



September 17, 2013

Dear Willamette community,

In accordance with the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act, Willamette annually publishes statistics on "alleged criminal offenses" on and near university grounds. As a member of the President's Working Group on Sexual Assault & Harassment, we would like to make you aware of Willamette's forthcoming publication of 2012 data and share information about how it relates to our efforts to encourage and expand disclosure of sexual misconduct and sexual violence.

For calendar year 2012, Willamette received twelve reports of 'forcible sexual assault' (as it is categorized in the Clery Act; Willamette's complete list of crimes reportable under Clery is available online at <http://www.willamette.edu/dept/safety/security/crime/>)

The following information may assist your consideration of this news:

- The Clery Act requires Willamette to report data from the last calendar year, January to December. Many people on campus are used to seeing data represented in the context of the academic year, June to May. There were nineteen disclosures of sexual assault during the 2012 academic year
- Because of recent modifications to the Violence Against Women Act and other federal policy and regulatory changes, all institutions of higher education are required to track reports of stalking and relationship violence, and Willamette will be including those statistics in its Clery report next year and beyond.
- The Clery Act requires Willamette to only report data regarding crimes that occur on campus or reasonably contiguous to campus, but please know that Willamette responds to all reports of sexual misconduct between individuals ostensibly 'under the control' of the university (students, faculty and staff), regardless of location, as required by Title IX.
- The Clery Act requires that we include data regarding crimes reported anonymously or confidentially.
 - o In this context, "confidential" means that the report was received by a confidential resource on campus, such as a staff member at Bishop Wellness Center and is provided in aggregate for purposes of Clery

reporting, without any specific identifying information about the individual. Confidential reports are cross-referenced and determined not to be duplicative before they are included in the Clery data.

- o "Anonymous" means no identifying information was provided. Anonymous reports could be received by Sexual Assault Response Allies (SARAs) or others on campus trained to receive and pass on such reports, but the person disclosing to SARAs may have chosen not to provide identifying information. Therefore, some of the assaults reported under Clery for the 2012 and 2011 calendar years could include duplicates of reports we received that were not anonymous, but it's impossible to tell, so we count them anyway
- Title IX requires the university to follow up on every disclosure of sexual assault to the extent possible based on the information provided. University policy requires us to defer to the wishes of the survivor (the recipient of the unwanted behavior) as to how she or he wants to proceed – or not proceed – beyond disclosure that the assault took place. Note: University officials would be required to take action against the wishes of the individual disclosing sexual assault if there was evidence of a threat to the community, e.g., a pattern of behavior)
- More disclosure is good. When individuals let someone know, the chances they will receive support and care exponentially improve, as does the university's ability to hold wrongdoers accountable. While the existence of even one sexual assault here or anywhere else is one too many, we want to encourage everyone to report it should it occur.

That said, the figure that Willamette reported under forcible sexual assault (term used by the Clery Act) rose in 2011 from two to eleven, and twelve for calendar year 2012. One explanation for the rise in reported incidents is that recent modifications to federal law and policy provide a more inclusive and broader definition of the types of crimes that must be reported.

To this end, revised interpretations of federal regulations primarily, the Dear Colleague letter of April 2011, <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/letters/colleague201104.html> likely caused many institutions, including Willamette, to start including anonymous and confidential sexual assault reports in their Clery reports. 2011 and 2012 are the first calendar years that Willamette's Clery report included aggregate, non-identifying data from Bishop and anonymous

In academic year 20123, about one-third of students who disclosed a sexual assault to the university elected to pursue a case through the student conduct system.