



NORTHERN

An Investigation of Campus Safety and Security in terms of Broken Windows Theory and Student Reports of Incidents Lucas Chavez

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Abstract

There have been some recent studies all around the nation about campus security and the safety of their students. However, many students at colleges around the nation feel unsafe but don't make it aware to the staff and board of the college. Every college has its flaws and blind spots when it comes to the security at a big learning facility. Within this, I did analyze our very own Northern New Mexico College.

Introduction

Incident that took place at NNMC: "News Article"

- "Gunman prompts lockdown at NNMC"
- **ESPAÑOLA** — Officials said a gunman forced Northern New Mexico College to lock down its campus.
- **KOB-TV** reported that students at the Española College were urged Monday night to stay indoors as authorities searched for a gunman who confronted two female student-athletes.
- Campus security officer Elijah Abeyta said the incident happened around 6:30 p.m. when a man pointed a gun at the students in front of the main library.
- The lockdown was lifted around 7:30 p.m.
- Associated Press
- Abeyta said it's unclear as to why the two student-athletes were targeted. He said no shots were fired and the man fled in a vehicle with two other occupants, a male and a female."

Theory and Hypothesis

The theory is that campus safety relies upon facilities, procedures, and responses to incidents. This student researcher predicts that the students of Northern New Mexico College don't feel completely safe and have experienced dangerous and unsafe situations here on campus.

The broken windows theory is a criminological theory that visible signs of crime, anti-social behavior, and civil disorder create an urban environment that encourages further crime and disorder, including serious crimes.

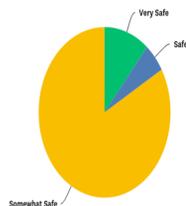
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NNMC CAMPUS SECURITY
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Data Collection and Methods

The surveys included various questions about themselves regarding age, gender, and what academic year they are in. The students will also be asked various questions about their safety and how to prevent yourself from being in a dangerous situation. These questions will help bring attention on what we need to improve on to make the school a safer and more secure place. This will help bring some implications and suggestions about how to address campus safety, to improve it and to bring attention about how students really feel about their safety on campus while attending school at NNMC.

Q4 Overall, how is your safety on campus?



An interesting observation is the feedback which I got back from the surveys. 83.3% responded as somewhat safe.

- Sample
- A tour of campus, looking at the buildings, and taking photos.
- Interviews of campus security officers.
- Interviews of students involved in a campus incident.

My samples were a survey of students (N=18), assessment or evaluation of safety procedures and facilities, and interviews of the security. The purpose is to provide implications and suggestions for improving our safety and feel secure about our safety. Within my findings, I found out more about what students think and how they feel about their safety, a tour of the school referring it to the broken windows act, and personal interviews with victims that were in dangerous situations. I conducted a total of 23 surveys, found out dangerous areas that involved crime on campus (16 buildings), and did 2 personal interviews with victims involved with the gunman on NNMC campus.

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Data Analysis and Findings

Interviews of student-athletes involved in a campus incident.

Question 1: What had happened? Please explain.

- Respondent 1:
So, me and a couple my friends were on our way to the library to get hot chocolate before we were going to play volleyball at the gym. And we were pulling into the library when a car was like pulling out, I guess and I don't know, they were, they were sitting in the parking lot for about 30 minutes prior to us showing up. And then as soon as we pulled in and they were pulling out, uh, they started like trash talking us and got out of the car. They had needles in their hand and they had alcohol in the car. And you can obviously tell that they were drugged. So that when they came out they started trash talking us so we started talking to them back and then as soon as we walked up to the library the man in the back seat had got out of the car and pulled a gun on us. And then he just drove away after that.

- Respondent 2:
So when we were just going up to the library to get like our homework, and as we were going in this car was pulling out, and they had their doors open, and obviously our car. So we like swerved into a spot, and as we were getting out the people in the other started like talking to us, like talking bad. So we started like, going back at them, and the guy who was driving, the guy in the backseat hopped up to me goes, and hits my hand, the driver goes to the guys, and then we walked right up to the car, and Then the gun pointed at us.

Question 2: Did it take a long time for security and police to respond?

- Respondent 1: Yes, it took a while honestly about 30 minutes.
- Respondent 2: Yes, about 30 minutes to an hour.

Question 3: Did you feel safe on campus before the situation had happened?

- Respondent 1: Yes, before I had felt pretty safe I guess.
- Respondent 2: I felt somewhat safe before this had happened to us.

Question 4: How do you feel about your safety now?

- Respondent 1: Um, I feel like I could be vulnerable since it's such an open campus. I feel like the school should hire highly trained security guards. Safety should be a students last worry and should be fixed.
- Respondent 2: There's a lot of times where I don't feel safe anymore. The security needs to hire more guards due to the fact that there are so many blind spots within the campus and that decreases our safety a lot.

Security Supervisor
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Discussion

*Implications: more needs to be done. When I say this, I mean all these problems about students safety is a main priority. Extra surveillance, more cameras, armed security. This day and age, the worst to happen. God forbid it does, but you always have to keep the worst situations in mind, in order to be prepared for anything.

*Recommendations: to make security aware. The surveys will show why students feel unsafe. My surveys, 83.3% of them felt "somewhat safe" meaning they don't feel safe or completely safe.

*Make a call make a difference is something NNMC should definitely look into. So this is called, safe to tell. This is where you can submit anonymous reports that includes anything that concerns and threatens you, your friends, your family, your peers, and the community which you are surrounded by. This originated in Colorado. How this works is that it is an app in which you can anonymously help someone who is struggling or hurting. This would be good because a lot of people go through hard situations, and they can be scared of telling anyone about the situation or asking for help.

Conclusions

My hypothesis predicted that students of Northern New Mexico college don't feel completely safe and have experienced dangerous and unsafe situations here on campus, however, I was surprised to find most students weren't aware of lack of safety issues.

The Broken Windows tour suggested to improve on such as cameras, more security, and more updated, safer facilities. Lastly, we need to make the school board and security more aware that our safety matters. Something needs to be done, our safety comes first.

References

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Acknowledgements

NNMC Security Staff Joshua Morrison and Shawn Madrid and Richard Sedillo

Security Guard (6am-11pm)
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