

Community Analysis of #IBelieveEJeanCarroll

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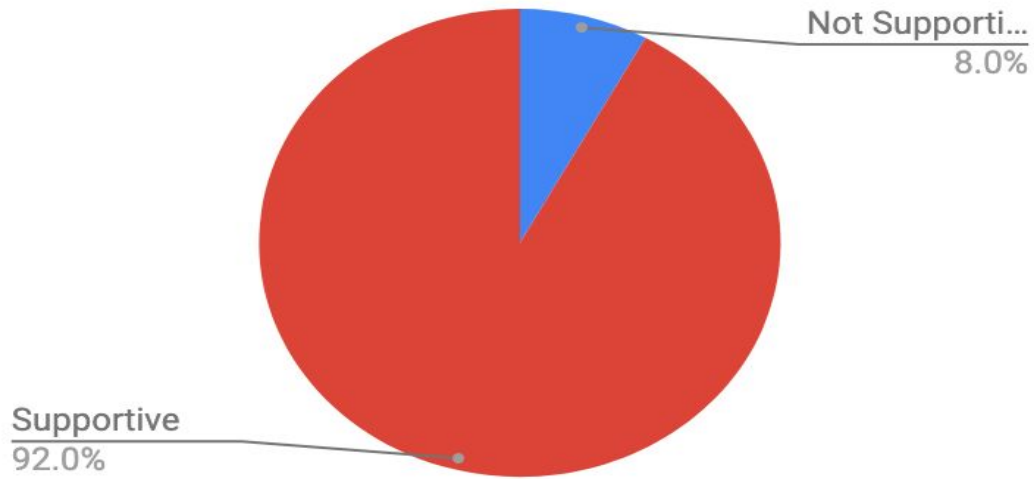
Twitter and other social media platforms have created intriguing new methods of connection that allow communities across the world to communicate and respond to news in real time. Studying communities on the internet can lead to a greater understanding of the public's response to an issue. It can also lead to a better understanding of the changing landscape of communication that has evolved through the use of the internet. The twitter community found under the hashtag #IBelieveEJeanCarroll is a community that is standing in support of advice columnist E. Jean Carroll after her accusation that President Donald Trump raped her 23 years ago. Rape victims face an incredible challenge in society after they come forward. In fact, the trauma that results from harassment and abuse after coming forward can heavily contribute to a victim's post traumatic stress disorder (Philips). This twitter community is composed mostly of women who support E. Jean Carroll and seek to further passionate discourse that is sympathetic to the emotional effect rape has on alleged victims such as E. Jean Carroll.

In order to analyze this community, I used a Twitter Analysis Google Spreadsheet in order to create a database of tweets using the #IBelieveEJeanTwitter. I narrowed down the tweets to those posted on Saturday June 22, 2019. I choose this time period because the news of Carrol's accusation broke on June 22. I wanted to observe the initial reactions of the community without allowing them time to be influenced by too many people uninvolved with the initial story. There were over 1,000 tweets that were posted during this time, so I narrowed it down by eliminating the retweets. Then, I deleted random tweets until I only had 100 tweets. I was able to delete tweets randomly by sorting the tweets randomly using Google Sheets and then deleting the first tweets until I only had 100 tweets. After I narrowed it down to 100 tweets, I categorized each tweet based on whether or not it was supportive of E. Jean Carroll, whether the poster was a

supporter of President Donald Trump, what gender the poster appeared to be, and whether or not the tweet called out Donald Trump directly by twitter handle. In order to determine whether a tweet was supportive, I read the tweet and assigned it to supportive, not supportive, or unsure. Then, I looked at the account of each poster in the unsure category and determined based on the context of their account whether or not the poster was sincere in their use of #IBelieveEJeanCarroll. While I looked at the account, I determined whether or not the poster was a supporter of Donald Trump, and I did my best to determine the poster's gender using pictures, names generally associated with certain genders, and self-identification (such as the use of the word "mom" to describe themselves). I was unable to determine the gender of every poster, but I was able to categorize the majority.

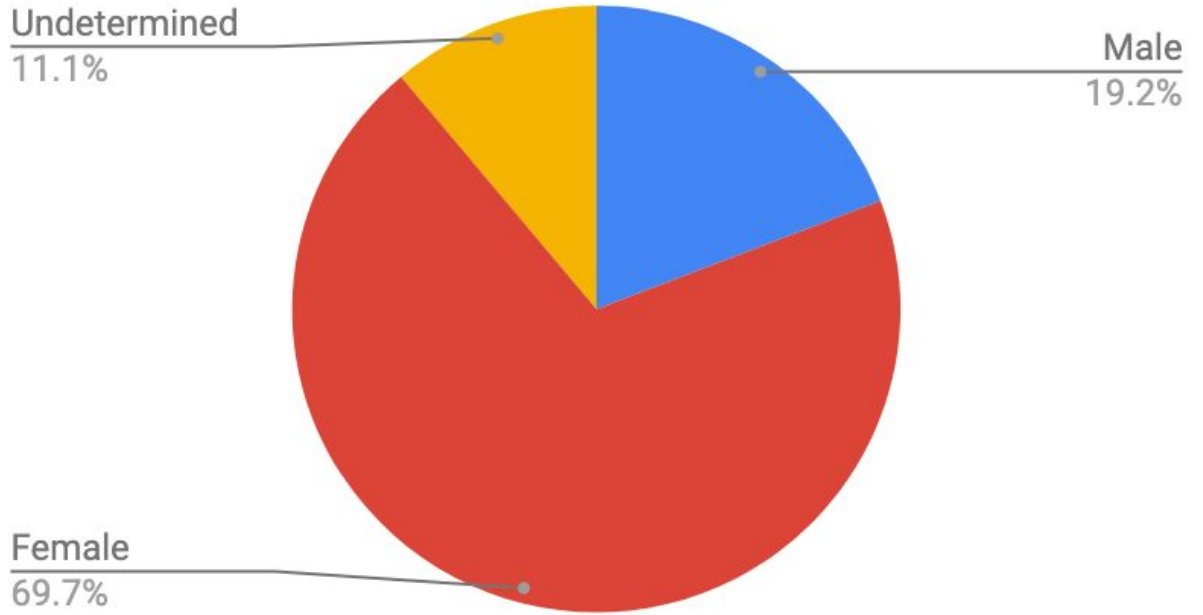
The majority of posters who used the hashtag #IBelieveEJeanCarroll did support E. Jean Carroll in her accusation against Donald Trump. In fact, the eight tweets that did not support E. Jean Carroll all came from the same account. This account posts provocative attacks of liberal political figures and an unequivocal support of Donald Trump. @KlytusGeneral was surprisingly the only example of a poster using sarcasm to change the message of #IBelieveEJeanCarroll in my sample.

Count of Supportive of E. Jean Carrol...



Gender of the poster made a large impact as well. At least 69.7% of the posters were female, which indicates that females are more inclined to post support for E. Jean Carroll, and likely rape victims in general. This makes sense because in the United States, one in five women will be raped in their lifetime, whereas only one in 71 men will be (Statistics about Sexual Violence).

Count of Best Estimate of Gender



Overall, I was surprised by the amount of posters who truly believed E. Jean Carroll and used the hashtag to support her and other alleged rape victims. It is incredibly important to support alleged victims of rape who make accusations against powerful individuals because the according to the National Sexual Violence Resource center, “Rape is the most under-reported crime; 63% of sexual assaults are not reported to police (Statistics about Sexual Violence).”

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