

Support on Campus:

How Trent Provides Resources for Sexual Assault Survivors

Purpose

1. Assessment of the quality of the resources and information present on the campus and the Trent University website, to better understand how they can be improved if need be and the next steps that can be taken.
2. Education of the public and Trent students about the resources and supports available on the Peterborough Trent campus and off-campus for those who have been victimized by sexual assault.

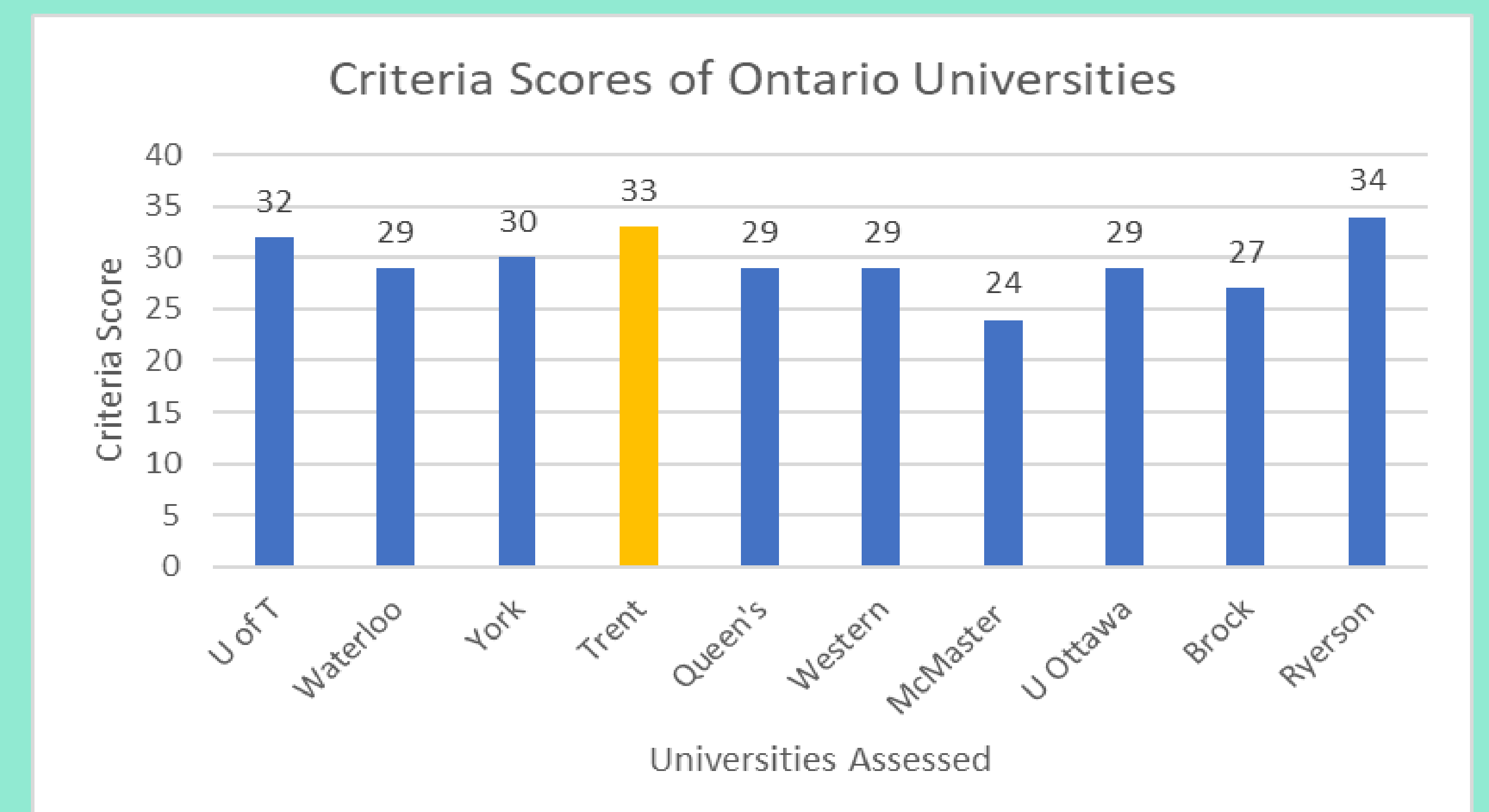
Background

- Sexual assault ranks in the top five violent crimes against women in Canada (1).
- University and college campuses among the most common sites of assault(1-3).
- Estimated rates of sexual assault victimization among college students between 19–25% (4-6).
- 20% of sexual assault victims use on-campus services and 6% used off-campus services (7).
- Past research has shown universities have not sufficiently educated the university population on what sexual assault is, have not provided adequate resources from those who have experienced it, and lack resource consistency and uniformity (5,8-10).
- Bill 132 created to reduce sexual assault and violence on college and university campuses across Ontario
 - Requires every college or university receiving funding from government to create sexual assault policy and imposes series of requirements for policies (11).

Methods

- Assessment of nine other Ontario universities compared to Trent
- Used criteria based on Bill 132:
 - Resources available
 - How easy it is to find information on resources
 - Reporting processes,
 - Number of pages within the domain pertaining to assault resources
 - Searchability of query
 - Bounce rate
 - Programs available
 - Presence of an easily accessible sexual assault policy
 - Presence of important definitions
 - Clarity of resource information
 - Availability of off and on campus resources
 - Personnel involved in the resources
- Compared based on a ranking system for how well they adhere to the criteria determined.
- Interviews with:
 - Robyn Ocean, the Sexual Violence Prevention Coordinator
 - The Kawartha Sexual Assault Centre (KSAC)
 - The Trent Central Student Association (TCSA)
- To gather more information on resources on and off campus, and to determine how they quality control these resources, and where they can be improved if need be.
- if need be. This will be conducted through interviews with the staff involved with the sexual assault resources.

Preliminary Assessment Findings



Preliminary Interview Findings

- Main barrier is a lack of funding, resources, and personnel availability.
- KSAC stated that they have a surplus of service requests for service
- TCSA stated there is a need for more funding and more manpower involved in security on campus and administration

Possible Next Steps

- Increase in funding
- Increase in personnel and staff involved
- Improvement of education materials
- Streamlining of the websites to make the information provided less overwhelming

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