The Lived Experiences of Female Athletic Trainers Working Collegiate Male Sports

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Abstract

As the profession of athletic training grows, along with the increase in female involvement in athletics, the trend does not seem to be the same when looking at female athletic trainers who are working male NCAA sports. Women are all too often not respected as professionals due to gender biases along with other reasons (Azumara, 2020). Significant research exists regarding the experiences of female athletic trainers; however, the literature is slim when it comes to the experience of female athletic trainers who work in male sports. The literature is practically non-existent when it comes to the connection between female athletic trainers working collegiate male sports. The purpose of doing this study is to explore the lived experiences of female athletic trainers working NCAA male sports. In order to understand how female athletic trainers are treated when working with male sports in order to develop the profession and increase job retention.

This study followed a qualitative methodology. The interviews in this study were performed via ZOOM. During these interviews, the participants were asked roughly 20 questions regarding their experiences as a female athletic trainer working collegiate male sports. Including but not limited to interactions with (a) male student-athletes, (b) coaches of the male sport, and (c) other athletic trainers. Thus far there have been 10 interviews conducted that average 46 minutes. Throughout these interviews, all NCAA divisions have been covered, along with a large variety of sports. Once the information is transcribed, it will be coded which will turn into themes.

Data analysis is still underway there are several emergent themes. The preliminary themes include: (a) gendered spaces, (b) gendered behavioral expectations, and (c) sexism. It is the hope that this research information helps future females working collegiate male sports. Whether it be due to additional sport from admin, respect or even the recognition they deserve.

References