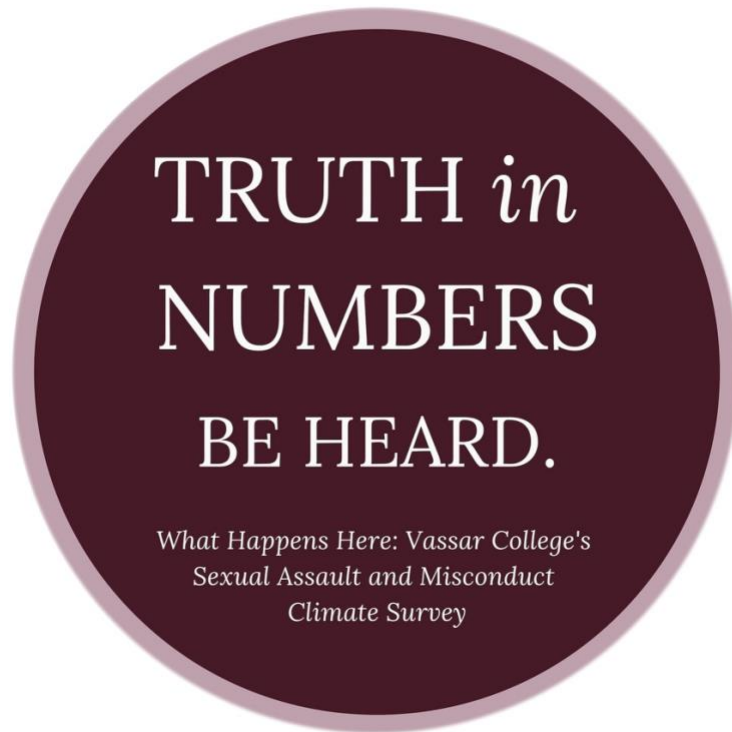


WHAT HAPPENS HERE SURVEY



Welcome! On this page you will find information pertaining to “What Happens Here,” Vassar College’s biannual survey examining student views, knowledge, and experiences around issues related to sexual and interpersonal violence. This site includes frequently asked questions about the 2019 survey, support resources available to those taking the survey and all others on campus, and contact information for those involved in the project.

[View the 2017 survey results](#)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS THE “WHAT HAPPENS HERE” SURVEY?

The “What Happens Here” survey is a study to examine Vassar student views, knowledge, and experiences around issues related to sexual violence, including the incidence and prevalence of all forms of sexual misconduct, including assault and interpersonal violence experienced by students at Vassar. The survey also covers student perceptions of the campus climate related to sexual misconduct and the effectiveness of policies and campus prevention efforts related to these behaviors. The survey was implemented for the first time at Vassar College in 2015 and again in 2017.

IS THIS AN IMPORTANT SURVEY? WHY?

Absolutely—primarily because what happens here, to our campus community members, is vitally important. This survey is the only comprehensive mechanism to collect information on the broad array of topics covered by this survey. Without your participation in this survey, Vassar will have at best limited and piecemeal information as to what really does happen here, and concerning student views of the College's efforts in education, prevention, policy and response.

IS THIS SURVEY FOR ME?

Yes! If you are a Vassar student this survey is for you. The "What Happens Here" survey aims to measure not only instances of sexual misconduct, but also assesses other topics, such as dating and domestic violence, bystander behavior, impact on the social and educational experience, and vitally important perceptions within our campus community. As a student member of the Vassar community, your perspectives are essential as we continue with efforts to prevent sexual assault.

HOW DO I SIGN UP TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SURVEY?

No sign up is required. All current students (including JYA) will receive an email invitation, and reminders, each with a unique individual link to the survey. To participate, please follow the unique link you receive, or have received, in an email from the Office of Institutional Research.

WHAT STEPS HAS THE COLLEGE TAKEN IN RESPONSE TO THE COLLECTED DATA FROM 2015 AND 2017?

Vassar College has made a number of commitments to sexual violence prevention and response. This includes the hiring of a full-time Violence Prevention Educator in the SAVP office to work exclusively on violence prevention efforts across different communities at Vassar, 24/7 access to additionally trained SART Advocates, creation of the Title IX Student Advisory Committee (charged with producing an annual report to the President an VSA on various issues around our Title IX policies and practices, including campus attitudes toward reporting, campus-wide Title IX education, and due process for parties involved in the Title IX process), an increased pool of/training for hearing adjudicators, College policy reform to ensure that all non-student employees (who are not otherwise designated as private or confidential resources) are responsible employees for the purpose of Title IX reporting, trainings for Private Resources and Responsible Employees, focus groups and Title IX trainings for ResLife staff, student leaders, marginalized student populations, and CLD student groups, dissemination of an updated infographic with on/off-campus resources and the Student Bill of Rights.

I RESPONDED TO THIS SURVEY BEFORE. IS IT IMPORTANT TO RESPOND AGAIN?

Yes. It's very important. In fact, vital. Only a large, broad, representative response from all students can provide reliable data on what does happen here, and concerning student views and opinions about it. And only such broad, representative responses now, this semester can document the campus as it is today, including things that have changed, and those that have not, since previous administrations of this survey.

WILL MY PARTICIPATION IN THE SURVEY AND THE INFORMATION I SHARE BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL?

Yes. Absolutely. And not just confidential. All of your responses will be recorded altogether anonymously. The survey does not request or record any identifying information to be included with your survey responses. To ensure confidentiality, and your privacy, we will not present any results that provide any individual's response(s), nor even that might profile statistically small groups of survey respondents. Responses to this survey will be used only in aggregate, and only for research purposes.

As such, this survey is not, and cannot be, a mechanism for filing official reports of sexual misconduct, assault, harassment, or other behaviors. We will not treat the information you provide as an official report. The anonymity of the survey actually prevents any ability to do so. Your responses will not be part of any academic, medical, disciplinary, or other record. Should you wish to report an incident or seek support, please contact Vassar's Title IX Coordinator or the resources listed on the Support Resources page of this website.

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO COMPLETE THE SURVEY?

The survey is estimated to take 10-30 minutes, depending on the sections for which you have information to report, and those sections you elect to complete. Feel free to save your results and come back to it if you need to take a break, the survey can be completed in one or multiple sittings!

HOW WILL VASSAR SHARE THE RESULTS?

The Office of Institutional Research will publish the results of the survey online and there will be several opportunities to discuss the results across campus. To see the results of the last "What Happens Here" survey, visit institutionalresearch.vassar.edu.

WHO CAN I CONTACT IF I HAVE MORE QUESTIONS?

If you would like to discuss your rights as a research participant, or have other questions about this survey, please email Vassar Institutional Research, or contact the Vassar Institutional Review Board (IRB).

For questions about sexual violence prevention and survivor advocacy services at Vassar College please email the Support, Advocacy, & Violence Prevention Office at savp@vassar.edu or visit savp.vassar.edu for more information.

For questions regarding Title IX related issues or to file an official report with Vassar College, please contact the Title IX office at titleix@vassar.edu or visit eoaa.vassar.edu/title-ix/ for more information.

ANYTHING ELSE?

Stay tuned for social media announcements on survey programming!

SUPPORT RESOURCES

This survey can be difficult for many people for a variety of reasons. If you would like support, please feel free to reach out to any of the on- and/or off-campus resources explained below:

ON-CAMPUS

CONFIDENTIAL RESOURCES

- Vassar Counseling Services
- Vassar Health Service
- Clergy Members

Confidential Resources are NOT required to share any information with the College about reports of sexual assault, sexual harassment, dating violence, or stalking (unless there is a threat of harm, a child involved, a weapon involved, or an unknown dangerous person on campus).

PRIVATE RESOURCES

- Vassar Support, Advocacy, & Violence Prevention Office (SAVP)
- Vassar Sexual Assault Response Team
- Vassar Health Promotion & Education
- Vassar Office of Residential Life Student Fellows & House Student Advisors

Private Resources are required to fill out an Anonymous Report Form that does not include any of the student's identifying information (unless there is a threat of harm, a child involved, a weapon involved, or an unknown dangerous person on campus).

RESPONSIBLE EMPLOYEE

All other non-student Employees, including:

- Faculty
- Staff
- Administrators
- Coaches
- Safety and Security

Responsible Employees are required to notify the Title IX office of disclosures regarding all forms of sexual misconduct. Can do so by completing the Formal Sexual Misconduct & Gender-based Violence Reporting Form, or contacting the office in-person, via phone, or via email.

REPORTING RESOURCES

- Vassar Safety and Security
- Vassar Title IX / Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action

Reporting Resources are required to investigate official reports. Information will be shared only as necessary with people who need to be told, including officers, investigators, witnesses, and the accused individual.

OFF-CAMPUS

CONFIDENTIAL RESOURCES

- Medical Doctors
- Therapists & Psychiatrists

LEGAL RESOURCES

- Dutchess County Sheriff's Office
- Dutchess Family Court

VASSAR COLLEGE

APRIL 25 2018

**WHAT
HAPPENS
HERE II
THE
RESULTS**

PRESENTATION OUTLINE



Introduction: Purpose + Overview

Section One: Numbers + Trends

Section Two: Progress

Section Three: Resources

Section Four: Where Do We Go From Here?

03

CONTENT WARNING + RESOURCES AVAILABLE



This presentation contains data about sexual misconduct and partner violence at Vassar. Please take care of yourselves and one another. Feel free to step out if you need to.

Outside this room there are Metcalf counselors and Sexual Assault Response Team Advocates whom you can speak with if you find yourself in need of support.

The Vassar College Survey of Social Behaviors and Student Experiences was conducted in the 2016-2017 academic year.

All students enrolled at Vassar were invited to participate in the confidential survey, and 40% of the student body responded. The sample of respondents was representative of the full college population in terms of gender, year of study, and race/ethnicity.

Where possible, we compared results from the 2017 survey to results from the 2015 survey.

WHAT HAPPENS HERE

A Survey of Social Behaviors and Student Experiences

COMMON TERMS & TERMINOLOGY



Respondent: student who responded to the survey

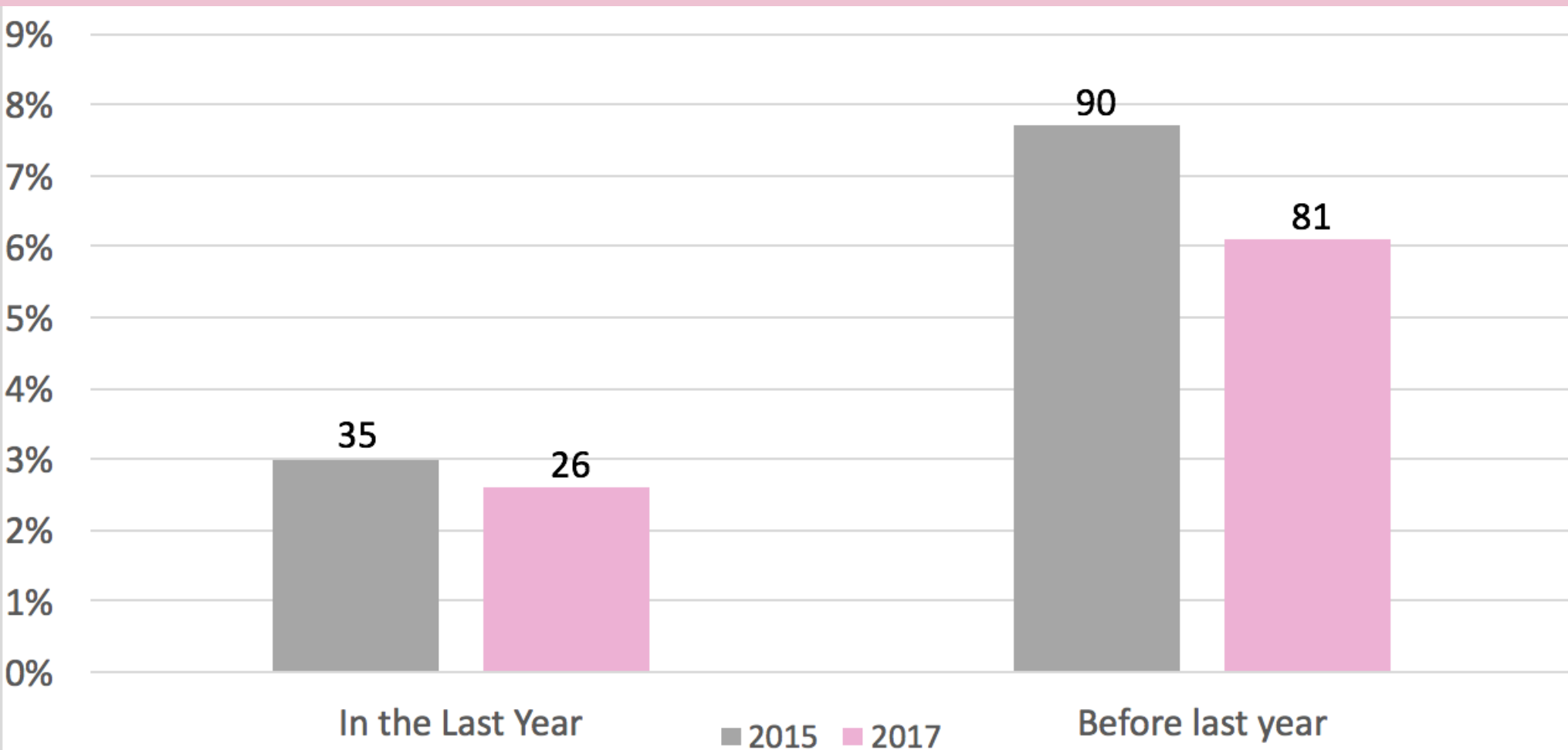
"Reported experiencing": indicated having such an experience in response to the survey

Formal Response/Complaint: indicated having filed a formal report/complaint and initiating a formal investigation with the Title IX Office

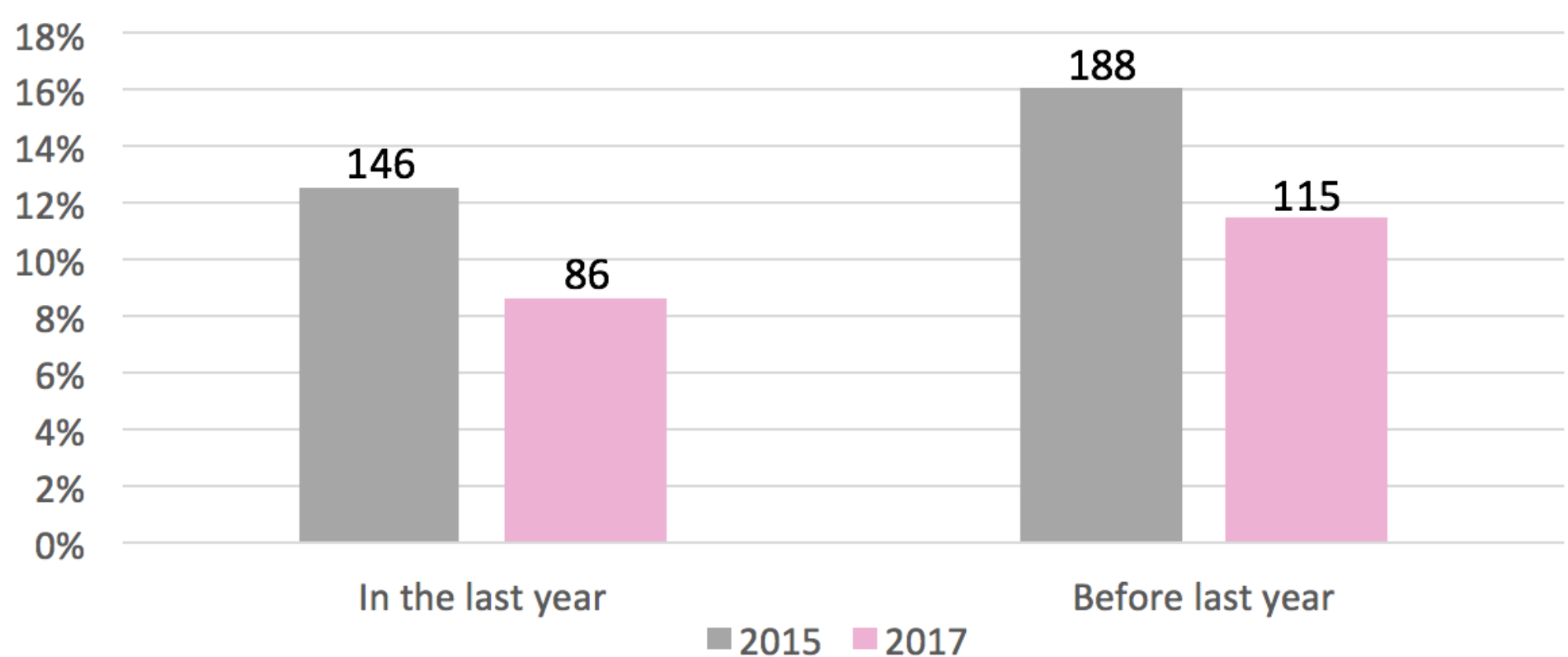
Complainant: individual who files a formal report/complaint against another

Accused: individual who is accused of an offense in a formal report/complaint

PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS WHO REPORTED EXPERIENCING PENETRATIVE NON-CONSENSUAL SEXUAL CONTACT WHILE AT VASSAR



PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS WHO REPORTED EXPERIENCING NON-PENETRATIVE NON-CONSENSUAL SEXUAL CONTACT WHILE AT VASSAR



RATES OF PENETRATIVE NONCONSENSUAL SEXUAL CONTACT + GENDER IDENTITY

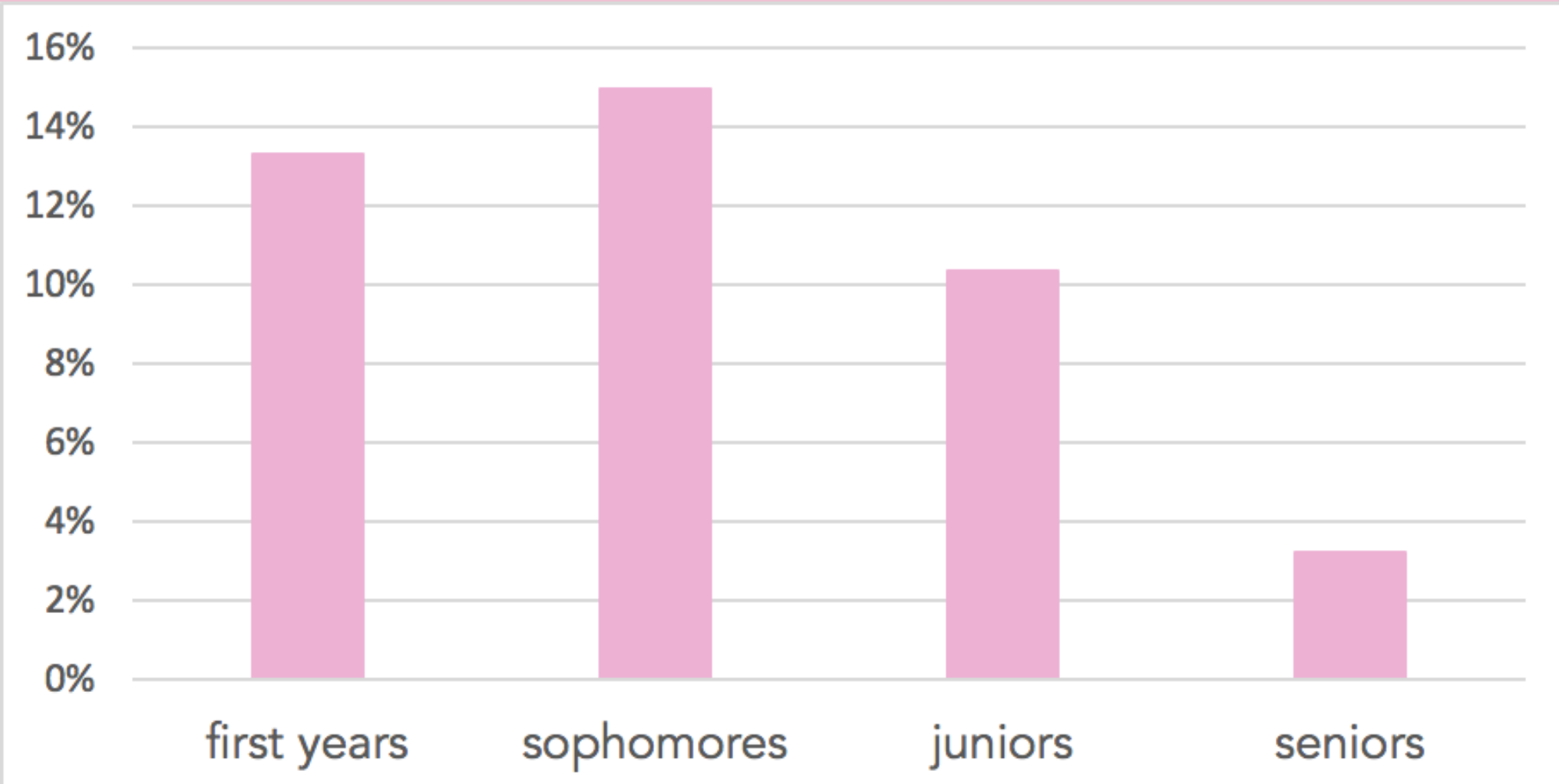
Rates of penetrative non-consensual sexual contact during their time at Vassar.

Cis Women	10.7%
Cis Men	2.9%
Trans/Queer/Another	12.7%

RATES OF PENETRATIVE NONCONSENSUAL SEXUAL CONTACT + RACIAL AND GENDER IDENTITY

	White	Black	Asian	Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	Other	Hispanic
Cis Women	12.0%	9.5%	5.2%	12.5%	16.7%	14.6%
Cis Men	2.8%	6.7%	2.4%	0%	0%	0%
Trans/Queer/Another	10.5%	12.5%	33.3%	0%	12.5%	14.3%

RATES OF NONCONSENSUAL SEXUAL CONTACT IN THE LAST YEAR AT VASSAR + CLASS YEAR



FACTORS OF COERCION + FORCE

89.1% of those who experienced nonconsensual sexual contact reported that **alcohol or drugs** were involved in the incident

35.9% of those who experienced nonconsensual sexual contact reported that **physical intimidation** was involved in the incident

14.1% of those who experienced nonconsensual sexual contact reported that **physical force** was involved in the incident

NEGATIVE IMPACTS ON SURVIVORS



51.6% of those who experienced nonconsensual sexual contact experienced **lost or declined interest in intimacy of sex**

35.9% experienced **eating disorders or discomforts**

39.1% experienced an **inability to do work or complete assignments**

39.1% experienced a **decline in grades**

DISCLOSING AN INCIDENT + USING RESOURCES



73.8% of those who experienced nonconsensual sexual contact discussed the incident w/ a friend or family member

about a third of those who experienced nonconsensual sexual contact during their time at Vassar discussed the incident with a **Vassar resource:**

- 9.3%** spoke to the Vassar Counselors or Staff

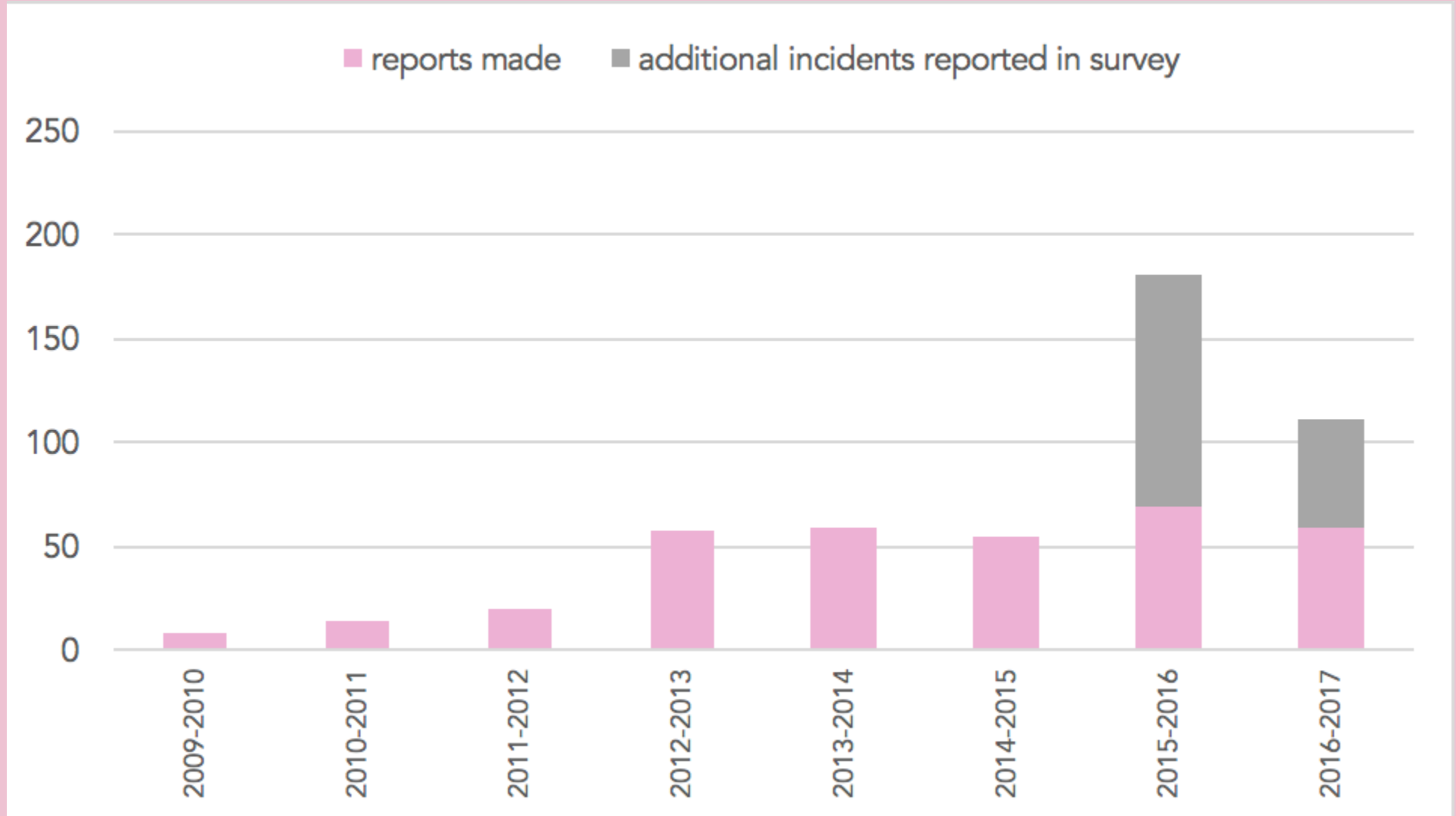
- 20.2%** spoke to a Vassar Sexual Assault Response Team Advocate

- 4.9%** spoke to the Title IX Office

- 3.5%** of survey respondents who reported experiencing nonconsensual sexual contact reported filing a formal report to Title IX

SART/SAVP REPORTING HISTORY

Number of reports of sexual misconduct made to a Vassar survivor advocate per year



TITLE IX STUDENT REPORTING HISTORY

January 2016 through December 2017


total number of cases reported: 94

total number of cases referred to a hearing: 5

number of cases in which the accused was
found responsible: 4/5, or 80%

number of cases in which the accused was found
responsible that resulted in **suspension or expulsion:**
3/4, or 75%

KNOWLEDGE + PERCEPTIONS



56.1% of survey participants responded that they have read Vassar's sexual misconduct and assault policy

91.8% of survey participants responded that they have received education on sexual misconduct and assault prevention, but only **19.1%** are satisfied or very satisfied with the information received

KNOWLEDGE + PERCEPTIONS



48% of survey participants agree or strongly agree that Vassar College would take a report of sexual assault seriously

20.2% of survey participants believe that Vassar College would work to remedy underlying factors on campus

PROGRESS WE'VE MADE

Since our first What Happens Here survey in the Spring of 2015, 

the TITLE IX OFFICE has

- formed a Title IX **Student Advisory Committee** and collaborated with **SAVP student interns**
- recruited and trained faculty and administrators to serve as "**Process Advisors**" who can provide support to students involved in a Title IX Claim during and after the process
- held **focus groups** for various student populations, including LGBTQIA students and students of color
- held online and in-person **trainings** for the entire community on reporting responsibilities, process, and adjudication

PROGRESS WE'VE MADE

SAVP (Sexual Assault and Violence Prevention) has

- instituted **mandatory trainings** for campus student leaders: athletes and organization leaders
- increased **educational outreach on supporting survivors** including ongoing workshop series, new materials
- scheduled further **SART advocate trainings** for faculty, staff, and administration
- created the position of **Violence Prevention Educator**

ONGOING PROJECTS & EFFORTS

residential model: increased training and support of student fellows on strategies for prevention and response

ongoing evaluation of **orientation** training materials and programming

peer-to-peer resources: looking for enhancements, possibilities & best practices

**WHAT DO YOU
WANT TO
SEE?**



WHAT RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE?

REPORT ON/OFF CAMPUS:

Town of Poughkeepsie Police:

911 or (845) 485-3666

NYS Police CSAVU:

(844) 845-7269

Vassar Safety & Security:

(845) 437-7333

Vassar Title IX Coordinator:

(845) 437-7924

FREE CONFIDENTIAL MEDICAL CARE

SAFE Exams at

Vassar Brothers Medical Center:

(845) 454-8500

Mid Hudson Regional Hospital:

(845) 483-5000

Vassar Health Services

(845) 437-5800

WHAT RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE?

FREE CONFIDENTIAL COUNSELING

Vassar Counseling Services:	(845) 437-5700
Center for Victim Safety & Support:	(845) 452-7272
Poughkeepsie Grace Smith House:	(845) 452-7155

ADVOCACY & SUPPORT

Vassar Sexual Assault Response Team (24/7):	(845) 437-7333
Vassar SAVP Director & Survivor Advocate:	(845) 437-7863
Center for Victim Safety & Support Rape Crisis/Crime	(845) 452-7272
Center for Victim Safety & Support Domestic Violence	(845) 485-5550

VASSAR ACCOMODATIONS

Vassar Sexual Assault Response Team (24/7):	(845) 437-7333
Vassar SAVP Director & Survivor Advocate:	(845) 437-7863
Vassar Title IX Coordinator	(845) 437-7924

WHERE CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

visit

www.vassar.edu/whathappenshere/
for the full report