

**SENATE RESOLUTION #2754**



**TITLE:** Anti-Hazing Education Act of 2021

**DATE INTRODUCED:** September 14, 2021

**AUTHOR:** Senator Talamantes

**SPONSORS:** Senators Castronovo, Laverell, Smith, and Wilkins; President Swilling, Vice President Anderson, Directors Brown and Hacke; College Panhellenic Council, Interfraternity Council

1. WHEREAS, the purpose of the Associated Students of the University of Wyoming (ASUW)
2. Student Government is to serve our fellow students in the best manner possible; and,
3. WHEREAS, the University of Wyoming (UW) defines hazing as, “any intentional or
4. unintentional act that would endanger the mental or physical health or safety of a student for
5. the purpose of pledging or associating with, being initiated into, affiliating with, holding
6. office in any organization whose membership consists primarily of students”; and,
7. WHEREAS, the Presidential Directive from 2016, referenced in Addendum A, provides
8. examples of what hazing could be constituted as; and,
9. WHEREAS, the ASUW and its strategic partners, the College Panhellenic Council (CPH)
10. and the Interfraternity Council (IFC), have contributed several years of work on
11. addressing hazing at the UW and in the state of Wyoming; and,
12. WHEREAS, members of the 107<sup>th</sup> administration of the ASUW, CPH, and IFC, have lobbied
13. the Wyoming Legislature, urging lawmakers to pass an anti-hazing policy and procedure for
14. K-12 schools and higher education institutions; and,
15. WHEREAS, the 107<sup>th</sup> and 108<sup>th</sup> administrations of the ASUW worked with the Education

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16. Committee of the Wyoming State Legislature to craft a definition of hazing and a policy that

17. would require K-12 and higher education institutions to educate their students about what

18. hazing is and why it is dangerous; and,

19. WHEREAS, a white paper by the President of the 108<sup>th</sup> administration of the ASUW was

20. created to aid the committee in crafting a definition that provided a framework for K-12 and

21. higher education institutions, as referenced in Addendum B; and,

22. WHEREAS, previous bills in the Wyoming Legislature that made hazing a criminal

23. offense were not supported by the ASUW; and,

24. WHEREAS, despite the efforts of the ASUW, CPH, and IFC, recent changes in the

25. legislature have made it difficult to get a bill on hazing passed; and,

26. WHEREAS, the UW has not documented any hazing events on

27. campus since 2007 as referenced in Addendum C; and,

28. WHEREAS, this body recognizes that while there has not been documented hazing

29. incidents, that does not mean they do not occur; and,

30. WHEREAS, according to a 2008 study referenced in Addendum D, 95% of students that

31. experienced hazing did not report the event to campus officials; and,

32. WHEREAS, the same 2008 study indicates that 47% of students have experienced hazing

33. in high school; and,

34. WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Hazing Death Database, ninety-nine (99) students

35. have died from a hazing related incident since 2000; and,

36. WHEREAS, fifty-two (52) of those deaths were alcohol-related; and,

37. WHEREAS, students in the fraternity and sorority community are required by their national

38. chapter organizations to take trainings that include anti-hazing education; and,

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39. WHEREAS, UW Athletics also participates in anti-hazing trainings for their athletes; and,  
40. WHEREAS, there is no policy at the UW that requires student organizations to conduct anti-  
41. hazing training or participate in anti-hazing education efforts; and,  
42. WHEREAS, the ASUW does not require members of the three (3) branches to undergo anti-  
43. hazing training; and,  
44. WHEREAS, this body recognizes the difficulty in mandating anti-hazing training to student  
45. organizations and is committed to working with the Student Organizations and  
46. Entertainment Office on distributing information and facilitating educational opportunities to  
47. student organizations at the UW; and,  
48. WHEREAS, a statewide policy, and a policy at the UW, that educates students about the  
49. dangers of hazing could help prevent hazing related deaths and create a culture of saying no  
50. to behaviors and actions that make students uncomfortable.  
51. THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Associated Students of the University of Wyoming  
52. (ASUW) Student Government supports the creation and implementation of a statewide K-  
53. 12 and higher education policy that defines hazing in a manner that is similar to the  
54. recommendations made in the Anti-Hazing Legislation White Paper in Addendum B; and,  
55. THEREFORE, be it further resolved that the ASUW Student Government commits to  
56. working with the Student Organizations and Entertainment Office, the College Panhellenic  
57. Council, and the Interfraternity Council on creating trainings and educational opportunities  
58. for informing students about hazing; and,  
59. THEREFORE, be it further resolved that the ASUW Student Government strongly  
60. recommends that the Interfraternity and College Panhellenic Councils work with the Student  
61. Organizations and Entertainment Office on engaging student organizations in this pertinent

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62. issue, developing anti-hazing training for student organization leaders, and utilize their

63. strategic partnership with the ASUW Student Government to further this issue at the

64. University of Wyoming (UW) ;and,

65. THEREFORE, be it further resolved that the ASUW Student Government commends the

66. fraternity and sorority community and UW Athletics for conducting anti-hazing education at

67. the UW for years; and,

68. THEREFORE, be it further resolved that the ASUW Student Government supports and

69. encourages further efforts to combat hazing on the UW campus by the aforementioned

70. groups as well as the greater campus community; and,

71. THEREFORE, be it further resolved that the ASUW Student Government will take further

72. legislative action to address anti-hazing education within the ASUW Student Government

73. before the conclusion of the 109<sup>th</sup> Administration.

**Referred to:** Advocacy, Diversity, and Policy; Programming and Institutional Development;  
Safety and Wellness; Steering

**Date of Passage:** September 21, 2021

**Signed:**



(ASUW Chairperson)

**“Being enacted on** September 21, 2021 **, I do hereby sign my name hereto and approve**

**this Senate action.”**



**ASUW President**

## **Addendum A**

### **PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTIVE THE UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING PD 8-1988-1**

**Revised May 11, 2016**


**SUBJECT: Hazing by University Organizations**

1. **General Information.** The University of Wyoming is committed to a safe and secure environment for its students. For this reason, the University prohibits any act or failure to act which constitutes hazing.
2. **Purpose.** The directive below outlines the University's policy related to hazing.
3. **Definitions.**
  - a. "Hazing" is defined as any intentional or unintentional act that would endanger the mental or physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of pledging or associating with, being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, seeking and/or maintaining membership in any organization whose membership consists primarily of students. Such activities and situations include, but are not limited to, paddling in any form; creating excessive fatigue; physical and mental shocks; forced road trips; forced consumption of any substance, including alcohol; requirements to publicly wear apparel which is conspicuous and not normally in good taste; engaging in public stunts or buffoonery; morally degrading or humiliating games and activities; and any other activities prohibited by law, University regulation, and/or University policy.
  - b. For the purpose of this policy, "organization" is defined as an intercollegiate or intramural athletic team; recognized student organization; association, order, society or similar group that is officially affiliated with the University and whose membership consists primarily of enrolled students.

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4. **Policy.** Hazing is prohibited regardless of location, intent, or consent of participants and will not be tolerated. Hazing is a violation of UW Regulation 8-30 (Student Conduct) and will be addressed in accordance with the procedures outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.
5. **Responsibility.** The Dean of Students, or designee, is responsible for the administration of this Policy and Directive.

Approved

  
Richard C. McGinity  
University President

May 11, 2016  
Date

Source: Originally approved January 27, 1988

Source: [https://www.uwyo.edu/regs-policies/\\_files/docs/presidential-directives/pd-8-1988-1.pdf](https://www.uwyo.edu/regs-policies/_files/docs/presidential-directives/pd-8-1988-1.pdf)

## **Addendum B**

# White Paper: Analyzing Hazing Legislation in the United States

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Riley Talamantes  
Associated Students at the University of Wyoming, President

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## I. INTRODUCTION

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This document contains information regarding the wordings of anti-hazing laws states have set forth in an effort to curb hazing in various education levels. Section II of this paper will identify common phrases that are used in definitions from around the United States. This section could provide the working group some insight on what we would want our reporting criteria to look like and hopefully provide some phrases that can be pieced together in order to create a definition that works for the state of Wyoming. Section III identifies various education mechanisms they have legislated and require of their educational institutions. Section IV focuses on recommendations our working group should consider when creating hazing legislation.

## II. FINDINGS FOR CREATING A DEFINITION

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Currently, there are 44 states in the United States that have laws that define what hazing is, either in a very basic manner and/or more definitive one. From my research, I have noticed there are five basic components in each definition; what constitutes hazing, who is held responsible when hazing occurs, where the hazing takes place, what actions or situations created are considered hazing (but not limited to), and what the term hazing does not include. Below I will provide a list of common phrases used in definitions in various states:

- What constitutes hazing
  - o "Any willful action or situation created"
  - o "Intentional, knowingly, reckless engagement"
  - o "Coercing a person into an action"
  - o "Endangers, or is likely to endanger, the mental or physical health or safety"
  - o "Subjects a person to bodily danger or physical harm, or a likelihood of bodily danger or physical harm"
  - o "Creates a substantial risk of physical injury to such other person or a third person"
  - o "Likely to cause, bodily danger or physical harm or serious mental or emotional harm"
  - o "For the purpose of initiation, admission into or affiliation with, or as a condition for continued membership"
  - o "Done for the purpose of pledging, being initiated into, affiliating with, participating in, holding office in, or maintaining membership in any organization"
- Who is held responsible
  - o "A person"
  - o "A student"
  - o "By a person acting alone or acting with others"

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- Where the hazing takes place
  - o “Occurring on or off the campus of an educational institution”
  - o “Whether on or off any school, college, university, or other educational premises”
- What actions or situations created are considered hazing (but not limited to)
  - o “Action that is... done for the purpose of intimidation...by threatening him with social or other ostracism or of submitting such student to ignominy, shame, or disgrace among his fellow students, and acts calculated to produce such results”
  - o “Done for the purpose of humbling the pride, stifling the ambition, or impairing the courage of the student attacked or to discourage him from remaining in that school... or reasonably to cause him to leave the institution rather than submit to such acts”
  - o “The playing of abusive or truculent tricks”
  - o “Physical violence such as striking, bruising, beating, maiming, branding”
  - o “Exposure to the elements”
  - o “Forced and prolonged physical activity”
  - o “Forced consumption of any food, beverage, medication or controlled substance, whether or not prescribed, in excess of the usual amounts for human consumption or forced consumption of any substance not generally intended for human consumption”
  - o “Forced consumption of any food, liquor, drug or other substance”
  - o “Prolonged deprivation of sleep, food, or drink”
  - o “Brutality of a physical nature, such as whipping, beating, branding”
  - o “Any activity which would subject the individual to extreme mental stress, such as sleep deprivation, forced exclusion from social contact, forced conduct which could result in embarrassment”
  - o “Total or substantial nudity on the part of the person”
  - o “Wearing or carrying of any obscene or physically burdensome article by the person”
  - o “Physical assaults upon or offensive physical contact with the person”
  - o “Transportation and abandonment of the person”
  - o “Assignment of pranks to be performed by the person”
  - o “To induce, cause or require an individual to perform a duty or task that involves the commission of a crime or an act of hazing”
  - o “Any willful destruction or removal of public or private property”
- What the term hazing does not include
  - o “Customary athletic events or similar contests or competitions that are sponsored by an educational institution”
  - o “Any activity or conduct that furthers the goals of a legitimate educational curriculum, a legitimate extracurricular program or a legitimate military training program”
  - o “An action sponsored by an institution of higher education which requires any athletic practice, conditioning, or competition or curricular activity”

Some states such as Oklahoma, Delaware, and Iowa do define particular words in their definitions to give a more definitive scope. For instance, these states define “endanger the physical health” and “endanger the mental health” by providing a list of particular actions or situations that would fall under these terms. Additionally, they have added phrases like “...any other forced physical activity which could adversely affect the physical health or safety of the individual” and “...any other forced activity which could adversely affect the mental health or dignity of the individual” at the end of these lists to allow for flexibility in the situation that other actions may arise.

Furthermore, states such as Nevada, Wisconsin, Massachusetts, and Georgia have added a line that essentially protects students who may have consented to an act of hazing but did so out of fear and coercive tactics by another individual. For instance, Massachusetts has a line that reads, “consent shall not be available as a defense to any prosecution under this action.” Another common phrase includes, “regardless of a person’s willingness to participate.” This could be a line that the working group considers.

### **III. FINDINGS FOR EDUCATIONAL PIECES**

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Out of the 44 states that have hazing legislation, only 8 provide policy requirements for educating students about hazing and identifying requirements for reporting it. I will provide a paragraph by paragraph break down of each state to give the group ideas as to what educational pieces we would want to require.

Alabama identifies that people who know of hazing being committed or shall, “knowingly permit, encourage, aid, or assist” must report it to “the chief executive officer of the appropriate school, college, university, or other educational institution in this state.” They also indicate that “Any act of omission or commission shall be deemed hazing under the provisions of this section.” Ohio’s law is similar in the sense that it prohibits administrators, employees, and faculty members of, “any primary, secondary, or post-secondary school or of any other educational institution, public or private” to permit hazing.

Alaska & Arizona’s policies are education oriented and both list out particular tasks they require of their educational institutions. These tasks include that, “Every public educational institution in this state shall adopt, post and enforce a hazing prevention policy. The hazing prevention policy shall be printed in every student handbook for distribution to parents and students. Each hazing prevention policy shall include:

- A definition of hazing pursuant [that coincides with the definition created in the Arizona State Legislature]
- A statement that hazing is prohibited.
- A statement that any solicitation to engage in hazing is prohibited.
- A statement that aiding and abetting another person who is engaged in hazing is prohibited.
- A statement that it is not a defense to a violation of the hazing prevention policy if the hazing victim consented to or acquiesced in the hazing activity.
- A statement that all students, teachers and staff shall take reasonable measures within the scope of their individual authority to prevent violations of the hazing prevention policy.
- A description of the procedures for students, teachers and staff to report violations of the hazing prevention policy and the procedures to file a complaint for a violation of the hazing prevention policy.
- Procedures to investigate reports of violations of the hazing prevention policy and to investigate complaints for a violation of the hazing prevention policy.
- A description of the circumstances under which a violation of the hazing prevention policy shall be reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency.
- A description of appropriate penalties, sanctions and appeals mechanisms for persons and organizations that violate the hazing prevention policy. The sanctions shall

include the revocation or suspension of an organization's permission to conduct operations at the educational institution if the organization knowingly permitted, authorized or condoned the hazing activity. Any teacher or staff who knowingly permitted, authorized or condoned the hazing activity is subject to disciplinary action by the educational institution."

Delaware & Florida's policies do not explicitly outline particular requirements for their educational institutions however they do require institutions to adopt a written anti-hazing policy and adopt rules prohibiting students or other persons associated with any student organization from engaging in hazing.

South Carolina requires its universities to, "maintain and publish a log/report of incidents, findings, sanctions, and status." Although this is not a way to educate students about hazing, it does provide data and information to the public.

Pennsylvania's policy tackles educational pieces as well as enforcement through educational means. They require that their institutions and its governing boards to adopt an anti-hazing policy and prohibit students from engaging in acts of hazing. It requires, "Each secondary school...[to] provide a copy of the written antihazing policy, its rules, penalties and program of enforcement to all athletic coaches involved in organizations within the secondary school," as well as uploading their anti-hazing policies on their website to make it accessible. Additionally, they require, "Each institution...[to] provide a program for the enforcement of such rules and shall adopt appropriate penalties for violations of such rules to be administered by the person or agency at the institution or secondary school responsible for the sanctioning or recognition of such organizations."

#### **IV. RECOMMENDATIONS**

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There are several components that this group should consider when evaluating what potential hazing legislation would look like.

First, we must establish a general definition of hazing that can be applied across K-12 and higher level educational institutions. This means choosing particular words and phrases that can be applied to all levels of learning and not limiting ourselves to Wyoming's community colleges and university.

Secondly, we should have lines that discuss and define one's risk to their mental and physical health and safety. There is a comprehensive list in Section II that we could choose from that describe what actions or situations created that are considered hazing (but not limited to). Additionally, it would be critical to provide that phrase that is similar to Oklahoma's that says, "...any other forced physical activity which could adversely affect the physical health or safety of the individual" and "...any other forced activity which could adversely affect the mental health or dignity of the individual". This will allow us to create a definitive scope but keep Wyoming open and flexible in the event other situations arise.

Third, adding a line that discusses one's consent is not considered a defense is critical, especially if there was an instance where a student may have died due to an act that was considered hazing. Again, despite us not wanting particular punishments, this could change the game for someone if they were in a lawsuit related to hazing.

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Lastly, mandating educational pieces from our school districts and at our colleges and universities is a great step for students to be made aware hazing. Although it does not have to be similar to Alaska and Arizona's model, it is a good starting point for creating educational materials that can be distributed out to families across the state, provide accessibility of this information to parents and family members, and highlight what the reporting guidelines are in order to give a clear picture to faculty and staff.

## Addendum C

# Penalty against fraternity shocks some at UW

JARED MILLER Star-Tribune capital bureau Oct 6, 2007  0

**L**ARAMIE - Aggressive sanctions imposed against a University of Wyoming fraternity this week for drinking violations evoked a wide variety of reactions from UW students and Greeks society members.

The university temporarily revoked Sigma Nu's charter on Thursday, banned the fraternity from conducting official events and opened an investigation in the wake of allegations that students at the fraternity house were "dangerously intoxicated."

"It's shocking," said Autumn Calhoun, a sophomore Chi Omega pledge. "I would have thought it would have been a different frat. All of those guys are so down to earth."

UW administrators, meanwhile, were holding closed hearings with fraternity members and witnesses Friday to determine what happened.

Vice President for Student Affairs Sara Axelson said the accusations stem from a party at the Sigma Nu fraternity house in early September.

Members of other campus Greek organizations stepped forward last week with allegations of dangerous levels of alcohol consumption and inappropriate behavior at the party.

More details will be released at the conclusion of the hearings, probably late next week, Axelson said.

Word of the sanctions spread quickly through the UW Greek community, which is composed of nine fraternities and six sororities, all headquartered in communal homes near the center of campus.

Students gathered on Greek house steps to discuss the events. Members distributed news reports about the crackdown via e-mail trees.

Alex Smeaton, public relations chairman for the Inter Fraternity Council at UW, said drinking-related problems happen almost every week on Fraternity Row, but most are minor.

Really big parties with out-of-control drinking happen two or three times a semester, he said.

What's more notable, he said, is that fellow Greeks blew the whistle on the alleged inappropriate behavior at Sigma Nu.

"I think it's a positive thing because it shows that we aren't just looking the other way when something happens and we are holding each other accountable," Smeaton said.

Merrick Douglass, a junior education major, said she knows several Sigma Nu members and was surprised to learn they were in trouble. She also said the penalties seem over the top.

"That frat goes way back, and to have its charter revoked over a party is kind of harsh," Douglass said.

Andrew Bradfield, a Sigma Alpha Epsilon pledge, said he hopes the fact that other Greeks turned in Sigma Nu doesn't create negative feelings within the fraternal community.

"We try to strive for unity, so if it was another Greek (who notified school officials) then it probably was necessary," Bradfield said. "We're not out to stab each other in the back."

Students not involved with the Greek community said they weren't surprised to learn of the allegations against Sigma Nu.

"This town in general just has a lot of alcohol stuff going on," said Luke Jensen, a senior social studies and education major. "Kids start (drinking) on Thursday and go until late Saturday night or Sunday.

"I've never seen kids who have had alcohol poisoning, but I've seen plenty who were damn close, and dangerous to themselves and others," Jensen said.

Sophomore biology major Joe Pearce said Greeks have a reputation for partying hard, and reports of "pretty out of control and inappropriate" alcohol consumption are common on campus.

"Drinking is a big deal here," Pearce said.

Ashley Spear, a senior architectural engineering major and past president of the student organization that oversees campus sororities, said the problems at Sigma Nu will reflect badly on all Greeks.

However, Spear said, serious drinking infractions are not that common at UW fraternities and sororities.

"Especially when you look at our neighbors to the south," Spear said, referring to Colorado universities.

Axelson said the Greek community at UW is strong, and serious conduct infractions are rare.

"When you have something like this going on, you just become incensed because it's not fair to the students who are making this work," she said.

### Investigation

Sigma Nu members have declined to comment about the sanctions.

But the executive director of the national Sigma Nu organization, Brad Beacham, said the fraternity is conducting its own investigation.

Representatives of the national organization will be in Laramie today, Axelson said.

Beacham said Sigma Nu's parent organization is working closely with UW officials to determine what happened and what corrective measures should be taken.

National Sigma Nu investigates 12 to 15 similar situations a year at its more than 180 chapters and colonies across North America, Beacham said.

Punishment for violating the fraternity's "pretty stringent" drinking policies can range from forced educational activities to loss of the fraternity charter.

"The charter is contingent on the chapter abiding by the fraternity's laws and rules and principles," Beacham added.

Alcohol consumption is allowed at many UW fraternities, although parties must be scheduled and registered ahead of time with the university.

Axelson said she wasn't sure if Sigma Nu's party was registered.

About 35 students are listed on the Sigma Nu roster, but not all of them live at the house.

University officials contacted each member's parents on Thursday. Axelson said the parents had lots of questions, but the response was largely positive.

Law enforcement has also been notified, and criminal charges could also be forthcoming.

Sigma Nu pledges will be allowed to remain at the fraternity house during the investigation, Axelson said. It's unclear what might happen to them if the house is closed.

"Right now the students have the right to stay there," Axelson said.

Sigma Nu was punished for a previous alcohol-related infraction in 2003. At that time, the chapter was prevented from serving alcohol at events during the fall semester, and the fraternity was required to hold an education program on proper fraternity guidelines and responsibilities.

Source: [https://trib.com/news/state-and-regional/penalty-against-fraternity-shocks-some-at-uw/article\\_68f62716-a85a-5da1-b693-19f9096ddd9a.html](https://trib.com/news/state-and-regional/penalty-against-fraternity-shocks-some-at-uw/article_68f62716-a85a-5da1-b693-19f9096ddd9a.html)

Addendum D

# Hazing in View: College Students at Risk

## *Initial Findings from the National Study of Student Hazing*

MARCH 11, 2008

PRESENTED BY

Elizabeth J. Allan, Ph.D., Associate Professor  
&  
Mary Madden, Ph.D., Associate Professor  
University of Maine  
College of Education and Human Development

NATIONAL STUDY OF STUDENT HAZING  
Allan/Madden

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Documented problems related to student hazing include physical and psychological harm and even death. ***Hazing in View: College Students at Risk*** provides the initial findings of the National Study of Student Hazing. The research is based on the analysis of 11,482 survey responses from undergraduate students enrolled at 53 colleges and universities and more than 300 interviews with students and campus personnel at 18 of those institutions.

For this study, hazing was defined as “any activity expected of someone joining or participating in a group that humiliates, degrades, abuses, or endangers them regardless of a person’s willingness to participate.” The following findings are discussed in the report:

- ✍ 55% of college students involved in clubs, teams, and organizations experience hazing.
- ✍ Hazing occurs in, but extends beyond, varsity athletics and Greek-letter organizations and includes behaviors that are abusive, dangerous, and potentially illegal.
- ✍ Alcohol consumption, humiliation, isolation, sleep-deprivation, and sex acts are hazing practices common across types of student groups.

- ✍ There are public aspects to student hazing including: 25% of coaches or organization advisors were aware of the group's hazing behaviors; 25% of the behaviors occurred on-campus in a public space; in 25% of hazing experiences, alumni were present; and students talk with peers (48%, 41%) or family (26%) about their hazing experiences.
- ✍ In more than half of the hazing incidents, a member of the offending group posts pictures on a public web space.
- ✍ More students perceive positive rather than negative outcomes of hazing.
- ✍ In 95% of the cases where students identified their experience as hazing, they did not report the events to campus officials.
- ✍ Students recognize hazing as part of the campus culture; 69% of students who belonged to a student activity reported they were aware of hazing activities occurring in student organizations other than their own.
- ✍ Students report limited exposure to hazing prevention efforts that extend beyond a "hazing is not tolerated" approach.
- ✍ 47% of students come to college having experienced hazing.
- ✍ Nine out of ten students who have experienced hazing behavior in college do not consider themselves to have been hazed.

NATIONAL STUDY OF STUDENT HAZING  
Allan/Madden

Researchers provide general recommendations for campus personnel, college and university administrators, and those working with college students including:

- ✍ Design hazing prevention efforts to be broad and inclusive of all students involved in campus organizations and athletic teams.
- ✍ Make a serious commitment to educate the campus community about the dangers of hazing; send a clear message that hazing will not be tolerated and that those engaging in hazing behaviors will be held accountable.
- ✍ Broaden the range of groups targeted for hazing prevention education to include all students, campus staff, administrators, faculty, alumni, and family members.
- ✍ Design intervention and prevention efforts that are research-based and systematically evaluate them to assess their effectiveness.
- ✍ Involve all students in hazing prevention efforts and introduce these early in students' campus experience (i.e., orientation).
- ✍ Design prevention efforts to be more comprehensive than simply one-time presentations or distribution of anti-hazing policies.

This is the first in a series of reports to be released from the data collected in this investigation. Subsequent reports will examine other aspects of the data in more depth including: recommendations for hazing prevention, gender differences in hazing, high school hazing experiences, hazing within particular types of student groups, and regional and institutional-type comparisons of student hazing.

## Finding 9:

### Students come to college having experienced hazing.

**47% OF RESPONDENTS  
REPORT EXPERIENCING  
HAZING DURING HIGH  
SCHOOL.**

For many students who step onto a college campus and choose to join a team or organization, hazing is not a new experience. The survey asked students to provide

information on their high school experiences in joining and/or belonging to teams or student activities in their high schools. **Forty-seven percent of the respondents report experiencing at least one hazing behavior while in high school**, including 51% of the male and 45% of the female respondents. However, 84% of those who reported experiencing a hazing behavior do not consider themselves to have been hazed.

A much smaller percentage of students (6%) admit to hazing someone else while they were in high school, including 9% of male and 4% of female respondents.

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## Finding 10:

### A gap exists between student experiences of hazing and their willingness to label it as such.

✍ **Of students who report experiencing a hazing behavior in college, 9 out of 10 do not consider themselves to have been hazed.**

Most students who report having experienced a hazing behavior do not label their experience as hazing. While more than half (55%) of college student respondents who affiliate with a student organization or team report experiencing at least one hazing behavior as a part of joining or maintaining membership in their group, nine out of ten (91%) do not view the experience as hazing. During the interviews, students provided many explanations that offer clues to understanding this gap.

First, many students identify hazing with physical force involving activities such as paddling, beating, or tying up perspective members. Still, others acknowledge that hazing involves more than physical force but do not perceive harm in other forms of hazing. As one student said, *"Hazing is good and hazing is bad. It depends on how you are using it. If you are using it to inflict harm on someone then it is bad."*

Other students explained that in order to constitute hazing, an activity must be against the will of a person. Many students did not account for the power of coercion involved in hazing dynamics. In describing their own and others' experiences, if a student perceived that one had made a "choice" to participate, then often the activity did not constitute hazing. In fact, many maintained this belief while acknowledging that their college/university or a national professional

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NATIONAL STUDY OF STUDENT HAZING  
Allan/Madden

organization/association held a different position. The following student comment illustrates this position,

*"I think hazing is something that you are kind of forced to do to be a part of something against your own will. But I have been told is that even if you are willfully doing it then it is [still] hazing. That is where my perception of hazing is different from others, because if I think it is fun and something someone wants to do then it should not be considered hazing."*

For many it was a struggle to define hazing. As one student said, *"hazing is one of those things that you know, like pornography, you know it is not something you can really define and you know it when you see it."* Many described hazing as a "gray" area like the following student who said, *"Hazing in my opinion is just a gray term... It comes out to a real personal preference."*

Further complicating the definition of hazing for students was that many believed an activity did not constitute hazing if it had a productive purpose as explained by a student who said, *"I think there are a lot of definitions of hazing. One that I have heard is anything that makes someone feel uncomfortable or threatened without a constructive purpose."*

Student definitions of, as well as rationalizations and justifications for hazing, are nuanced and complex. Their explanations have the potential to offer valuable insights into student attitudes and beliefs and common perceptions about hazing. These will be explored in more depth and reported on in a subsequent report.

Source:

[https://hazingprevention.org/images/about/hazing\\_facts/2.hazing\\_in\\_view\\_college\\_students\\_at\\_risk.pdf](https://hazingprevention.org/images/about/hazing_facts/2.hazing_in_view_college_students_at_risk.pdf)