

Campus Sexual Assault and Title IX – do reforms make a difference?

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Literature Review Presentation

Motivation

- Sexual assault is a perennial issue on a college campus
- Much more so now with the me too movement, Kavanaugh, and everything else that has gone along with that
- Pushback against university courts, preponderance of evidence etc.

#WhyIDidntReport

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**Cara Delevingne**  @Caradelevingne · Sep 26
Because I felt ashamed of what happened and didn't want to publicly ruin someone's life, even though they privately ruined mine #WhyIDidntReport

307 2.7K 18K 



Gaps in Literature

- Very little evidence on how well sexual assault-oriented interventions work
- Many results at the individual level that reducing the costs of reporting will increase the chance of a report
- Results recently that investigate individual effects e.g. of party culture on assault reports (2018 paper discussed later)
- But still very little on effectiveness of policies implemented to combat sexual assault
- “Duke isn’t doing enough” – what should Duke do?

Background

- Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 was intended to ‘assure equal access to education,’ originally focused on female college sport
- It has been reinterpreted in the form of ‘Dear Colleague’ letters, which are sent by the OCR, and allow slight changes in the law without congressional approval

Background continued

- The 2011 letter that this paper will focus on stated that Title IX required, among other things, that:
 - If a school knew or “reasonably should know” of sexual harassment or assault, it was to conduct a “prompt, thorough, and impartial” investigation (Ali, 2011).
 - These investigations would use a “preponderance of evidence standard,” which requires less proof than the standards of normal courts (Lindo et al., 2018b)
 - If the investigation found that sexual harassment or assault had occurred, the school was to “take immediate action to eliminate the hostile environment, prevent its reoccurrence, and address its effects” (Ali, 2011).
- Changes made in effort to make reporting easier for victims

Lindo et al. (2018)

- Looks at effects of partying on reports of sexual assault. From paper:
- “Estimates are based on panel data from campus and local law enforcement agencies and an identification strategy that exploits plausibly random variation in the timing of Division 1 football games.”
- “The estimates indicate that these events increase daily reports of rape with 17–24-year-old victims by 28 percent. The effects are driven largely by 17–24-year-old offenders and by offenders unknown to the victim, but we also find significant effects on incidents involving offenders of other ages and on incidents involving offenders known to the victim.”

Reports of rape (victims ages 17–24)

0.08

0.06

0.04

0.02

0

Wed

Thur

Fri

Sat

Sun

Mon

Tue

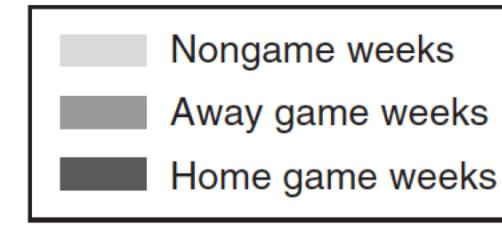


FIGURE 1. DAILY REPORTS OF RAPE PER AGENCY ON SATURDAY GAME WEEKS AND NONGAME WEEKS

Lindo et al. (2018) continued

- This paper is useful for a couple of reasons:
 - Recent, high profile paper on campus sexual assault, and so e.g. assumptions I make can be checked off against this paper
 - Uses NBIRS data and has all data files online, allowing a way for me to more easily use this data for my own investigations

Allen (2007)

- Looks into the factors that affect an individual's decision to report using NBIRS data and survey data from a national phone survey.
- “The empirical analysis addresses the extent to which social-support availability and evidentiary factors influence the reporting decision. Dichotomous and multinomial logit results, obtained using National Crime Survey data on a sample of rape victims, reveal how various demographic and crime-specific factors explain the decision to report and the selection of specific reasons for not reporting.”
- “Some of these factors reflect circumstances addressable as matters of procedure or policy.”
- Victims will be more likely to report sexual assault given more ‘social support and ancillary evidence associated with the crime.’

Allen (2007) cont.

- Important to this investigation as it shows that the decision to report is influenced by factors that may be affected by policy
- Thus supports the notion that policy to ease the reporting process could be beneficial.

Yung (2015)

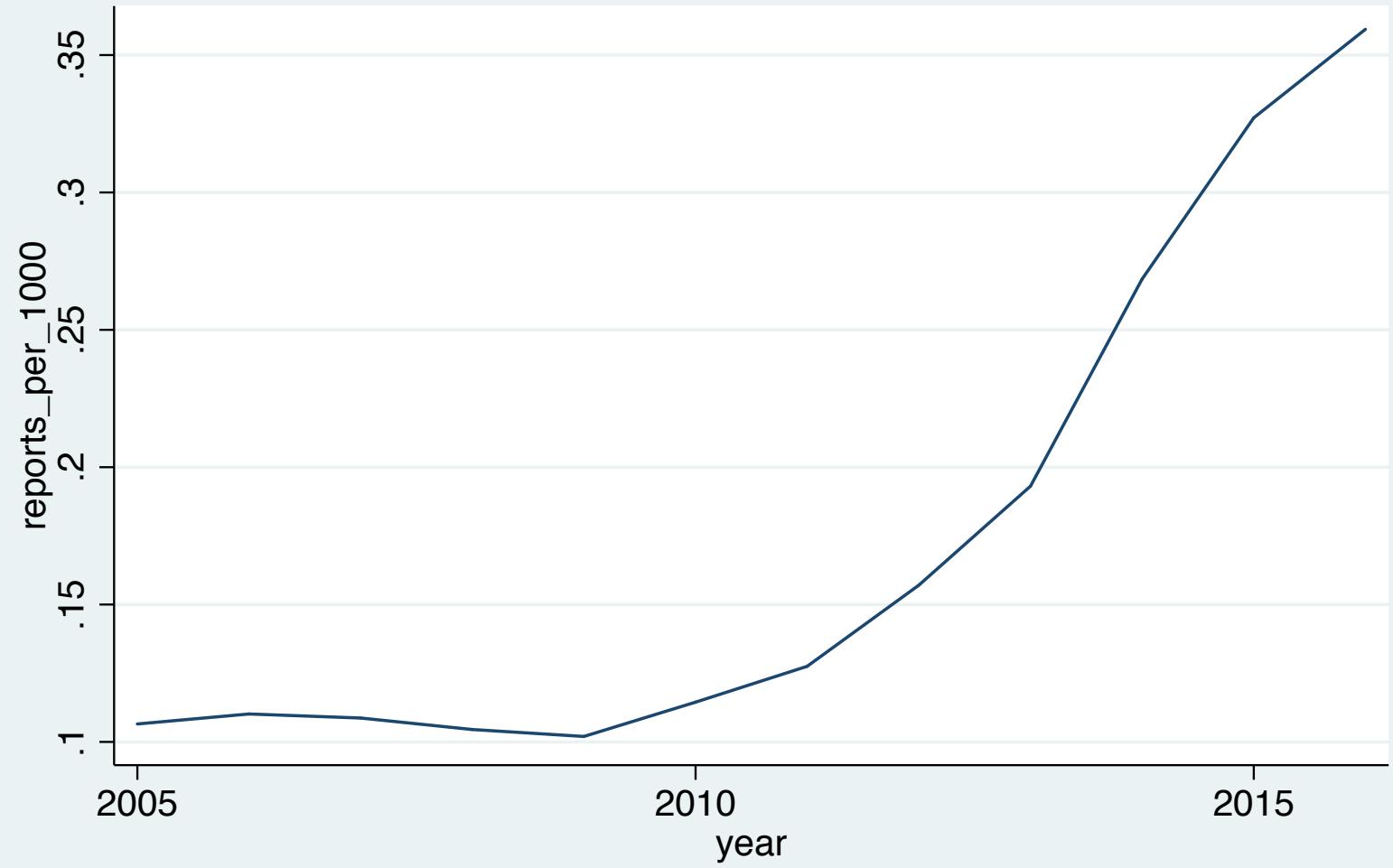
- Looks at undercounting by universities in their report data
- “The study finds that university reports of sexual assault increase by approximately 44% during the audit period. After the audit is completed, the reported sexual assault rates drop to levels statistically indistinguishable from the preaudit time frame.”
- Useful as it raises a potential issue with the data I will be using
- Also has a lot of in-depth information on said data

CSS Data

- Under the Clery act, any university that uses FAFSA must disclose details about the reports of crime that it receives every year. This data catalogues these reports by school, year and type of crime from 2005 to 2016.
- 7,663 unique universities that span the entire timespan, including 1,096 with more than 5000 students and 563 with more than 10,000
- In 2016, 8,991 sexual crimes were reported in total

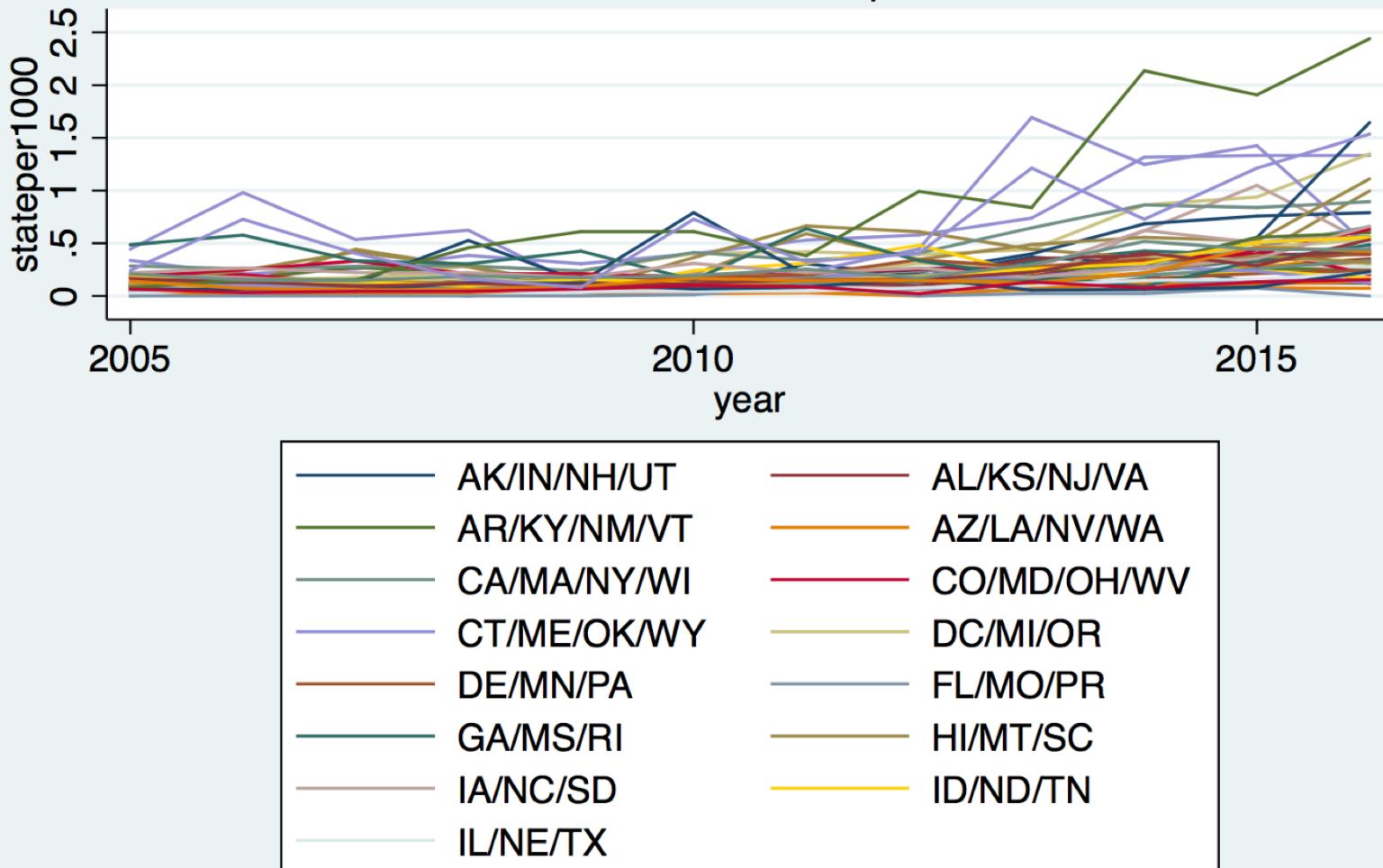
Reports of Sexual Assault per 1000 Students Enrolled

Schools with >10,000 enrolled students



Reports of Sexual Assault by State

Schools with >10,000 enrolled students, per 1000 Students Enrolled



Additional Data

- NBIRS Data
 - Used by 2018 paper
 - Has detail by department that covers about 30% of the US population
 - Timestamps to the minute, locations of crime, victim and perpetrator age, sex, and much more.
 - Harder to work with than the CSS data, as it is collected by police departments and not schools, so must be lined up by zip code or other methods to the corresponding universities.
 - However, it will likely allow a better investigation into the research question and give a better chance of estimating a causal effect.
 - Data and .do files available online
- NCVS
 - Yearly survey of households about questions of crime, and so can be more accurate than police reporting data, as people who didn't report a crime to police may speak in a survey about it
 - Not split by zip code or even by state, so does not present data that would be able to be used in a regression in combination with the above.
 - It does, however, give us a look into approximately how many assaults go unreported to police, and how this number has changed over time

Methodology

- Initial model:

$$R_{it} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 T + \alpha_i + \delta_t + \varepsilon_{it}$$

Where:

- R_{it} is reports of assault per 1000 students, by school and year
- T is a dummy of whether the year is after 2011
- α_i is school fixed effects
- δ_t is year fixed effects

Estimated for schools >10000 students

```
. xtreg percap after_2011 i.year, fe
note: 16.year omitted because of collinearity

Fixed-effects (within) regression                               Number of obs     =      6,774
Group variable: si                                         Number of groups  =       579

R-sq:                                                 Obs per group:
         within  = 0.1837                                         min =          1
         between = 0.0024                                         avg =      11.7
         overall = 0.0891                                         max =          12

                                                F(11, 6184)      =    126.50
corr(u_i, Xb)  = 0.0003                                     Prob > F        = 0.0000


```

percap	Coef.	Std. Err.	t	P> t	[95% Conf. Interval]
after_2011	.2565624	.0119774	21.42	0.000	.2330827 .2800422

Next steps

- As mentioned above, Yung (2015) finds that schools serially undercount reports.
 - Believe that this undercounting is fairly homogenous and should not undermine results that I find with the CSS data
 - More careful reading of the Yung paper is required to ensure thi
 - Additionally, a deeper reading of the methodology behind the CSS data is needed to ensure that no large changes have taken place during the time period in question that could make the data incomparable over the full time period.

Next steps continued

- This type of event study can be troublesome in that there is no control group – thus any conclusion rests on a huge assumption that the Title IX changes of 2011 were the only things that year that may have happened across the country that could affect report rates.
- Ideally, I would be able to find some sort of control group to reconsider this.
- One possible strategy to find such a group is to work out if the 2011 changes affected every school identically, or perhaps affected some schools more than others. I believe that every school that reports to CSS would also have been affected by the 2011 changes, meaning that no direct control group is likely to exist.
- However, I believe that there was considerable heterogeneity in the systems schools employed before 2011 for reporting procedures. If I can find a way to quantify this heterogeneity, perhaps even only for a subset of schools, I would have a much better shot at estimating a causal relationship. This is a focus of my current background research.

Next steps continued

- As discussed above, the NIBRS data is more difficult to work with than the CSS data as it is not tied to schools, so work is required to get it matched up and ensure such matches are accurate.
- However, I believe that such data would allow a more nuanced look at the research question:
 - The question of how reports evolve between universities and police is an interesting one. Do university reports lead to people reporting police, or do people substitute police reports for university reports as reporting to universities become less costly?
 - In addition to this question, the police data has several advantages over CSS data that are very useful. It has data for all ages, and for non-students as well as students, meaning that control groups could be created out of reports by older people not in school anymore.
 - It has much more granular data on each reporter, which could allow a look at which subgroups are most likely to substitute university reporting for police reporting. A focus of this project moving forward will be to get this data in a usable form and investigate how helpful it is to this investigation.

Confounding variables

- Was there a change in unobserved actual assaults, as opposed to reports?
 - If more people are reporting, will less assaults occur?
 - If people are choosing to report to schools instead of the police, could less assaults occur?
- Yung (2015) assumes that this effect is negligible, for number of reasons
 - Lindo et al. (2018) does the opposite – assumes partying increases assaults, does not affect reporting behavior
 - Likely relying on individual research in sociology/etc to tie down this assumption

Questions/Comments