Social Relevance

- role of peers in prevention
- measuring programs’ success
- educational techniques & institutional characteristics
Research Questions

What perceptions do undergraduate students have of sexual violence and its victims?

Do institutional characteristics impact students’ reactions to or attitudes towards sexual violence? Or are factors such as gender more influential?
Both an individual’s willingness to intervene and his/her understanding of the role of alcohol are influenced by the institution that he or she attends. However, gender identity had the most significant impact on an individual’s belief in rape myths.
Literature Review

Barriers

Sable 2006; Jaschik 2012; Levanon 2012

Rape Culture

Wilcox 2006; Sable 2006; Burnett 2009
Literature Review

Alcohol
Krebs 2009; Luke 2009; Bell 2010; Lawyer 2010

Bystander Role
Exner 2011; Rich 2010
Dramaturgy & Victimization

- Theory by Erving Goffman
- Social interaction: actor & audience
- Three “stages”
- Setting & personal presentation \(\rightarrow\) convincing the audience
- To be or not to be
Methodology

- **Survey**
- **3 institutions:**
  - 1 public – 2 private
  - 1 same-sex – 2 coed
  - 1 large – 2 small
- **100 respondents**
  - Non-representative
  - 18% male; 81% female
Findings

Rape Myths:
- **wearing** = what a girl is wearing affects the likelihood of her being sexually assaulted
- **playing hard** = a girl who is saying “no” but acting like “yes” is really just playing hard to get
- **active** = a girl who is sexually active is more likely to become the victim of sexual assault than a girl who is a virgin
- **regretting** = most cases of sexual assault are actually a result of a girl regretting a consensual sexual encounter

Intervention:
- **strangers** = likelihood of intervening when both are strangers
- **male** = likelihood of stopping a male friend from making unwanted advancements on female you don’t know
- **female** = likelihood of stopping male you don’t know from making unwanted advancements on female friend
Table 1: Institution & Rape Myths

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>WMU</th>
<th>SMC</th>
<th>HCC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>wearing</td>
<td>2.18</td>
<td>2.11</td>
<td>2.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>36% (18/50)</td>
<td>37.8% (14/37)</td>
<td>41.7% (5/12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>playinghard</td>
<td>1.92</td>
<td>1.71</td>
<td>2.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>32% (16/50)</td>
<td>17.1% (6/35)</td>
<td>41.7% (5/12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>active</td>
<td>1.68</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>24% (12/50)</td>
<td>5.4% (2/37)</td>
<td>10% (1/10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>regretting</td>
<td>1.43</td>
<td>1.56</td>
<td>2.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7.8% (4/51)</td>
<td>13.8% (5/36)</td>
<td>45.5%** (5/11)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>n_{wmu}=51</td>
<td>n_{smc}=37</td>
<td>n_{hcc}=12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

nwmu=51 nsmc=37 nhcc=12
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Myth</th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Females</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>wearing</td>
<td>Mean (1-10)</td>
<td>Agree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2.22</td>
<td>38.9% (7/18)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>playinghard</td>
<td>2.17</td>
<td>38.9% (7/18)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>active**</td>
<td>1.88</td>
<td>31.3% (5/16)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>regretting**</td>
<td>2.12</td>
<td>47.1% (8/17)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(n_m=18)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* one respondent chose “I’d rather not say”
## Findings

### Table 3: Institution & Intervention

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>WMU</th>
<th></th>
<th>SMC</th>
<th></th>
<th>HCC</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>Likely</td>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>Likely</td>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>Likely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(1-5)</td>
<td>(1-5)</td>
<td>(1-5)</td>
<td>(1-5)</td>
<td>(1-5)</td>
<td>(1-5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>strangers</td>
<td>2.76**</td>
<td>41.2%</td>
<td>1.92</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>1.67</td>
<td>91.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(21/51)</td>
<td></td>
<td>(27/37)</td>
<td></td>
<td>(11/12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>male</td>
<td>2.25**</td>
<td>62.7%</td>
<td>1.62</td>
<td>83.8%</td>
<td>1.42</td>
<td>91.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(32/51)</td>
<td></td>
<td>(31/37)</td>
<td></td>
<td>(11/12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>female</td>
<td>1.88**</td>
<td>76.5%</td>
<td>1.14</td>
<td>97.3%</td>
<td>1.33</td>
<td>91.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(39/51)</td>
<td></td>
<td>(36/37)</td>
<td></td>
<td>(11/12)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

n_{wmu} = 51, n_{smc} = 37, n_{hcc} = 12

Strength: 8% attributed to institution
Findings

Table 4: Gender & Intervention

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Females</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mean (1-5)</td>
<td>Likely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>strangers</td>
<td>2.28</td>
<td>61.1% (11/18)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>male</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>72.2% (13/18)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>female**</td>
<td>2.17</td>
<td>61.1% (11/18)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(n_m=18\)  \(n_f=81\)

Strength: 5% attributed to gender
# Findings

## Table 5: Institution & Alcohol

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>WMU (Mean)</th>
<th>WMU (Agree)</th>
<th>SMC (Mean)</th>
<th>SMC (Agree)</th>
<th>HCC (Mean)</th>
<th>HCC (Agree)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>alcohol</td>
<td>2.65**</td>
<td>42% (21/50)</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>78.3% (29/37)</td>
<td>3.17</td>
<td>75% (9/12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>n_{wmu}=51</td>
<td></td>
<td>n_{smc}=37</td>
<td></td>
<td>n_{hcc}=12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Table 6: Gender & Alcohol

### Males

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alcohol</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>alcohol</td>
<td>3.28</td>
<td>83.3% (15/18)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>n_{m}=18</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Females

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alcohol</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>alcohol</td>
<td>2.89</td>
<td>60.5% (49/81)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>n_{f}=81</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Discussion: Rape Myths

“wearing” ~38%
  - believed most often regardless of school or gender

“playing hard” ~28%

“active” ~16%

“regretting” ~14%
Discussion: Intervention

WMU students less likely to intervene

- why?

Females more willing to help female friend
Males most likely to intervene if it involved a male friend
Discussion: Programs

Best approaches:

- “more awareness” chosen by 74% as one of top 3 most effective ways to reduce sexual violence on campuses

Yet 49% at least somewhat unlikely to attend
Conclusions

Continuing to overturn rape myths → reach out to male students
Tailoring campus education to institutional needs → peer impact & large universities
Personal trouble vs. social issue
Questions or Comments?

SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION & RESPONSE