Attitudes Towards Sexual Assault
WHY I CHOSE THIS PROJECT

WE DESERVE A RAPE FREE CAMPUS
SEXUALITY DEMOGRAPHICS

- Disproportionally high number of LGBTQ participants in my survey
CAMPUS SAFETY

• Where do students feel safe or unsafe?
• How could Williams be a safer place?
Where do students feel most safe on Campus?

Where do students feel most Unsafe on campus

From survey data 2020
BUT WHO LIVES ON HOXSEY?
SEXUAL ASSAULT

• Definitions
• What is important to note about sexual assault at Williams?
**Defining Sexual Assault**

**How did survey-takers define it?**

“Breaking consent in a sexual situation or being with a person that isn’t able to give consent, for whatever reason that may be.”

“Unwanted and/or coerced sexual contact of any kind”

“...that causes physical or psychological damage.”

“Unwanted invasion of boundaries in a sexual manner. Might include unwanted touching, kissing, or extreme words.”

“Non consensual sexual contact, especially when violent or sudden”

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**There are so many types of sexual violence**

- Attempted rape
- Fondling or unwanted sexual touching
- Forcing a victim to perform sexual acts, such as oral sex or penetrating the perpetrator’s body
- Penetration of the victim's body, also known as rape

**What’s affirmative consent?**

12% of participants didn’t know how to define affirmative consent

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**90% of students knew a survivor**

The term “survivor” has become more widely-used than the traditional “victim”
"Being blackout drunk is different than being just tipsy when it comes to the ability to consent"
Statistics:
College Students in the U.S.

1 in 4 women experience rape or attempted rape during their college career.  
84% know their attacker. 

5% report to the police. 
42% tell no one.

@BostonWomen
#BOSwomen

Attempted or Completed Assault

N=191

Acquaintance, peer, or colleague, 34.6%
Friend, 21.5%
Current dating or sexual partner, 13.1%
Former dating or sexual partner, 20.4%
No prior relationship, I didn’t know them, 8.9%
Other, 13.1%

Williams College EPHCASA data (2017)
The high likelihood that the survivor knows the perpetrator can affect their academic performance.

The short term application can include:

- An inability to focus
- Being unable to complete assignments
- Missing or skipping classes
- Doing poorly on exams

*this is exponentially worse if the perpetrator is in one of the survivor’s classes*
It’s about more than one class or assignment. The impacts build upon one another...

- Missed assignments or failed exams can impact GPA
- A drop in GPA can mean loss of merit-based scholarships or ability to continue with a major or program
- Need to take time off for mental or physical health and fall behind peers
- Need to change majors, programs, or school to avoid perpetrator
REPORTING AND RESPONSE

- RAINN (rape and incest national network)
- A look at how sexual assault is reported at various universities
- Williams EPHCASA survey data (2015 and 2017)
ON CAMPUS
In its first year, the SRVR Team, a group of trained counselors within the Counseling Center who offer 24/7 privileged and confidential support, advocacy and counseling to students, provided in-person support, advocacy and discussion of reporting options to 144 students, with an additional 36 seeking support by phone.

= 10 people who were provided in-person support
= 10 people who were provided over-the-phone support

In 2014-15, the Title IX coordinator received 143 reports from students impacted by sexual assault, relationship violence, stalking and harassment.

Throughout 2014-15, Student Assistance staff members provided case management services to 114 students impacted by sexual and relationship violence.

SOURCE: SU NEWS

ACROSS THE COUNTRY
91% of the victims of rape and sexual assault are female and 9% are male.

$151,423 The approximate amount of money each rape costs the U.S. government.

Rape is the most under-reported crime.
90% of sexual assault victims on college campuses don’t report the assault.

63.3% The percentage of men at one university who self-reported acts qualifying as rape or attempted rape admitted to committing repeat rapes.

8/10 In 8 out of 10 cases of rape, the victim knew the person who sexually assaulted them.

81% of women and 35% of men report significant short-term or long-term impacts such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

SOURCE: NATIONAL SEXUAL VIOLENCE RESOURCE CENTER
BARRIERS TO REPORTING SEXUAL ASSAULT

As stated by survivors
# Administrative Response to Reporting

The following statements describe how Williams might handle it if a student reported an incident of sexual misconduct. Using the scale provided, please indicate the likelihood of each statement.*

Options: 1 “Very unlikely” 2 “Unlikely” 3 “Neutral” 4 “Likely” 5 “Very Likely”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Unlikely and Very Unlikely</th>
<th>Neutral</th>
<th>Likely &amp; Very Likely</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Williams would take the report seriously</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>1,525</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>1,577</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>81%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Williams would take steps to protect the safety of the person making the report</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>1,525</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>75%</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>1,571</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>69%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Williams would support the person making the report</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>1,520</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>1,571</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If the Code of Conduct was violated, Williams would take corrective action with the person(s) responsible.</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>1,518</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>1,571</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Williams would provide support for the person who was accused of the assault</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>1,522</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>1,571</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Williams would take steps to prevent retaliation against anyone involved in a case of sexual assault</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>1,519</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>1,572</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Williams would take action to remedy the underlying factors that may have led to the sexual assault</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>1,519</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>42%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>1,574</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>35%</td>
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</table>

*Responses are based on anonymous surveys conducted in 2015 and 2017.
TRUST IN THE ADMINISTRATION CONTINUES TO DECLINE

“I have confidence in the institution’s ability to effectively respond to cases of sexual assault”

Is Williams doing enough to educate on preventing sexual assault and getting support as a survivor?

Disagree, 63%
Neutral, 20%
Agree, 17%

Too Little, 86%
Enough/More than Enough, 14%
SO, WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE?

More importantly, what CAN change?
SURVEY VS INTERVIEWS

WHO WOULD THE SURVEY PARTICIPANTS TELL?

- Pod/Friends, 80%
- JA/JAAB, 40%
- family, 30%
- coach, 3%
- Davis Center, 3%

WHO DID THE SURVIVORS TELL?

- friend/pod, 4
- Deans/Meg Bossong, 2
- family, 2
- coach, 3
- RASAN, 1
- IWS, 2
- JA, 1

n=31

n=4
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>E</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>G</th>
<th>H</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Effectiveness score (1 = most effective)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td># answered &quot;effective&quot;</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># answered &quot;ineffective&quot;</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># answered &quot;harmful&quot;</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<tr>
<th><code>A</code></th>
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<td>Increased education/prevention with sports teams</td>
<td>Immediate relocation option for survivors or perpetrators</td>
<td>Increased transparency/publicity about sexual assault data and prevalence</td>
<td>Better alternatives to the official reporting process</td>
<td>Yearly refresher on safe sex and consent</td>
<td>Condensed or clarified definitions of sexual assault</td>
<td>Putting consent posters in common rooms</td>
<td>College buying all off-campus houses and apartments</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Score: 1 = most effective
At tempted or Completed Assault

- Yes, in a non-residential Off campus, at another building, 2.8%
- Yes, in a dorm common space, 9.9%
- Off campus, not at another college, 8.8%
- Yes, in a dorm room, 68.5%
- Yes, in a Yes, in an academic bathroom, 1.7%
- building, 1.1%

N=181

Williams College EPHCASA data (2017)
LIMITATIONS

- Non-response bias (cis-het men, perpetrators, people who don’t care)
- Response bias (survivors, friends of survivors, passionate people)
- Time and resources
- Inability to collect qualitative incidence rates
- Title IX regulations are extremely limiting
• https://www.pennlive.com/midstate/2011/03/dickinson_college_students_dem.html
• Many pages on the RAINN website
• EPHCASA survey data 2015 and 2017 (not published)
• Mayors office in Boston
• Infographic from National Sexual Resource Center
• "the campus sexual assault study", 2007 (WELPY graphic slides 11 and 12 designed by Charlotte Provot)