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Disclosing Sexual Assault Victimization to Others

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Disclosing Sexual Assault Victimization to Others

By

Nicole S. Shea

A Thesis Submitted to the Honors Council
For Honors in Psychology

May 10, 2012

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Abstract

Previous research has demonstrated that victims of sexual assault disclose their assaults most frequently to members of their intimate social circle. Unfortunately, some friends and family members give support in ways that are perceived as unhelpful by victims. The present study found that victims’ reports and non-victims’ expectations of positive support after disclosure differed significantly. Participants in this study were 345 female Bucknell students (sophomores – seniors) who completed an online survey about sexual assault, disclosure, and social reactions to disclosure. The overall prevalence rate for any type of sexual assault was 41.4% (rates for unwanted touching, attempted rape, and completed rape were 34.5%, 22.0%, and 19.2%, respectively). Among victims who disclosed their assaults to anyone (49.21% reported not disclosing to anyone), 39.84% disclosed to a friend, 3.13% disclosed to a family member, 2.34% disclosed to a health professional, 0.78% disclosed to an administrator, and 4.69% disclosed to someone other than those listed. No victims disclosed to a clergy member or to police. Positive support (helping the victim get information and aid, believing that the assault occurred, and providing emotional support) was perceived to occur significantly more often by non-victims than victims report it actually occurring. Victims reported experiencing blame from disclosure recipients for their assault significantly more often than the rates at which non-victims perceived they would be blamed. These results indicate that significant efforts are needed to change the campus culture by increasing support for sexual assault victims.
Introduction

Sexual assault on college campuses continues to be a problem. Over the course of a college career, it is likely that between 20% and 25% of women become victims of sexual assault (Fisher, Cullen & Turner, 2000). Fisher and colleagues (2000) suggest that it is not uncommon for young women to come into contact with young men in a variety of public and private settings at various times on college campuses. Additional research suggests that because of this, college women are at greater risk for rape and other forms of sexual assault than women in the general population, or in a comparable age group (Koss, Gidycz & Winiewski, 1987).

Sexual assault can be characterized as unwanted sexual touching, attempted rape or completed rape (Koss et al., 1987). Victims of sexual assault can suffer from a range of psychological issues after their assault, including fear and anxiety, symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, poor self-esteem, social adjustment issues, and sexual dysfunctions (Resick, 1993). However, studies have shown that disclosing the experience and confiding in others is associated with and fewer health problems and less rumination about a traumatic experience (Pennebaker & O’Heeron, 1984).

Victim Disclosure

Despite national sexual assault rates being as high as “one-in-four” for college women (Fisher et al., 2000), few victims report their assault to authorities such as local police, campus police, medical professionals and mental health professionals (Fisher, Daigle, Cullen & Turner, 2003). In fact, according to Jones (2009) sexual assault is the most underreported violent crime in the United States, with less than
half of the crimes being reported. A national-level study of college women found that 97.7% of unwanted sexual contacts, 85.7% of sexual assaults and 86.7% of rapes went unreported to the police (Fisher et al., 2003).

The most frequently cited reasons for not formally reporting assault experiences are the victims’ perceptions that the incident was not serious enough, uncertainty of whether crime or harm was intended, not wanting others, including family, to know, lack of proof that the incident occurred, fear of reprisal by the perpetrator, and beliefs that the police would not view the incident as serious enough (Fisher et al., 2003). Additionally, victims are often subjected to legal procedures that may feel unsupportive, and result in blaming and unwanted publicity (Koss, 2000).

Although Koss (1985) found that 48% of rape victims chose not to disclose the incident to anyone, other studies have found that most often women choose to informally disclose their assault to individuals within their intimate social circle. One study indicated that about two-thirds of 447 sexually assaulted respondents told someone about the assault, and that 59.3% told either a friend or relative (Golding, Seigel, Sorenson, Burnam & Stein, 1989). Fisher et al. (2003) found that victims most often informally disclose to friends (88%), rather than formally disclosing to police. Interestingly, in a study of college women, only 5% of disclosure recipients suggested that the victim report the incident to the police (Pitts & Schwartz, 1993).
Disclosing Sexual Assault Victimization to Others

**Alcohol Consumption**

Previous research has demonstrated that alcohol consumption is a factor that contributes to the risk of being sexually victimized. Fisher et al. (2003) found that 70% of victims and their perpetrators were under the influence of alcohol when sexual assault occurred. A study utilizing a randomly selected group of college students from three campuses found that women who were sexually assaulted while intoxicated drank more, on average, than women who were not assaulted (Kaysen, Neighbors, Martell, Fossos, & Larimer, 2006). This suggests that heavier alcohol consumption is associated with a higher likelihood of victimization among women.

Alcohol consumption is also a factor in whether or not a victim chooses to disclose her assault. Many victims of rape may choose not to tell anyone about their experiences if they were under the influence of alcohol or drugs at the time of the incident (Pitts & Schwartz, 1993). Research has suggested this is because victims who had been drinking prior to being assaulted show greater self-blame (Abbey, Ross, McDuffie, & McAuslan, 1996).

**Relation to the Perpetrator**

Another factor affecting victim disclosure is the relationship between the victim and her perpetrator. Abbey, Ross, McDuffie and McAuslan (1996) found that 95% of assaults are perpetrated by someone that the victim knows. This close relation between victims and perpetrators is magnified by the “hook-up” culture that has become increasingly present on college campuses (Lambert, Kahn, & Apple, 2003). In a study conducted by Flack et al. (2007), hooking up was defined as “a single, casual encounter sometimes involving sexual intercourse but with no
expectation of future commitment.” According to this study, hooking up is a risk factor for unwanted intercourse, as 78% of vaginal, anal and oral incidents occurred during a hook up.

Fielder and Carey (2010) researched the hook ups of first-semester female college students and found that 47% of hookups involved friends, 23% involved acquaintances and 14% involved strangers. This study also indicated that alcohol use preceded 64% of the reported hook ups. This research relates to victim disclosure in that about 9 in 10 perpetrators are known to the victim, and are most often a boyfriend, ex-boyfriend, classmate, friend, acquaintance, or coworker (Fisher et al., 2000). Additional research has suggested that knowing the perpetrator might hinder victim disclosure. Ullman and Filipas (2001) found that victims of acquaintance rape may avoid disclosing out of fear of blame and disbelief, especially if they were not physically injured in the assault.

**Acknowledgement of Victimization**

Another factor that may affect a woman’s decision to disclose her assault is whether or not she acknowledges that she was victimized. Previous research has found that a woman must first interpret that the sex act was unwanted and acknowledge that she was victimized before she will disclose the assault to others (Browne, 1991). Koss, Dinero, Seibel and Cox (1988) found that many women report the feeling of being victimized after a rape, but do not acknowledge or label the event as rape. Similarly, Fisher et al. (2000) found this to be true for reasons such as embarrassment, not clearly understanding the legal definition of rape, not
wanting to define someone they know as a rapist, or because they blame themselves for their sexual assault.

Another study identified a woman's individual history and disposition, the behaviors of the rapist, the attitudes and reactions of her close friends and family, and sociocultural beliefs and expectations as factors influencing acknowledgment (Bondurant, 2001). This study indicated that acknowledged and unacknowledged rape victims did not differ on how well they knew perpetrators, and concluded that the level of violence performed by the perpetrator was more predictive of whether or not a rape victim acknowledged the assault. According to this study, relatively nonviolent sexual assault experiences appear to be the most important factor hindering women from acknowledging rape. Although this finding contradicts previous research stating that victims of acquaintance rape acknowledge rape experiences less often than stranger rape victims (Koss et al., 1988), this study is consistent with other research in concluding that the majority of women (64%) do not acknowledge their rape experiences.

Social Reactions

As mentioned above, the attitudes and reactions of a victim's close friends and family, as well as sociocultural beliefs are an important factor in a victim's acknowledgement of assault. These factors also influence a victim's decision to disclose her assault. Previous research has examined the perceived helpfulness of various support sources. Police and physicians are often perceived as less helpful, and informal providers such as family and friends are rated as helpful (Golding et al., 1989), with friends giving the most positive reactions (Filipas & Ullman, 2001).
However, sometimes informal providers give support in ways that are perceived as unhelpful, such as blaming the victim or treating her differently (Campbell, Aherns, Sefi, Wasco, & Barnes, 2001). Doherty and Anderson (1998) found that negative social reactions can act as a second victimization and can lead to more severe negative psychological effects for the victim. Additional research demonstrated that victims who receive positive responses show less PTSD symptom severity than those who receive negative responses (Filipas & Ullman, 2001).

One factor influencing how others react to a victim’s disclosure of assault is whether or not alcohol was involved in the incident. Girard and Senn (2008) found that the perpetrator would be held more responsible if he purposely drugged the victim, while the victim would be held more responsible if she voluntarily drank or took drugs. Similarly, Sims, Noel and Maisto (2007) found that victims were blamed more often when they were intoxicated during the assault.

**Present Study and Hypotheses**

This present study aimed to further explore how factors affecting disclosure, such as alcohol consumption, relation to the perpetrator, acknowledgment of victimization and social reactions manifest themselves in the Bucknell community. By doing so, it is my hope that some light can be shed on ways in which these factors might affect the disclosure of victimization in more generalized populations similar to Bucknell. Specifically, this study was conducted to test the following hypotheses:
1. Acknowledgement of sexual assault is more likely to occur when the assault was perpetrated using force, rather than telling lies, showing displeasure, being drunk, or threatening physical harm.

2. Victims’ reports and non-victims’ expectations of positive and negative support will differ significantly, with victims reporting less positive support and more negative reactions than non-victims expect.

**Methods**

**Participants**

The demographic information of the sample of female students who participated in the survey can be found in Table 1. The sample of participants is similar to the overall population of undergraduate females. Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors each represented roughly one-third of both the sample (32.6%, 30.8%, and 36.6%) and the population (34.0%, 32.1%, and 33.9%). Additionally, 63.7% indicated they are Greek affiliates, and 14.8% indicated they are affiliated with a Varsity athletic team, as compared to 67.5% and 16.3% of Bucknell’s female population. The race and ethnicity of women who participated in the survey is also relatively similar to the sample population. Female participants were 89.2% Caucasian/White, 1.7% African American/Black, 4.1% Hispanic/Latino, 2.6% Asian, and 2.3% “Other.”

**Procedures**

Bucknell’s Institutional Review Board (IRB) approved the procedures of this study. The Registrar provided email addresses of 900 female students, chosen
randomly from sophomore through senior class years, to receive the survey. First year students were not included in the sample to ensure that participants were at least 18 years of age, and that they had spent enough time on Bucknell’s campus to sufficiently answer questions about their experiences. Additionally, it was specifically requested that the Registrar only randomly select females who were 18 years or older from the other class years. The survey was sent out in November 2011, and was open for the three weeks prior to Thanksgiving Break. Consistent with previous research conducted by Professor Flack, we obtained a 38.3% response rate.

Participants were recruited by means of messages sent to their University email. These messages included a brief description of the study and the approximate time required to complete the survey (.33 - .66 hours). In addition, the possibility of compensation (chances for one of ten randomly drawn $50 prizes during the five and a half weeks of data collection) was included in the email messages. The email messages were sent out over a period of five and a half weeks, and reminder emails were sent on a weekly basis throughout the period of data collection to those who had not yet responded to the survey.

A direct link to the survey was provided in the email message. When an individual choose to participate, she followed the instructions to click on the link, which automatically started the survey. An informed consent form appeared when she first logged into the survey. This form allowed the participant to indicate her consent by clicking a box at the bottom of the page. The survey ended with a debriefing and the option to enter for one of the compensation prizes.
Anonymity is essential for the information requested in this survey, especially since some of the information concerns participants’ potentially illegal and/or distressing behavior. In order to safeguard this information, and to protect our participants’ anonymity, no information was requested on the survey that could be used to identify an individual participant. Participants were assured that their identity would remain anonymous. A copy of the complete survey can be found in Appendix A.

Results to the survey were analyzed using SPSS, with alpha levels set at .05 to determine significance.

*Measures*

Demographic information included the participants’ class year, age, Greek affiliation, varsity athletic team membership, combined parental income, race/ethnic group, sexual orientation, religiosity and primary social group.

*The Balanced Inventory of Desirable Responding (BIDR; Paulhus, 1991)* is a 40-item measure that assesses self-deceptive positivity (the tendency to give self-reports that are honest but positively biased) and impression management (deliberate self-presentation to an audience). The items are stated as propositions and allow the participant to rate their agreement with each statement on a seven-point scale, ranging from “1 – not true,” “4 – somewhat true,” and “7 – very true.” In this study, the BIDR demonstrated an internal consistency of $\alpha = .85$.

*The Hook Up Participation Survey (HUPS; Brian & Flack, 2007)* is a nine-item measure that assesses the frequency of engaging in hook-ups. This measure was used to determine if victims engaged in more hook ups than non-victims. A hook-up
is defined as “a sexual encounter between two people that can range from kissing to
to sexual intercourse with or without the potential for future commitment.” Response
options prompted participants to indicate “never,” “rarely,” “occasionally,” or
“frequently,” to statements such as “How often do you hook up on just one occasion
with someone you never met before?” In this study, the HUPS demonstrated an
internal consistency of $\alpha = .81$.

*The Sexual Experiences Survey – Short Form Victimization (SES-SFV; Koss et al.,
2007)* is a measure of sexual assault victimization. The SES-SFV is used to determine
what types of non-consensual contact, ranging from fondling to attempted and
completed rape, occurred between a victim and her perpetrator. The SES-SFV was
amended to reflect only those incidents that occurred while here at Bucknell. The
SES-SFV asks participants to indicate the number of times ($0, 1, 2$ or $2+$) they have
experienced fondling, attempted oral rape, attempted vaginal rape, attempted anal
rate, completed oral rape, completed vaginal rape or completed anal rape.
Additionally, participants are asked to identify the means by which the assault was
perpetrated (lying, showing displeasure, being drunk, threatening physical harm or
using force). Follow-up questions were added to the end of each question on the
SES-SFV to determine the context in which the assault occurred (hook up,
relationship, stranger, other); if the assault occurred during a hook up, the type of
hook-up in which the assault occurred (stranger acquaintance, friend, former
boyfriend or girlfriend, other); and to whom, if anyone, the victim disclosed the
assault. An assessment of acknowledgment was also included as the final portion of
the SES-SFV. After completing all sections of the SES-SFV, participants were asked to
indicate “Yes” or “No” in response to the question, "Have you ever been raped while here at Bucknell?” Victims of attempted or completed rape who responded “Yes” to this question were considered acknowledged rape victims. Victims of attempted or completed rape who respond “No” to this question were considered unacknowledged rape victims. In this study, the SES-SFV demonstrated an internal consistency of $\alpha = .83$.

The Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test (AUDIT; Babor et al., 2001) is a 10-item measure that assesses the frequency of alcohol consumption and was used to determine if risky drinking behaviors differed between victims and non-victims. Items ask participants to respond to questions such as, “How often do you have six or more drinks on one occasion?” Response options include “never,” “less than monthly,” “monthly,” “weekly,” and “daily or almost daily.” Reinert and Allen (2007) found that the AUDIT is a reliable and valid measure of screening for the spectrum of alcohol use disorders, in various settings and with diverse populations. In this study, the AUDIT demonstrated an internal consistency of $\alpha = .81$.

The Social Reactions Questionnaire (SQR; Ullman, 2000) is a 48-item measure that assesses how other people reacted to a victim’s experience of sexual assault. The measure was amended to include how a participant who has not experienced sexual assault would expect others to react if she were a victim of sexual assault. Therefore, victims were asked to “please indicate how often you experienced each of the listed responses from other people,” and non-victims were asked to, “please indicate how often you would expect to experience each of the listed responses from other people.” Items allowed participants to rate how often they had received, or
would expect to receive, forms of positive and negative support. The SRQ measures five subscales of negative support (blame, egocentric, distraction, control, and treat different) and three subscales of positive support (belief, information and aid, and emotional support). Responses ranged from “0 – never,” “1 – rarely,” 2 – sometimes,” “3 – frequently,” and “4 – always.” In this study, the SRQ demonstrated an internal consistency of $\alpha = .95$.

Results

Desirable Responding

The BIDR has a negative, significant correlation with HUPS scores $r = -.28, p < .01$; AUDIT $r = -.31, p < .01$; fondling $r = -.19, p < .01$; attempted or complete rape $r = -.15, p < .05$; and overall assault $r = -.21, p < .01$. This indicates that those who responded with higher tendencies on the target measures are associated with a lower tendency to respond in a socially desirable manner. The SRQ was not significantly correlated with the BIDR, $r = .08, p = .24$. However, the BIDR has a positive, significant correlation with the SRQ’s Information and Aid subscale, $r = .17, p< .01$.

Prevalence of Victimization

The overall prevalence of sexual assault victimization (fondling, attempted oral rape, attempted vaginal rape, attempted anal rape, completed oral rape, completed vaginal rape or completed anal rape) was 41.4% ($n = 128$). As shown in Table 2, fondling was the most prevalent form of sexual assault, followed by attempted rape and completed rape.
Victim Disclosure

Victim disclosure was determined by asking participants who indicated victimization on the SES-SFV to report to whom, if anyone, they disclosed the assault. Victims had the option of reporting that they disclosed the event to “no one,” “friend,” “family,” health professional,” “clergy,” “administrator,” “police,” or “other.” Of the 128 identified victims, only 50.78% (n= 65) endorsed one of the follow up questions indicating that a disclosure recipient was notified. This percentage excludes the victims indicating that they disclosed to “no one.” Therefore, 49.22% (n=63) of victims indicated that did not disclose their assault to anyone.

The most prevalent recipient of reported disclosure was a friend (39.84%), followed by other (4.69%), a family member (3.13%), a health professional (2.34%), and an administrator (0.78%). None of the victims reported their assault to a clergy member or to the police.

Alcohol Consumption

An independent-samples T-test, comparing the mean scores of victims (M= 9.64, SD= 4.69) and non-victims (M= 7.75, SD= 4.78) on the AUDIT revealed a significant difference, t(284) = -3.36, p < .01. This indicates that victims of sexual assault reported consuming more alcohol and engaging in more risky drinking behaviors than non-victims.

Relation to the Perpetrator

Relation to the perpetrator was determined by asking participants who indicated victimization on the SES-SFV to indicate if their assault occurred during a hook up, within a relationship, in an encounter with a stranger or other. If a victim
reported being assaulted during a hook up, they were asked to indicate the type of hook up the assault occurred during. Hook up type was determined by who the relation the victim had to her perpetrator (stranger, acquaintance, friend, former boyfriend or girlfriend, or not sure).

Of the 128 identified victims, 122 endorsed follow-up questions asking them to indicate the context in which the assault occurred. Sexual assault most often occurred in a hook up context (62.30%), followed by other (17.21%), stranger (13.11%) and in a relationship (7.38%). Of the victims assaulted during a hook up, 63.16% indicated that they were perpetrated by an acquaintance, 21.05% by a friend, 6.58% by a stranger, 6.58% by other and 2.63% by a former boyfriend or girlfriend.

An independent-sample T-test was run to determine whether or not victims engage more frequently in hook ups than non-victims, as indicated by their scores on the HUPS. The T-test revealed that there is a significant difference between the mean scores of victims (M=7.83, SD= 4.45) and non-victims (M = 5.52, SD= 4.65), t(302) = 4.35, p < .01.

Acknowledgement of Victimization

Only 14.7% of victims of attempted or completed rape (n=96) acknowledged that they had been raped in follow-up question on the SES-SFV. A chi square test revealed that acknowledgement of assault occurs at a significant level when the assault was perpetrated by using force, \( x^2 (1) = 14.37, p< .01 \). Acknowledgement of assault does not occur at a significant level with any of the other means of
perpetration (lying, showing displeasure, being drunk, or threatening physical harm).

Social Reactions

An independent-samples T-test, comparing the scores of victims and non-victims on the SRQ revealed that these groups significantly differ on all eight (three positive and five negative) subscales, t(140) = 10.36, p < .01. Non-victims scored higher on all three positive subscales; belief, t(156) = 8.41, p < .01, information and aid, t(170) = 13.9, p < .01, emotional support, t(151) = 7.47, p < .01. Non-victims also scored higher than victims on all of the negative support subscales, with the exception of blame; egocentric, t(267) = 7.97, p < .01, distraction, t(263) = 7.16, p < .01, control, t(264) = 8.51, p < .01, treat differently, t(266) = 5.94, p < .01. Victims scored higher than non-victims on the negative support subscale blame, t(194) = -4.36, p < .01.

Discussion

Victim Disclosure

Victims of sexual assault at Bucknell are no exception to the findings of previous research. As mentioned above, only 50.78% of victims report disclosing their assault to any of the recipients listed in the survey. It is hard to determine whether or not this finding goes against or supports previous research, as some studies have found that as many as two-thirds of victims disclosed their assaults (Golding et al., 1989), while other studies have indicated that far fewer victims ever disclose their assault (Koss, 1985). However, it is distressing to know that
approximately one half of reported sexual assault victims at Bucknell have never told anyone of their assault. Because victims of sexual assault can suffer from a range of psychological issues after being assaulted, including anxiety, symptoms of PTSD, and depression (Resick, 1993), not disclosing an assault may keep a victim from receiving adequate assistance.

However, if victims of sexual assault do choose to disclose their assault to someone, it is most often to peers (39.84%). This finding is supported by previous research (Golding, Seigel, Sorenson, Burnam & Stein, 1989) indicating that victims most often disclose to members of their intimate social circles, such as friends and family members. Our survey results indicated that no victim disclosed her assault to the police. Although sexual assault is the most underreported violent crime in the United States (Jones, 2009), it is alarming that not a single victim formally disclosed her assault to proper authorities, and that only 0.78% made an administrator aware of her assault. This is alarming because it indicates that very few incidents of sexual assault are being brought to the University’s attention.

*Alcohol Consumption*

Alcohol consumption may be contributing both to the low prevalence of victim disclosure and the high prevalence of sexual assault victimization. Previous research has suggested that heavier alcohol consumption is associated with a higher likelihood of assault occurring while drunk (Kaysen et al., 2006). This finding was replicated with this survey, as an independent-sample T-test of AUDIT scores for victims and non-victims revealed a significant difference. The AUDIT measures alcohol consumption, drinking behavior and alcohol-related problems, with scores
ranging from 1-40. The cut-off value of 8 indicates hazardous alcohol use or at risk-drinking behavior. The mean score for victims (9.64) was significantly higher than the mean score for non-victims (7.75), indicating that victims engage in higher-risk drinking behaviors than non-victims.

Relation to the Perpetrator

Ullman and Filipas (2001) suggested that victims of acquaintance rape might avoid disclosing out of fear of blame and disbelief, especially if they were not physically injured in the assault. The results of this survey reveal that a hook up is the most common context in which assaults occur, with the exception of completed anal rape. Previous research has suggested that hooking up is a risk factor for unwanted intercourse (Flack et al., 2007).

Our results indicate that sexual assaults most often occur during a hook up, and that within a hook up, most assaults are perpetrated by an acquaintance or a friend. Perhaps this can be attributed to the fact that victims engage in hook ups more frequently than non-victims, as indicated by an independent-samples T-test of their scores on HUPS, and therefore are more likely to be in close contact with friends and acquaintances in situations involving risky behaviors.

Acknowledgement of Victimization

Victims are less likely to disclose their assault if they have not acknowledged that they have been victimized (Browne, 1991). Although the overall prevalence of attempted or completed rape was 30.9%, in this study only 14.7% of victims of attempted or completed rape (n = 14) acknowledged that they had indeed been raped. Previous research indicates that a higher level of violence performed by the
perpetrator is predictive of whether or not a rape victim acknowledges her rape (Bondurant, 2001). Although we did not measure levels of violence in this study, the SES-SFV does allow participants to indicate the means by which an assault occurred (lying, showing displeasure, being drunk, threatening physical harm or using force).

It was hypothesized that victims of completed or attempted rape would be more likely to acknowledge the rape if it occurred by way of force, rather than lying, showing displeasure, being drunk, or threatening physical harm. Our data reveals that this hypothesis was correct, as acknowledgement of victimization occurred significantly when force was used.

Social Reactions

It was also hypothesized that victims’ reports and non-victims’ expectations of positive and negative support would differ significantly, and that victims would report less positive and more negative support than non-victims would expect.

The hypothesis was supported for subscales measuring positive support (belief, information and aid, emotional support). Victims reported receiving these forms of positive support significantly less from disclosure recipients than non-victims would expect to receive. In essence, victims are not getting the positive support from disclosure recipients that non-victims believe they would receive.

The hypothesis was only supported for one subscale measuring negative support. Victims reported receiving more negative support in the form of blame significantly more than non-victims would have expected to be blamed. Although victims and non-victims still scored at significantly different levels for all other negative subscales (egocentric, distraction, control, and treat different), victims
reported receiving these forms of negative support significantly less than non-victims would have expected. Although it is difficult to understand why non-victims are expecting their hypothetical disclosure recipients to display the above negative forms of support more than victims actually report disclosure recipients displaying them, it is clear that victims are being blamed more often than non-victims would expect to be blamed.

Limitations

The results of this study reflect the responses of participants attending a small liberal arts University. More specifically, Table 1 indicates that these results generally reflect the responses of predominantly white, heterosexual women. Although many of our findings replicated previous research, it would be unreasonable to generalize these results outside of communities that are not similar to Bucknell University.

A second limitation is that the survey used a self-selected sample. This method of participation may over-represent college women who are willing to report on issues surrounding sexual assault. National data has revealed that it is likely that between 20% and 25% of women are victims of attempted or completed rape (Fisher, Cullen & Turner, 2000). Our results indicate that the prevalence of attempted and completed rape here at Bucknell is 30.9%, but this finding is consistent with data collected here at Bucknell in previous years. Therefore, this suggests that this year’s prevalence rates are reliable.

A third limitation is that the survey asks participants to self-report retrospectively on their sexual experiences. Therefore, results are only as accurate
as a participant’s honesty or recollection. Assuming that all participants were honest in responding to survey items, memory recall is still subject to the passage of time and to alcohol consumption. Correlations between the BIDR and the other measures used revealed that respondents were less likely to respond in a socially desirable manner.

A fourth limitation to the study is that an assumption is made that only females are victims of sexual assault. Although this is certainly not the case, previous research surveying males as victims at Bucknell did not yield enough victim responses to analyze. Therefore, although anyone can be a victim of sexual assault, for purposes of collecting usable data, the SES-SFV was distributed to female participants.

**Implications**

The results of this study indicate, first, that sexual assault continues to be a campus-wide issue, and second, that there are many factors that may be hindering victims’ disclosure of sexual assault. First and foremost, it is clear that when sexual assault victims choose to disclose their assault, they most often choose to tell a friend about the experience. Therefore, responsibility to refrain from victim blaming and to create a supportive environment falls on the shoulders of those peers who are the recipients of disclosure. Because Bucknell University is such a small, close-knit community, it is important that everyone take responsibility in ensuring that a more victim-supportive culture is established.

A second result highlighted by studying victim disclosure is the finding indicating that no victims reported their assault to the police, and very few victims
reported their assault to health professionals or administrators. Previous research conducted on college women indicates that only 5% of disclosure recipients suggest that the victim report the incident to the police (Pitts & Schwartz, 1993). Again, peers of victims need to be more proactive in helping victims receive more information and aid, and need to be more proactive about contacting proper authorities. Although the proper authority may not necessarily be the police, as ultimately a victim might not want to be subjected to the perceived judgments that contacting the legal system entails, making the sexual assault advocates on campus aware of the assault should always be considered. This is because the lack of reported sexual assaults on this campus may be a source for the common disbelief of the prevalence rates reported in this study.

Ultimately, the issue with not contacting the proper authority is that the incident of sexual assault goes undocumented. This can be a problem because most perpetrators are repeat offenders (White & Smith, 2004). It is possible that if perpetrators are not identified or subjected to charges or punishment, due to the lack of disclosure, they might be more likely to perpetrate another assault.

Items measuring risky drinking behavior and frequency of hooking up found that victims of assault are more likely to engage in these behaviors than non-victims. Although previous research has found that engaging in these behaviors increases the likelihood of being perpetrated, it important to understand that these findings are in no way implying that the fault of an assault falls on the victim for engaging in those behaviors. Although the risk of being victimized is reduced when less alcohol is consumed and fewer hook ups are engaged in, reducing these behaviors does not
prevent sexual assault from occurring. The only way for the risk of being sexually assaulted to be eliminated, is if perpetrators stop committing these acts.

Previous research has suggested that a woman must first interpret the sex act as unwanted and acknowledge that she was victimized before it is likely that she will disclose the assault to others (Browne, 1991). Our data is consistent with other data in establishing that the majority of victims of rape victims do not acknowledge their rape (85.3%) While previous research has indicated that alcohol consumption and relation to the perpetrator may effect whether or not a victim acknowledges her assault, the most predictive factor is the level of violence used during the assault (Bondurant, 2001). This is probably because violent assaults are more likely to manifest themselves physically, and therefore, the victim may feel that it is more likely that a disclosure recipient will believe her. Although more research needs to be done to establish this, it is important that disclosure recipients understand that a lack of physical evidence of an assault, does not mean that an assault did not occur.

The results of the SRQ indicate that believing the victim, as well as providing the victim with emotional support, and helping the victim get information and aid, are forms of positive support that are occur less often than expected. Additionally, victims report experiencing blame from disclosure recipients for their assault significantly more often than the rates at which non-victims perceive they would be blamed. As mentioned above, victims most often disclose their assault to a friend, which puts added responsibility on the peers of a victim, and arguably on Bucknell’s community as a whole, to establish a supportive environment for disclosure. If the
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reactions of friends and peers are hindering the disclosure of a victim’s sexual assault, then they can, and should, be held responsible for perpetuating the problem.

These results indicate that significant efforts are needed to change the Bucknell’s campus culture by increasing support for sexual assault victims. One way this might be done is by increasing awareness and education regarding how to respond if you are the recipient of a victim’s sexual assault disclosure. A segment on proper victim support should become part of the curriculum taught during first years’ Transition to College courses. Additionally, consideration should be made for developing a student program, like SpeakUp Bucknell, that focuses on how to eliminate a campus culture that is victim blaming and to establish a culture that is more supportive.

Future Research

Future research is needed to expand our understanding of these factors’ influences on victim disclosure, and on one another. An additional factor, that was not tested for in this study is the level of a victim’s self-blame, and how that might affect her decision to disclose. Second, considering this data was collected on an intimate college campus, it might be interesting to study how the stigma of being a victim of sexual assault directly impacts a victim’s decision to disclose her assault to others. Third, it would be interesting to utilize a measure assessing the level of PTSD symptoms that victims may experience after being assaulted. This is because the current study has revealed that the prevalence of sexual assault victimization is higher than the national average and that approximately one half of victims never tell anyone they were assaulted. Therefore, measuring PTSD symptoms might shed
some light on what victims of sexual assault are psychologically dealing with on their own, and may highlight the importance of increasing support for disclosure. Additionally, data should be collected on both male and female victims of sexual assault, to see if these results are generalizable to both genders.
References


Appendix A

Consent Form
Human Participants Research
Bucknell University

Project Title: The Social Context of Sexual Behavior Among Male and Female College Students

Purpose of the Research: I understand that the purpose of this study is to obtain a better understanding of the social behavior of college men and women and the attitudes they hold. I also understand that the study is concerned with understanding sexual assault, hooking up, alcohol consumption, hazing, and related behaviors in which some college men and women engage.

General Plan of the Research: I understand that if I consent to participate in this study, I will be asked to complete a survey, which will ask me a series of questions about my own sexual experiences and associated behaviors. My answers to all of the survey questions will be completely anonymous. I will not be asked to reveal any information that could be used to identify me as a participant in this study.

Estimated Duration of the Research: I understand that the survey should take me no longer than 40 minutes to complete.

Estimated Total Number of Participants: I understand that the experimenters expect to collect survey data from approximately 600 participants.

Questions? If I have questions or concerns, I understand that I may contact the Principal Investigator, Professor Bill Flack, wflack@bucknell.edu, 577-1131, Department of Psychology. For general questions about the rights of human participants in research, I may contact Abe Feuerstein, Chair, Institutional Review Board, Office of Institutional Research, afeuerstein@bucknell.edu, 577-3293. In addition, a debriefing will be included following completion of the survey regardless of whether I choose to submit my results or not.

Voluntary Participation: I understand that my participation in this research project is completely voluntary. If I agree to participate, I may change my mind at any time and for any reason. I may refuse to answer any questions and/or withdraw from the study at any time without penalty, and if I choose, my results will not be saved.

Benefits of Participation: I understand that I will have the option to enter into a drawing for a chance to win one of ten $50 prizes for participating in this research at the end of the survey. It is also possible that I will benefit from the opportunity to reflect on these questions. In addition, I may also benefit from learning about psychological research from participating in this study.

Anonymity: I understand that my answers to all of the survey questions will be completely anonymous, meaning there is no way that my answers will be able to be connected to my identity. I will not be asked to reveal any information that could be used to identify me as a participant in this study. All of the information that I provide will be stored in a secure datafile access to which is limited to the Principal Investigator, members of his student research team, and three professional staff members of ISR. The survey datafile will be stored separately from the file containing my email address, which will be randomized. This eliminates any possibility that I could be identified with my answers.

Discomforts: I understand that it is possible that considering some of the questions on the survey could cause me to become upset, ashamed or embarrassed. However, I also understand that I can complete this survey on any computer that is either directly or wirelessly connected to the university.
server (however, hardwired connections are encouraged to ensure that the survey software runs properly).

**Risks:** I understand that, aside from the risk of discomfort as indicated above, there are no other known risks to me from participating in this research. I also understand that, in the event that I become uncomfortable or upset by any of the questions, and feel the need to speak with someone about my reactions, I may contact Psychological Services (577-1604).

I understand that I will be given additional information about this research in a debriefing after I have finished participating in this study, and before I leave this online session.

I have read the above description of the research.

By clicking this box I agree to participate in this research, and I acknowledge that I am 18 years of age or older.
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Demographics

1. Class Year (choose one)
   - Sophomore
   - Junior
   - Senior

2. Age (choose one)
   - 18
   - 19
   - 20
   - 21
   - 22 and older

3. Greek Affiliation
   - Greek member
   - Non-Greek member
     a. How important is it to you to be a member of your sorority?
       - Not at all important
       - Somewhat important
       - Moderately important
       - Very important
       - Extremely important

4. Athletic Team Affiliation
   - Varsity Athlete
   - Non-Varsity Athlete
     a. How important is it to you to be a member of your athletic team?
       - Not affiliated
       - Not at all important
       - Somewhat important
       - Moderately important
       - Very important
       - Extremely important

5. It is common to hear that Bucknell students are characterized as both working hard and playing hard...
   a. How important is it to you to work hard?
      - Not at all important
      - Somewhat important
      - Moderately important
      - Very important
      - Extremely important
   b. How important is it to you to play hard?
      - Not at all important
      - Somewhat important
      - Moderately important
      - Very important
      - Extremely important
   c. How important is it to you to both work hard and play hard?
      - Not at all important
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- Somewhat important
- Moderately important
- Very important
- Extremely important

6. Combined Parental Income (choose one)
   - 0-49,999
   - 50,000-99,999
   - 100,000-149,999
   - 150,000-199,999
   - 200,000-249,999
   - 250,000+

7. Race/Ethnicity
   - Caucasian
   - African American
   - Hispanic
   - Asian/Asian-American
   - Native American
   - Other

8. To whom are you sexually attracted?
   - Men
   - Women
   - Both men and women
   - Neither men nor women

9. How religious are you?
   - Not at all
   - Somewhat
   - Moderately
   - Very
   - Extremely

10. How frequently do you pray?
    - Never
    - A few times a year
    - 1 time per month
    - 1 time per week
    - 1 time per day
    - More than 1 time per day

11. How frequently do you attend worship services?
    - Never
    - A few times per year
    - Monthly
    - 1 time per week
    - More than 1 time per week

12. Most of the people you feel closest to here are (choose one):
    - Greek members
    - Non-Greek members
13. Most of the people you feel closest to here are (choose one):
   - Varsity athletes
   - Non-varsity athletes
Balanced Inventory of Desirable Responding (BIDR; Paulhus, D.L., 1991)

Using the scale below as a guide, write a number beside each statement to indicate how much you agree with it.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

NOT TRUE    SOMEWHAT TRUE    VERY TRUE

___ 1. My first impressions of people usually turn out to be right.
___ 2. It would be hard for me to break any of my bad habits.
___ 3. I don't care to know what other people really think of me.
___ 4. I have not always been honest with myself.
___ 5. I always know why I like things.
___ 6. When my emotions are aroused, it biases my thinking.
___ 7. Once I've made up my mind, other people can seldom change my opinion.
___ 8. I am not a safe driver when I exceed the speed limit.
___ 9. I am fully in control of my own fate.
___10. It's hard for me to shut off a disturbing thought.
___11. I never regret my decisions.
___12. I sometimes lose out on things because I can't make up my mind soon enough.
___13. The reason I vote is because my vote can make a difference.
___14. My parents were not always fair when they punished me.
___15. I am a completely rational person.
___16. I rarely appreciate criticism.
___17. I am very confident of my judgments.
___18. I have sometimes doubted my ability as a lover.
___19. It's all right with me if some people happen to dislike me.
___20. I don't always know the reasons why I do the things I do.
___21. I sometimes tell lies if I have to.
___22. I never cover up my mistakes.
___23. There have been occasions when I have taken advantage of someone.
___24. I never swear.
___25. I sometimes try to get even rather than forgive and forget.
___26. I always obey laws, even if I'm unlikely to get caught.
___27. I have said something bad about a friend behind his or her back.
___28. When I hear people talking privately, I avoid listening.
___29. I have received too much change from a salesperson without telling him or her.
___30. I always declare everything at customs.
___31. When I was young I sometimes stole things.
32. I have never dropped litter on the street.
33. I sometimes drive faster than the speed limit.
34. I never read sexy books or magazines.
35. I have done things that I don’t tell other people about.
36. I never take things that don’t belong to me.
37. I have taken sick-leave from work or school even though I wasn’t really sick.
38. I have never damaged a library book or store merchandise without reporting it.
39. I have some pretty awful habits.
40. I don’t gossip about other people’s business.
Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test (AUDIT; Babor et al., 2001)

1. How often do you have a drink containing alcohol?
   - Never
   - Monthly or less
   - 2 to 4 times a month
   - 2 to 3 times a week
   - 4 or more times a week

2. How many drinks containing alcohol do you have on a typical day when you are drinking?
   - 1 or 2
   - 3 or 4
   - 5 or 6
   - 7, 8, or 9
   - 10 or more

3. How often do you have six or more drinks on one occasion?
   - Never
   - Less than monthly
   - Monthly
   - Weekly
   - Daily or almost daily

4. How often during the last year have you found that you were not able to stop drinking once you had started?
   - Never
   - Less than monthly
   - Monthly
   - Weekly
   - Daily or almost daily

5. How often during the last year have you failed to do what was normally expected from you because of drinking?
   - Never
   - Less than monthly
   - Monthly
   - Weekly
   - Daily or almost daily

6. How often during the last year have you needed a first drink in the morning to get yourself going after a heavy drinking session?
   - Never
   - Less than monthly
   - Monthly
   - Weekly
   - Daily or almost daily

7. How often during the last year have you had a feeling of guilt or remorse after drinking?
   - Never
   - Less than monthly
   - Monthly
   - Weekly
• Daily or almost daily

8. How often during the last year have you been unable to remember what happened the night before because you had been drinking?
   • Never
   • Less than monthly
   • Monthly
   • Weekly
   • Daily or almost daily

9. Have you or someone else been injured as a result of your drinking?
   • No
   • Yes, but not in the last year
   • Yes, during the last year

10. Has a relative or friend or a doctor or another health worker been concerned about your drinking or suggested you cut down?
    • No
    • Yes, but not in the last year
    • Yes, during the last year
Hook-up Participation Questionnaire (Brian & Flack, 2007)

*Hooking-up is defined as a mutually entered sexual encounter between two people that can range from kissing to sexual intercourse with or without the potential for future commitment.*

1. How often have you hooked up with someone whom you had not met before?
   - Never
   - Rarely
   - Occasionally
   - Frequently

2. How often have you hooked up with a person whom you consider an acquaintance, but not a friend?
   - Never
   - Rarely
   - Occasionally
   - Frequently

3. How often have you had a one-time hook up with a friend?
   - Never
   - Rarely
   - Occasionally
   - Frequently

4. How often have you hooked up more than once with a friend?
   - Never
   - Rarely
   - Occasionally
   - Frequently

5. How often have you hooked up with someone with whom you were previously in a romantic relationship?
   - Never
   - Rarely
   - Occasionally
   - Frequently

6. How often have you hooked up with someone with the intention of future commitment?
   - Never
   - Rarely
   - Occasionally
   - Frequently

7. How often have you hooked up with someone whom you are not in a relationship with, when you were already in an exclusive relationship with another person?
   - Never
   - Rarely
   - Occasionally
   - Frequently

8. After ending an exclusive relationship, how often have you “rebounded,” meaning how often have you hooked up with someone when you have just ended an exclusive relationship in order to spite an ex or to feel good about yourself?
• Never
• Rarely
• Occasionally
• Frequently
**Sexual Experiences Survey (SES-SFV, Koss et al., 2007)**

The following questions concern sexual experiences that you may have had that were unwanted. We know that these are personal questions, so we do not ask your name or other identifying information. Your information is completely confidential. We hope that this helps you to feel comfortable answering each question honestly. Place a check mark in the box □ showing the number of times each experience has happened to you. If several experiences occurred on the same occasion—for example, if one night someone told you some lies and had sex with you when you were drunk, you would check both boxes a and c.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sexual Experiences</th>
<th>How many times while here at Bucknell?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. <strong>Someone fondled, kissed, or rubbed up against the private areas of my body</strong> (lips, breast/chest, crotch or butt) <strong>or removed some of my clothes without my consent (but did not attempt sexual penetration)</strong> by:</td>
<td>0 1 2 __</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a. Telling lies, threatening to end the relationship, threatening to spread rumors about me, making promises I knew were untrue, or continually verbally pressuring me after I said I didn’t want to.</td>
<td>□□□□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Showing displeasure, criticizing my sexuality or attractiveness, getting angry but not using physical force, after I said I didn’t want to.</td>
<td>□□□□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Taking advantage of me when I was too drunk or out of it to stop what was happening.</td>
<td>□□□□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Threatening to physically harm me or someone close to me.</td>
<td>□□□□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. Using force, for example holding me down with their body weight, pinning my arms, or having a weapon.</td>
<td>□□□□</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Follow-Up Question to Endorsement of 1 occurrence on SES:**

- This happened:
  - During a hook up
  - In an ongoing relationship
  - In an encounter with a stranger
  - Other

- In what hookup context did this event occur?
  - Stranger
  - Acquaintance
  - Friend
  - Former Boyfriend/Girlfriend
  - Not Sure

- To whom (if anyone) did you disclose this event?
  - No one
  - Friend
  - Family Member
  - Health Professional
  - Clergy Member
  - Administrator
  - Police
Disclosing Sexual Assault Victimization to Others

Follow-Up Questions to Endorsement of 2+ occurrences on SES:

- The most recent occurrence happened:
  - During a hook up
  - In an ongoing relationship
  - In an encounter with a stranger
  - Other

- In what hookup context did this event occur?
  - Stranger
  - Acquaintance
  - Friend
  - Former Boyfriend/Girlfriend
  - Not Sure

- To whom (if anyone) did you disclose this event?
  - No one
  - Friend
  - Family Member
  - Health Professional
  - Clergy Member
  - Administrator
  - Police
  - Other

2. **Someone had oral sex with me or made me have oral sex with them without my consent by:**

   - Telling lies, threatening to end the relationship, threatening to spread rumors about me, making promises I knew were untrue, or continually verbally pressuring me after I said I didn’t want to. □□□□
   - Showing displeasure, criticizing my sexuality or attractiveness, getting angry but not using physical force, after I said I didn’t want to. □□□□
   - Taking advantage of me when I was too drunk or out of it to stop what was happening. □□□□
   - Threatening to physically harm me or someone close to me. □□□□
   - Using force, for example holding me down with their body weight, pinning my arms, or having a weapon. □□□□

Follow-Up Question to Endorsement of 1 occurrence on SES:

- This happened:
  - During a hook up
  - In an ongoing relationship
  - In an encounter with a stranger
  - Other
Disclosing Sexual Assault Victimization to Others

- In what hookup context did this event occur?
  - Stranger
  - Acquaintance
  - Friend
  - Former Boyfriend/Girlfriend
  - Not Sure

- To whom (if anyone) did you disclose this event?
  - No one
  - Friend
  - Family Member
  - Health Professional
  - Clergy Member
  - Administrator
  - Police
  - Other

Follow-Up Questions to Endorsement of 2+ occurrences on SES:

- The most recent occurrence happened:
  - During a hook up
  - In an ongoing relationship
  - In an encounter with a stranger
  - Other

- In what hookup context did this event occur?
  - Stranger
  - Acquaintance
  - Friend
  - Former Boyfriend/Girlfriend
  - Not Sure

- To whom (if anyone) did you disclose this event?
  - No one
  - Friend
  - Family Member
  - Health Professional
  - Clergy Member
  - Administrator
  - Police
  - Other

3. A man put his penis into my vagina, or someone inserted fingers or objects without my consent by:
   a. Telling lies, threatening to end the relationship, threatening to spread rumors about me, making promises I knew were untrue, or continually verbally pressuring me after I said...
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I didn't want to.

b. Showing displeasure, criticizing my sexuality or attractiveness, getting angry but not using physical force after I said I didn't want to.

c. Taking advantage of me when I was too drunk or out of it to stop what was happening.

d. Threatening to physically harm me or someone close to me.

e. Using force, for example holding me down with their body weight, pinning my arms, or having a weapon.

Follow-Up Question to Endorsement of 1 occurrence on SES:

- This happened:
  - During a hook up
  - In an ongoing relationship
  - In an encounter with a stranger
  - Other

- In what hookup context did this event occur?
  - Stranger
  - Acquaintance
  - Friend
  - Former Boyfriend/Girlfriend
  - Not Sure

- To whom (if anyone) did you disclose this event?
  - No one
  - Friend
  - Family Member
  - Health Professional
  - Clergy Member
  - Administrator
  - Police
  - Other

Follow-Up Questions to Endorsement of 2+ occurrences on SES:

- The most recent occurrence happened:
  - During a hook up
  - In an ongoing relationship
  - In an encounter with a stranger
  - Other

- In what hookup context did this event occur?
  - Stranger
  - Acquaintance
  - Friend
  - Former Boyfriend/Girlfriend
  - Not Sure

- To whom (if anyone) did you disclose this event?
  - No one
  - Friend
4. A man put his penis into my butt, or someone inserted fingers or objects without my consent by:
   a. Telling lies, threatening to end the relationship, threatening to spread rumors about me,
      making promises I knew were untrue, or continually verbally pressuring me after I said I didn't want to. 
   b. Showing displeasure, criticizing my sexuality or attractiveness, getting angry but not using physical force, after I said I didn't want to.
   c. Taking advantage of me when I was too drunk or out of it to stop what was happening.
   d. Threatening to physically harm me or someone close to me.
   e. Using force, for example holding me down with their body weight, pinning my arms, or having a weapon.

Follow-Up Question to Endorsement of 1 occurrence on SES:

- This happened:
  o During a hook up
  o In an ongoing relationship
  o In an encounter with a stranger
  o Other

- In what hookup context did this event occur?
  o Stranger
  o Acquaintance
  o Friend
  o Former Boyfriend/Girlfriend
  o Not Sure

- To whom (if anyone) did you disclose this event?
  o No one
  o Friend
  o Family Member
  o Health Professional
  o Clergy Member
  o Administrator
  o Police
  o Other

Follow-Up Questions to Endorsement of 2+ occurrences on SES:
The most recent occurrence happened:
- During a hook up
- In an ongoing relationship
- In an encounter with a stranger
- Other

In what hookup context did this event occur?
- Stranger
- Acquaintance
- Friend
- Former Boyfriend/Girlfriend
- Not Sure

To whom (if anyone) did you disclose this event?
- No one
- Friend
- Family Member
- Health Professional
- Clergy Member
- Administrator
- Police
- Other

5. **Even though it didn’t happen, someone TRIED to have oral sex with me, or make me have oral sex with them without my consent by:**

   a. Telling lies, threatening to end the relationship, threatening to spread rumors about me, making promises I knew were untrue, or continually verbally pressuring me after I said I didn’t want to.

   b. Showing displeasure, criticizing my sexuality or attractiveness, getting angry but not using physical force, after I said I didn’t want to.

   c. Taking advantage of me when I was too drunk or out of it to stop what was happening.

   d. Threatening to physically harm me or someone close to me.

   e. Using force, for example holding me down with their body weight, pinning my arms, or having a weapon.

**Follow-Up Question to Endorsement of 1 occurrence on SES:**

- This happened:
  - During a hook up
  - In an ongoing relationship
  - In an encounter with a stranger
  - Other

- In what hookup context did this event occur?
  - Stranger
  - Acquaintance
6. Even though it didn’t happen, a man TRIED to put his penis into my vagina, or someone tried to stick in fingers or objects without my consent by:

a. Telling lies, threatening to end the relationship, threatening to spread rumors about me, making promises I knew were untrue, or continually verbally pressuring me after I said I didn’t want to.  
   ![ ]  
   ![ ]  
   ![ ]  
   ![ ]

b. Showing displeasure, criticizing my sexuality or attractiveness, getting angry but not using physical force, after I said I didn’t want to.  
   ![ ]  
   ![ ]  
   ![ ]  
   ![ ]

c. Taking advantage of me when I was too drunk or out of it to stop what was happening.  
   ![ ]  
   ![ ]  
   ![ ]  
   ![ ]
Disclosing Sexual Assault Victimization to Others

happening.

d. Threatening to physically harm me or someone close to me. ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
e. Using force, for example holding me down with their body weight, pinning my arms, or having a weapon. ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

Follow-Up Question to Endorsement of 1 occurrence on SES:

- This happened:
  - During a hook up
  - In an ongoing relationship
  - In an encounter with a stranger
  - Other

- In what hookup context did this event occur?
  - Stranger
  - Acquaintance
  - Friend
  - Former Boyfriend/Girlfriend
  - Not Sure

- To whom (if anyone) did you disclose this event?
  - No one
  - Friend
  - Family Member
  - Health Professional
  - Clergy Member
  - Administrator
  - Police
  - Other

Follow-Up Questions to Endorsement of 2+ occurrences on SES:

- The most recent occurrence happened:
  - During a hook up
  - In an ongoing relationship
  - In an encounter with a stranger
  - Other

- In what hookup context did this event occur?
  - Stranger
  - Acquaintance
  - Friend
  - Former Boyfriend/Girlfriend
  - Not Sure

- To whom (if anyone) did you disclose this event?
  - No one
  - Friend
  - Family Member
  - Health Professional
  - Clergy Member
  - Administrator
  - Police
  - Other
7. **Even though it didn’t happen, a man TRIED to put his penis into my butt, or someone tried to stick in fingers or objects without my consent by:**

   a. Telling lies, threatening to end the relationship, threatening to spread rumors about me, making promises I knew were untrue, or continually verbally pressuring me after I said I didn’t want to. □ □ □ □
   b. Showing displeasure, criticizing my sexuality or attractiveness, getting angry but not using physical force, after I said I didn’t want to. □ □ □ □
   c. Taking advantage of me when I was too drunk or out of it to stop what was happening. □ □ □ □
   d. Threatening to physically harm me or someone close to me. □ □ □ □
   e. Using force, for example holding me down with their body weight, pinning my arms, or having a weapon. □ □ □ □

Follow-Up Question to Endorsement of 1 occurrence on SES:

- This happened:
  - During a hook up
  - In an ongoing relationship
  - In an encounter with a stranger
  - Other

- In what hookup context did this event occur?
  - Stranger
  - Acquaintance
  - Friend
  - Former Boyfriend/Girlfriend
  - Not Sure

- To whom (if anyone) did you disclose this event?
  - No one
  - Friend
  - Family Member
  - Health Professional
  - Clergy Member
  - Administrator
  - Police
  - Other

Follow-Up Questions to Endorsement of 2+ occurrences on SES:

- The most recent occurrence happened:
  - During a hook up
  - In an ongoing relationship
  - In an encounter with a stranger
  - Other
• In what hookup context did this event occur?
  o Stranger
  o Acquaintance
  o Friend
  o Former Boyfriend/Girlfriend
  o Not Sure

• To whom (if anyone) did you disclose this event?
  o No one
  o Friend
  o Family Member
  o Health Professional
  o Clergy Member
  o Administrator
  o Police
  o Other

8. Do you think you have ever been given a substance other than alcohol that has impaired your judgments? (yes/no)

9. Have you ever been raped while here at Bucknell?  Yes ☐  No ☐
Disclosing Sexual Assault Victimization to Others

Social Reactions Questionnaire (SQR; Ullman, 2000)

If the woman endorsed one or more items on the SES:

HOW OTHER PEOPLE RESPONDED...

The following is a list of behaviors that other people responding to a person with this experience often show. Please indicate how often you experienced each of the listed responses from other people by placing the appropriate number in the blank next to each item.

If the woman did not endorse any items on the SES:

HOW YOU WOULD EXPECT OTHERS TO RESPOND...

The following is a list of behaviors that other people responding to a person with this experience often show. Please indicate how often you would expect to experience each of the listed responses from other people if you believed you had been sexually assaulted by placing the appropriate number in the blank next to each item.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>0</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NEVER</td>
<td>RARELY</td>
<td>SOMETIMES</td>
<td>FREQUENTLY</td>
<td>ALWAYS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>TOLD YOU IT WAS NOT YOUR FAULT</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>PULLED AWAY FROM YOU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>WANTED TO SEEK REVENGE ON THE PERPETRATOR</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>TOLD OTHERS ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCE WITHOUT YOUR PERMISSION</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>DISTRANDED YOU WITH OTHER THINGS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>COMFORTED YOU BY TELLING YOU IT WOULD BE ALL RIGHT OR BY HOLDING YOU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>TOLD YOU HE/SHE FELT SORRY FOR YOU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>HELPED YOU GET MEDICAL CARE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>TOLD YOU THAT YOU WERE NOT TO BLAME</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>TREATED YOU DIFFERENTLY IN SOME WAY THAN BEFORE YOU TOLD HIM/HER THAT MADE YOU UNCOMFORTABLE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>TRIED TO TAKE CONTROL OF WHAT YOU DID/DECISIONS YOU MADE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>FOCUSED ON HIS/HER OWN NEEDS AND NEGLECTED YOURS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>TOLD YOU TO GO ON WITH YOUR LIFE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>HELD YOU OR TOLD YOU THAT YOU ARE LOVED</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>REASSURED YOU THAT YOU ARE A GOOD PERSON</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
16. ENCOURAGED YOU TO SEEK COUNSELING

17. TOLD YOU THAT YOU WERE TO BLAME OR SHAMEFUL BECAUSE OF THIS EXPERIENCE

18. AVOIDED TALKING TO YOU OR SPENDING TIME WITH YOU

19. MADE DECISIONS OR DID THINGS FOR YOU

20. SAID HE/SHE FEELS PERSONALLY WRONGED BY YOUR EXPERIENCE

21. TOLD YOU TO STOP THINKING ABOUT IT

22. LISTENED TO YOUR FEELINGS

23. SAW YOUR SIDE OF THINGS AND DID NOT MAKE JUDGMENTS

24. HELPED YOU GET INFORMATION OF ANY KIND ABOUT COPING WITH THE EXPERIENCE

25. TOLD YOU THAT YOU COULD HAVE DONE MORE TO PREVENT THIS EXPERIENCE FROM OCCURRING

26. ACTED AS IF YOU WERE DAMAGED GOODS OR SOMEHOW DIFFERENT NOW

27. TREATED YOU AS IF YOU WERE A CHILD OR SOMEHOW INCOMPETENT

28. EXPRESSED SO MUCH ANGER AT THE PERPETRATOR THAT YOU HAD TO CALM HIM/HER DOWN

29. TOLD YOU TO STOP TALKING ABOUT IT

30. SHOWED UNDERSTANDING OF YOUR EXPERIENCE

31. REFRAMED THE EXPERIENCE AS A CLEAR CASE OF VICTIMIZATION

32. TOOK YOU TO THE POLICE

33. TOLD YOU THAT YOU WERE IRRESPONSIBLE OR NOT CAUTIOUS ENOUGH

34. MINIMIZED THE IMPORTANCE OR SERIOUSNESS OF YOUR EXPERIENCE

35. SAID HE/SHE KNEW HOW YOU FELT WHEN HE/SHE REALLY DID NOT

36. HAS BEEN SO UPSET THAT HE/SHE NEEDED REASSURANCE FROM YOU

37. TRIED TO DISCOURAGE YOU FROM TALKING ABOUT THE EXPERIENCE

38. SHARED HIS/HER OWN EXPERIENCE WITH YOU

39. WAS ABLE TO REALLY ACCEPT YOUR ACCOUNT OF YOUR EXPERIENCE

40. SPENT TIME WITH YOU

41. TOLD YOU THAT YOU DID NOT DO ANYTHING WRONG
disclosing sexual assault victimization to others

___ 42. Made a joke or sarcastic comment about this type of experience
___ 43. Made you feel like you didn't know how to take care of yourself
___ 44. Said he/she feels you're tainted by this experience
___ 45. Encouraged you to keep the experience a secret
___ 46. Seemed to understand how you were feeling
___ 47. Believed your account of what happened
___ 48. Provided information and discussed options

(Additional Question)

___ 49. Told you that your accusation was wrong because you were too intoxicated to understand what was happening
Perceptions of Consent (Bogle, 2007)

Imagine that you are a member of a campus judicial board, which has to decide cases where a classmate has made a complaint against a current student. You have to decide if a student is guilty of anything and if so what penalty the student will receive. Penalties include things like: a) being asked to write a reflection paper, b) going to mandatory counseling sessions, etc. The most severe penalties a judicial board can give are suspension or permanent dismissal from the university.

In some cases, judicial boards have to decide cases involving sex between students. The judicial board has to decide if the sex was consensual or non-consensual. For each of the following scenarios, indicate whether you think the information given would lead you to believe the sex was consensual or non-consensual.

1) The student filing the complaint had 4 or 5 beers prior to sexual intercourse taking place.
   a. Probably consensual
   b. Probably non-consensual
   c. Not enough information to judge

2) The student filing the complaint had 4 or 5 shots prior to sexual intercourse taking place.
   a. Probably consensual
   b. Probably non-consensual
   c. Not enough information to judge

3) The student filing the complaint had 4 or 5 glasses of wine prior to sexual intercourse taking place.
   a. Probably consensual
   b. Probably non-consensual
   c. Not enough information to judge

4) The student filing the complaint was "legally drunk" (i.e., too drunk to drive) prior to sexual intercourse taking place.
   a. Probably consensual
   b. Probably non-consensual
   c. Not enough information to judge

5) The student filing the complaint and his/her sex partner were similarly intoxicated by the alcohol they consumed prior to sexual intercourse taking place.
   a. Probably consensual
   b. Probably non-consensual
   c. Not enough information to judge

6) The student filing the complaint was having difficulty walking straight (due to drinking alcohol) prior to sexual intercourse taking place.
   a. Probably consensual
   b. Probably non-consensual
   c. Not enough information to judge

7) The student filing the complaint vomited (due to drinking alcohol) prior to sexual intercourse taking place.
   a. Probably consensual
   b. Probably non-consensual
   c. Not enough information to judge
8) The student filing the complaint was slurring his/her speech (due to drinking alcohol) prior to sexual intercourse taking place.
   a. Probably consensual
   b. Probably non-consensual
   c. Not enough information to judge

9) The student filing the complaint was confused about the name of the sex partner (due to drinking alcohol) prior to the sexual intercourse taking place.
   a. Probably consensual
   b. Probably non-consensual
   c. Not enough information to judge

10) I believe a typical college female is too drunk to consent to sex after _______ number of alcoholic beverages.

11) I believe a typical college male is too drunk to consent to sex after _______ number of alcoholic beverages.

12) If a student was found to have had sex with another students when s/he was too drunk to consent, the most appropriate penalty would be:
   a. Write a reflection paper on why the behavior was wrong
   b. Go to mandatory counseling sessions
   c. Be placed on temporary suspension from the university
   d. Be permanently dismissed from the university

13) If a student was found to have had sex with another student when s/he was too drunk to consent, the matter should be turned over to the police for criminal prosecution.
   a. Strongly agree
   b. Agree
   c. Not sure
   d. Disagree
   e. Strongly disagree
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<td>3</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
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**Rape Myths Acceptance (RMA; Burt, 1980)**

1. A woman who goes to the home or apartment of a man on their first date implies that she is willing to have sex.
2. Any female can get raped.
3. One reason that women falsely report a rape is that they frequently have a need to call attention to themselves.
4. Any healthy woman can successfully resist a rapist if she really wants to.
5. When women go around braless or wearing short skirts and tight tops, they are just asking for trouble.
6. In the majority of rapes, the victim is promiscuous or has a bad reputation.
7. If a girl engages in necking or petting and she lets things get out of hand, it is her own fault if her partner forces sex on her.
8. Women who get raped while hitchhiking get what they deserve.
9. A woman who is stuck-up and thinks she is too good to talk to guys on the street deserves to be taught a lesson.
10. Many women have an unconscious wish to be raped, and may then unconsciously set up a situation in which they are likely to be attacked.
11. If a woman gets drunk at a party and has intercourse with a man then unconsciously set up a situation in which they are likely to be attacked.
12. If a woman gets drunk at a party and has intercourse with a man she’s just met there, she should be considered “fair game” to other males at the party who want to have sex with her too, whether she wants to or not.

13. What percentage of women who report a rape would you say are lying because they are angry and want to get back at the man they accuse?
   - Almost All
   - About ¾
   - About half
   - About ¼
   - Almost None

14. What percentage of reported rapes would you guess were merely invented by women who discovered they were pregnant and wanted to protect their own reputation?
   - Almost All
   - About ¾
   - About half
   - About ¼
   - Almost None
15. A person comes to you and claims they were raped. How likely would you be to believe their statement if the person were:

- Your best friend?
  - Always
  - Frequently
  - Sometimes
  - Rarely
  - Never

- An Indian woman?
  - Always
  - Frequently
  - Sometimes
  - Rarely
  - Never

- A neighborhood woman?
  - Always
  - Frequently
  - Sometimes
  - Rarely
  - Never

- A young boy?
  - Always
  - Frequently
  - Sometimes
  - Rarely
  - Never

- A black woman?
  - Always
  - Frequently
  - Sometimes
  - Rarely
  - Never

- A white woman?
  - Always
  - Frequently
  - Sometimes
  - Rarely
  - Never
The Effect of the Campus Climate Task Force Report

How strongly do you agree/disagree with the following statements made in the Campus Climate Task Force Report?

1. Lack of student intellectual engagement outside the classroom.
   - Strongly agree
   - Agree
   - Neutral
   - Disagree
   - Strongly disagree

2. Fraternity and sorority activities dominate the campus social life, with few students participating in non-Greek social opportunities.
   - Strongly agree
   - Agree
   - Neutral
   - Disagree
   - Strongly disagree

3. Excessive alcohol consumption combined with a party atmosphere which leads to inappropriate behavior.
   - Strongly agree
   - Agree
   - Neutral
   - Disagree
   - Strongly disagree

4. Lack of social spaces on campus that facilitate non-Greek social activities.
   - Strongly agree
   - Agree
   - Neutral
   - Disagree
   - Strongly disagree

5. Unhealthy and unequal gender dynamics that disempower female students.
   - Strongly agree
   - Agree
   - Neutral
   - Disagree
   - Strongly disagree

   - Strongly agree
   - Agree
   - Neutral
   - Disagree
   - Strongly disagree

7. Lack of diversity that leads to students from underrepresented backgrounds having difficulty fitting into Bucknell.
   - Strongly agree
   - Agree
8. To what extent do you agree with the following statement? My responses to this survey were affected to the release of the Campus Climate Task Force report.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
DEBRIEFING

You have now completed this survey. If you wish to be entered into a drawing for a chance to win one of ten randomly selected $50 cash prizes, please click on the box at the bottom of this page. Your email address will be sent to a secure file, randomized, and stored separately from your survey data. The program will only accept your email address once, so do not attempt to take the survey multiple times in hopes of increasing your chances at winning a prize. We encourage you to read the following information.

We want to express our sincere thanks for your help with this research. The kinds of questions asked in this type of research can sometimes be very difficult to answer, and we appreciate that you were willing to do this. We also want to remind you that your answers to all of these questions will be held in strict anonymity. There is no way that you can be identified as the person who has given these answers. All reports of this research will include results based solely on group averages, never on information given by any single individual.

We are conducting this research to understand better some of the factors related to sexual assault victimization and perpetration among college students. Some of these factors may include social interactions that victims and perpetrators have with their peers. We hope that this information will be useful both here at Bucknell, and in a more general sense for the understanding of sexual assault among college students.

If you are interested in finding out more about this and related topics of research, we recommend the following:


If you find that answering any of these questions has led to undue stress or other significant concerns with which you are having difficulty, please consider contacting one of the counselors at our Psychological Services Center on campus (call 577-1604 to schedule an appointment). Needing to talk with a professional counselor is not uncommon. A surprisingly high percentage of college students seek counseling and there is supported evidence that talking with someone about these kinds of problems can help a great deal.

Again, thank you very much for the information you have provided, and for your help with our research.
Table 1

*Demographics*

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<tr>
<th>Class Year</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sophomore</td>
<td>344</td>
<td>32.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Junior</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senior</td>
<td>36.6</td>
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<th>Age</th>
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<td>343</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>28.3</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>29.7</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>36.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>22+</td>
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<tr>
<th>Greek Affiliation</th>
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<td>344</td>
<td>63.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>% No</td>
<td>% Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------</td>
<td>------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disclosing Sexual Assault Victimization to Others 62</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>% No</td>
<td>36.3</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Varsity Athlete</td>
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<td>14.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parental Income</td>
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<tr>
<td>% 0-49,999</td>
<td>8.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>% 50,000-99,999</td>
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<tr>
<td>% 100,000-149,999</td>
<td>21.6</td>
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<td>% 150,000-199,999</td>
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<tr>
<td>% 200,000-249,999</td>
<td>10.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>% 250,000+</td>
<td>28.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Race/Ethnicity</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Caucasian</td>
<td>89.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>% African American</td>
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Disclosing Sexual Assault Victimization to Others 63

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>% Hispanic</td>
<td>4.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>% Asian/Asian-American</td>
<td>2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Native American</td>
<td>0.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>% Other</td>
<td>2.3</td>
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Religiosity $^a$

<table>
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<th>Frequency</th>
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<td>1-5</td>
<td>45.1</td>
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<td>6-10</td>
<td>29.3</td>
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<td>11-15</td>
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Sexual Attraction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>% Men</td>
<td>89.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Women</td>
<td>5.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Both men and women</td>
<td>4.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Neither men nor women</td>
<td>.3</td>
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</table>

Closest Friends Greek/non-Greek
Disclosing Sexual Assault Victimization to Others 64

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<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>n</td>
<td>341</td>
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<tr>
<td>% Greek</td>
<td>65.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% non-Greek</td>
<td>34.3</td>
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</table>

Closest Friends Varsity/non-Varsity

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>n</td>
<td>343</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Varsity athletes</td>
<td>19.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% non-Varsity athletes</td>
<td>81.0</td>
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*a* The sum of the items measuring Religiosity yielded scores ranging from 0-15. To quantify Religiosity, the measure was broken into four parts to indicate a participant’s level of religiosity (0 – not religious; 1-5 – somewhat religious; 6-10 – very religious; 11-15 – extremely religious).
Table 2

*Prevalence rates and frequencies of reported sexual assault victimization (n = 345)*

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<tr>
<th>Victimization Type</th>
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<tr>
<td>Fondling</td>
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<tr>
<td>Overall Attempted</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oral</td>
<td>44</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vaginal</td>
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<td>Anal</td>
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<td>Overall Completed</td>
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<td>19.2</td>
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<td>Vaginal</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>12.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Overall Assault</td>
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