Weekend Behavior Survey
Executive Summary

Purpose: The Weekend Behavior Survey gathered data about students’ weekend behaviors, level of campus involvement, and their sense of belongingness on campus. This topic was chosen in order to better inform program and service delivery, and to learn more about a pervading belief that NIU was perceived as a “suitcase campus.”

Key Respondent Demographics:
- 250 respondents (90% Confidence Level, ± 5%)
- First year freshmen (64%) and transfer students (36%) residing on-campus (87.6%) or in DeKalb (14%)*
- 65.6% female, 34.4% male
- 36.4% employed working <20 hours per week (81.3%)

*Some on-campus residents also have permanent DeKalb addresses

What do students do when they leave?
- 81.6% - visiting friends/family
- 39.6% - family obligations
- 18.8% - Going into Chicago
- 14.8% - visiting friends at other institutions

How often do students intend to leave the campus/DeKalb area for the weekend?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Intention</th>
<th>Actual</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Every weekend</td>
<td>11.6%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2-3 times a month</td>
<td>27.2%</td>
<td>28.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Once a month</td>
<td>35.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Once every 2 months</td>
<td>15.6%</td>
<td>20.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Once a semester or less</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
<td>14.0%</td>
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What do students do when they stay?
- Spend more than 3 hours:
  - 78.2% - hanging out with friends on-campus
  - 75.8% - studying
- Spend no time:
  - 32.2% - attending official NIU events/activities

Respondents fell into one of three leaver groups:
- **Frequent Leavers** (every weekend, or 2-3 times per month)
- **Moderate Leavers** (once a month)
- **Infrequent Leavers** (once every 2 months, once a semester or less)

Overall, responses were consistent across all three groups despite expectations that frequent leavers would be less involved and feel less connected to campus. Most respondents attend campus activities 2-3 times per month (21.2%) or once a month (22.8%), but most attend less than 2 hours (45.7%) or never attend (32.2%) official NIU events on the weekend.

"I love attending campus activities but there don’t seem to be too many [on the weekend] and if they do have an activity it is not advertised very well."
- Survey Respondent

How well do students feel like they fit into the NIU community?

Select Recommendations
- Outreach to frequent leavers should emphasize the connections they can make during the week regardless of their leaving on the weekend
- Design weekend programs that offer experiences students cannot get elsewhere. Hanging-out with friends and studying may happen on campus, but it doesn’t keep them here.
- Conduct campus climate study to determine why the percentage of students who believe they fit “extremely well” is so low.