

Are sex offender registries being used by UVU students to prevent assaults?

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Overview

- Purpose
- Hypothesis
- Literature Review
- Collected Data/ Methods
- Conclusions



Purpose

- Evaluate UVU student awareness of the sex offender registry

(Campus resources)
- Establish if students are aware of local sexual assault statistics

(Campus safety ratings)
- Objective: Determine if UVU students use sex offender registries to prevent assaults



Hypothesis/ Research Questions

- Are UVU students aware of sexual assault resources offered by the university?
- Does campus safety ratings affect UVU enrollment?
- Are sex offender registries detrimental to offender rehabilitation?



Literature Review

- Our literature review concluded that the information that we were seeking through our survey had not been done before.
- Majority of the prior research was about the topic of recidivism and how sex offender registries are known to increase it.
- Our research was just intended to speak about personal experience with the site and how it has been used by UVU students in making decisions.



Public Knowledge and Use of Sexual Offender Internet Registries

- A telephone survey was conducted of 1,067 New Jersey residents.
- 51% of residents claimed they were aware of the New Jersey Sex Offender Internet Registry (NJSIOR). Of this group of residents, only 17% had accessed the site.
- Of the residents who accessed the site, 68% took preventative measures from the information received.
- (Boyle, & Ragusa-Salerno, et al, 2014).



Perceptions of Sex Offenders on College Campuses

- 275 University of Central Florida (UFC) undergraduate students were surveyed and were asked questions in regards to: the general perceptions of sex offenders, punishment of the sex offender, and opinions of sex offenders in relation to college.
- 52% of participants believe people who commit sex offenses should lose their civil rights (e.g. voting, privileges, privacy, etc.)
- 20.4% feel that it is a waste of time to attempt to rehabilitate a sex offender
- 63.1% feel that sex offenders should wear tracking devices so their location can be pinpointed at any time
- This research detailed that college campuses do not carry different perceptions of sex offenders than the public has.
- (Harvey, 2013).



Do Sex Offender Registries Make Us Less Safe?

- This study details how the notification and registration process has an affect on the frequency and incidence of reported sex offenses.
- Their research suggests that the registration process of being added to the sex offender registry reduces reported sex offenses because the local police are aware of the sex offenders in the area.
- They also state that notification is effective because it deters non-registered offenders. But a very interesting point was made by the authors by stating that the notification process was found to increase recidivism within sex offenders even though the goal is to decrease recidivism. The reasoning behind this was that with their information and criminal record being made public, that there was little to no reason to stop committing crimes.
- (Prescott, 2012).



The Stigmatization of Individuals Convicted of Sex Offenses: Labeling Theory and The Sex Offense Registry

- This research states how harmful the sex offender registry is for the offenders and uses the labelling theory to help explain their position from a theoretical standpoint.
- They state that once they are publicly labeled as a sex offender, there is little to no reason to step away from a life of crime because even though they have served their time, they will now struggle harder than the average criminal to get jobs and build successful relationships.
- This label has a great impact on the mentality of the offender and the public perception of the offender.
- (Schultz, 2014)

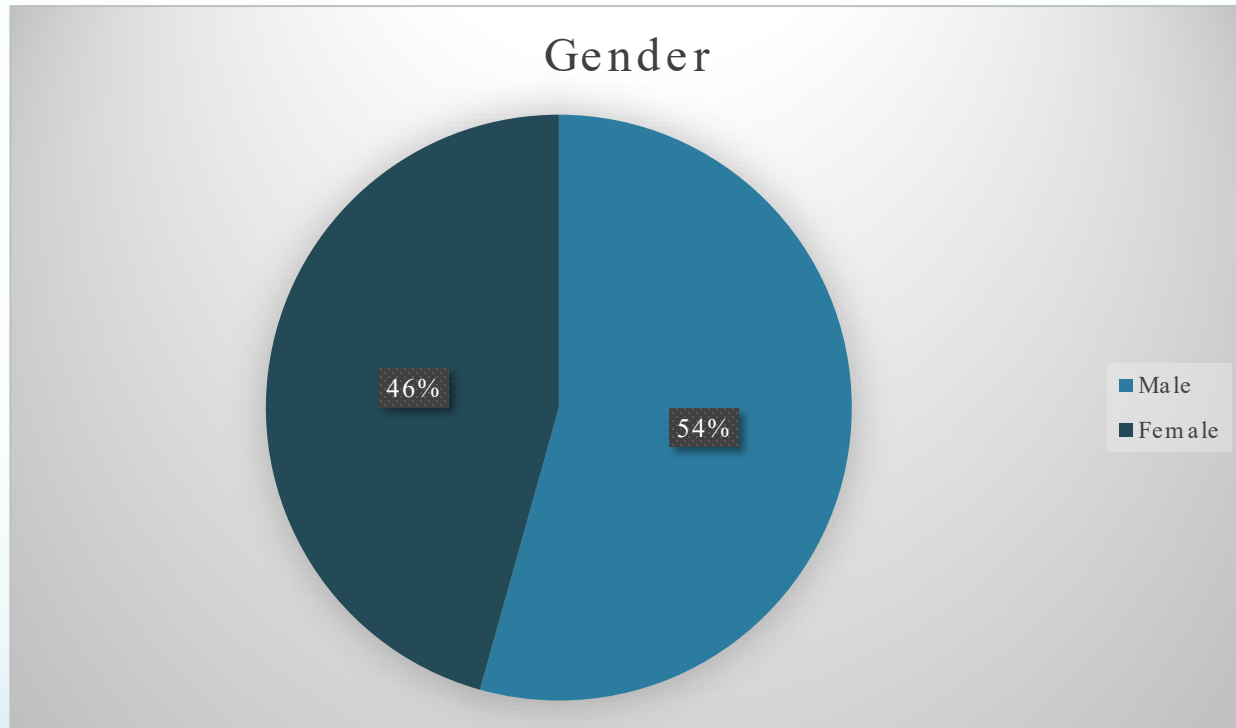


Methods

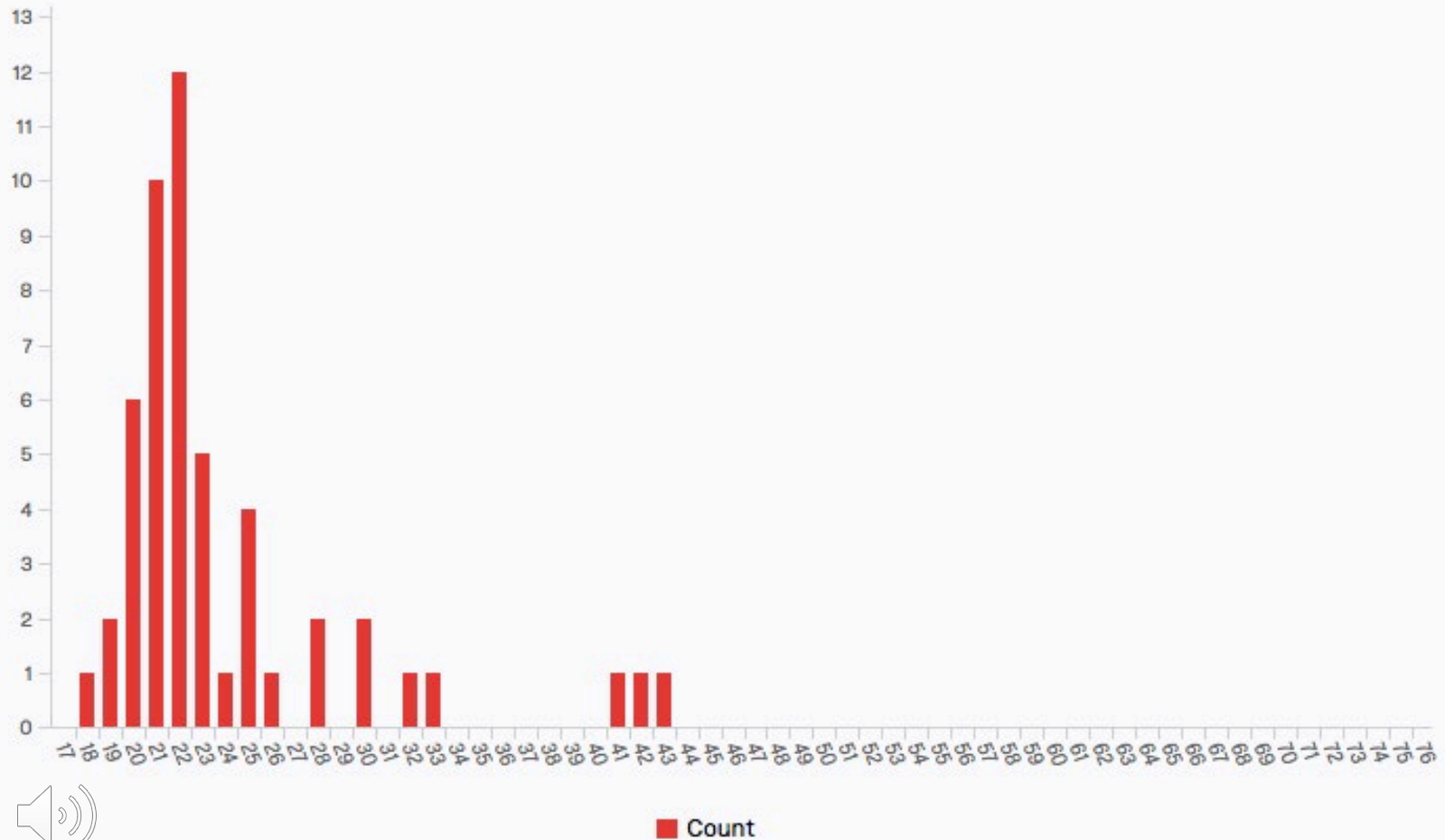
- Survey was administered through Qualtrics
- Consisted of 31 questions
- Survey was restricted to those 18 and above
- Received 58 out of 500 responses
- Survey was open 1 week



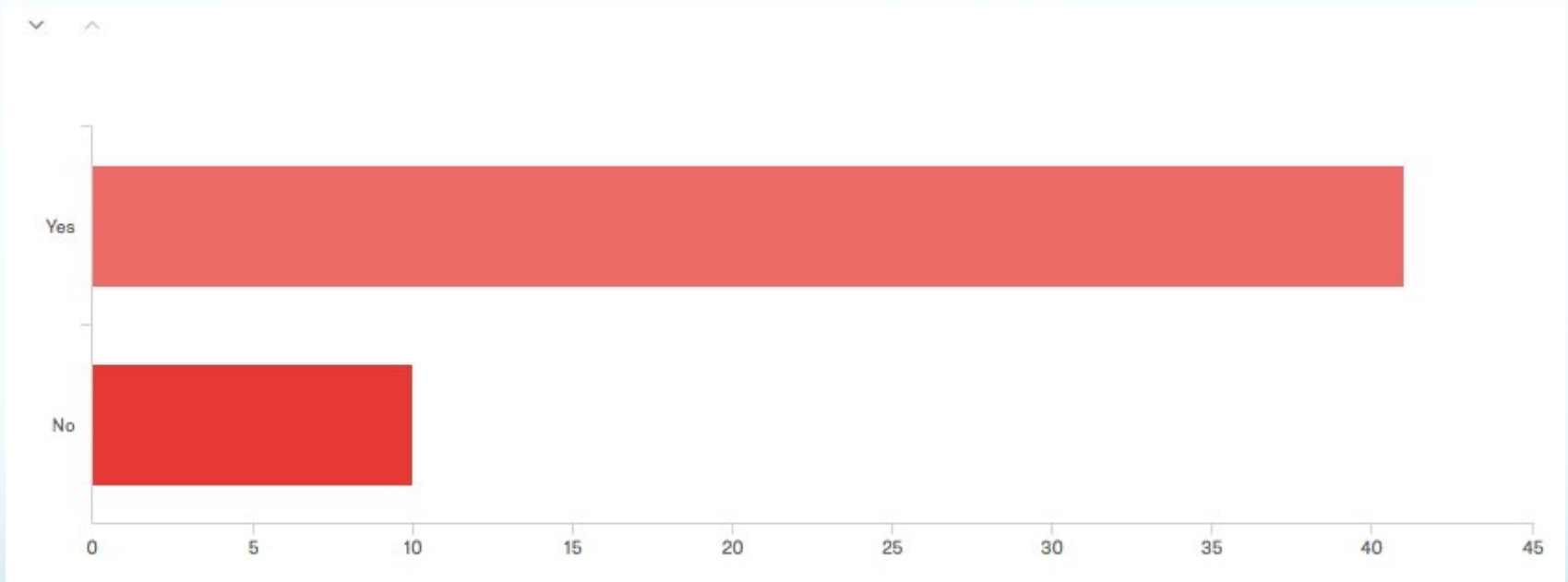
Participant Demographics



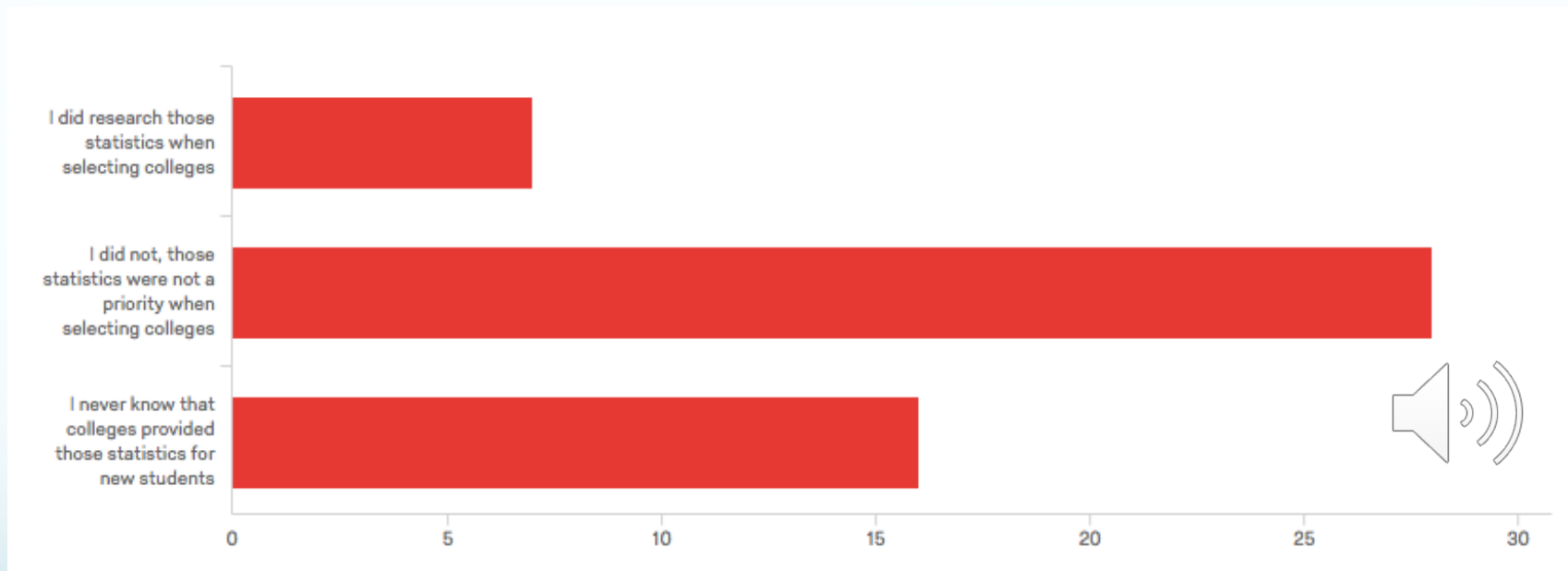
Participant Demographics



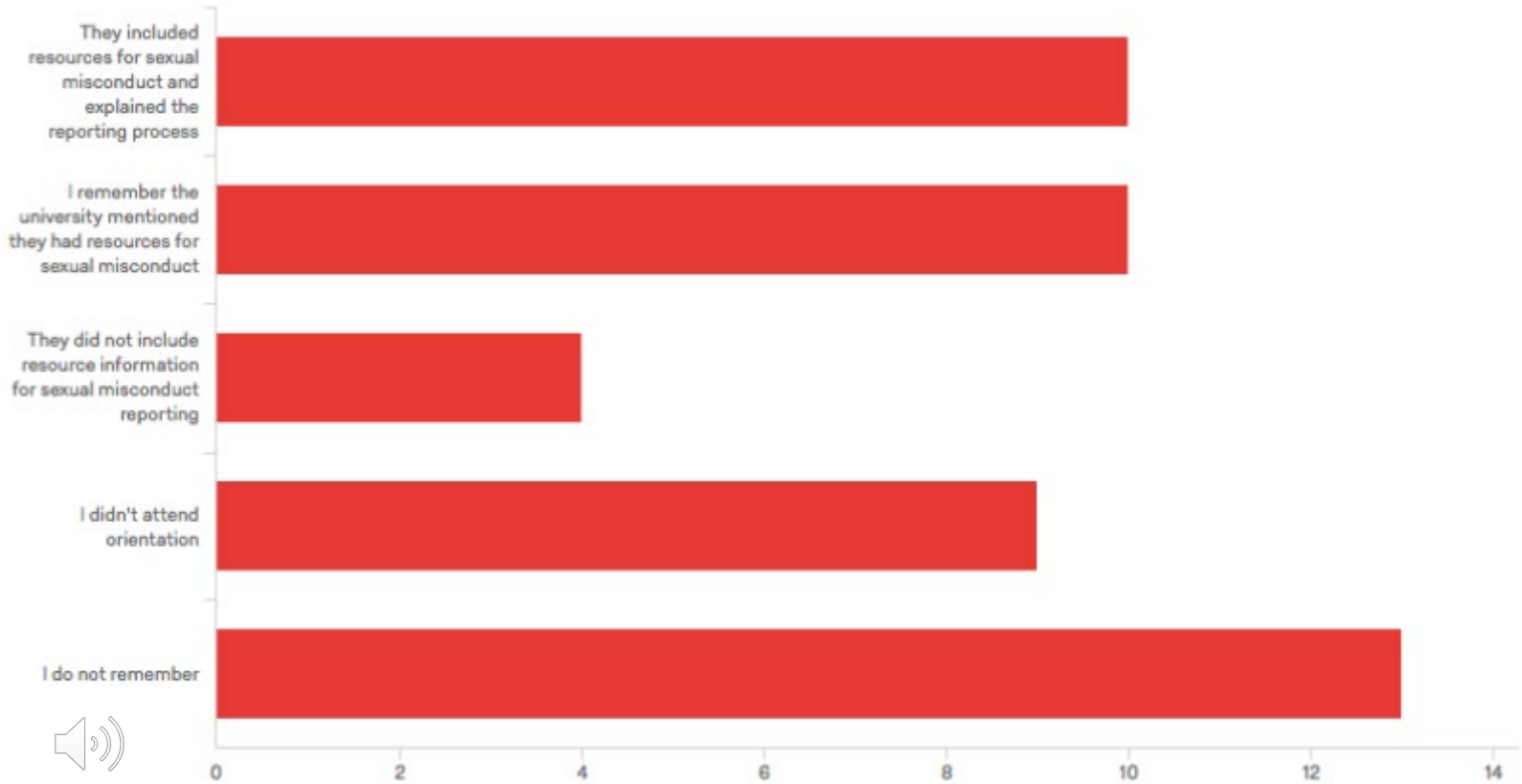
Have you ever heard of the Utah Sex Offender Registry?



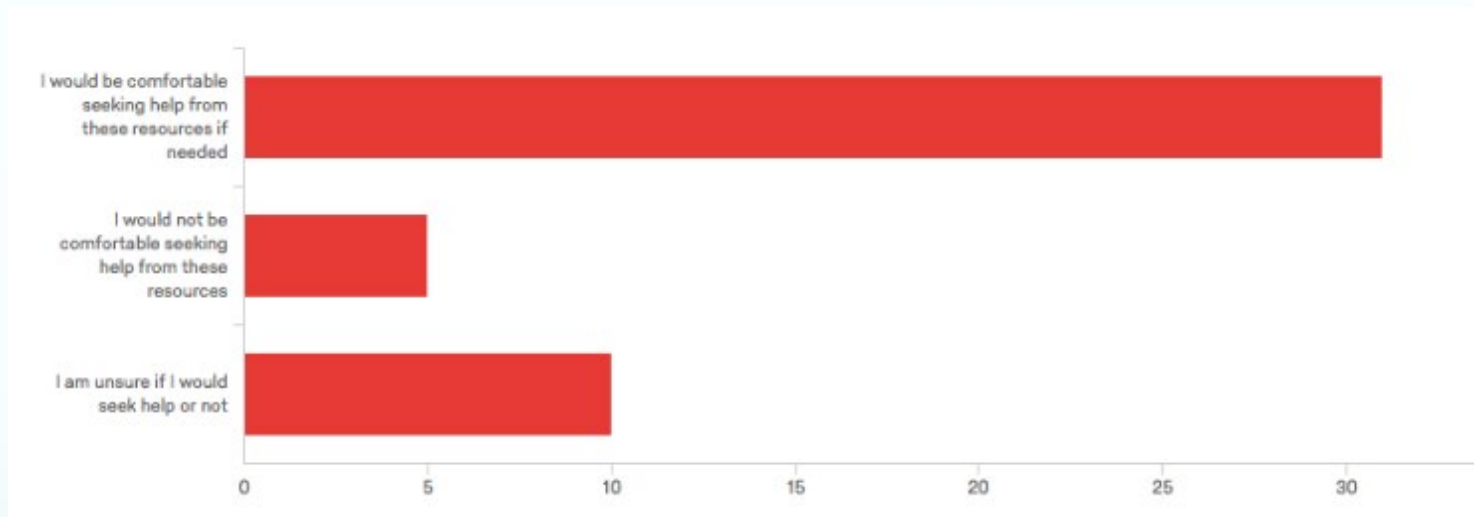
When selecting a university, were campus safety ratings a factor in your decision to begin the application process?



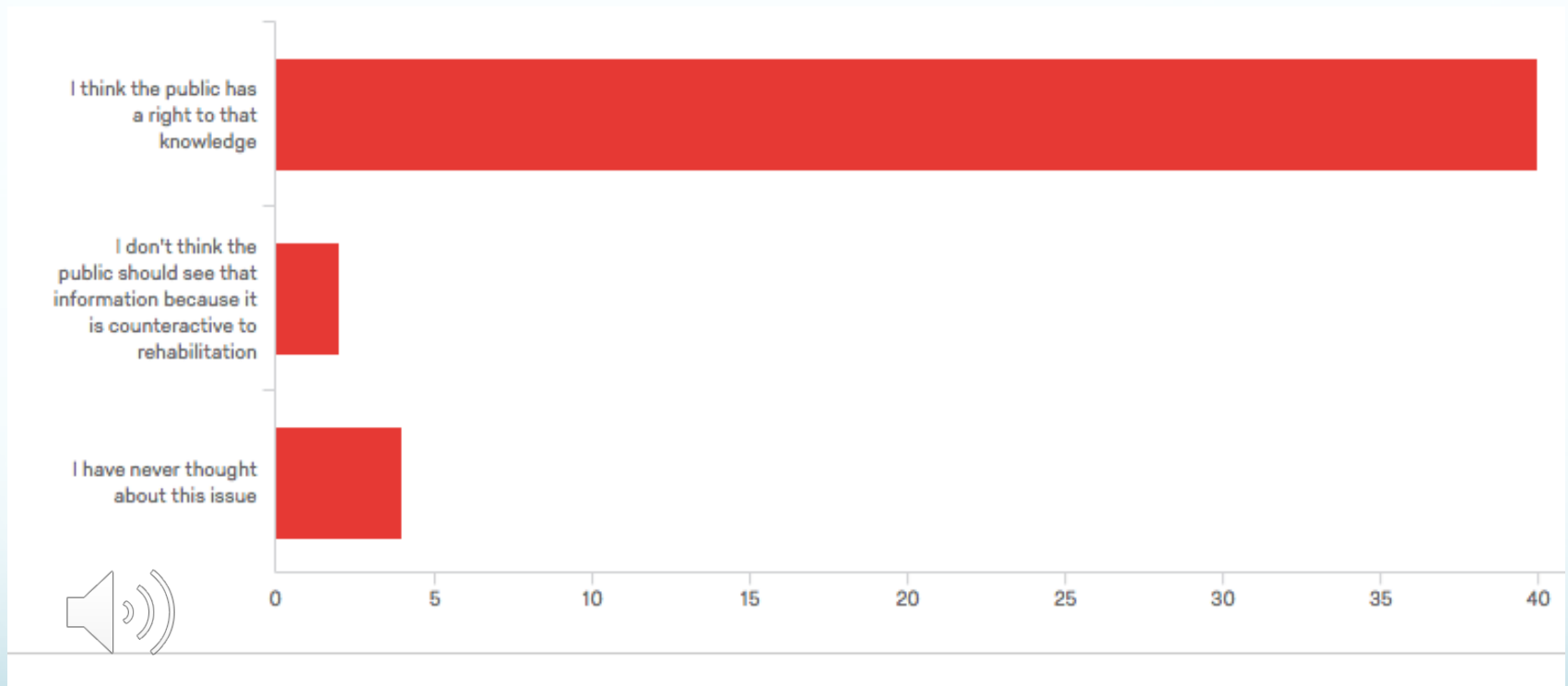
During enrollment orientation, did the university go over their resources if sexual misconduct is experienced on campus?



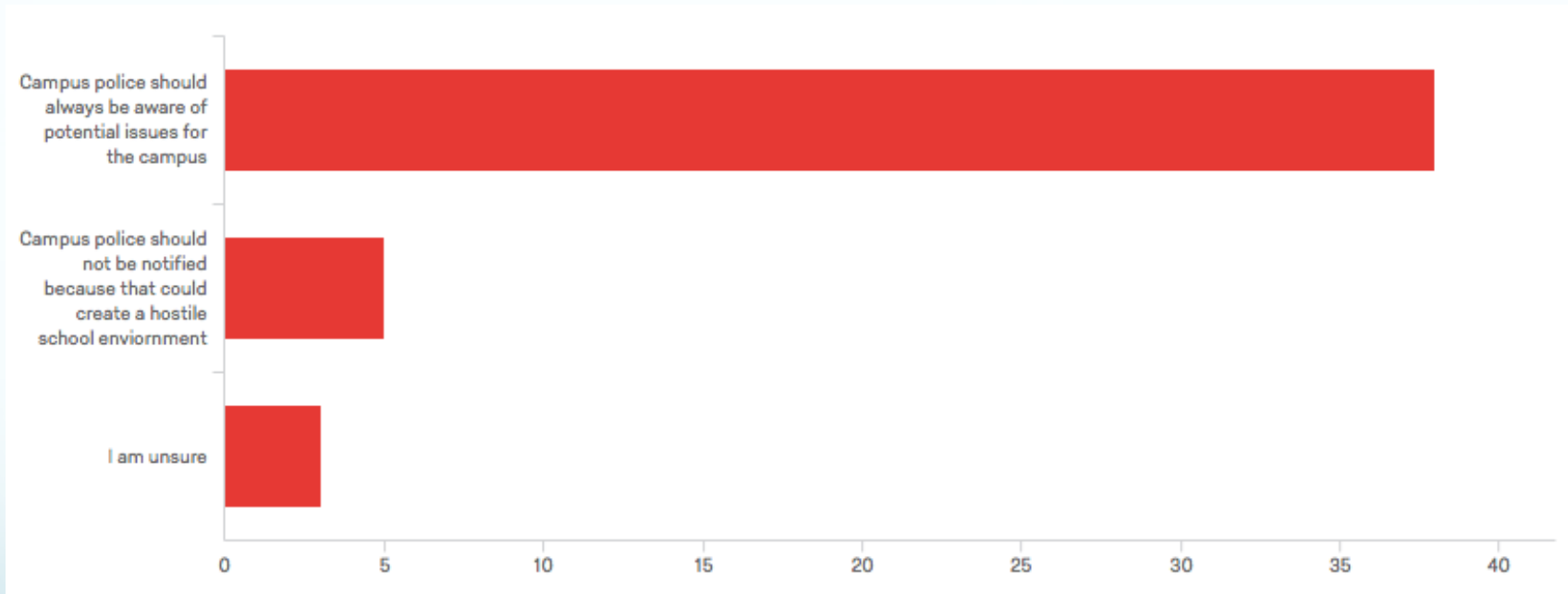
Do you think university law enforcement and the Title IX office are approachable in event of an assault or sexual misconduct experience?



Do you believe that access to the Sex Offender Registry should remain accessible to the public?



Should campus police be notified if an enrolled student is added to the Sex Offender Registry?



Improvements

- We would have liked to receive a higher amount of responses from students in order to increase our response rate. This is a limitation of the research we conducted.
- This was the first time anyone in our group had submitted anything to the IRB and we found the process confusing and hard to navigate. Because of this, we made a few mistakes that cost us a lot of time and created rushing through certain portions of the process.
- If we could do it all over again, we would complete and re-read all our points with a fine-toothed comb. Receiving negative feedback from the IRB was discouraging when the solutions we needed to make were so simple.



Successes

- Our survey was sent out properly and Qualtrics worked great for students being able to complete it.
- We received completed surveys from people from all walks of lives, different ages, minorities, marital status', parents, and young students. This is a great success for our survey and shows diversity in our responses.
- Utah Valley University needs to take it upon themselves to increase the amount of students who are aware of the resources available to students of sexual assault. Our results were clear that this is unknown to the majority of students.
- Our results also show that students are aware that assaults are taking place and the numbers are not small. UVU needs to highly consider what changes they will make in order to increase reporting rates and helping victims feel comfortable in seeking help.



Conclusion

- Were we able to fully answer the hypothesis: Are sex offender registries used by UVU students to prevent assaults? Yes and no.
 - We are able to determine that majority of UVU students are not aware of the resources provided by the school in regards to sexual assault.
 - We are able to determine that majority of UVU students did not look up the sex offender registry when applying to the school and that majority of students did not look up campus safety ratings.
 - We are not able to determine that sex offender registries are detrimental to offender rehabilitation but prior research has firmly stated that it is.
- Utah Valley University should have a dedicated webpage to Campus Safety. From here, resources should be listed to increase the likelihood that parents and students will examine this prior to the student relocating. A link on this webpage should include the sex offender registry, allowing the student to examine the area they will be moving to as well as the area surrounding the college campus. Increasing the ease of access for students could result in the campus feeling safer and being safer for students.
- Universities also have the power to determine whether or not they provide students with the sex offenders registered with their university. UVU should research and determine if this is something that would be beneficial to school/ student safety.



Conclusions

- Conducting research is difficult, time-consuming, and stressful but completing the process correctly and obtaining the results are so important. It is really exciting to see students interested in taking the time to promote research by other students.
- It is important that this topic is researched more across all universities. Sexual assault on college campuses are so common, it is time for schools to look into new resources to change this. Researching different resources could be highly beneficial to all universities.
- Thank you all for participating in our research over the course of this semester.



References

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