

BARRIERS TO REPORTING ABUSE IN SPORTS



Four Barriers to Reporting Sexual Abuse in Organized Sport Hartill (2009)

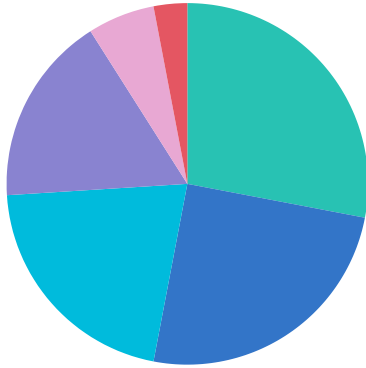
Lack of procedures for reporting sexual abuse	The closed nature of institutions
Abuse viewed as the problem of the individual member, not the institution	The belief system surrounding institution

Within Sport, Additional Barriers to Reporting May Include:

Fear of retaliation	Fear of being sidelined or kicked off the team
Not understanding it was assault or abuse due to an athletic culture that normalizes not questioning authority and regular boundary crossing between athlete and coaches, trainers, and physicians.	Fear that reporting would jeopardize their career
Not knowing how or where to report	Threats from perpetrators (financial, physical, or emotional)

Additionally, survivors in sports may experience the additional barriers to reporting identified outside of the sporting context. RAINN gives us a good understanding of why sexual violence victims choose to report, or not to.

Survivor Reasons for Reporting Sexual Violence Crimes to Police (2005-2010)



- 28%** To protect the household or victim from further crimes
- 25%** To stop the incident or prevent recurrence or escalation
- 21%** To improve police surveillance or believed they had a duty to do so
- 17%** To catch/punish/prevent offender from reoffending
- 6%** Gave a different answer, or declined to cite one reason
- 3%** Did so to get help or recover loss

Survivor Reasons for Not Reporting Sexual Violence Crimes to Police (2005-2010)



- 20%** Feared retaliation
- 13%** Believed the police would not do anything to help
- 13%** Believed it was a personal matter
- 8%** Reported to a different official
- 8%** Believed it was not important enough to report
- 7%** Did not want to get the perpetrator in trouble
- 2%** Believed the police could not do anything to help
- 30%** Gave another reason, or did not cite one reason