Reporting Sexual Assault at a Large, Private Research Institution



INTRODUCTION

\star	One in 5 women and one in 16 men are sexually	
	assaulted in college but over 90% of college	
	sexual assault victims do not report the assault	
	(National Sexual Violence Resource Center,	
	2018).	
\star	A lack of reporting is occurring	
\star	Mix of resources available to victims of sexual	
	assault (Holtzman & Menning, 2015).	
\star	sexual assault will be defined as "unwanted	
	sexual contact or activity that is dangerous or	
	sexually charged," (Holtzman & Menning, 2015).	
\star	According to a study called Sexual Assault on	
	College Campuses: Substance Use, Victim Status	
	Awareness, and Barriers to Reporting, "rape	
	culture, which contributes to minimizing	
	victimization and promoting self-blame,	
	influences a reporting process that further	
	disempowers victims" (Shwartz et al, 2017). Rape	
	culture will be defined as minimizing	
	victimization and promoting self blame when	
	referenced further.	

RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES

- \star Interview with faculty member of University X
- \bigstar Collect data from document
- \bigstar Code interview
- \star Create graphs and charts from the data collected from document



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DATA AND FINDINGS

Analyze data

Analyze the data

collected through the

follow up surveys



Figure 1: Undergraduate perceptions of how university campus officials would take a report of sexual/other misconduct



CONCLUSIONS AND ANALYSIS

- ★ Lack of reporting occurring at this university
- \star Clear that University X is **actively** trying to **address** this issue.
 - Target youth groups that would be logical places to go to for support if assaulted
 - Showing up at information fairs on campus.
 - Educate families about consent and sexual assault **before** their students reach campus
- \star Coming up with creative ways to combat the lack of reporting as well as the overall issue of sexual assault.
 - Training Resident Advisors
 - Working closely with campus police
 - **Goal**: arm students and staff with the knowledge they need to be effective and empathetic support systems.
 - Sexual assault training into freshman orientation.
- \star University X has a sufficient amount of resources for its students.
 - Students are **overwhelmed**
 - Main Issue: Lack of clarity about purpose of different offices
- \star Female students at University X have less faith in the University's ability to

handle sexual assault or misconduct complaints than male students.



60.00%

40.00%

20.00%

0.00%

Witnessed

REFERENCES

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possible.



IMPLICATIONS AND NEXT STEPS

It is important that the number of resources that University X has does not mean that there is a large number of students reporting their sexual assaults. If there are too many resources, it can be more overwhelming and daunting which therefore discourages people from reporting sexual

Therefore, the researcher proposes that when sending out information about sexual assault on campus to parents prior to the school year starting, the University makes clear distinctions between the offices that can handle sexual assault as well as make a recommendation for the first steps

Additionally, due to the disparity in belief in the system between male and female students, University X must take steps to display their willingness to take this issue seriously. This can be done through actively continuing the conversation about sexual assault on campus and by the university's actions when they do receive reports of sexual