Bard
A College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Office of Title IX and Nondiscrimination

2024 CAMPUS CLIMATE SURVEY ON SEXUAL ASSAULT: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF BARD COLLEGE RESULTS

In the Spring of 2024, Bard College participated in the *HEDS Sexual Assault Campus Climate Survey* to survey its undergraduate and graduate students concerning their understanding of and experiences with sexual assault and related topics.

Approximately 1755 undergraduate and 309 graduate students were invited to participate in the survey. A total of 372 students (340 undergraduate students and 32 graduate students) completed the survey, providing a combined response rate of 18%. (19.4% undergraduate and 10.4% graduate)

This document provides a summary of the primary findings from the survey based on the 340 (91.4% of participants) undergraduate students who participated, 331 (97.4%) of whom attend the Annandale campus. This data and other information collected in the surveys gives the College a more accurate and clearer depiction of our campus climate and will help us improve the resources, education, and services we provide related to gender-based misconduct.

Perceptions of Bard College's Response to Reports of Sexual Assault

- 61% of Bard students who responded to the survey think that campus officials would take a report of sexual assault seriously. 21% of respondents provided no opinion.
- 43% of Bard student survey respondents think that campus officials would conduct a careful investigation of a report of sexual assault to determine what happened. 33% of student survey respondents provided no opinion. 24% of student survey respondents think that campus officials would not conduct a careful investigation.
- 35% of Bard student survey respondents think that campus officials would take action against the offender(s). 30% of student survey respondents provided no opinion. 34% of student survey respondents think that campus officials would not take action against the offender(s).

Bystander Behaviors

- 17% of Bard students who responded to the survey reported that, since starting at Bard College, they observed a situation that they believed was sexual assault (7%) or they observed a situation that they believed could have led to a sexual assault (11%).
    - Of the respondents who reported observing a situation that they believed was sexual assault or could have led to a sexual assault, 52% reported intervening.

- Of the respondents who reported suspecting that they were sexually assaulted or experienced or suspected that they experienced an attempted sexual assault, 46% reported that there were bystanders present during the incident.
    - Of the respondents who reported bystanders being present, 36% reported that the bystanders intervened; 64% reported that the bystanders did not intervene.

Prevalence of Unwanted Sexual Contact

- 34% of Bard students who responded to the survey reported experiencing unwanted verbal sexual behavior[1] "sometimes," "often," or "very often" since starting at Bard College and occurring on campus, off-campus at an event connected with the College, or at a social activity or party near campus.
- 24% of Bard students who responded to the survey reported experiencing unwanted brief physical contact[2] "sometimes," "often," or "very often" since starting at Bard College and occurring on campus, off-campus at an event connected with the College, or at a social activity or party near campus.

Prevalence of Sexual Assault[3]

- 12% of Bard students who responded to the survey reported being sexually assaulted since starting at Bard College and occurring on campus, off-campus at an event connected with the College, or at a social activity or party near campus.
- Of the 12% of respondents who reported being sexually assaulted:
    - 46% reported being assaulted more than once.
    - 92% reported being sexually assaulted by a student at Bard College.
    - 62% reported that the person/people who assaulted them was a nonromantic friend or acquaintance at the time of the assault.
    - 72% reported that the sexual assault occurred during their first year at college.
    - 90% reported that the sexual assault occurred in a Bard College dormitory or other campus housing.
    - 44% reported that they were incapacitated in some way (e.g., passed out, drugged, drunk, asleep).
    - 84% reported telling a close friend about the assault; 32% reported telling a romantic partner; 29% reported telling a parent or guardian; 29% reported telling a private or campus counselor; 21% reported telling a roommate; 13% reported

[1] Such as someone making sexual comments about one's body; making unwelcome sexual advances, propositions, or suggestions; or telling sexually offensive jokes or kidding about sex or gender-specific traits.
[2] Such as someone briefly groping another person, rubbing sexually against another person, pinching, or engaging in brief inappropriate or unwelcome touching of another's body.
[3] Sexual assault includes the following types of unwanted or nonconsensual sexual contact: touching of a sexual nature, oral sex, vaginal sex, anal sex, and anal or vaginal penetration with a body part other than a penis or a tongue, or by an object.

telling a Title IX Coordinator or Deputy Coordinator; 11% reported telling no one; 5% reported telling faculty, staff, or an administrator at Bard; 5% reported telling a resident advisor/assistant or other peer advisor; 3% reported telling a campus sexual assault advocate; 0% reported telling campus security/safety/police; and 0% reported telling local police.