

When and How Many: Factors Associated with Campus Sexual Assault Reforms

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Abstract

Objective: Institutions of higher education (IHE) have faced increasing pressure to comply with federal regulations and reform their response to campus sexual assault (CSA). This study explores whether decoupling, or organizational resistance to change, is associated with the number and timing of CSA reforms adopted. **Participants:** A web-based survey of IHE employees familiar with sexual assault policy implementation on their campus asked about types of reforms, timing, decoupling, and campus characteristics. **Method:** Correlations and t-tests were run to examine the types of reforms across time periods, and regression assessed the degree to which decoupling was associated with the number and timing of reforms. **Results:** Higher decoupling was associated with fewer reforms in the early period and more in the late period, though not with the overall number of reforms adopted. **Conclusions:** Findings highlight the importance of understanding factors that influence change on campuses.

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