

## SEXUAL VIOLENCE ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES

Partners in Prevention (PIP) is a consortium of 21 college campuses in Missouri dedicated to creating safe and healthy campuses. Following the release of the Dear Colleague Letter on Title IX in 2011, PIP has paid special attention to new regulations and would like to bring each campus's attention to Title IX and campus sexual assault.

### HISTORY

Title IX is an educational amendment released in 1972 which prohibited discrimination based on gender. In April 2011, the Office of Civil Rights released a Dear Colleague letter further explaining the regulations behind Title IX. This letter clarified that sexual violence is a form of discrimination and that it is each school's obligation to respond to sexual violence.

According to the MCHBS, last year 3.5% of Missouri college students disclosed experiencing non-consensual sexual contact against their will. Of those students, 29% experienced the non-consensual sexual contact while attending their current college or university. While the average for all PIP schools is 29%, rates of students experiencing non-consensual sexual contact in the past year while attending their college or university varies widely by campus, with rates as low as 10% and as high as 50% on some campuses.



Experienced Non-Consensual Sexual Contact While at Current College/University

Did Not Experience Non-Consensual Sexual Contact While At Current College/University

### CONCLUSION

The national estimate of sexual assaults on college campuses is between 20 - 25%. The discrepancy between the MCHBS report and the national estimate shows that many victims of sexual assault are not reporting their victimization.

Schools must create an environment where students feel comfortable reporting incidences of sexual violence. Without the perceived ability to report, students will not report and the institution will be unable to respond to sexual violence further perpetuating a hostile environment for survivors. The Office for Civil Rights has released some requirements that colleges and universities should address immediately. They are:

1. Disseminate a notice of nondiscrimination
2. Designate at least one employee to coordinate its efforts to comply with and carry out its responsibilities under Title IX.
3. Adopt and publish grievance procedures providing for prompt and equitable resolution of student and employee sex discrimination complaints.<sup>1</sup>

An additional recommendation suggested by the Office of Civil Rights is the designation of a confidential space where survivors of sexual violence can seek support services.

<sup>1</sup> More information on Title IX can be found here: [www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/qa-201404-title-ix.pdf](http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/qa-201404-title-ix.pdf)