

Information and Consent

A rape myth is a false or stereotyped belief about sexual violence that deny, downplay, or justify sexual violence. These myths often blame victims/survivors, excuse perpetrators, sustain gender inequalities, and discourage victims/survivors from reporting (Musonda & Chishimba, 2024; O'Connor, 2020). One common rape myth includes the false belief that a survivor/victim's clothing invites sexual violence (Musonda & Chishimba, 2024).

You are being asked to participate in a research study that involves completing an anonymous survey. Please review this consent form and discuss any questions you may have with your friends, your family or any other support you have before making your decision. This consent form may include unfamiliar information, please ask a member of the research team for clarification as needed in person at the event or email the Primary Investigator Candice Waddell-Henowitch (waddellc@brandonu.ca).

The **purpose of the study** is to evaluate a visual display that addresses rape myth, empowers victim/survivors to share their experiences, and raises awareness of sexual violence on campus.

The term sexual violence used for this project refers to **any attempted or completed sexual act that is unwanted by the victim/survivor.**

Who is eligible to participate?

- All Brandon University students and employees
- Visitors on Brandon University Campuses over the age of 18 years.

Prize

Once you have completed the pre and post survey and selected finish, you will have the opportunity to enter a draw with a chance to win a **\$50.00 Tim Hortons Gift Card**. Entering the draw is optional. If you are interested in entering the draw, a separate webpage will open for you to provide your email address. Your contact information will not be linked with the results of the survey that you completed. The winner will be selected using a random number generator and the prize will be emailed to the address listed. Only participants that complete a pre-and-post survey will be eligible to win the prize.

Consent

As a participant in this study, you will be asked to spend approximately **5 minutes of time** to complete the survey (via JotForm) prior to entering the exhibit, and **5 minutes of your time** after you exit the exhibit.

If you consent to participate in this study, you will be asked questions related to your beliefs and experiences about sexual violence.

Your decision to take part in this study is **voluntary**. You are welcome to attend the event without completing the surveys.

Withdrawal: You may decide to withdraw from this study by choosing to close the survey. If you close the survey, none of your responses will be saved. Once you have completed the pre and post aspects of the survey and selected "finish", you will have one week after completion to withdraw from the study. To withdraw, you will need to remember your unique identifier.

Privacy: All information that you provide will remain anonymous as the survey does not ask for personal information.

Confidentiality

We will do everything possible to keep your personal information confidential. The anonymous survey data will only be accessible to members of the research team using a password. Once the survey has closed, the raw data will be stored securely in Microsoft Teams and only members of the research team will have the ability to access these files. If any of your written responses include information that could identify you, such as names or locations, a member of the research team will remove or replace it with a generic label (e.g., 'Name 1' or 'Location 1') to ensure your responses are de-identified.

The contact information of the prize winner will also be saved on the Microsoft Teams page, on a separate channel. The Microsoft Teams page and all files will be deleted in December 2028. The email addresses of all who enter the draw for the gift card will be deleted once the winner has received the prize.

We may wish to quote your words directly in the reports and publications resulting from this research. With regards to being quoted, you can select yes or no at the end of the survey. If this question is not answered, we will not directly quote your responses.

Risks and Discomforts: There may be risks associated with this research. Talking or witnessing displays that deal with sexual violence and experiences with sexual violence may trigger an emotional reaction and it might also bring back difficult memories. This may cause you some distress. If you choose to participate the following things will be done to attempt to minimize any distress caused by the survey:

- Skip survey questions
- Select “prefer not to answer”
- End the survey
- Access resources and supports

Resources and Supports are available:

- Klinic Sexual Assault Crisis Program 24-hour Hotline: 1-888-292-7565
- Adult Crisis Line, Prairie Mountain Health, 24/7 at 1-888-379-7699
- Manitoba Suicide Prevention and Support Line 24/7 at 1-877-435-7170
- If you are in immediate need of help, call 911 or go to the nearest hospital.

On campus – Sexual Violence Education and Prevention Coordinator Jessica Laxdal

Monday – Friday 0830 – 1630

(204) 727 9740 OR laxdalj@brandonu.ca

For more information on consent, please see <https://www.gov.mb.ca/youarenotalone/consent.html>

These resources are also included in posters and pamphlets around the exhibit.

Benefits: There is minimal direct benefit to the individual participant; however, the findings will be used to break down rape myth, empower victim/survivors to share their experiences, and raise awareness of sexual violence on campus.

We intend to share our findings in several ways, such as presentations, informational pamphlets, posters, and podcasts. We may also publish the findings in a peer reviewed journal.

Costs

There is no cost to participate in this research.

The exhibit and the associated research have been funded by a BURC Research Event Grant.

Ethics Approval: Ethics approval has been obtained from Brandon University Research Ethics Committee (certificate number #23633). If you have ethics-related questions or concerns about this study, please contact the Brandon University Research Ethics Committee at (204) 727-9712 or BUREC@brandonu.ca

By providing your consent, you are not waiving your rights to legal recourse in the event of research-related harm. We will not commercialize the findings. There is no perceived conflict of interest on the part of the research team.

Contact Information

Anyone with questions or concerns, is welcome to contact the Principle Investigator: Candice Waddell-Henowitch WaddellC@BrandonU.CA, or another member of the research team: Nadine Smith SmithN@BrandonU.CA, Andrea Thomson ThomsonA@BrandonU.ca, Jessica Laxdal LaxdalJ@BrandonU.CA or Taylor Goertz saintervention@genesis-house.ca

Participation

If you are eligible to participate, and consent to do so, please complete the online survey.

References

Musonda, L. C., & Chishimba, H. (2024). Rape myth acceptance among undergraduate students at the University of Zambia. *Cogent Public Health*, 11(1). <https://doi.org/10.1080/27707571.2024.2365450>

O'Connor, J. (2020). The longitudinal effects of rape myth beliefs and rape proclivity. *Psychology of Men and Masculinity*. <https://doi.org/10.1037/men0000324>