

The Tongued, Tied and Twisted Reality of Sexual Assault on Collegiate Campuses

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Introduction

College Sexual Assault is a major issue that is prevalent on all campuses throughout the United States. Colleges have policies on sexual assault but such policies are not uniform. Because of this, there is inequity that impacts people, especially women. The question now is how does administrations' enforcement of sexual assault policies differ among other universities in the United States?

Hypothesis

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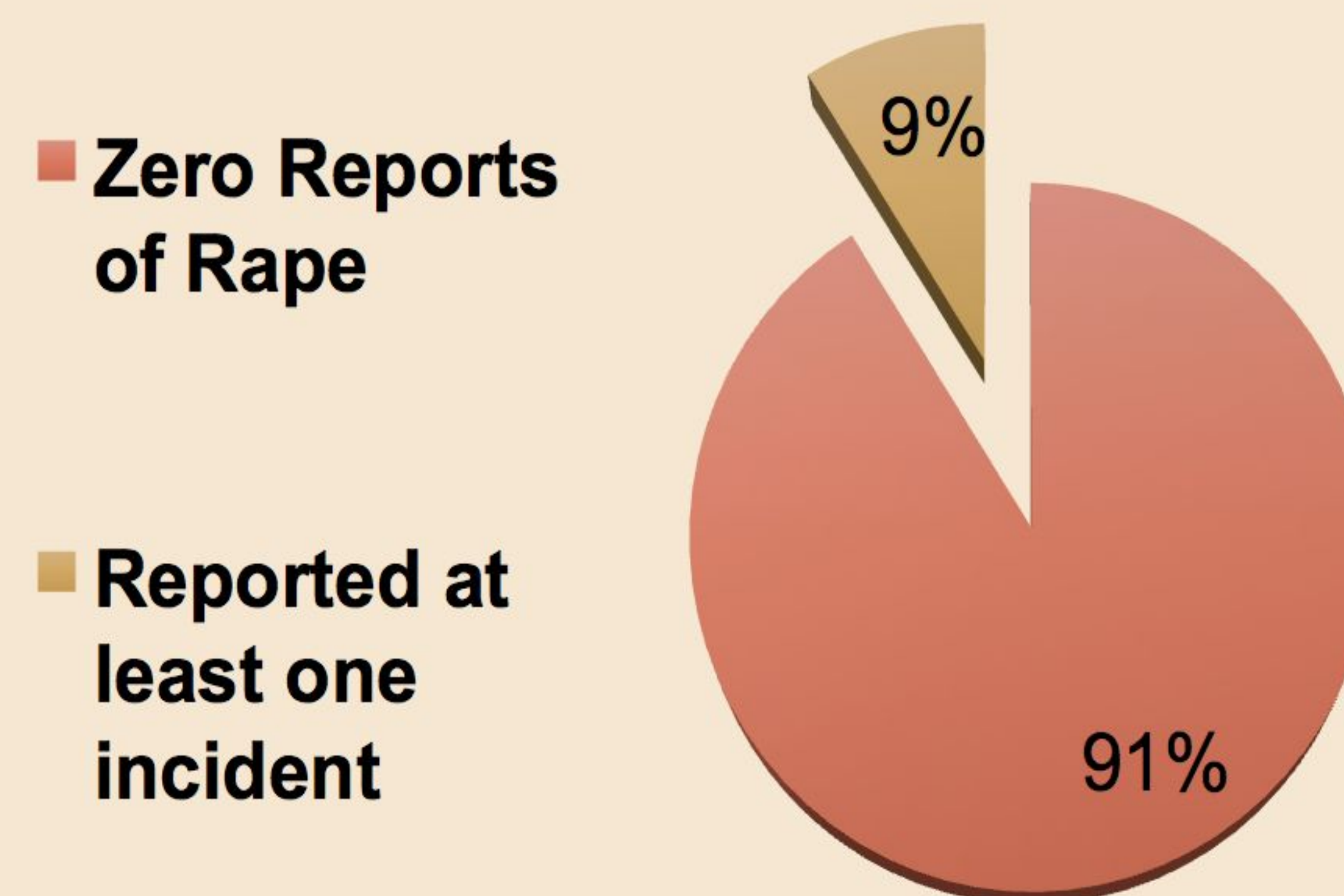
Although reportings are being shared on social media or televised news, there is still a large portion of sexual assault incidents that go unreported. When an incident is reported, colleges tend to skew the data in order to save the reputation of the school.

Methodology

- Data was gathered from the American Association of University Women, and the U.S. Education Department data graph.
- After collecting data from both websites. I recreated it in excel spreadsheets.
- When researching, it was difficult to find information on statistics for the number of colleges underreporting sexual assault due to lack of data which strengthens my point.

Collected Data

Rape Reports on Campus



Based on 2014 annual crime data provided by the American Association of University Women (AAUW)

Title IX Complaints on Sexual Violence at Colleges



Source: U.S Education Department based on annual data from 2009 to 2014

Findings

- ❑ In 1987, 7.7% of male students volunteered in a survey anonymously that they have participated in or attempted forced sex. Almost none of them considered it a crime.
- ❑ During government inspections of colleges, sexual assault reports in colleges jumped to 44% but dropped back to their original levels when the government was no longer watching them. This shows that colleges intentionally discard college sexual assault data for their own benefit.
- ❑ The University of Southern California was under scrutiny in the summer of 2014 after allegedly labeling sexual assaults as personal injuries according to the Huffington Post.

Conclusion

College Sexual Assault is alive and prevalent on U.S. campuses. Colleges also distort their data by portraying a false narrative of the number of sexual assaults prevalent on their campus to portray a reduced number of sexual assaults than the actual number. There are policies that prohibit discrimination in regards to sexual assault such as Title IX or Title 9. Title IX prohibits sex discrimination in educational institutions under federal funding. Since its implementation, this policy has proven that the number of sexual assaults had a steady increase over the years. This is clearly an issue. Why are colleges doing this? I believe to protect the reputation of the school. Colleges alter sexual assault data because they don't want the original reportings to have an effect on their overall image as a school thereby benefiting more from protecting themselves rather than the victim.