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**3 percent of females at UT Austin may be victims of sexual assault**

Almost 3 percent of female college students are victims of completed or attempted rape in an academic year, says a report released today by the U.S. Department of Justice’s National Institute and the Bureau of Justice Statistics.

At The University of Texas at Austin, which has about 20,000 female students, this could translate to as many as 1,000 cases of sexual assault per year.

The survey also goes on to say that in nine out of 10 cases, the victims knew their offender. These assaults happen most often in the victim’s residence, but 10 percent of the time they happened in a fraternity.

“My first reaction is worry, because I feel like girls at frat parties are trusting of other kids their own age, and therefore aren’t as careful,” said senior Torie Bunch, a Delta Delta Delta at UT Austin.

Interestingly enough, UT Austin’s Police Department reports that there were only two cases of reported sexual assault in 2010. This may be due to a number of different reasons.

The first reason may be because UT Austin is safer than the average college campus. UT Austin has a program called “SURE Walk” which any UT Austin student or faculty can use. Between the hours of 10 p.m. and 1 a.m. students can request to be walked home by two volunteers.

Additionally, in 2010 Austin’s Police Department installed security cameras around campus. In a Daily Texan Article, “APD to install cameras around town,” Assistant

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Police Chief Al Eells says a sexual assault case was already solved thanks to the cameras.

Another explanation may be that the victims are just not reported the incidents. The study explains this may be because the victims are embarrassed, or they may not want to incriminate someone they know as a rapist.

The findings of this report come from a telephone survey conducted by Francis T. Cullen, Michael G. Turner and Bonnie S. Fisher of 4,446 randomly selected samples attending a 2 or 4 year college or university.

For students who want to decrease their chances of becoming a victim, UT Campus Police offers a Rape Aggression Defense course for free, and can be signed

up for on their website.

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