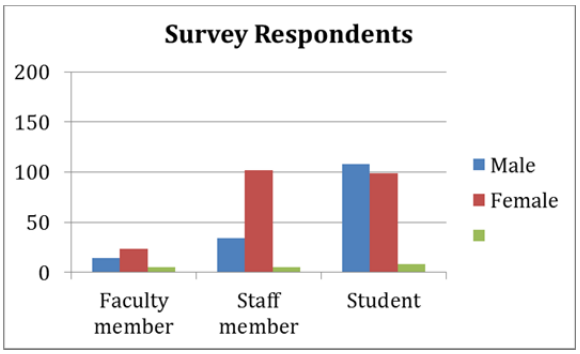
Swarthmore College Public Safety Survey – Spring 2018

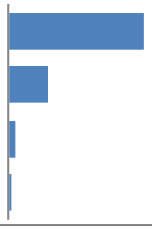
In spring 2018 Public Safety invited students, faculty, and staff to share their perceptions and opinions concerning safety on campus on a brief, online survey. This survey has been used biennially since 2014. An open link to the survey was sent to the faculty-staff and student listservs in April, with a reminder sent the following week. The timing of the survey was a challenge this year because of competing surveys, and the response rate is lower than in prior administrations. An important context to note in viewing the findings from this survey is that it was conducted after a rally the prior month by survivors of sexual misconduct or assault and their allies to raise awareness of concerns about the handling of sexual misconduct cases at the College. A total of 406 individuals responded to the survey. Of those who indicated their category, 41 were faculty members, 142 were staff members, and 213 were students, representing about 17% of faculty, and 17% of staff and 13% of students. Although these response rates are low for Swarthmore, the survey may still be useful in identifying areas of concern. (The chart above presents respondents by gender; however respondents selecting categories other than male or female are represented as a total in the unlabeled category rather than the individual categories, because of small numbers.)



Just under three quarters of respondents to the survey indicate that they feel "Very safe" on campus, with a small number (1%) feeling somewhat or very unsafe, maintaining the improved ratings seen in 2016. (In 2014, 65% reported feeling "Very safe.")

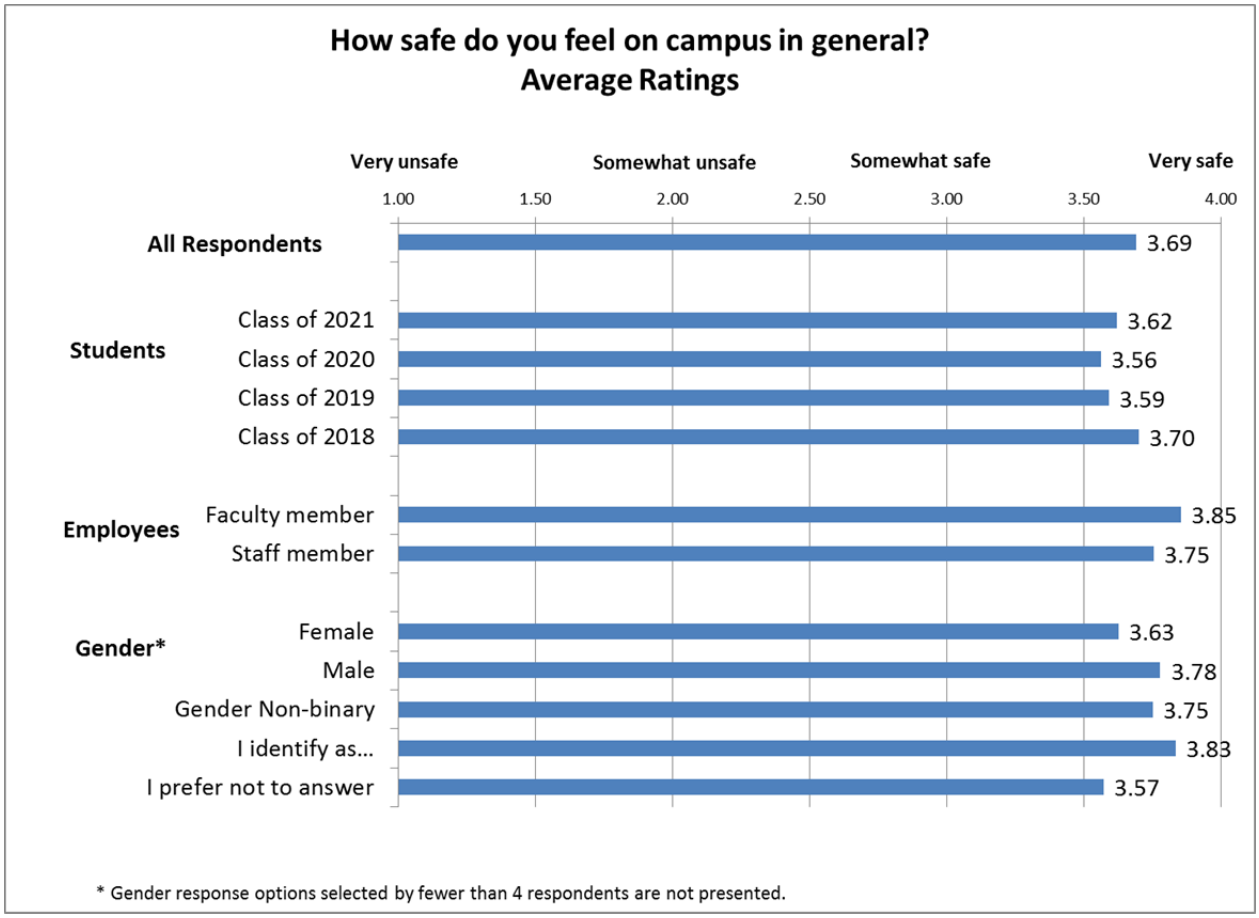
How safe do you feel on campus in general?

	N	%
Very safe	291	74%
Somewhat safe	87	22%
Somewhat unsafe	14	4%
Very unsafe	2	1%



The chart on the following page presents average ratings on this item for different respondent groups. There were some small but statistically significant differences between ratings of safety based on category of community member, as well as gender. Faculty and staff generally felt safer than did students. Their average rating on the 4-point scale was 3.8 (faculty and staff combined), compared to 3.6 for students (all class years combined). Respondents indicating their gender as male (and with no other gender option selected) responded with an average rating of 3.8, while those indicating their gender as

female (only) provided an average response of 3.6, another difference that reached the level of statistical significance.

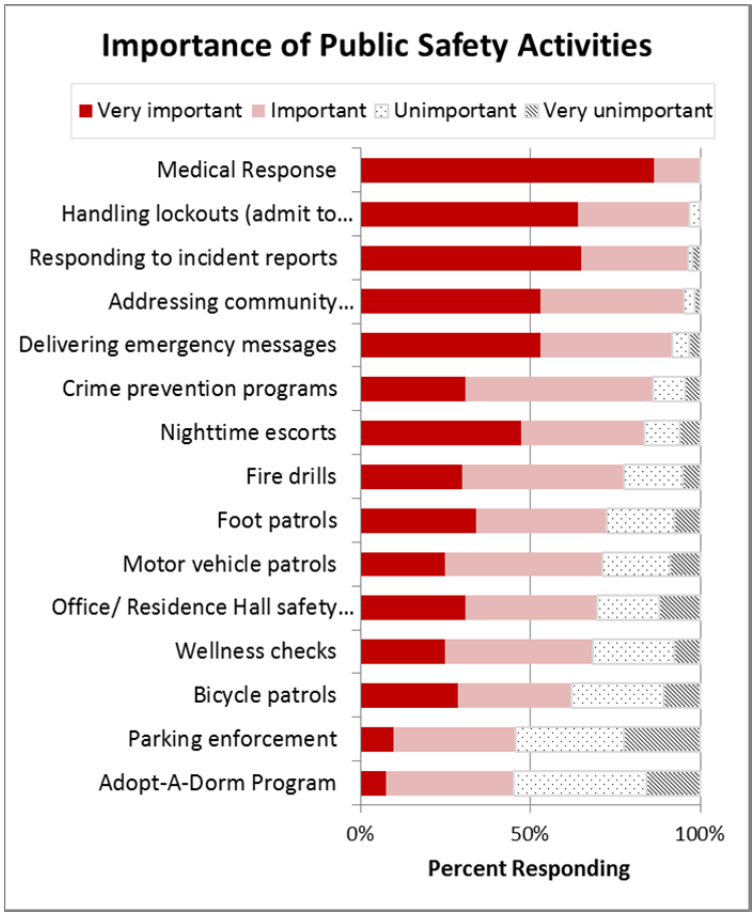


A list of activities performed by Public Safety staff was presented, and respondents were asked to indicate the importance of each one. All of the items except the least important (noted below) were rated as important by over half the respondents. Findings are very consistent with prior years. The **most important activities** (rated as "Very important" by more than half the respondents) were:

Medical Response (86% rated "Very important")
Responding to incident reports (65%)
Handling lockouts (admit to residence hall, building, or room) (64%)
Delivering emergency messages (53%)
Addressing community concerns or requests for service (53%)

Those activities rated as **least important** (rated as "unimportant" or "very unimportant" by over 40%) were:

Parking enforcement (54% rated "Unimportant" or "Very unimportant")
Adopt-A-Dorm Program (55%)



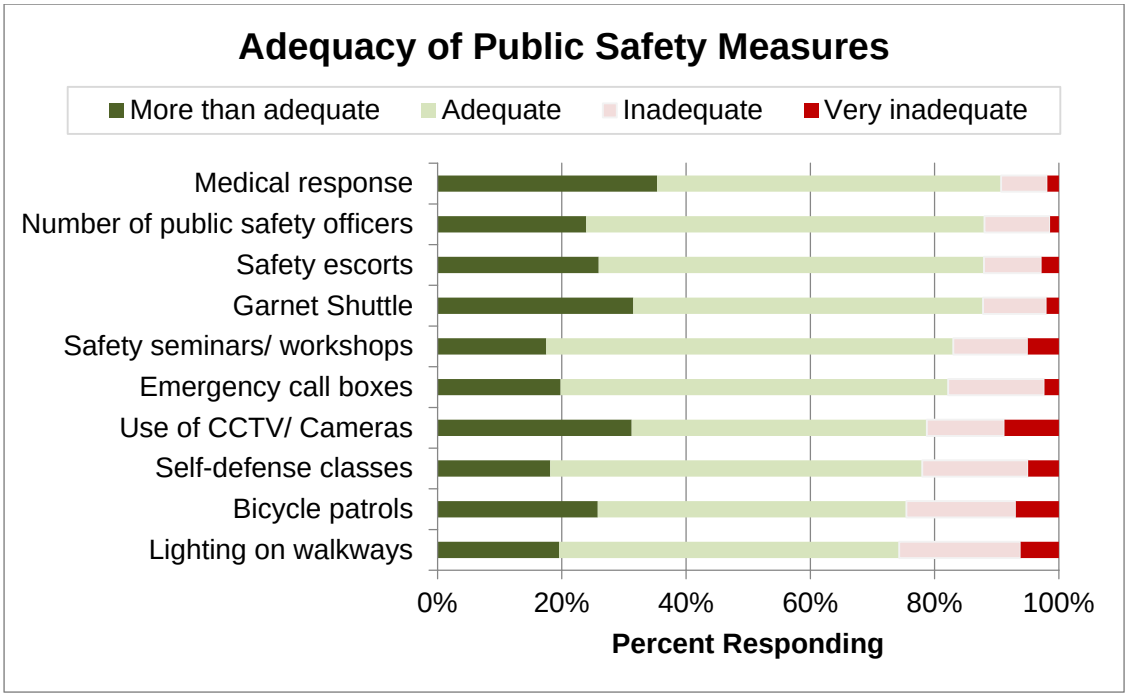
The average ratings of importance differed[i] by category of respondent, with faculty and staff viewing each activity as more important than did students, with the exceptions of *Handling lockouts* and *Addressing community concerns,* where there was not a difference.

Considering only those who responded as male only or female only on the gender item, a pattern of differences was also observed by gender, with females viewing all of the activities as more important than did males, with the exception of *Handling lockouts.* Differences were in the range of about a half of a point (on the four-point scale) or less.

Ratings of the adequacy of different safety measures performed by Public Safety are presented in the following chart. The majority of respondents providing ratings (excluding responses of "Don't Know") indicating that each was "Adequate" or "More than adequate." Measures that received the most responses of "Very **in**adequate" included *Use of CCTV/ Cameras* (9%), *Bicycle patrols* (7%), and *Lighting on walkways* (6%).

Male and female respondents (defined as described above) rate these items similarly with a few exceptions. On *Lighting on walkways*, *Emergency call boxes*, and *Bicycle patrols*, female respondents' ratings of adequacy are lower than male respondents' ratings by about a third of a point or less on the 4-point scale. Faculty and staff rate the adequacy of the *Number of public safety officers* lower than do students.

A section of the survey asking about interactions with Public Safety and use of online contacts was enhanced this year to reflect on a number of new departmental initiatives and website resources. Just over two-thirds (68%) of respondents indicated that they'd had direct contact with Public Safety in the past year. Only a handful of them (12%) recalled receiving a customer service survey following their interaction.



The majority of all respondents (90%) were not aware that there is a Public Safety Survey on the Public Safety website. Nearly two-thirds (65%) were not aware of the online "Public Safety Reporting Form" to report criminal activity, sexual misconduct, or other care and concern matters. Of the handful of respondents who had used the online form for reporting and rated it (n=5), all indicated that “The form was very straightforward.”

Most respondents (86%) were not aware that there is an "Ask the Director" link on the Public Safety website which allows community members to send a note via an email to the director with a question or comment.

Respondents were asked about the likelihood that they would contact Public Safety for each of a number of scenarios. This list below is presented in the order of the ratings of likelihood that the respondents would contact Public Safety, from most likely to least likely:

<u>Almost all would contact Public Safety</u> (90% or more responded Somewhat or Very Likely)
Locked out of room or office
A medical incident
Sexual assault

<u>The majority would contact Public Safety</u> (50% -89% responded Somewhat or Very Likely)
Suspicious activity
A physical altercation
Concern for well being
Vandalism
Unknown individual in the building

<u>The fewest would contact Public Safety</u> (Less than 50% responded Somewhat or Very Likely
Violation of Alcohol and Other Drugs Policy
Noise or loud party
Verbal dispute
Violation of leash laws

Respondents were asked about feelings of safety in eighteen different locations on campus during the daytime and nighttime, with opportunities to write in additional locations. Most locations were rated as safe (with a 4 or a 5) during *daytime* by over 90% of respondents, with these locations at 100%:

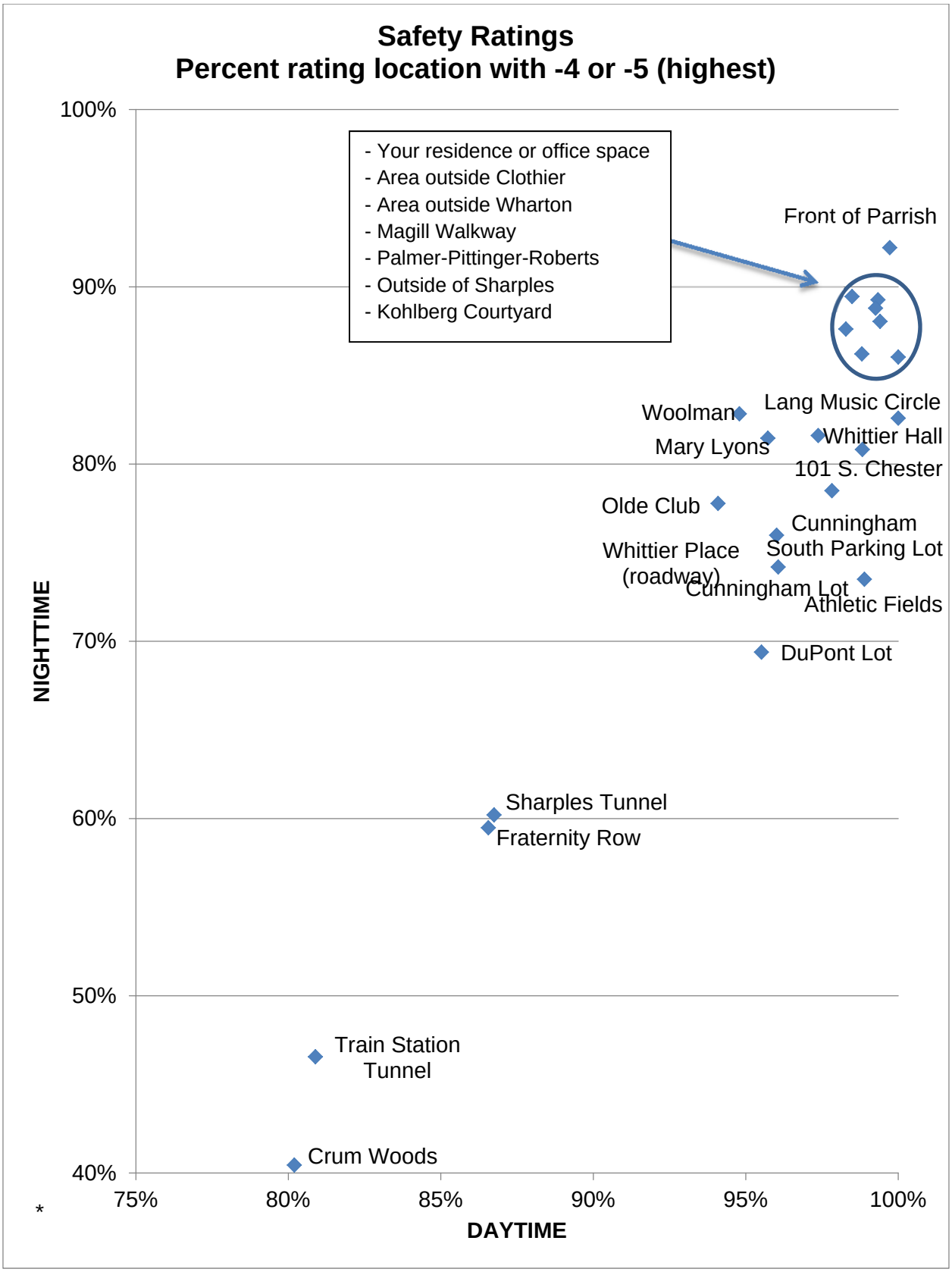
Front of Parrish
Kohlberg Courtyard
Lang Music Circle

Although all areas received lower ratings of safety in the nighttime, the order of these two lists is quite similar with a few notable exceptions. Two of the above locations, Kohlberg Courtyard and Lang Music Circle drop in safety ratings considerably at night, to 86% and 83%, respectively. Another area with very different ratings are the Athletic Fields which are rated as safe in the daytime by 99% of responses, but in the nighttime by only 74%.

The locations rated as the most UNSAFE were consistent across times of day. These were:

Crum Woods
Train Station Tunnel
Fraternity Row
Sharples Tunnel

The following chart plots locations by their ratings of daytime safety (x-axis) with ratings of nighttime safety (y-axis). The four locations noted above as feeling unsafe are outliers on this chart.



** NOTE that in order to focus on the ranges reflecting responses, axes do not begin at 0.*

Although the locations' rankings of safety were similar across groups, there were differences in perceptions of safety.

For just over a third of the locations in the *daytime*, ratings of safety were different for students versus faculty and staff. With one exception where there were differences, ratings of the safety by faculty and staff were lower than the ratings by students.

Train Station Tunnel	**DuPont Lot**	**Crum Woods**
Sharples Tunnel	**Lang Music Circle**	**Your res hall/office**
Outside of Sharples	**Magill Walk**	

Faculty and staff rated the daytime safety of **Fraternity Row** more favorably than did students.

These same locations were rated differently for safety by students versus faculty/staff (again, faculty and staff offered lower safety ratings than did students) in the nighttime as well, and additional locations with different ratings included:

Front of Parrish	**Cunningham Lot**	**Cunningham South**
Kohlberg Courtyard	**Olde Club**	**Lot**
DuPont Lot	**Area outside Clothier**	**Athletic Fields**

Ratings of safety differed by gender (defined previously) for *daytime* ratings of

Train Station Tunnel	**Whittier Hall**	**Lang Music Circle**
Sharples Tunnel	**Fraternity Row**	
Whittier Place	**Olde Club**	

In each case female respondents felt less safe than did male respondents. Ratings of safety at night differed by gender for ***every location***. In each of these comparisons, ratings of safety by female respondents were lower than the ratings by male respondents. The very lowest sense of safety was indicated by female respondents with respect to the **Train Station Tunnel** at night, where the average was 2.9 on the 5-point scale.

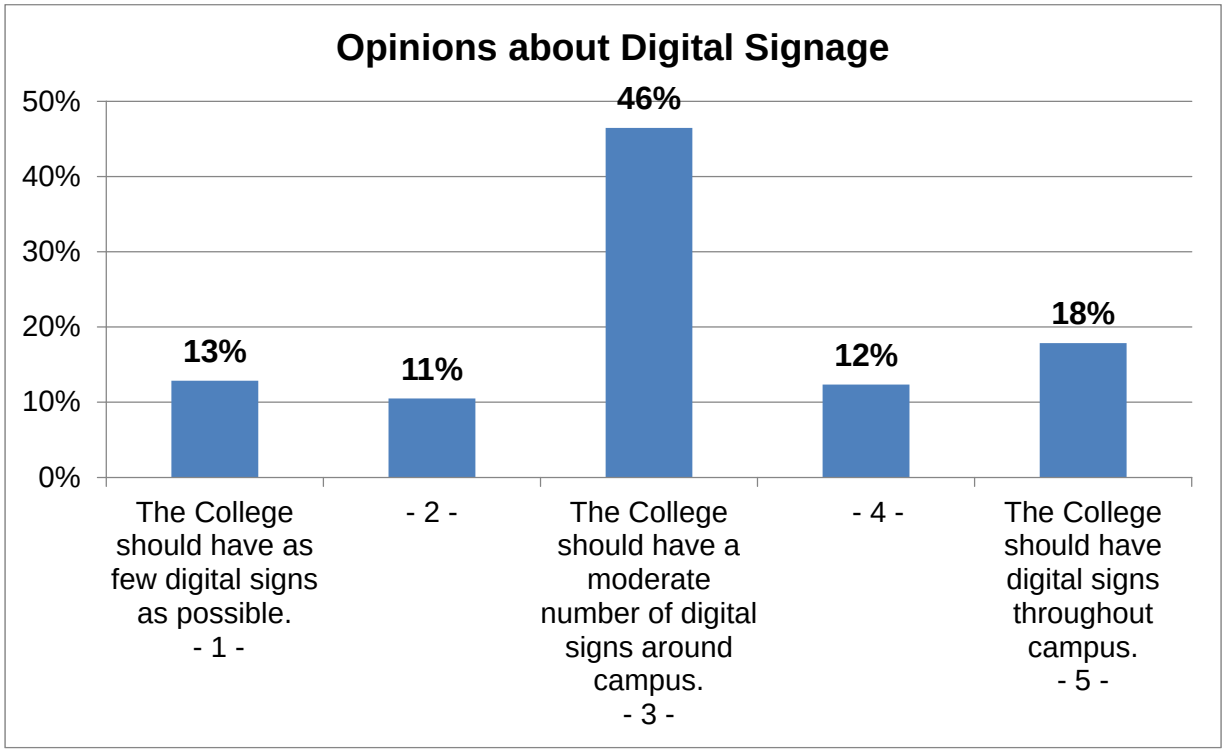
The following table presents the average ratings of each location in 2014, 2016, and 2018.

Average Ratings of Safety

Location	DAYTIME			NIGHTTIME		
	2014	2016	2018	2014	2016	2018
Front of Parrish	6.0	5.0	5.0	6.0	4.6	4.7
Kohlberg Courtyard	6.0	4.9	4.9	6.0	4.4	4.5
Train Station Tunnel	6.0	4.2	4.4	6.0	3.0	3.4
Sharples Tunnel	6.0	4.4	4.5	6.0	3.3	3.7
Outside of Sharples	6.0	4.9	4.9	6.0	4.2	4.5
Whittier Place (roadway)	6.0	4.8	4.7	6.0	4.1	4.1
Whittier Hall			4.8			4.3
DuPont Lot	6.0	4.7	4.8	6.0	3.8	4.0
Cunningham Lot	6.0	4.7	4.8	6.0	3.8	4.2
Fraternity Row	6.0	4.5	4.5	6.0	3.5	3.7
Olde Club	6.0	4.7	4.7	6.0	4.0	4.2
Lang Music Circle	6.0	4.8	4.9	6.0	4.2	4.4
Magill Walk	6.0	4.9	4.9	6.0	4.3	4.5
Mary Lyons	6.0	4.7	4.8	6.0	4.0	4.4
Palmer-Pittinger-Roberts	6.0	4.7	4.9	6.0	4.0	4.5
Woolman	6.0	4.7	4.8	6.0	4.1	4.4
Area outside Clothier			4.9			4.6
Area outside Wharton			4.9			4.5
Crum Woods	6.0	4.1	4.3	6.0	2.7	3.1
Cunningham South Parking Lot			4.8			4.3
Athletic Fields	6.0	4.7	4.9	6.0	3.8	4.2
101 S. Chester		4.7	4.9		4.0	4.3
Your residence hall or office space		4.8	4.9		4.4	4.6

NOTE: Ratings range from 1 to 5, with 1=Very UNSafe and 5=Very Safe.

A new question this year asked about the use of digital signage on campus. Results were distributed across the range, suggesting that there is no consensus regarding the use of these resources.



[i] All comparisons noted as different used the appropriate independent samples t-test, depending on whether assumptions about homogeneity of variance were met. The p< .05 threshold was used in determining statistical significance.

Prepared by Swarthmore College Office of Institutional Research, July 2018.