



Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence

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Background information for this issue

SEXUAL ASSAULT: “illegal sexual contact that usually involves force upon a person without consent or is inflicted upon a person who is incapable of giving consent (as because of age or physical or mental incapacity) or who places the assailant (as a doctor) in a position of trust or authority”

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: “the inflicting of physical injury by one family or household member on another”

1 in 5 women are sexually assaulted during their college career

Background information for this issue

Societal factors:

- Parties involving alcohol and mind-altering substances
- Online dating apps
- Media portrayal of young men and women

Environmental factors:

- College campus in the community
- Decreased adult supervision (independence)

Key stakeholders

Off-Campus:

- Committee Against Domestic Abuse (CADA)

On-Campus:

- Campus security and campus authority figures
- Violence Awareness and Response Program

Violence Awareness and Response Program

- The people involved with VARP work closely with victims of domestic violence, sexual abuse, and more to provide them with resources and support, all completely safe and confidential. In addition, VARP prepares and holds events to raise awareness of these issues.
- VARP works toward social change by hosting events that “encourage people to increase their knowledge on consent, to identify healthy vs. unhealthy relationships, to increase the feelings of solidarity with survivors, and what everyone can do to help our society work towards a world with less instances of sexual violence.” -Mariah Sletten, VARP intern

Vision for change

- Increased education/awareness opportunities
- Decreased rates of sexual assault
- Increased rates of reporting
- Increased acceptance of victims and less victim blaming
- Improved criminal justice system

Continuing our advocacy for this issue

We plan to continue attending events hosted by the Violence Awareness and Response Program to continue our outreach and advocacy for victims of sexual violence.

We hope to further educate both ourselves and others about this issue to increase awareness.

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

-Nelson Mandela



References

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