

It was supposed to be an exciting and fun Saturday night for 2015 graduate Madison Inglis. She had just gotten into Kansas State University and was in Manhattan to celebrate. Inglis said at a fraternity party there, she asked a guy she had just met where the restroom was.

"He led me to a room and closed the door behind him and locked it, and I was like, 'This isn't OK, there's something wrong here,'" Inglis said. "He wouldn't let me leave, [and] he pushed me down onto his bed... and was trying to hold me down and kiss me."

Inglis said she bit his shoulder to escape his grasp.

"He yelled some obscenities at me, and then I just kept trying to bite any part [of his body] like his shoulder, and that's how he got off of me," Inglis said. "I ran out of the room, and I called my friends to pick me up."

After this incident, Inglis said she did not report it to police or law enforcement, but she did speak to the president of the fraternity where it happened.

"It was scary," Inglis said. "I talked to the fraternity's president. Now, [the perpetrator] is no longer a member."

Although Inglis said she did not report her incident to the school or law enforcement, there are many who do report sexual assault to their universities. However, more than 100 universities in the U.S. are currently under investigation by the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights for mishandling sexual assault cases. Kansas State University is one of the schools on this list, as well as The University of Kansas. KU was added to this list July of last year and has since then made sexual assault and harassment training mandatory for all students. Students who do not complete the training are unable to enroll in classes.

Sophomore Madi Martin is a member of Outrage, a program that performs skits about dating violence and healthy relationships for students. She said if a school modifies its policies and makes changes that protect its students, it would increase her desire to attend that school.

"If [the school] is changing its policy, then the safety must be getting better," Martin said. "Because you don't want to go to a party at school and feel that it's not safe, because being safe is what makes people feel at home, and you don't want to go around being scared all the time."

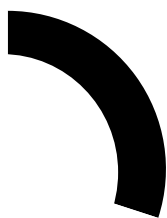
Senior Nate Kochuyt, also a member of Outrage, said when he looks at colleges, a school's reputation for campus safety and sexual assault history influences his opinion about the school.

"Certain colleges that might have a higher rate of sexual assault...would lower my opinion of them, and it would make me not really want to go there," Kochuyt said.

While how a college responds to sexual assault affects Kochuyt's and Martin's consideration of a school, BVNW graduate and KU sophomore Sarah Ingham said she never considered these topics prior to enrolling.

"I didn't really take into consideration the policy concerning sexual assault or anything like that," Ingham said. "I just kind of hoped for the best in coming here,

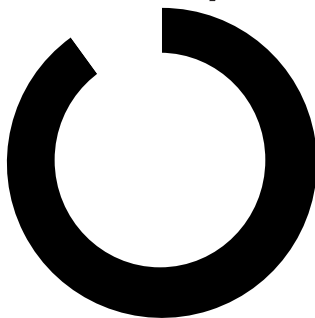
Sexual assault by the numbers



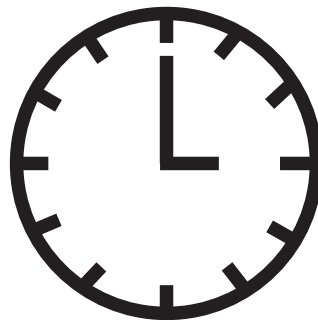
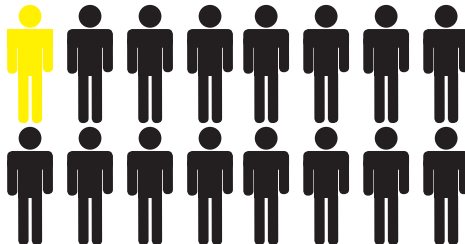
Fewer than one-third of sexual assault cases on campuses lead to the perpetrator's expulsion.



One in five women and one in 16 men are sexually assaulted while in college.



More than 90% of sexual assault victims on college campuses do not report the assault.



There is a rape on a college campus every 21 hours in the U.S.

Information taken from the Cleveland Rape Crisis Center, The Huffington Post and the National Sexual Violence Resource Center.

Terms to know

Sexual assault

Attacks or attempted attacks generally involving unwanted sexual contact that may or may not involve force. Sexual assault includes verbal threats.

Rape

Forced sexual intercourse, including both psychological coercion as well as physical force. Attempted rape includes verbal threats of rape.

Sexual abuse

When a perpetrator uses sexual acts to establish and maintain power over a victim.

Consent

To actively, willfully and freely choose to participate in sex of any kind with someone.

Definitions from the DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network (RAINN).

which I think a lot of people do.”

As for education on sexual assault at the high school level, Ingham said Blue Valley did not teach her adequately.

“[Health class] could have been a really great place for teachers to talk about sexual assault and rape and domestic violence, but it was avoided,” Ingham said. “Health class could [have been] a great opportunity to educate, but [it] didn’t.”

The Blue Valley health curriculum contains eight separate standards ranging from consumer health to nutrition.

Assistant Superintendent of Academic Services, Tonya Merrigan, said sexual assault itself is not considered a separate standard to address in the classroom; instead, it falls under the umbrella of personal health and wellness.

“Sexual assault would be a part of [personal health and wellness], but it’s not a stand alone topic where we come in today and we say, ‘Hey, today we’re going to teach about sexual assault,’” Merrigan said.

BVNW Health teacher Molly Haggerty said with all of the other topics she must teach, she does not have enough time as she would like to cover the topic of sexual assault.

“I would love to implement more in health class, but... with Health only being a semester long class, there are a ton of things we just barely get to...” Haggerty said. “We don’t get to dive too deeply into it whatsoever, unfortunately, so I think that would be a great place where we did spend a little bit more time.”

YOU KNOW ABOUT THE SUBJECT, BUT YOU DON'T KNOW HOW SERIOUS IT IS.

-2015 graduate Madison Inglis

Haggerty said oftentimes, students have misconceptions about sexual assault.

“I think a lot of kids think it only happens to people who are dressed a certain way or look a certain way, which is completely false,” Haggerty said.

She also said parents may have a hard time talking to their children about it because it is an uncomfortable topic.

“You never in a million years want to think that it is your son or your daughter that is either the victim or the perpetrator of that type of act,” Haggerty said. “[But,] I think it is absolutely important that parents do address those things.”

Haggerty said she thinks it would be helpful if students were educated on the topic of sexual assault more than just once.

“You can’t tell a student something one time and expect that it is going to stick with them forever,” Haggerty said. “Unless [a student] has been personally affected by it, it is likely going to go in one ear and out the other.”

True to Haggerty’s word, Inglis said she does not remember what she learned in Health class. She said it would be beneficial if students were continually educated on these topics throughout high school.

“You know enough about the subject, but you don’t know how serious it is,” Inglis said. “I don’t think high schools highlight it as a huge thing, as much as colleges do, but it’s still an issue, and it can still happen to high schoolers.”

Martin said she thinks Blue Valley does a lot to educate students about sexual assault, but many still do not understand what it is to a full extent.

“When real cases are around you and very close to you, that’s when you start to open up your mind to the realization that it is a big problem,” Martin said. “But, [students] just don’t know enough about it.”