Title IX Policy: A Reflection on the Framing of Sexual Misconduct on College Campuses

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This pilot research project utilizes a mixed methods approach to compare the Title IX policies and procedures related to sexual misconduct amongst a purposive sample of 12 public, 4-year colleges & universities that had 10,000 to 13,000 undergraduate students. Three universities were chosen from each of the four regions of the United States. Adherence to policy guidelines was assessed using the federal “Not Alone” report, developed by the 2014 White House task force on campus sexual assault to outline the various policy components recommended for meeting minimum standards under Title IX. Policies were also compared in terms of language and content to assess potential similarities and differences related to campus definitions of key issues such as sexual misconduct, dating violence, stalking, and sexual consent across different regions of the U.S. Layout of policies and definitions used vary among each policy with little similarities.