Introduction
#MeToo Movement in America:
Sexual assault occurs every 90 seconds
- One in every 6 women (RAINN.Org)
- Only ⅓ report encounter to police (Truman & Langton, 2014)
Why?
- Misconceptions of sexual assault survivors (RAINN, 2018)
- Relationship with the offender (Ménard, 2005)
- Feelings of shame (Spohn & Tellis, 2012)
Purpose
To understand and improve the experience of the reporting process for sexual assault survivors
Methods
Coding the free responses from female sexual assault survivors who took a survey and said that they reported the case (N = 163)

Findings

Interpersonal
Compasion
"...they could see I was damaged...They gave me the space, and time to let me speak while I cried…”
"...they could have acted like decent human beings and treated me like a victim.”

Procedural
Timing/Speed of Processing
"She sat with me for about 40 minutes to talk about what I went through”
"The nurse...seemed like she was just busy and wanted to get it over with…”

Victim Blaming
"The detectives did not make me feel like a liar at all... they took down everything I was saying…”
“Questions such as ‘so you were drinking?’ were asked in a blaming manner…”

Conclusion
- Results also identified some positive comments about participants’ interaction with key personnel; instead of blaming, reward the well-received behaviors by key personnel
- Strengthen interdisciplinary teamwork in order to empower survivors (Herbert & Bromfield, 2017)
- A training in interpersonal skills reflecting compassion, cultural sensitivity, and empathic communication