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2015 HEDS Sexual Assault Climate Survey
Colgate University

- Overview of the Higher Education Data Sharing consortium (HEDS) survey
- Profile of respondents
- Summary of findings
- Next steps

This presentation contains descriptive language of sexual assault and other gender based violence that may be triggering to survivors and others.
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HEDS Sexual Assault Survey asks about …

- Perceptions of campus climate for unwanted sexual contact and sexual assault
- Perceptions of how institution responds to sexual assaults
- Whether and how often students have experienced unwanted sexual contact or sexual assault

Benchmark data

- HEDS provides aggregated comparative data from 54 other small institutions – our “benchmark”
- Response rate at Colgate is comparable to that of benchmark institutions
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Response Demographics -- 718 students (25.5%)
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Sexual Orientation of Respondents

87.2%  
n=621

4.4%  
Bisexual

2.8%  
Gay

1.4%  
Asexual

2.1%  
Heterosexual

1.3%  
Lesbian

0.8%  
Pansexual

0.4%  
Queer

0.3%  
Questioning

Fill in
Views on the general climate at Colgate. Students “strongly agreed” or “agreed” with the following:

- Faculty, staff and administrators are genuinely concerned about students' welfare: 83.0% (Colgate) vs. 86.1% (Benchmark)
- Students at Colgate are genuinely concerned about the welfare of other students: 56.1% (Colgate) vs. 73.9% (Benchmark)
- I feel safe on this campus: 84.0% (Colgate) vs. 84.4% (Benchmark)

Sample sizes:
- Faculty, staff and administrators: n=592
- Students: n=401
- I feel safe on this campus: n=600
“Strongly agree” or “agree” that the number of sexual assaults [at Colgate] is low

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Benchmark

29.4%
n=210

52.7%
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Received information or education from Colgate on:

- What sexual assault is and how to recognize it: 89.3% (Colgate) 78.7% (Benchmark)
- How to report an incident of sexual assault: 81.2% (Colgate) 63.0% (Benchmark)
- Procedures for investigating a sexual assault: 62.6% (Colgate) 37.1% (Benchmark)
- Actions you can take to help prevent sexual assault: 83.8% (Colgate) 72.4% (Benchmark)
Unwanted sexual contact (defined):

- **Unwanted verbal behaviors** – such as someone making sexual comments about your body; someone making unwelcome sexual advances, propositions, or suggestions to you; or someone telling you sexually offensive jokes or kidding about your sex or gender-specific traits.

- **Unwanted nonverbal behaviors** – such as sending you sexual emails, texts, or pictures; posting sexual comments about you on blogs or social media; showing you sexually offensive pictures or objects; leering at you or making lewd gestures towards you; or touching oneself sexually in front of you.

- **Unwanted brief physical contact** – such as someone briefly groping you, rubbing sexually against you, pinching you, or engaging in any other brief inappropriate or unwelcome touching of your body.
How often have you experienced the following forms of unwanted sexual contact while you were [at Colgate]?

- **Verbal Behaviors**
  - Colgate: 28.5% (n=195)
  - Benchmark: 45.8% (n=221)

- **Nonverbal Behaviors**
  - Colgate: 67.7% (n=463)
  - Benchmark: 32.3% (n=432)

- **Brief Physical Contact**
  - Colgate: 36.8% (n=252)
  - Benchmark: 39.8% (n=432)
Have you been sexually assaulted* [at Colgate]?

*Sexual assault includes touching of a sexual nature, oral sex, vaginal sex, anal sex, anal or vaginal penetration with a body part other than a penis or tongue, or by an object, like a bottle or candle.
When you were sexually assaulted, which of the following happened? (Check all that apply)

- Touching of a sexual nature: 95.2% (Colgate), 89.4% (Benchmark)
- Oral sex: 25.0% (Colgate), 24.3% (Benchmark)
- Vaginal sex: 48.8% (Colgate), 41.1% (Benchmark)
- Anal sex: 3.6% (Colgate), 4.2% (Benchmark)
- Anal or vaginal penetration by body part other than penis or tongue or by an object: 7.1% (Colgate), 8.6% (Benchmark)

Non-Consensual Sexual Contact
Non-Consensual Sexual Intercourse
This incident of sexual assault involved:

- [Threat of] physical force or using coercion/intimidation: Colgate 31.7% (n=26), Benchmark 33.2% (n=47)
- [Use of] physical force against you: Colgate 58.8% (n=47), Benchmark 45.4%
- Other people drinking alcohol: Colgate 94.0% (n=78), Benchmark 73.6%
- Other people using drugs: Colgate 22.0% (n=18), Benchmark 19.3%
- Your drinking alcohol: Colgate 89.2% (n=74), Benchmark 63.7%
When in your academic career did the sexual assault occur?

- First year: 44.0%
- Second year: 6.0%
- Third year: 7.1%
- Fourth year: 3.6%
- Summer but on campus or at Colgate event: 23.8%
- Off-campus (but not at another college or university): 15.5%
- Other: 1.0%

Relationship to people who sexually assaulted you (check all that apply)

- Stranger: 52.4%
- Nonromantic friend: 27.4%
- Casual date or hookup: 31.0%
- Current romantic partner: 4.0%
- Ex-romantic partner: 4.0%
- Other: 4.0%

Location of Sexual Assault

- Residential building: 73.5% (n=61)
- Nonresidential building: 10.8%
- Off-campus (but not at another college or university): 15.7%