

Safer Campuses: Preventing Sexual Violence



NAGPS Legislative
Concerns Committee

We urge Congress to produce tougher policies on campus sexual violence and misconduct, and exact definitions of sexual misconduct to hold perpetrators and universities accountable

Currently:

Currently, campus sexual assault policies are dictated by the Clery Act, Title IX and Campus Save Act, and left to the interpretation and categorization of higher education officials at respective university campuses. While the number of cases reported on campuses is increasing, the reporting of facts still remains diluted. In addition, we see stigmatization not only on our campuses, but also within our culture.

Facts about Campus Sexual Violence

Campus Climate on Sexual Violence

- One in every 10 enrolled students on campuses experiences rape or sexual assault [1].
- Amongst graduate-professional student population, 8.8% of females and 2.2% of males, have experienced rape or sexual assault [1].
- Relatively small percentage (25% or less) of even the most serious incidents are reported to an organization or agency [1].

Cost and Impact

- Annually, rape costs the U.S. more than any other crime (\$127 billion) followed by assault (\$93 billion), murder (\$71 billion) and drunk driving (\$61 billion) [2].

Vulnerable Populations

- 21% of TGQN (transgender, genderqueer and nonconforming) college students have been sexually assaulted [1].
- 31.6% of females with a disability reporting unwanted sexual contact [1].
- Asian women are least likely to report sexual assault/harassment (7.7%) [1].
- 15.1% of Native Americans and Native Alaskans, 12% of Hispanics, and 13.1% of African American women experience non consensual sexual violence [1].

Long Term Impact of Sexual Violence

- Around 70% of sexual violence victims experience some form of distress - a higher proportion than victims of any other violent crime [3].
- 94% of victims experience post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) symptoms 2 weeks after experiencing sexual violence [4].
- 33% of rape victims contemplate suicide [5].

47.7 %

of students reported being victims of sexual harassment since enrolling at Institutes of Higher Education [1]

One of the reasons for students not reporting incidents of sexual assault or sexual misconduct [1]:

“did not think anything would be done about it”

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References

[1] Report on the AAU Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Assault and Sexual Misconduct

https://www.aau.edu/uploadedFiles/AAU_Publications/AAU_Reports/Sexual_Assault_Campus_Survey/AAU_Campus_Climate_Survey_12_14_15.pdf

[2] Miller, T. R., Cohen, M.A., & Wiersema, B. (1996). *Victim costs and consequences: A new look* (NCJ 155282). Retrieved from U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice.

[3] Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Socio-emotional Impact of Violent Crimes* (2014).

[4] Riggs, D.S., Murdock, T., & Walsh, W. (1992). A prospective examination of post-traumatic stress disorder in rape victims. *Journal of Traumatic Stress*: 455-475

[5] Kilpatrick, D.G, Edmunds, C.N., & Seymour, A.K. (1992). *Rape in America: A Report to the Nation*. Arlington, VA: National Victim Center and Medical University of South Carolina.