




SEXUAL ASSAULT REPORTING ON CAMPUS

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WHY?


- We chose this topic because we felt that it was a valid issue on campus's throughout our nation. Fortunately for us, Bobbi Kassel has hopes to open a victim's center on campus and wanted to use our research to help in her endeavor.
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LITERATURE REVIEW

- Recent research stated in the article, *The Effect of a College Sexual Assault Prevention Program on First-year Students' Victimization Rates*, found that students reported being victimized at higher rates when they were not exposed to a prevention program and that the programs were effective for both male and female students. However, they found that the programs were not effective for students with a prior history of sexual assault. Our research, while mainly focused on the reporting aspect of sexual assault, can benefit from research such as this especially during the creation of a victim's services department at the school. Using these results and others, we can tailor a victim's center that will benefit all.





OUR RESEARCH

- Individuals at Utah Valley University may experience a sexual assault incident during the period of time they are enrolled as a student. Currently, Utah Valley University does not have a formal 'Victim Center' where individuals can go for help and assistance after an assault. Individuals that are sexually assaulted may or may not report the incident. Statistics show that under-reporting is a major problem among sexual assault victims.
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Hypothesis:

- If Utah Valley University had a 'Victim Center' to provide support and treatment for victims of sexual assault, then reporting rates would improve among the student population at UVU.
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Description of Sample Population:



- Male and female students enrolled at Utah Valley University.
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RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- We distributed a survey to a sample population of UVU students, and inquired if the students have been a victim of sexual assault according to legal definition. If the respondent answered 'yes', they then were asked if they reported that incident to anyone. If they answered, 'yes' to that, they answered some follow-up questions about whom they reported it to and if they received the support and treatment that they needed. If the respondent answered that they have been a victim of sexual assault but that they did not report the incident, then they received different follow-up questions about why they did not report the incident. THE FOCUS OF THIS STUDY WAS ON THE ACTUAL REPORTING OF THE SEXUAL ASSAULT INCIDENT, NOT THE SEXUAL ASSAULT ITSELF.


PROBLEMS ALONG THE WAY

- Due to our research questions being extremely sensitive in nature, we had to meet with the IRB review board to go over some security risks involved; this caused our project to be delayed a lot longer than we had anticipated. This skew's our results because we didn't have the efficient amount of time needed to gather enough evidence to meet our end of semester deadline.

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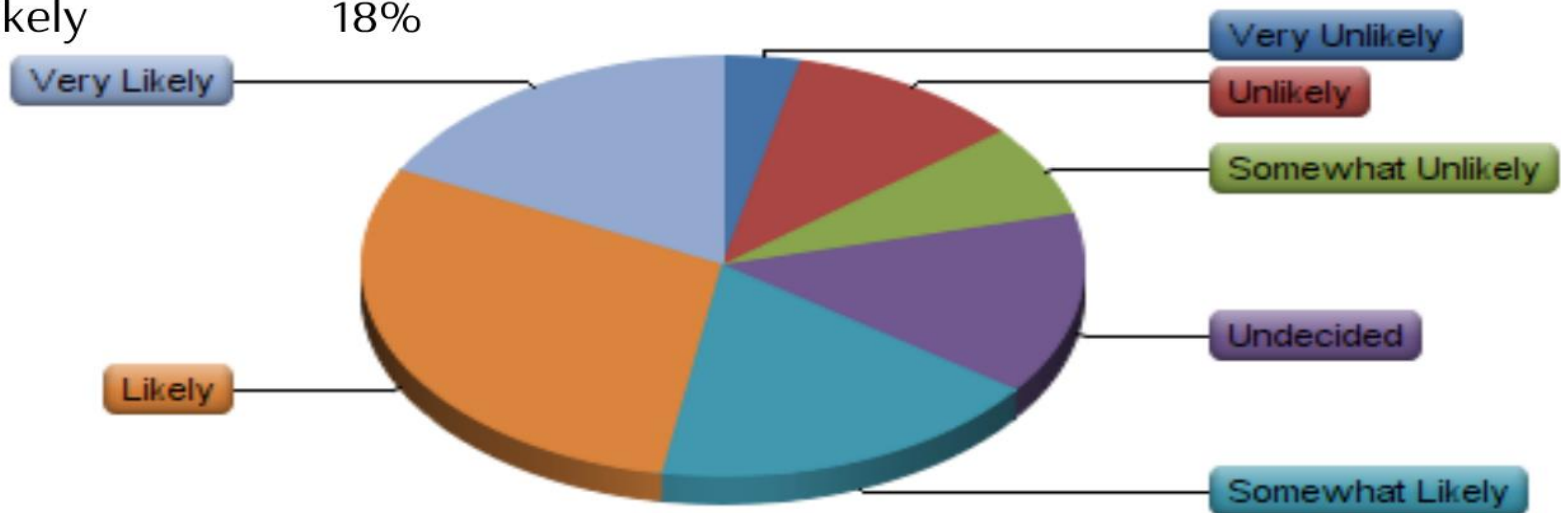


RESULTS

- One of our survey questions was as follows: "Did you report the assault?" This was asked about several different types of sexual assault, and 87.5% of the time the respondents answered "No", that they had NOT reported the assault.
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We posed this question in our survey, "If UVU had a center for victims on campus, how likely would you have been to contact them for assistance?", and received the following results...

Very Unlikely	4%
Unlikely	11%
Somewhat Unlikely	7%
Undecided	14%
Somewhat Likely	18%
Likely	30%
Very Likely	18%





More Results

- When asked the question "If you have been a victim of sexual assault and have never reported it, would you be interested in obtaining information about resources available to you at Utah Valley University?", we found that 36% answered "Yes" they did want more information about resources. We believe that although the percentage is low, having a Victims Advocate Office on campus would give more students the opportunity to receive help.
- 36% of the 87.5% that did not report their assaults are interested in receiving more information on resources available to them through UVU.

UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY VICTIMS ADVOCATE OFFICE

- The center would house a full-time victim's advocate that will be able to provide support and resources to victims of crime.
- There would also be therapists available to victims through the center.
- Location of the center is thought to be on campus, but the idea to have it slightly off campus has also been discussed for anonymity purposes.

