DISPARITIES IN SEXUAL ASSAULT CARE-SEEKING AMONG UNDERGRADUATE COLLEGE STUDENTS

Bethan L. Shipway, B.S; Jacob D. Ball, M.A; Tyler G. James, M.S, CHES; Guy Nicolette, M.D.; Michelle Jacobs-Elliott, M.D.
10.3% of female and 3.1% of male college UG - CDC

22% of rapes and 17% of sexual assaults are reported to PD or campus authorities

Sexual assault is the most underreported violent crime
Looking at UF

- 58% White
- 14% Hispanic
- 12% African American
- 8% Asian American
- 8% Other

Figure 1. Race of University of Florida Students in Fall 2010
Looking at SHP Data

- 58% White
- 15% Hispanic
- 16% African American*
- 7% Asian American
- 4% Other

Note: Race and ethnicity combined in SHP data

* Significant at $p = 0.028$
Looking side by side

- A two-proportion z-test was used to compare the proportion of students in racial categories
  - White (58% vs. 58% Z = 0.17, p = 0.867)
  - Hispanic (14% vs. 15% Z = 0.33, p = 0.740)
  - African American (16% vs. 7%, Z = 2.19, p = 0.028)
Healthy Gators Survey

- Anonymously self-report
- 639 Undergraduates responded – that’s about 2% of the UF UG student population that year.
- Roughly 7.7% reported some type of sexual assault
- 7.7% of UF’s student population is roughly 3,842 – that’s a lot of people who could be affected by SA

Figure 3. Healthy Gators Survey 2013 – Percentage of Students Who Self Reported Sexual Assault in Last 12 Months
Effects of Gender

- Between 9-10% of all rape survivors outside of criminal institutions are male (U.S. Department of Justice, 1994; TAAS, 2014)

- An estimated 2331 men were effected in 2010

- It is estimated that male survivors report sexual assault and abuse even less frequently than female survivors (Dube, 2005)

- A male survivor of a sexual assault may feel as if he is not “a real man.” (Sexual Assault Prevention and Awareness Center.)
Negative impact of Sexual Assault

Individuals who experience sexual assault are at increased risk for many negative health outcomes (Brener et al., 1999; Campbell et al., 2002; Coker et al., 2002; Dutton et al., 2006).

Women who experience rape have an increased chance of being diagnosed with psychological distress (Brener et al., 1999; Campbell et al., 2002; Coker et al., 2002; Dutton et al., 2006).

For college students, this can lead to negative academic outcomes (American College Health Association, 2008).
UFPD

- 14 ‘Forcible’ sexual offense
- 0 ‘Non-Forcible’ sexual offense
- That’s an estimated 11,512 individuals who did not report a sexual assault to UFPD over 3 years

![Figure 6. Crimes Reported to UFPD between 2010-2012](image_url)
What can we do?

- Increase support for linkage to care
- Stop victim blaming
- Support Health Promotion campaigns to reach priority populations
- Research into unknown barriers to help seeking behaviors
- Research to examine the downstream effects.