

**Rape Myth Acceptance amongst College
Students: An Assessment of Utah Valley
University**

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Maldonado

What Is Rape Myth Acceptance?

- Rape Myth Acceptance is the degree to which someone endorses rape myths.
- Rape Myths Examples:
 - She was wearing revealing clothing so she deserved to be raped.
 - She was drunk so she was asking to be raped.
 - If a girl didn't say "no" she can't claim rape.

Research Question:

- To what degree, do Utah Valley University students accept rape myths?
- Are there demographic factors that potentially play a role?

Literature Review

- Every 98 seconds, an American is sexually assaulted.
- 9/10 victims of rape are female.
- Rape is the most under-reported crime; 63% of sexual assaults are not reported to police.
- Whether or not a rape is reported is highly correlated to the victim's rape myth acceptance.

Research Design

- Survey:
 - Includes Demographic Questions
 - Age
 - Gender
 - Year in College
 - Religious Affiliation
 - Political Affiliation
 - A Victim of Sexual Assault
 - College Athlete Status
 - Illinois Rape Myth Acceptance Scale

Illinois Rape Myth Acceptance Scale - Subscale 1

Subscale 1. She asked for it...

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
1. If a girl is raped while she is drunk, she is at least somewhat responsible for letting things get out of hand.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2. When girls go to parties wearing slutty clothes, they are asking for trouble.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3. If a girl goes to a room alone with a guy at a party, it is her own fault if she is raped.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4. If a girl acts like a slut, eventually she is going to get into trouble.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5. When girls get raped, it's often because the way they said "no" was unclear.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6. If a girl initiates kissing or hooking up, she should not be surprised if a guy assumes she wants to have sex.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Illinois Rape Myth Acceptance Scale - Subscale 2

Subscale 2. He didn't mean to

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
7. When guys rape, it is usually because of their strong desire for sex.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
8. Guys don't usually intend to force sex on a girl, but sometimes they get too sexually carried away.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
9. Rape happens when a guy's sex drive goes out of control.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
10. If a guy is drunk, he might rape someone unintentionally.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
11. It shouldn't be considered rape if a guy is drunk and didn't realize what he was doing.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
12. If both people are drunk, it can't be rape.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Illinois Rape Myth Acceptance Scale - Subscale 3

Subscale 3. It wasn't really rape

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
13. If a girl doesn't physically resist sex—even if protesting verbally—it can't be considered rape.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
14. If a girl doesn't physically fight back, you can't really say it was rape.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
15. A rape probably doesn't happen if a girl doesn't have any bruises or marks.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
16. If the accused "rapist" doesn't have a weapon, you really can't call it rape.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
17. If a girl doesn't say "no" she can't claim rape.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Illinois Rape Myth Acceptance - Subscale 4

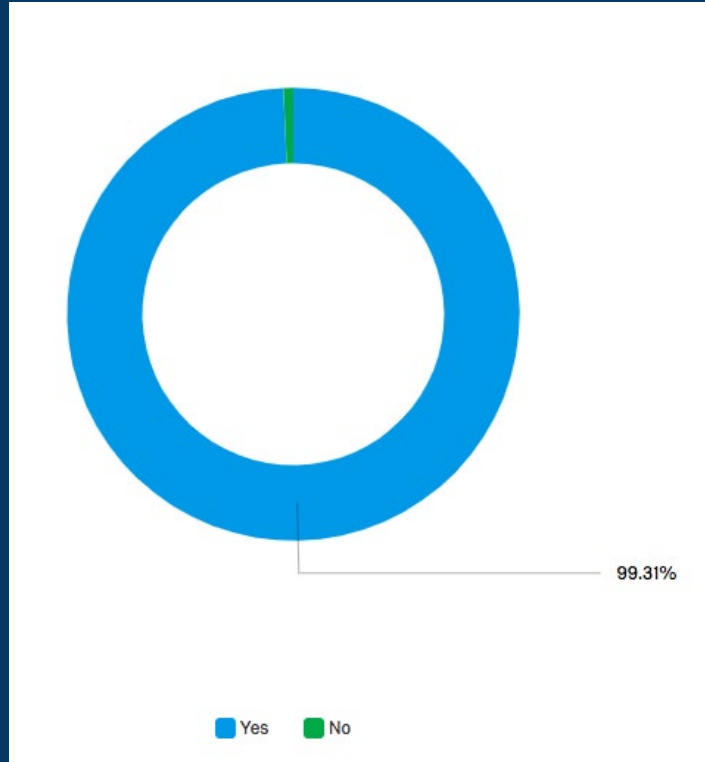
Subscale 4. She lied

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
18. A lot of times, girls who say they were raped agreed to have sex and then regret it.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
19. Rape accusations are often used as a way of getting back at guys.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
20. A lot of times, girls who say they were raped often led the guy on and then had regrets.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
21. A lot of times, girls who claim they were raped have emotional problems.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
22. Girls who are caught cheating on their boyfriends sometimes claim it was rape.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

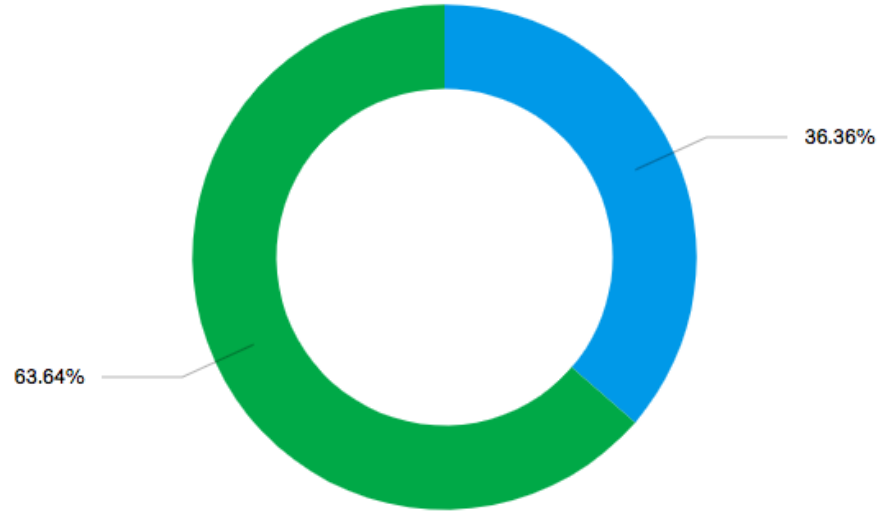
Survey Population:

- Utah Valley University Students
- Random Sample from IRI - sent by Kameron Barkle
- 1,000 emails sent
- 145 responses

Survey Results - Are You 18 Years of Age or Older?

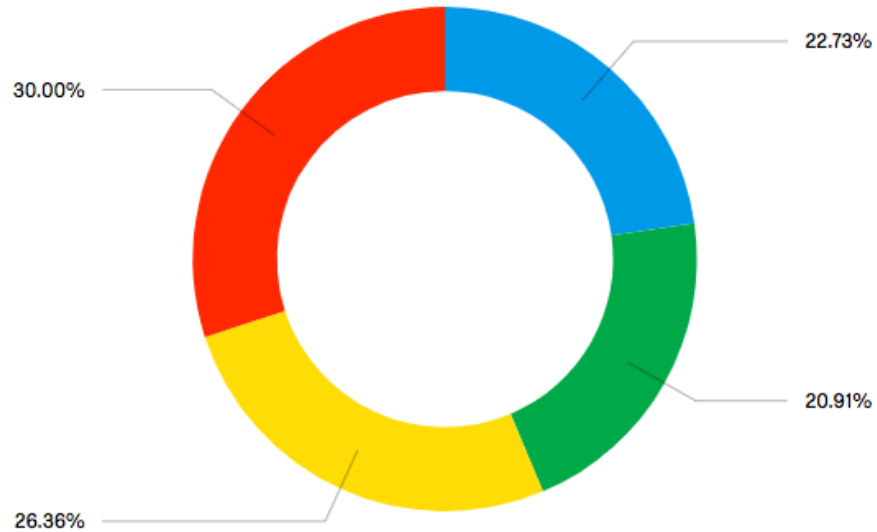


Survey Results - Gender



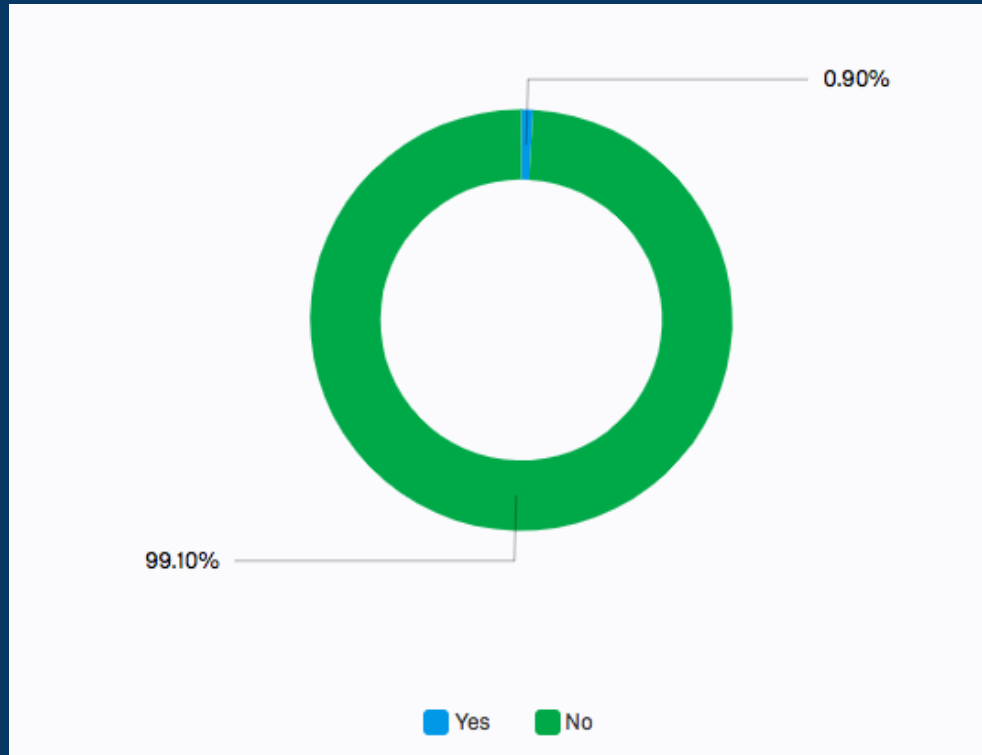
Male Female

Survey Results - College Year

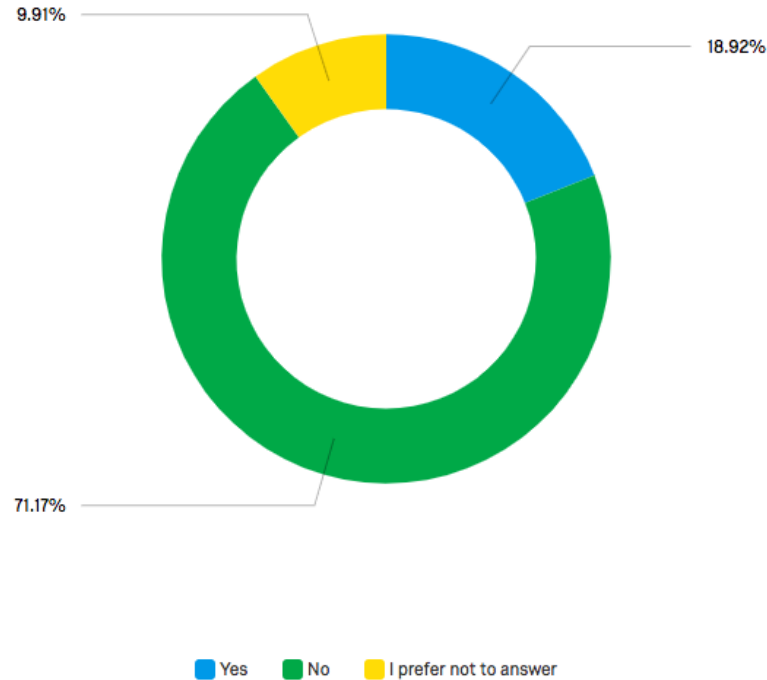


■ Freshman ■ Sophomore ■ Junior ■ Senior

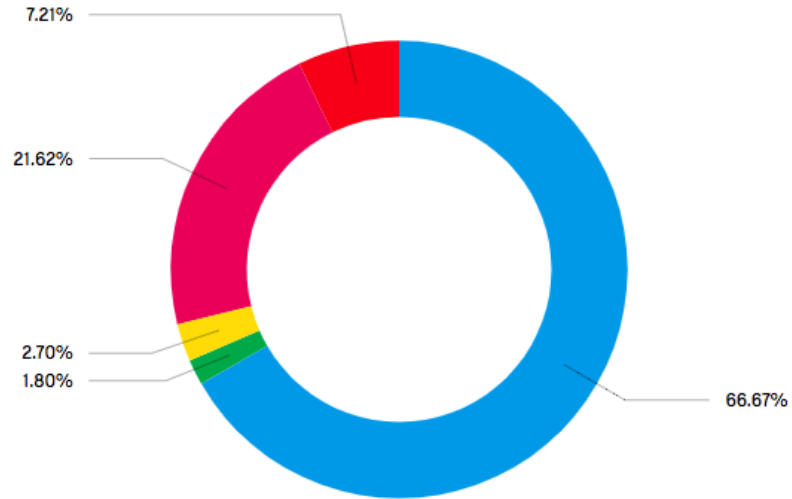
Survey Results - Athletic Status



Survey Results - Victim of Sexual Assault

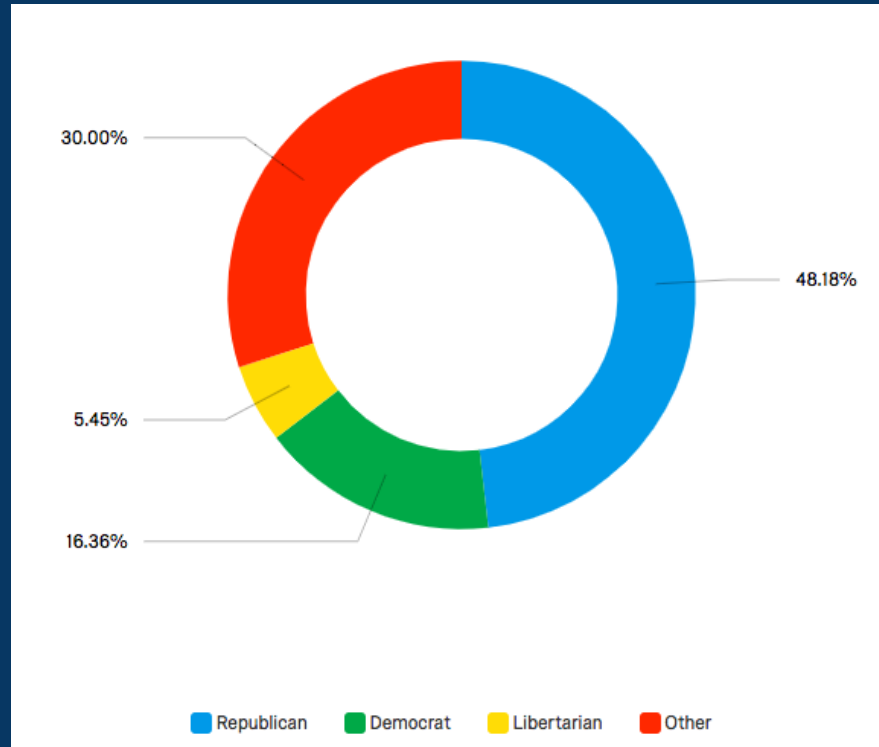


Survey Results - Religious Affiliation

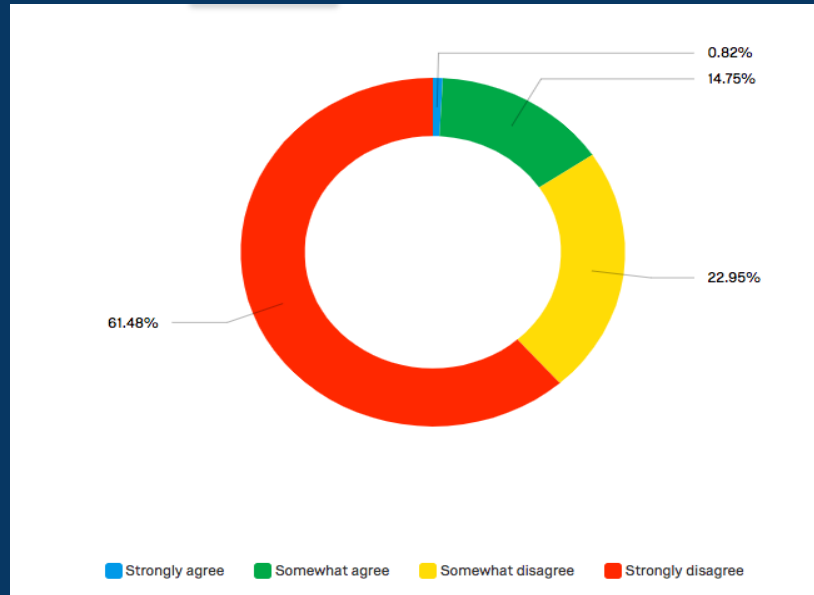


Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Catholic Baptist Hindu Buddhist I am not religious I prefer not to answer

Survey Results - Political Party



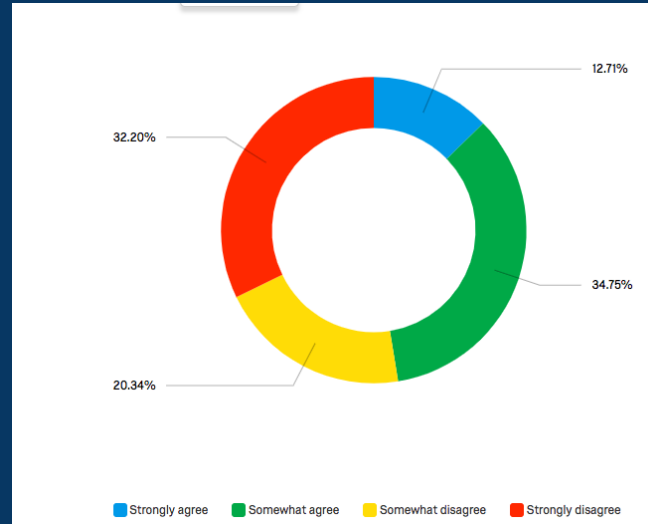
Survey Results: Subscale 1 - She Asked For It



Most Accepted Rape Myth in this section:

If a girl goes to a room alone with a guy, it is her own fault she is raped.

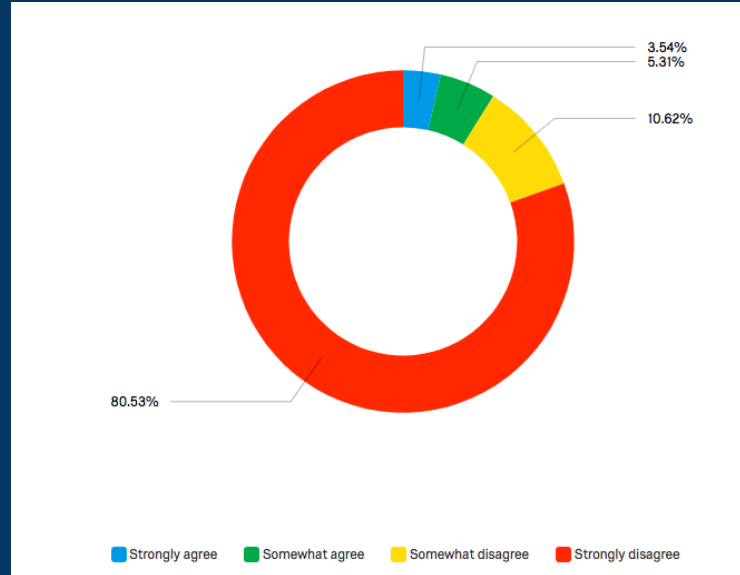
Survey Results: Subscale 2 - He Didn't Mean Too



Most accepted Rape Myth from this section:

It shouldn't be considered rape if a guy is drunk and doesn't know what he is doing.

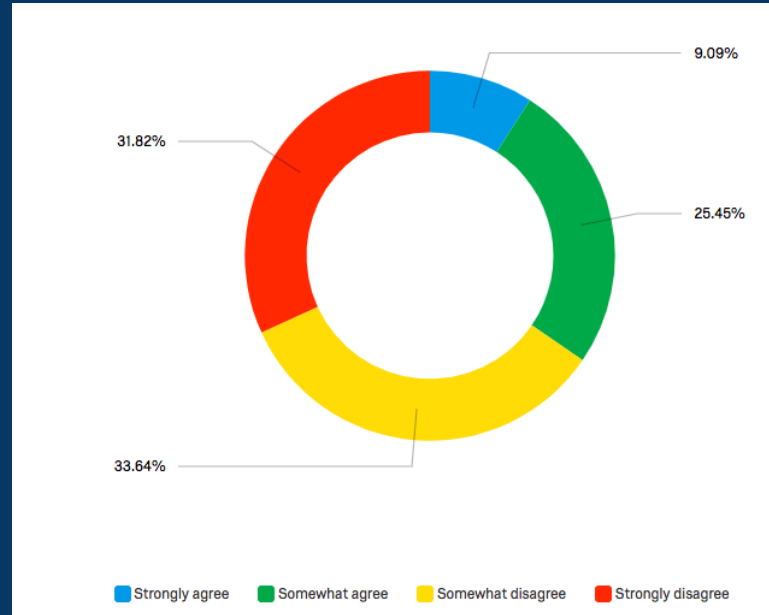
Survey Results: Subscale 3 - It wasn't really rape



Most Accepted Rape Myth:

If the accused rapist doesn't have a weapon, you can't really call it rape.

Survey Results: Subscale 4 - She Lied



Most Accepted Rape Myth:

A lot of times, girls who claim they were raped have emotional problems.



Conclusion

- There is room for improvement in the Rape Myth Acceptance of Utah Valley University students.
- Confidence Interval:
 - Individual Aspects vs Whole Study
 - Whole Study: **95% Confidence Interval: 3.21 ± 0.137**

Risks & Problems Encountered

- IRB needed a few revisions.
- Our initial survey would not send out.
- Misunderstandings from Participant:

This survey's wording can be damaging to a victim of sexual assault. At NO point was MALE/lgbtq+ Victim inclusion.

The questions were either geared to tell someone with those beliefs they are correct.

Oh and what is slutty clothing?

Victim blaming is even in the questions.

Sexual assault is an act of power and control.

Not a result of something

Any sexual assault is NOT A CONSEQUENCE OF A VICTIMS ACTION

Please direct whoever did this survey to : UCASA

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 4, 2019, at 12:42 PM, Lorenz, Glenn <glenn@ucsb.edu> wrote:

Rape Myths Prevention

- Promote Social Norms that protect against violence
- Teach skills to prevent sexual violence
- Provide opportunities to empower and support girls and women
- Create protective environments
- Support victims

Benefits

- We need to know which populations to target in order to lower Rape Myth Acceptance.
- Knowledge can also lead to:
 - Lower amount of sex crimes
 - Higher reporting rates
 - Less victim blaming

Victim Resources

UVU Resources:

- UVU Police 801-863-5555
- Student Conduct Office 801-863-8665
- Student Health/Counseling 801-863-8876
- Women's Success Center 801-863-8665

Local Resources:

- 24-Hour Rape Crisis Line 801-356-2511
- Rape Recovery Center 801-467-7273
- Planned Parenthood Orem 801-226-5246
- Orem Victim's Advocate 801-229-7128
- Provo Victim's Advocate 801-852-6375
- National Sex Abuse Network 800-656-4673
- HIV/AIDS Hotline 800-366-2437

References

- Egan, R., & Wilson, J. (2011, August 1). Rape Victim's Attitudes To Rape Myth Acceptance. . Retrieved June 19, 2014, from <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/13218719.2011.585128>
- Koss, M.P. (1985). The hidden rape victim: Personality, attitudinal, and situational characteristics. *Psychology of Women Quarterly*, 8, 134-139.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/sexualviolence/prevention.html>
- UVU. (n.d.). Title IX Sexual Misconduct. Retrieved from: <https://www.uvu.edu/equalopportunity/docs/title9optionsbrochure.pdf>