

Crime and safety statistics highlight rape cases

Alex Helm | Sept. 29, 2015

There were 12 rape cases and six fondling cases on campus in 2014, according to UNT's annual report for security and fire safety released Tuesday. It revealed crime statistics on and off campus from 2014 in compliance with the Clery Act.

The issue of sexual assault on campus has become an increasingly pressing one across the nation, and the data curated in the Annual Security and Fire Safety Report reflects that national debate. The sexual assault statistics were previously tallied by the university, but because of the Violence Against Women Act, the university reported them in a new way.

"We've always counted them, but because of the way the law is written, we are defining them in new categories," UNT spokesperson Margarita Venegas said. "If you see the crime statistics themselves, you will see that they're broken down in a different way than in previous years, but the reporting is basically the same."

The report now shows the number of sex offenses, which include rape, fondling, incest and statutory rape. Of the reported sexual assault cases, 11 rape and five fondling cases occurred within residential facilities.

"There's been an increase in reporting [rape] because it's been a national issue and people are overall more aware of this becoming a problem on campuses," interim UNT police chief Ed Reynolds said.

In many cases, sexual assault survivors need resources that will help them but do not want police involved. The UNT police want sexual assault survivors to not be hesitant to report to authorities.

The report also includes the university's outreach and prevention programs available to those who feel unsafe or have been assaulted.

"It's important to note that we train our campus security authorities to make sure that if someone reports a crime, that they report to police," Reynolds said. "Even if the survivor doesn't want to report to police."

From 2013 to 2014, the number of on-campus liquor law violations that resulted in arrests decreased from 124 to 118, and that includes residential facilities. But the number of drug law violations that resulted in arrests increased from 111 to 128.

The number of on-campus non-arrest alcohol violations that resulted in campus referrals fell from 208 to 134. Non-arrest drug violations dropped from 72 to 66.

Additionally, the university reported 25 burglaries on campus, down from 19 in 2013.

Students and faculty can access the full report, which includes an explanation of outreach and prevention programs, [here](#).