

# Rape Culture and Victim Blaming on the UNCP Campus

By: Haley Bean

# What is Rape Culture?

- The term describes how rape is represented in the overall culture (news, media, general discussion).
- The normalization of violence towards women and sexual aggression of men.



# Origins of Rape Culture

- Originally Harsh Punishments
- Women as Property
- Rape was defined as “Carnal Knowledge”
  - > Had to Prove Force
- Male Rape considered Sodomy
- During Industrial Revolution Women expected to Protect Themselves
- Had to be Chaste to be Good Wives and Mothers
- End of 1800s saw Stricter Rape Laws

# Rape Culture Today

- News Reporting
- Popular Culture and the Media
- School Dress Codes
- Prevention Tips
- Child Socialization



# Magnitude of the Problem

- Females 18-24 highest rate of Rape
- 80% of victims knew their attacker
- 1 in 6 Women and 1 in 33 Men Experience Rape
- 97% of Rapists are not Punished
- 97% of Rapists are Men and 63% are White
- Of Police Officers', 93% would believe any woman and 63% would believe any man can be raped.
- 89% would believe a virgin and 42.5% would believe a virgin

# Legal Provisions

- Title IX
- Title II of Americans with Disabilities Act
- The Clery Act



# Interventions Attempted

- Poster Campaigns
  - > Directed to Bystanders
  - > Could not determine affect
- Slut Walks
  - > Raise Awareness
  - > Mixed Reviews
- Rape Crisis Centers
  - > Direct Services to Victims
  - > Only 16% of Victims seek Assistance



# Why is it Still a Problem?

- Lack of Punishment
- Rejecting Consent Classes
- Representation in State Law
  - > North Carolina Law

## A girl was raped and the media...



says the boys were  
"promising students"



makes excuses for  
the rapists



laments the boys'  
"promising football  
careers."



stresses that the  
victim was drunk

**#RapeCulture #despicable  
#reporttherealnews**





# Description and Questions

- The goal was to determine the extent rape culture and victim blaming are evident on the UNCP Campus.
- The research aimed to answer if people would judge victims based on their outward appearance and location, do opinions change based on participant demographics, and what comments on the survey indicate about student opinions.

# Methodology and Sample

- Survey Development
- Printed Surveys and Asked Individuals to Participate
- Visited Various Locations on Campus
- Cover Letter

# Survey Scenarios

Below is a list of individuals who were raped. Based on their brief description, scale how much you think their characteristics contributed to their attack.

Potential Situations	No influence	Mildly Influenced	Moderately Influenced	Strongly Influenced
A teenage girl walking back from her church youth group. She lives in a suburban area. She is alone and walking alongside a park.				
A female tutor is walking back from a session at night. Tonight she is walking alone. She is wearing a sweater and scarf.				
Two college students, one male and one female, have consumed a large amount of alcohol. They decided to go home together from a party.				
A married couple has been going through a lot of changes with the wife's new pregnancy. The wife has not been in the mood for sex, and often sleeps on the couch.				
A girl has taken the same path every morning to the grocery store since she was as a child. Today, the girl is wearing cut-off shorts and a tank top.				
A gay man reconnected with an old friend at a local restaurant. They had had good conversation and agreed to meet again.				
She thought they were just friends working on a project. They often met together at one of their apartments.				
She had been stripping for years. She usually wore short, flashy outfits, even off stage.				

# Demographics

- Participants asked Gender, Age, Race, and Academic Standing
- Most Participants were either Caucasian or African American
- Almost all Participants were 17-22
- Gender provided Relevant Results
- 300 Participants

# Case Scores

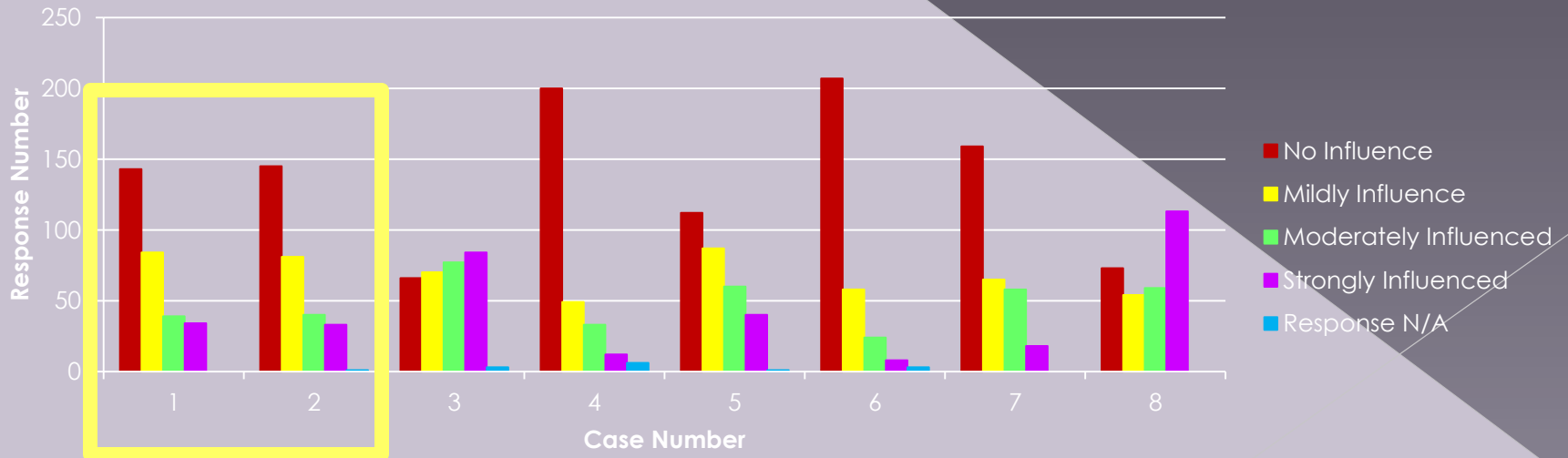
Case Scores	8 to 13	115	38%
	14 to 19	105	35%
	20 to 25	66	22%
	26 to 32	14	5%

Gender and Case Scores				
	8 to 13	14 to 19	20 to 25	26 to 32
Male	32	42	32	4
Female	78	56	34	9
Other	0	3	0	0
N/A	5	4	0	1

# Scenario Responses

Case Number	Response Given					Percent of Total					Total
	No Influence	Mildly Influenced	Moderately Influenced	Strongly Influenced	Response N/A	Response 1	Response 2	Response 3	Response 4	Response N/A	
1	143	84	39	34	0	48%	28%	13%	11%	0%	100%
2	145	81	40	33	1	48%	27%	13%	11%	0%	100%
3	66	70	77	84	3	22%	23%	26%	28%	1%	100%
4	200	49	33	12	6	67%	16%	11%	4%	2%	100%
5	112	87	60	40	1	37%	29%	20%	13%	0%	100%
6	207	58	24	8	3	69%	19%	8%	3%	1%	100%
7	159	65	58	18	0	53%	22%	19%	6%	0%	100%
8	73	54	59	113	0	24%	18%	20%	38%	0%	100%

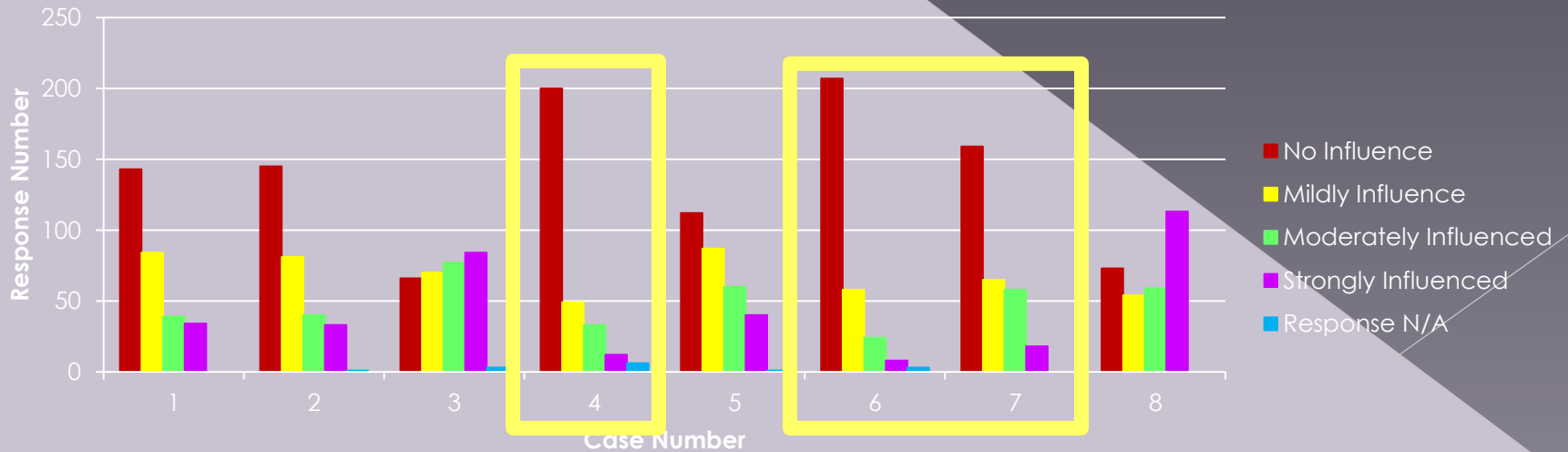
## Response Rate



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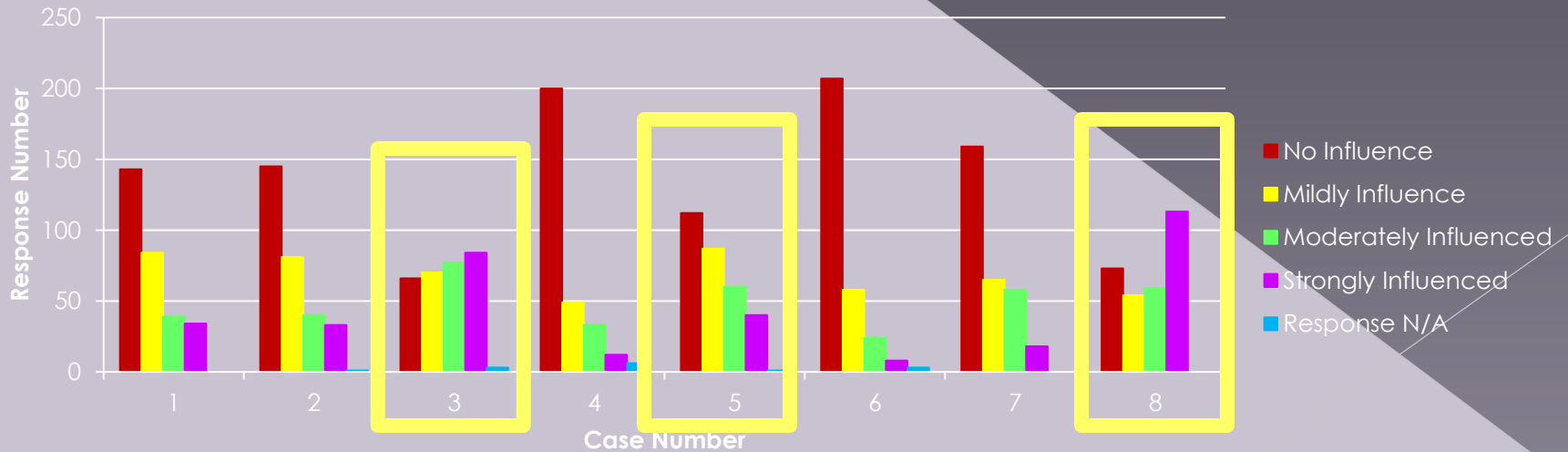
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## Response Rate





# Contradictions

- Participants were Asked two Questions to Determine if Case Responses Contradicted Overall Views of Rape

Pressured into Sex	Yes	9	3%
	No	268	89%
	N/A	23	8%
Rape Okay?	Yes	4	1%
	No	281	94%
	N/A	15	5%

# Discussion

- Mixed Results
- Overall Case Scores low, but Stereotypes and Rape Myths Affected Each Case Decision
- Almost all Comments stated Rape is Never Okay and Victims should not be Blamed

# Featured Comments

- Each of these situations called for different ways of handling them.
- As much as I'd like to believe that physical appearance such as what a male or female is wearing doesn't influence rape, it does. Although this shouldn't be a factor, sadly in society it is.
- I don't believe anyone asks to be raped. It's just that people have sick minds and others don't want to deal with it, so they try to find ways to blame it on the victim.
- Nothing a victim does, says, or wears should influence their attack.

# Continued

- ⦿ Rape is wrong no matter how you put it! Regardless if you're drunk, dressed a certain way or know what you're doing in that moment...it's still considered wrong!
- ⦿ Rapists are the ones who cause rape.
- ⦿ The reason I feel the second scenario is mildly influenced, because she's walking alone at night, although that's no excuse, I feel she should be more cautious.
- ⦿ Nothing ever justifies rape, no matter who the victim is, where they were, or what they were wearing. It is NEVER the victim's fault.

# Advantages, Limitations, and Threats to Validity

- Survey Simple and Easy
- Could not Ask why Participants Chose Certain Answers
- Large Number of Social Work Majors Surveyed

# Questions?

## **TEN RAPE PREVENTION TIPS**

1. Don't put drugs in women's drinks.
2. When you see a woman walking by herself, leave her alone.
3. If you pull over to help a woman whose car has broken down, remember not to rape her.
4. If you are in an elevator and a woman gets in, don't rape her.
5. When you encounter a woman who is asleep, the safest course of action is to not rape her.
6. Never creep into a woman's home through an unlocked door or window, or spring out at her from between parked cars, or rape her.
7. Remember, people go to the laundry room to do their laundry. Do not attempt to molest someone who is alone in a laundry room.
8. Use the Buddy System! If it is inconvenient for you to stop yourself from raping women, ask a trusted friend to accompany you at all times.
9. Carry a rape whistle. If you find that you are about to rape someone, blow the whistle until someone comes to stop you.
10. Don't forget: Honesty is the best policy. When asking a woman out on a date, don't pretend that you are interested in her as a person; tell her straight up that you expect to be raping her later. If you don't communicate your intentions, the woman may take it as a sign that you do not plan to rape her.

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