

Reference Group

Executive Summary Fall 2021



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ACHA, the nation's principal advocate and leadership organization for college and university health, represents a diverse membership that provides and supports the delivery of health care and prevention and wellness services for faculty and staff. For more information about the association's programs and services, visit www.acha.org.

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Introduction

The ACHA-National Faculty & Staff Health Assessment (ACHA-NFSHA) is a survey effort organized by the American College Health Association (ACHA) to assist college health service providers, health educators, counselors, and administrators in collecting data about their faculty and staff habits, behaviors, and perceptions on the most prevalent health topics.

Please note the ACHA-NFSHA is not appropriate for trend comparison with items from the pilot ACHA-NFSHA survey. Directly comparing pre- and post-redesign estimates on similar data points, without taking into account the impact of the survey's redesign, can lead to an erroneous conclusion.

Notes about this report:

- 1. Missing values have been excluded from analysis and only valid percents are included in this document.
- 2. Faculty and Staff responding "not applicable" were excluded from several analyses, which are specifically noted throughout this document. This will often explain differences observed between this document and the full data report.
- 3. A note about the use of sex and gender in this report: Survey responses are reported by sex based on the responses to questions 46, 47, and 48. For the purpose of the ACHA-NFSHA report documents, respondents are reported as male or female only when their responses to these three questions are consistent with one another. If gender identity is consistent with sex at birth AND "no" is selected for transgender, then respondents are designated as either male or female. If respondents select "yes" for transgender OR their sex at birth is not consistent with their gender identity, then they are designated as non-binary. A respondent that selects "intersex" for sex at birth, "no" for transgender, and man or woman for gender identity are designated as male or female. A respondent that selects "intersex" for sex at birth, "yes" for transgender, or selects a gender identity other than man or woman are designated as non-binary. A respondent that skips any of the three questions is designated as unknown. Totals displayed in this report include non-binary and unknown responses.

For additional information about the survey's development, design, and methodology, email Christine Kukich, MS (Ckukich@acha.org.).

This Executive Summary highlights results of the ACHA-NFSHA Fall 2021 survey for Reference Group consisting of 2359 respondents.

The overall response proportion was 24.1%.

A. General Health of Faculty and Staff

Proportion of respondents that believe the health and well-being of university staff and faculty impact student success and learning:

	Percent (%)	Male	Female	Total
Yes		93.7	95.7	94.9
No		2.7	1.3	1.8
Don't know		3.6	3.0	3.3

■80.4 % of faculty and staff surveyed (75.7 % male and 82.9 % female) reported it is *very or extremely important* to model positive health and wellness behavior to students. *Faculty and staff responding "N/A" were excluded.

My college/university cares about my health and well-being:

	Percent (%)	Male	Female	Total
Agree OR strongly agree		56.8	58.4	57.1
Neutral		25.9	27.6	27.0
Disagree OR strongly disagree		17.3	14.0	15.9

■46.5 % of faculty and staff surveyed (48.2 % male and 46.7 % female) described their health as *very good or excellent*.

■83.8 % of faculty and staff surveyed (83.4 % male and 84.7 % female) described their health as *good, very good or excellent*.

■70.0 % of faculty and staff surveyed (55.2 % male and 76.6 % female) reported they **sometimes, most of time, or always** experienced pain, discomfort, or numbness in their hands, wrists, arms or shoulders, neck or low back when using a computer or working at a desk. *Faculty and staff responding "N/A" were excluded.

■54.9 % of faculty and staff surveyed (46.8 % male and 58.0 % female) reported they *sometimes, most of time, or always* experienced pain, discomfort, or numbness in their hands, wrists, arms or shoulders, neck or low back when performing work tasks **NOT** using a computer or working at a desk.

*Faculty and staff responding "N/A" were excluded.

Proportion of faculty and staff who reported having the following checked within the last 2 years:

Percent (%)	Male	Female	Total
Blood pressure	89.6	94.7	93.0
Blood sugar	75.5	79.4	77.9
Cholesterol	74.6	78.9	77.3
Dental exam	77.4	87.0	83.8
Eye exam	70.2	77.7	75.3
Hearing exam	25.8	23.8	24.6
Physical exam	71.6	83.1	79.3
Triglycerides (blood fat)	68.4	70.8	69.7

B. Physical Health

Faculty and staff reported the following conditions

Percent (%)	Male	Female	Total
Elevated blood sugar or diabetes	14.6	10.3	11.7
Elevated cholesterol level	33.0	23.0	26.2
High blood pressure/hypertension	31.6	18.5	22.8
Low back injury or spine problems	18.9	22.1	21.3

Proportion of faculty and staff who reported a diagnosis above, but are **not currently in treatment** for that condition:

Percent (%)	Male	Female	Total
Elevated blood sugar or diabetes	32.4	36.5	34.7
Elevated cholesterol level	41.0	58.0	50.8
High blood pressure/hypertension	21.3	20.9	22.2
Low back injury or spine problems	40.4	35.2	36.1
Any of the above	44.1	47.4	46.1

C. Mental Health

Faculty and staff reported the following conditions

	Percent (%)	Male	Female	Total
Anxiety		21.3	38.7	33.4
Depression		16.3	29.7	25.9
Either of the above		22.0	39.8	34.3

Proportion of faculty and staff who reported a diagnosis above, but are **not currently in treatment** for that condition:

	Percent (%)	Male	Female	Total
Anxiety		29.4	23.0	24.3
Depression		19.7	16.8	17.9
Either of the above		29.9	24.2	25.5

Faculty and staff reported experiencing *none* of the following within the last 12 months:

- 1. experienced difficulty coping with stressful events or situations
- 2. felt so depressed that it was difficult to function
- 3. felt overwhelming anxiety
- 4. felt overwhelmed by all you had to do

	Percent (%)	Male	Female	Total
No, to all of the above		41.1	25.2	29.9

Faculty and staff reported experiencing *only one* of the following within the last 12 months:

- 1. experienced difficulty coping with stressful events or situations
- 2. felt so depressed that it was difficult to function
- 3. felt overwhelming anxiety
- 4. felt overwhelmed by all you had to do

	Percent (%)	Male	Female	Total
Yes, to only one of the above		17.4	17.6	17.3

Faculty and staff reported experiencing *two* of the following within the last 12 months:

- 1.experienced difficulty coping with stressful events or situations
- 2. felt so depressed that it was difficult to function
- 3. felt overwhelming anxiety
- **4.** felt overwhelmed by all you had to do

	Percent (%)	Male	Female	Total
Yes, to two of the above		15.2	16.8	16.4

Faculty and staff reported experiencing **all** of the following within the last 12 months:

- 1.experienced difficulty coping with stressful events or situations and
- 2. felt so depressed that it was difficult to function and
- 3. felt overwhelming anxiety and
- 4. felt overwhelmed by all you had to do

	Percent (%)	Male	Female	Total
Yes, to all of the above		13.6	19.8	18.3

D. Productivity and Work Culture

Percent of faculty and staff that reported the following as negatively impacting their performance and/or productivity at work within the last 12 months:

Percent (%)	Male	Female	Total
Anxiety	40.3	41.7	41.8
Death of a close friend or family member	27.3	29.8	29.4
Depression	41.9	39.8	41.6
Financial concerns	19.8	15.4	17.0
Lack of quality sleep	37.6	40.3	39.7
Severe headaches/migraines	29.0	40.2	38.0
A family member's needs, illness, injury or surgery	30.7	33.9	33.1
My own special needs, illness, injury or surgery	31.2	40.1	38.3
Violence in my home (spouse/partner, child)	33.3	36.4	39.4
Personal problem with addiction to alcohol or drugs	25.0	25.6	29.0
Addiction alcohol or drugs friend or family member	21.6	19.7	20.4
Lack of interest in my work	38.4	38.2	38.7
Lack tools/resources perform functions of my job	44.1	56.8	52.0
Relationship in my personal life	28.4	30.6	30.3
Relationship with coworkers	37.1	41.5	40.5
Relationship with supervisor	47.7	48.0	48.9
Stressful environment within my department/unit	44.7	47.1	46.6
Supervisor or management support	45.9	52.3	50.3
Other	87.0	78.4	81.9

^{*}Faculty and staff responding "I did not experience this issue/not applicable" were excluded.

My college/university promotes a culture of wellness:

	Percent (%)	Male	Female	Total
Agree OR strongly agree		61.4	58.6	58.5
Neutral		21.9	25.9	25.0
Disagree OR strongly disagree		16.7	15.5	16.5

^{*}Faculty and staff responding "Don't know" were excluded.

Percent of faculty and staff that reported that the following barriers prevent them from participating in wellness-at-work programs:

Pe	ercent (%)	Male	Female	Total
Job responsibilities make it difficult to participate		41.7	48.0	46.4
I forget to attend or participate		26.5	31.8	30.1
Concerns about confidentiality		17.1	19.4	19.1
Lack of personal motivation		43.1	42.1	42.4
Time management		56.7	66.2	63.2
Schedule of programs do not work for me		36.7	48.2	44.9
Wellness programs not offered convenient location		27.0	30.1	29.5
My supervisor does not allow me to attend		3.6	2.9	3.2
Lack interest in wellness activities available to me		35.0	27.1	30.0
Injury or disability		7.8	9.2	8.9
Cost		15.0	17.5	16.7
Not supported by coworkers		6.3	5.2	5.5
Not comfortable in wellness-at-work programs		21.7	23.9	23.3
Do not have the knowledge needed to participate		21.4	17.7	19.1
Other		14.2	13.1	13.7

Within the last 12 months, faculty and staff reported they agree or strongly agree that they felt:

Percent (%)	Male	Female	Total
My work is consistent with my values	77.8	79.9	78.9
My office/department values my work	72.5	73.0	72.4
Supervisor support the demands of my job	71.3	69.4	69.8
Received feedback my work performance	69.7	70.0	69.5
Communication to effectively do my job	62.2	62.7	62.4
Offered opportunities to learn and grow	62.0	67.7	65.6
Balance of my job life outside work setting	63.3	67.5	65.5

4 or more of the above	70.1	71.8	70.7
4 or more disagree or strongly disagree	12.4	10.9	11.6

Within the last 12 months, faculty and staff that have reported missing work due to being bullied in the workplace:

Percent (%)	Male	Female	Total
No	95.4	93.3	93.8
Yes	4.6	6.7	6.2

^{*}Faculty and staff responding "N/A" were excluded.

Within the last 12 months, faculty and staff reported they *agree somewhat* or *strongly agree* with the following statements:

Percent (%)	Male	Female	Total
My emotional health has been negatively affected due			
to being bullied at work.	25.6	31.8	30.0
My physical health has been negatively affected due			
to being bullied at work.	15.6	20.6	19.3
My stress level has been increased due			
to being bullied at work.	25.2	29.4	28.6
Agree or strongly agree to all three questions	12.9	16.6	15.7
Agree or strongly agree to any one of the three			
questions	30.3	35.6	34.4

^{*}Faculty and staff responding "N/A" were excluded.

E. Tobacco and Alcohol Use

Faculty and staff reported using the following in the last 30 days:

Percent (%)	Male	Female	Total
Alcohol (beer, wine, liquor)	66.6	65.7	66.0
Cigarettes	5.4	3.9	4.5
Cigars, little cigars, clove cigarettes	2.8	0.7	1.5
E-cigarettes or other vape products	3.3	2.4	2.7
Smokeless tobacco (chew, snuff)	2.3	0.0	0.7
Tobacco from a water pipe (hookah)	0.6	0.1	0.3

Faculty and staff reported using the following tobacco/nicotine products in the last 30 days:

- 1. Cigarettes OR
- 2. Cigars, little cigars, clove cigarettes OR
- **3.** E-cigarettes or other vape products **OR**
- 4. Smokeless tobacco (chew, snuff) **OR**
- **5** Tobacco from a water pipe (hookah)

	Percent (%)	Male	Female	Total
<i>Yes,</i> to any tobacco/nicotine products		11.9	6.1	8.1

Reported number of times faculty and staff consumed five or more drinks in a sitting within the last two weeks:

Percen	t (%)	Male	Female	Total
NA, don't drink		21.9	19.2	20.2
None		53.3	66.5	62.2
One to two times		16.4	11.0	12.7
Three to five times		5.5	2.2	3.2
Six or more times		2.9	1.1	1.7

Mean number of drinks consumed on a typical day or evening

^{*}Statistics below include those reporting 0 drinks

	Male	Female	Total
Mean	1.73	1.43	1.55
Median	2.00	1.00	1.00
Std Dev	1.59	1.13	1.34

Mean number of drinks consumed on a typical day or evening among those who drink

^{*}Statistics below exclude those reporting 0 drinks

	Male	Female	Total
Mean	2.23	1.77	1.91
Median	2.00	2.00	2.00
Std Dev	1.47	0.99	1.18

Proportion of faculty and staff that responded yes to one or more the questions below:

- 1. In the last 12 months, have you felt the need to reduce your drinking? **OR**
- **2.** In the last 12 months, has a family member, friend, colleague, or anyone expressed concern about your drinking or suggested you reduce your consumption? **OR**
- 3. Are you having any financial, work, family, or other problems as a result of your drinking?

	Percent (%)	Male	Female	Total
Yes, to any of the above		16.4	13.0	14.1

Faculty and staff in *recovery* from alcohol or other substance abuse or dependence:

Pe	ercent (%)	Male	Female	Total
Yes, in recovery		1.5	1.0	1.3

F. Nutrition and Exercise

Within the last week, faculty and staff consumed the following ounces of lean proteins on average per day:

Percent (%)	Male	Female	Total
0-2 ounces per day	12.1	12.0	12.1
3-5 ounces per day	39.5	46.7	44.7
6-8 ounces per day	32.2	33.7	32.9
9-11 ounces per day	12.0	6.5	8.2
More than 11 ounces per day	4.3	1.1	2.1

Faculty and staff reported consuming the following number of servings of sugar-sweetened beverages on average per day, within the last week:

P	ercent (%)	Male	Female	Total
0 servings/day		56.4	54.9	55.4
1-2 servings/day		34.0	37.0	35.8
3 or more servings/day		9.6	8.1	8.8

Faculty and staff meeting the recommended guidelines for physical activity

Based on: US Dept of Health and Human Services. Physical Activities Guidelines for Americans, 2nd edition.

Washington, DC: US Dept of Health and Human Services; 2018

Recommendation for **aerobic activity**: 150 minutes or more of moderate-intensity physical activity per week or 75 minutes of vigorous-intensity physical activity or the equivalent combination

Recommendation for **strength training**: 2 or more days a week of moderate or greater intensity activities that involve all major muscle groups

Active Adults meet the recommendation for strength training AND aerobic activity

Highly Active Adults meet the recommendation for strength training and **TWICE** the recommendation for aerobic activity (300 minutes or more of moderate-intensity physical activity per week or 150 minutes of vigorous-intensity physical activity or the equivalent combination)

Percent (%)	Male	Female	Total
Guidelines met for aerobic exercise	59.7	50.3	53.3
Guidelines met for Active Adults	31.8	28.4	29.1
Guidelines met for Highly Active Adults	22.4	18.3	19.3

Food Security

Based on responses to the *US Household Food Security Survey Module: Six-Item Short Form (2012)* from the USDA Economic Research Service.

Percent (%)	Male	Female	Total
High or marginal food security (score 0-1)	91.0	88.6	89.0
Low food security (score 2-4)	5.8	6.6	6.6
Very low food security (score 5-6)	3.2	4.8	4.4
Total food insecure (low or very low food security)	9.0	11.4	11.0

G. Sleep

Past 7 days, getting enough sleep to feel rested when you woke up:

Percent (%)	Male	Female	Total
0-2 days	29.7	35.4	33.8
3-4 days	26.5	29.1	28.0
5-6 days	31.5	27.3	28.3
7 days	12.3	8.1	9.9

Over the last 2 weeks, faculty and staff reported the following average amount of sleep on weeknights (excluding naps):

	Percent (%)	Male	Female	Total
Less than 7 hours		49.2	46.9	47.5
7 to 9 hours		50.5	52.7	52.1
10 or more hours		0.3	0.4	0.4

Reported amount of time to usually fall asleep at night (sleep onset latency):

Percent (%)	Male	Female	Total
Less than 15 minutes	64.2	55.4	57.8
16 to 30 minutes	18.5	23.2	21.7
31 minutes or more	17.3	21.4	20.5

Faculty and staff reported experiencing the following in the last 12 months:

Percent (%)	Male	Female	Total
Experienced difficulty staying asleep	56.1	66.6	63.3
Used over-the-counter medication promote sleep	25.0	34.0	31.4
Used a prescription medication to promote sleep	7.9	13.4	11.8
OTC OR prescription medications promote sleep	28.5	40.2	36.9

Demographics and Characteristics

		 Respondents describe themse 	eives as:
■ Age:		American Indian or	
18 - 25 years:	6.6 %	Native Alaskan	2.7 %
26 - 35 years:	22.0 %	Asian or Asian American:	4.0 %
36 - 45 years:	25.9 %	Arab/Middle Eastern	
46 - 55 years:	20.7 %	North African Origin:	0.8 %
56 - 65 years:	19.2 %	Black or African American:	4.7 %
66 + years:	5.6 %	Hispanic or Latino/a:	3.7 %
		Native Hawaiian or	
■ Gender*		Other Pacific Islander Native	0.1 %
Female:	65.2 %	White:	84.2 %
Male:	31.0 %	Biracial or Multiracial:	1.6 %
Non-binary:	2.3 %	Another identity:	2.1 %
■ Term describes your gender identity:		■ Term describes your sexual o	rientation:
Woman:	66.6 %	Straight/Heterosexual:	88.0 %
Man:	31.7 %	Bisexual:	4.8 %
Trans woman:	0.2 %	Gay:	2.2 %
Trans man:	0.1 %	Lesbian:	1.8 %
Genderqueer:	0.2 %	Pansexual:	1.1 %
Agender:	0.1 %	Queer:	0.9 %
Genderfluid:	0.1 %	Questioning:	0.4 %
Intersex:	0.0 %	Asexual:	0.3 %
Nonbinary:	0.6 %	Another identity:	0.6 %
Another identity:	0.4 %		
		■ Highest level of education:	
■ Relationship status:		Grades 1-8:	0.0 %
Single, never married:	20.1 %	Grades 9-11 (some high school)	0.1 %
Single, divorced:	8.3 %	High school graduate or GED:	2.9 %
Separated:	0.9 %	Some college (no degree):	5.6 %
Engaged:	3.1 %	Trade/technical/vocational:	2.9 %
Married:	62.5 %	Associate's degree:	3.8 %
Widowed:	1.3 %	Bachelor's degree:	24.3 %
Other:	3.8 %	Master's degree:	34.0 %
		Doctoral degree:	21.7 %
■ Employee Classification:		Professional Degree:	4.8 %
Staff	56.7 %		
Adjunct Faculty	4.0 %	■ Years of employment at this i	
Faculty	22.1 %	or outsourced group at this ins	
Administration:	5.4 %	<=5:	48.1 %
Graduate/professional student, fellow,		6-10:	19.4 %
resident or post-doc	11.1 %	11-15:	11.4 %
Other:	0.7 %	16-20:	7.9 %
		21-25:	4.7 %
■ Employment status:		26-30:	3.8 %
Part-time without benefits:	6.8 %	31-35	2.4 %
Part-time with benefits:	5.5 %	36-40	1.4 %
Full-time without benefits:	2.4 %	More than 40 years	0.9 %
Full-time with benefits:	85.3 %		

■ Respondents describe themselves as:

^{*} See note on page 2 regarding gender categories

Demographics of Participating Institutions

Three postsecondary institutions self-selected to participate in the Fall 2021 ACHA National Faculty & Staff Health Assessment and 2,359 surveys were completed by faculty and staff on these campuses. For the purpose of forming the Reference Group, only institutions located in the United States that surveyed all faculty and staff or used a random sampling technique are included in the analysis, yielding a final data set consisting of 2,359 faculty and staff at 4 schools. Demographic characteristics of the 4 campuses follow. The mean response proportion was 24.1%, and the median response proportion was 23.9%.

Demographical Characteristics of the 4 US Postsecondary Institutions Included in the Fall 2021 ACHA-NFSHA Reference Group			
Campus Characteristic	n		
Type of Institution			
Public	4		
Private	0		
2-year	0		
4-year or above	4		
Location of Campus			
Northeast (CT, ME, MA, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT)	0		
Midwest (IL, IN, IA, KS, MI, MN, MO, NE, ND, OH, SD, WI)	1		
South (AL, AR, DE, DC, FL, GA, KY, LA, MD, MS, NC, OK, SC,			
TN, TX, VA, WV)	3		
West (AK, AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, MT, NV, NM, OR, UT, WA, WY)	0		
Campus Size			
< 2,500 students	1		
2,500 – 4,999 students	0		
5,000 – 9,999 students	0		
10,000 – 19,999 students	1		
20,000 students or more	2		
Campus Setting			
Very large city (population over 500,000)	1		
Large city (population 250,000-499,999)	0		
Small city (population 50,000-249,999)	1		
Large town (population 10,000 – 49,999)	2		
Small town (population 2,500-9,999)	0		
Rural community (population under 2,500)	0		
Carnegie Classification			
Associates Colleges	0		
Baccalaureate Colleges	0		
Baccalaureate/Associates Colleges	0		
Masters Colleges and Universities	0		
Doctoral Universities	3		
Special Focus Institutions	1		
Miscellaneous/Not Classified	0		

Demographical Characteristics of the 4 US Postsecondary Institutions Included in the Fall 2021 ACHA-NFSHA Reference Group	
Campus Characteristic	n
ACHA Membership Status	
Institutional Member	4
Nonmember	0
Religious Affiliation	
No	4
Yes	0
If yes:	
Catholic	0
Protestant or Other Christian	0
Postsecondary Minority Institution (US Department of Education)	
No	4
Yes	0
<u>*If yes:</u>	
Postsecondary Minority Institution	0
Historically Black College or University (HBCU)	0
High Hispanic Enrollment	0
Hispanic-serving Institution (HSI)	0
Tribal College or University	0
Predominately Black Institution	0
Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving	0
Alaska Native-serving or Native Hawaiian-serving Institution	0
Native American-serving Nontribal Institution	0
*institutions may hold more than one type of minority status	