

The Sexual Assault and Rape Epidemic on College and University Campuses

Desiree Sheets

Department of Psychology, Casper College

General Psychology

Kristina Pham and Hanz Olson

## **The Sexual Assault and Rape Epidemic on College and University Campuses**

There is a major problem on college and university campuses across not just the state of Wyoming but also the entire nation. This problem is rape culture and sexual violence. It was discovered that alcohol plays a major role in this problem. According to American Addiction Centers (2022) “sexual assault is a major topic on the news and across the nation. It is a reality in our country that occurs in all areas of life. One common place where sexual assault frequently occurs is at college and university campuses, and alcohol plays a major role in this type of sexual assault” (para.1). Sexual assault is a very prominent problem in every aspect of life but its more likely to happen on college and university campuses. The American Addiction Centers (2022) explains how the alcohol plays a role in this:

College is often a place where young people first get a chance to experiment with both sex and alcohol, and often this combination can lead to inappropriate and even dangerous situations for young women and sometimes young men. Whether it happens because the person has gotten drunk and is taken advantage of, or a spiked or “date rape drug” had been purposefully used to create a situation where the intended victim of an assault is vulnerable or unable to fight back, alcohol is often used to facilitate the full range of sexual assault and rape on campus. (para. 2)

Most people are uniformed on how common sexual assaults and rapes are. Due to the college party lifestyle people do not realize how much alcohol is involved. The American Addictions Center (2022) gives some statistics on how common sexual assault and rape is on college and university campuses:

- About 20-25 percent of women will be sexually assaulted in college.

- Men are also victims of sex crimes - nearly 90 percent of these are juvenile (under 17)
- About 99 percent of sexual assault perpetrators are male.
- For more than 12 percent of completed rapes, the victim is on a date with the perpetrator; this is also true for 35 percent of attempted rapes.
- Students in sorority houses and on-campus living are more likely to be victims of sexual assault than those living off campus.
- Students in fraternities are more likely to perpetrate sexual assault than non-fraternity men
- Male college athletes in aggressive sports were shown to be more likely to use sexual coercion and to demonstrate sexism, acceptance of violence, and hostility toward women. (para. 5)

These statistics show how much this is a prominent problem on college and university campuses.

Gettips (n.d.) brings up some statistics from the National Sexual Violence Resource Center:

Moreover, the National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC) reports that 75% occurred to intoxicated victims. Their data also shows that when compared to students who live off campus, students who live on campus are more likely to be victims of forced sexual activity. Another alarming finding is that most college women predict some sort of sexual violence during college. (para. 9)

These findings are very concerning and bring up many questions on why it is this bad. Laramie Boomerang states “according to the U.S Department of Education, there were 21 reported rapes in on UW’s campus in 2017, 19 in 2016, and 14 in 2015” (para. 11). This statistic shows that it is not only a problem in big states and universities but also somewhere as small as here in Wyoming.

## References

American Addiction Centers. (2022, Oct. 25). *Sexual assaults on college campuses involving alcohol*. <https://alcohol.org/health-effects/sexual-assault-college-campus/>

Gettips. (n.d.). *Alcohol and sexual assault: Making college campuses safer*.  
<https://www.gettips.com/blog/college-sexual-assaults-alcohol>

Bendsten, D. (2019, Sept. 5). *On-campus sexual assault reported at UW*. Laramie Boomerang.  
[https://www.wyomingnews.com/laramieboomerang/news/local\\_news/on-campus-sexual-assault-reported-at-uw/article\\_82e27237-3e0a-539d-8089-7e9b7462b22f.html](https://www.wyomingnews.com/laramieboomerang/news/local_news/on-campus-sexual-assault-reported-at-uw/article_82e27237-3e0a-539d-8089-7e9b7462b22f.html)