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SEXUAL ASSAULT AT ROWAN UNIVERSITY

by  
Kathleen Oriti

A Thesis

Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements of the  
Master of Arts Degree  
of  
The Graduate School  
at  
Rowan University  
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Approved by

Professor

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## ABSTRACT

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SEXUAL ASSAULT AT ROWAN UNIVERSITY  
2004/05

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Master of Arts in Applied Psychology

The purpose of this study was to conduct a survey about sexual assault at Rowan University and to compare the survey results with reports from the Rowan University Crime Incidents Log. Data were collected anonymously from 531 male and female students from the Glassboro campus of Rowan University. Twenty-two students indicated they were sexually assaulted on or off campus from 2001 to March 2005. Three off-campus victims reported to police. None of the on-campus victims reported the crime to Rowan officials. Based on the results of this study, 5.2% of female students and 1.8% of male students surveyed indicated they had been sexually assaulted on or off campus. The rate of sexual assault reported in the Crime Incidents Log may be a severe underestimation. Over half of the victims said they chose not to report the crime because they had been under the influence of alcohol or other drugs when the assault occurred. None of the victims sought or received counseling.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to thank my husband, Joseph Oriti, for his continued support of my academic aspirations. His encouragement has helped me to reach my highest goals, and enabled me to be a role model to my children, as well as to other “non-traditional students”. Joe is my hero, and my shining star. He inspired me and has helped me realize that *anything is possible* if you are willing to work for it.

I’d also like to thank Dr. Linda Jeffrey, who guided me with gentle enthusiasm in my thesis endeavor. It was 31 years ago at Glassboro State College (now Rowan University), when she helped to organize the first victims of sexual assault support group “P.A.R” (People Against Rape), after one of her students suffered a brutal sexual assault. Dr. Jeffrey has dedicated her life to her family, teaching college students, working with families at-risk, and to her research in addiction studies.

A big hug of thanks goes out to my son, Bryan, for his help in developing a massive spread sheet, and to my son Robert, for his help with legal information. I must also mention my mother, Olive Margie, as well as my supportive friends, Shane Gregory Owens, Ph.D., his mother Kathy Owens, John Frisone, Ph.D., Stewart Tinturin and my buddy Jack Reilly. They were all very instrumental in helping me.

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## Chapter 1

### The Problem

#### Introduction

Studies show that only 16% of rapes are reported to police, indicating that rape is one of the most underreported crimes in America (Boesch, Sales & Koss, 1998). On college campuses, the percentage of reported rapes is often much lower. Fisher, Cullen, & Turner (2000) found college women reported less than 5% of attempted or completed rapes. "Rape" is a powerful four-letter word. The legal definition of rape in New Jersey is "sexual assault", i.e. "vaginal, oral, or anal penetration with any object without consent or with a person who is unable to consent."

This study examines sexual assault at Rowan University through a survey of 531 anonymous participants. They included male and female students. The majority of participants ranged in age from 18-25. This study investigated whether sexual assault at Rowan University is an underreported crime by the victims. Survey results were compared to the sexual assault reports from the Campus Crime Incidents log. Possible reasons for underreporting by assault victims were explored.

It is hoped that the results of this study can provide information for community education and prevention programs to help reduce the number of future victims, while increasing the likelihood that a victim will report the crime. It is also the intention of the researcher to increase awareness of the programs available to victims of crime to aid in their recovery.

Martin Luther King, Jr. said "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."

### Purpose

The goal of this paper is to provide information to the campus and to the surrounding community about the extent of sexual assault. By gathering data about sexual assault at Rowan University and comparing it to the Rowan University Crime Incidents Log, the problems may be identified in the reporting of sexual assault at Rowan University. This study seeks to increase the availability of information for students and staff about the prevalence of sexual assault.

### Hypothesis

The hypothesis of this research is that sexual assault at Rowan University is significantly underreported by the victims.

### Definitions

While researching sexual assault on college campuses, Brown (2003) found a variety of differentiating terms for rape in her study of literature. Terminology on the topic of rape included: rape, marital rape, acquaintance rape, date rape, simple rape, aggravated rape, and sexual assault. It was noted that these terms could be confusing for an individual to understand.

Under Title 2C of the New Jersey Code of Criminal Justice, Sexual Assault is addressed in 2C:14-2. As the current study explores sexual assault at Rowan University, it is important to distinguish that New Jersey categorizes rape in two ways; SEXUAL ASSAULT and AGGRAVATED SEXUAL ASSAULT.

For the purposes of this study, the following New Jersey legal information includes definitions that are relevant to college-aged students only.



The following definitions are addressed in 2C:14-1 in the New Jersey Criminal Code:

Sexual Penetration

The definition of sexual penetration is: vaginal intercourse, cunnilingus, fellatio or anal intercourse between persons or insertion of the hand, finger or object into the anus or vagina either by the actor (person accused of an offense) or upon the actor's instruction. The depth of insertion shall not be relevant as to the question of commission of the crime.

Severe Personal Injury

Severe personal injury means severe bodily injury, disfigurement, disease, incapacitating mental anguish or chronic pain.

Physically Helpless

Physically Helpless means that condition in which a person is unconscious or is physically unable to flee or is physically unable to communicate unwillingness to act.

Mentally Incapacitated

Mentally Incapacitated mean that condition in which a person is rendered temporarily incapable of understanding or controlling his conduct due to the influence of a narcotic, anesthetic, intoxicant, or other substance administered to that person without his prior knowledge or consent, or due to any other act committed upon that person which rendered that person incapable of appraising or controlling his conduct.

Sexual Assault (a crime in the second degree)

An actor is guilty of sexual assault if he commits an act of sexual penetration with another person under any of the following circumstances: the actor uses physical force or coercion, but the victim does not sustain severe personal injury; the victim is at least 16

but less than 18 years old; the actor has supervisory or disciplinary power over the victim of any nature or in any capacity.

Aggravated Sexual Assault (crime of the first degree)

An actor is guilty of aggravated sexual assault if he commits an act of sexual penetration with another person under any one of the following circumstances:  
The actor has supervisory or disciplinary power over the victim by virtue of the actor's legal, professional, or occupational status; the act is committed during/attempted commission, whether alone or with one or more other persons, of robbery, kidnapping, homicide, aggravated assault on another, burglary, arson or criminal escape; The actor is armed with a weapon or any object fashioned in such a manner as to lead the victim to reasonably believe it to be a weapon and threatens by word or gesture to use the weapon or object; The actor is aided or abetted by one or more persons and the actor uses physical force or coercion; The actor uses physical force or coercion and severe personal injury is sustained by the victim; The victim is one whom the actor knew, or should have known, was physically helpless, mentally defective or mentally incapacitated.

Sexual Assault vs. Aggravated Sexual Assault

New Jersey law distinguishes between Aggravated Sexual Assault and Sexual Assault. Both Aggravated Sexual Assault and Sexual Assault are indictable crimes. This means that it leads to cases being heard in Superior Court. Aggravated Sexual Assault is a crime of the first degree, while sexual assault is a crime of the second degree. Conviction of Aggravated Sexual Assault carries a heavier penalty than conviction of Sexual Assault.

### Statute of Limitations

Currently for victims 18 and older, New Jersey has no statute of limitations for prosecution of sexual assault or aggravated sexual assault (2C:1-6a). This means that a traumatized victim, who wants to “just forget the event”, may prosecute his or her perpetrator, at any time without any limitations. New Jersey is unique in this way.

### Forcible sex offenses

Rowan University reports Forcible Sex Offenses as any sexual act directed against another person, forcibly and/or against that person’s will; or not forcibly or against the person’s will where the victim is incapable of giving consent. Forcible sex offenses include: forcible rape, forcible sodomy, sexual assault with an object, or forcible fondling.

### Non-Forcible offenses

Rowan University reports Non-Forcible as unlawful, non-forcible sexual intercourse. This includes incest or statutory rape.

## Chapter 2

### Review of Literature

#### Reporting crime on campus

Unfortunately, no school is crime-free. In the past, it was difficult to obtain information about crime on school campuses. Today, campus crime reports are readily available to anyone and can easily be accessed on the internet. The U.S. Department of Education Office of Postsecondary Education (OPE) operates a Campus Security Website which links a viewer to over 6000 colleges and universities in the United States. This enables anyone, including potential students and their parents, to research criminal offenses on college campuses. Alleged criminal offenses reported to campus security authorities or local police agencies are reported on the website: [www.ope.ed.gov/security](http://www.ope.ed.gov/security).

Nationally, reporting crimes on campus became a prominent focus because of a tragic incident at Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. In 1986, Jeanne Clery, a student at Lehigh University was murdered on campus. Her parents fought for a disclosure law after they discovered that the students at Lehigh University had not been told about 38 violent crimes which occurred in the three years prior to Clery's murder.

Since 1991 all public or private institutions of higher education which participate in federal student aid programs must report their campus crime statistics under the *Crime Awareness and Campus Security Act*. Amendments made in October of 1998 stipulated fines of \$25,000 per violation. These amendments and regulations were renamed the "*Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act*". The ACT has also forced colleges to be more open about how they handle sexual assaults (Carter, 2000).

Fisher et al., (2000) reports that in 1999, the U.S. Department of Justice awarded 8.1 million dollars to 21 colleges and universities to combat sexual assault, stalking, and domestic violence.

The Department of Education compiles statistics from over 6,000 colleges and universities. Concerning on-campus forcible sexual offenses, the website reported a total of 1,953 in 2000, 2,206 in 2001, and 2,351 in 2002. It is unclear whether the increase in reports of forcible sexual offenses on campus is due to an increase in assaults, or an increase in the victims' willingness to report.

In a research report on college women, Fisher et al., (2000) found less than five percent of sexual assaults or attempted sexual assaults were reported to law enforcement officials. Nearly 66% of the victims told another person about the incident, most likely a friend rather than a college official or family member. The researchers found numerous reasons for not reporting, the most common being that the incident was not serious enough to report and that college women sometimes were not exactly sure that a crime was committed. Other reasons refer to not wanting people to know about the event, lack of proof that the event took place, fear of retaliation by the offender, fear of police hostility, doubt from police that the incident was serious enough to take action.

Jones (1999) cites many assaults are not reported because women feel these encounters are personal, private, and embarrassing. It may be difficult for women to "identify" these acts as a sexual assault.

Brown (2003) cites that statistical reports of the low incidence of campus sexual assault are misleading. Having a low incidence of rape at a particular campus does not mean that students are less likely to be raped while attending the university.

### Rape Shield Statute

The New Jersey legislature has enacted a “rape shield” statute N.J.S.A. 2C:14-7, which, in most cases, prevents defendants from attempting to discredit a victim by presenting evidence concerning victim’s past sexual history or lifestyle (Walach, 1998).

Joseph P. Rem, Jr. wrote a criminal law update in October of 1994 for the REM ZELLER Law Group. He stated that “the door swings both ways” for New Jersey’s Rape Shield Law. It prohibits the use of the alleged victim’s past sexual history for the purpose of showing that the victim’s character trait proves that he/she acted consistently during the date of the event in question.

In *State v. Burke* (Law Div. 4/4/02), Passaic County Judge De Luccia ruled that the shield applies both ways and, in this case, applied against the State’s effort to show the victim was a virgin before the admitted sexual intercourse, and therefore it was unlikely that the victim consented.

### Exploring Rape and Gender Difference

Sexual assault may be devastating to all victims, regardless of gender. The same kind of reactions can be shared, such as rage, shame, guilt, powerlessness, helplessness, safety concerns, fear and/or physical illness symptoms. Warshaw (1994) states that almost all male rape victims have been raped by other men. Male victims can be emotionally scarred, and are often brutally beaten during the course of their attacks.

According to the *Sexual Assault Survivor’s Handbook* from Morehead State University (MSU) in Morehead, Kentucky, men almost never report the crime for a variety of reasons. First, men are stereotyped by society as always wanting sex, so the idea of a man refusing sex may lack credibility. Second, a man being raped anally may be

stigmatized for having had this experience, and may be viewed thereafter with mistrust and suspicion of deviancy. Many victims never report this crime for fear of being humiliated. Insecurity, and sexual orientation or masculine gender identity can arise, as well as reluctance to be examined medically. Problems may arise when the victim shares information about the event with family and friends. It also may be difficult to find appropriate resources and support for men. A gay or bisexual man may feel responsible in some way for bringing on the attack, and may fear disclosure of his sexual orientation.

The *MSU Handbook* also raises awareness of the issues facing lesbian survivors of sexual assault. It notes that there are some rapists who target gay or bisexual women, expressing their hatred of lesbians through this act. Perpetrators may want to “teach them a lesson” or “show them what they really need”. Lesbians also can be assaulted by their partner. Concerns about reactions from their non-offending partner, friends, family, and health care professionals and law enforcement can arise. Lesbians who have been assaulted also face concerns about disclosure. It would be frightening for anyone, but for lesbians who have rarely or never experienced heterosexual intercourse, penetration by force could be painful. Lesbians can also contract sexually transmitted diseases. The risk of possible pregnancy or contracting sexually transmitted diseases may be concerns that they haven’t had to think about in the past.

Although it is rare, women have raped males, as evidenced from child sexual-abuse cases. An extremely small number of women have raped men, either with an object anally, or by stimulating a frightened man into having an erection (Warshaw, 1994).

Warshaw (1994) explored the dynamics of gang rape. Men who rape in groups may be less likely to act alone. Participants in gang rape may experience a special bonding

with each other, uniting in reducing their victim to a collective vessel for their “masculinity”. Through the vehicle of rape, they may try to prove their sexual prowess to other group members. Usually, the group’s leader is the first man to rape the woman, followed by the others.

### Sexual Assault on Campus

Brown (2003) examined the rape rates in a longitudinal study of 3,286 undergraduate students (66% were female and 33% were men) on two California campuses. The National Institute of Health provided funding for the study. Respondents were compensated ten dollars for completion of the survey. A self-report survey was mailed to students whom were randomly selected in the fall semester of 1998 and 1999. The majority were aged 19-25. The research found one in 38 (2.6%) of students were victims of at least one sexual assault or rape. Of the 89 incidences, six percent of victims indicated they were verbally threatened while three percent indicated they were physically forced. Over a one-year period, one in 12 college women reported being raped as contrasted with one in 24 college men. Female victimization was reported twice more frequently than male victimization. The study omitted questions pertaining to the gender of the perpetrators of male rape. Out of 89 incidents, *not one* victim indicated that they reported the crime to campus authorities, and only one incident was reported to campus police. Seventy percent told their friends, and 38% told their parents. Not one case resulted in an arrest.

In a study of sexual assault on campus Jones (1999) sampled 533 students from a large urban public university and found 4% indicated that they had been sexually assaulted, 80% by an acquaintance, while four said the offender was a stranger. Data



showed that the assault was most likely off-campus. The research found that individuals who have been sexually assaulted frequently disclose the incident but do not get medical help, psychological counseling or legal assistance. Reasons cited by the respondents included lack of information on resources and embarrassment.

Koss (1987, cited in Brown, 2003) found in their national sample that 3.8% of female students reported being sexually assaulted. That study also reported nine percent of male college students admitted to committing rape in the previous six months. This percentage of victimization was shown to be 10 to 15 times higher than rates reported by the National Crime Survey of 3.9 per thousand for those aged 16-19, and 2.5 per thousand for those aged 20-24. These results suggest college students may be more at risk to sexual assault than non-students.

Nicholson et al. (1998, cited in Brown, 2003) found 35.5% of females and 11.57 % of male college students reported being victims of unwanted sexual activity. The study indicates three percent of women and 8.4% of men admitted to perpetrating such acts.

Aizenman & Kelley (1988, cited in Jones, 1999) reports a study which indicates 14% of male students were forced to have intercourse against their will.

Both men and women can be victims of rape, but young women are more at risk to experience an assault. Reports indicate one in six women compared to one in 33 men will fall victim to an attempted or completed rape in their lifetimes Tjaden & Thoennes (1998, cited in Hensley, 2002). Recently a national survey of college students revealed half of all women had experienced some type of sexual victimization (Hensley, 2002).

Fisher et al. (2000) reports results from a telephone survey of 4,446 college women. It indicated one in 36 (2.8%) had experienced either an attempted or completed rape, in an academic year.

Warshaw (1994) referred to the Crime Reports, which describes police reports from 118 colleges and universities in the United States, and demonstrated that there were 246 reported rapes in 1986. She compares that data to the Ms. College-based study which showed only five percent of acquaintance rapes are reported, and inferred that 185 actually represented 3,700 acquaintance rapes that actually occurred. Warshaw (1994) mentions the nationwide survey funded by the National Institute for Mental Health, which reports that 25% of college women have been victims of rape or attempted rape. Eighty-four percent of these victims were acquainted with their perpetrators, while only 5% reported their rapes to the police. Only 27% of raped women identified themselves as rape victims. Fisher et al. (2000) found that many women do not identify their sexual victimization as a crime for several reasons. They include embarrassment, misunderstanding of the legal definition of rape, or not wanting to classify someone they know who assaulted them as a rapist. Other reasons can stem from self-blame.

Fisher et al. (2000) found that off-campus female victimization is more common than on-campus female victimization. This rate is higher because many assaults take place in bars, nightclubs, or in a place where a student resides which is close to the campus.

**Table 1**

## Comparison of Studies of Sexual Victimization on Campus

Researcher	Rate
Fisher et al. (2000)	1:36 (2.8 %) females/yr
Brown (2003)	1:38 (2.6%) 1:12 were women
Koss (1987, cited in Brown, 2003)	3.8% females
Nicholson (cited in Brown, 2003)	35.5% females, 11.57% males
Aizenman & Kelley (1988, cited in Jones, 1999)	14% of males
Jones (1999)	4% female
Tjaden & Thoennes (1998, cited in Hensley, 2002)	1:6 (17%) female 1:33 (3%)men
NIMH study (cited in Warshaw, 1994)	25% of college women

Acquaintance Rape

In 1975, Susan Brownmiller introduced the term “date rape” into our vernacular. The most likely perpetrator of sexual assaults is not a stranger, but an acquaintance (Jones, 1999). Eighty- six percent to 99% of sexual assaults are perpetrated by an acquaintance. Many women victims of date rape are not able to validate their feelings, or label the encounter as rape, due to their lack of information about sex and rape. Women who are date-raped experience similar feelings to those raped by strangers, which include guilt, shame, fear, anger, and impaired trust. Often these feelings are intense after an acquaintance rape.

Warshaw (1994) discusses “miscommunication” which can contribute to acquaintance-rape incidents. Men generally give a more sexual reading to behavior and conversation than women do. Some people feel that by improving a woman’s ability to

clearly communicate what she wants will naturally lead a man to understand what he should do, but some males involved in acquaintance rape have “deafness”. This may be due to a woman not telling a man what she wants in a decisive way, or due to his discounting what she is saying. Or, men can simply reinterpret it to fit what they want to hear. Many men have been raised to believe that women will always resist sex, to show that they are not promiscuous, and will say “no” when they really mean “yes”. Kanin (1967, as cited in Warshaw, 1994) found that sexually aggressive college men said they believed their aggression was justified if the woman was a “tease”.

Brown (2003) found that 20% of students indicated they were raped on a date.

#### What do other students know about rape?

Dunn, Vali-Smith and Knight (1999) studied 828 college students (mostly freshmen) to find out what they had been told by other college students who had been raped. About one third of the participants knew one or more women who had been raped by a date or an acquaintance. Nearly all were able to answer questions about the victim and the perpetrator and the setting in which the event happened. Almost 90% of the victims were reported to be 19 or younger. Nearly a third of the victims and a third of the perpetrators were reported to have been drinking at the time of the rape. Twenty-eight percent of the rapes occurred in the male perpetrator’s apartment, 19% occurred at a party, 13% at the victim’s apartment, and 7.4% occurred in a car or dorm room. Interestingly, two-thirds of the participants said the information about the rape was disclosed three or more months after it occurred. Generally respondents were supportive, but some did not always know what to say. Some indicated that they reacted in ways that may have been counter-

productive, such as challenging the victim's actions, questioning the legitimacy of the event, blaming or finding fault with the victim.

Brown (2003) reported that the majority (70%) of 89 sexual assault victims confided in their friends.

### Date Rape Drugs

What happens when an individual is unaware that a chemical has been given to them? New date-rape drugs, such as GHB (gamma-hydroxybutyrate), can render a victim helpless, unable to remember what happened to them. One teaspoon works within 10 to 15 minutes. It is odorless and colorless and is easy for perpetrators to use. It easily can be poured into a drink of an unsuspecting victim. A person can wake from a GHB coma approximately 5 hours later to learn that they were raped, yet have no memory of the event (Hensley, 2002). With no memory or facts, it is difficult to report the crime.

Other common date rape drugs are: Rohypnol "Roofies", Ketamine Hydrochloride "Special K", a white powder, and Benzodiazepines such as Xanax, Valium, or over the counter antihistamines or sleep aids.

To detect date rape drugs in blood, tests for GHB must be collected within 4-8 hours after ingestion, tests for Rohypnol must be collected within 4-12 hours after ingestion, and tests for Benzodiazepines must be collected within 4-12 hours

To detect date rape drugs for urine collection, tests for GHB must be collected within 12 hours after ingestion, tests for Rohypnol must be collected within 48-96 hours after ingestion, and tests for Benzodiazepines must be collected within 48 hours after ingestion.

Brown (2003) reported Rohypnol was used by a total of 14 participants and was not a significant factor in sexual assault.

### Alcohol, Drugs & Sex

Roth (1994, cited in Brown, 2003) reports that alcohol is the only psychoactive drug that tends to intensify behaviors of aggression in individuals while it is taking effect.

Brown (2003) found that alcohol consumption (or abuse) does not cause rape, but literature finds a correlation between the two factors. Frequent drinking of alcohol was correlated positively with sexual aggression.

Fisher et al. (2000) found that frequent drinking enough to get drunk increased the risk of being victimized sexually. Physiological, psychological and social research shows evidence of a potential connection between alcohol and sexual assault.

Boeringer et al. (1996, cited in Brown, 2003) suggests that college campuses, fraternity houses and settings are conducive to drinking, violence against women, and rape.

Dinero (1989, cited in Brown 2003) cites to a study reporting 55% of college women who were sexually assaulted had been drinking prior to the incident. The study also reports 74% of perpetrators had been drinking before the assault.

Muehlenhard and Linton (1987, cited in Brown, 2003) found 55% of men who self-reported being sexually aggressive on a date indicated they were under the influence of alcohol at the time of the attack. Fifty-three percent of women who stated they were victimized by sexual aggression while on a date indicated they were also under the influence of alcohol at the time

Leigh (1987, cited in Brown 2003) notes self-reports from men and women suggesting that they interpret alcohol's effects differently. Men felt sexually aggressive while under the influence of alcohol, while women felt more affectionate.

Jones (1999) found that more than half of the college male offenders reported that their status with their peers would be greater if they forced sex on a woman with whom they had drinks at a bar. Seventy-five percent of these male students reported purposely getting a date intoxicated in order to have sexual intercourse with her. Jones (1999) cites that several studies suggesting that drinking alcohol increases the chances that friendliness will be misperceived as sexual, and decreases the chance that the misperception will be quickly or easily rectified. Chemical impairments make it difficult for women to resist an assault successfully.

Perkins (1992, cited in Jones 1999) found that about 25% of both sexes had experienced unwanted sex with alcohol usage. This occurred at least once during that year. Fifteen percent of the men and 10% of the women experienced unwanted sex more than once with alcohol usage.

#### Psychological Effects of Trauma

Foa, Hearst-Ikeda & Perry 1995; Meadows & Foa, 1998; Resnick et al., 1999 (all cited in Hensley, 2002) found that even though most women experience symptoms of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder immediately after a sexual assault, symptoms continue in survivors at lifetime rates from 30% to 50%. Kimerling & Calhoun (1994, cited in Hensley, 2002) studied survivors of sexual assault and found that they typically do not seek formal mental health services in the year following incident.

Persistent *rape myths* exist. Historical stereotypes of the “good” woman persist as a chaste and virtuous woman. She would do anything in her power to resist being sexually assaulted, including dying. Also, she would not hesitate to report the rape immediately. Furthermore, this myth has led to the belief that only certain women can be raped. Women with a “history” must have done something to invite the assault. Until recently, married women could not be *raped* by their husband. A victim’s credibility can often be challenged; even though studies have shown little evidence that rape victims make false accusations (Boeschen, Sales & Koss, 1998).

In the past, women had to “prove” they had done everything in their power to resist. Rape shield laws came about in the 1970’s and 1980’s to help protect victims from disclosing their past behavior. To help fight rape myths and move toward successful prosecution of rape cases, expert witnesses may be hired. They often give expert testimony on rape trauma syndrome (RTS) as well as posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and acute stress disorder (ASD). ASD is similar to PTSD, but symptoms last from 2 days to 4 weeks after the traumatic event.

The RTS diagnosis describes commonly shared experiences of rape survivors seen in the emergency room. It includes an “acute” stage of extreme fear and other emotional, physical, and psychological symptoms which occur immediately after the sexual assault, and a “reorganizational” phase with varied and moderate symptoms which surface in the course of recovery (Boeschen et al., 1998).

In the past, a victim who was raped and experienced certain symptoms was given the RTS diagnosis. The RTS diagnosis is not included in the current edition of the *Diagnostic Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders 4<sup>th</sup> edition –TR* (DSM-IV-TR). Currently, both



PTSD (309.81), and ASD (308.3) are included, and describe symptoms of individuals who experience all types of traumatic events. PTSD and ASD are more common diagnoses in rape victims now.

What kinds of symptoms do victims have when they are given a diagnosis of PTSD or ASD? According to the DSM-IV-TR, posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is labeled as “acute” if duration of symptoms is less than 3 months, and as “chronic” if duration of symptoms is 3 months or longer. PTSD is more commonly measured after rape because it is the primary trauma-related diagnosis. To qualify for a PTSD diagnosis, the person has been exposed to a traumatic event in which *both* of the following were present: (1) the person experienced, witnessed, or was confronted with an event or events that involved actual or threatened death or serious injury, or a threat to the physical integrity of self or to others, and (2) their response involved intense fear, helplessness, or horror. Along with those criteria, victims must have one or more symptoms such as: (1) recurrent and intrusive distressing recollections of the event, including images, thoughts or perceptions (2) recurrent dreams of the event (3) acting or feeling as if the traumatic event were recurring, (4) intense psychological distress at exposure to internal or external cues that symbolize or resemble an aspect of the traumatic event and/or (5) physiological reactivity on exposure to internal or external cues. In the next criterion, victims have persistent avoidance of stimuli that are associate with the trauma and numbing of general responsiveness (not present before the trauma) as indicated by 3 or more of the following: (1) efforts to avoid thoughts, feelings, or conversations associated with the event (2) efforts to avoid activities, places, or people that arouse recollections of the trauma (3) inability to recall an important aspect of the trauma (4) markedly diminished interest or

participation in significant activities (5) feeling detached from others (6) restricted range of affect (e.g., unable to have loving feelings) and (7) sense of foreshortened future (e.g., does not expect to have a career, marriage, children, or a normal life span). In the next criterion, victims must have persistent symptoms of increased arousal (not present before the trauma) as indicated by 2 or more of the following: (1) difficulty falling or staying asleep (2) irritability or outbursts of anger (3) difficulty concentrating (4) hypervigilance (5) exaggerated startle response. The next criterion is that the duration of the preceding disturbances is more than one month. Finally, the disturbance causes clinically significant distress or impairment in social, occupational, or other important areas.

PTSD was originally constructed to describe the psychological trauma of veterans returning from war, but soon it was discovered that the diagnosis had broad applications to trauma, making PTSD a common diagnosis for sexual assault victims. Interestingly, more rape survivors are diagnosed as suffering from PTSD than any other trauma group. Courtrooms often inappropriately place more emphasis on the diagnosis of PTSD as a sign that a trauma did occur (Boeschen et al., 1998).

Jones (1999) discusses the negative consequences that rape has for victims. Effects range from decreased satisfaction in sexual activities to increased depression, as well as symptoms of fear and anxiety. This can result in diagnoses of major depression, psychoactive drug usage, and anxiety disorders.

Rowan University sexual assault victims may find that psychotherapeutic counseling can help to relieve symptoms, which can surface after a sexual trauma.

### Rowan University's Department of Public Safety

Rowan University's Department of Public Safety is directed by Timothy Michener, Ph.D. and consists of 7 police officers and 38 security officers. One of the police officers is a female. The Department of Public Safety reports sexual assaults and other crimes on the Crime Incident log, and it is posted on the University's website. Reports are available from the year 2001. The Campus Police handle all sexual assaults which occur on campus, and Glassboro police handle all sexual assaults which occur off campus. The Campus Police solicit information from the Division of Student Affairs, as well as the Glassboro Police, for crimes that may have occurred but were not reported to the Campus Police.

The Crime Incident Log provides information for criminal activity which occurs on campus, in a campus residence facility, in or on a non-campus building or property (which is owned or controlled by a recognized student organization or an off-campus educational property which is owned or controlled by Rowan), or on adjacent public property. The Rowan University Department of Public Safety reports incidents on the campus security website, [http://www.rowan.edu/pubsafety/information/crime\\_log](http://www.rowan.edu/pubsafety/information/crime_log). Rowan University is required to maintain the public crime log within two business days and disclose any crime that occurred on campus or within the patrol jurisdiction of the Rowan Department of Public Safety.

Dr Timothy Michener has been the director of public safety at Rowan University since 2003. Dr. Michener completed his dissertation on the Rape Aggressive Defense (R.A.D), which teaches women how to fend off a rapist. The program consists of lectures, discussions, and technique training. It provides basic instruction in self-defense,

awareness, avoidance and risk reduction, and how to react when confronted. He encourages all female students or employees to take this two week course, and has himself taught over 2000 women when he worked in the city of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Dr Michener hopes that the University will offer it soon as a one-credit course.

Interestingly, Rutgers University's Police Department in Newark, New Jersey, offers the R.A.D. course for their female students, faculty, and staff in three separate sessions. Each is three hours long. Additionally participants may opt to take a three hour hands-on skills practice simulation session. For more information on R.A.D., individuals can visit the official website at [www.RAD-SYSTEMS.com](http://www.RAD-SYSTEMS.com).

Dr. Michener believes that developing and improving trusting relationships with professors, counselors and police BEFORE an event happens, and educating the Rowan Community about where and how to get help, might increase the rate of sexual assault reporting. If the event is not reported to the campus police, the rate of reporting will be an underestimation. Law enforcement and counselors from Rowan's Counseling Center handle the incidents and are available to accompany the victim to the hospital for evidence collection.

Sexual offenses are classified as Forcible or Non-Forcible. Sexual assault is classified as a Forcible Sexual Offense. The Crime Incidents log reported the following sexual assaults from 2001 to March of 2005:

**Table 2**

<i>Rowan University's Crime Incident Log: (N=9600) students</i>	
Crime Incident Log	Sexual Assaults Reported
Crime Incident Log 2001	1 *
Crime Incident Log 2002	1
Crime Incident Log 2003	1
Crime Incident Log 2004	2
<u>Crime Incident Log Jan-March 2005</u>	<u>0</u>
Sexual Assaults (2001 to March 2005)	5 Total
*Includes a delayed report from 2000	

S.A.R.T. (Sexual Assault Response Team)

The sexual assault response team (S.A.R.T.) is a coordinated team of professionals under the Division of Criminal Justice who provide services to help a victim of sexual assault 24 hours a day, seven days per week. The team consists of a sexual assault nurse examiners (S.A.N.E.), law enforcement professionals, and rape care advocates. Together, the team can provide enhanced service to the victims of sexual assault, and ensure the victim will only have to tell his or her story once rather than multiple times.

In April 2004, New Jersey Attorney General Peter C. Harvey announced that New Jersey was a “first in the nation” milestone, as each of the 21 county prosecutor’s offices

had implemented Sexual Assault Response Teams. It was noted that 175 Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners work in 46 New Jersey Hospitals. By April 2004 they attended to 980 sexual assault victims. The New Jersey SART/SANE program has received more than \$3 million dollars in funding.

### **Table 3**

The Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy has compiled  
the following rape statistics:

- 1,348 rapes were reported in New Jersey in 2002;
- There is one rape every six hours and 30 minutes in New Jersey;
- 77 percent of rapes go unreported when they are committed by a current or former husband or boyfriend;
- 54 percent of rapes go unreported when the perpetrator is a friend or acquaintance;
- 94 percent of all completed rapes, 91 percent of all attempted rapes, and 89 percent of all completed and attempted sexual assaults between 1992 and 2000 were against female victims aged 12 or older.

Rowan University has two campuses, one in Camden, in Camden County, and one in Glassboro, located in Gloucester County in southern New Jersey. Rowan University sexual assault victims at the Camden, N.J. campus are referred to Kennedy Hospital in Stratford, or to Cooper Hospital, or Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital in Camden, N.J.. An assault victim at the Glassboro campus is referred to Underwood Hospital, Woodbury, N.J., or to Kennedy Hospital, Turnersville, N.J.. Each of these five hospitals is equipped with a private S.A.N.E. room, designated for interviewing and examining rape victims, including the collection of forensic data such as DNA samples. A computer which documents injuries is also located in the S.A.N.E. rooms.

By using a Sexual Assault Response Team (S.A.R.T.) protocol, members can decrease the stress experienced by the victim. Victims are not charged for the forensic exam. The Prosecutor's Office provides funding for the rape kit processing. At this time the hospitals are donating the medications to the victim which help to prevent pregnancy and sexually-transmitted diseases.

For the past seven years, Middle Atlantic-Great Lakes Organized Crime Law Enforcement Network (MAGLOCLLEN) has hosted a convention for federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies, Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) personnel, and SANE/SART personnel. They can be reached at 1-800-345-1322 for information about upcoming events. In November, they convene for three days of discussions and training concerning investigation and prosecution of sex crimes. This event affords networking opportunities and information sharing about topics such as investigative techniques, interagency cooperation, emerging trends in critical issues in victimization, date rape drugs, and information regarding the undetected rapist.

#### School Liability for Sexual Assault

According to the American Association of University Women (2004) a university may be liable for sexual assault. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits sex discrimination in education. It states "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving federal financial assistance". This act is enforced primarily by the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR). The act includes sexual harassment and sexual assault. In the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Davis v. Monroe County Board of Education* (1999), Title IX

requires schools to be responsible for addressing and remedying student-to-student harassment. The U.S. Department of Education OCR can find a school in violation of Title IX for sexual assault, and a student can file an administrative complaint and must prove that school officials knew about the harassment, and deliberately were indifferent to it, and that the harassment was so severe, pervasive, and offensive that it reduced the student's educational opportunities or benefits. They also need to prove that the university's response or lack of response, to a sexual assault was unreasonable for the known circumstances.



## Chapter 3

### Design of the Study

#### Measures

The survey consisted of 22 multiple choice questions (see Appendix A). The survey was designed to be brief and easy to complete.

#### Method

##### *Participants*

Five hundred forty-eight questionnaires were distributed to students and employees from Rowan University's Glassboro campus in southern New Jersey. Only questionnaires that were fully completed by students were analyzed. Data were collected through an opportunistic survey, a type of convenience sampling. Though participants were not randomly sampled, efforts were made to ensure that the sample included a wide selection of students. Students were recruited from Engineering, Dance, Education, Anthropology, Psychology, Geology, Theatre, History, Statistics, as well as general education classes. A sorority was also polled. Students were also approached in the library, computer labs, and from different buildings on campus. The sample could be considered to be *reasonably* representative of the Rowan University student population. Currently, the University has approximately 9,600 students enrolled. The sample comprised approximately 1/18<sup>th</sup> of the entire student population at Rowan University.

Students sampled included both males and females over age 18. Four hundred eighty were age 18-25, and 48 were over age 25, two omitted their age. One student was under the age of 18, but was allowed to be included in the study by the IRB Committee.

Of the 531 student participants, 164 were male, 347 were female, and 20 failed to indicate their gender.

Although the survey was distributed to both Rowan students and employees, few employees were sampled. Therefore, only student data (n=531) are reported in this study.

Four hundred forty-three were White, 37 were Black, 21 were Hispanic, 10 were Asian, 18 were “Other”, and two omitted their race.

Ninety-four were freshmen, 91 were sophomores, 144 were juniors, 169 were seniors, and 33 were graduate students.

**Table 4**  
**Survey Distribution**

Distributed surveys	548
Refused to participate	7
Students	531
Non-students (N/A)	7
Unidentified Status	3

**Table 5**  
*Gender of Student Participants (n=531)*

Male	164
Female	347
Omitted Gender	20

**Table 6**  
*Age of Student Participants (n=531)*

Under Age 18	1 *IRB Approved
Age 18-25	480
Over Age 25	48
Omitted Age	2

**Table 7**  
*Race of Student Participants (n=531)*

White	443
Black	37
Hispanic	21
Asian	10
Other	18
Omitted Race	2

**Table 8**  
*Participants' Year in School (n=531)*

Freshman	94
Sophomore	91
Junior	144
Senior	169
Graduate Student	33

*Procedure*

Participants completed the one-page check-off survey anonymously. Information obtained from the participants included demographics of victims and their offenders, locations of the assaults, information about the crime, if the assault was reported, and if the victims sought help after the event. Maintaining confidentiality was crucial to the research.

Following the submission of the survey, participants received a handout with information about the availability of counseling services at Rowan University, as well as contact information for Services Empowering Rape Victims (SERV), which is a non-profit agency serving Camden and Gloucester counties, providing free services to victims of sexual trauma.

Survey results were entered into an Excel spreadsheet. Results were analyzed using the SPSS statistical program.

## Chapter 4

### Analysis of the Results

#### *Results*

A total of 22 (4.14%) out of 531 student participants experienced sexual assaults on and off campus from 2001 to March of 2005.

Eighteen were female, three were male, and one failed to indicate their gender.

Eighteen were White, one was Black, one was Hispanic, and two indicated "Other".

Results indicate that six of the 22 sexual assaults took place on-campus. Twelve of the 22 sexual assaults occurred off-campus. Four omitted the locale of the sexual assault. One sexual assault victim was under the age of 18 and was approved to be included in the study by Rowan University's I.R.B. Committee. Eighteen victims were 18-25 years of age, and three were over age 25. Six were freshmen, five were sophomores, 5 were juniors, five were seniors, and one failed to indicate their year in school.

Of the 22 sexual assaults which occurred on and off campus, participants indicated that two occurred in 2001, three occurred in 2002, four occurred in 2003, eleven occurred in 2004, and zero occurred from January to March 2005. Two victims failed to indicate which year their assault took place. In 2001, one sexual assault was on-campus and one was off-campus. In 2002, one was on-campus, one was off-campus, and one failed to indicate the locale of the sexual assault. In 2003, one was on-campus and three were off-campus. In 2004, 4 were on-campus and 6 were off-campus, and one victim failed to indicate the locale of the sexual assault. Additionally, two victims indicated that they were sexually assaulted, yet failed to indicate the year of the assault.

According to the survey, a total of seven sexual assaults occurred on-campus and no one reported the crime to campus police. Three were reported to police, but those occurred off-campus. One took place in 2002 and two took place in 2004. Since the crimes were off-campus, they would not be included in Rowan's Crime Incident report.

Seven sexual assaults out of 531 students occurred on-campus. This indicates that 1.3% of students on-campus were sexually assaulted for the years 2001 through March 2005. This result is compared to the Crime Incident Log which indicates five students out of 9600 reported being sexually assaulted on-campus. Rowan officials indicate a .05% sexual assault rate for students on-campus who reported the crime for the years 2001 through March 2005.

**Table 9**     *Survey Responses On/Off campus 2001-March 2005*  
*(n=531)*

<u>Question:</u>	<u># of "Yes"</u>	<u>% of 531</u>
Sexually Assaulted and/or Physically Forced?	22	4.14%
Threatened?	20	3.77%
Bribed?	37	6.97%
Regretted engaging in sex while under the influence?	125	23.54%
* several students selected more than one category		

**Table 10**  
**Victims' Reasons For Not Reporting (n=22)**

<u>Reasons for not reporting</u> (several victims selected more than one reason for not reporting)	
I didn't want anyone to find out	1
Scared to tell	1
Embarrassed	1
Someone may think I asked for it	2
Wasn't sure where to go	2
Fear of retaliation	3
I was under the influence	9
Just wanted to forget the whole thing	10

**Table 11 SURVEY RESULTS**  
*The Year That Sexual Assaults Occurred*  
 (n=22) On/Off campus

Year Unspecified (2)	0 on-campus	1 off-campus	1 unspecified locale
2001 Sexual Assaults (2)	1 on-campus	1 off-campus	
2002 Sexual Assaults (3)	1 on-campus	1 off-campus	1 unspecified locale
2003 Sexual Assaults (4)	1 on-campus	3 off-campus	
2004 Sexual Assaults (11)	4 on-campus	6 off-campus	1 unspecified locale
2005 Sexual Assaults (Jan.-Mar)	0 on-campus	0 off-campus	

**Table 12 (n=1)**

**Survey Results From 2001 ON-CAMPUS SEXUAL ASSAULTS**

Sexually Assaulted On-Campus	1
Senior	1
Female	1
Age 18-25	1
White Victim	1
White Offender	1
Received Medical Help	0
Regretted Sexual Activity Using Drugs/Alcohol	0
Received Counseling	0
Reported to Police	0

\* Found that 1 out of 531 was sexually assaulted in 2001. If assault frequency is extrapolated over the student population of 9600, results of the survey suggest actually 18 people were sexually assaulted on campus in 2001.

**Table 13 (n=1)**

**Survey Results From 2002 ON-CAMPUS SEXUAL ASSAULTS**

Sexually Assaulted On-Campus	1
Senior	1
Male	1
Age 18-25	1
White Victim	1
White Offenders	2
Received Medical Help	0
Regretted Sexual Activity Using Drugs/Alcohol	1
Received Counseling	0
Reported to Police	0

\* Found that 1 out of 531 was sexually assaulted in 2002. If assault frequency is extrapolated over the student population of 9,600, results of the survey suggest actually 18 people were sexually assaulted on campus in 2002.

**Table 14 (n=1)**

**Survey Results From 2003 ON-CAMPUS SEXUAL ASSAULTS**

Sexually Assaulted On-Campus	1
Senior	1
Female	1
Age 18-25	1
White Victim	1
Asian Offender	1
Received Medical Help	0
Regretted Sexual Activity Using Drugs/Alcohol	1
Received Counseling	0
Reported to Police	0

\* Found that 1 out of 531 was sexually assaulted in 2003. If assault frequency is extrapolated over the student population of 9,600, results of the survey suggests actually 18 people were sexually assaulted on campus in 2003.

**Table 15 (n=4)**

**Survey Results From 2004 ON-CAMPUS SEXUAL ASSAULTS**

Sexually Assaulted On-Campus	4	
Freshmen	3	
Sophomore	1	
Female	4	
Under Age 18	1	*IRB Approved
Age 18-25	3	
White Victims	3	
Hispanic Victim	1	
Received Medical Help	3	
Regretted Sexual Activity Using Drugs/Alcohol	4	
Sought or Received Counseling	0	
Reported Assault to Police	0	

\* Extrapolating the sexual assault frequency rate (4/531) over the student population of 9,600 suggests that there were actually 72 sexual assaults on campus in 2004.



Table 16

Gender of Sexual Assaulted Victims (n=22)  
On/Off Campus

Female Victims = 18/531	(3.4%)
Male Victims= 3/531	(0.6%)
Victim Omitted Gender=1/531	(0.2%)

Table 17

Comparison between Crime Log and Survey

<p><b>Survey Results:</b> On-Campus Sexual Assaults 4 /531 students in 2004 (0.75%)</p> <p><b>Rowan University Crime Incident Log:</b> On Campus Sexual Assaults in 2004 2/ 9,600 students (0.02%)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>The student survey showed a sexual assault frequency of 4 on-campus assaults out of 531 surveyed students. If that frequency was extrapolated over the entire student population of 9600, the rate would indicate 72 sexual assaults took place in 2004.</b></li><li>• <b>Only 2 sexual assaults out of approximately 9,600 students were reported to Rowan officials in 2004. Results from the survey suggest 70 unreported sexual assaults may have occurred during 2004. If only two students reported the sexual assaults, the Crime Incident Log would not accurately reflect the sexual assaults that were likely to have been committed on-campus.</b></li><li>• <b>The 4 students who reported their sexual assault to the researcher indicated that they did NOT report to Rowan officials.</b></li></ul>
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## Discussion

The results of this study suggest that due to the reluctance of victims to report sexual assault, the Rowan campus Crime Incident log greatly underestimates the actual incidence of sexual assault on campus. The higher rate of acknowledged sexual assault in the survey was probably due to the fact that students were approached, asked, and guaranteed anonymity. The campus log is based on reports which are initiated by the students. The students reporting to campus officials may risk being identified in campus records or may be asked to provide testimony in a trial. This is supported by survey results. Of the 22 assault victims, only three reported their off-campus assault and none reported their on-campus assault. This finding is consistent with Fisher et al., (2000). Almost half of the students reporting in the survey indicated that they just wanted to forget the event.

The sampling approach in this survey was not random. However, there is no reason to believe that the procedure employed would have resulted in a sample with a higher assault rate than the general student population at Rowan.

Interestingly, of the 531 students, 109 students gave information about their “offender”. One hundred one students indicated that there was one offender, six indicated two offenders, and two indicated that there were three or more offenders. Ninety-one offenders were White, 10 offenders were Black, 3 offenders were Asian, 3 offenders were Hispanic, and 2 were listed as “Other”.

Of the 531 students who completed the survey, 9 said that they were physically forced to perform sex, 37 said that they were bribed, and 20 said that they were threatened.

Of the seven victims who were sexually assaulted on-campus, three indicated that they were forced, one indicated being threatened, and one indicated being bribed. Six were sexually assaulted by acquaintances, while one was assaulted by a stranger. No one reported the assault to campus police.

The current study compared the survey results for sexual assaults occurring on-campus to the Rowan University Crime Incident Log for that same time period.

Estimates on the occurrence of sexual assaults on college campuses have varied. Brown (2003) found the rate to be 2.6%, while Jones (1999) found a rate of 4%. Findings from the current study indicate 4.1% sexual assaults occurred on and off campus.

Koss (1987, cited on Brown, 2003) reported a rate of 3.8% for college women while Fisher et al. (2000) reported estimates of 2.8% for college women. The current study indicates a 5.2% sexual assault rate for women at Rowan University. The 5.2% sexual assault rate found in this survey for female students is consistent with previous findings on other campuses. This means that 1 in 19 Rowan University female students may have been sexually assaulted.

For college men, Brown (2003) reported a rate of 1 in 24 (4.2%), while Hensley (2002) found 1 in 33 (3%) were sexually assaulted. The current study found that 1 in 54 (1.8%) males at Rowan University may have been sexually assaulted. This figure is lower than the rates reported by Brown and Hensley in their studies.

The results of this study also indicate that most sexual assaults on college students occur off-campus. This finding is consistent with all studies reviewed.

It was also found in the current study that 126 (24%) of 531 participants regretted sexual activity while under the influence of drugs or alcohol. This is consistent with a study from Perkins (1992, cited in Jones 1999) which found 25 % of college students experienced unwanted sex with alcohol usage.

While completing the surveys, several participants provided additional information indicating they were raped at a fraternity party, molested when they were younger, or reported their roommate had been date raped. One interesting observation is that 53 people out of the 531 student participants changed their answers on the survey. One person gave complete details about their sexual assault, then scribbled everything out and elected not to participate.

The results of this study indicate that there is a need for efforts to facilitate disclosure of sexual assault victimization on the campus of Rowan University. Decreasing risk through promoting prevention and protection strategies, facilitating the creation of a positive relationship between campus police and the community, and easier access to campus security, medical assistance, and counseling are needed for Rowan community members.

Rowan University may benefit by hosting or sending representatives to sex crime conferences and college consortia. Rowan University may also want to consider including an extensive sexual assault survivor's handbook on the University's website similar to MSU. Rowan officials may opt to promote reporting of sexual assault by making report forms readily available to the Rowan community.

Rowan University may want to include information on R.A.D. courses on their website, similar to Rutgers' University's website.

Finally, Rowan University may want to consider initiating a male peer group to present information to other males regarding increased incidences of sexual aggression during alcohol consumption.

#### Implications for Future Research

Future research could be modified to include other aspects of campus sexual assault in the survey, i.e., the gender of the perpetrator, history of victim's previous sexual trauma, if counseling was received, counseling efficacy, if the victim felt supported by friends and family, if the victims feel that the college or university helped them after the assault, did they file a complaint against the offender, identification of the exact location of the assault, whether the victim was voluntarily or involuntarily under the influence of drugs or alcohol, and the symptoms they experienced from the event.

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## Appendix A

### Sexual Assault Survey

I am completing a study as part of my master's thesis in Applied Psychology. The study is about the sexual assault experiences of Rowan students, staff and faculty on campus. Participation is voluntary. Your confidentiality will be protected. The results will be reported as a group. Individual responses will not be discussed in my study. Thank you for your cooperation. --- Kathleen Oriti

For more questions or more information on the study, please contact Dr. Linda Jeffrey 856-256-4874, Psych Dept

For the purpose of this study, sexual assault is defined as:

*Vaginal, oral, or anal penetration with any object WITHOUT CONSENT, or with a person who is UNABLE TO CONSENT.*

I WISH TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS STUDY \_\_\_\_\_yes \_\_\_\_\_no

Please indicate your gender \_\_\_\_\_Male \_\_\_\_\_Female

1- What is your age? \_\_\_under 18 \_\_\_18 -25 \_\_\_over 25

2- What is your race? \_\_\_White \_\_\_Black \_\_\_Hispanic \_\_\_Asian \_\_\_other

3- If you're a student, what year? \_\_\_1<sup>st</sup> \_\_\_2<sup>nd</sup> \_\_\_JR \_\_\_SR \_\_\_GRAD \_\_\_N/A

4- While at Rowan University, have you been sexually assaulted? \_\_\_yes \_\_\_no

5- If you were sexually assaulted, was it: \_\_\_on campus \_\_\_off campus

6- Who was the offender? \_\_\_acquaintance \_\_\_boyfriend \_\_\_girlfriend \_\_\_coworker

\_\_\_ex-boyfriend \_\_\_ex-girlfriend \_\_\_immediate family member (lives in home)

\_\_\_relative \_\_\_spouse/live-in mate \_\_\_stranger \_\_\_neighbor \_\_\_other

7- Were you physically forced to perform vaginal, oral or anal sex? \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No

8- Were you ever threatened in any way to perform a sexual activity? \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No

9- Have you ever been bribed or promised something in return to perform a sexual activity? \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No

10- At any time, being under the influence alcohol or drugs (including date rape drugs) did you ever engage in sexual activity you later regretted? \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No

11- How many offenders were involved? \_\_\_1 \_\_\_2 \_\_\_group (3 or more)

12- The offender's race? \_\_\_White \_\_\_Black \_\_\_Hispanic \_\_\_Asian \_\_\_other

13- Did you report the crime to Campus Security? \_\_\_yes \_\_\_no

14- Did you report it to the Police? \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No

15- Did you call a RAPE CRISIS hotline or seek counseling? \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No

16- Did you go to a doctor or hospital to get medical help? \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No

17- If not reported....why not? \_\_\_embarrassment \_\_\_fear of retaliation

\_\_\_just wanted to forget the whole thing \_\_\_someone may think *I asked for it*

\_\_\_I was under the influence of drugs/alcohol \_\_\_I was too scared to tell

\_\_\_I wasn't sure where to go for help \_\_\_I didn't want anyone to find out

18- When did it occur? \_\_\_2001 \_\_\_2002 \_\_\_2003 \_\_\_2004 \_\_\_2005

19- Did the sexual offense occur in a building on campus? \_\_\_yes \_\_\_no

20- Did the sexual offense occur in a car or parking lot? \_\_\_yes \_\_\_no

## Appendix B

### Post Survey Handout

*If you or someone you care about has experienced a sexual assault recently, or in the past, counseling can be very beneficial. Victims may often find that they want to AVOID talking about what happened to them. It is not uncommon for victims to experience recurrent thoughts about the event, and find that they are more fearful. Counseling is a great way to begin healing from the trauma. Listed below are 2 services which are free and totally confidential.*

**The Counseling Center at Rowan University** is located at Savitz Hall on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor. Contact the office at 856-256-4222 for an appointment. Hours are Monday-Friday 8:30-4:30pm

**In case of emergency:** Contact Counseling & Psychological Services at 856-256-4222 on weekdays between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm After hours or on weekends, contact the Student Health Center at 856-256-4333 who can make the appropriate intervention. In cases of acute risk of violent behavior, call Public Safety at 856-256-4911.

Counseling & Psychological Services promotes the psychological well-being and personal growth of a diverse student body by providing quality individual, group and crisis counseling for personal, psychological and social concerns.

Counseling & Psychological Services staff offers consultation to faculty, staff and students regarding student development concerns as well as a wide range of mental health issues impacting the campus community.

*Except for graduate interns, the counselors are all trained professionals -- not students.*

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**SERV—( Services Empowering Rape Victims)**

-4 offices located in Camden and Gloucester Counties.

**24 hour hotline ...phone # 1-866-295-SERV**

Individual Counseling /Group Counseling/ Counseling for Loved Ones

-Also will provide accompaniment to hospitals/ police/ and court

## Appendix C

### The Victims of Crime Compensation Board (VCCB)

A sexual assault victim from Rowan University can apply to the Victims of Crime Compensation Board, for financial assistance. Since sexual assault is a crime, innocent victims can be eligible for reimbursement from the state of New Jersey for out of pocket expenses related to medical, counseling bills, as well as lost wages. If a person wishes to submit a claim, they must show that the crime happened in New Jersey, or they are a resident of New Jersey and the crime happened in another state. The sexual assault must be reported within three months, if possible. The victim or the victim's family must have incurred bills because of injuries directly resulting from the crime, which are not covered by insurance. The application must be submitted within two years of the sexual assault, if possible. Up to \$25,000 in benefits are awarded after a claim has been approved. Expenses can be paid for psychological counseling, loss of earnings, medical bills, and lawyer's fees.

For questions concerning the rights of a crime victim, call the local prosecutor's office of Victim Advocacy or on the web at [www.njvictims.org](http://www.njvictims.org).

## Appendix D

### H.I.V. and Sexual Assault

Many people may not be aware of the importance of getting immediate medical help. Sexual assault victims may survive a sexual assault, but may be at risk of dying from A.I.D.S. after exposure to Human Immunodeficiency Virus (H.I.V.) from an infected perpetrator. Each sexual assault victim must receive counseling about the risk of HIV transmission. Often it is unknown if the perpetrator is infected with H.I.V.. The type of penetration can influence the percentage of risk for transmission from an infected offender. According to Toni Seibert, the Camden County Prosecutor's Office S.A.N.E. program coordinator, currently there is a risk of 0.1%- 3% for H.I.V. transmission for penile-anal penetration, and risk of 0.1%-2% for HIV transmission through vaginal exposure. The time between exposure and initiating HIV preventative medication should be within 72 hours. Treatment which is started within 24 hours, and continues for 28 days, has been shown to have the greatest effect in preventing H.I.V. transmission. Unfortunately 24%-36% of people who take the medication experience side effects severe enough to discontinue the therapy.

Antibody H.I.V. testing is performed at the time of exposure, then at 6 weeks, then at 3 months, then 6 months following the assault. *Combivir*, approved in 1997 by the FDA, is a popular medication that helps prevent H.I.V.. Depending upon which medication is used, the price for antiviral medications can range from \$600.00 to \$1,000.00. Costs for the antiretroviral agents may be covered by the Victims of Crime Compensation Board.

## Appendix E

### How do other states handle sexual assault on campus?

The New York Times (October 3, 2004) reports that Connecticut is one of the few states with a college consortium where deans, nurses, mental health experts and local and national sexual assault victim advocates gather together to share information on preventing assaults and treating victims. The consortium, organized by Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services, along with 18 college and university representatives, meets monthly during the academic year for networking and technical assistance. The director of the University of Connecticut's Women's Center, Kathleen Holgerson, chairs the group. She encourages the sharing of best practice ideas, obtains input on challenges, and finds methods to address new situations (Salzman, 2004).

Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri has detailed policies and procedures concerning sexual assault and acquaintance rape on their website: <http://www.wustl.edu>. Contact information for Women's Crisis Counselors is provided. ONE IN FOUR is an all male peer education group that educates male undergraduate students about sexual assault. Rape Aggressive Defense (R.A.D.) courses are posted as well. The university also has a link to a confidential report form for reporting sexual assault. This form enables a victim, or a person who has been told about a sexual assault, to report the incident to the Washington University Committee on Sexual Assault. This process helps the institution to compute the frequency of sexual assaults, while offering assistance. This effort protects the victim's anonymity.