ohio State accounts (e.g., Ohio State, OSU Police, Office of Student Life)	21.7%
Twitter – non-Ohio State accounts	20.5%
Instagram – non-Ohio State accounts	19.3%
Reddit	18.8%
Instagram – official Ohio State accounts (e.g., Ohio State, OSU Police, Office of Student Life)	15.7%
Student organization emails (e.g., Undergraduate Student Government, Council of Graduate Students, Interprofessional Council)	12.8%
Facebook – non-Ohio State accounts	8.6%
Facebook – official Ohio State accounts (e.g., Ohio State, OSU Police, Office of Student Life)	8.5%
Other safety apps (e.g., Nextdoor, Citizen Crime)	7.2%
Ohio State Department of Public Safety website (dps.osu.edu)	6.1%
Compass.osu.edu	5.8%
Landlord or property manager	3.4%
None of the above	1.0%

<sup>4</sup>The sum of percentages exceeds 100% because participants could select more than one option.



**What type of safety resources should Ohio State provide more education about? Please select all that apply.<sup>4</sup> (n = 1,684)**

	%
Mental health and crisis situations	54.8%
How to report a crime	53.2%
Apartment safety conditions	50.6%
Crime trends or alerts	49.5%
Sexual assault and harassment	43.3%
Scam awareness	40.2%
Personal physical safety and security	37.6%
Columbus Police Crime Map	33.5%
Community safety information (e.g., community events, neighborhood safety information)	33.1%
Ohio State Rape Aggression Defense (R.A.D.) classes	31.0%
City of Columbus non-emergency `City Services Call Center request number (3-1-1)	29.2%
Columbus Police mobile app	29.0%
Community Crime Patrol	25.9%
Surviving an Active Aggressor video	25.1%
Ohio State Daily Crime Log	24.5%
Ohio State Off-Campus and Commuter Student Services – Housing Walk-Throughs	24.2%
Ohio State Off-Campus and Commuter Student Services – other resources (e.g., Buckeye Block Watch)	23.2%
Columbus Police Department non-emergency phone number (614-645-4545)	22.6%
Alcohol and other drugs	20.0%
Lyft Ride Smart at Ohio State	19.7%
Ohio State Party Smart Program	18.9%
Buckeye Alerts (texts or push notifications)	18.8%
Ohio State Office of Institutional Equity (sexual assault, harassment, discrimination and Title IX)	18.4%
University safety emails (e.g., Public Safety Notices, Neighborhood Safety Notices)	16.9%
Ohio State Police Department non-emergency phone number (614-292-2121)	14.1%
Rave Guardian	13.9%
Columbus Citizen Police Academy	13.8%
Ohio State Housing Excellence Program	13.7%
Ohio State Community Ambassador Program	11.2%
University District Special Improvement District	10.0%
Ohio State Community Police Academy	9.8%
None of the above	3.8%

<sup>4</sup>The sum of percentages exceeds 100% because participants could select more than one option.



## EXPERIENCES WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT

### How likely are you to call the police...

	% Extremely Unlikely	% Unlikely	% Neither likely nor unlikely	% Likely	% Extremely Likely
To report a crime as a victim of a crime? ( <i>n</i> = 1,663)	3.4%	4.2%	4.6%	28.1%	59.7%
To report a crime as a witness of a crime? ( <i>n</i> = 1,662)	2.2%	5.6%	7.7%	44.2%	40.3%
To report information regarding a suspected crime? ( <i>n</i> = 1,662)	6.2%	16.4%	20.1%	40.6%	16.7%

	% Strongly Disagree	% Disagree	% Neither agree nor disagree	% Agree	% Strongly Agree
I am aware of the campus boundaries and therefore understand when to report crimes to The Ohio State University Police Division (OSUPD) and when to report to the Columbus Division of Police (CPD). ( <i>n</i> = 1,650)	14.2%	31.4%	15.3%	28.5%	10.6%
I feel informed about crime trends and/or when safety incidents occur on campus. ( <i>n</i> = 1,650)	5.3%	19.7%	19.2%	45.8%	10.0%
I feel informed about crime trends and/or when safety incidents occur off campus. ( <i>n</i> = 1,650)	8.4%	24.3%	23.6%	37.1%	6.6%



## The Ohio State University Police Division

How safe do you feel interacting with The Ohio State University Police Division (OSUPD)?  
(*n* = 1,541)

% Very Unsafe	% Unsafe	% Neither safe nor unsafe	% Safe	% Very safe
3.7%	6.5%	30.8%	38.5%	20.5%

Have you had any interaction with a member of The Ohio State University Police Division (OSUPD) in the last 18 months? (*n* = 1,544)

	%
Yes	12.5%
No	83.0%
Unsure	4.5%

Select the answer that best describes your *most recent* interaction with The Ohio State University Police Division (OSUPD).<sup>5</sup> (*n* = 193)

	%
Informal interaction at an event or campus building	23.2%
Bystander (conversation with police or providing a statement as a witness)	21.6%
Non-emergency call for service (e.g., report a theft, property destruction, etc.)	18.5%
Emergency call for service (9-1-1)	7.1%
Alcohol or other drug violation	4.7%
Safety training class or event	3.2%
Traffic violation	1.2%
Traffic accident	1.0%
Other	19.6%

<sup>5</sup>Students only saw this question if they indicated they had interacted with a member of OSUPD in the last 18 months.

How would you rate the quality of... (OSUPD)<sup>5</sup> (*n* = 192)

	% Very Poor	% Poor	% Fair	% Good	% Excellent	% N/A
Officer attitude	8.1%	5.5%	11.9%	26.6%	44.7%	3.2%
Officer approachability	8.6%	7.4%	12.6%	22.6%	45.4%	3.5%
Officer behavior	7.2%	6.9%	9.9%	23.1%	46.1%	6.9%
Concern for the campus community	5.2%	8.2%	14.8%	22.6%	41.5%	7.6%
Response time to emergency calls for service (9-1-1)	1.3%	0.7%	6.8%	15.7%	24.4%	51.1%
Response time to non-emergency calls for service (e.g., report a theft, property destruction, etc.)	6.1%	1.2%	12.0%	13.9%	17.9%	49.0%
Safety training, class or event facilitation	2.2%	3.6%	8.9%	9.8%	21.6%	53.9%
Overall quality of police services	5.7%	9.5%	11.5%	32.0%	32.4%	8.9%

<sup>5</sup>Students only saw this question if they indicated they had interacted with a member of OSUPD in the last 18 months.



## The Columbus Division of Police

### How safe do you feel interacting with the Columbus Division of Police (CPD)? (n = 1,539)

% Very Unsafe	% Unsafe	% Neither safe nor unsafe	% Safe	% Very safe
7.2%	8.7%	31.8%	35.4%	16.9%

### Have you had any interaction with a member of the Columbus Division of Police (CPD) in the last 18 months? (n = 1,543)

	%
Yes	16.5%
No	79.1%
Unsure	4.4%

### Select the answer that best describes your *most recent* interaction with the Columbus Division of Police (CPD).<sup>6</sup> (n = 254)

	%
Non-emergency call for service (e.g., report a theft, property destruction, etc.)	24.8%
Bystander (conversation with police or providing a statement as a witness)	11.8%
Informal interaction at an event or campus building	11.0%
Emergency call for service (9-1-1)	10.8%
Traffic violation	4.8%
Traffic accident	2.9%
Alcohol or other drug violation	3.2%
Safety training class or event	1.2%
Other	29.6%

<sup>6</sup>Students only saw this question if they indicated they had interacted with a member of CPD in the last 18 months.

### How would you rate the quality of... (CPD)<sup>6</sup>

	% Very Poor	% Poor	% Fair	% Good	% Excellent	% N/A
Officer attitude	17.5%	9.0%	18.2%	28.8%	23.1%	3.4%
Officer approachability	21.7%	7.6%	17.7%	28.3%	21.6%	3.1%
Officer behavior	18.6%	9.9%	13.9%	28.5%	24.6%	4.6%
Concern for the campus community	21.6%	13.3%	14.0%	16.1%	16.1%	18.9%
Response time to emergency calls for service (9-1-1)	8.8%	5.0%	12.2%	14.6%	15.9%	43.5%
Response time to non-emergency calls for service (e.g., report a theft, property destruction, etc.)	12.5%	10.8%	10.4%	16.0%	11.2%	39.0%
Safety training, class or event facilitation	9.5%	4.2%	9.7%	6.8%	8.3%	61.5%
Overall quality of police services	18.6%	15.3%	20.4%	22.7%	16.1%	6.9%

<sup>6</sup>Students only saw this question if they indicated they had interacted with a member of CPD in the last 18 months.



## KEY QUANTITATIVE FINDINGS BY RACIAL AND ETHNIC IDENTITY

The following section presents key findings by students' race and/or ethnicity. Students who identified as Middle Eastern, Arab American, Native American, American Indian, Alaskan Native, Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, another racial or ethnic identity or preferred not to provide their racial or ethnic identity are presented in the "other racial/ethnic identity" category due to small sample sizes within each group and to ensure their results are presented.

### Safety Perceptions

#### Overall, how safe do you feel on campus?

	African American/ Black (n = 84)	Asian/ Asian American (n = 70)	Hispanic/ Latinx (n = 31)	White (n = 889)	Multi-racial (n = 194)	Other racial/ ethnic identity (n = 176)
Very unsafe	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%	1.8%	0.2%
Unsafe	3.8%	2.3%	5.3%	2.9%	2.7%	4.6%
Neither safe not unsafe	20.6%	11.3%	13.9%	6.6%	12.8%	13.0%
Safe	57.2%	55.9%	44.2%	54.9%	53.2%	50.6%
Very safe	18.0%	30.6%	36.5%	33.5%	29.1%	31.6%
N/A	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.2%	0.3%	0.0%

#### Overall, how safe do you feel off campus?

	African American/ Black (n = 83)	Asian/ Asian American (n = 70)	Hispanic/ Latinx (n = 31)	White (n = 889)	Multi-racial (n = 194)	Other racial/ ethnic identity (n = 176)
Very unsafe	4.0%	3.5%	1.4%	10.2%	9.2%	8.6%
Unsafe	18.5%	19.3%	14.2%	27.0%	27.5%	28.5%
Neither safe not unsafe	23.1%	32.9%	56.8%	29.3%	30.3%	39.0%
Safe	37.3%	38.3%	27.6%	29.0%	28.2%	22.1%
Very safe	14.8%	5.1%	0.0%	4.4%	4.2%	1.1%
N/A	2.3%	0.9%	0.0%	0.2%	0.6%	0.7%





**Which of the following are your primary safety concerns?<sup>4</sup>**

	<b>African American/ Black</b> (n = 84)	<b>Asian/ Asian American</b> (n = 70)	<b>Hispanic / Latinx</b> (n = 31)	<b>White</b> (n = 888)	<b>Multi-racial</b> (n = 193)	<b>Other racial/ ethnic identity</b> (n = 177)
Crimes against people	77.3%	81.0%	89.1%	85.4%	86.3%	82.1%
Sexual assault/rape	44.9%	40.7%	55.5%	62.5%	66.0%	56.0%
Crimes against property/belongings	43.2%	56.1%	45.9%	56.0%	54.7%	63.7%
Crimes based on gender/sex	48.3%	50.6%	52.5%	46.5%	50.4%	47.6%
Crimes based on race/ethnicity/national origin	68.0%	69.4%	63.1%	28.6%	45.3%	35.3%
Not being taken seriously when a crime occurs	37.1%	24.6%	33.8%	32.6%	39.9%	32.9%
Fear/distrust of police	55.1%	26.0%	43.1%	23.7%	28.9%	25.3%
Unaware of how to report issues or crimes	25.0%	28.6%	32.9%	28.6%	24.6%	26.3%
Crimes based on sexual orientation	33.6%	27.3%	34.5%	23.5%	26.4%	30.7%
Crimes based on immigration status	28.9%	41.4%	40.4%	13.9%	28.0%	17.8%
Outdoor lighting	15.0%	21.2%	35.0%	22.8%	23.9%	25.0%
Crimes based on political affiliation	33.0%	25.4%	37.3%	18.2%	26.7%	21.4%
Scam/fraudulent activity awareness	16.4%	25.0%	20.7%	18.1%	18.3%	16.7%
Unavailability of police after hours	21.5%	15.9%	20.7%	14.0%	13.8%	20.0%
Alcohol or other drug violations	18.2%	21.5%	13.8%	8.0%	10.7%	9.7%
Emergency phone access	11.2%	13.9%	17.5%	8.8%	7.1%	4.9%
Traffic law violations	9.2%	15.3%	10.0%	8.1%	5.7%	8.4%
Landscaping (e.g., overgrown trees, bushes)	5.4%	6.0%	3.4%	4.3%	6.8%	3.0%
Pedestrian law violations	6.6%	8.6%	6.6%	4.5%	2.6%	4.4%
None of the above	5.5%	2.7%	0.0%	3.0%	1.7%	3.3%

<sup>4</sup>The sum of percentages may exceed 100% because participants could select more than one option.



**How can we improve safety on campus? Please select up to three.<sup>4</sup>**

	<b>African American/ Black</b> (n = 83)	<b>Asian/ Asian American</b> (n = 70)	<b>Hispanic/ Latinx</b> (n = 31)	<b>White</b> (n = 888)	<b>Multi-racial</b> (n = 192)	<b>Other racial/ ethnic identity</b> (n = 177)
Improve quality of life in surrounding communities	45.4%	48.7%	53.5%	52.7%	49.6%	53.5%
Have a more visible police presence	26.4%	44.1%	55.1%	37.4%	34.9%	36.6%
Infrastructure changes (e.g., lighting, emergency phones)	30.2%	32.5%	43.9%	36.2%	41.7%	32.5%
Increase crisis/social worker engagement with community	35.4%	19.7%	31.4%	28.6%	30.8%	26.7%
Increase diversity among police officers	54.0%	25.3%	30.1%	21.9%	26.5%	21.9%
Increase police engagement with the community	18.4%	22.3%	12.8%	24.5%	19.6%	18.0%
Increase safety education	26.2%	17.1%	21.0%	22.3%	22.1%	21.9%
Alternate patrols (foot, bike)	9.3%	24.0%	20.7%	17.3%	20.8%	20.4%
Hire more police officers	3.7%	9.3%	8.6%	12.4%	9.5%	8.7%
Increase vehicle traffic enforcement	0.7%	2.2%	2.4%	3.3%	3.8%	6.1%
Increase pedestrian traffic enforcement	7.7%	5.8%	0.0%	1.2%	3.5%	1.2%
Increase bicycle traffic enforcement	0.6%	6.9%	0.0%	1.4%	3.0%	1.1%
None of the above	4.3%	5.7%	2.0%	4.2%	2.8%	4.0%

<sup>4</sup>The sum of percentages may exceed 100% because participants could select more than one option.



**Experiences with Law Enforcement**

**How likely are you to call the police....?**

<b>% Likely or Extremely Likely</b>	<b>African American/ Black (n = 109)</b>	<b>Asian/ Asian American n (n = 90)</b>	<b>Hispanic / Latinx (n = 35)</b>	<b>White (n = 977)</b>	<b>Multi-racial (n = 215)</b>	<b>Other racial/ ethnic identity (n = 198)</b>
To report a crime as a victim of a crime?	79.1%	82.6%	95.2%	89.7%	85.0%	87.3%
To report a crime as a witness of a crime?	79.9%	80.6%	83.7%	84.8%	87.0%	84.6%
To report information regarding a suspected crime?	58.3%	53.3%	66.3%	58.2%	60.4%	49.3%

<b>% Agree or Strongly Agree</b>	<b>African American/ Black (n = 107)</b>	<b>Asian/ Asian American (n = 89)</b>	<b>Hispanic / Latinx (n = 33)</b>	<b>White (n = 964)</b>	<b>Multi-racial (n = 209)</b>	<b>Other racial/ ethnic identity (n = 194)</b>
I am aware of the campus boundaries and therefore understand when to report crimes to OSUPD and when to report to the CPD.	46.3%	43.2%	26.9%	38.0%	35.7%	43.8%
I feel informed about crime trends and/or when safety incidents occur on campus.	69.0%	65.9%	49.3%	53.6%	60.2%	51.3%
I feel informed about crime trends and/or when safety incidents occur off campus.	58.3%	50.5%	40.0%	41.7%	50.6%	36.0%

## The Ohio State University and Columbus Police Division

The following assesses students' feeling of safety with OSUPD and CPD. Follow-up questions were asked about specific interactions with both police departments, but sample sizes were limited so results were not disaggregated by race/ethnicity to protect student confidentiality.

### How safe do you feel interacting with The Ohio State University Police Division (OSUPD)?

	African American/ Black (n = 84)	Asian/ Asian American (n = 70)	Hispanic/ Latinx (n = 31)	White (n = 891)	Multi-racial (n = 194)	Other racial/ ethnic identity (n = 176)
Very unsafe	10.6%	1.9%	4.4%	3.2%	4.8%	2.3%
Unsafe	6.5%	4.7%	7.4%	6.6%	9.8%	2.6%
Neither safe nor unsafe	43.6%	33.7%	44.5%	29.3%	24.9%	35.2%
Safe	21.8%	45.6%	37.6%	39.3%	40.2%	38.0%
Very safe	17.5%	14.1%	6.1%	21.6%	20.3%	21.9%

### How safe do you feel interacting with the Columbus Division of Police (CPD)?

	African American/ Black (n = 84)	Asian/ Asian American (n = 70)	Hispanic/ Latinx (n = 31)	White (n = 887)	Multi-racial (n = 194)	Other racial/ ethnic identity (n = 176)
Very unsafe	13.9%	4.9%	11.7%	6.5%	8.7%	6.5%
Unsafe	14.3%	7.7%	18.4%	8.2%	8.8%	6.7%
Neither safe nor unsafe	41.9%	31.7%	39.2%	29.7%	32.3%	35.9%
Safe	23.3%	42.0%	26.0%	37.2%	33.1%	33.3%
Very safe	6.7%	13.7%	4.8%	18.4%	17.0%	17.7%



## KEY QUANTITATIVE FINDINGS BY GENDER IDENTITY

The following section presents key findings by students' self-reported gender identity. Due to small sample sizes, students who identified as agender, genderqueer or gender fluid, non-binary, trans men, trans women, two or more genders or other identity are combined for analysis and included in the category "transgender and gender non-conforming (TGNC)".

### Safety Perceptions

#### Overall, how safe do you feel on campus?

	Man (n = 606)	Woman (n = 701)	TGNC (n = 92)
Very unsafe	1.0%	0.9%	0.4%
Unsafe	2.6%	3.0%	7.0%
Neither safe not unsafe	4.9%	12.6%	14.8%
Safe	50.0%	59.9%	38.0%
Very safe	40.8%	22.8%	39.7%
N/A	0.8%	0.9%	0.0%

#### Overall, how safe do you feel off campus?

	Man (n = 606)	Woman (n = 701)	TGNC (n = 92)
Very unsafe	8.0%	9.9%	6.6%
Unsafe	18.9%	33.9%	21.4%
Neither safe not unsafe	30.0%	31.3%	35.7%
Safe	36.5%	22.3%	26.3%
Very safe	6.0%	2.2%	9.9%
N/A	0.6%	0.4%	0.0%



**Which of the following are your primary safety concerns?<sup>4</sup>**

	<b>Man</b> ( <i>n</i> = 606)	<b>Woman</b> ( <i>n</i> = 701)	<b>TGNC</b> ( <i>n</i> = 92)
Crimes against people	86.0%	86.8%	63.9%
Sexual assault/rape	42.9%	77.7%	50.8%
Crimes against property/belongings	59.8%	55.4%	37.8%
Crimes based on gender/sex	31.8%	62.1%	45.4%
Crimes based on race/ethnicity/national origin	35.4%	38.8%	33.7%
Not being taken seriously when a crime occurs	21.2%	44.5%	34.6%
Fear/distrust of police	23.1%	28.8%	43.4%
Unaware of how to report issues or crimes	18.5%	36.9%	20.5%
Crimes based on sexual orientation	23.5%	26.2%	44.1%
Crimes based on immigration status	20.1%	18.3%	20.7%
Outdoor lighting	19.5%	27.9%	13.3%
Crimes based on political affiliation	20.0%	22.5%	25.6%
Scam/fraudulent activity awareness	20.0%	16.8%	16.3%
Unavailability of police after hours	10.5%	20.3%	12.5%
Alcohol or other drug violations	11.3%	8.7%	10.1%
Emergency phone access	3.1%	13.7%	6.4%
Traffic law violations	11.1%	6.2%	6.3%
Landscaping (e.g., overgrown trees, bushes)	5.0%	4.9%	0.0%
Pedestrian law violations	5.2%	4.0%	4.8%
None of the above	4.2%	1.2%	5.8%

<sup>4</sup>The sum of percentages may exceed 100% because participants could select more than one option.

**How can we improve safety on campus? Please select up to three.<sup>4</sup>**

	<b>Man</b> (n = 606)	<b>Woman</b> (n = 701)	<b>TGNC</b> (n = 92)
Improve quality of life in surrounding communities	51.1%	54.6%	44.6%
Have a more visible police presence	40.0%	36.8%	24.4%
Infrastructure changes (e.g., lighting, emergency phones)	34.3%	37.7%	39.0%
Increase crisis/social worker engagement with community	27.0%	28.9%	38.2%
Increase diversity among police officers	22.8%	27.9%	18.5%
Increase police engagement with the community	21.2%	25.4%	9.7%
Increase safety education	18.4%	26.1%	18.7%
Alternate patrols (foot, bike)	19.1%	17.3%	15.9%
Hire more police officers	12.9%	8.9%	12.3%
Increase vehicle traffic enforcement	3.5%	3.2%	2.7%
Increase pedestrian traffic enforcement	2.2%	2.1%	1.7%
Increase bicycle traffic enforcement	2.5%	1.1%	1.8%
None of the above	5.5%	2.0%	6.9%

<sup>4</sup>The sum of percentages may exceed 100% because participants could select more than one option.

**Experiences with Law Enforcement****How likely are you to call the police to report....?**

<b>% Likely or Extremely Likely</b>	<b>Man</b> (n = 660)	<b>Woman</b> (n = 782)	<b>TGNC</b> (n = 101)
To report a crime as a victim of a crime?	88.0%	90.0%	71.3%
To report a crime as a witness of a crime?	83.7%	86.8%	72.4%
To report information regarding a suspected crime?	56.2%	59.4%	48.6%

<b>% Agree or Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Man</b> (n = 661)	<b>Woman</b> (n = 781)	<b>TGNC</b> (n = 101)
I am aware of the campus boundaries and therefore understand when to report crimes to OSUPD and when to report to the CPD.	45.6%	33.8%	37.9%
I feel informed about crime trends and/or when safety incidents occur on campus.	56.5%	54.1%	56.4%
I feel informed about crime trends and/or when safety incidents occur off campus.	45.3%	42.3%	36.6%



### The Ohio State University and Columbus Police Division

The following assesses students' feeling of safety with OSUPD and CPD. Follow-up questions were asked about specific interactions with both police departments, but sample sizes were limited so results were not disaggregated by gender to protect student confidentiality.

#### How safe do you feel interacting with The Ohio State University Police Division (OSUPD)?

	Man (n = 605)	Woman (n = 700)	TGNC (n = 91)
Very unsafe	4.2%	2.1%	11.9%
Unsafe	4.0%	6.8%	22.6%
Neither safe not unsafe	28.1%	34.8%	21.5%
Safe	39.1%	40.5%	16.8%
Very safe	24.7%	15.8%	27.3%

#### How safe do you feel interacting with the Columbus Division of Police (CPD)?

	Man (n = 606)	Woman (n = 700)	TGNC (n = 90)
Very unsafe	6.8%	5.0%	29.0%
Unsafe	6.7%	10.5%	9.0%
Neither safe not unsafe	29.6%	35.6%	23.6%
Safe	35.3%	36.8%	17.8%
Very safe	21.6%	12.1%	20.7%





## KEY QUANTITATIVE FINDINGS BY EDUCATIONAL LEVEL

The following section presents key findings from the survey disaggregated by students' educational level. Students are categorized based on their rank in the Student Information System as undergraduate, graduate or professional students.

### Safety Perceptions

#### Overall, how safe do you feel on campus?

	<b>Undergrad</b> ( <i>n</i> = 1,146)	<b>Graduate</b> ( <i>n</i> = 223)	<b>Professional</b> ( <i>n</i> = 75)
Very unsafe	1.0%	0.5%	0.0%
Unsafe	2.7%	4.6%	5.7%
Neither safe not unsafe	8.7%	10.0%	18.5%
Safe	53.3%	56.0%	61.6%
Very safe	33.6%	27.7%	14.2%
N/A	0.8%	1.2%	0.0%

#### Overall, how safe do you feel off campus?

	<b>Undergrad</b> ( <i>n</i> = 1,146)	<b>Graduate</b> ( <i>n</i> = 223)	<b>Professional</b> ( <i>n</i> = 75)
Very unsafe	10.3%	2.8%	6.8%
Unsafe	28.8%	13.6%	21.9%
Neither safe not unsafe	30.5%	33.7%	30.4%
Safe	25.6%	42.9%	38.5%
Very safe	4.3%	6.1%	2.5%
N/A	0.4%	1.1%	0.0%



**Which of the following are your primary safety concerns?<sup>4</sup>**

	<b>Undergrad</b> (n = 1,145)	<b>Graduate</b> (n = 223)	<b>Professional</b> (n = 74)
Crimes against people	85.2%	81.4%	83.2%
Sexual assault/rape	62.2%	50.6%	53.7%
Crimes against property/belongings	55.7%	56.3%	56.7%
Crimes based on gender/sex	47.5%	49.8%	41.9%
Crimes based on race/ethnicity/national origin	33.8%	51.1%	38.0%
Not being taken seriously when a crime occurs	35.0%	27.4%	27.8%
Fear/distrust of police	25.9%	34.5%	20.7%
Unaware of how to report issues or crimes	29.7%	20.3%	17.9%
Crimes based on sexual orientation	24.8%	32.7%	20.6%
Crimes based on immigration status	15.7%	36.1%	20.2%
Outdoor lighting	21.8%	26.4%	30.6%
Crimes based on political affiliation	21.1%	23.3%	19.4%
Scam/fraudulent activity awareness	18.0%	19.8%	17.8%
Unavailability of police after hours	16.8%	9.8%	9.5%
Alcohol or other drug violations	9.8%	10.7%	9.5%
Emergency phone access	8.6%	6.6%	15.0%
Traffic law violations	7.5%	11.6%	9.8%
Landscaping (e.g., overgrown trees, bushes)	4.3%	5.4%	7.0%
Pedestrian law violations	4.6%	4.7%	4.3%
None of the above	3.2%	2.0%	1.5%

<sup>4</sup>The sum of percentages may exceed 100% because participants could select more than one option.

**How can we improve safety on campus? Please select up to three.<sup>4</sup>**

	<b>Undergrad</b> (n = 1,144)	<b>Graduate</b> (n = 223)	<b>Professional</b> (n = 74)
Improve quality of life in surrounding communities	51.6%	53.3%	50.5%
Have a more visible police presence	38.6%	29.2%	36.1%
Infrastructure changes (e.g., lighting, emergency phones)	36.2%	34.3%	40.2%
Increase crisis/social worker engagement with community	26.6%	37.7%	33.9%
Increase diversity among police officers	23.7%	29.3%	26.0%
Increase police engagement with the community	22.0%	22.8%	27.1%
Increase safety education	23.5%	17.2%	15.5%
Alternate patrols (foot, bike)	18.0%	19.4%	14.5%
Hire more police officers	11.3%	6.6%	16.0%
Increase vehicle traffic enforcement	3.5%	4.1%	2.3%
Increase pedestrian traffic enforcement	2.1%	2.1%	2.4%
Increase bicycle traffic enforcement	1.7%	2.0%	2.5%
None of the above	4.3%	3.7%	1.2%

<sup>4</sup>The sum of percentages may exceed 100% because participants could select more than one option.

**Experiences with Law Enforcement****How likely are you to call the police to report....?**

<b>% Likely or Extremely Likely</b>	<b>Undergrad</b> (n = 1,265)	<b>Graduate</b> (n = 276)	<b>Professional</b> (n = 83)
To report a crime as a victim of a crime?	88.1%	87.2%	85.7%
To report a crime as a witness of a crime?	84.9%	83.9%	80.1%
To report information regarding a suspected crime?	56.7%	58.9%	61.7%
<b>% Agree or Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Undergrad</b> (n = 1,244)	<b>Graduate</b> (n = 272)	<b>Professional</b> (n = 81)
I am aware of the campus boundaries and therefore understand when to report crimes to OSUPD and when to report to the CPD.	41.1%	32.4%	30.5%
I feel informed about crime trends and/or when safety incidents occur on campus.	53.9%	62.1%	64.6%
I feel informed about crime trends and/or when safety incidents occur off campus.	43.1%	46.4%	44.0%



### The Ohio State University and Columbus Police Division

The following assesses students' feeling of safety with OSUPD and CPD. Follow-up questions were asked about specific interactions with both police departments, but sample sizes were limited so results were not disaggregated by rank to protect student confidentiality.

#### How safe do you feel interacting with The Ohio State University Police Division (OSUPD)?

	<b>Undergrad</b> ( <i>n</i> = 1,147)	<b>Graduate</b> ( <i>n</i> = 224)	<b>Professional</b> ( <i>n</i> = 75)
Very unsafe	3.7%	4.7%	0.5%
Unsafe	5.9%	9.1%	7.4%
Neither safe not unsafe	30.9%	31.1%	28.7%
Safe	38.9%	35.0%	43.5%
Very safe	20.6%	20.0%	19.9%

#### How safe do you feel interacting with the Columbus Division of Police (CPD)?

	<b>Undergrad</b> ( <i>n</i> = 1,144)	<b>Graduate</b> ( <i>n</i> = 223)	<b>Professional</b> ( <i>n</i> = 75)
Very unsafe	6.5%	10.4%	9.0%
Unsafe	8.0%	11.1%	11.2%
Neither safe not unsafe	31.6%	35.9%	23.5%
Safe	36.3%	28.0%	42.8%
Very safe	17.6%	14.7%	13.5%



## FINDINGS REGARDING STUDENTS' DEFINITIONS OF SAFETY

At the beginning of the survey, students were asked to complete the sentence "Safety, to me, means \_\_\_\_\_". Table 1 outlines the themes that were identified in students' definitions of safety; each theme is detailed further in the sections that follow.

**Table 1**  
*Summary of What Safety Means to Students*

	<i>n</i> <sup>7</sup>	%
<b>Feeling of Comfort</b>		
Living without worry or fear	536	33.4%
General feeling of comfort	478	29.8%
Living without harm or danger	314	19.6%
Mental, emotional and physical security	308	19.2%
Not feeling afraid walking around	277	17.3%
Not being a victim of a crime	250	15.6%
<b>Self-Action to Feel Safe</b>		
Self-protection	82	5.1%
Avoid harm via self-action	64	4.0%
<b>Community Action to Foster Safety</b>		
Culture of collective care	88	5.5%
Others, besides the self, feel safe too	60	3.7%
<b>Environment</b>		
Both on- and off-campus environments are free from danger	158	9.9%
Adequate resources	94	5.9%
<b>COVID-19</b>		
Following safety protocols	39	2.5%

<sup>7</sup>The sum of responses exceeds the overall *n* and the sum of percentages exceeds 100% because comments often addressed more than one theme.



## FEELING OF COMFORT

Students noted that safety meant feeling comfortable physically and emotionally. Students also wrote about not wanting to be a victim of crime and that walking around at night often made them feel uncomfortable. Generally, students wrote about wanting a sense of security that fostered a feeling of comfort without having to worry about danger.

### General Feeling of Comfort

Students wrote about comfort and generally feeling comfortable, but did not provide many details.

“Feeling comfortable with my surroundings and not feeling like I am in harms way.”

“Feeling comfortable living my life and doing my preferred tasks without fear for my physical or emotional well-being”

### Living without Harm or Danger

Many students defined safety as avoiding danger or potential harm. They noted that danger was often present in the campus environment and surrounding areas; as such, they wanted to avoid these areas.

“Safety means not putting myself or anyone around me in potential danger.”

“[...] Feeling confident that I'm not in danger. That includes danger from many sources such as people with criminal intent, negligent construction crews, traffic hazards, pathogens and more.”

“Feeling comfortable in my environment, not having to worry about anyone harming me or hurting me.”

### Living Without Worry or Fear

Students often wrote that safety meant not having worry or fear. Students often noted this general fear or worry that something bad was going to happen to them. They often feared a nebulous person out there who was going to harm them. However, most did not name specifically what they feared; they simply expressed a general fear or worry about their safety. Instead of having this worry, they wanted to feel free to exist and move through the world without fear.

“Feeling comfortable in an environment without being hyper-focused on my surroundings. Safety should feel intrinsic.”

“Freely being myself, not worrying about my surroundings.”

“Not having to worry about my environment and the people around me when going about my daily activities.”



## Not Being a Victim of Crime

One of the most common comments expressed by students involved a desire to not be a victim of a crime. Students noted a range of crimes, including theft, sexual assault, getting shot, or kidnapping. Some also noted the OSU campus alerts, which heightened their feeling that they might be a victim of a crime.

“Being able to perform daily life activities without worrying about being assaulted, mugged or robbed.”

“Feeling like I can live comfortably in my house without fearing that it will get broken into in the middle of the night, robbed, my car will get stolen, etc. being able to safely walk around my neighborhood not fearing for mine or my friends’ well-being.”

## Mental, Emotional and Physical Security

Many students wanted to feel mentally, emotionally, and physically safe. This meant not needing to think about their safety (mental); not having to worry or feel afraid (emotional); and feeling safe from physical harm or violence (physical). In essence, they desired to feel holistically safe.

“Feeling comfortable and secure in my physical and emotional self at a given place or time.”

“A sense of well-being and trust that my current environment wouldn't threaten my physical or mental health, or cause me to change my behavior in fear of a potential threat.”

## Not Feeling Afraid Walking Around

A number of students reported wanting to feel safe when walking, in particular at night. Safety to them meant not fearing that someone would harm them when they were walking alone.

“Being able to walk on the streets at any time of day/night without having to worry about being robbed/shot/stabbed/mugged/harassed/scared of sketchy people aggressively asking me for change.”

“Knowing that I can confidently say that I will make it home from a walk at night in the town that I am in. Feeling secure in my decision to be able to walk home when I want to (even if that means I am totally alone) and not when my 5 other friends are ready too. It means carrying pepper spray around, but knowing that I will never actually use it.”



## SELF-ACTION TO FEEL SAFE

This theme refers to the strategies students used to protect themselves or make themselves feel safe. Thus, this section details students taking on the onus for carrying out actions for self-protection to reduce their fear.

### Self-Protection

Students expressed a need to protect themselves from harm or danger. Some of these actions involved carrying around pepper spray, taking safety-related classes (e.g., karate, self-defense), and making decisions about routes to take when walking alone or in groups.

“Being ready and able to protect myself from danger.”

“Safety, to me, means feeling secure in your environment by preparation and studying it. In Columbus, safety means carrying things that may potentially help you in a harmful situation like pepper spray. A physical strengthening and fighting class like jujitsu is also a means of safety which can be great to know in various environments. This ‘preparation’ I mentioned could also be external like from having a police officer or even a friend you decided to go out with near.”

### Avoid Harm via Self-Action

Students also noted that safety involved avoiding harm and that they were responsible for taking the necessary steps to avoid harm. Many students did not express specifically what harm they sought to avoid; instead, they often named general threats, danger, or harm.

“Ensuring that I remain out of harm’s way.”

“Doing all that I can to stay away from threats to my well-being.”

“Taking all possible and necessary precautions to protect myself and others from foreseeable harms/risks.”





## COMMUNITY ACTION TO FOSTER SAFETY

The previous theme included actions students took to protect themselves or make themselves feel safer. This theme involves actions the larger Ohio State community can take to increase safety.

### Culture of Collective Care

For some students, safety meant having a strong Ohio State community that looked out for its members. In other words, knowing that if a student was a victim of a crime or was harmed, someone would help them. It also meant the community met the basic needs of students.

“Feeling secure in my environment, knowing that the people around me will not hurt me. Knowing that if something happens to me, someone will help me.”

“Peace at mind and knowing that if something potentially harmful to my wellbeing happens, I can call someone to help.”

“A strong community that takes care of its own. Explicitly not the police.”

### Others, Besides the Self, Feel Safe Too

Focusing on others’ needs and prioritizing others is the heart of this subtheme. Students conveyed that safety means thinking about their peers. It also means paying attention to their peers’ different identities and how those identities mean they experience safety differently.

“Following rules/guidelines to ensure everyone's safe.”

“Being in a clean, harmless environment and ensuring the safety of my fellow classmates as well”

## ENVIRONMENT

Students mentioned the environment in their comments about safety. The Environment refers to comments related to the physical structure of Ohio State, off-campus, or generally the environment.

### On- and Off-Campus Environments are Free from Danger

Students desired to be able to traverse on- and off-campus without fear of being harmed. Safety meant feeling secure in their wellbeing both on OSU’s campus and the surrounding areas.

“Feeling secure and confident of my wellbeing in any given area on or off campus.”

“Being able to go out and walk down the street without anyone dangerously approaching (maybe not at night but during the day). This also means being able to not fear someone breaking into off campus housing.”

“That I can walk on and around campus and not have to worry about being threatened in any way--physically and emotionally--by another person.”

### General Environment

Within the general environment, students noted that safety is feeling comfortable in the environment and not having harm to one’s wellbeing.

“An environment where you are not faced with harm or threats to your wellbeing.”

“An environment which supports and upholds wellbeing of its occupants.”

## Adequate Resources

Students wanted adequate resources in the environment. Some students commented on needing better lighting, while others mentioned seeing security personnel as enhancing their safety.

“Enough resources to feel like I am not alone in any given situation and can navigate my way into a support network to help me out of any danger--real or perceived, without judgement or shame.”

“Security and access to helpful resources like food, water, health, and transportation.”

## COVID-19

Perhaps given when students completed the survey, many students noted safety regarding COVID-19. The core theme in this area reflected following appropriate safety protocols from the Centers for Disease Control and Ohio State guidelines.

### Following Safety Protocols

Students noted that feeling safe meant following social distancing rules, wearing masks, washing hands frequently, and generally observing the policies and guidelines related to protecting themselves and others from the virus.

“Everyone wearing masks and social distancing. Too many people walk around without properly wearing their masks.”

“Adhering to the guidelines and recommendations of the university and the CDC. Wear masks, reduce unnecessary socializing, so as to ensure the health of myself and the people around me.”



## KEY FINDINGS OF SAFETY DEFINITIONS BY RACIAL AND ETHNIC IDENTITY

The following section identifies the most commonly addressed themes by students' race and/or ethnicity. Students who identified as Hispanic/Latinx, Middle Eastern, Arab American, Native American, American Indian, Alaskan Native, Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, another racial or ethnic identity or preferred not to provide their racial or ethnic identity are presented in the "other racial/ethnic identity" category due to small sample sizes within each group.

### African American/Black (*n* = 107)

	<i>n</i>	%
Living without worry or fear	34	31.7%
General feeling of comfort	32	29.7%
Living without harm or danger	26	23.9%
Mental, emotional and physical security	15	14.1%
Not being a victim of crime	13	12.5%
Adequate resources	10	9.3%
Not feeling afraid walking around	10	9.3%
Others, besides the self, feel safe too	9	8.1%
Following COVID-19 safety protocols	7	6.5%
Both on- and off-campus environments are free from danger	7	6.5%
Culture of collective care	6	5.7%
Self-protection	4	3.7%
Avoid harm via self-action	4	3.7%

### Asian/Asian American (*n* = 86)

	<i>n</i>	%
Living without worry or fear	28	32.0%
General feeling of comfort	18	20.7%
Not being a victim of crime	14	16.4%
Living without harm or danger	13	15.1%
Mental, emotional and physical security	13	15.1%
Not feeling afraid walking around	13	15.1%
Both on- and off-campus environments are free from danger	10	11.6%
Adequate resources	9	10.1%
Others, besides the self, feel safe too	4	4.9%
Culture of collective care	4	4.9%
Following COVID-19 safety protocols	3	3.5%
Self-protection	3	3.5%
Avoid harm via self-action	3	3.5%



**White (n = 964)**

	<i>n</i>	%
Living without worry or fear	340	35.3%
General feeling of comfort	307	31.9%
Living without harm or danger	202	21.0%
Mental, emotional and physical security	196	20.3%
Not feeling afraid walking around	178	18.5%
Not being a victim of crime	159	16.5%
Both on- and off-campus environments are free from danger	98	10.2%
Self-protection	50	5.1%
Adequate resources	47	4.9%
Culture of collective care	42	4.3%
Avoid harm via self-action	35	3.6%
Others, besides the self, feel safe too	21	2.2%
Following COVID-19 safety protocols	13	1.4%

**Multi-Racial (n = 216)**

	<i>n</i>	%
Living without worry or fear	75	34.9%
General feeling of comfort	51	23.4%
Mental, emotional and physical security	43	19.8%
Not feeling afraid walking around	41	19.0%
Living without harm or danger	39	18.0%
Not being a victim of crime	31	14.6%
Culture of collective care	18	8.3%
Both on- and off-campus environments are free from danger	17	7.8%
Adequate resources	13	6.0%
Others, besides the self, feel safe too	13	6.0%
Self-protection	7	3.4%
Following COVID-19 safety protocols	6	3.0%
Avoid harm via self-action	4	1.9%

**Other Race/Ethnicity (n = 231)**

	<i>n</i>	%
Living without worry or fear	71	30.7%
Without worry or fear	58	25.3%
Mental, emotional and physical security	41	17.9%
Living without harm or danger	35	14.9%
Not feeling afraid walking around	34	14.8%
Not being a victim of crime	32	13.9%
Both on- and off-campus environments are free from danger	26	11.3%
Culture of collective care	18	7.6%
Self-protection	17	7.4%
Avoid harm via self-action	17	7.4%
Adequate resources	15	6.5%
Others, besides the self, feel safe too	13	5.5%
Following COVID-19 safety protocols	10	4.4%



## KEY FINDINGS OF SAFETY DEFINITIONS BY GENDER IDENTITY

The following section identifies the most commonly addressed themes by students' self-reported gender identity. Due to small sample sizes, students who identified as agender, genderqueer or gender fluid, non-binary, trans men, trans women, two or more genders or other identity are combined for analysis and included in the category "Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming (TGNC)".

### Man (*n* = 663)

	<i>n</i>	%
Living without worry or fear	228	34.4%
General feeling of comfort	146	22.1%
Living without harm or danger	136	20.6%
Not being a victim of crime	122	18.4%
Mental, emotional and physical security	117	17.7%
Not feeling afraid walking around	101	15.3%
Both on- and off-campus environments are free from danger	78	11.7%
Adequate resources	37	5.5%
Culture of collective care	33	5.0%
Self-protection	33	5.0%
Avoid harm via self-action	30	4.6%
Others, besides the self, feel safe too	27	4.0%
Following COVID-19 safety protocols	22	3.3%

### Woman (*n* = 770)

	<i>n</i>	%
General feeling of comfort	290	37.7%
Living without worry or fear	275	35.7%
Mental, emotional and physical security	169	21.9%
Not feeling afraid walking around	154	20.0%
Living without harm or danger	147	19.1%
Not being a victim of crime	106	13.8%
Both on- and off-campus environments are free from danger	69	8.9%
Adequate resources	49	6.3%
Culture of collective care	45	5.9%
Self-protection	42	5.4%
Others, besides the self, feel safe too	26	3.4%
Avoid harm via self-action	26	3.4%
Following COVID-19 safety protocols	9	1.2%



**Transgender/Gender Non-Conforming (*n* = 42)**

	<i>n</i>	%
Mental, emotional and physical security	11	25.9%
Not feeling afraid walking around	8	19.0%
Living without harm or danger	8	19.0%
Living without worry or fear	7	16.4%
General feeling of comfort	6	13.9%
Avoid harm via self-action	4	9.5%
Both on- and off-campus environments are free from danger	3	7.1%
Not being a victim of crime	3	7.1%
Adequate resources	3	7.1%
Others, besides the self, feel safe too	2	5.5%
Following COVID-19 safety protocols	2	4.8%
Culture of collective care	2	4.8%
Self-protection	1	3.4%



## KEY FINDINGS OF SAFETY DEFINITIONS BY EDUCATIONAL LEVEL

The following section identifies the most commonly addressed themes by students' educational level. Students are categorized based on their rank in the Student Information System as undergraduate, graduate or professional students.

### Undergraduate Students (*n* = 1,262)

	<i>n</i>	%
Living without worry or fear	424	33.6%
General feeling of comfort	400	31.7%
Living without harm or danger	247	19.5%
Mental, emotional and physical security	243	19.3%
Not feeling afraid walking around	226	17.9%
Not being a victim of crime	182	14.4%
Both on- and off-campus environments are free from danger	139	11.0%
Culture of collective care	69	5.5%
Adequate resources	66	5.3%
Self-protection	56	4.4%
Avoid harm via self-action	49	3.8%
Others, besides the self, feel safe too	48	3.8%
Following COVID-19 safety protocols	24	1.9%

### Graduate Students (*n* = 262)

	<i>n</i>	%
Living without worry or fear	78	29.8%
General feeling of comfort	57	21.6%
Not being a victim of crime	54	20.4%
Mental, emotional and physical security	52	19.9%
Living without harm or danger	50	19.2%
Not feeling afraid walking around	37	14.0%
Adequate resources	23	8.7%
Self-protection	21	7.9%
Culture of collective care	15	5.8%
Both on- and off-campus environments are free from danger	14	5.5%
Following COVID-19 safety protocols	14	5.5%
Avoid harm via self-action	11	4.3%
Others, besides the self, feel safe too	9	3.4%





**Professional Students (*n* = 80)**

	<i>n</i>	%
Living without worry or fear	34	42.5%
General feeling of comfort	22	27.0%
Living without harm or danger	17	21.5%
Not being a victim of crime	15	18.7%
Not feeling afraid walking around	14	17.0%
Mental, emotional and physical security	13	15.8%
Both on- and off-campus environments are free from danger	6	7.4%
Adequate resources	5	6.3%
Self-protection	5	6.3%
Avoid harm via self-action	4	4.6%
Others, besides the self, feel safe too	3	3.8%
Culture of collective care	3	3.8%
Following COVID-19 safety protocols	1	1.3%



## KEY FINDINGS FROM ADDITIONAL STUDENT FEEDBACK

At the end of the survey, students had the opportunity to provide open-ended feedback about safety. Table 2 outlines the themes that were identified in students' open-ended comments; each theme is detailed further in the sections that follow.

**Table 2**  
*Summary of Additional Feedback from Students*

	<i>n</i> <sup>7</sup>	%
<b>Unsafe in Off-Campus Areas</b>		
<b>Feedback</b>		
General fear for off-campus safety (e.g., homeless presence, frequency of crime, etc.)	172	38.0%
Feeling unsafe because of identity (e.g., women, students of color, etc.)	46	10.2%
Experienced crime or harassment (e.g., car/house break-in, theft, stalking, encounters with aggressive homeless individuals)	32	7.1%
<b>Suggestions</b>		
More police patrolling neighborhoods to deter suspicious activity	71	15.8%
Infrastructure improvements (e.g., better lighting throughout neighborhoods, blue light emergency phones, maintain icy sidewalks)	55	12.2%
Transportation options for students staying late on campus (e.g., expand Lyft discount time/area, free safety rides)	8	1.7%
<b>Police</b>		
<b>Feedback</b>		
Negative opinions about Columbus Police Department (intimidating/aggressive, not wearing masks or following COVID-19 precautions, not taking reports seriously)	58	12.8%
<b>Suggestions</b>		
Minimize police presence (feeling unsafe around police)	19	4.2%
Additional training (e.g., diversity, de-escalation, community involvement, etc.)	11	2.4%
<b>University Communication</b>		
<b>Suggestions</b>		
Alert students to <i>all</i> crimes with Neighborhood Safety Notices/Buckeye Alerts on and off campus, in timely manner with detail (e.g., races of victims and suspects)	45	10.0%
More education (e.g., how to report crimes, self-defense, avoiding fraud, etc.)	41	9.0%



<b>Other</b>		
<b>Feedback</b>		
Positive feedback (e.g., on-campus is generally safe, satisfied with OSUPD)	72	16.0%
Feel unsafe in on-campus areas (e.g., after dark)	43	9.4%
<b>Suggestions</b>		
More non-police resources (e.g., counselors, social workers, mental health and crisis experts and community investment)	24	5.3%

<sup>7</sup>The sum of responses exceeds the overall *n* and the sum of percentages exceeds 100% because comments often addressed more than one theme.

## UNSAFE IN OFF-CAMPUS AREAS

Many students expressed fear of off-campus neighborhoods, and that they would not feel comfortable walking alone during the day or at night. Students often wrote about their off-campus residences and sometimes referenced specific areas, such as High Street, Indianola, Chittenden, Summit, 4<sup>th</sup> and all streets between 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> avenues. Several students also mentioned feeling that the off-campus area is becoming increasingly unsafe compared to previous years.

### General Fear for Off-Campus Safety

Students often expressed concern for their overall safety in the areas surrounding campus. Some students may not have experienced crime or harassment, but had heard about incidents or know they need to be careful. Many students living off campus mentioned that they wanted to use campus buildings such as the library or the gym, but did not want to commute to campus past a certain time at night. Others mentioned feeling on edge even during the day.

“Off campus is not safe, and us students know it. As soon as you travel east of high street and up to 4th street at least, you are at exponentially more risk of being involved in an incident. It seems like car theft and assault are a daily occurrence there, with some shootings or high profile incidents every once in a while. I would never walk alone here, and would definitely discourage anyone else from doing so too. [...] I think every student should invest in personal self defense if they are planning on going off campus. [...]”

“I feel very unsafe living off campus. I have the citizen app that informs me of most crime activity around me and it makes me feel very unsafe. with the amount of assaults against ohio state student in my area (14th ave and 4th street), i do not walk at night. meaning after it gets dark (6pm) i drive or lyft everywhere because even in the daylight people are attacked and robbed in my area. [...]”

“[...]There is a constant fear of crime where I live, not even two blocks away from the Union. I no longer feel comfortable walking to use the resources I pay tuition for, such as Thompson, when sun goes down. It's a horrible feeling shared among many students off campus [...]”



## Feel Unsafe because of Identity

Many students commented on their specific identities and noted how they contribute to the fear of being a victim of a crime. Gender, racial and ethnic identities, sexual orientation, political affiliation and immigration status were all identified as road blocks to off-campus safety.

**“Considering the increase of crimes against international students, especially Asians, in major cities in the United States, as a Chinese student, I concern about the safety of the international students in Columbus.”**

“Especially from the events in the past year, I fear not being taken seriously by the police, being abused by others including the police, and being assaulted due to my gender and race [...]”

“off campus is a very scary place to be honest, particularly for women. I don't have a female friend who goes to school here who has not been harassed or assaulted while walking off campus, including myself. Multiple of my friends have been violently harmed. [...]”

“The increasing number of crime/cases targeting Asian-Americans, especially Chinese in the past year, makes me feel unsafe and fear of being hurt even walk outside [...]”

“[...] guys are terrified to walk alone, which should only let you know how scared girls are.”

## Experienced Crime or Harassment

Many students stated that they had been victims of a crime or harassment. Some students recounted multiple incidents. Comments addressed break-ins of off-campus residences and cars and stolen belongings. Other students wrote about being followed, harassed and assaulted by homeless individuals.

“I've taken the bus from campus to my home for four years. I always take it from the union on 13th avenue in front of the chipotle. There has constantly been a man standing there that leers at people walking by and standing at the bus stop. It makes me really uncomfortable. He makes lewd comments and never stops staring. Ive always been nervous standing there when he's around. I also had another man almost hit me for not talking to him. I constantly moved aww from him and he kept moving closer and getting angrier. He wasn't even phased by the fact that it was in broad daylight and everyone was around. I reported him to the police but there wasn't much that I could explain about his appearance and the police said they would take a look around. I knew that it wouldn't lead to anything fruitful but we should be able to walk on campus without being harassed like this. [...]”

“[...] the perimeter of the campus where many students spend their time (near the Wexner Medical Center, along high street JUST across campus, off campus housing within minutes of campus) has been the scene of horrible events. I have been both an undergraduate and graduate student at OSU and have seen it get barely any better. People have experienced indecent exposures at their window, nurses have been followed leaving the Wexner medical center, I personally have had a person scream and spit in my face near Gateway plaza because I did not respond to their request for money [...]”

“Safety doesn't exist off campus. My house has been robbed, my roommates cars have been broken in to and robbed, my roommates have been victims of crimes, I've been a victim of a crime. I've had to chase two random robbers out of my house twice in the past year”



### More Police Patrolling Off-Campus Neighborhoods

Students suggested having a larger police presence throughout the off-campus areas. They believe that police regularly patrolling the neighborhoods surrounding campus would help deter suspicious activity, dangerous individuals and crime.

**“There is a very clear problem area between 11th and 17th Avenues. I live close to this area and feel completely unsafe. There needs to be more police patrolling these areas and just a general increase in police presence, especially at night. I think having pedestrian officers would help as well, not just police cars rolling by because I think the alleys are probably the most sketchy.”**

“[...]it is immediately off-campus near 13th ave across the Ohio Union area where I feel most unsafe. Having a visible police presence in the areas with lots of homeless people I think would make off-campus seem less daunting to students walking to and from class everyday.”

“[...] Nevertheless, the news of robbery and theft crimes occurring early in the morning or late at night to students around the school always makes us feel uneasy. Crimes like these pose a serious threat to the physical safety of students, so I hope that the surveillance and protection of schools, police, and local communities will be strengthened in certain times and places.”

### Infrastructure Improvements

Students identified off-campus infrastructure as a contributor to their fear of the surrounding neighborhoods. Suggestions for improving these physical elements included more lighting throughout the neighborhoods and more emergency blue light posts. Students also mentioned the danger of icy sidewalks off campus and that these sidewalks are not maintained during the winter months.

**“I live only one block from campus and feel extremely unsafe living off campus as an Ohio State student. Even after taken all precautions, I still fear for my life whenever walking to or from campus for class and work at the early morning or evening hours. Off campus living areas need to be improved and the lighting needs to be increased. The lack of parking off campus makes it dangerous for students returning home in the dark from their cars. My car has been broken into three times and my roommates harrassed by individuals on their way to 8am classes twice.”**

“Also, myhome (on indianola avenue) was robbed twice with two doors broken down. It was never reported on the Public Safety emails. I think lighting would be a major help off campus. Putting more lights on Indianola Avenue would make a difference. Currently, when walking at night, it is nearly pitch black in some places and the only light is coming from surrounding houses.”

“I live far from campus - I'm only a few minute walk from med campus. I wish I could go to campus in the evening and take walks or go to the gym or get dinner when it is dark but I don't feel safe due to the lack of street lighting off campus. I feel safe on campus but even that short walk in the dark to my apartment is enough to scare me into avoiding doing these things. [...] Considering it gets dark between 5:00-6:00 in the winter, this takes away a lot of opportunities for me to come to campus when I want to.”



“Please make sure that there is plenty of lighting in the neighborhood surrounding south campus and especially as you get closer to High Street. I feel very unsafe walking home past 8pm. Additionally, there are no emergency phones or police officers in sight.”

“Ohio State NEEDS to put those blue light emergency boxes in off campus areas. [...]”

### Transportation Options for Students Staying Late on Campus

Studying, working and other activities often require students to remain on campus later into the evening. Students suggested having additional options to travel home safely when in those situations.

“Because of finances, I had to move further from campus. This means I can no longer take advantage of things like the Lyft ride share option. I'd love it if we could get discounts on evening rides that pick up OR drop off within the service areas, not just rides that are exclusively within the service area.”

“[...] the Lyft discount time should start earlier. Many time I have to go somewhere earlier than 9 pm and don't have the fund to pay full price for a Lyft. Especially in the winter it gets dark extremely early and fell VERY unsafe, as a female, walking a short distance; even when with another individual. I think it would be beneficial for the Lyft discount to start at 7, especially in the winter when it gets dark at 5 pm.”

“I am a nursing student and have clinicals at the Wexner. I often don't leave the hospital till 8pm or later. I feel unsafe walking home to off campus housing in the evening. I wish there was accommodations/transportation for healthcare students with clinicals at late hours.”

“PLEASE bring back student safety rides for student workers on campus! I work at sloop's multiple nights a week, usually until really late hours in the night and don't always have a free available ride home. The Lyft Ride Smart is a relatively cheap option; however, I would trust the OSU student safety workers over a random stranger in a lyft to drive me home. Not only is it dangerous off campus so late at night, but i am especially a target as a small young woman. I know COVID impacted a lot of things, but I must fight that those rides genuinely impact my lively hood.”

### POLICE

Law enforcement was a popular topic throughout students' comments. Some students addressed their anger toward police and others offered suggestions on how to strengthen the department.

#### Negative Opinions About Columbus Police Division (CPD)

Although a greater CPD police presence off campus was often requested, many students expressed distrust, fear and anger toward the CPD. Some students wrote about their own negative interactions and concerns, while others commented on the potential threat to their safety.

“Students have pushed back against the involvement of CPD on our campus. CPD is responsible for the killings of numerous black and brown people, and their involvement on our campus is a safety issue. OSU needs to do better to support its students (especially black and brown students), and more police involvement is not the answer.”

“Distrust of police, especially due to their actions over the summer against peaceful protesters and reporters.”



“Columbus Police have a long history of excessive force violations and complaints and are a threat to the safety of students of color on this campus. Continued relationships with Columbus police threaten the safety of our student, and shows that this university will continue to support and retain an organization that perpetuates systems of abuse.”

“CPD is the worst police department I have ever seen. At OSU, CPD would be hostile towards residents in resident halls and overall never appeared to care about us. The eagerness to be armed and “flex” that power is absolutely not conducive to a safe campus. OSUPD does appear to be education and even though I have had limited interactions with them, they do seem to want drug and alcohol offenses to be educational; I believe this is needed. My biggest comment and suggestion: CPD is unprofessional, aggressive, and frankly rude, to individuals on OSU's campus and surrounding areas, and I believe must be limited in any campus event to ensure people feel safe.”

### Minimize Police Presence

Although an increase in police presence was a common suggestion, other students expressed fear, concern and distrust and suggested just the opposite. Some students wrote about negative experiences they had with police, and others wrote about their concern for the safety of their peers.

“Cut ties with Columbus PD. More police presence, especially from a department that has killed multiple unarmed black people very recently, is a terrible idea and will make people of color feel more unsafe.”

“[...] Basically, [the survey] says: what would make you feel more safe, with many of the options revolving around increasing policing. I would feel more safe with less police. I've been a victim of police violence, I do not want more cops, I want less, and this was not even listed as an option.”

“[...] I'm a queer white woman and \*I\* do not feel safe around them. I cannot imagine how unsafe BIPOC folx feel being surrounded by cops that disproportionately monitor and aggress them. Put money into community solutions and organizing, stop acting like we want more cops. Cops don't make us safe. We've seen that they will actively attack students, and don't adhere to COVID protocols. period.”

“Safety to me is community care. We take care of each other, heal each other, help each other. I don't trust the police and I don't think they are effective in bringing safety. I support fewer police on campus, and more social workers, more resources for mental health, more resources to help meet not only OSU students' basic needs, but the community's basic needs.”

### Additional Training

Students offered suggestions regarding additional education and training for police officers to improve their community interactions and response to crime.

“Increasing the paid training for police officer seems like a critical step in the right direction. Also increasing the continued learning of officers; this further should not be a burden to them so they do not look on it in a negative light. I truly believe that most officers want to help their community but if you but too many hoops for them to jump through corner will get cut. But above all else we should be asking the officers what tools, and training they think would be most effective at helping them protecting the community; they are the people who are out there every day.”



“Police education on safe ways to deal with conflict. Diversity training. Punishment for police crimes.”

“[...] The remaining OSU Police organization should be reimagined with an emphasis on community-building, restorative justice, anti-racism, feminism, and support for LGBTQ+ persons.”

## UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATION

Frequent and transparent communication from Ohio State related to crime and safety was also in high demand. Students expressed feeling that their safety is not the University’s top priority but should be.

### Alerting Students About Crimes

Buckeye Alerts and Neighborhood Safety Notices are reaching students, but some students do not find them to be helpful. Many students requested to receive these notifications in a more timely manner so they have the chance to avoid certain areas and protect themselves. Students also requested that the notifications include as much detail as possible, such as the races of the victims *and* suspects. Additionally, students often wrote about experiencing or hearing about crimes that were never addressed via Buckeye Alert or Neighborhood Safety Notice and requested that all crimes, on and off campus, are sent to students.

“[...] Almost every night during this academic year, I've received notifications from other applications (citizen) informing me of shootings, stabbings, thefts, armed robberies, and sexual assaults all occurring within 0-5 miles from campus. Social media and outside applications are more reliable than the university when it comes to reporting crimes and informing students. [...]”

“The buckeye alerts/emails are not fast enough. There should be immediate alerts when a crime is reported in the area, not the next day. The street I live on has had multiple robberies at gun point as well as gun related crimes. There are also many robberies/theft. I don't think that hearing about the crime the next day is very helpful when people are still walking around when and shortly after the crime has occurred.”

“I feel extremely unsafe off campus and I have noticed I am hearing about crimes and not getting buckeye alerts. ANY CRIME THAT HAPPENS NEEDS TO HAVE A BUCKEYE ALERT. I don't like finding out about situations not from the university.”

“More timely alerts would be helpful. Last week there was a crime on 13th (where I live) at 7:25 am and we didn't get the email until around 6:00 pm at night. I had gone to class and walked alone shortly after the occurrence and had no idea it had happened.”

### More Education

A popular request from students was that the University provide more educational opportunities and training related to safety. Some students referenced specific topics they would be interested in learning about, such as self-defense and how to use pepper spray or mace, how to report a crime, how to avoid being a victim of a crime, how to handle a dangerous situation and general education about available resources.

“[...] I don't know what OSU can do to improve off campus safety.. but its definitely a huge issue. I would love to know more about opportunities like the offered self-defense classes and videos. I would also love to be taught how to use pepper spray or mace. everyone says to carry it but like? How do I use it?”





“there should be a program that could help train yourself to recognize a bad situation before the bad thing happens.”

“As an international student, I feel it is hard to get information about safety. When the same amount of information is given, we are hard to understand them fully. We also do not know where to report when something happens, and there is fear that the police officer cannot understand my situation over the phone. Maybe a regular spread of manual to report might be helpful especially for international students.”

“[...] Also, many undergrads I have taught come from small towns or very safe suburbs--they don't know how to live in and navigate cities. Educating undergrads about this seems really important.”

“I have never interacted with university police, so I hardly know anything about the policies of being a police officer at a university. I don't know their rights and I don't know my rights when it comes to getting help or being questioned. That's a major concern for me.”

“[...] One suggestion is to mention the tornado warning system in a fall semester newsletter - similar sirens had a different meaning where I was raised, and I've met other people who similarly didn't know what the sirens meant for their first few years at OSU.”

## OTHER

In addition to comments related to off-campus safety, police and university communication, common themes emerged that were not included in these categories. Students provided positive feedback with regards to safety, concerns for safety in on-campus areas and suggestions for resources beyond law enforcement.

### Positive Feedback

Although students mostly provided suggestions and expressed concerns regarding safety, several students indicated having positive experiences as well. The consensus among students who provided positive feedback was that students felt relatively safe on campus and had pleasant interactions with officers of The Ohio State University Police Department.

“I've been pretty satisfied with on campus patrolling overall, and feel relatively safe in most areas off campus.”

“I appreciate the work the Ohio State campus police department does, I can see the results of their work compared to the surrounding areas”

### Feeling Unsafe in On-Campus Areas

Although most students wrote about their fear of off-campus areas, several students commented on aspects of the on-campus area that make them feel unsafe.

“I have never thought of campus as being all that safe. I have friends who have been assaulted in the dorms and I received mace as a graduation gift. That just is how it is. [...]”



"I usually feel safe on campus but I feel most unsafe when people aren't following covid safety. There is a man in the union who walks around asking for money and does not wear a mask. I've seen him there multiple times within an hour and on multiple occasions. He asks me multiple times for money while I am trying to study, which is annoying, but I feel very on edge and uncomfortable around him because I know virtually everyone in the union has been tested for covid recently and is wearing masks, except for him. I wish the university did more to prevent this kind of thing from happening, especially since if there's not security to make him wear a mask, how could there be enough security present if there's assault or something more serious."

"You can't walk around campus past 9 by yourself without being scared. It's quite and dark and i rarely see any OSU cops."

"I think that there should be more regulation in the people that are allowed to enter campus buildings."

### **More Non-Police Resources**

Rather than investing in the local police departments, students suggested redirecting those funds into the community and other resources outside of law enforcement, such as social workers and mental health experts.

"I feel the best way to improve safety is to move funds out of police departments (OSU PD and CPD) and into community resources such as social workers who can respond to crises, more public education funding, and job training programs."

"[...] The way I see it, the best thing to do right now is to increase mental health crisis responders and other emergency responders who can come help in situations where a gun is not needed. I do think there are certain situations in which police officers do need to be armed, but there are a lot of situations where they are and they don't need to be."

"We should be investing more in the communities surrounding OSU to create a safer environment rather than hiring more police"



## KEY FINDINGS FROM ADDITIONAL FEEDBACK BY RACIAL AND ETHNIC IDENTITY

The following section identifies the most commonly addressed themes by students' race and/or ethnicity. Students who identified as Hispanic/Latinx, Middle Eastern, Arab American, Native American, American Indian, Alaskan Native, Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, another racial or ethnic identity or preferred not to provide their racial or ethnic identity are presented in the "other racial/ethnic identity" category due to small sample sizes within each group and to ensure their results are presented.

### African American/Black (*n* = 16)

	<i>n</i>	%
Negative opinions about CPD	5	31.3%
Positive feedback	4	25.0%
General fear for off-campus safety	3	18.8%
More educational opportunities (for students)	3	18.8%
More non-police resources	3	18.8%
Minimize police presence	2	12.5%
More police patrolling neighborhoods	2	12.5%
Feel unsafe on campus	2	12.5%
Additional training (for police)	1	6.3%
Infrastructure improvements (off campus)	1	6.3%
Feel unsafe because of identity	1	6.3%
Transportation options (for students staying late on campus)	0	0.0%
Alerting students about crimes	0	0.0%
Experienced crime or harassment	0	0.0%



**Asian/Asian American (n = 16)**

	<i>n</i>	%
Feel unsafe because of identity	3	18.8%
Negative opinions about CPD	2	12.5%
More educational opportunities (for students)	2	12.5%
General fear for off-campus safety	2	12.5%
Experienced crime or harassment	2	12.5%
More police patrolling neighborhoods	2	12.5%
Infrastructure improvements (off campus)	2	12.5%
Positive feedback	2	12.5%
More non-police resources	2	12.5%
Feel unsafe on campus	1	6.3%
Transportation options (for students staying late on campus)	0	0.0%
Additional training (for police)	0	0.0%
Minimize police presence	0	0.0%
Alerting students about crimes	0	0.0%

**White (n = 301)**

	<i>n</i>	%
General fear for off-campus safety	125	41.7%
Positive feedback	62	20.7%
More police patrolling neighborhoods	44	14.6%
Alerting students about crimes	36	12.0%
Infrastructure improvements (off campus)	34	11.3%
Feel unsafe because of identity	34	11.3%
Negative opinions about CPD	34	11.3%
More educational opportunities (for students)	25	8.3%
Feel unsafe on campus	24	8.0%
Experienced crime or harassment	20	6.6%
Minimize police presence	16	5.3%
More non-police resources	10	3.3%
Additional training (for police)	7	2.3%
Transportation options (for students staying late on campus)	4	1.3%



**Multi-Racial (n = 60)**

	<i>n</i>	%
General fear for off-campus safety	23	38.3%
More police patrolling neighborhoods	12	20.0%
Infrastructure improvements (off campus)	11	18.3%
Negative opinions about CPD	11	18.3%
More educational opportunities (for students)	7	11.5%
Feel unsafe on campus	6	9.8%
More non-police resources	6	9.8%
Alerting students about crimes	6	9.8%
Experienced crime or harassment	4	6.7%
Feel unsafe because of identity	3	4.9%
Additional training (for police)	3	4.9%
Positive feedback	1	1.7%
Minimize police presence	1	1.7%
Transportation options (for students staying late on campus)	1	1.7%

**Other Race/Ethnicity (n = 59)**

	<i>n</i>	%
General fear for off-campus safety	18	30.5%
More police patrolling neighborhoods	12	20.3%
Feel unsafe on campus	10	16.9%
Infrastructure improvements (off campus)	7	11.9%
Experienced crime or harassment	7	11.9%
Negative opinions about CPD	6	10.0%
Feel unsafe because of identity	5	8.5%
More educational opportunities (for students)	4	6.8%
More non-police resources	4	6.8%
Alerting students about crimes	3	5.1%
Positive feedback	3	5.1%
Transportation options (for students staying late on campus)	2	3.4%
Minimize police presence	0	0.0%
Additional training (for police)	0	0.0%



## KEY FINDINGS FROM ADDITIONAL FEEDBACK BY GENDER IDENTITY

The following section identifies the most commonly addressed themes by students' self-reported gender identity. Due to small sample sizes, students who identified as agender, genderqueer or gender fluid, non-binary, trans men, trans women, two or more genders or other identity are combined for analysis and included in the category "Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming (TGNC)".

### Man (*n* = 192)

	<i>n</i>	%
General fear for off-campus safety	73	38.0%
Positive feedback	38	19.8%
More police patrolling neighborhoods	34	17.7%
Infrastructure improvements (off campus)	21	10.9%
Feel unsafe on campus	21	10.9%
Negative opinions about CPD	19	9.9%
More educational opportunities (for students)	15	7.8%
Alerting students about crimes	13	6.8%
Experienced crime or harassment	13	6.8%
More non-police resources	12	6.3%
Feel unsafe because of identity	11	5.7%
Minimize police presence	4	2.1%
Additional training (for police)	2	1.0%
Transportation options (for students staying late on campus)	1	0.5%

### Woman (*n* = 225)

	<i>n</i>	%
General fear for off-campus safety	95	42.2%
More police patrolling neighborhoods	32	14.2%
Alerting students about crimes	32	14.2%
Infrastructure improvements (off campus)	31	13.8%
Feel unsafe because of identity	30	13.3%
Negative opinions about CPD	30	13.3%
Positive feedback	29	12.9%
More educational opportunities (for students)	25	11.1%
Experienced crime or harassment	18	8.0%
Feel unsafe on campus	18	8.0%
More non-police resources	9	4.0%
Minimize police presence	9	4.0%
Additional training (for police)	8	3.6%
Transportation options (for students staying late on campus)	3	1.3%



**Transgender/Gender Non-Conforming (*n* = 11)**

	<b><i>n</i></b>	<b>%</b>
Minimize police presence	5	45.5%
Negative opinions about CPD	5	45.5%
More non-police resources	2	18.2%
Feel unsafe because of identity	2	18.2%
Infrastructure improvements (off campus)	0	0.0%
Experienced crime or harassment	0	0.0%
Feel unsafe on campus	0	0.0%
More educational opportunities (for students)	0	0.0%
General fear for off-campus safety	0	0.0%
More police patrolling neighborhoods	0	0.0%
Alerting students about crimes	0	0.0%
Positive feedback	0	0.0%
Transportation options (for students staying late on campus)	0	0.0%
Additional training (for police)	0	0.0%



## KEY FINDINGS FROM ADDITIONAL FEEDBACK BY EDUCATIONAL LEVEL

The following section identifies the most commonly addressed themes by students' educational level. Students are categorized based on their rank in the Student Information System as undergraduate, graduate or professional students.

### Undergraduate Students (*n* = 374)

	<i>n</i>	%
General fear for off-campus safety	158	42.2%
Positive feedback	68	18.2%
More police patrolling neighborhoods	61	16.3%
Infrastructure improvements (off campus)	45	12.0%
Negative opinions about CPD	41	11.0%
Alerting students about crimes	39	10.4%
Feel unsafe on campus	39	10.4%
Feel unsafe because of identity	36	9.6%
More educational opportunities (for students)	32	8.6%
Experienced crime or harassment	26	7.0%
More non-police resources	13	3.5%
Minimize police presence	13	3.5%
Additional training (for police)	6	1.6%
Transportation options (for students staying late on campus)	5	1.3%

### Graduate Students (*n* = 59)

	<i>n</i>	%
Negative opinions about CPD	13	21.7%
More non-police resources	10	16.7%
Feel unsafe because of identity	9	15.3%
General fear for off-campus safety	9	15.3%
More police patrolling neighborhoods	8	13.6%
Infrastructure improvements (off campus)	8	13.6%
More educational opportunities (for students)	8	13.6%
Alerting students about crimes	5	8.5%
Minimize police presence	4	6.8%
Additional training (for police)	4	6.8%
Experienced crime or harassment	3	5.1%
Positive feedback	3	5.1%
Transportation options (for students staying late on campus)	2	3.4%
Feel unsafe on campus	1	1.7%





**Professional Students (*n* = 19)**

	<i>n</i>	%
General fear for off-campus safety	5	26.3%
Negative opinions about CPD	4	21.1%
Infrastructure improvements (off campus)	3	15.8%
Feel unsafe on campus	3	15.8%
Experienced crime or harassment	3	15.8%
More police patrolling neighborhoods	3	15.8%
More non-police resources	2	10.5%
Additional training (for police)	1	5.3%
Minimize police presence	1	5.3%
More educational opportunities (for students)	1	5.3%
Feel unsafe because of identity	1	5.3%
Alerting students about crimes	1	5.3%
Positive feedback	1	5.3%
Transportation options (for students staying late on campus)	0	0.0%

