

# Out and in Harm's Way: Sexual Minorities' Health Following Institutional Betrayal and Sexual Assault

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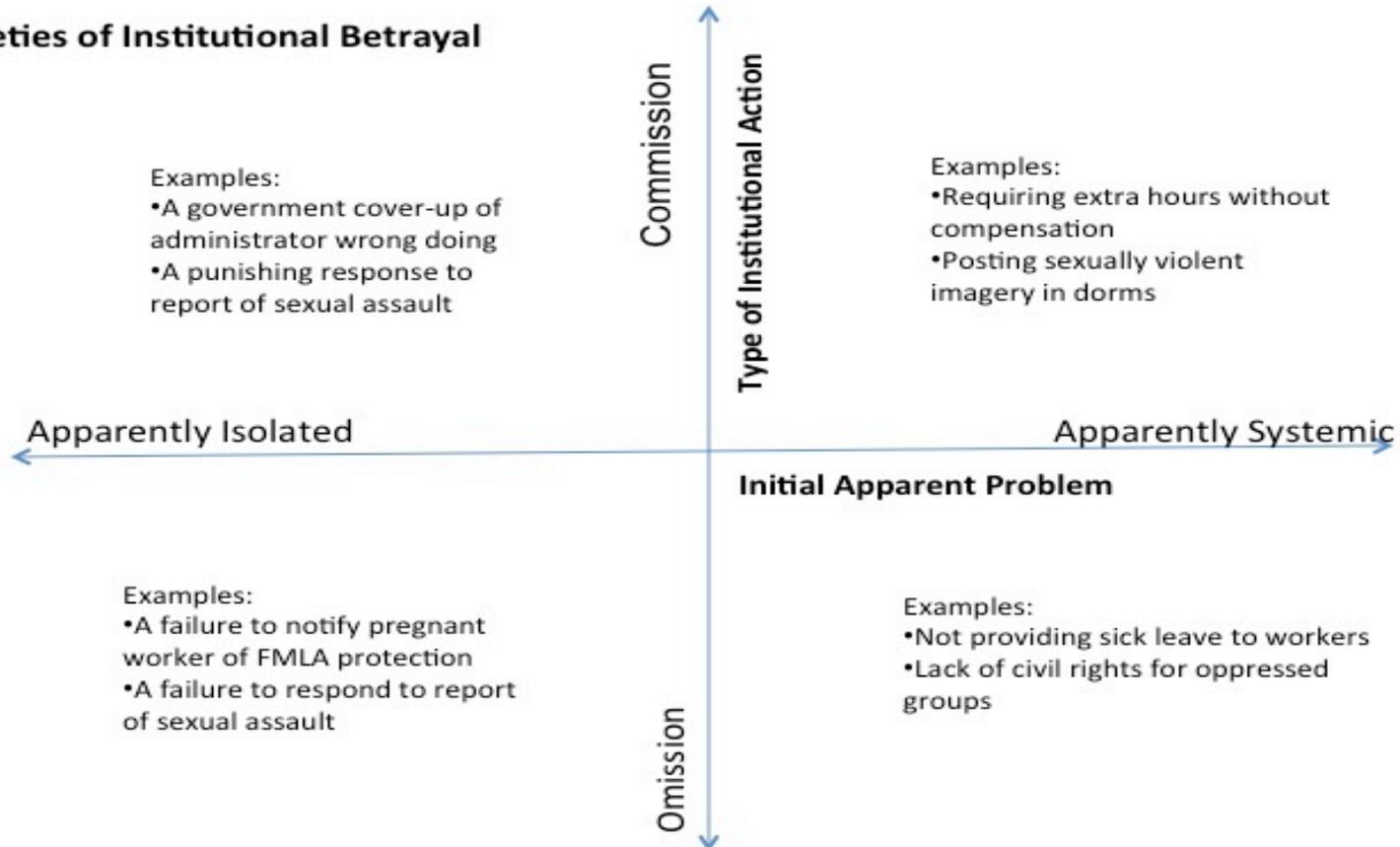
# Institutional Betrayal

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- Grounded in Betrayal Trauma Theory
  - Importance of relational closeness and degree of dependency
- Expanded to institutions
  - Universities, Healthcare organizations
- Institutional actions that exacerbate a traumatic experience/  
betrayal
  - Acts of commission vs. omissions
  - Isolated vs. systemic

# Institutional Betrayal

## Varieties of Institutional Betrayal



# Institutional Betrayal

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  - Importance of relational closeness and degree of dependency
- Expanded to institutions
  - Universities, healthcare organizations
- Institutional actions that exacerbate a traumatic experience/  
betrayal
  - Acts of commission vs. omissions
  - Isolated vs. systemic
- Empirical support
  - IB exacerbates posttraumatic outcomes of sexual assault (Smith & Freyd, 2013)
  - IB in context of military sexual trauma (Monteith et al., under review)

# Current Study

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- Sexual assault is associated with negative psychological and physical health outcomes
- Differing rates of sexual assault between heterosexuals and non-heterosexuals
- Institutional betrayal can exacerbate these outcomes
- Previous evidence that institutional betrayal disproportionately affects non-heterosexuals

# Current Study

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- Goal of current study:
  - Examine rates of college sexual assault victimization for non-heterosexuals vs. heterosexuals
  - Examine rates of institutional betrayal experienced by non-heterosexuals vs. heterosexuals
  - Determine the health impact of institutional betrayal on non-heterosexuals vs. heterosexuals.

# Methods

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- Data source: University of Oregon Sexual Violence and Institutional Behavior Campus Survey–2014
- Recruitment
  - Email addresses gathered from University Registrar
- Participants
  - 880 undergraduate students
  - Age ( $M = 21.18$ ,  $SD = 3.43$ )
  - Female (66.9%), Caucasian (74.9%), Heterosexual (90.9%)

# Methods

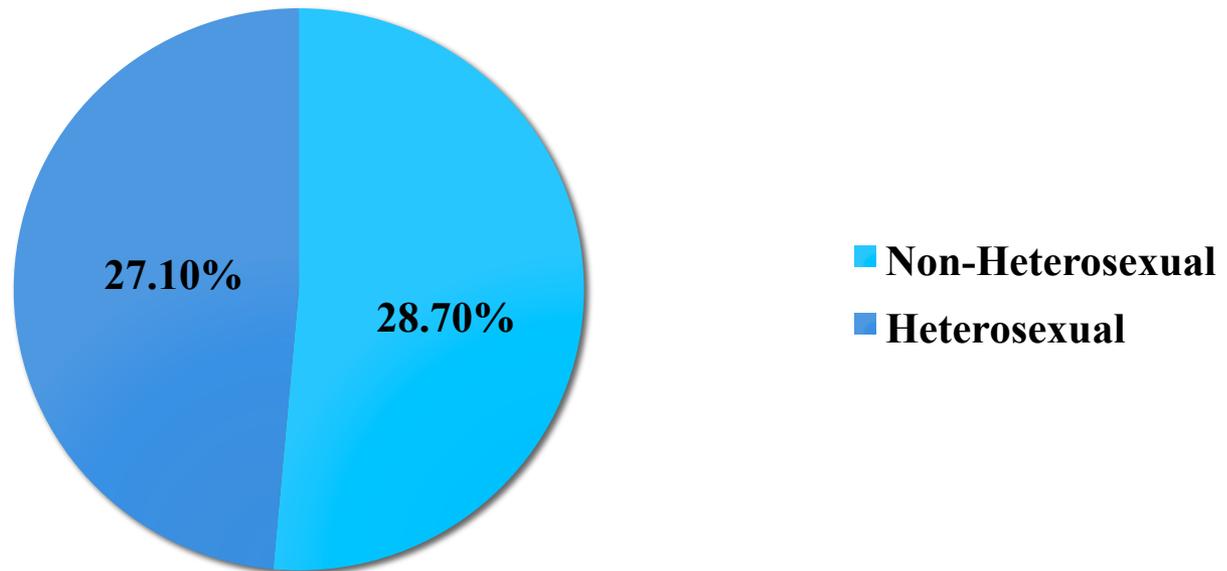
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- Measures
  - Demographics
  - Institutional Betrayal Questionnaire (IBQ-18)
  - Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ)
  - Sexual Experiences Scale–Modified for Campus Climate Survey

# Results

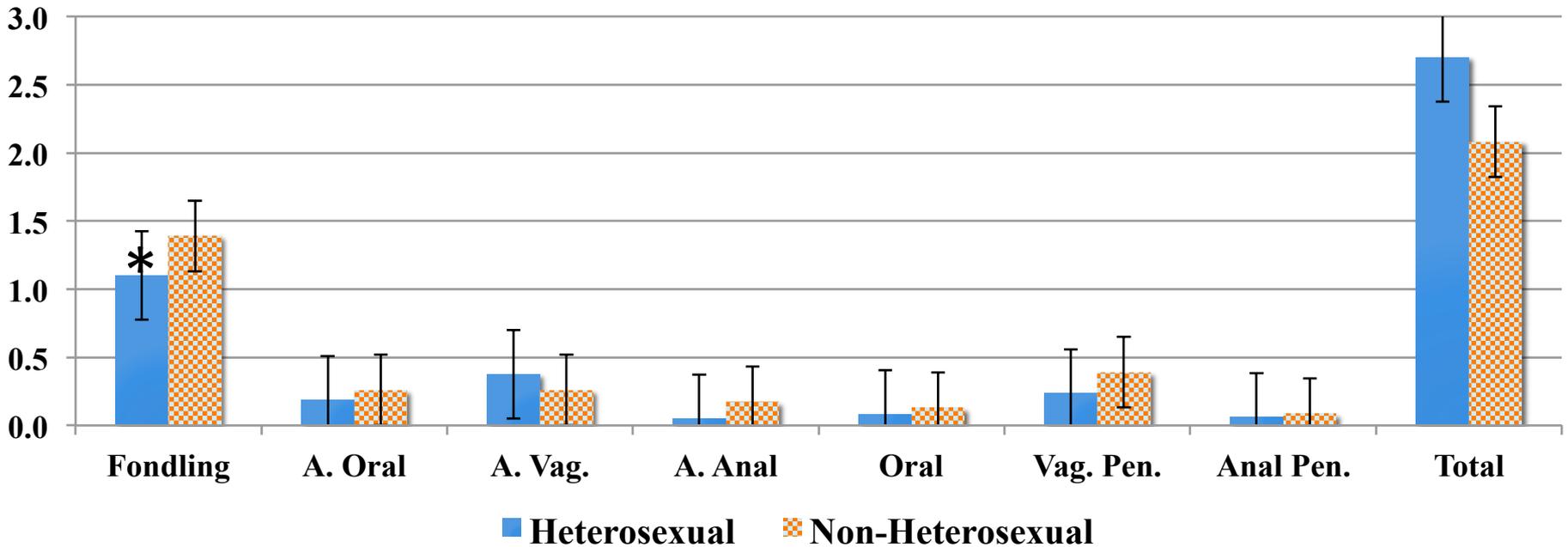
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**Figure 1. Sexual assault victimization by sexual orientation**



# Results

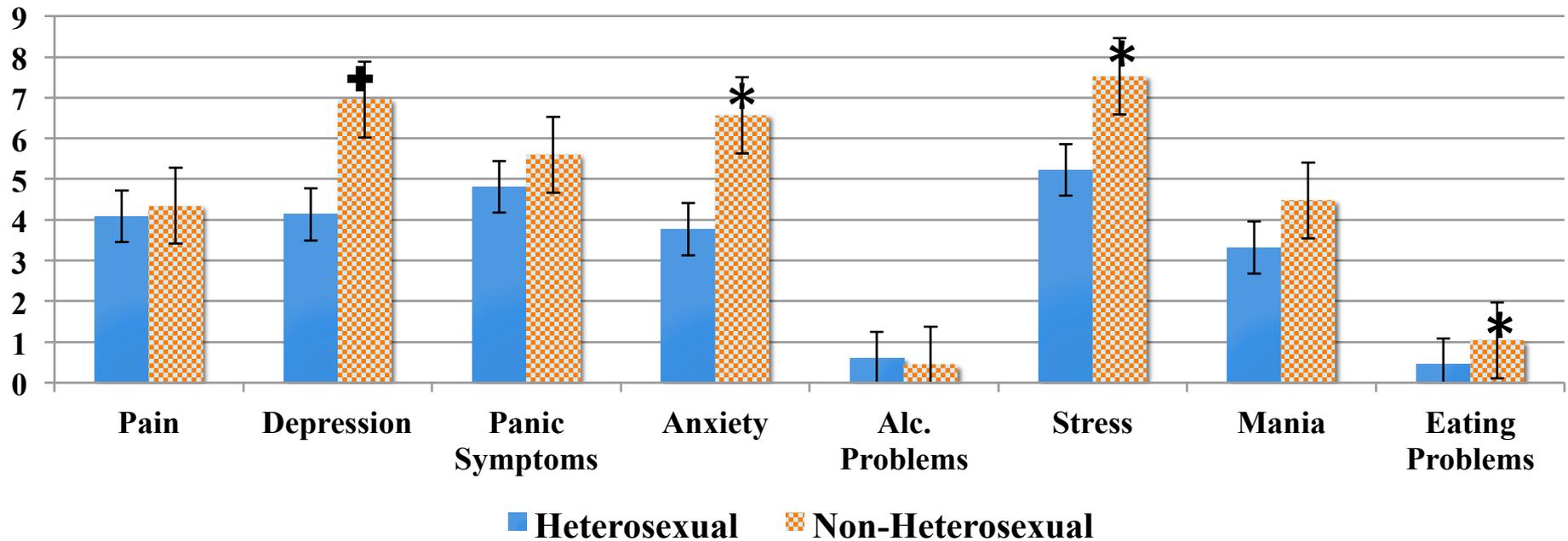
**Figure 2. Mean number of non-consensual sexual experiences by type and overall by sexual orientation**



\* $p \leq .05$

# Results

**Figure 3. Means of health outcomes for sexual assault victims by sexual orientation**

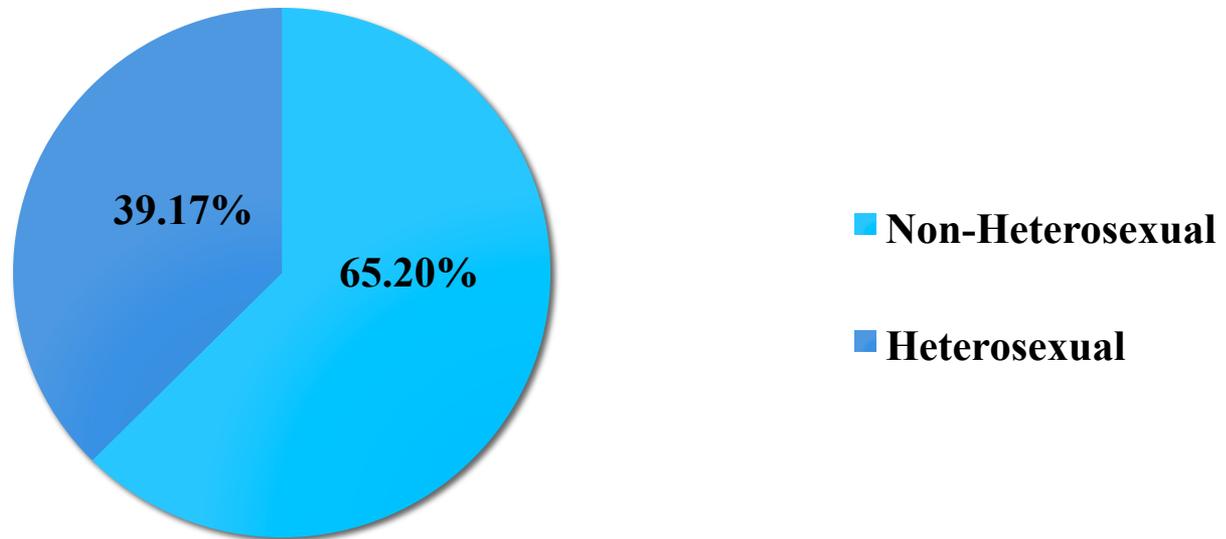


\* $p \leq .05$ , + $p \leq .10$

# Results

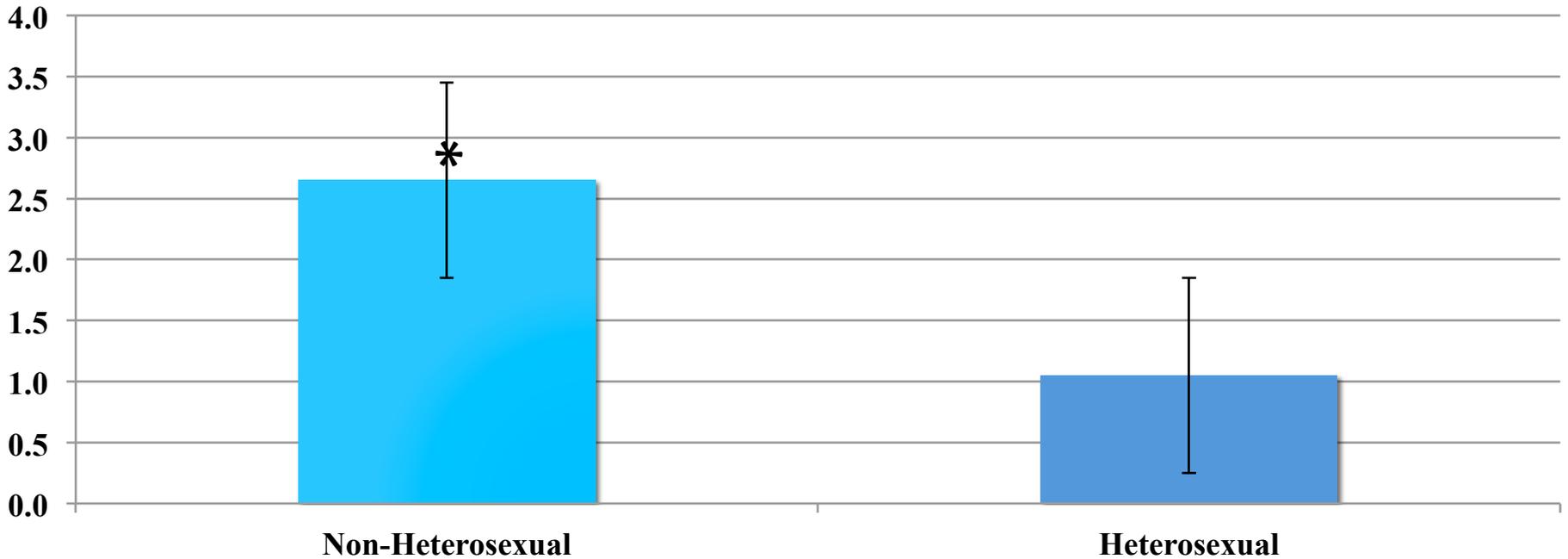
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**Figure 4. Percentage of participants who experienced at least one type of IB related to sexual assault**



# Results

**Figure 5. Mean number of IB types experienced following sexual assault by sexual orientation**



\* $p \leq .05$

# Results

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- Multiple regression was used to investigate the relationship between health outcomes, institutional betrayal, and sexual orientation of individuals who have been sexually assaulted

# Table 1. Sexual orientation and institutional betrayal predicting health outcomes

	Pain	Depression	Panic Symptoms	Anxiety	Alcohol Problems	Stress	Mania	Eating Problems
<b>Predictors</b>								
Sexual Orientation	-0.02	<b>-0.14*</b>	-0.24	-0.12	0.09	<b>-0.17*</b>	-0.12	<b>-0.18*</b>
Institutional Betrayal	0.04	<b>0.27*</b>	-0.19	<b>.44**</b>	0.27	0.10	-0.04	0.01
Interaction	-0.02	-0.14	0.09	<b>-0.35*</b>	-0.28	0.05	0.16	0.08
<b>Model</b>								
<i>F</i>	0.09	<b>5.11*</b>	0.73	<b>7.73**</b>	1.01	<b>4.97*</b>	2.33	<b>3.48*</b>
<i>R</i> <sup>2</sup>	.001	.06	.04	.09	.01	.06	.03	.04

\*\* $p \leq .001$ , \* $p \leq .05$

# Discussion

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- With the exception of fondling, rates of sexual assault are similar among heterosexuals and non-heterosexuals
- Despite this, non-heterosexuals who have been sexually assaulted report greater anxiety, stress, eating problems, and depression than heterosexuals

# Discussion

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- Non-heterosexuals are 2.91 times more likely to experience institutional betrayal associated with a sexual assault
- The impact of this increased exposure impacted non-heterosexuals' anxiety levels following sexual assault and institutional betrayal

# Discussion

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- Current reform targets for sexual assault on college campuses include reporting opportunities, confidentiality of reports, and training for those receiving reports.
- Clearly, more training and attention is needed so that institutions do not further harm sexual assault survivors, especially non-heterosexual survivors.

# Acknowledgements

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