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

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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 safety at a big learning facility. Within this, I did analyze our very own Northern New Mexico College.

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 it in the 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 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.

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 sworn 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 places 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.

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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