

# Highlights: Dartmouth's AAU Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Assault and Sexual Misconduct

All Dartmouth students, including undergraduate and graduate/professional students, were invited to participate in a survey conducted by Westat on behalf of the American Association of Universities (AAU) in April 2015. National and Dartmouth-specific results were shared in September 2015.

Given the voluminous results, the President and Provost charged a faculty, student, and staff committee to further examine the results and to compare and synthesize them with other Dartmouth data. Highlights are presented below.

## Overall Prevalence of Assault and Misconduct

- ❖ In the academic year covering the survey (AY 14-15), 15% of undergraduate women respondents were victims of either non-consensual sexual penetration or unwanted sexual touching that involved force, incapacitation, or a lack of affirmative consent.
- ❖ For senior women over their four years at Dartmouth, the reported sexual assault rate was 2-3 times higher.
- ❖ Non-heterosexual students, Black students, Native American students, first-year and sophomore undergraduates are at greater risk of sexual assault than other students.
- ❖ Many students, over half in most cases, reported experiencing sexual harassment. The most commonly cited types of harassment were "inappropriate comments regarding body, appearance, or sexual activity" and "sexual remarks, or insulting/offensive jokes or stories."
- ❖ As with the sexual assault reports, the offender in harassment reports was most often a fellow student (95 percent); however, twenty-one percent of female graduate/professional students identified the offender (in harassment reports) as a faculty member.

## Role of Alcohol, Relationship to Offender, and Location of Assault

- ❖ The vast majority of incidents of sexual assault involve both the victim and offender drinking alcohol.
- ❖ For both undergraduate and graduate female students, nearly 90% of the cases of sexual assault are perpetrated by another student. This other student is most often either a friend, partner at the time, or previous partner.
- ❖ Forty-percent of female victims reported that the offender was a stranger.
- ❖ Among undergraduates almost all assaults occur in dorms or Greek houses.

## Reporting to Campus Officials and Confidential Sources

- ❖ Approximately 63% of forcible penetrations were NOT reported to any of the 10 offices listed on the survey.
- ❖ Dartmouth Counseling (confidential resource) was the office most likely to receive a report of sexual assault.

## Comparison to Other Analyses and Data Sources

- ❖ Unweighted analyses confirm earlier weighted results from AAU/Westat.
- ❖ Survey results are consistent with rates reported in Dartmouth's Clery Act Annual Security Report of penetration and fondling.