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## Investigating Whether Implicit Prejudice Moderates the Impact of Sexual Assault Survivors' Minority Status on Negative Stereotyping

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INVESTIGATING WHETHER IMPLICIT PREJUDICE MODERATES THE IMPACT OF  
SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVORS' MINORITY STATUS ON NEGATIVE STEREOTYPING

By

Tabitha Nickole Powell

A thesis submitted to the Department of Psychology

In partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

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CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL

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## Abstract

Although all sexual assault survivors have the potential to experience victim blame, Black women and transgender survivors of sexual assault face higher rates of victim blame and discrimination than their non-minority counterparts. This increased blame may be related to stereotypes about these individuals that do not align with “real” rape victim stereotypes. To understand how minority survivors of sexual assault are stereotyped, I investigated the intelligence and promiscuity ratings of minority survivors of sexual assault compared to their non-minority counterparts. Moreover, I investigated how implicit prejudice moderated the stereotyping of survivors. Participants read crime alerts that varied the race of the survivor (Study 1) or the gender identity of the survivor (Study 2). In Study 1, participants read crime alerts describing the sexual assault of a Black woman and a White woman. In Study 2, participants read crime alerts describing the sexual assault of a transgender man, a transgender woman, and a cisgender woman. After each alert, participants indicated the extent to which they believed the sexual assault survivor was intelligent and promiscuous. Black women survivors of sexual assault were stereotyped as less intelligent, but not more promiscuous than White women survivors. Unexpectedly, transgender survivors of sexual assault were not stereotyped differently than cisgender women survivors. Finally, implicit prejudice against Black people (Study 1) or transgender people (Study 2) did not moderate the effect survivor minority status had on stereotyping. I discuss future directions in the study of stereotyping and victim blame of minority sexual assault survivors. Materials, data, and analysis code are available online at [https://osf.io/79kfh/?view\\_only=363a6941952d461eb918119ec76ff6d4](https://osf.io/79kfh/?view_only=363a6941952d461eb918119ec76ff6d4)

Keywords: Sexual assault, Black women, transgender, prejudice, stereotypes, victim blame

Investigating Whether Implicit Prejudice Moderates the Impact of Sexual Assault  
Survivors' Minority Status on Negative Stereotyping

Many survivors of sexual assault and rape experience detrimental health effects such as depression and anxiety (Sadler, Booth, Neilson, & Doebbeling, 2000), less appreciation for life (Shakespeare-Finch & Armstrong, 2010), and post-traumatic stress disorder (Shakespeare-Finch & Armstrong, 2010). The likelihood of experiencing these negative recovery outcomes increases when survivors are blamed for the crime (Ullman, 1996). Victim blaming is the phenomenon where victims of crime or misfortune are blamed for the crime or misfortune occurring (Schwartz & Leggett, 1999). Minority survivors of sexual assault including Black women (Foley, Evancic, Karnik, King, & Parks, 1995; Long, Ullman, Long, Mason, & Starzynski, 2007; Willis, 1992; Wyatt, 1992) and transgender individuals (GLBT Domestic Violence Coalition & Jane Doe Inc., 2005; Seelman, 2015) experience higher rates of victim blaming or discrimination when reporting or seeking treatment following their assault. This increased blame may partially explain why Black women are less likely than White women to seek professional help following a sexual assault or to report the assault to the police (Alvidrez, Shumway, Morazes, & Boccellari, 2011; Ullman, Starzynski, Long, Mason, & Long, 2008; Wyatt, 1992) and why less than 17% of transgender sexual assault survivors report the crime to the police (Bradford, Reisner, Honnold, & Xavier, 2013; FORGE, 2005).

Minority sexual assault survivors may face higher rates of victim blaming because stereotypes about them are inconsistent with the traits ascribed to “real” rape victims. Minority survivors of sexual assault do not align with this image, for example, Black women have historically been stereotyped as highly promiscuous (McNair & Neville, 1996; West, 1995; White, Strube, & Fisher, 1998) and transgender individuals are seen as sexual and deviant

(Howansky, Wilton, Young, Abrams, & Clapham, 2019). These stereotypes contradict the “real” rape stereotypes, which may help account for why Black women and transgender individuals face higher rates of victim blaming. However, when Black women and White women are similarly described as not aligning with “real” victim stereotypes, Black women face higher victim blaming by those high in explicit prejudice against Black people (Dupuis & Clay, 2013). This may indicate that prejudice against minority groups may also affect victim blaming. Furthermore, higher explicit prejudice against Black people (George & Martínez, 2002; Katz, Merrilees, Hoxmeier, & Motisi, 2017) and explicit prejudice against transgender people (Thomas, Amburgey, & Ellis, 2016) are associated with increased blame against sexual assault survivors in general. However, to my knowledge, research has not yet investigated the relationship between implicit prejudice and victim blaming of Black women or transgender sexual assault survivors. The aim of the present studies was to investigate if implicit prejudice against Black women (Study 1) and transgender people (Study 2) moderates the effect survivor minority status had on survivor stereotyping.

### **Racial/ Gender Minorities are Not “Real” Rape Victims**

The “real rape victim” stereotype is a group of ideas that classify a specific type of encounter as a “real rape” and a specific type of survivor as a “real victim.” These stereotypes are pervasive in the criminal justice system (Venema, 2016) and ingrained in American culture (Edwards, Turchik, Dardis, Reynolds, & Gidycz, 2011; Ryan, 2011). For example, police believe most reported rapes that involved acquaintances or dating partners are false but rapes involving strangers are legitimate (Venema, 2016). Furthermore, police believed women who did not show physical signs of assault or who were not visibly upset were not actually raped whereas injured women or women threatened with a weapon were. College students express similar themes,

reporting that women were legitimately raped when mentally ill men violently attack them but women falsely reported rape if they had had a prior conversation with the rapist (similar to acquaintance rapes), had consumed alcohol, or the rape was not violent (Ryan, 1988).

“Real” rape stereotypes may disproportionately disadvantage Black women and transgender individuals, as these individuals do not align with the stereotypic image of a “real” rape victim (Donovan & Williams, 2002; Howansky, et al., 2019; Lester, 2015). For example, Black women have been stereotyped to be highly promiscuous and sexually insatiable, and therefore, “unrapable” (Donovan & Williams, 2002; White, et al., 1998). This view of Black women as highly promiscuous does not align with the stereotype of the innocent, sexually inexperienced woman as a “real” rape victim.

To date, only one study has investigated how Black women survivors of sexual assault are stereotyped differently than White women on dimensions of promiscuity (Donovan, 2007). In this study, participants read police report vignettes that described an acquaintance rape from the perspective of the survivor and the perpetrator (creating a “he said/ she said” situation), while varying the race of both across participants. Results indicated that male participants viewed the Black survivor as more promiscuous only when the perpetrator was White, but not when he was Black (Donovan, 2007). These findings provide some evidence that Black women survivors of sexual assault are only rated as more promiscuous when they are assaulted by White men, which may be related to racist historical stereotypes (namely the Jezebel stereotype, for review see Donovan & Williams, 2002) used to justify the rape of enslaved Black women in the antebellum south.

Further evidence that indirectly supports that Black women are seen as highly promiscuous, and therefore not “real” rape victims, investigated White women college students’

intentions to intervene when they suspect a woman is in danger of being sexually assaulted (Katz et al., 2017). In this study, White women college students read vignettes that described a sober man leading a clearly intoxicated woman into a private bedroom. Race was manipulated by referring to the woman in the vignette by either a Black name (Latoya, Tanisha) or a White name (Laura, Teresa). White women rated the risk of sexual assault the same across conditions but indicated less intention to intervene and less feelings of personal responsibility to intervene when the potential victim was presumed to be Black. White women also indicated that the Black woman would experience more pleasure from the experience than the White woman. These findings may relate to the view that Black women are promiscuous and insatiable and are therefore unrapable and welcoming of all sexual advances.

To my knowledge, no research has directly investigated if transgender individuals are perceived as “real” rape victims, but research has investigated how these individuals are stereotyped in general. Two of the most common stereotypes about transgender individuals are that they are sexual and deviant (Howansky et al., 2019). Because transgender individuals are stereotyped as sexual and deviant in general, they may face more negative stereotyping as promiscuous after people learn they have been sexually assaulted.

### **Implicit Prejudice as a Moderator of Survivor Stereotyping**

Black women and transgender survivors of sexual assault may be subject to increased rates of victim blame due to prejudice against these groups because even though knowledge of negative stereotypes about Black people does not vary with explicit prejudice, high- and low-prejudiced individuals respond differently to category activation (Lepore & Brown, 1997). When subconsciously primed with words related to the category *Black people*, high-prejudiced people formed more negative impressions when evaluating a Black target. Because of stereotypes about

Black women as sexual and promiscuous, learning that a Black woman was sexually assaulted may prime high-prejudice individuals to form more negative evaluations of the survivor.

In support of this, one study investigated how explicit prejudice against Black people is related to the victim blaming of Black women and White women sexual assault survivors who are described as either a stereotypical rape survivor or a non-stereotypical rape survivor (Dupuis & Clay, 2013). This study manipulated how respectable the survivor was by describing her as either a “party girl” who has been with multiple sexual partners or as having a “sweet nature” who rarely dated and never went to bars. The results revealed that explicit prejudice was positively associated with victim responsibility scores when the Black woman was described as a “party girl,” but not when she was described as respectable. From this, it can be theorized that, compared to people low in explicit prejudice, prejudiced people may rely more on “real” rape victim stereotypes when evaluating sexual assault survivors when there is a cue prompting them to do so.

Other research on the relationship between prejudice and victim blaming behavior has found somewhat inconsistent results. For example, one study investigated how explicit prejudice affected victim blaming behaviors towards Black and White women survivors when rape type (stranger vs acquaintance) and perpetrator race (Black vs White) was varied (George & Martínez, 2002). The results indicated that men’s explicit prejudice was positively associated with victim blaming for all cases of rape, while women’s explicit prejudice moderated victim blaming only for interracial acquaintance rape survivors. Alternatively, Katz and colleagues’ (2017) study on the intention to intervene in a potential sexual assault found that explicit prejudice was positively related to victim blame regardless of race. Finally, Thomas and colleagues (2016) investigated how explicit prejudice against transgender people affected victim

blaming behavior towards either a transgender or cisgender person who was physically assaulted. Results indicated that explicit prejudice against transgender people was associated with victim blaming for both survivors, though the association was stronger for the transgender survivor.

These findings indicate that there is a connection between explicit prejudice and victim blaming, but research has yet to investigate if implicit prejudice against minority groups is related to victim blaming behavior. This is important to investigate, as implicit and explicit prejudice are predictive of different behaviors (Dovidio et al., 2002) which may relate differently to the judgment of sexual assault survivors. Additionally, explicit measures of prejudice are affected by social desirability and people's motivation to respond without prejudice (Devine, Plant, Amodio, Harmon-Jones, & Vance, 2002), while implicit measures are less so. The present study aimed to investigate if implicit prejudice (rather than explicit prejudice) against Black women (Study 1) and transgender people (Study 2) moderated the effect survivor minority status had on the survivor stereotyping.

### **Framing of Sexual Assault in Crime Alerts**

Recently, research has indicated that the way reports about sexual assault are communicated to the public can influence victim blaming behavior (See <https://osf.io/acnqb/>). Across three distinctive populations (college students, mTurk workers, and registered voters interviewed over the phone) participants read or listened to crime alerts that varied in the amount of victim blaming language included in the alert. Participants then rated the survivors on promiscuity and intelligence (Studies 1-3) and indicated their personal feelings of safety (Study 3). When subtle victim blaming language was included in a crime alert, participants rated the survivor as less intelligent (Studies 1- 3) and more promiscuous (Studies 2-3). These findings

indicate that even subtle victim blaming language in crime reports can significantly affect the stereotypes applied to survivors.

The present research was conducted in the context of campus crime alerts because these alerts are required to be issued by law when a crime is committed that may pose a threat to the student body (Clery Center, 2018). These alerts are meant to disseminate important information regarding crimes committed on campuses, but the framing of the information presented can lead to increased victim blaming of those described in the alerts (See <https://osf.io/acnqb/>). Victim blaming language in crime alerts may affect Black women and transgender survivors of sexual assault to a greater extent than non-minority survivors because these individuals already face harsher judgment. That is, because Black women and transgender individuals are already perceived as promiscuous and sexually deviant, crime alerts that subtly blame survivors may magnify pre-existing stereotypes. Because of this, the present research investigated whether Black women and transgender survivors of sexual assault may be disproportionately affected by crime alerts with victim blaming language included.

### **Overview of Studies**

To learn whether negative stereotypes are applied more strongly to minority sexual assault survivors, participants read crime alerts reporting the sexual assaults of a Black woman and a White woman (Study 1) or a transgender woman, a transgender man, and a cisgender woman (Study 2). After each alert, participants indicated the extent to which they believed negative stereotypes were associated with the survivors. I predicted that minority sexual assault survivors would be rated as more promiscuous and less intelligent than their non-minority counterparts. Additionally, I predicted that implicit prejudice would moderate the relationship between minority status and survivor stereotyping such that people high in prejudice would rate

minority sexual assault survivors as more promiscuous and less intelligent compared to people low in prejudice. Materials, data, and analysis code are available online at <https://osf.io/s6vgu/> and the pre-registration for this study can be found at <http://aspredicted.org/blind.php?x=vx8m4b>.

### Study 1

The purpose of Study 1 was to investigate whether Black women survivors of sexual assault are stereotyped more negatively than White women survivors after reading a campus crime alert describing a sexual assault. I predicted that the Black woman survivor of a described sexual assault would be judged as more promiscuous than the White woman survivor. Next, I predicted that the Black woman survivor would be rated as less intelligent than the White woman survivor. Finally, I investigated how implicit prejudice moderated the negative stereotyping of Black women survivors of sexual assault. I predicted that participants high in implicit prejudice against Black people would stereotype the Black woman survivor more negatively than the White woman survivor but participants low in implicit prejudice would not.

### Methods

**Participants and Design.** In exchange for \$0.60, 227 mTurk workers were recruited for this study, which employed a within-groups design with two conditions (Black woman survivor vs. White woman survivor). The sample consisted of 17 Asian individuals, 23 Black individuals, 6 biracial/ or multiracial individuals, 6 Hispanic individuals, 1 Native American individual, 1 Middle Eastern individual, 152 White individuals, and 21 who did not report their race. The sample consisted of 130 men (9 who identified as transgender) and 85 women (2 who identified as transgender) with a median age of 31.00 (SD= 10.79). Participants with an error rate above

40% on the implicit association test were excluded from data analysis. Moreover, only the participants who identify as White were included in the main analyses (152 individuals).

**Procedure.** This study was administered through Qualtrics survey software and participants were able to complete the study on their personal computers at locations of their choosing. After providing informed consent, participants were told they would complete two separate studies, but, in reality, both ‘studies’ were part of the same experiment. Participants were told that the first ‘study’ was about understanding how reaction times differ depending on the time of day. In reality, the first ‘study’ was designed to assess implicit prejudice against Black people. Participants were told that the second ‘study’ was designed to help the university develop a more effective way to present timely crime alerts on campus. In reality, the second ‘study’ was designed to assess how stereotyping of rape survivors may differ depending on the survivor’s race.

***Implicit prejudice.*** Implicit prejudice against Black people was assessed with an implicit association test (Greenwald, McGhee, & Schwartz, 1998). During this double categorization task, participants were asked to categorize six images of Black people (three men and three women), six images of White people (three men and three women), six positive words (beautiful, marvelous, wonderful, glorious, lovely, and superb) and six negative words (disgust, pain, terrible, horrible, hate, and awful). The task consisted of three practice blocks and four critical blocks.

In the first block, a practice block, participants categorized the six White faces using the ‘e’ key and the six Black faces using the ‘i’ key. In the second block, another practice block, participants categorized the six negative words using the ‘e’ key and the six positive words using the ‘i’ key. In the third and fourth blocks, which were critical blocks, participants categorized the

White faces and negative words using the ‘e’ key and the Black faces and positive words using the ‘i’ key. Block 3 consisted of 24 trials and Block 4 consisted of 48 trials. In the fifth block, the final practice block, participants categorized the positive words with the ‘e’ key and the negative words with the ‘i’ key. Also, Block 5 featured 24 trials (twice as many trials as Block 1) to counteract the effect of learning the initial key pairings. Finally, in the sixth and seventh blocks—the final critical blocks—participants categorized the six White faces and six positive words with the ‘e’ key and the six Black faces and six negative words with the ‘i’ key. Block 6 consisted of 24 trials and Block 7 of 48 trials.

Throughout the task, if the participant correctly categorized the image or word, they were presented with a blank screen for 250 ms before the next trial. If the participants incorrectly categorized the word or image, they were presented with a blank screen for 500 ms, followed by an ‘X’ in the center of the screen for 250 ms, then another blank screen for 500 ms before the next trial. The participants were not able to correct incorrect responses. The D-600 algorithm was used to calculate IAT scores (Greenwald, Nosek, & Banaji, 2003) such that higher scores represent greater implicit prejudice against Black people.

*Crime alerts.* Participants were instructed to carefully read three crime alerts and answer questions about each. Each crime alert was presented at the top of the screen with the questions below (See Appendix A for alerts). First, participants read a distractor alert, followed by the two test alerts.

*Distractor alert.* Participants were shown a distractor alert describing the theft of a laptop with the following text:

The University Police Department are investigating a burglary on campus. The report was made on February 2nd, at 6:50pm. An apartment at the RNU Condos was

burglarized; the occupants reported they left their sliding glass door unlocked to let a visiting guest in the apartment while the occupants were on campus. Campus police are still looking for the suspect. No further information is available. If you have any information regarding this investigation, please contact the police department at (724) 620-2800 or report this anonymously at (724) 887-3813.

*Experimental alerts.* Next, participants were shown the two experimental alerts, one at a time. These alerts described incidents in which a woman was sexually assaulted in either a parking lot or a parking garage on campus. The order in which these alerts were presented to participants was counterbalanced. In addition, the race of the survivor described in each alert was counterbalanced such that half of participants read a description of a White woman assaulted in a parking lot and a Black woman assaulted in a parking garage whereas the remaining participants read a description of a Black woman assaulted in a parking lot and a White woman assaulted in a parking garage. Furthermore, for half of the participants, the alert describing a White survivor was presented first whereas for the remaining participants, the alert describing a Black survivor was presented first. Below is the text of the alert describing a survivor assaulted in a parking garage:

The University Police Department are investigating the case of a (Black) White woman who was potentially the victim of a crime on campus. The report was made on March 18th, at 12:05am. The victim was allegedly approached by the suspect while she was searching for her car in the Northside Parking Garage. She reported she could not remember where she parked her car earlier that day. No further information is available. If you have any information regarding this investigation, please contact the police department at (724) 620-2800 or report this anonymously at (724) 887-3813.

Below is the description of a survivor assaulted in a parking lot:

The University Police Department are investigating the case of a (Black) White woman who was the victim of a crime on campus. The report was made on May 11th, at 12:50am. The victim was allegedly approached by the suspect while on her way to her car. She reported she had parked in the back of the Eastern Student Parking Lot in a poorly lit area. No further information is available. If you have any information regarding this investigation, please contact the police department at (724) 620-2800 or report this anonymously at (724) 887-3813.

**Survivor stereotyping.** Following each crime alert, participants used a 7-point scale (1-Not at all to 7-Very Much) to indicate the extent to which the attributes *intelligent*, *smart*, and *bright* were associated with the survivor as well as the attributes *promiscuous*, *slutty*, and *loose*. Participants did not answer the questions related to the promiscuity attributes following the distractor alert. Additionally, participants were instructed to answer four distractor questions related to the legibility and usefulness of the alert (See Appendix B). The order in which the ten questions (three related to survivor intelligence, three related to survivor promiscuity, and four distractor questions) was randomized. Survivor intelligence ratings were calculated by averaging the scores of the attributes *intelligent*, *smart*, and *bright*. Survivor promiscuity ratings were calculated by averaging the scores of the attributes *promiscuous*, *slutty*, and *loose*. The average stereotype ratings for each survivor can be found in Table 1.

## Results

For each hypothesis, the alpha level was corrected to 0.0125 using the Dunn-Bonferroni correction method because I conducted two significance tests (two paired samples t-test and two linear regression) with a total of four p values.

**Survivor intelligence.** I conducted a paired samples *t*-test to test the hypothesis that Black women survivors would be rated as less intelligent than White women survivors. In support of our hypothesis, participants rated the Black woman survivor ( $M= 3.42, SD= 0.96$ ) as less intelligent than the White woman survivor ( $M=4.16, SD= 1.25$ ),  $t(151)=-8.30, p < 0.001, d = -0.74$ , (See Figure 1).

**Survivor promiscuity.** Next, I conducted a paired samples *t*-test to test the hypothesis that Black women survivors would be rated as more promiscuous than White women survivors. Contrary to our hypothesis, participants rating of survivor promiscuity did not vary between the Black woman survivor ( $M=2.72, SD= 1.69$ ) and the White woman survivor ( $M=2.67, SD= 1.63$ ),  $t(151)= 0.69, p = 0.50, d = 0.06$ , (see Figure 2).

**Implicit prejudice against Black people.** Finally, I investigated whether participants' implicit prejudice would moderate the influence survivor race had on survivor stereotype ratings. To test the hypothesis that implicit prejudice would moderate the influence survivor race had on ratings of survivor intelligence, I conducted a linear regression with intelligence ratings as the dependent variable, and implicit prejudice against Black people, race of the survivor, and their interaction as the independent variables. The model was significant,  $F(3, 222)= 7.07, p < 0.001, R^2 = 0.07$ .

There was no main effect of implicit prejudice scores on ratings of survivor intelligence,  $b= 0.22, S.E.= 0.10, \beta= 0.22, p= 0.39$ . However, there was a main effect of survivors' race on rating of survivor intelligence,  $b= 0.64, S.E.= 0.14, \beta= -0.10, p < 0.001$ . Contrary to the hypothesis, there was no interaction between implicit prejudice scores and survivor race on ratings of participants intelligence,  $b= -0.10, S.E.= 0.37, \beta= -0.10, p= 0.79$ .

Next, I investigated whether participant implicit prejudice would moderate the influence survivor race had on ratings of survivor promiscuity. To test the hypothesis that implicit prejudice would moderate the relationship between survivor race and ratings of survivor promiscuity, I conducted a linear regression with promiscuity ratings as the dependent variable, and implicit prejudice against Black people, race of the survivor, and their interaction as the independent variables. The model was not significant,  $F(3, 222) = 1.85$ ,  $p = 0.14$ ,  $R^2 = 0.02$ .

There was no main effect of implicit prejudice scores on ratings of survivor promiscuity,  $b = -0.55$ ,  $S.E. = 0.37$ ,  $\beta = -0.55$ ,  $p = 0.13$ . There was also no main effect of survivors' race on rating of survivor promiscuity,  $b = -0.02$ ,  $S.E. = 0.20$ ,  $\beta = 0.08$ ,  $p = 0.91$ . Contrary to the hypothesis, there was no interaction between implicit prejudice scores and survivor race on ratings of survivor intelligence,  $b = -0.11$ ,  $S.E. = 0.52$ ,  $\beta = -0.11$ ,  $p = 0.83$ .

## **Discussion**

The present study aimed to investigate if Black women sexual assault survivors were stereotyped more negatively than White women survivors of sexual assault. In support of our hypothesis, participants rated the Black woman survivor as less intelligent than the White woman survivor. Contrary to our hypothesis, however, participants did not rate the Black woman survivor as more promiscuous than the White woman survivor. Finally, implicit prejudice against Black people did not moderate the relationship between survivors' race and intelligence ratings or promiscuity ratings. That is, individuals high in implicit prejudice against Black people did not rate survivors' intelligence or promiscuity differently than those low in implicit prejudice against Black people.

## Study 2

The purpose of study 2 was to investigate if transgender survivors of sexual assault are stereotyped more negatively than cisgender women survivors after reading a campus crime alert describing a sexual assault. First, I predicted that the transgender survivors would be rated as less intelligent than the cisgender woman survivor. Next, I predicted that the transgender survivors would be rated as more promiscuous than the cisgender woman survivor. Finally, I predicted that participants high in implicit prejudice against transgender people would stereotype the transgender survivors more negatively than the cisgender woman survivor but participants low in implicit prejudice would not.

### Methods

**Participants and Design.** In exchange for partial course credit, 304 undergraduates from a mid-sized southern university were recruited for this study which employed a within-groups design with three conditions (cisgender woman survivor, transgender man survivor, and transgender woman survivor). Twenty-three participants who did not complete all measures were excluded from the analysis. The sample consisted of 46 men (2 who identified as transgender), 231 women (3 who identified as transgender), and 4 individuals who identified as non-binary/gender nonconforming. The participants had a median age of 20.00 (SD= 4.13). Due to an error in the survey, the racial background of the participants was not collected. Participants with an error rate above 40% on the implicit association test were excluded from data analysis. Additionally, only participants who identify as cisgender were included in the main analyses.

**Procedure.** This study was administered through Qualtrics survey software and participants were able to complete the study on their personal computers at locations of their choosing. After providing informed consent, participants were told they would complete two

separate studies, but both ‘studies’ were part of the same experiment. Participants were told that the first ‘study’ was about understanding how reaction times differ depending on the time of day. In reality, the first ‘study’ was designed to assess implicit prejudice against transgender people. Participants were told that the second ‘study’ was designed to help the university develop a more effective way to present timely crime alerts on campus. In reality, the second ‘study’ was designed to assess how stereotyping of rape survivors may differ depending on the survivor’s gender, specifically, stereotyping of transgender survivors.

***Implicit Prejudice.*** Implicit prejudice against transgender individuals was assessed with an implicit association test (Greenwald et al., 1998). During this double categorization task, participants were asked to categorize the words four gender related terms (transgender, cisgender, trans, and cis), six positive words (beautiful, marvelous, wonderful, glorious, lovely, and superb) and six negative words (disgust, pain, terrible, horrible, hate, and awful). The task consisted of three practice blocks and four critical blocks.

In the first block, a practice block, participants categorized the two cisgender related words using the ‘e’ key and the two transgender related words using the ‘i’ key. In the second block, another practice block, participants categorized the six negative words using the ‘e’ key and the six positive words using the ‘i’ key. The third and fourth blocks, which were critical blocks, consisted of 24 and 48 trials respectively, and participants categorized the cisgender words and negative words using the ‘e’ key and the transgender words and positive words using the ‘i’ key. In the fifth block, the final practice block, participants categorized the positive words with the ‘e’ key and the negative words with the ‘i’ key. Also, Block 5 featured 24 trials (twice as many trials as Block 1) to counteract the effect of learning the initial key pairings. Finally, in the sixth and seventh blocks—the final critical blocks—participants categorized the two

cisgender words and six positive words with the 'e' key and the two transgender words and six negative words with the 'i' key. Block 6 consisted of 24 trials and Block 7 of 48 trials.

Throughout the task, if the participant correctly categorized the word, they were presented with a blank screen for 250 ms before the next trial. If the participants incorrectly categorized the word, they were presented with a blank screen for 500 ms, followed by an 'X' in the center of the screen for 250 ms, then another blank screen for 500 ms before the next trial. The participants were not able to correct incorrect responses. The D-600 algorithm was used to calculate IAT scores (Greenwald, Nosek, & Banaji, 2003) such that higher scores represent greater implicit prejudice against transgender individuals.

**Crime alerts.** Participants were instructed to carefully read five crime alerts and answer questions about each. Each crime alert was presented at the top of the screen with the questions below the alert (See Appendix A for alerts). Participants viewed the alerts in the following order: distractor alert, first test alert, second test alert, distractor alert, final test alert. Each test alert will state 'Incident Information' as 'Potential Sexual Assault,' and 'Victim Information' as the corresponding gender (either transgender woman, transgender man, or transgender woman). Text from each alert is presented below (for full alerts, see Appendix C).

**First distractor alert.** Participants were shown a distractor alert describing the theft of a laptop with the following text (bolded text indicates text that changes between the alerts):

The University Police Department are investigating a burglary on campus. The report was made on February 2nd, at 6:50pm. An apartment at the RNU Condos was burglarized; the occupants reported they left their sliding glass door unlocked to let a visiting guest in the apartment while the occupants were on campus. Campus police are still looking for the suspect. No further information is available. If you have any

information regarding this investigation, please contact the police department at (724) 620-2800 or report this anonymously at (724) 887-3813

*Experimental alerts.* Next, participants were shown the two experimental alerts, one at a time. These alerts described incidents in which an individual was sexually assaulted in either a parking lot, a parking garage, or walking to a parking lot on campus. Both the gender of the survivor (transgender woman, transgender man, cisgender women) and the order in which the alerts were presented to the participants was counterbalanced. Below is the text of the alert describing a survivor assaulted in a parking lot:

The University Police Department are investigating the case of a woman (transgender woman, transgender man) who was potentially the victim of a crime on campus. The report was made on March 18th, at 12:05am. The victim was allegedly approached by the suspect while she (he) was searching for her car in the Northside Parking Garage. She (He) reported she (he) could not remember where she (he) parked her (his) car earlier that day. No further information is available. If you have any information regarding this investigation, please contact the police department at (724) 620-2800 or report this anonymously at (724) 887-3813.

Below is the description of a survivor assaulted in a parking lot:

The University Police Department are investigating the case of a woman (transgender woman, transgender man) who was the victim of a crime on campus. The report was made on May 11th, at 12:50am. The victim was allegedly approached by the suspect while on her (his) way to her (his) car. She (He) reported she (he) had parked in the back of the Eastern Student Parking Lot in a poorly lit area. No further information is

available. If you have any information regarding this investigation, please contact the police department at (724) 620-2800 or report this anonymously at (724) 887-3813.

*Second distractor alert.* After the first two test alerts, participants were shown a second distractor alert:

The University Police Department are investigating a theft in the RNU Phoenix Cafe. The report was made on February 8<sup>th</sup>, at 4:50pm. A student left their backpack containing their laptop and textbooks unattended while using the restroom. Upon return the student reported their backpack was missing. Campus police are still looking for the suspect. No further information is available. If you have any information regarding this investigation, please contact the police department at (724) 620-2800 or report this anonymously at (724) 887-3813.

*Final test alert.* Finally, the participants were shown the last test alert:

The University Police Department are investigating the case of a woman (transgender woman, transgender man) who was potentially the victim of a crime on campus. The report was made on January 29<sup>th</sup>, at 2:35am. The victim was allegedly approached by the suspect while on her (his) way to the Southside Phoenix Lot. She (He) reported that she (he) decided to walk through the path leading to the lot instead of asking RNU Campus Police for a security escort. No further information is available. If you have any information regarding this investigation, please contact the police department at (724) 620-2800 or report this anonymously at (724) 887-3813.

*Survivor stereotyping.* Following each crime alert, participants used a 7-point scale (1-Not at all to 7-Very Much), to indicate the extent to which the attributes intelligent, smart, and bright were associated with the survivor as well as the attributes promiscuous, slutty, and loose.

Participants did not answer the questions related to the promiscuity attributes following the distractor alert. Additionally, participants were instructed to answer four distractor questions related to the legibility and usefulness of the alert (See Appendix B). The order in which the ten questions (three related to survivor intelligence, three related to survivor promiscuity, and four distractor questions) was randomized. Survivor intelligence ratings were calculated by averaging the scores of the attributes *intelligent*, *smart*, and *bright*. Survivor promiscuity ratings were calculated by averaging the scores of the attributes *promiscuous*, *slutty*, and *loose*. The average stereotype ratings can be found in Table 2.

## Results

For each hypothesis, the alpha level was corrected to 0.0125 using the Dunn-Bonferroni correction method because I conducted four significance tests (two repeated measures ANOVAs and two linear regression) with a total of four p values.

**Survivor intelligence.** A repeated measures ANOVA was conducted to test the effect of survivor gender on ratings of survivor intelligence across three gender identities: transgender woman, transgender man, and cisgender woman. Contrary to the hypothesis, there was no significant difference between the intelligence ratings of the transgender woman ( $M= 4.09$ ,  $SD= 1.26$ ), the transgender man ( $M= 4.08$ ,  $SD= 1.32$ ), or the cisgender woman ( $M= 3.96$ ,  $SD= 1.19$ ),  $F(1.88, 512.57)=1.89$ ,  $p=0.15$ .

**Survivor promiscuity.** A repeated measures ANOVA was conducted to test the effect of survivor gender on ratings of survivor promiscuity across three gender identities: transgender woman, transgender man, and cisgender woman. Contrary to the hypothesis, there was no significant difference between the intelligence ratings of the transgender woman ( $M= 2.34$ ,  $SD=$

1.45), the transgender man ( $M= 2.15, SD= 1.36$ ), or the cisgender woman ( $M= 2.28, SD= 1.51$ ),  $F(1.99, 543.33) = 4.11, p= 0.02$ .

**Implicit prejudice against transgender individuals.** Finally, I investigated whether participant implicit prejudice would moderate the influence survivor gender identity had on survivor stereotype ratings. To test the hypothesis that implicit prejudice would moderate the relationship between survivor gender identity and ratings of survivor intelligence, I conducted four linear regression with intelligence ratings as the dependent variable, and implicit prejudice against transgender people, the gender of the survivor, and their interaction as the independent variables.

First, I tested if implicit prejudice against transgender individuals scores moderated the relationship between gender and ratings of survivor intelligence for all transgender survivors compared to the cisgender woman survivor. The model was not significant,  $F(3, 803)= 2.24, p = 0.08, R^2=0.01$ . When comparing transgender individuals to the cisgender woman, there was no main effect of implicit prejudice scores on ratings of survivor intelligence,  $b= -0.08, S.E.= 0.19, \beta= -0.08, p= 0.66$ . There was also no main effect of survivors' gender on rating of survivor intelligence,  $b= 0.14, S.E.= 0.09, \beta=0.01, p = 0.13$ . Finally, contrary to the hypothesis, there was no interaction between implicit prejudice scores and survivor gender on ratings of survivor promiscuity,  $b= -0.19, S.E.= 0.23, \beta=-0.19, p= 0.41$ .

Second, I exploratorily tested if implicit prejudice against transgender individuals scores moderated the relationship between gender and ratings of survivor intelligence for the transgender man survivor compared to the transgender woman survivor. The model was not significant,  $f(3, 803)= 1.46, p = 0.22, R^2=0.01$ . When comparing the transgender man to the transgender woman survivor, there was no main effect of implicit prejudice scores on ratings of

survivor intelligence,  $b = -0.21$ ,  $S.E. = 0.11$ ,  $\beta = -0.21$ ,  $p = 0.05$ . There was also no main effect of survivors' gender on rating of survivor promiscuity,  $b = 0.01$ ,  $S.E. = 0.05$ ,  $\beta < -0.001$ ,  $p = 0.90$ . Finally, there was no interaction between implicit prejudice scores and survivor gender on ratings of survivor promiscuity,  $b = -0.10$ ,  $S.E. = 0.13$ ,  $\beta = -0.10$ ,  $p = 0.44$ .

Next, to test the hypothesis that implicit prejudice would moderate the relationship between survivor gender identity and ratings of survivor promiscuity, I conducted two linear regression with intelligence ratings as the dependent variable, and implicit prejudice against transgender people, the gender of the survivor, and their interaction as the independent variables.

First, I tested if implicit prejudice against transgender individuals scores moderated the relationship between gender and ratings of survivor promiscuity for all transgender survivors compared to the cisgender woman survivor. The model was not significant,  $f(3, 801) = 0.46$ ,  $p = 0.71$ ,  $R^2 < 0.001$ . Contrary to the hypothesis, when comparing all transgender individuals to the cisgender woman, there was no main effect of implicit prejudice scores on ratings of survivor promiscuity,  $b = 0.20$ ,  $S.E. = 0.22$ ,  $\beta = 0.20$ ,  $p = 0.36$ . There was also no main effect of survivors' gender on rating of survivor promiscuity,  $b = -0.01$ ,  $S.E. = 0.11$ ,  $\beta = 0.03$ ,  $p = 0.91$ . Finally, there was no interaction between implicit prejudice scores and survivor gender on ratings of survivor promiscuity,  $b = -0.09$ ,  $S.E. = 0.26$ ,  $\beta = -0.09$ ,  $p = 0.74$ .

Second, I exploratorily tested if implicit prejudice against transgender individuals scores moderated the relationship between gender and ratings of survivor promiscuity for the transgender man survivor compared to the transgender woman survivor. The model was not significant,  $F(3, 803) = 1.75$ ,  $p = 0.16$ ,  $R^2 = 0.01$ . When comparing the transgender man to the transgender woman survivor, there was no main effect of implicit prejudice scores on ratings of survivor promiscuity,  $b = 0.14$ ,  $S.E. = 0.12$ ,  $\beta = 0.14$ ,  $p = 0.26$ . There was also no main effect of

survivors' gender identity on rating of survivor promiscuity,  $b = -0.10$ ,  $S.E. = 0.06$ ,  $\beta = -0.01$ ,  $p = 0.09$ . Finally, there was no interaction between implicit prejudice scores and survivor gender on ratings of survivor promiscuity,  $b = -0.16$ ,  $S.E. = 0.15$ ,  $\beta = -0.16$ ,  $p = 0.29$ .

## **Discussion**

Study 2 aimed to investigate if transgender survivors of sexual assault are stereotyped more negatively than cisgender women survivors. Contrary to the first hypothesis, the transgender survivors were not rated as less intelligent than the cisgender woman survivor. Contrary to the second hypothesis, participants did not rate the transgender survivors as more promiscuous than the cisgender woman survivor. Finally, implicit prejudice against transgender individuals did not moderate the influence survivor gender identity had on survivor stereotyping.

### **General Discussion**

The aim of the present research was to investigate if minority survivors of sexual assault are stereotyped more negatively than their non-minority counterparts. Additionally, the present studies aimed to investigate if implicit prejudice moderated the effect of survivor minority status on survivor stereotyping. Study 1 investigated how the negative stereotyping of Black women survivors compared to White women survivors, and Study 2 investigated transgender survivors compared to a cisgender woman survivor. Black women survivors of sexual assault were stereotyped as less intelligent, but not more promiscuous than White women survivors. Surprisingly, no differences were found in the stereotyping of transgender survivors and the cisgender woman survivor of sexual assault. Finally, implicit prejudice did not moderate the relationship between survivor minority status and survivor stereotyping.

Interestingly, the results of Study 1 did not support the hypothesis that Black women survivors would be rated as more promiscuous than White women survivors. This finding is

somewhat inconsistent with Donovan's (2007) study, which found that Black women were rated more promiscuous when the perpetrator was a White man. Because the race of the perpetrator has been shown to affect victim blaming behavior (Donovan, 2007; George & Martínez, 2002; Varelas & Foley, 1998), these conflicting findings may indicate that perceptions of promiscuity for Black women survivors of sexual assault are related to the race of the perpetrator. Women survivors of sexual assault may only be seen as promiscuous when the perpetrator is of a different race. Because the present study left the race of the perpetrator ambiguous, participants potentially assumed the survivors were the same race as the perpetrator, which reflects the majority of sexual assaults.

Additionally, the results of Study 2 did not support the hypotheses that transgender survivors would be rated more harshly than the cisgender woman. These finding may be related to the gender make-up of the participants with Study 2 consisted mainly of women participants. Past research has shown that women hold more positive attitudes towards transgender individuals (Brown, Kucharska, & Marczak, 2018) and that women's judgment toward transgender assault survivors is not influenced by explicit (Thomas, et al., 2016). Future researchers should further investigate the role participant gender plays in the stereotyping of transgender sexual assault survivors.

The findings that implicit prejudice did not moderate the influence survivor minority status had on stereotype ratings is inconsistent with previous research. Prior research has indicated that explicit prejudice against transgender individuals (Thomas, et al., 2016) and explicit prejudice against Black people (Dupuis & Clay, 2013; George and Martínez; Katz, et al., 2017) is related to increased victim blaming of sexual assault survivors. The use of implicit rather than explicit measures of prejudice in the present research may account for the differences.

Research has indicated that implicit prejudice predicts spontaneous reactions while explicit prejudice predicts deliberative decisions (Dovidio, Kawakami, Johnson, Johnson, & Howard, 1997). Because rating a survivor of sexual assault on dimensions of promiscuity and intelligence is a deliberate process, participants may have relied on explicit prejudice rather than implicit prejudice. To my knowledge, no research has investigated how implicit prejudice against Black people or transgender people affects victim blaming behavior. Additional research is needed to determine what constructs related to the judgment of rape survivors (if any) are affected by implicit prejudice.

The finding that Black women survivors were rated as less intelligent than White women survivors is unique in that no research, to my knowledge, has investigated the perceived intelligence of sexual assault survivors depending on their race. This finding is important because it may help to explain why Black women survivors of sexual assault are blamed more for the crime committed against them. Perceiving Black women survivors of sexual assault as less intelligent would provide justification for the increased blame these survivors face because if she had been more intelligent, she would not have been assaulted. Additional research should investigate the link between perceived survivor intelligence and victim blaming behaviors.

Future researchers could also benefit from using measures of prejudice against Black women specifically rather than against Black people in general because general stereotypes about Black people are related to beliefs about Black men, but not Black women (Purdie-Vaughns & Eibach, 2008). According to the intersectional invisibility hypothesis, members of multiple minority groups, such as Black women, experience social invisibility due to their non-prototypical social status. That is, when thinking about Black people, stereotypes and images of a Black man will come to mind, not of a Black woman. This theory has been supported by

research showing that individuals are quicker to associate “Black man” with the category “Black” than “Black woman” (Thomas, Dovidio, & West, 2014). Additionally, when asked to generate stereotypes about Black people, Black men, and Black women, stereotypes generated for Black people aligned more closely to the stereotypes generated for Black men than for Black women (Ghavami & Peplau, 2013). Because of this, future research which aims to measure how implicit prejudice affects the stereotyping of Black women should use instruments specifically measuring prejudice against Black women rather than prejudice against Black people as a whole.

Though the present study did not find that transgender survivors were stereotyped more negatively than a cisgender woman survivors, research on how transgender sexual assault survivors are stereotyped (and how to combat the effects of negative stereotyping) is important as these individuals face exceptionally high amounts of discrimination when they seek help after a sexual assault (GLBT Domestic Violence Coalition & Jane Doe Inc., 2005). For example, transgender individuals (or those who had worked with these individuals) report discrimination when at rape and intimate partner violence crisis centers including: providers using the wrong pronouns, blaming the abuse on the individuals’ gender identity, asking inappropriate questions about the individual's body or genitals, or completely denying service due to their transgender status (GLBT Domestic Violence Coalition & Jane Doe Inc., 2005). Additional research is also needed to investigate victim blaming of transgender individuals who are also racial minorities, as these groups (Black transgender women in particular; Graham, 2014) face even higher rates of violence and discrimination in general (Lombardi, Wilchins, Priesing, & Malouf, 2002).

In conclusion, these studies aimed to investigate how harmful stereotypes may be disproportionately applied to minority survivors of sexual assault. The present study found that participants rated the Black woman survivor of sexual assault as less intelligent than the White

woman survivor but did not find that Black women were rated as more promiscuous than White women. Additionally, transgender individuals were not stereotyped differently than cisgender women survivors. Finally, implicit prejudice did not moderate the relationship between survivor minority status and survivor stereotyping. Advances in the understanding of how Black women and transgender survivors of sexual assault are stereotyped are important as they can inform the development of training protocol for individuals working with these populations while accounting for the unique issues these populations face.

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## Tables and Figures

Table 1

*Study 1: Average Stereotype Rating as a Function of Survivor Race*

Stereotype by Race	Mean	SD
Intelligence		
Black Woman	3.42	0.96
White Woman	4.16	1.35
Promiscuity		
Black Woman	2.72	1.69
White Woman	2.67	1.63

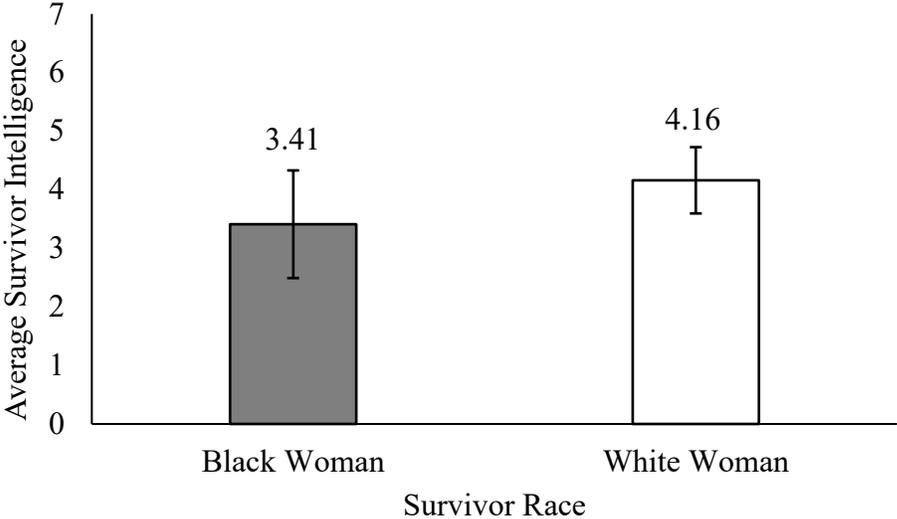


Figure 1. Average intelligence rating as a function of target race with 95% confidence intervals for Study 1.

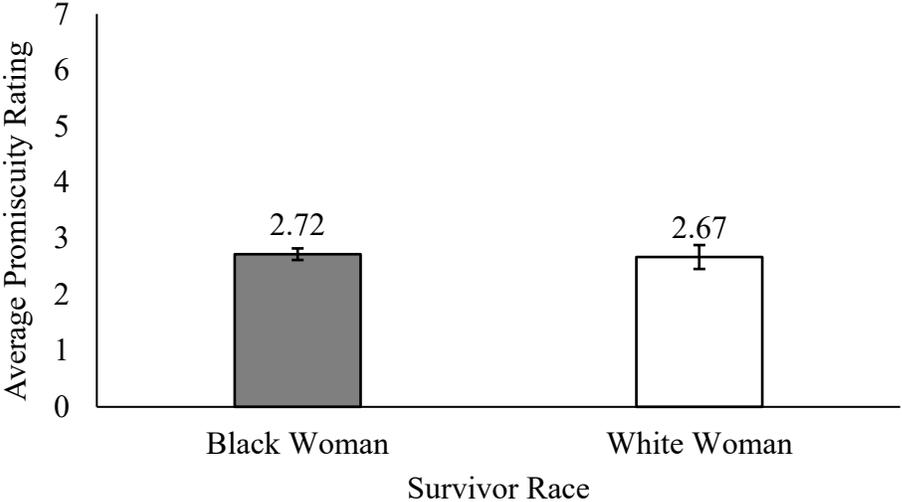


Figure 2. Average promiscuity rating as a function of target race with 95% confidence intervals for Study 1.

Table 2

*Study 2: Average Stereotype Rating as a Function of Survivor Gender*

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	Mean	SD
<b>Intelligence</b>		
Transgender Man	4.08	1.32
Transgender Woman	4.09	1.26
Cisgender Woman	3.96	1.19
<b>Promiscuity</b>		
Transgender Man	2.15	1.36
Transgender Woman	2.34	1.45
Cisgender Woman	2.28	1.51

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## Appendix A

## Study 1 Crime Alerts

**Phoenix Update** *Special Edition***RNU**

## Campus Safety Alert

### Incident Type

Potential Sexual Assault

### Victim Information

Black woman

### Suspect Information

Unknown man

### Incident Information

The University Police Department are investigating the case of a woman who was the victim of a crime on campus. The report was made on May 11th, at 12:50am. The victim was allegedly approached by the suspect while on her way to her car. She reported she had parked in the back of the Eastern Student Parking Lot in a poorly lit area. No further information is available. If you have any information regarding this investigation, please contact the police department at (724) 620-2800 or report this anonymously at (724) 887-3813.

### Prevention Information

Trust your instincts. If you feel unsafe, get to a safe place and call for help. Be mindful of the locations of the blue light emergency telephones (ETS) and use them if you feel threatened. Use the buddy system and watch out for each other. Additionally, UPD offers safety tips, which can be found [here](#).

Additional resources are available on and off campus to provide assistance at [http://www.rnu.edu/sexual\\_assault](http://www.rnu.edu/sexual_assault) or [www.rnu.edu/police](http://www.rnu.edu/police)

## Campus Safety Alert

### Incident Type

Potential Sexual Assault

### Victim Information

White woman

### Suspect Information

Unknown man

### Incident Information

The University Police Department are investigating the case of a woman who was potentially the victim of a crime on campus. The report was made on March 18th, at 12:05am. The victim was allegedly approached by the suspect while she was searching for her car in the Northside Parking Garage. She reported she could not remember where she parked her car earlier that day. No further information is available. If you have any information regarding this investigation, please contact the police department at (724) 620-2800 or report this anonymously at (724) 887-3813.

### Prevention Information

Trust your instincts. If you feel unsafe, get to a safe place and call for help. Be mindful of the locations of the blue light emergency telephones (ETS) and use them if you feel threatened. Use the buddy system and watch out for each other. Additionally, UPD offers safety tips, which can be found [here](#).

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## Campus Safety Alert

### Incident Type

Potential Sexual Assault

### Victim Information

Black woman

### Suspect Information

Unknown man

### Incident Information

The University Police Department are investigating the case of a woman who was potentially the victim of a crime on campus. The report was made on March 18th, at 12:05am. The victim was allegedly approached by the suspect while she was searching for her car in the Northside Parking Garage. She reported she could not remember where she parked her car earlier that day. No further information is available. If you have any information regarding this investigation, please contact the police department at (724) 620-2800 or report this anonymously at (724) 887-3813.

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## Campus Safety Alert

### Incident Type

Potential Sexual Assault

### Victim Information

White woman

### Suspect Information

Unknown man

### Incident Information

The University Police Department are investigating the case of a woman who was the victim of a crime on campus. The report was made on May 11th, at 12:50am. The victim was allegedly approached by the suspect while on her way to her car. She reported she had parked in the back of the Eastern Student Parking lot in a poorly lit area. No further information is available. If you have any information regarding this investigation, please contact the police department at (724) 620-2800 or report this anonymously at (724) 887-3813.

### Prevention Information

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## Campus Safety Alert

### Incident Type

Burglary

### Item Information

Samsung 32" Class HD LED TV

Xbox One gaming console & various Xbox games

### Suspect Information

Unknown

### Incident Information

The University Police Department are investigating the case of a burglary on campus. The report was made on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 6:50pm. An apartment at the UNF Flats was burglarized, the occupants had left their sliding glass door unlocked to let a visiting guest in the apartment while the occupants were on campus. Campus police are still looking for the suspect. No further information is available. If you have any information regarding this investigation, please contact the police department at (904) 620-2800 or report this anonymously at (904) 887-3813.

### Prevention Information

Always lock all doors and windows. Ensure valuables are not visible from the street, especially high-end electronics. Mark and record serial numbers of electronics and other valuables. If you use web sites such as Facebook or Twitter, never add status updates, comments, or pictures that suggest you're out of town or on vacation.

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Appendix B

List of Distractor Questions

1. Do you find that the alert provided you with important information?
2. How easy was it for you to read the alert?
3. How easy was it for you to understand the safety tips?
4. How easy was it for you to understand the type of crime committed?

## Appendix C

## Study 2 Crime Alerts

**Phoenix Update** *Special Edition***RNU**

## Campus Safety Alert

### Incident Type

Potential Sexual Assault

### Victim Information

Transgender woman

### Suspect Information

Unknown man

### Incident Information

The University Police Department are investigating the case of a transgender woman who was potentially the victim of a crime on campus. The report was made on January 29<sup>th</sup>, at 2:35am. The victim was allegedly approached by the suspect while on her way to the Southside Phoenix Lot. She reported that she decided to walk through the path leading to the lot instead of asking RNU Campus Police for a security escort.

No further information is available. If you have any information regarding this investigation, please contact the police department at (724) 620-2800 or report this anonymously at (724) 887-3813.

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## Campus Safety Alert

### Incident Type

Potential Sexual Assault

### Victim Information

Transgender man

### Suspect Information

Unknown man

### Incident Information

The University Police Department are investigating the case of a transgender man who was potentially the victim of a crime on campus. The report was made on January 29<sup>th</sup>, at 2:35am. The victim was allegedly approached by the suspect while on his way to the Southside Phoenix Lot. He reported that he decided to walk through the path leading to the lot instead of asking RNU Campus Police for a security escort.

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## Campus Safety Alert

### Incident Type

Potential Sexual Assault

### Victim Information

Woman

### Suspect Information

Unknown man

### Incident Information

The University Police Department are investigating the case of a woman who was potentially the victim of a crime on campus. The report was made on January 29<sup>th</sup>, at 2:35am. The victim was allegedly approached by the suspect while on her way to the Southside Phoenix Lot. She reported that she decided to walk through the path leading to the lot instead of asking RNU Campus Police for a security escort.

No further information is available. If you have any information regarding this investigation, please contact the police department at (724) 620-2800 or report this anonymously at (724) 887-3813.

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## Campus Safety Alert

### Incident Type

Potential Sexual Assault

### Victim Information

Transgender man

### Suspect Information

Unknown White man

### Incident Information

The University Police Department are investigating the case of a transgender man who was the victim of a crime on campus. The report was made on May 11<sup>th</sup>, at 12:50am. The victim was allegedly approached by the suspect while on her way to her car. She reported she had parked in the back of Eastern Student Parking Lot in a poorly lit area.

Campus police are still looking for the suspect. No further information is available. If you have any information regarding this investigation, please contact the police department at (724) 620-2800 or report this anonymously at (724) 887-3813.

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## Campus Safety Alert

### Incident Type

Potential Sexual Assault

### Victim Information

Transgender woman

### Suspect Information

Unknown White man

### Incident Information

The University Police Department are investigating the case of a transgender woman who was the victim of a crime on campus. The report was made on May 11<sup>th</sup>, at 12:50am. The victim was allegedly approached by the suspect while on her way to her car. She reported she had parked in the back of Eastern Student Parking Lot in a poorly lit area.

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## Campus Safety Alert

### Incident Type

Potential Sexual Assault

### Victim Information

Woman

### Suspect Information

Unknown White man

### Incident Information

The University Police Department are investigating the case of a woman who was the victim of a crime on campus. The report was made on May 11<sup>th</sup>, at 12:50am. The victim was allegedly approached by the suspect while on her way to her car. She reported she had parked in the back of Eastern Student Parking Lot in a poorly lit area.

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## Campus Safety Alert

### Incident Type

Potential Sexual Assault

### Victim Information

Women

### Suspect Information

Unknown man

### Incident Information

The University Police Department are investigating the case of a woman who was potentially the victim of a crime on campus. The report was made on March 18<sup>th</sup>, at 12:05am. The victim was allegedly approached by the suspect while she was searching for her car in the Northside Parking Garage. She reported she could not remember where she parked earlier that day.

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## Campus Safety Alert

### Incident Type

Potential Sexual Assault

### Victim Information

Transgender women

### Suspect Information

Unknown man

### Incident Information

The University Police Department are investigating the case of a transgender woman who was potentially the victim of a crime on campus. The report was made on March 18<sup>th</sup>, at 12:05am. The victim was allegedly approached by the suspect while she was searching for her car in the Northside Parking Garage. She reported she could not remember where she parked earlier that day.

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## Campus Safety Alert

### Incident Type

Potential Sexual Assault

### Victim Information

Transgender man

### Suspect Information

Unknown man

### Incident Information

The University Police Department are investigating the case of a transgender man who was potentially the victim of a crime on campus. The report was made on March 18<sup>th</sup>, at 12:05am. The victim was allegedly approached by the suspect while he was searching for his car in the Northside Parking Garage. He reported he could not remember where he parked earlier that day.

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## Campus Safety Alert

### Incident Type

Burglary

### Item Information

Samsung 32" Class HD LED TV

Xbox One gaming console & various Xbox games

### Suspect Information

Unknown

### Incident Information

The University Police Department are investigating the case of a burglary on campus. The report was made on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 6:50pm. An apartment at the UNF Flats was burglarized, the occupants had left their sliding glass door unlocked to let a visiting guest in the apartment while the occupants were on campus. Campus police are still looking for the suspect. No further information is available. If you have any information regarding this investigation, please contact the police department at (904) 620-2800 or report this anonymously at (904) 887-3813.

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## Campus Safety Alert

### Incident Type

Property Theft

### Item Information

Gray Dell Inspiron 2-in-1 15.6" Touch-Screen Laptop

Various Textbooks

### Suspect Information

Unknown

### Incident Information

The University Police Department are investigating the case of a theft in the campus Cafe. The report was made on February 8<sup>th</sup>, at 4:50pm. A student left their backpack containing their laptop and textbooks unattended while using the restroom. Upon return the student reported their backpack was missing. Campus police are still looking for the suspect. No further information is available. If you have any information regarding this investigation, please contact the police department at (904) 620-2800 or report this anonymously at (904) 887-3813.

### Prevention Information

Never leave personal belongings unattended. If dining in a group, rotate in shifts allowing personal items to be monitored at all times. If dining alone, bring all items with you when moving within facilities. If you see a crime taking place, report it immediately to campus police.

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