

Overview

The latest UASU Annual Survey, conducted November-December 2021, reached 4032 students, around 12% of UAlberta undergraduates. Near the end of the survey, 2972¹ students opted to answer a specific multiple choice question: "On and around campus, what has been your experience with discrimination/unfair treatment by UAPS or law enforcement, if any?"² We are examining this question separately from the [main survey report](#). For both exactness and brevity, we have termed *students' reports of 'discrimination/unfair treatment by UAPS or law enforcement, on and around campus'* as 'LEO_DISCRIM' throughout this report.

One in thirty respondents (both in the full sample and in the survey's Stratified Random Sample) reported that they had personally faced LEO_DISCRIM. Some demographics were more likely to report LEO_DISCRIM, with varying levels of statistical significance due to sample size: international students as a whole (5.5%), gender minorities (6.9%), disabled students (6.6%), Black students (6.5%), Indigenous students (7.4%), and Southeast Asian students (6.5%). Broadly speaking, 5.2% of BIPOC students reported LEO_DISCRIM, three times higher than other students, significant to 99% confidence. 2SLGBTQ+ identity increased many groups' odds of experiencing LEO_DISCRIM.

<i>On and around campus, what has been your experience with discrimination/unfair treatment by UAPS or law enforcement, if any? (Choose all that apply.) [LEO_DISCRIM]</i>		
RESPONSE	FULL SAMPLE	<i>Stratified Random Sample correcting for faculty, gender, and year of study</i>
I've never seen it happen or heard about specific instances firsthand (i.e. from the person it happened to)	76.9%	76.1%
It's happened to me	3.3%	3.4%
It's happened to my friends	4.6%	4.4%
I've seen it happen to other people	6.5%	6.7%
I've heard about specific instances firsthand (i.e. from the person it happened to)	11.0%	11.9%
Prefer not to say	5.6%	5.2%

¹ A very small number of respondents (<5) both checked every race/ethnicity box and provided spurious answers to other equity-related questions, and were removed for data validity purposes.

² The question took a similar form to questions used in the [previous annual survey](#) and in [a survey](#) co-designed with a campus safety working group in 2021 (n=245). However, those surveys broke the question into several parts related to specific kinds of discrimination; the 2021 survey combined them.

Results by Gender

<i>On and around campus, what has been your experience with discrimination/unfair treatment by UAPS or law enforcement, if any? (Choose all that apply.) [LEO_DISCRIM]</i>			
RESPONSE	MEN	WOMEN	NON-BINARY OR OTHER GENDER
I've never seen it happen or heard about specific instances firsthand (i.e. from the person it happened to)	81.0%	77.2%	58.6%
It's happened to me	3.5%	2.7%	6.9%
It's happened to my friends	4.0%	4.4%	10.9%
I've seen it happen to other people	5.0%	6.3%	14.9%
I've heard about specific instances firsthand (i.e. from the person it happened to)	8.3%	11.3%	23.6%
Prefer not to say	3.8%	5.5%	9.2%

Women were somewhat more likely than men to notice LEO_DISCRIM and to hear about specific instances firsthand, but overall, this question's results looked very similar for men and women. The 173 students who self-identified as non-binary or another gender, however, were two to three times as likely to report personally experiencing LEO_DISCRIM (statistically significant with 99% confidence), more than twice as likely to say that their friends had experienced LEO_DISCRIM, three times as likely to notice it happening to others, and much less likely to answer the question at all.

<i>On and around campus, what has been your experience with discrimination/unfair treatment by UAPS or law enforcement, if any? (Choose all that apply.) [LEO_DISCRIM]</i>		
RESPONSE	CISGENDER	TRANSGENDER
I've never seen it happen or heard about specific instances firsthand (i.e. from the person it happened to)	77.9%	61.6%
It's happened to me	3.2%	4.7%
It's happened to my friends	4.4%	9.3%
I've seen it happen to other people	6.3%	8.1%
I've heard about specific instances firsthand (i.e. from the person it happened to)	10.4%	24.4%
Prefer not to say	5.1%	10.5%

85 transgender students answered this question. Transgender students were more likely than other students to state they experienced LEO_DISCRIM (not statistically significant due to small cohort), twice as likely to say that their friends had experienced LEO_DISCRIM, somewhat more likely to notice it, more than twice as likely to hear about it firsthand, and more than twice as likely to choose 'prefer not to say.'

Results by Disability

<i>On and around campus, what has been your experience with discrimination/unfair treatment by UAPS or law enforcement, if any? (Choose all that apply.) [LEO_DISCRIM]</i>		
RESPONSE	DISABLED STUDENTS	NOT DISABLED
I've never seen it happen or heard about specific instances firsthand (i.e. from the person it happened to)	68.9%	78.0%
It's happened to me	6.6%	3.0%
It's happened to my friends	9.3%	4.3%
I've seen it happen to other people	9.8%	6.4%
I've heard about specific instances firsthand (i.e. from the person it happened to)	18.0%	10.5%
Prefer not to say	6.6%	5.0%

182 disabled³ students answered this question. Disabled students were more than twice as likely as other students to say they had personally experienced LEO_DISCRIM (on any grounds), statistically significant with 90% confidence. They were more than twice as likely to report that their friends had experienced LEO_DISCRIM or otherwise hear about it firsthand, and significantly more likely to notice it happening to other people.

This result is disturbing, as the 2020 Annual Survey noted relatively low rates of disability-related LEO_DISCRIM compared to LEO_DISCRIM on other grounds. Upon reexamining the 2020 data, however, we found that students with at least one type of accessibility need (e.g. mobility, cognitive, visual, etc.) were especially likely to report discrimination on other grounds (i.e. racially-based, gender-based, or mental-health-based discrimination).

Comparing the 2020 data to disabled students' high experience of LEO_DISCRIM in the 2021 data (which does not distinguish between types of discrimination) suggests that disabled student may be especially vulnerable to discrimination by UAPS or law enforcement, on or near campus, on protected grounds *other than*, or overlapping with, disability.

³ As detailed in the main survey report, in keeping with shifting norms this report does not default to person-first language when speaking about disability. The question 'Do you identify as disabled?' produced a significant increase in self-identification compared to the person-first language used in previous years' surveys.

Results by International Student Status

<i>On and around campus, what has been your experience with discrimination/unfair treatment by UAPS or law enforcement, if any? (Choose all that apply.) [LEO_DISCRIM]</i>			
RESPONSE	INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS	DOMESTIC STUDENTS	2020 SURVEY (INTL STUDENTS, RACIAL DISCRIM. ONLY)
I've never seen it happen or heard about specific instances firsthand (i.e. from the person it happened to)	72.0%	77.5%	55.2%
It's happened to me	5.5%	3.1%	4.8%
It's happened to my friends	7.5%	4.4%	7.6%
I've seen it happen to other people	7.0%	6.5%	10.5%
I've heard about specific instances firsthand (i.e. from the person it happened to)	10.0%	11.1%	11.4%
Prefer not to say	7.0%	5.3%	21.0%

200 international students answered this question. International students appeared almost twice as likely as domestic students to report personally experiencing LEO_DISCRIM (not statistically significant), and were almost twice as likely to report that their friends had experienced LEO_DISCRIM (statistically significant to 90% confidence).

Though our sample size did not allow us to reliably and consistently cross-tabulate these results across self-reported race/ethnicities, rates of reported LEO_DISCRIM appeared reasonably consistent across the largest self-identified racial/ethnic groups among international respondents (around 5-7% of South Asian, Black, East Asian, and Southeast Asian international students).

As a major point of interest, international students were far more likely to answer this question than the comparable slate of questions in the 2020 annual survey. (The international students' results on the 2020 racial/ethnic LEO_DISCRIM question are included in the table above.) We thank the many international students who opted to take this survey and answer this specific question this year.

Results by Race/Ethnicity

On and around campus, what has been your experience with discrimination/unfair treatment by UAPS or law enforcement, if any? (Choose all that apply.) [LEO_DISCRIM] (Note: Table refers only to the six largest racial/ethnic cohorts in the sample; respondents could self-identify as more than one racial/ethnic cohort.)

RESPONSE	WHITE (62% of sample)	EAST ASIAN (12%)	SOUTH ASIAN (11%)	SOUTHEAST ASIAN (8%)	FNMI (5%)	BLACK (4%)
I've never seen it happen or heard about specific instances firsthand (i.e. from the person it happened to)	80.5%	72.3%	76.0%	71.8%	69.8%	65.7%
It's happened to me	1.9%	4.1%	4.2%	6.5%	7.4%	6.5%
It's happened to my friends	4.6%	3.5%	6.1%	7.3%	5.4%	7.4%
I've seen it happen to other people	5.8%	7.1%	7.7%	9.8%	10.7%	9.3%
I've heard about specific instances firsthand (i.e. from the person it happened to)	10.0%	15.2%	10.5%	13.9%	14.1%	14.8%
Prefer not to say	4.5%	7.1%	3.8%	6.1%	5.4%	13.0%

107 Black students, 244 Southeast Asian students, and 148 First Nations, Métis, or Inuit students answered this question. Indigenous, Southeast Asian, and Black students were particularly likely to report personally experiencing LEO_DISCRIM, to see it happening to others, or to hear about it firsthand. This result for Indigenous students was statistically significant with 90% confidence compared with non-Indigenous students. Likewise, this result for Southeast Asian students was statistically significant with 95% confidence. Due to the small cohort size, the result for Black students was not statistically significant. To a lesser extent, though still concerning, the larger cohorts of East Asian and South Asian students reported above-average rates of LEO_DISCRIM.

Note that Chinese international students were significantly underrepresented in the survey sample.⁴ As a result, the statistics in the East Asian students' column of this chart may be less reliable than the other columns.

White students were by far the least likely group to report LEO_DISCRIM. (Again, in this survey, LEO_DISCRIM includes discrimination on any protected grounds, not just race.) 43% of respondents to this question could be considered part of the BIPOC envelope (Black, Indigenous, or People of Colour). 5.2% of BIPOC students reported LEO_DISCRIM, three times higher than other students, significant to 99% confidence.

⁴ In the 2021-22 Annual Report on Undergraduate Enrolment, 51.9% of international undergraduates are listed as Chinese citizens. Around 1 in 11 UAlberta undergraduates is a Chinese citizen. East Asian citizens as a whole likely make up at least 55-60% of international undergraduates. However, of the 263 international students who took the 2021 Annual Survey, only 56 (21%) self-identified as East Asian.

Results by 2SLGBTQ+ Identity

<i>On and around campus, what has been your experience with discrimination/unfair treatment by UAPS or law enforcement, if any? (Choose all that apply.) [LEO_DISCRIM]</i>		
RESPONSE	2SLGBTQ+ STUDENTS	NOT 2SLGBTQ+
I've never seen it happen or heard about specific instances firsthand (i.e. from the person it happened to)	71.4%	79.4%
It's happened to me	3.0%	3.4%
It's happened to my friends	6.3%	4.0%
I've seen it happen to other people	9.9%	5.2%
I've heard about specific instances firsthand (i.e. from the person it happened to)	15.4%	9.7%
Prefer not to say	6.6%	4.5%

740 2SLGBTQ+ students answered this question, many of them also self-identifying as other demographics. On average, 2SLGBTQ+ students were not unusually likely to say they had experienced LEO_DISCRIM, but were twice as likely as other students to notice it, and were more likely to hear about it from friends or otherwise firsthand.

Although 2SLGBTQ+ identity did not make the full sample more likely to experience LEO_DISCRIM, it proved to be a compounding factor for other affected demographics, in an intersectional sense.

- BIPOC 2SLGBTQ+ students were six times more likely than non-BIPOC 2SLGBTQ+ students (6% versus 1%) to state that they had personally faced LEO_DISCRIM. This variation was statistically significant to 99% confidence. (Likewise, 2SLGBTQ+ identity made BIPOC students somewhat more likely than other BIPOC students to report facing LEO_DISCRIM: 6% versus 5%.)
- Disabled 2SLGBTQ+ students were somewhat more likely than disabled non-2SLGBTQ+ students (7% versus 6%) to state that they had personally faced LEO_DISCRIM. This variation was statistically significant to 90% confidence.
- International 2SLGBTQ+ students were three times more likely than non-2SLGBTQ+ international students (13% versus 4%) to state that they had personally faced LEO_DISCRIM. This variation was not statistically significant due to the small numbers of international students who self-identified as 2SLGBTQ+.