



THE
SAMUEL DUBOIS COOK
CENTER ON SOCIAL EQUITY

**Hank & Billye Suber Aaron Young Scholars
Summer Research Institute**

3rd Year Cohort

Research Papers

Summer 2018



Samuel DuBois Cook

The Samuel DuBois Cook Center on Social Equity (Cook Center) was named after Dr. Samuel DuBois Cook, a distinguished political scientist, scholar, educator, author, administrator, civil and human rights activist and public servant. Dr. Cook, a professor in the Duke University political science department became the first African-American to hold a regular and/or tenured faculty appointment at a predominantly white southern college or university. He went on to serve 22-and-a-half years as president of Dillard University in New Orleans.

Samuel DuBois Cook Center on Social Equity

The Duke University Samuel DuBois Cook Center on Social Equity is an interdisciplinary research center within Trinity School of Arts and Sciences that is comprised of faculty and scholars from across Duke and a diverse international group of affiliated universities, research centers and non-governmental organizations. Its mission is to promote equity, across all domains of human interactions, through interdisciplinary research, teaching, partnerships, policy, and practice. The Cook Center seeks to employ the innovative use of new and existing data, develop human capital, incorporate stakeholder voices through civic engagement, create viable collaborations, and engender equity-driven policy and social transformation at the local, national and international levels.

Hank & Billye Suber Aaron Young Scholars Summer Research Institute

The Samuel DuBois Cook Center on Social Equity's Hank and Billye Suber Aaron Young Scholars Summer Research Institute is a three-week educational enrichment program that provides middle and high-school students enrolled in Durham Public Schools (DPS) in Durham, North Carolina, with training to enhance their writing, research, and presentation skills. The program is sponsored by the Samuel Cook Center on Social Equity at Duke University in partnership with Durham Public Schools (DPS). In keeping with the Samuel DuBois Cook Center's central mission as a community of scholars engaged in the study of the causes and consequences of inequality, participants will explore curriculum related to the economic, political, social, and cultural dimensions of inequality.

During the Hank and Billye Suber Aaron Young Scholars Summer Research Institute, students receive instruction from distinguished middle and high-school teachers, university professors, and leaders from community organizations. The program's main focus is on the development of students' research, writing, presentation, and critical-inquiry skills around issues of social justice. Students design and prepare original research presentations, posters, and papers focused on policy issues that affect inequality. Program material is selected by the teaching faculty in collaboration with Cook-Center scholars, focusing on various inequalities and their intersections. Emphasis is placed throughout the program on mentoring students in research, writing, and presentation skills. During the Hank and Billye Suber Aaron Young Scholars Summer Research Institute, students participate in workshops at Duke University's Perkins and Rubenstein Libraries and the Nasher Museum of Art.

Oluwatobi Adio



Oluwatobi Adio is a rising senior at the City of Medicine Academy. She likes to read and binge watch Nigerian movies with her mom. Adio wrote her research to raise awareness on the underlying issues of sexual assault on college campuses.

Kollin Brown



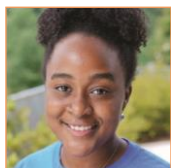
Kollin Brown is a rising senior at Hillside High School, where he held a conference about Social Equity for students in Durham Public Schools. Kollin has done research about housing Inequities. Watching Durham and Chicago firsthand, change over the years through gentrification has inspired him to do research about housing at the Young Scholars Institute. Upon graduation, Kollin plans on attending Morehouse College.

Ayden Lawrence



Ayden Lawrence is a participant in the third year cohort of the Aaron Young Scholar Summer Research Institute and is a rising sophomore at J.D Clements Early College. He is interested in the development of food deserts because they are contributing to the rise of health diseases in communities of color.

Akanke Mason-Hogans



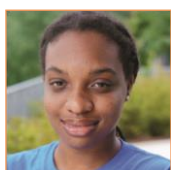
Akanke Mason-Hogans is a rising senior at Josephine Dobbs Clement Early College High School, and is a 3rd year student in the Aaron Young Scholars program. She has a passion for creative expression, social justice, and pepperoni pizza, and hopes to empower others through her research and advocacy. Akanke was inspired to write about the effects of colorism on education after witnessing it firsthand, with hopes that her research will enlighten educators on how to better serve their students in the future.

Sandra Santillan



Sandra Santillan is an Aaron Scholar, Durham native, and rising senior at Hillside High School. Over the course of three summers at the Young Scholars Research Institute, Sandra has researched and worked on issues of gender inequity, mental illness, and incarceration. She has worked alongside her peers, generating research products on issues of inequity. Sandra hopes to continue her research and widen her understanding of social inequities, as well as spreading valuable lessons and finding potential solutions related to her research interests.

Jenny Uba



Jenny Uba is a rising senior at City of Medicine Academy and is a part of the 3rd year cohort in the Aaron Young Scholars Institute Program. Her interest in food disparities was sparked when she learned about the inequities that exist in access to healthy food. Jenny hopes to further her research and expand her knowledge on the food supply chain in order to improve health outcomes in communities of color.

Taking A Look Into The Embedded Trap: Examining The Sexual Assault At Fraternity Parties

By: Oluwatobi Adio

Abstract

Sexual assault is prevalent on college campuses throughout the United States. Sexual assault is more likely to happen on college campuses within fraternities. Fraternities are well known for their excessive alcohol consumption and partying. The party setting and amount of alcohol available at fraternity parties create a dangerous and hostile environment for women. The dangers of these parties are heightened by the lack of sexual education on behalf of both the perpetrator and the victim. This paper analyzes how alcoholism plays an important role on sexual assault at fraternity parties, what impact the controlled party settings have on the unwelcome sexual advances, and how intervention programs can reduce the rate at which sexual assault occurs.

Introduction

Every ninety-eight seconds, someone in the U.S. is sexually assaulted.¹ Of those people, one in three women will experience sexual violence at some point in their lives.² Mary Koss, a professor of psychology at the University of Arizona conducted an all-male national survey in 1987 and her results were shocking. According to her research, “7.7 percent of male students volunteered anonymously that they had engaged in or attempted forced sex. Almost none

¹"Statistics," RAINN, , <https://www.rainn.org/statistics>.

² "Statistics About Sexual Violence," National Sexual Violence Resource Center, , https://www.nsvrc.org/sites/default/files/publications_nsvrc_factsheet_media-packet_statistics-about-sexual-violence_0.pdf.

considered it to be a crime.”³ This statistic proves that sexual exploitation of women has been normalized amongst college men. Approximately thirty-two percent of the rapes on college campuses occur at fraternity houses.⁴ The amount of sexual assault incidents occurring at fraternity parties is alarming. The aspects of fraternity parties place women in a position to be violated. Is this intentional or do the gender norms established by fraternities normalized their behavior?

Thesis Statement

The presence of college fraternities contributes to the high rates of sexual assault in college campuses due to the excessive alcoholism at parties, lack of sex education, and hypersexualized party culture hosted by fraternities.

Research Question

1. Which components of fraternity culture contribute to sexual assault on college campuses?
2. What is a possible solution to preventing sexual assault on college campuses?

Terminology

For the purposes of this paper, it is important to clarify the definition of sexual assault. According to the Department of Justice, the term “sexual assault” refers to any non-consensual sexual act, including when the victim lacks the capacity to consent.⁵ The definition of a fraternity is an organization of male students tied to Greek letters at a university who are united for a specific cause.⁶ Their origins are rooted in charitable activities, but have now become largely

³ "The History of Campus Sexual Assault," NprEd HOW LEARNING HAPPENS, , <https://www.npr.org/sections/ed/2014/11/30/366348383/the-history-of-campus-sexual-assault>.

⁴ Minow, Einolf, Sorority Participation and Sexual Assault Risk, 841

⁵ "Sexual Assault," The United States Department of Justice, , <https://www.justice.gov/ovw/sexual-assault>.

⁶ Merriam Webster, , <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/fraternity>.

known for their party culture. Their origins are rooted in charitable work and social gatherings, but have now come to be known for their party culture. The definition of consent is the voluntary agreement or acquiescence by a person of age or with appropriate mental capacity and understanding to be able to make that decision and who is not under any duress or coercion.⁷ The definition of alcoholism is the excessive or continued use of drinking.⁸

Methodology & Literature Review

All of the information obtained was gathered from the Google Scholar database. The body of literature used for analysis discusses the alcoholism at fraternity parties, the problematic fraternity party environment, lack of sexual education on college campuses, and how masculine roles contribute to sexual assault. Sexual assault has been around for a long time, but one of the first articles that discuss male aggression was released in 1957 by Eugene Kanin. His book “Male Aggression in Dating-Courtship relations” discusses the secrecy and stigma men use to exploit women.⁹ Specific articles used for alcoholism are “Sexual Victimization Among Sorority Women: Exploring the Link Between Sexual Violence and Institutional Practices” and “Sorority Participation and Sexual Assault Risk”. Other articles that provided information on fraternity members’ male-dominated party settings are “ Sorority Participation and Sexual Assault Risk” and “Sexual Assault on Campus: A Multilevel, Integrative Approach to Party Rape”. The data collected from “Effects of a Sexual Assault Peer Education Program on Men's Belief in Rape Myths ” provided information on how sexual assault intervention programs can help reduce the

⁷ "What Is Consent?" Sexual Assault Prevention & Awareness Center. <https://sapac.umich.edu/article/49>.

⁸ "Alcoholism," Merriam Webster, , <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/alcoholism>.

⁹ "The History of Campus Sexual Assault," NprEd HOW LEARNING HAPPENS, , <https://www.npr.org/sections/ed/2014/11/30/366348383/the-history-of-campus-sexual-assault>.

rates of sexual assault. The “Sexual Assault on Campus: A Multilevel, Integrative Approach to Party Rape” and “Alcohol-Related Sexual Assault: A Common Problem among College Students” articles also highlights the lack of education prevalent amongst students on college campuses.

Alcoholism

The excessive use of alcohol is common at fraternity parties and increases the likelihood of sexual assault. Fraternities are well known for having an abundant amount of alcohol at party scenes and due to a lot of alcohol being present, a lot of alcohol is consumed. The amount of alcohol prevalent at these parties increases the vulnerability of women, by impairing the better judgment of anyone who is intoxicated. Research conducted by Copenhaver and Grauerholz states that “ 96% of the respondents and offenders had been drinking or taking drugs before at least one of the incidents”.¹⁰ Based on this statistic, it can be inferred that there is, in fact, a positive correlation between the amount of alcohol consumed and the rate of sexual assault occurring at these parties. If there was less or no alcohol at the parties, sexual assault incidents would reduce. A study done by Einolf and Minow found that “ General level of activity within the sorority, attendance at sisterhood events, and attendance at coed Greek events where no alcohol is served all correlated negatively with the sexual victimization experiences of sorority members.”¹¹ This demonstrates how the rate of sexual victimization decreased when the presence of alcohol was eliminated from the sorority event. Sororities and fraternities are both involved in Greek life so, data from a sorority event is incorporated because it can be used to project how a no-alcohol

¹⁰ Stacey Copenhaver, Elizabeth Grauerholz, "Sexual Victimization Among Sorority Women: Exploring the Link Between Sexual Violence and Institutional Practices," ResearchGate, 38, https://www.researchgate.net/publication/226119566_Sexual_Victimization_Among_Sorority_Women_Exploring_the_Link_Between_Sexual_Violence_and_Institutional_Practices.

¹¹ Jacqueline Chevalier Minow, Christopher Einolf, "Sorority Participation and Sexual Assault Risk," ResearchGate, 845, https://www.researchgate.net/publication/24442315_Sorority_Participation_and_Sexual_Assault_Risk.

environment can also impact fraternity parties. Fraternity members also use alcohol to intoxicate women to the extent they are unable to refuse sexual coercion. They intoxicate women by encouraging them to drink more than intended. According to Ehrhart and Sandier, " Many fraternities glorify drinking and may deliberately encourage women to overdrink."¹² This statistic illustrates how fraternity members increase the vulnerability of woman by pressuring them to consume more alcohol.

Party Environment

The setting of the fraternity parties creates an unsafe environment for female students. According to Einolf and Minow, "The most common locations in which rapes occurred were off-campus private residences (47%) and fraternity houses (32%), followed by on-campus housing (7%), cars (6%), outdoors (2%), and other locations (6%)."¹³ This statistic proves that most rapes occur at fraternity houses besides off-campus residences. It seems likely that the high occurrence of rapes off-campus can be attributed to the lack of faculty supervision and campus police that are present in college dorms. Regardless, it is apparent that rape is likely to happen at a fraternity house and the percentage of rapes occurring at fraternity houses is alarming. Fraternity parties are dangerous because they target women and explicitly place them in positions of powerlessness. According to Armstrong, Hamilton, and Sweeney, "Fraternities control every aspect of parties at their houses: themes, music, transportation, admission, access to alcohol, and movement of guests. Party themes usually require women to wear scant, sexy clothing and place women in subordinate positions to men. Women attended parties such as "Pimps and Hos,"

¹² Copenhaver, Grauerholz, Sexual Victimization Among Sorority Women: Exploring the Link Between Sexual Violence and Institutional Practices, 33.

¹³ Minow, Einolf, Sorority Participation and Sexual Assault Risk, 841

“Victoria’s Secret,” and “Playboy Mansion”—the last of which required fraternity members to escort two scantily clad dates. Other recent themes included: “CEO/Secretary Ho,” “School Teacher/Sexy Student,” and “Golf Pro/Tennis Ho.”¹⁴ These male-dominated themes encourage sexual aggression and unwelcome advances by establishing sexualized gender roles at their parties. The transportation system provided by the fraternities also put women at risk for sexual assault because their ability to move on their own or away from danger is compromised.

Armstrong, Hamilton, and Sweeney conducted an interview with a female student on a college campus where she explained that “All those girls would stand out there and just like, no joke, get into these big black Suburbans driven by frat guys, wearing like seriously no clothes, piled on top of each other. This could be some kidnapper taking you all away to the woods and chopping you up and leaving you there.”¹⁵ Based off this information, it can be inferred that driving in a vehicle with these men at such a late hour makes the woman more vulnerable to sexual assault because their security is in the hands of the fraternity members and if the women needed to escape, it would be harder for them to leave the situation. Fraternities promote sexual assault by controlling the party setting and creating a dangerous environment for men and female interaction. These incidents occur as a result of irresponsibility and the lack of sexual education. If sexual intervention programs were strongly enforced on college campuses, it could play a key role in reducing sexual assault.

¹⁴ Elizabeth A. Armstrong, Laura Hamilton, and Brian Sweeney, "Sexual Assault on Campus: A Multilevel, Integrative Approach to Party Rape," 489, http://gendersexuality.uchicago.edu/projects/sexual_assault/pdf/2006_armstrong_ethnography.pdf.

¹⁵ Armstrong., Hamilton., Sweeney., Sexual Assault on Campus: A Multilevel, Integrative Approach to Party Rape, 494.

Inadequate Sexual Education

The lack of sexual education is prevalent among college males. The inability to accept no as an answer and having the mindset of entitlement to a woman's body, demonstrates a lack of effective sexual education on behalf of the perpetrator. In a society that objectifies female bodies and blurs the concept of consent, the lack of education surrounding sexual assault is not surprising, but no less dangerous. Victim blaming also demonstrates there is a deficient amount of sexual education because of the false mentality that anything the victim experienced was their fault. "About two-thirds of college men who acknowledge committing sexual assault report being multiple offenders."¹⁶ It has been suggested that college men report rates lower than college women do because "Many men view the woman's no consent as vague, ambiguous or insincere and convince themselves that their forcefulness was normal seduction, not rape." This statement shows that many male sex offenders are able to justify these acts because of gross misinterpretations of rape and consent. Women also have a lack of education when it comes to sexual assault because some may blame themselves or other victims for getting raped. Others may belittle the victim because they believe the victim could have avoided the situation altogether. One common rape myth believed by men and women, is that rape is a result of a woman's stupidity or carelessness. For example, after a college student recounted a sympathetic account of a woman raped at knifepoint by a stranger in the bushes, but also considered rape as nothing to worry about "cause I'm not stupid when I'm drunk." Even a feminist focus group participant explained that her friend who was raped "made every single mistake and almost all of them had to with alcohol. . She got ridiculed when she came out and said she was raped." These women contrast "true

¹⁶ Antonia Abbey, "Alcohol-Related Sexual Assault: A Common Problem among College Students," NCBI, , https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4484270/?_escaped_fragment_=po=11.1607.

victims” who are deserving of support with “stupid” women who forfeit sympathy.¹⁷ Not only is this response devoid of empathy for other women, but it also leads women to blame themselves when they are victimized.¹⁸ This statement shows that women are picking and choosing who gets sympathy and who does not base off the circumstances of the sexual assault. In order to reduce the amount of sexual assault prevalent on college campuses, there needs to be some sort of intervention program.

Education programs surrounding sexual assault are fairly new, but have proven to be effective. According to Foubert and Marriott, “After having seen the program, 59% of participants reported that they were less likely to do something sexual with a woman that she did not want to have happened.”¹⁹ That is over half the men that participated in the program and it all started with a class. Men attending the sexual assault intervention programs will believe fewer rape myths and are unlikely to attempt non-consensual intercourse. After a study was conducted, the final results stated that “The main goal for the program, to decrease rape myth acceptance among participants, was achieved. As predicted, men who attended the peer education program in the present study reported significantly less belief in rape myths after seeing the program.”²⁰ Sexual assault intervention programs can significantly reduce the rate of sexual assault if it were strongly enforced on college campuses. It is clear the lack of education prevalent among college men

¹⁷ Armstrong., Hamilton., Sweeney., Sexual Assault on Campus: A Multilevel, Integrative Approach to Party Rape, 493

¹⁸ Phillips, "Flirting with Danger"

¹⁹ "Effects of a Sexual Assault Peer Education Program on Men's Belief in Rape Myths," ResearchGate, 264, https://www.researchgate.net/profile/John_Foubert/publication/226232171_Effects_of_a_sexual_assault_peer_education_program_on_men's_belief_in_rape_myth/links/0912f50ce1b8ee3ad9000000/Effects-of-a-sexual-assault-peer-education-program-on-mens-belief-in-rape-myth.pdf.

²⁰ Foubert., Marriott., “Effects of a Sexual Assault Peer Education Program on Men's Belief in Rape Myths”, 265.

demonstrate the importance of educating them on this issue. These programs can help men better understand the concept of consent and reduce sexual assault on campus.

Conclusion

College fraternities' excessive use of alcohol combined with dangerous party environments and lack of sexual education all contribute to the high rates of sexual assault on college campuses. Every one in five women will be sexually assaulted while they are in college. Women should not have to hide in order to prevent their bodies from being violated. The underlying problem of this whole dilemma is the deficient amount of sexual education. Men and women are not properly educated on the concept of consent and sexual assault intervention programs are the key. Having a class that addresses sexual assault and informs individuals about what qualifies them as an offender will change their perspective on sexual assault and rape myths. Many survivors experience victim blaming and ridiculing. The intervention programs will inform students that the victim is never at fault for the incident and should be helped and supported. Education is the key to reducing the amount of sexual assault occurring each year. If people understand the concept of consent, the amount of sexual coercion committed will decrease.

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