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Confessions of a Sorority Woman: Impacts of Hazing on New Members of Panhellenic Greek Lettered Organizations

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Abstract

The purpose of this study was to examine how Panhellenic Greek lettered organizations might choose to haze their new members and how being hazed impacted a new member, physically and mentally. Participants responded to a web-based survey that asked individuals to identify what they believed constitutes hazing, hazing acts they have been asked to engage in, and outcomes of joining a Panhellenic organization. Both new members and initiated members received the survey. For data analysis, participant responses were compared using Independent Sample T-Tests. New members of Panhellenic Greek-lettered organizations defined organizational unity and mental/emotional instability as an outcome of joining a Panhellenic organization.

Findings

Frequencies

Frequency tables showed that 31% of New Members have been asked to engage in hazing activities that include: forced alcohol consumption, public humiliation, sleep deprivation, wearing specific clothing, performing chores for initiated members and limiting associations with those who are unaffiliated.

Statistically Significant Findings

Independent Sample T-Tests showed statistical significance between new members and their belief that it is hazing if initiated members force them to participate in drinking games. Statistical significance was also found between initiated members belief that it is hazing for them to maintain a minimum Grade Point Average.

Group Statistics					
	Please find the description that describes you	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
ALL: Consume alcoholic beverages	I have been initiated MORE than one year	111	1.71	.898	.085
	I have been initiated LESS than one year	57	2.00	.926	.123
ALL: Maintain a minimum GPA (Grade Point Average)	I have been initiated MORE than one year	111	3.57	.721	.068
	I have been initiated LESS than one year	57	3.30	.778	.103
ALL: Participate in drinking games	I have been initiated MORE than one year	111	1.68	.822	.078
	I have been initiated LESS than one year	57	1.96	.944	.125

Independent Samples Test										
		Levene's Test for Equality of Variances					t-Test for Equality of Means			
		F	Sig.	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	Lower
ALL: Consume alcoholic beverages	Equal variances assumed	.742	.390	-1.949	168	.053	-.288	.148	-.581	-.004
	Equal variances not assumed			-1.930	110.139	.056	-.288	.149	-.584	.006
ALL: Maintain a minimum GPA (Grade Point Average)	Equal variances assumed	.281	.599	2.239	168	.027	.269	.121	.031	.506
	Equal variances not assumed			2.176	106.813	.032	.269	.124	.024	.516
ALL: Participate in drinking games	Equal variances assumed	.235	.629	-2.032	168	.042	-.289	.141	-.568	-.011
	Equal variances not assumed			-1.962	100.330	.053	-.289	.147	-.582	.003

Research Questions



How are Panhellenic Greek lettered organizations hazing their new members?



What is the psychological and physical impact of being hazed on a new member of a Panhellenic Greek lettered organization?

Methods

- Panhellenic Members and New Members
- Proportional Stratified Sampling
- Web Based Survey
- Independent Sample T-Tests

Future Directions

- This research will lead to an understanding of what type of hazing is happening in Panhellenic organizations and how it is impacting new members. This research will also lead to curbed hazing practices at institutions, as Greek practitioners now have an understanding of hazing practices of Panhellenic women at Midsize, Private institutions.
- In order to make this research more accurate, it would be best to open the web-based survey to Panhellenic women at multiple Midwest, Private institutions.
- In order to make this research more accurate, it would be best to have at least half of the respondents be from women who have been initiated within the last year (new members).

Selected References

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