

# What They Don't Teach You: A Comparative Analysis of Violent Crime Reports at Public and Private Universities

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## Research Question

Is there a difference between reported instances of:

- Simple Assault
- Intimidation
- Aggravated Assault
- Rape
- Sexual Assault with an object
- Fondling

at Public Universities in comparison to Private Universities?

## Review of the Literature

### Distinguishing between Public vs. Private Universities

- U.S. has more private than public colleges
- Distinction of "realized publicness"
  - Public schools create public human capital and private schools create private human capital
- Student body demographic and population size

### On Campus vs. Off Campus Crimes

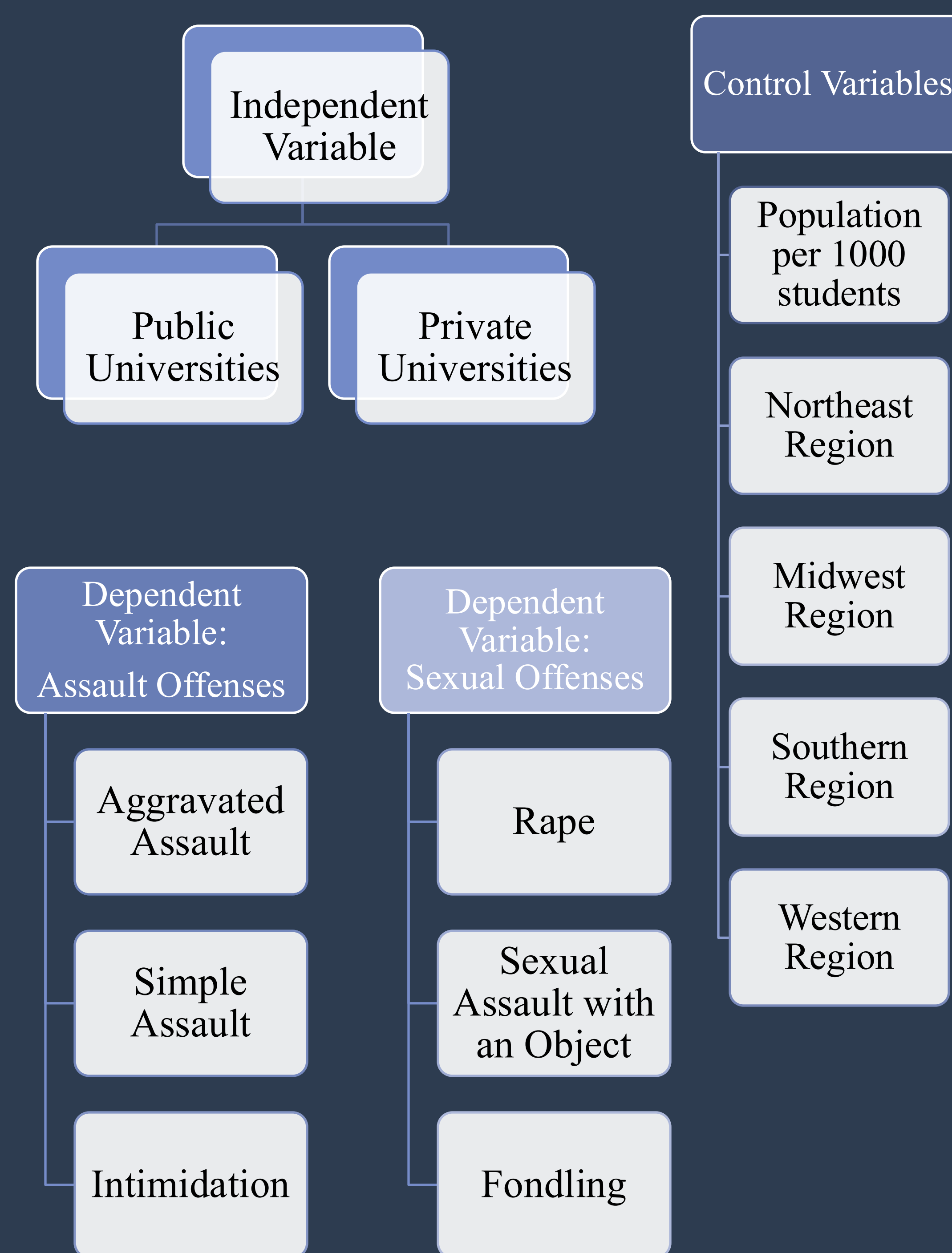
- 1/3 of students will be victimized on campus
- 80% of on-campus crime is committed by students
- 90% of collegiate rape victims knew their offender, half of whom are dating partners
- Hyper-masculine college culture
- Sensationalization of crime on campuses

### University's Legal Liability

- In loco parentis*
- Doctrine of duty
- Doe vs. University of Denver*
- 2020 Title IX regulations

## Methodology

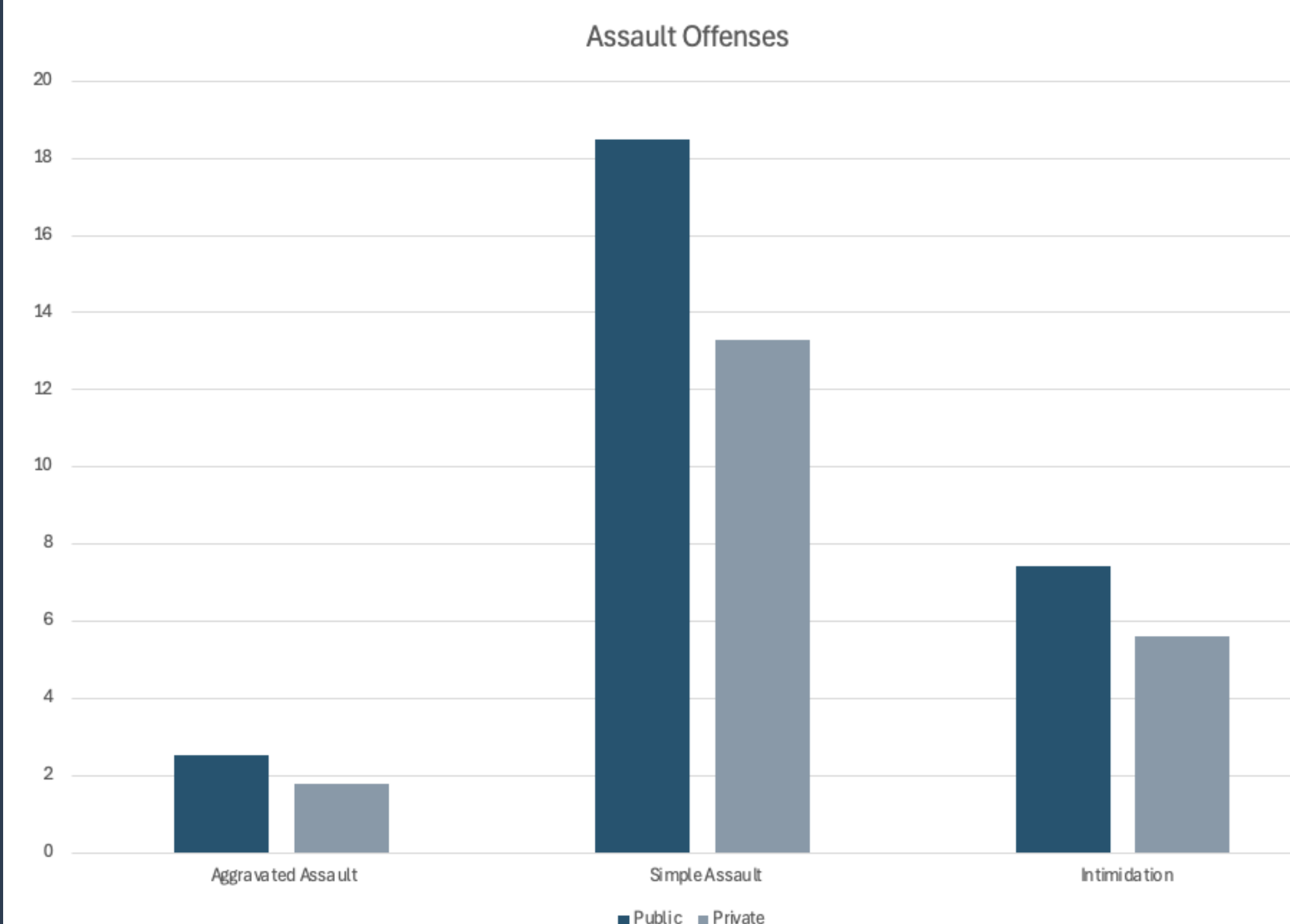
- 2022 National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) Crime Data
- Random Nation Sample of 490 universities from 47 states
- Fielded by FBI Uniform Crime Report Program
- Multivariate OLS Regressions



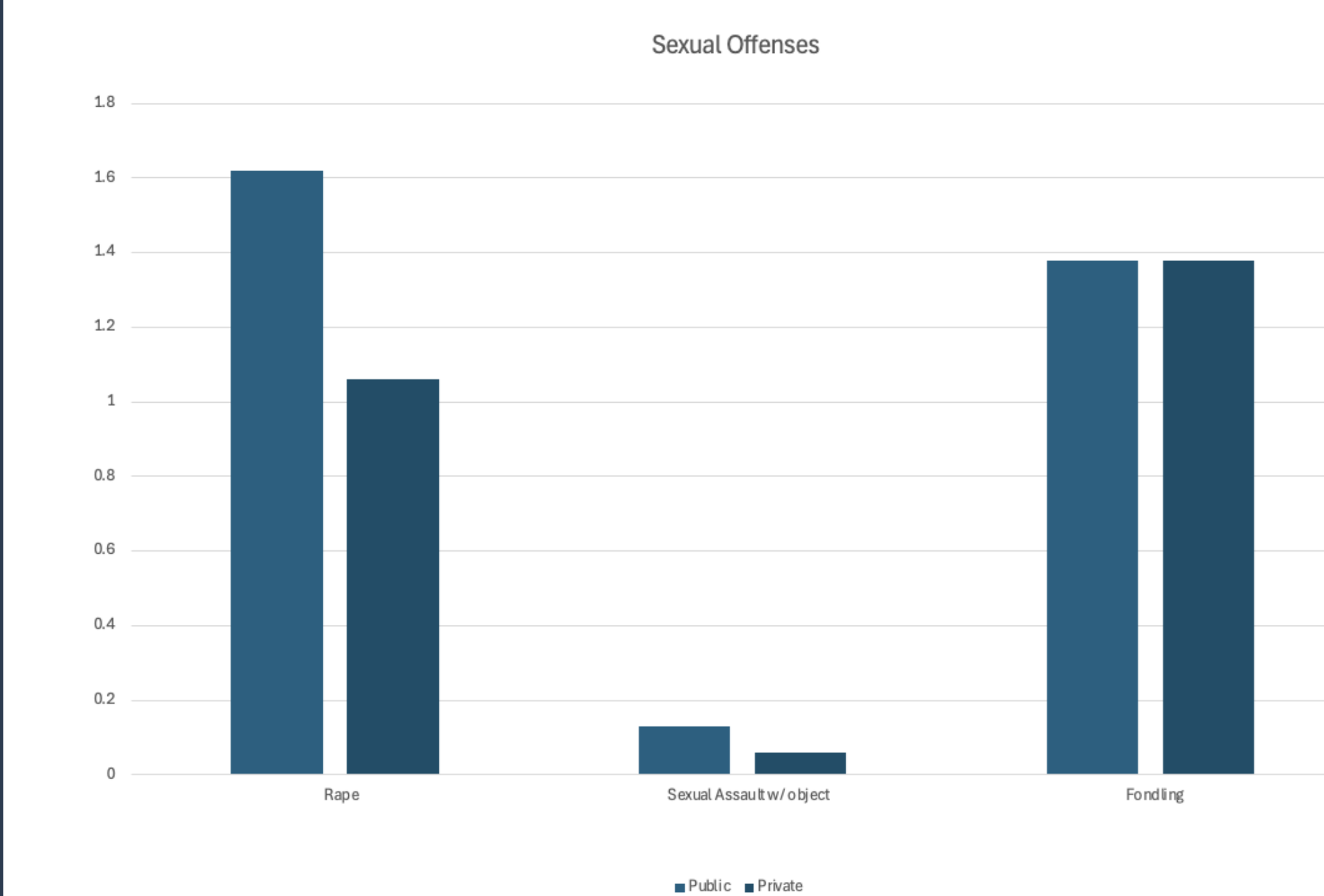
## Hypotheses

1. Private institutions will report **lower rates of violent crimes** than public universities.
2. Universities report more **misdemeanor offenses** than violent felonies.

## Results



**Figure 1:** Public universities had more reported assaults across the three variables, but both schools reported more misdemeanors.



**Figure 2:** Public universities had more reported sexual offenses across two variables, but both schools had the same reported number of fondling offenses..

## Limitations

The NIBRS is not a perfect reporting system.

- No university is mandated to report crime statistics
- Does not include victim demographics
- Overlap with local authorities
- Discrepancy with jurisdiction

## Conclusion

Both hypotheses are supported by the data.

1. Aside from reported instances of fondling, mean average of reported assault and sexual offenses was higher at public universities.
2. Crime rates do not tell us how many crimes occur. They only tell us how many crimes were reported.
3. Public schools are more likely to report rape.
4. Universities have a legal obligation to protect students and that comes with candid reporting

## Suggestions for Further Research

1. Is there a correlation between specific violent crimes and the victim's gender?
2. How are Title IX practices implemented at private universities to combat discrepancies in rape reports?

## References

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"About half of the victims who [describe] forced sexual experiences by endorsing statements that are similar to the legal definition of rape, do not label their experiences as rape"  
-(Logan, et. al 2015:114).

## Findings and Discussion

- 17.1% of sample was private; 82.9% was public
- Mean population of 15.96 per 1000 students was skewed by an outlier
- 16.7% from Northeast; 21% from Midwest; 11.6% from West; 47.8% from South
- Positive correlation between population and reported crimes
- The only significant relationship was shown in **rape reporting and school type**