

The Greek System in America

Racism & Inequality

While only 2 percent of America's population is involved in fraternities, 80 percent of Fortune 500 executives, 76 percent of U.S. senators and congressmen, 85 percent of Supreme Court justices, and all but two presidents since 1825 have been fraternity men.

At University of North Carolina, average fraternity board and dues is \$2,970 per semester; at a more expensive university, such as Kansas University, this figure could inflate to \$5,300. This amounts to almost \$18,000—but could be more than \$30,000—for three years in Greek housing (sophomore through senior year).

Princeton is one of the few universities whose Undergraduate Student Government collected demographic data on its own Greek system. Their research shows that white and higher-income students are much more likely to join fraternities and sororities—77 percent of sorority members and 73 percent of fraternity members were white, compared to only 47 percent of the student body. Moreover, 30 percent and 19 percent of fraternity and sorority members, respectively, were legacy admits, and over 60 percent came from private high schools.

Sexual assault and violence in fraternities

Women in sororities are 74% more likely to experience rape than other college women, and that one in five women will be sexually assaulted in four years away at school.

Journalist Caitlin Flanagan spent a year investigating fraternities for The Atlantic. National fraternities buy extensive insurance policies to cover injuries that take place at chapter houses. She said **sexual assault is the second most common insurance claim filed against fraternities, after assault and battery.**

According to a UVM study, members of fraternities are three times more likely than non-members to commit violence while drinking.

Frat Culture



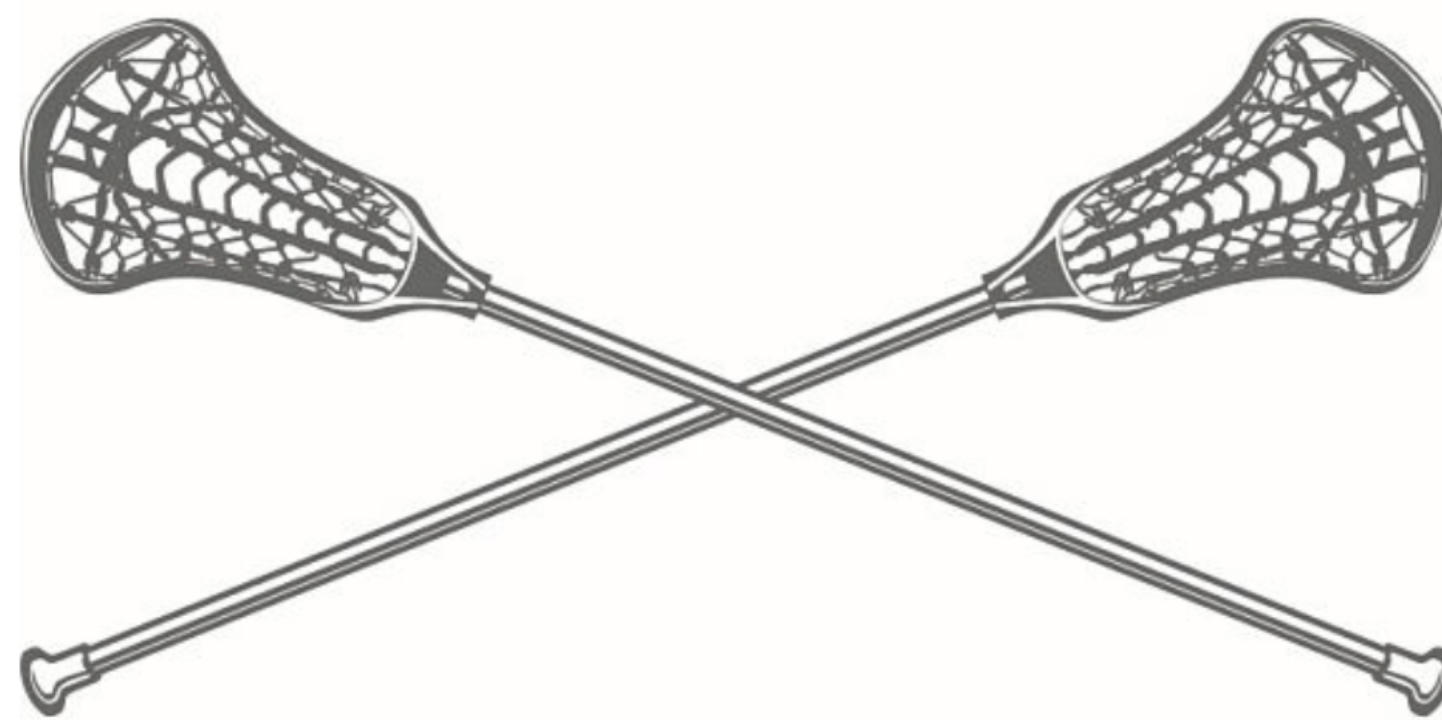
According to a Harvard study, **4 out of 5 fraternity and sorority members are binge drinkers.** In comparison, other research suggests 2 out of 5 college students overall are regular binge drinkers

Research suggests that young men are more likely to drink excessively than young women are. Men are also more likely than their female counterparts to engage in risky or dangerous activities or to feel pressured by male competition.

Fraternity and sorority members reported that they were twice as likely as non-Greek college students to engage in sex with someone without getting consent and were one and a half times more likely to forget what they did or where they were after drinking (Soule et al., 2015)

Student athletes in America

Race: The racial makeup of college sports, obviously, depends on which sport you look at. In the NCAA, most sports have a slight majority of white athletes--across all postsecondary institutions in the U.S., as of 2015 white students accounted for 58 percent of admissions--though in some cases like baseball, cross country and **lacrosse**, this can inflate to as much as 80-95% white athletes, male and female. The only sports with a non-white plurality are football and basketball, each of which have a plurality of just under 50% black athletes (in exclusively male statistics, black athletes have just over 50% majority in basketball)--notably these are two of the five overall most populous sports.



Compensation: There is a longstanding debate over whether college athletes ought to be paid for their work, as many colleges depend almost entirely on the revenue their sports generate, and many students do not have time to adequately prepare for postgraduate work outside their sport on account of the sheer level of commitment their sport demands of them, on top of the often multimillion dollar salaries their coaches command. In such cases as football and basketball, some have compared this situation to the direct exploitation of the labor of students of color.

Current American attitudes on interracial relationships

- **Interracial marriage wasn't made legal in America until 1967**
- A new Pew Research Center survey finds that roughly four-in-ten adults (39%) now say that more people of different races marrying each other is good for society – up significantly from 24% in 2010. The share saying this trend is a bad thing for society is down slightly over the same period, from 13% to 9%. And the share saying it doesn't make much of a difference for society is also down, from 61% to 52%.
- 54% of those ages 18 to 29 say that the rising prevalence of interracial marriage is good for society, compared with about a quarter of those ages 65 and older (26%)
- In 2000, 31% of Americans said they would oppose an interracial marriage in their family. That share dropped to 9% in 2002 but climbed again to 16% in 2008.

Teen/young adult relationship violence

A CDC Report found among victims of contact sexual violence, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner, **nearly 23% of females and 14% of males first experienced some form of violence by that partner before age 18.**



The 2015 National Youth Risk Behavior Survey found that nearly 12% of high school females reported physical violence and nearly 16% reported sexual violence from a dating partner in the 12 months* before they were surveyed. For high school males, more than 7% reported physical violence and about 5% reported sexual violence from a dating partner.



Girls and young women ages of 16–24 experience the highest rate of intimate partner violence – almost triple the national average.

Nearly half (43%) of dating college women report experiencing violent and abusive dating behaviors.

College students are not equipped to deal with dating abuse:

57% say it is difficult to identify and 58% say they don't know how to help someone who's experiencing it.

One in three (36%) dating college students has given a dating partner their computer, online access, email or social network passwords, and these students are more likely to experience digital dating abuse. One in six (16%) college women has been sexually abused in a dating relationship.

Only 33% of teens who were in a violent relationship ever told anyone about the abuse.

Over half of the killings of American women are related to intimate partner violence, with the vast majority of the victims dying at the hands of a current or former romantic partner, according to a new report released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention today. The CDC analyzed the murders of women in 18 states from 2003 to 2014, finding a total of 10,018 deaths.

- Of those, 55 percent were intimate partner violence-related, meaning they occurred at the hands of a former or current partner or the partner's family or friends. In 93 percent of those cases, the culprit was a current or former romantic partner.
- Strangers perpetrated only 16 percent of all female homicides, fewer than acquaintances and just slightly more than parents.
- About a third of the time, the couple had argued right before the homicide took place, and about 12 percent of the deaths were associated with jealousy.
- The majority of the victims were under the age of 40, and 15 percent were pregnant.

Racist incidents in American fraternities

Syracuse University has suspended 15 members of a professional fraternity, their lawyer said, after they appeared in videos that the school's chancellor has described as "extremely racist" and "offensive." The two videos, published in April by the school's student newspaper, show **members of the Theta Tau engineering fraternity using racial slurs, simulating sex acts and mocking people with physical and intellectual disabilities.**



At the University of Oklahoma, members of the school's chapter of the **Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity were caught on video performing a chant that suggested they would rather see black men lynched than accept them as SAE members.** The chapter has been closed, and two members of the fraternity have been expelled.



The president of the fraternity council at Texas Tech University had an idea -- one that he shared with other brothers in a group chat: build a wall along the country's borders, then legalize hunting the men and women who tried to cross it.

*These are just a few of the countless incidents and racist attitudes that continue to pervade the university frat system.

The National Dating Abuse Helpline provides 24-hour national web-based and telephone resources to help teens experiencing dating abuse.



Young adults (as well as concerned friends, parents, teachers, clergy, law enforcement and service providers) anywhere in the country can receive immediate, confidential assistance.

CALL toll free, 1-866-331-9474

TEXT “loveis” to 22522

or

LOG ON to the interactive website,

LOVEISRESPECT.ORG

