

Faculti Summary

<https://faculti.net/institutional-predictors-of-campus-sexual-misconduct-reporting/>

This video video discusses research by Dr. Sson Cook and a co-author exploring the influence of representation in college leadership on the reporting of sexual misconduct. Their previous findings indicated that increased representation of women in university administrative roles correlates with reduced harassment claims. This video video paper's objective is to specifically assess whether appointing women as college presidents enhances reporting rates of sexual misconduct.

The authors highlight the alarming prevalence of sexual assault on college campuses, noting that less than one-third of incidents are reported due to survivors' fears about the institutional response. They propose that women leaders may foster an environment more conducive to reporting by enhancing trust in the institution and actively promoting preventative measures against misconduct.

The research analyzed data from four-year colleges across the U.S. between 2005 and 2020, comparing reporting rates before and after women were appointed as presidents. Results indicated that the appointment of a woman president significantly increased reporting of sexual misconduct, with notable increases in both the first year following the appointment and over the duration of the president's tenure.

The findings suggest that women's leadership improves campus climates, making survivors more likely to trust they will be treated with dignity and respect when they report assaults. The study emphasizes the need for organizations to focus on institutional factors and representation in leadership roles to effectively address campus sexual misconduct, rather than continue prioritizing individual-level predictors and solutions. The authors advocate for better recruitment and retention practices aiding increased diversity within leadership as a way to provide a more supportive environment for survivors.