MAKING THE GRADE?

FINDINGS FROM THE CAMPUS ACCOUNTABILITY PROJECT ON SEXUAL ASSAULT POLICIES

VDAY AND SAFER
POLICY REFORM
A DEMAND FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT

CAMPUS ACCOUNTABILITY PROJECT
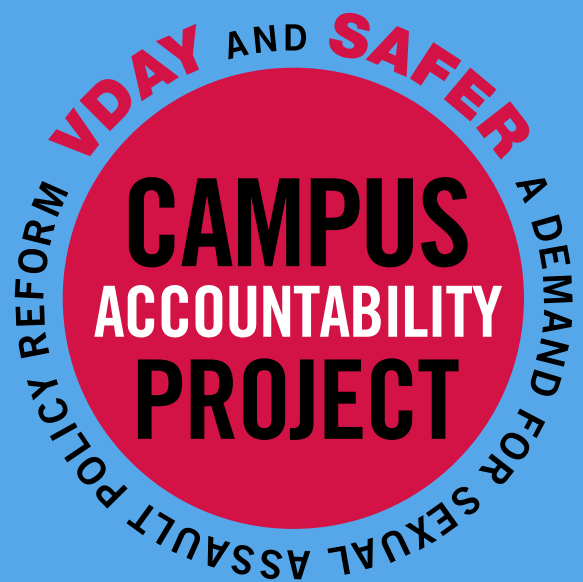
A REPORT FROM STUDENTS ACTIVE FOR ENDING RAPE (SAFER) AND V-DAY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

{VDAY}
UNTIL THE VIOLENCE STOPS

SAFER

Background

In 2009, SAFER partnered with V-Day to launch the Campus Accountability Project (CAP), a national online database for assessments of sexual assault policies at U.S. institutions of higher education that dually functions as a teaching tool for student activists looking to analyze and reform their schools' policies.

Policy represents a powerful, sustainable tool for eliminating sexual violence and responding to the needs of survivors. Students, staff, and faculty leave campus, but policy endures. It can institutionalize social and procedural norms that support survivors, uphold due process, and counteract rape culture at U.S. colleges and universities.

SAFER and V-Day aim to support student activists who seek to affect long-lasting change in their campus communities by reforming their schools' sexual assault policies.

Methods

SAFER and V-Day developed an online assessment tool to analyze schools' formal and informal sexual assault policies across five domains, including survivor resources, educational programming, safety initiatives, formal policy highlights, and compliance with the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act (Clery Act). Formal policy includes codified language in schools' codes of conduct, disciplinary procedures, and annual security reports; informal policy includes written information about programs or resources located on the websites of school-affiliated health centers, police departments, equity offices, etc.

From 2009–2012, SAFER and V-Day conducted outreach to encourage policy submissions by students at U.S. colleges and universities. Students completed the assessment tool in order to submit their schools' policies to the database. SAFER and V-Day reviewed and fact-checked each policy submission prior to its online publication in order to maximize the database's accuracy. Based on their criteria for a strong sexual assault policy, SAFER and V-Day also generated a composite score to describe the overall quality of the policies assessed in the database. This report reviews findings from SAFER and V-Day's analysis of policy submissions from a sample of 299 four-year colleges and universities in the U.S.

Key Findings

Composite Score

- None of the policies assessed in the database scored in the A grade range.
- The highest-scoring policies assessed in the database received a B+ grade.
- Less than 1 in 5 of the policies (15.6%) assessed in the database scored in the B grade range.
- Over one-third of the policies (35.0%) assessed in the database scored in the C grade range.
- Over one-quarter of the policies (27.3%) assessed in the database scored in the D grade range.
- Over one-fifth of the policies (22.1%) assessed in the database scored in the F grade range.
- On average, the policies assessed in the database received a D+ grade.

Survivor Resources

- Nearly 7 in 10 of the policies (69.6%) assessed in the database indicate that schools provide 24-hour crisis services for survivors.
- While over half of the policies (55.0%) assessed in the database indicate that schools offer emergency contraception, only 9.7% indicate that schools provide emergency contraception to survivors at no cost.
- Very few of the policies (6.4%) assessed in the database indicate that schools offer campus services to non-school community members who are sexually assaulted by students or staff.

Educational Programming

- Nearly 40% of the policies (36.9%) assessed in the database indicate that schools employ at least one full-time staff member to work on sexual assault education and prevention.
- More than 9 in 10 of the policies (91.6%) assessed in the database indicate that schools provide awareness-raising programming.
- More than half of the policies (54.7%) assessed in the database indicate that schools provide primary prevention programming.
- Very few of the policies assessed in the database indicate that schools mandate awareness-raising (17.2%) or primary prevention (12.3%) programming.

Safety Initiatives

- More than 9 in 10 of the policies (92.3%) assessed in the database indicate that schools provide risk reduction programming.
- Three-fourths of the policies (75.4%) assessed in the database indicate that schools equip dorms with controlled electronic access.
- Over 75% of the policies (77.9%) assessed in the database indicate that schools have installed blue lights on campus.
- Over half of the policies (51.9%) assessed in the database indicate that schools use security cameras.

Formal Policy Highlights

- Approximately one-tenth of the policies (11.7%) assessed in the database indicate that schools require students to sign a statement or otherwise attest that they have read the policy.

- Most of the policies (63.2%) assessed in the database indicate that schools allow survivors to report either confidentially or anonymously.
- Less than 1 in 5 of the policies (15.9%) assessed in the database have amnesty clauses for underage survivors who were drinking or survivors who were using other drugs at the time of their assault.
- The vast majority of the policies (88.0%) assessed in the database explicitly include the sexual assault of a man.
- Less than one-third of the policies (28.6%) assessed in the database state that a survivor's dress and past sexual history may not be discussed during disciplinary proceedings.
- Less than one-third of the policies (31.7%) assessed in the database state procedures by which students can change the policy or raise concerns.

Clery Act Compliance

- Nearly one-third of the policies (32.6%) assessed in the database do *not* fully comply with the Clery Act.
- Despite Clery requirements, more than one-tenth of the policies (11.7%) assessed in the database do *not* explain the importance of preserving evidence.
- Despite Clery requirements, one-tenth of the policies (10.4%) assessed in the database do *not* state that the school will assist students in notifying the local police department.
- Despite Clery requirements, 13.5% of the policies assessed in the database do *not* inform survivors of interim relief measures, such as changes in academic or living situations.

Recommendations

Based on their findings, SAFER and V-Day recommend the following areas for improving sexual assault policies at U.S. colleges and universities:

- Increase the availability and accessibility of survivor resources, such as free emergency contraception after sexual assault;
- Increase primary prevention efforts and create more opportunities for students to engage meaningfully with primary prevention activities;
- Ensure that sexual assault policies are accessible to students in regard to centralized placement on schools' websites, readability, and comprehensiveness;
- Adopt amnesty clauses to encourage reporting by survivors who may have been in violation of other school policies at the time of their assault; and
- Create more opportunities for students to participate in policy decisions.

SAFER and V-Day believe that these actions will help schools develop policies that center the needs of students and challenge rape culture on their campuses. It is SAFER and V-Day's hope that this report will further assist student activists and their allies in their efforts to reform their schools' policies and end sexual assault at U.S. colleges and universities.

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