Abstract
Sexual Assault is a crime that is rarely talked about, has a lot of negative connotations, and is the least reported crime. The biggest group of people affected by this crime are college-aged women, so we wanted to analyze the reporting system and see what factors could be causing underreporting. We have collected FBI data on sexual assault reports, Clery Act report data from institutions with over 10,000 students, and sexual assault policies for these institutions using a python web scraping tool, and also compiled a list of schools with Title IX lawsuits for the mishandling of sexual assault cases. Comparing the statistics that we gather should show correlation between certain policies and less instances of sexual assault, and will be important in creating a more comprehensive, uniform, and successful policy and plan of action for the sensitive crime of sexual assault for all schools to follow.

Objectives
- Determine the route typically taken by victims when reporting
- Analyze policies created by universities and find trends and connections with number of victims reporting, arrests made, and lawsuits against the schools.
- Study the ways campuses alert students, mainly by studying the Clery Report

Future Objectives
While the current focus of this research is the policies concerning sexual assault from universities, we are looking to include data on the role of police force. This will include:
- Breakdown of officer gender
- Inclusion of a separate Sexual Violence Unit
- Training programs for Sexual Assault response at both the university and police level
- Partnerships between universities, police departments, and domestic violence support organizations

Method
- Read literature and a small sample of sexual assault policies to determine our focus of keywords and topics. The majority of these documents came from sexual assault advocacy groups, including an article published in 2004 by The National Center For Higher Education Risk Management that discusses a model sexual assault response policy.
- Create a list of terms that should be part of a comprehensive sexual assault policy and negative terms that should not be included. The negative terms we will be scraping for tend to be along the lines of negative responses to victims coming forward such as “clothing” or “alcohol”.
- Use Python Web Scraping tool to collect reports online using the keyword list generated from our readings. So far, clery reports is the only term we have searched for.
- Compare policies to policies of other schools and find trends in the data. Some of the terms will be used later in the project to compare police forces and sexual assault response networks as well.

What is Web Scraping?
Simply put, Web Scraping is an automated bot that collects data off of websites and stores it in some sort of database. In this study’s case, we store our data in Microsoft Excel.

- The bots “ask” the server for the data in HTML format, then organizes it into an organized list
- Web scrapers are great for collecting large sums of data rather than the few that could be collected manually through a search engine. The bots can also sort through irrelevant information (such as advertisements) that a search engine cannot
- The data in our usage of a web scraper is stored as a CSV file, which is compatible with Microsoft Excel. The “CS” stands for comma separated, so each piece separated by a comma is put into a different column in Excel. The rows are determined by the rows created in the code. This makes for easy readability and interpretation of results.

Expected Results
After scraping for different sexual assault policies at college institutions, we expect to find a trend between schools with more reported assaults, or more trends between schools in similar geographic areas.

Also noted there are some schools that have victim’s rights policies along with a comprehensive sexual assault policy. We expect these schools to have similar rates of rapes reported and rape arrests.

After finding which schools have the best comparisons between rape reports, rape arrests, comprehensive policies, sexual assault prevention, and an efficient method of reporting to students, these results can be applied to create a new guideline on effective sexual assault policies for all schools in the United States.

References
- Sokolow, Brett JD. A Model Campus Sexual Assault Response Protocol. 2004 NCHERM

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