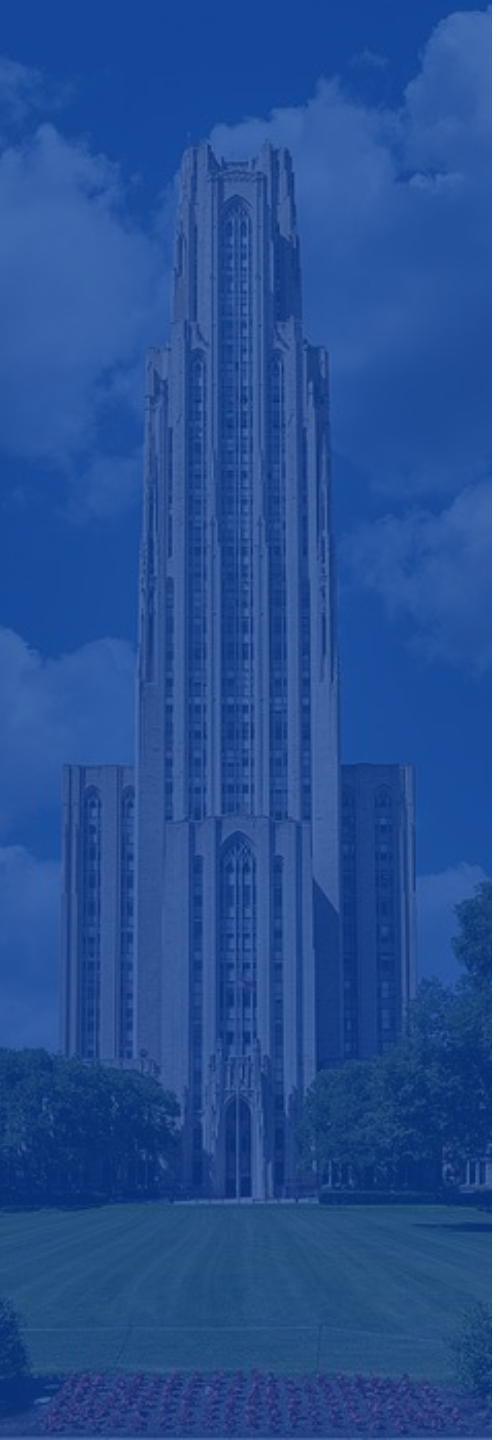
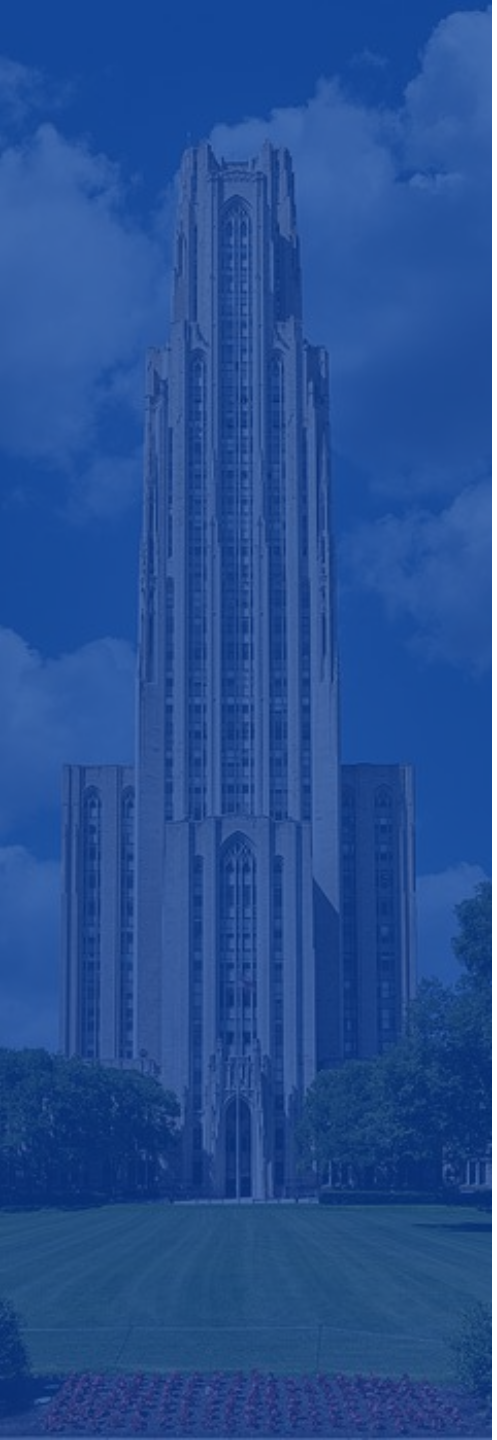


Supporting Survivors of Campus Sexual Violence: Involving Campus and Community Partners

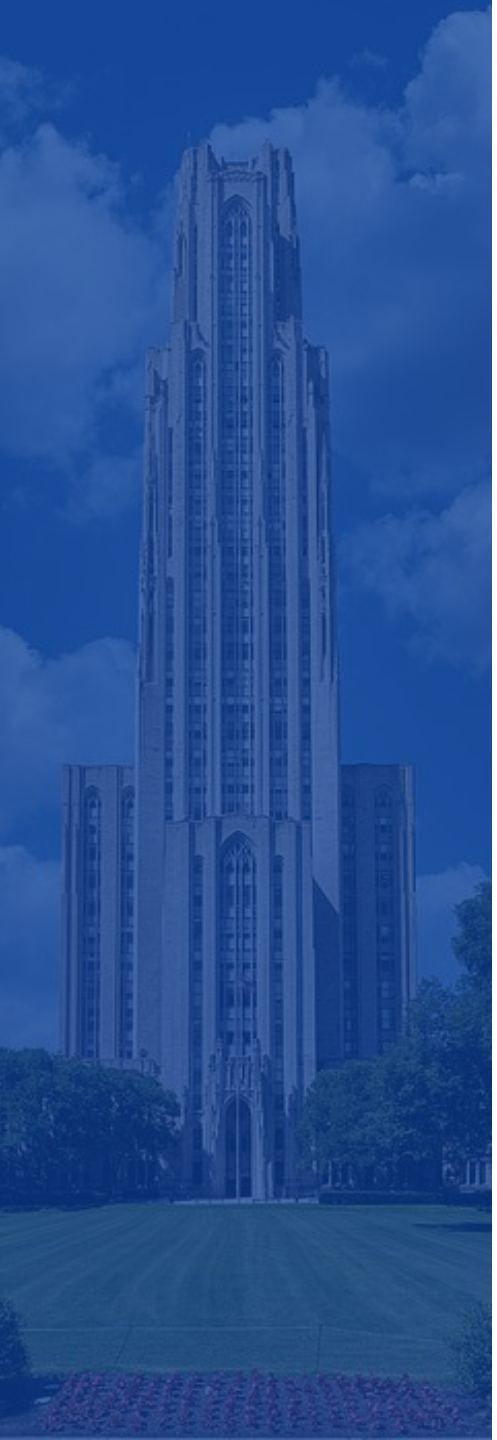
Carrie Benson, MEd
Willa Campbell, MPH

University of Pittsburgh Office for Sexual Violence Prevention & Education



Learning Objectives

- Learn about recent data trends related to campus sexual misconduct and how they impact the learning environment.
- Examine the consequences of sexual violence on college students and on the campus environment.
- Explore ways to leverage campus and community resources to create a culture of support on campus.



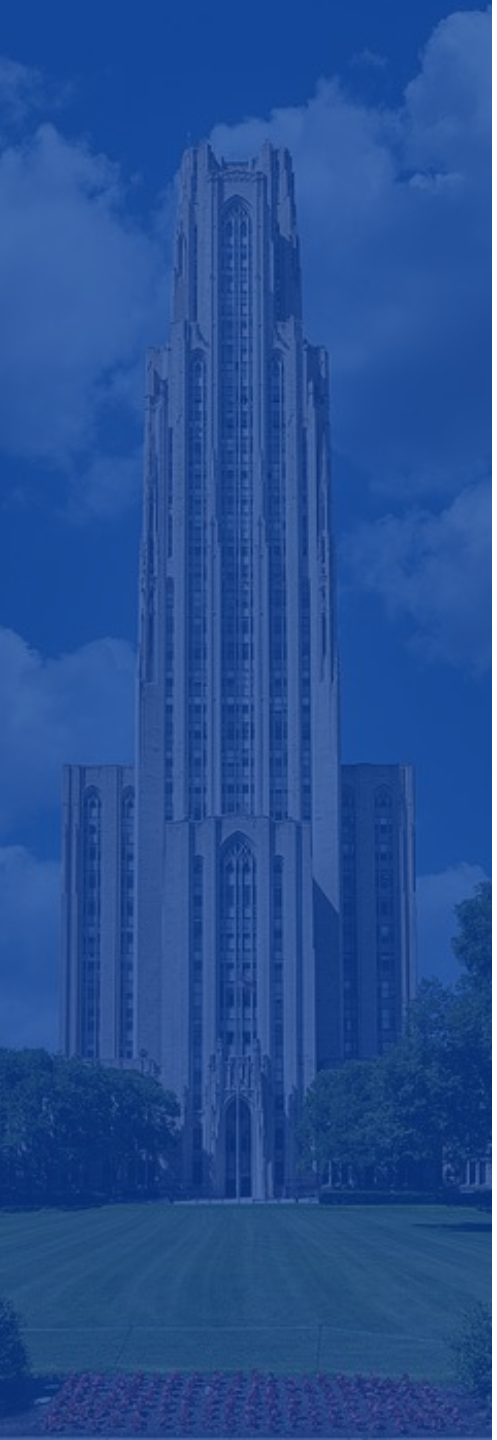
Building Survivor Support Programs and Initiatives

Who we are: Prevention at Pitt

Prevention at Pitt: Charter

To reduce sexual violence at Pitt and to better support the survivors/victims in our community through dialogue-oriented prevention, engaging programming and education, community partnerships, innovative research, and centering student voices and ideas.





Prevention at Pitt Programming

Awareness Building

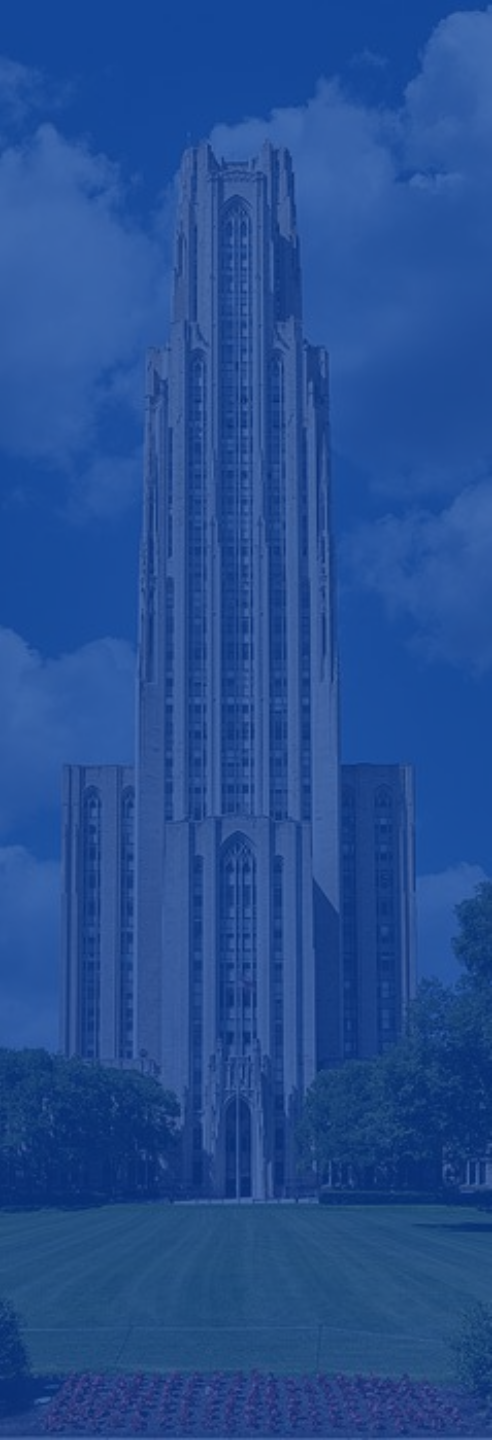
- Basic understanding of definitions, behavioral expectations, policies, and resources
- Understanding the scope of the issue

Cultural Change

- Educational opportunities that engage students in dialogues and discussions around messaging, consent, healthy relationships and boundaries, bystander intervention, and survivor/victim support
- Building community by encouraging participants to share and learn from one another in a safe environment

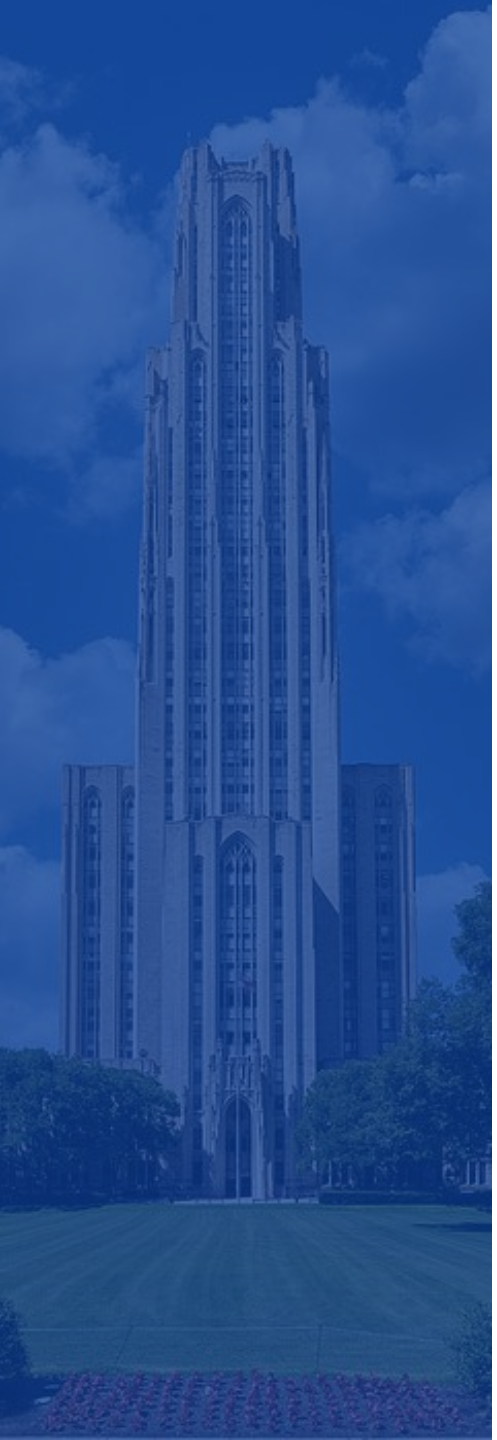
Survivor/Victim Support

- Promoting a trauma-informed campus environment



Building Survivor Support Programs and Initiatives

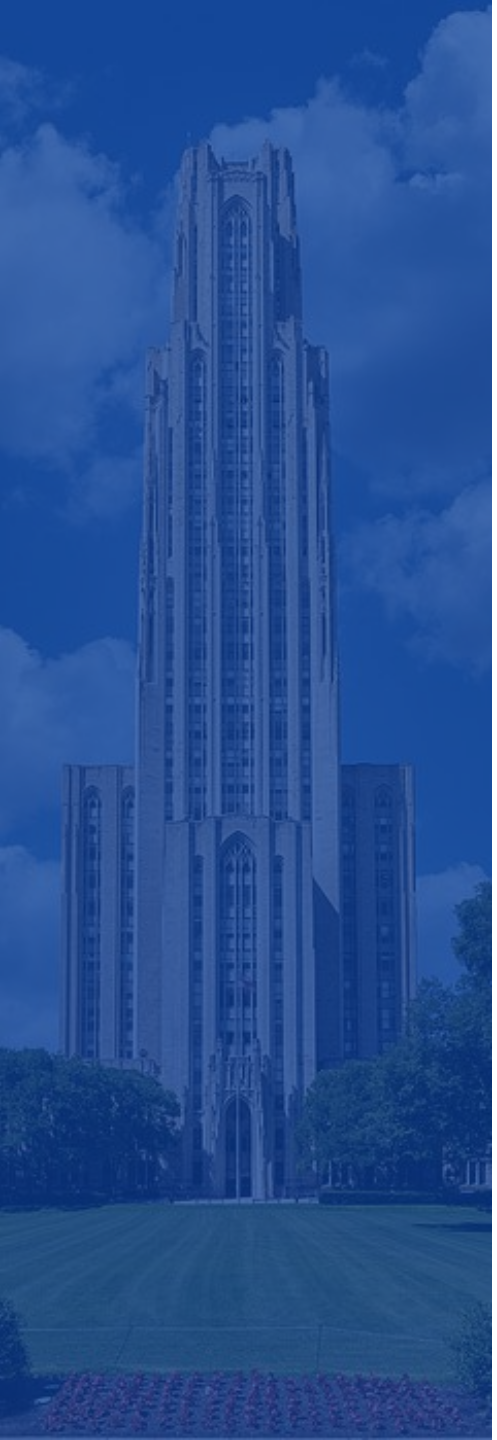
Responding to data and trends to address the educational, emotional, and physical needs of our students



About the HESMA Survey, 2024

(Higher Education Sexual Misconduct and Awareness Survey)

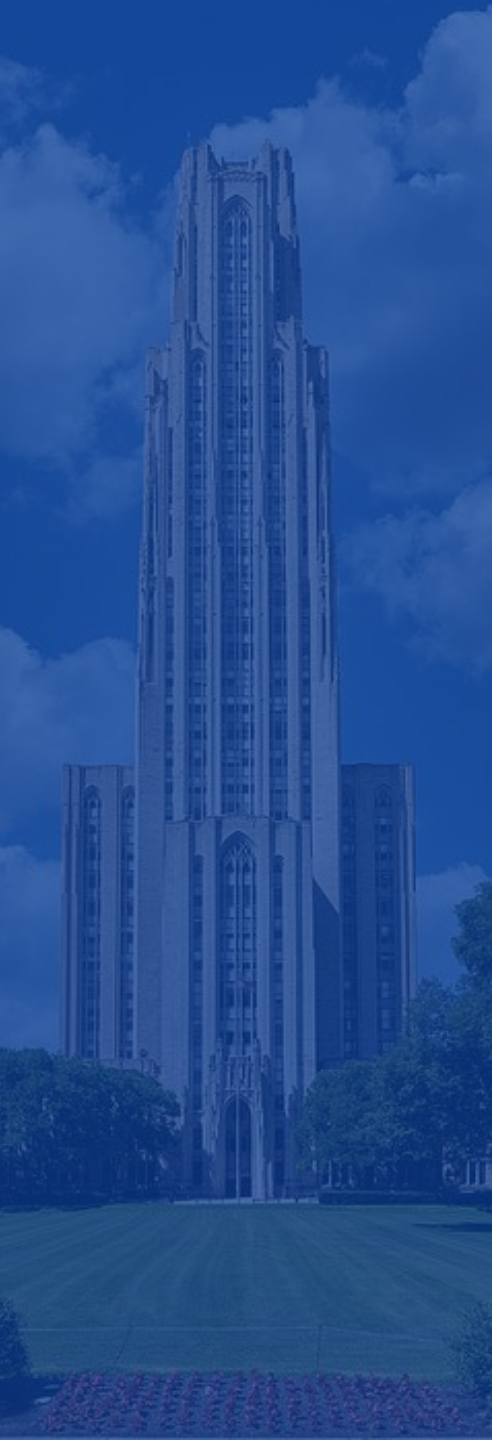
- Climate survey administered and prepared by Westat
- Administered at 10 AAU institutions in the spring of 2024
- 180,323 total student participation
- Provides information regarding:
  - Prevalence
  - Knowledge
  - Perceptions



HESMA Goals Related to Survivor Support

- Identify student perceptions surrounding sexual assault and misconduct.
- Describe the circumstances, student responses and consequences associated with instances of sexual assault and other misconduct.
- Assess student knowledge of school resources and procedures when responding to instances of sexual assault and other misconduct.

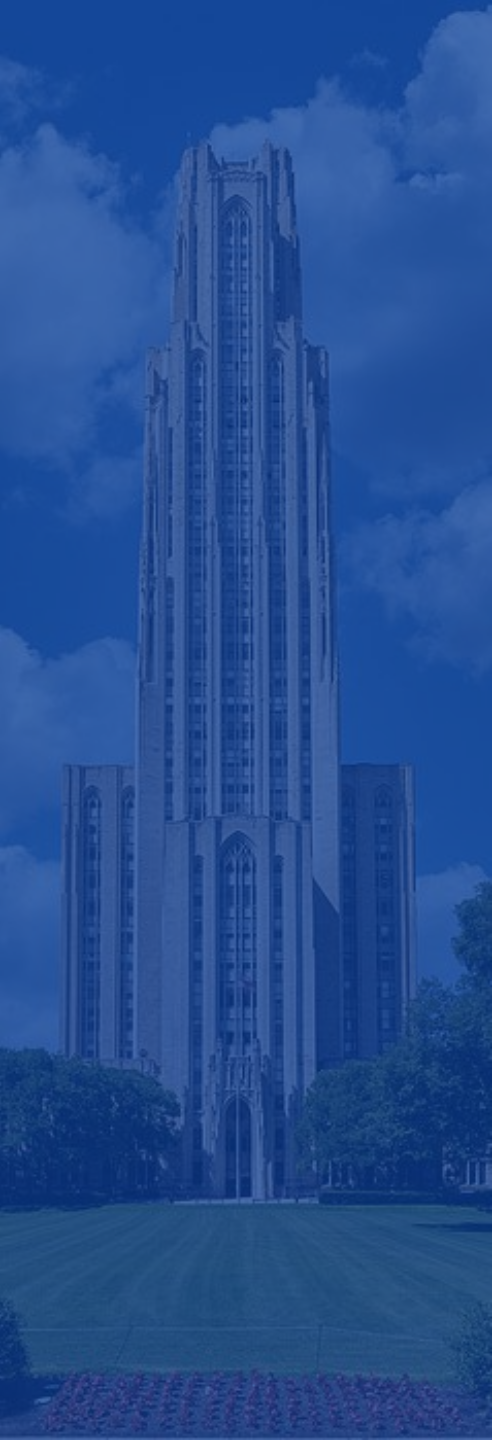
2024 HESMA



Sexual Violence Victimization Rates at Pitt (HESMA 2024)

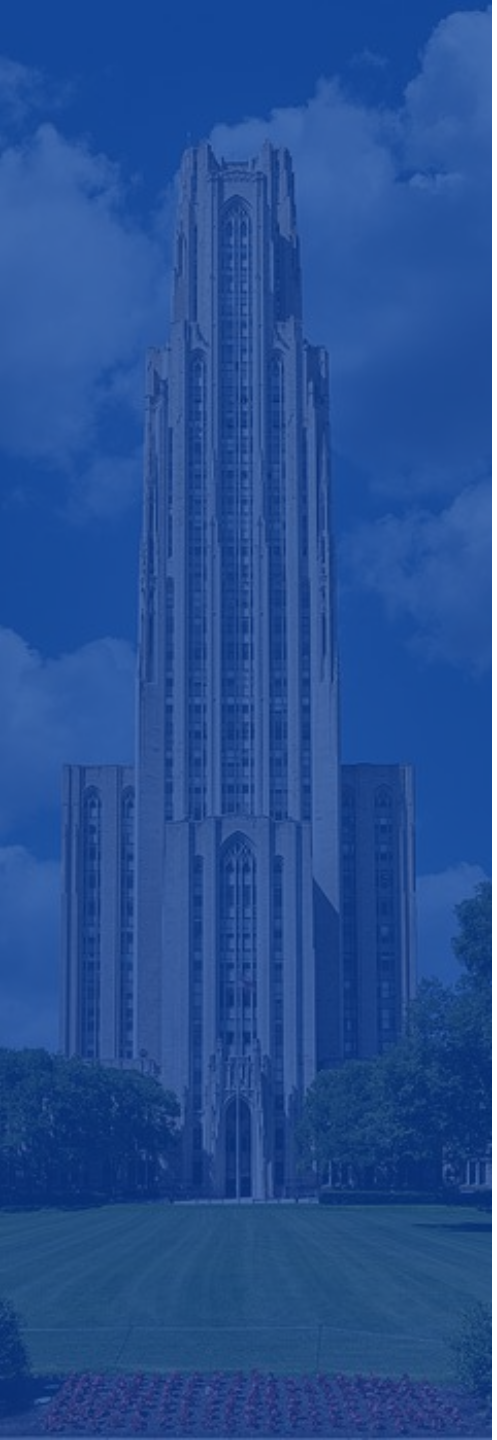
(Nonconsensual sexual contact involving force or inability to consent or stop what was happening)

- **Female Students**
  - 20% undergraduates reported experiencing sexual violence
  - 9% graduate students reported experiencing sexual violence
- **Male Students**
  - 6% undergraduates reported experiencing sexual violence
  - 1% graduate students reported experiencing sexual violence
- **Trans and Nonbinary Students**
  - 25% undergraduates reported experiencing sexual violence
  - 15% graduate students reported experiencing sexual violence



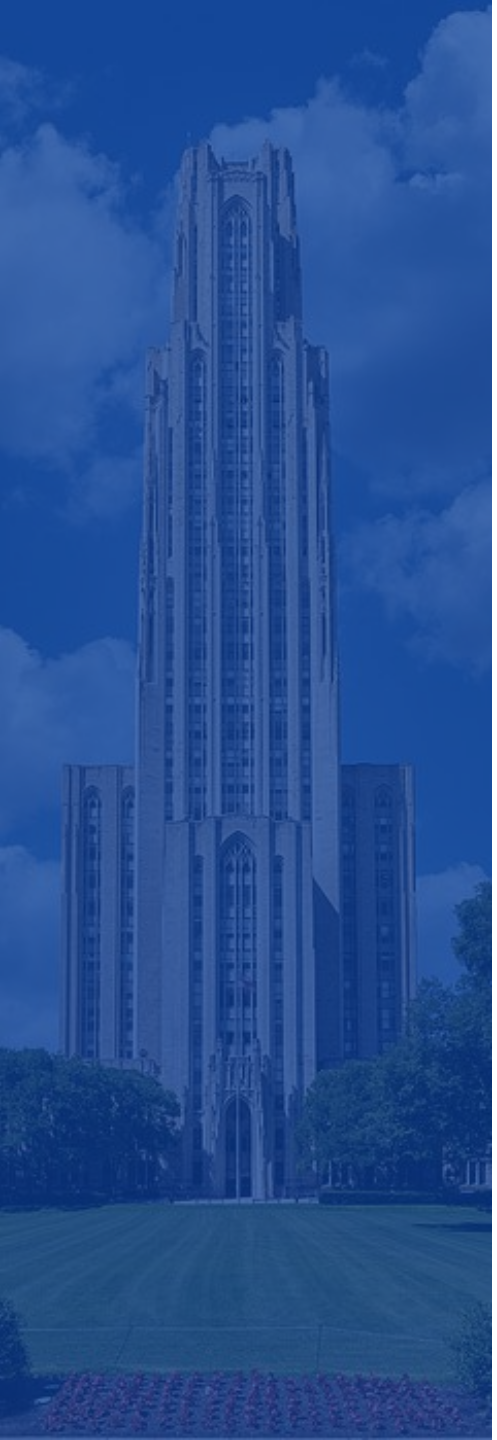
Intimate Partner Violence Victimization Rates at Pitt (HESMA 2024)

- **Female Students**
  - 14% undergraduates reported experiencing IPV
  - 8% graduate students reported experiencing IPV
- **Male Students**
  - 11% undergraduates reported experiencing IPV
  - 4% graduate students reported experiencing IPV
- **Trans and Nonbinary Students**
  - 25% of undergraduates reported IPV
  - 14% graduate students reported experiencing IPV



Stalking Victimization Rates at Pitt (HESMA 2024)

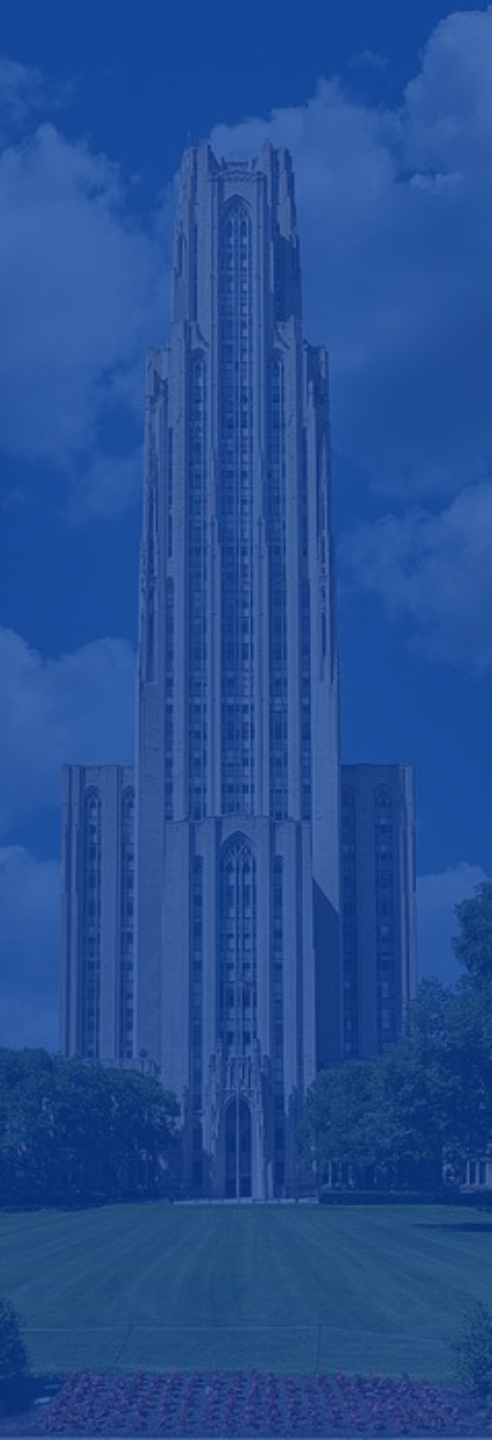
- **Female Students**
  - 24% undergraduates reported experiencing stalking
  - 13% graduate students reported experiencing stalking
- **Male Students**
  - 12.4% undergraduates reported experiencing stalking
  - 4.9% graduate students reported experiencing stalking
- **Trans and Nonbinary Students**
  - 33.1% of undergraduates reported stalking
  - 15% graduate students reported experiencing stalking



Consequences of Victimization at Pitt

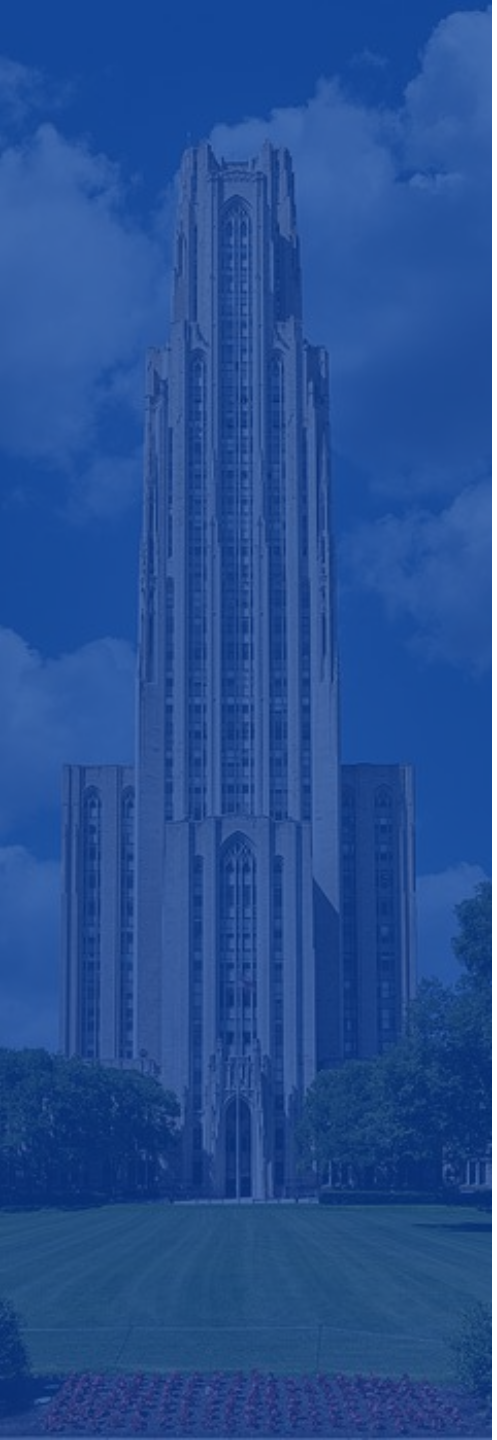
HESMA 2024

Survivors of sexual violence at Pitt have reported:	Women	Men
Feeling concerned for their safety on campus	46%	28%
Withdrawing from friend interactions	39%	30%
Loss of interest in daily activities, or feelings of helplessness or hopelessness	57%	49%
An increased use of drugs and alcohol	22%	23%
Withdrawing from at least one class	9%	19%
Decreased class attendance	37%	33%
Difficulty concentrating on assignments, exams, and studies	60%	51%
Considered leaving Pitt	14%	20%



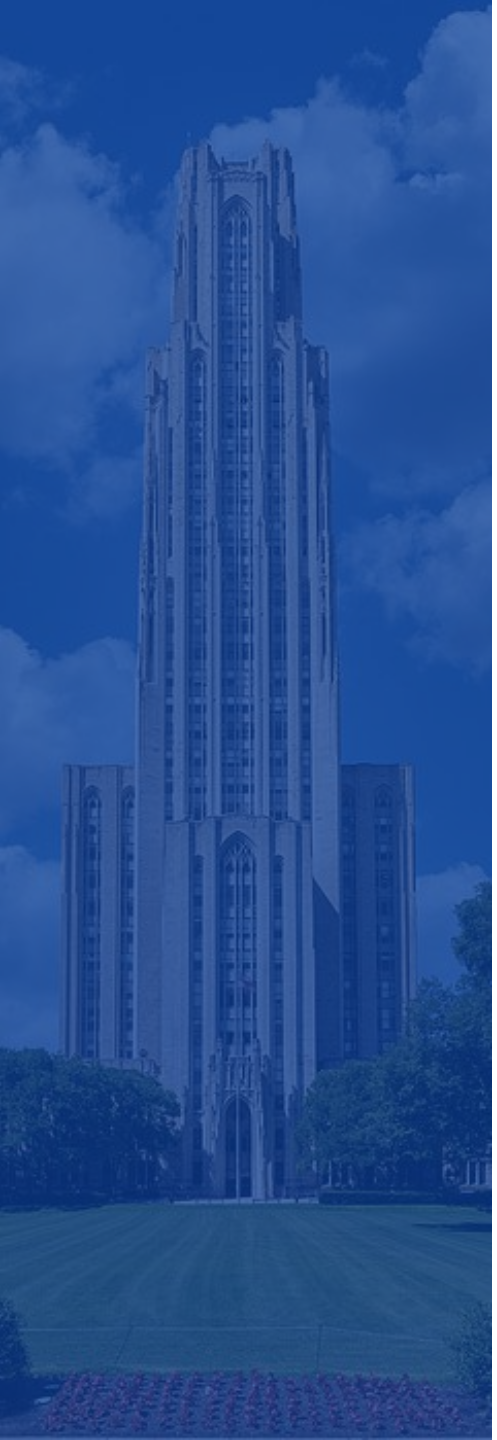
Sexual Misconduct Disclosures at Pitt, HESMA 2024

- 41.4%-63.7% of students did not report because they did not believe what happened to them was "serious enough"
- 28.1% of students who did report sexual violence reported to a "program"
  - Program defined: police, formal reporting on campus, confidential resources
- 75.7%-88.7% of students disclosed to a peer



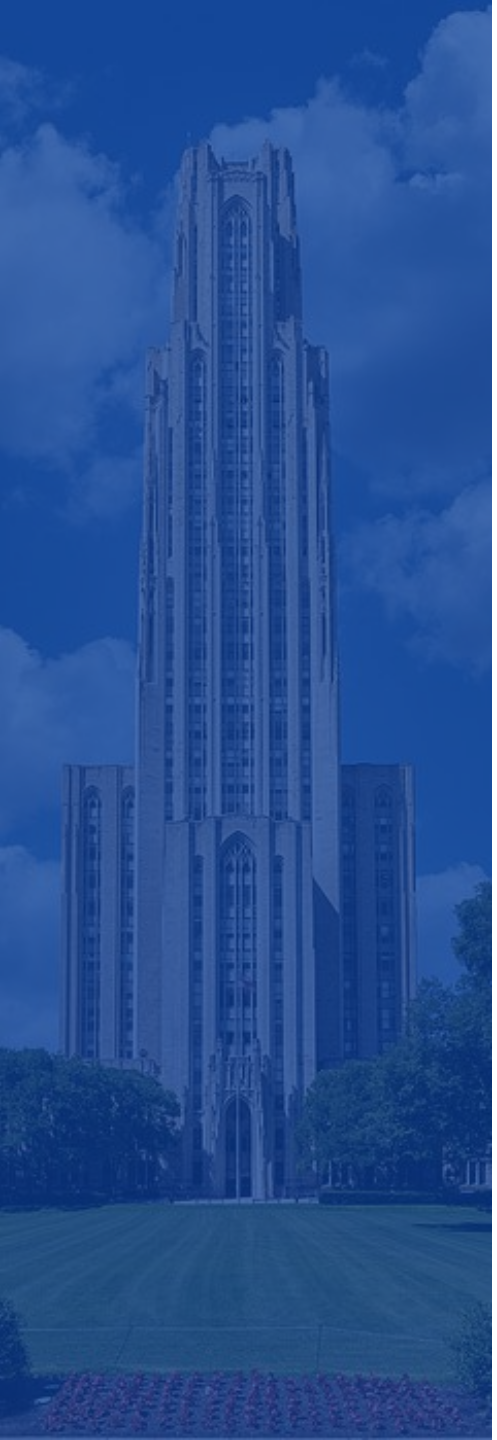
What we learned…

- Identify ways to connect more students to support resources
  - On campus support
  - Community resources
- Reduce stigma around experiences of sexual misconduct
- Create safe spaces where survivors could heal in community
- Provide all students with basic skills for responding to disclosures
- Bring survivor support work into all aspects of prevention work



Building Survivor Support Programs and Initiatives

- Survivor Support Network
- Community Partnerships
- Student Initiated Survivor Support Work



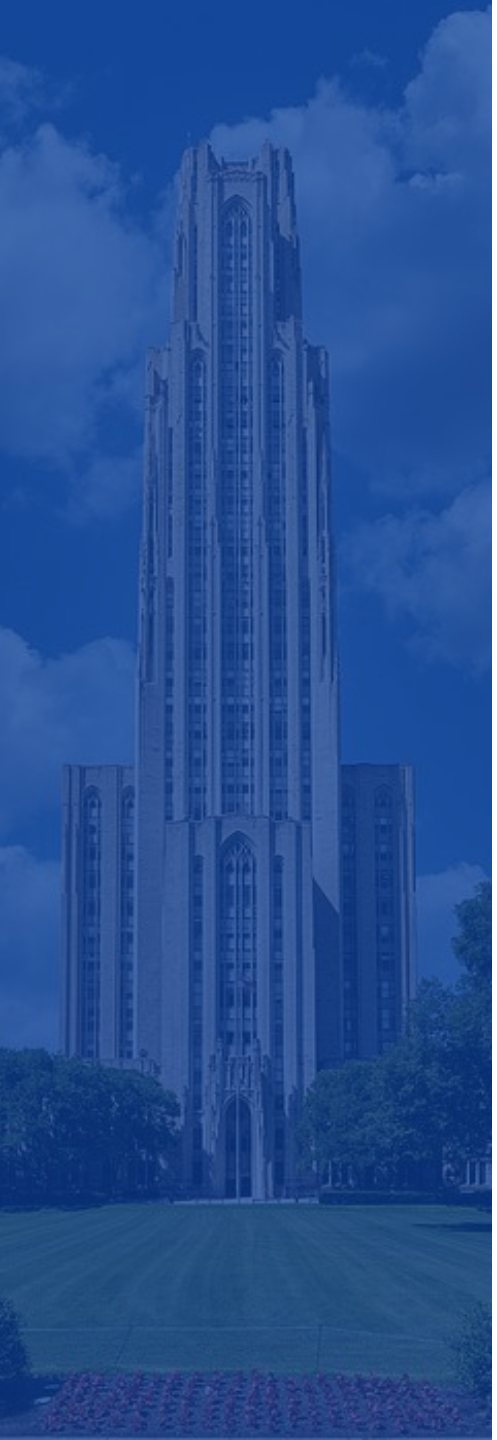
Survivor Support Inventory

Culture

- What is your institution's mission and values?
- Are you religiously affiliated?
- How engaged are students, staff, faculty?
- Commuter, residential, etc.?
- Research, liberal arts, community college?
- Urban, suburban, rural?
- Large or small?

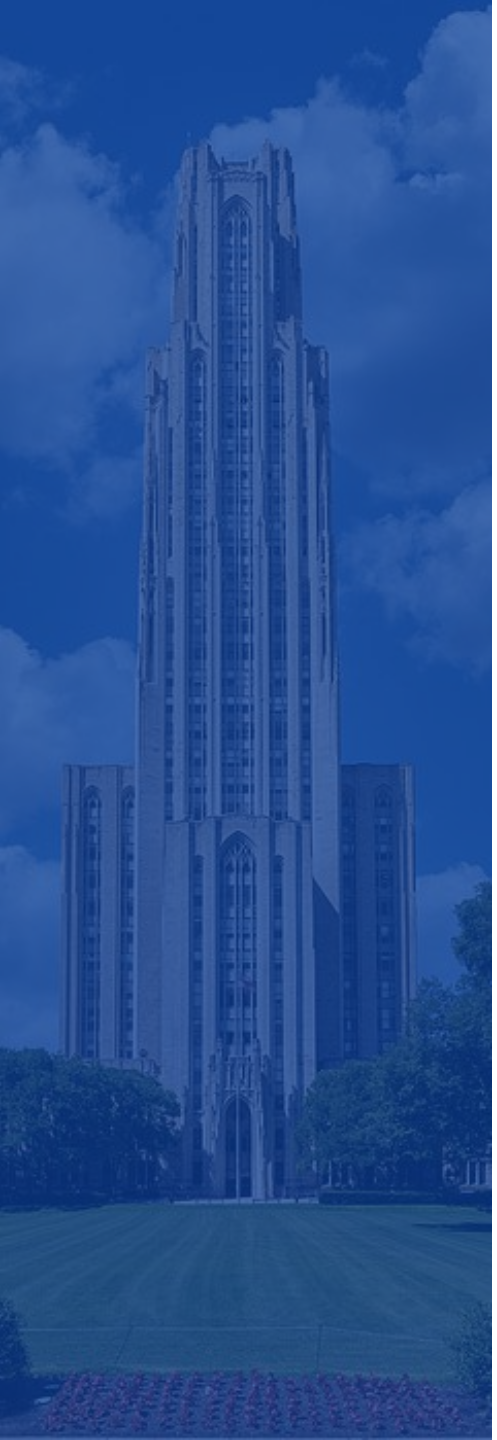
Resources

- What are your financial resources?
- Do you have staff support?
- Leadership support?
- Do you have access to technology?
- Do you have easy access to space?
- What support resources are already on campus?
- What community partnerships already exist?
- What victim services agencies are near your campus?



Example: Prevention at Pitt

	Strengths	Challenges
Culture	• Involved student body • Leadership support • Value in collaboration	• Institution size • Marketing • Siloed
Resources	• Dedicated prevention staff • Staff and faculty expertise • Pitt researchers lend their expertise • Grant funding • Relationships with community partners	• Space for large programming • Content creation for many different populations



Survivor Support Programs and Initiatives

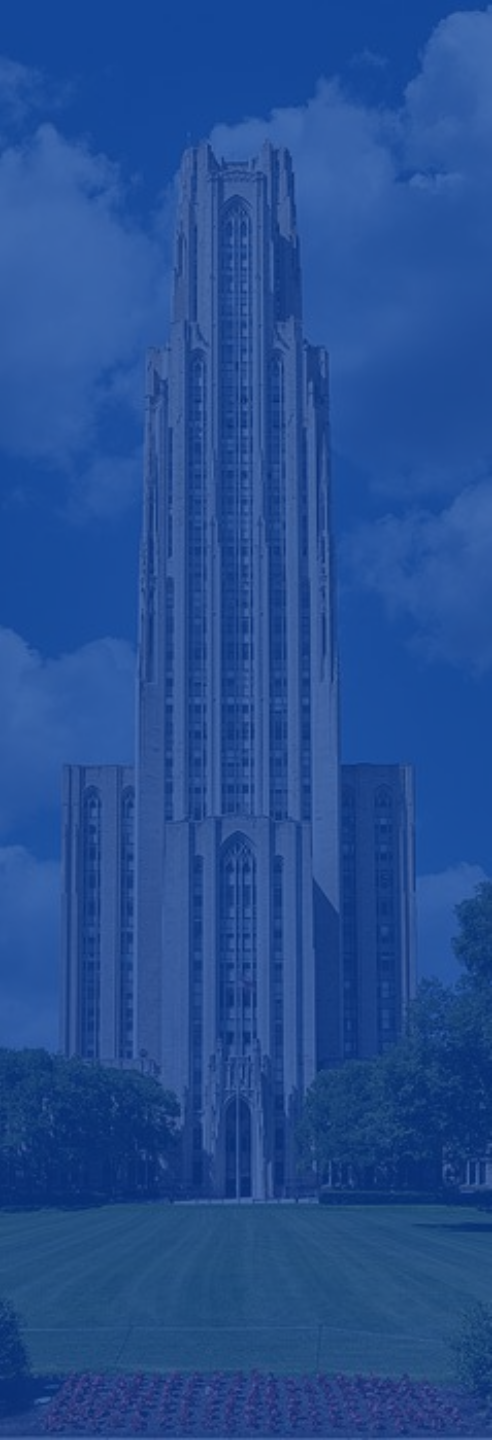
1. Survivor Support Network

2. Community Partnerships

3. Student Initiated Support

1. Survivor Support Network

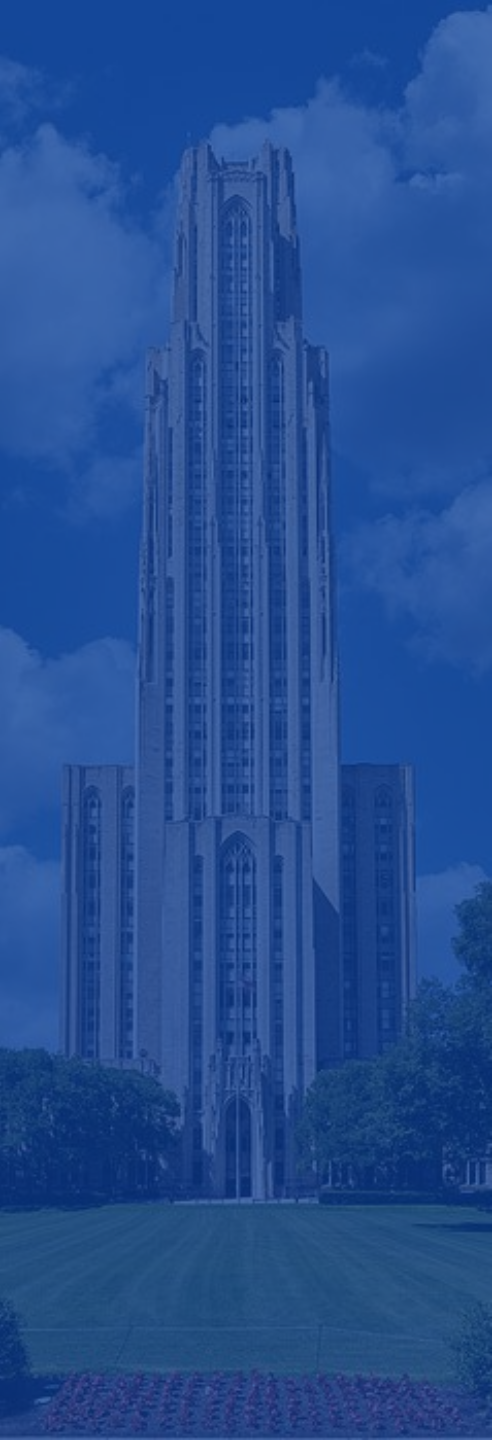




Survivor Support Network

The Survivor Support Network is a community of trained and caring professionals who are knowledgeable about campus and community resources and are committed to supporting survivors in our community

- Three cohorts each year
  - Fall, spring, summer
- Currently accept graduate students, staff, and faculty
- Courses are offered both virtually and in-person



Curriculum

Core (all members must complete both trainings)

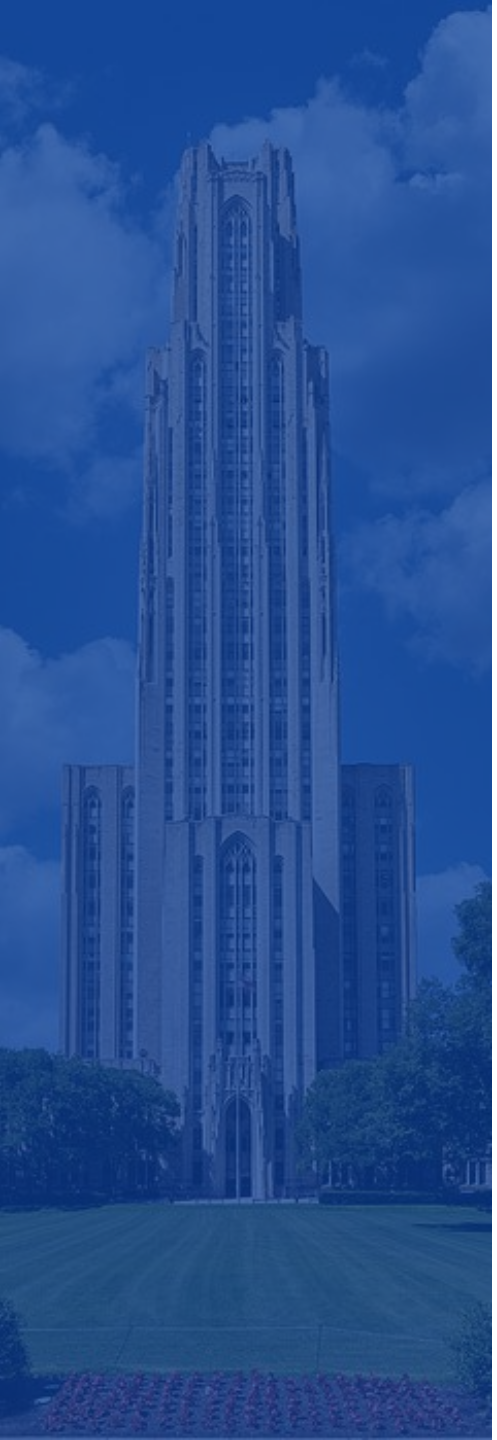
- Campus Sexual Misconduct Resources & Reporting Overview
- Trauma Informed Engagement

Elective (all members must participate in one course)

- Stand With and Support with the Women's Center and Shelter
- Trauma 101 with Pittsburgh Action Against Rape
- Survivor Advocacy 101
- Supporting LGBTQ+ Survivors
- Bystander Intervention for Faculty and Staff

Participation in Heart to Heart with the Survivor Support Network

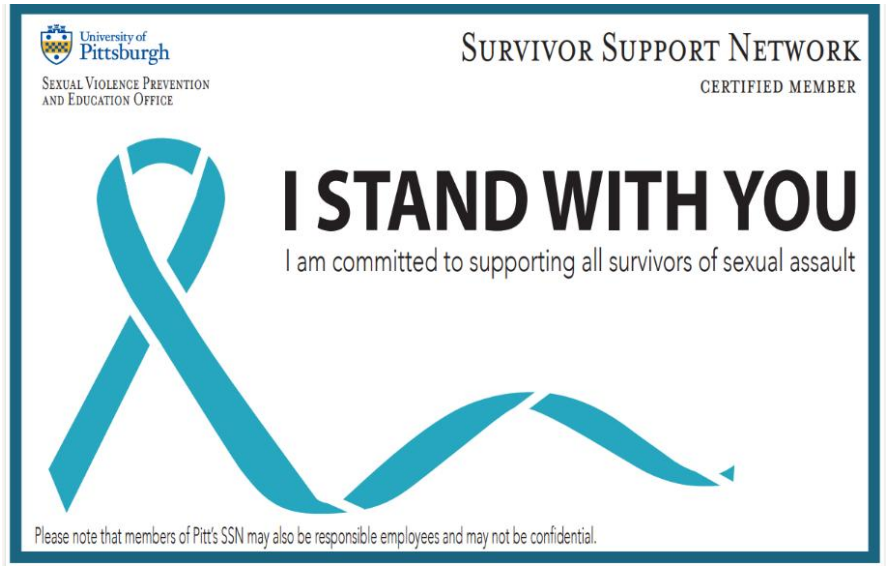
- Dialogue-based capstone
- Lunch served
- Focus on community building

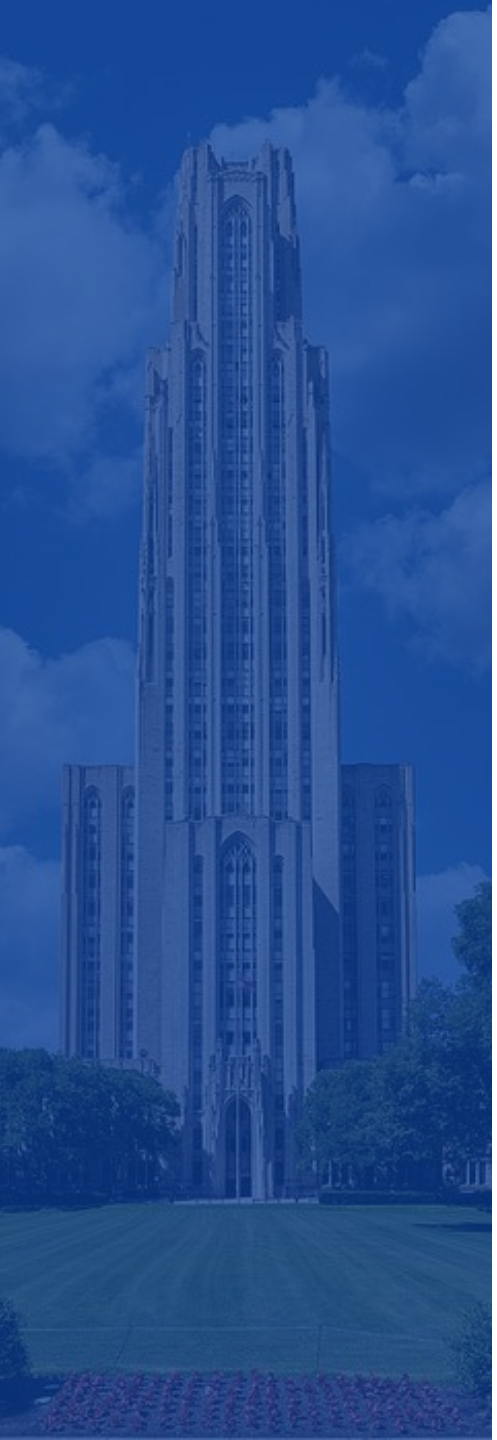


Graduation and Engagement

Members become Prevention at Pitt Ambassadors

- Member sign for their office
- Certificate of completion
- Prevention at Pitt quarter zip
- Ongoing Prevention at Pitt engagement



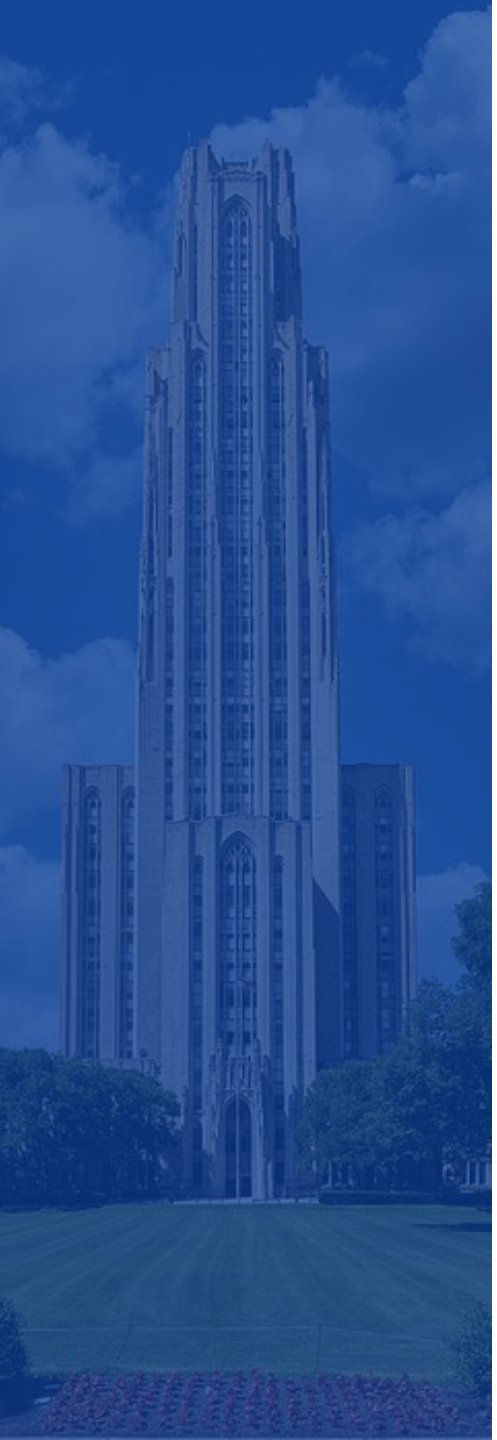


Tips for creating your own Survivor Support Network

- Develop the curriculum that best works for your campus
  - What courses are needed?
  - How often can you run courses?
  - It is okay to start small!
- Utilize the expertise you have on campus
  - Faculty expertise
  - Counseling services
  - Civil Rights and Title IX Office
- Engage community partners
- Connect with members after completion
  - Teams channel
  - Professional development
  - Keep members connected to one another socially

2. Community Partnerships





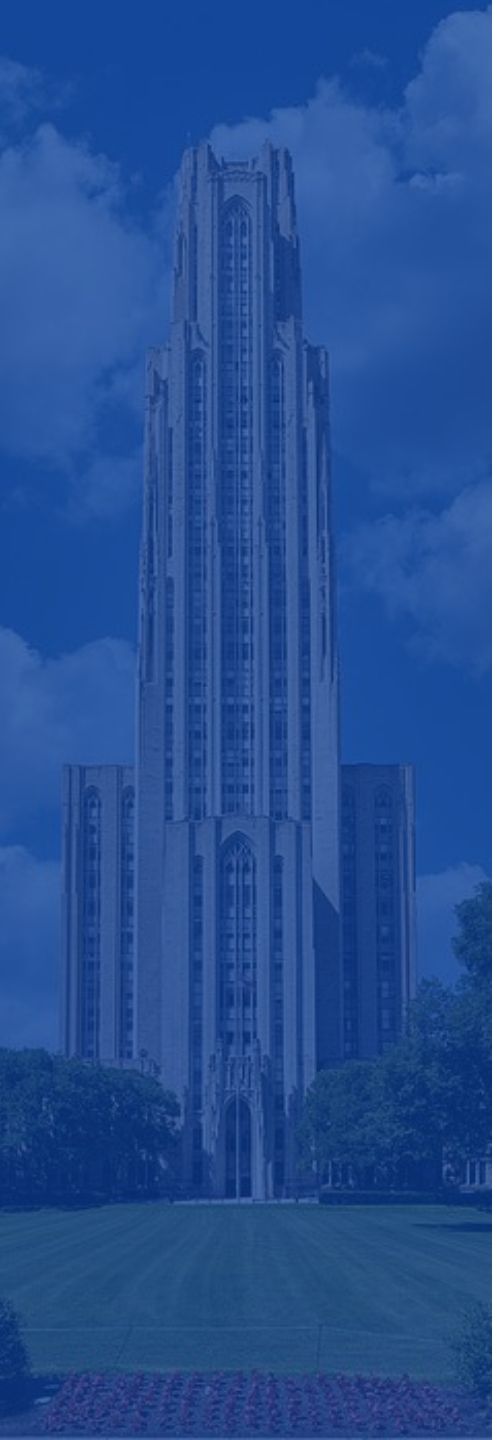
Partnerships

Community Partners

- Pittsburgh Action Against Rape
- Women's Center and Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh

Key Campus Partners

- Survivor Support Network
- Care Advocates
- Wellness Center
- Civil Rights and Title IX Office
- Out of Classroom Curriculum
- Fraternity & Sorority Life
- Campus Researchers



Relationship Building
Community and Campus Partners

- Build trust
- Mutually beneficial relationships
- Regular formal check-ins
- Informal off campus check-ins
- Supporting and celebrating their important milestones and events
- Information sharing
  - Sharing data, processes, etc.

Formal Partnerships

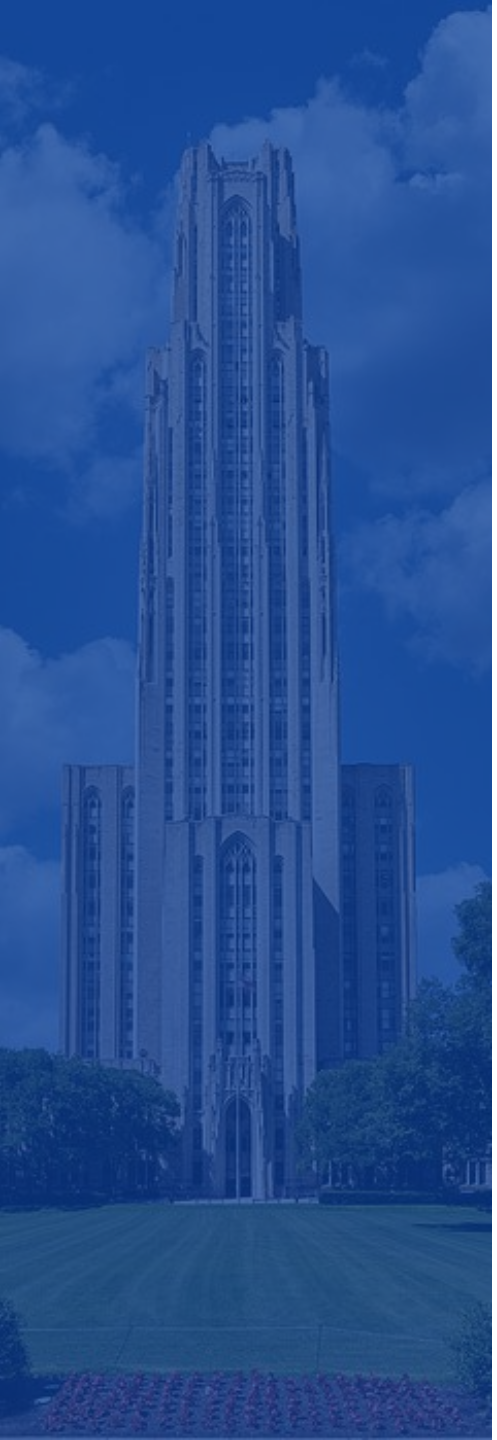
- Formal MOUs
  - Required in some states
- If resources permit, pay for community partner services
- Include partner information on campus signage
  - Provide the option for review
- Integrate their expertise into the work
  - Consult
  - Training
  - Solicit ideas and feedback
  - Help them get to know key community members
  - Tours of their space
  - Partner/invite for campus events



Drop-In Hours with PAAR

"To be able to talk with someone with full confidentiality, who affirmed my emotions and offered support without judgement, stopped me from completely spiraling."





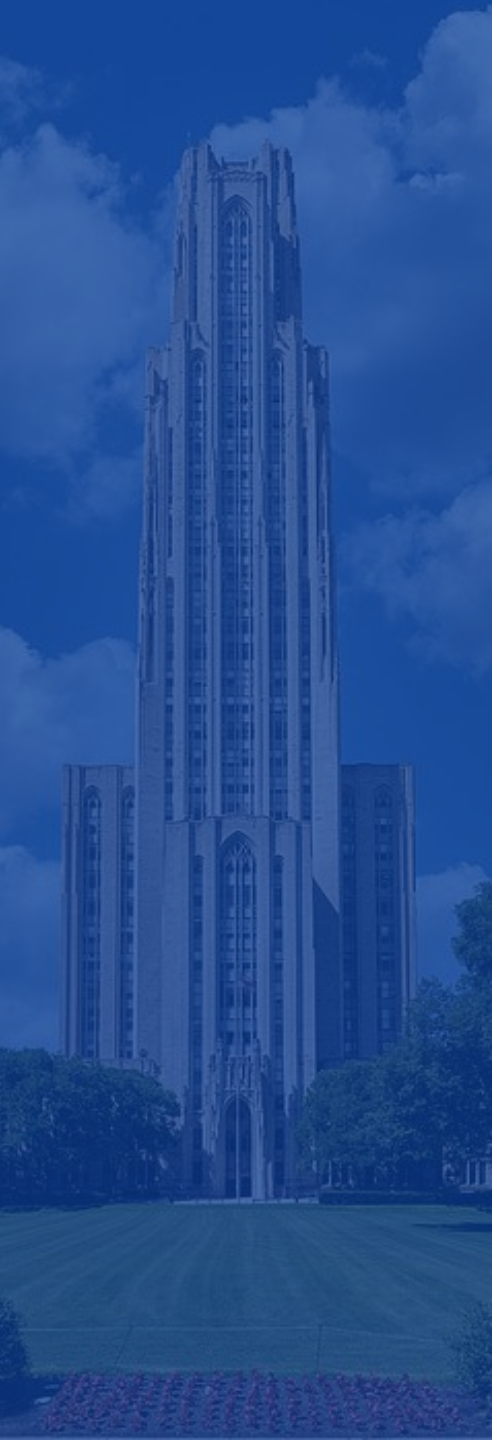
Campus and Community Partner Trainings, Meetings, & Gatherings

- Prevention Family Lunch
- Prevention Community Gathering
- Campus Collaborative Gathering for Prevention Professionals



3. Student Initiated Survivor Support Work

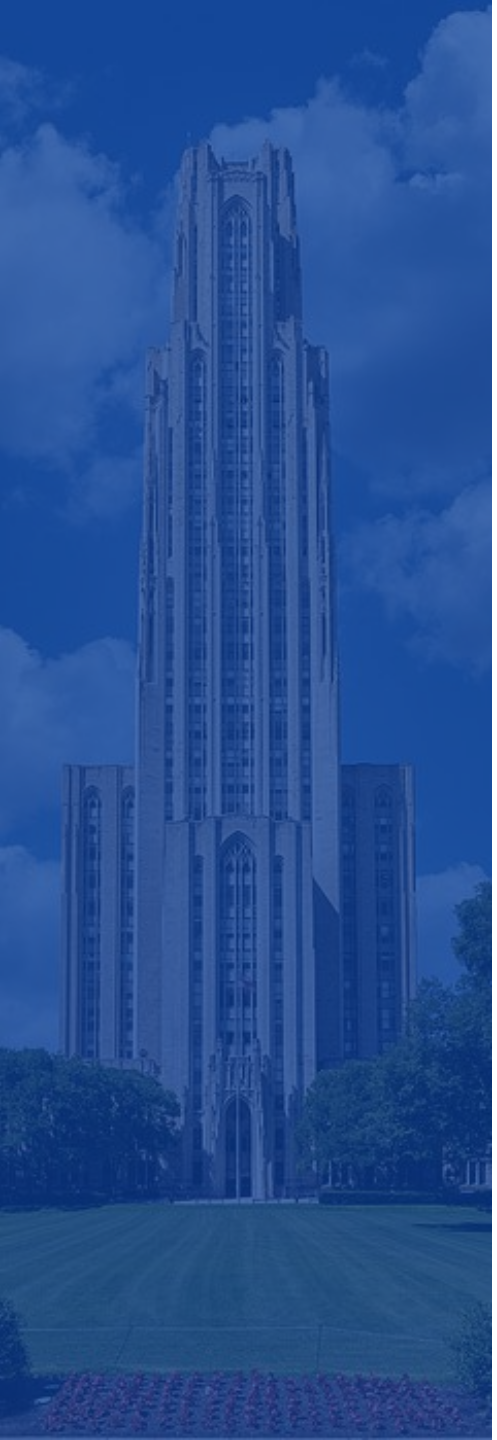




Centering Student Voices

- Address the educational, emotional and physical needs of Pitt survivors by listening to their concerns and implementing their ideas

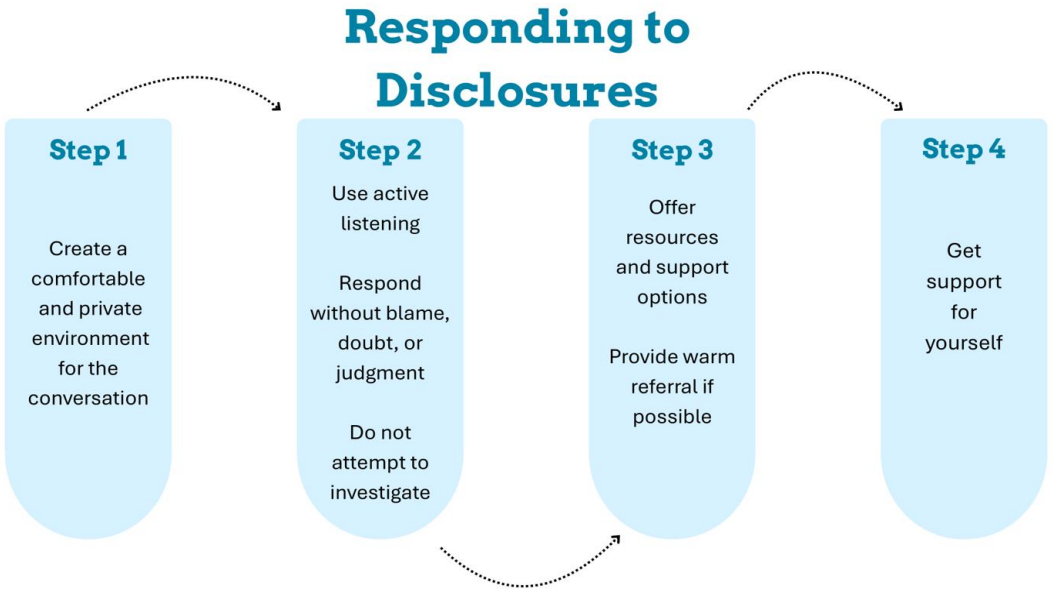
- Create formalized processes to collect feedback and guidance from students
  - Focus groups
    - Support from campus researchers
  - Prevention friend's cohort
    - Support from student organizations
  - Development of a survivor support workshop facilitated by peer educators
  - Prevention assistant program
    - Student employees create and run events

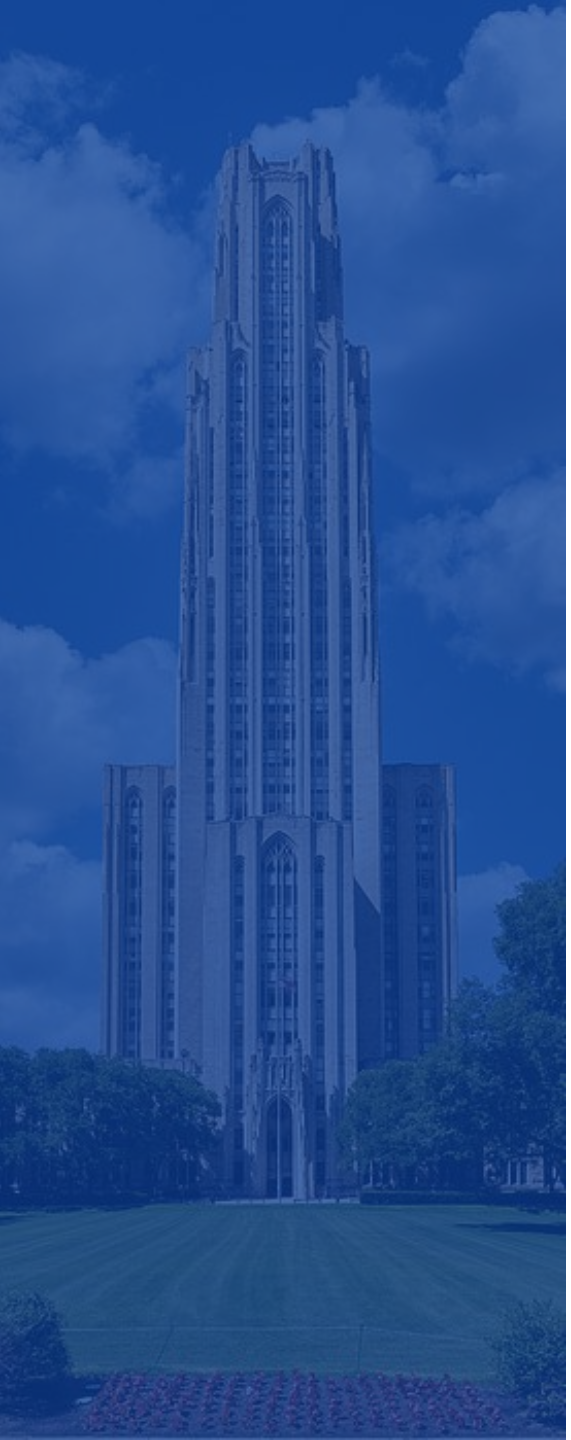


Student Leaders

- **Prevention Assistants**
  - Paid student positions
  - Address programming needs
  - Fill gaps they identify on campus
  - Regular resource sharing outreach engagements
  - Weave survivor support into all their work

- **Sexual Agency Facilitation and Education (SAFE) Peer Education**
  - Paid student positions
  - Trauma-informed peer educators
  - “Supporting Survivors” workshop developed by peers for peers

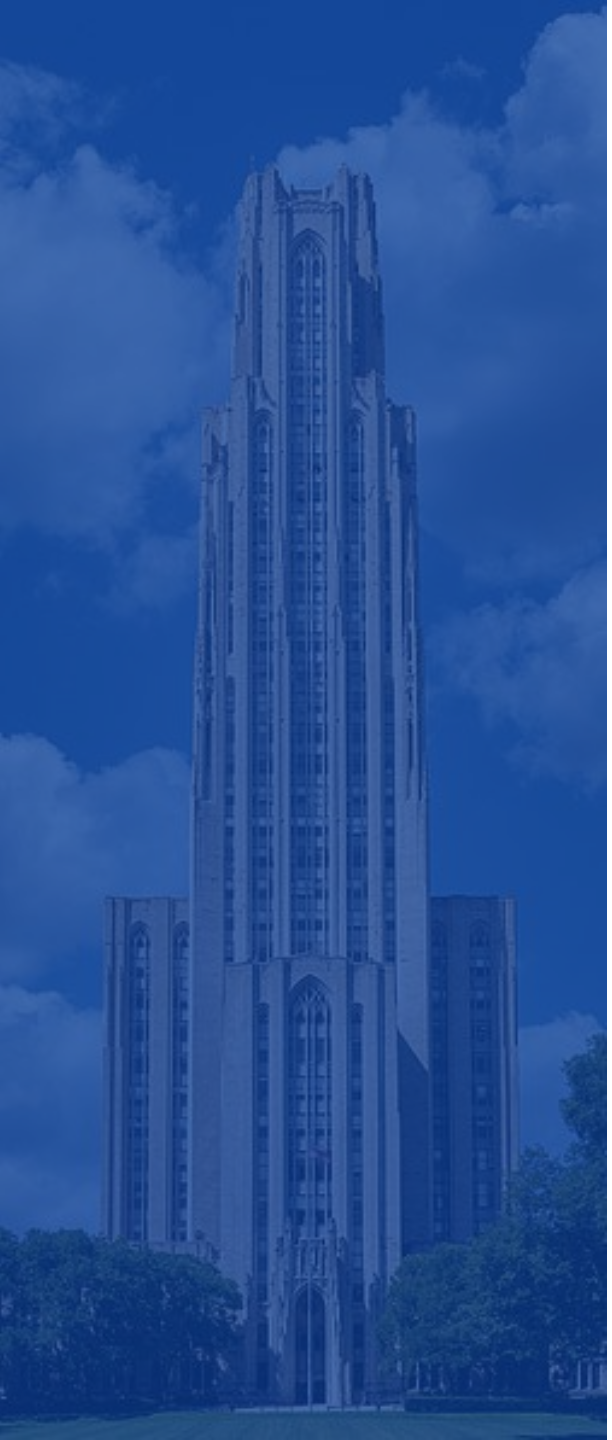




Survivor Support Resource Locker

- A resource locker for survivors of IPV and sexual violence
- Affirmations, supplies, and resources
- An idea developed by students
- Open to all campus community members





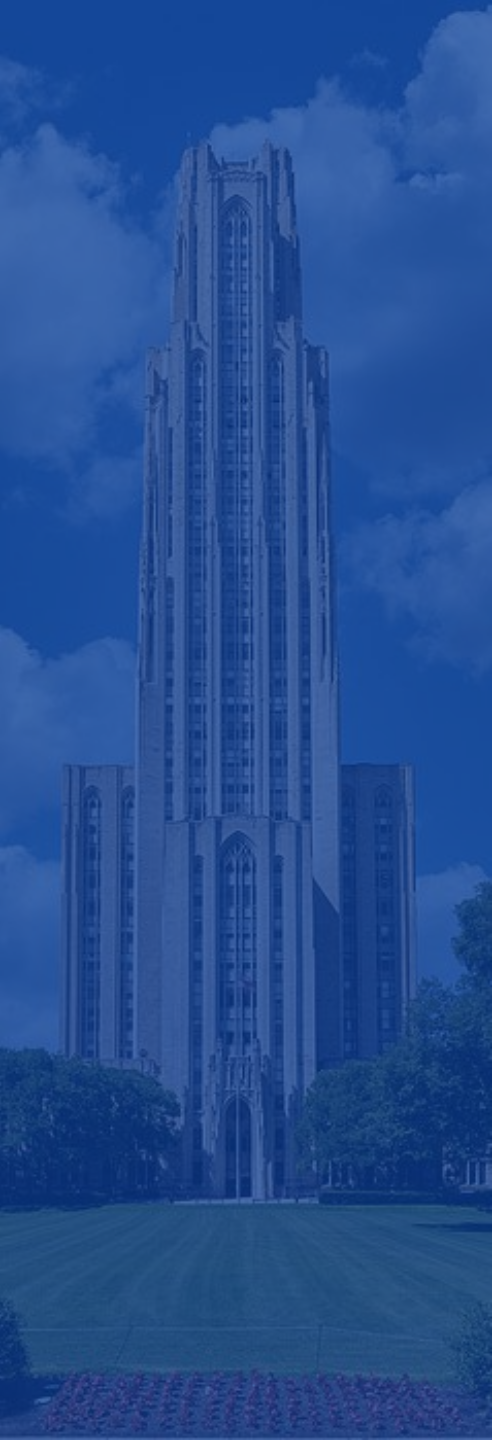
Contact us!

Stay in touch with us

@preventionatpitt on Instagram

pittprevention@pitt.edu

PREVENTION AT Pitt



Q & A