Coercive Behavior's Effects on Identity Formation

Lisa A. Savastano
College of William & Mary - Arts & Sciences

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COERCIVE BEHAVIOR'S EFFECTS
ON IDENTITY FORMATION

A Thesis
Presented to
The Faculty of the Department of Psychology
The College of William and Mary in Virginia

In Partial Fulfillment
Of the Requirements for the Degree of
Masters of Arts

by
Lisa A. Savastano
1992
APPROVAL SHEET

This thesis is submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

Masters of Arts

Author

Approved, May 1992

Deborah G. Ventis

Adrian Tomer

Philip W. Meilman

ii
DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to Albert J. and Maureen Savastano and Douglas O. Brady. Their encouragement, love and support has been essential over the years, and has been the foundation for this achievement.

I would also like to acknowledge the four most precious men in my life, Nicholas, Jeffrey, Jared, and Justin. Know that with love and support you can achieve all of your dreams.
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author is grateful to Professor Deborah G. Ventis for her patience and guidance under which this study was conducted. She also wishes to thank Philip W. Meilman for his critical readings of this manuscript and Adrian Tomer for his critical readings, and invaluable statistical help.
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ABSTRACT

Past researchers have examined the relationship between date rape and gender roles, attributions, and well being. However, very few studies explored the relationship between coercive sexual behavior and adolescent sexual identity formation (the amount of trust and intimacy formed in relationships, how comfortable an adolescent feels exploring sexual activities, and gender role stereotyping). In addition, no single study to date has incorporated all the aspects (e.g., age of the victim, degree of coercion) of a coercive sexual incident in relation to victims' outcome. The purpose of this study was to examine the multi-facets of this phenomenon and its relationship to sexual identity formation. Based on previous research it was expected that the age of the victim at the time of the incident and the degree of coercion the adolescent experienced would be the best predictors of sexual identity formation. One hundred and seventy preselected females (mean age = 19.18, SD = .89) participated in the study. All participants received class credit. All participants were asked to complete a (a) demographic questionnaire, (b) Revised Relationship Satisfaction Scale, (c) Attitudes Toward Women Scale -- short version, (d) Revised Sexual Satisfaction Scale, (e) Modified Sexual Experience Survey, (f) questionnaire examining different aspects of the coercive incident, and (g) Degree of Traumatization Measure. The results indicated that the different aspects of a coercive incident predicted how comfortable an adolescent feels exploring sexual behavior. Although the degree of coercion and the victims' age at the time of the incident did not account for most of the variance some interesting relationships emerged between these two factors and other aspects of the incident. Results concerning traumatization of the victim, blame and responsibility, and the victim perpetrator relationship are also discussed.
A COMPREHENSIVE VIEW OF A COERCIVE SEXUAL INCIDENT:
IMPLICATIONS FOR SEXUAL IDENTITY FORMATION
Coercive sexual behavior can be defined as any sexual behavior (e.g., kissing or intercourse) performed against a person's will. Coercion can take the form of physical force, threats, or bribes. Within the past 10 years, many studies have examined the prevalence of coercive behavior and its effects on a victim's well being (e.g., depression and self-esteem). Other areas that have been explored include attributional factors of blame and responsibility, risk factors, characteristics of the male perpetrator, gender role stereotypes, and the effects of the coercion on the victim's relationship quality and sexual functioning. For purposes of this report the latter three areas (gender role stereotyping, relationship quality, and sexual functioning and/or exploration) will be referred to as sexual identity formation.

Many researchers who study coercive sexual behavior recognize that: (a) most of the victims are female and between the ages of 16-24 (e.g., Koss, Dinero, Seibal, & Cox, 1988), (b) many of these incidents are not reported to the police or any other authorities, and (c) coercive behavior is a multi-faceted phenomenon that at this time leaves us unable to predict the course of recovery for victims (Koss & Burkhart, 1989). For instance, while some victims become apprehensive about sexual experimentation
others become promiscuous in their sexual behavior.

This research is designed to examine the many aspects of a coercive incident (i.e., if the coercion was physical or emotional, the degree of coercion, the age at which the coercion occurred, the degree to which the experience was traumatic, and the victim's perception of the incident) and its relation to the victim's progressive resolution of the task of sexual identity formation.

**Coercive Sexual Behavior and Date Rape**

Many studies demonstrate a high prevalence of coercive behavior especially during the high school and college years. One of the first and most comprehensive studies discovered that in a sample of 3,187 female higher education students across the U.S. 53.8% had experienced some form of sexual coercion since the age of 14. Out of this 53.8%, 15.4% have met the legal definition of rape (Koss, Gidycz & Wisniewski, 1987). Many other researchers either concur with or exceed these findings (e.g., Craig, Kalichman, & Follingstad, 1989; Koss et al., 1988; Miller & Marshall, 1987). For instance, Aizenman and Kelley (1988) found that 22% of the females in their college sample had been date raped. Muehlenhard & Linton (1987) discovered that 77.6% of the females in their high school sample had experienced sexual aggression. Finally, Yegidis (1986) predicts that 1 out of every 10 college women are at risk for some form of coercive sexual behavior within a given year.

Another disturbing fact is that this coercive behavior
occurs more often between intimates than between strangers or even non-romantic acquaintances (Koss et al., 1988). One of the lines of research that has emerged, consequently, is an examination of the differences and similarities between stranger and acquaintance rape. Differences that have emerged between these two groups include: (a) stranger rape victims are attacked more than once during the incident vs. acquaintance rape where the victims are only attacked one time, (b) stranger rape victims rate their offender as more aggressive than acquaintance rape victims, (c) victims of stranger rape attribute more responsibility to the offender (Koss et al., 1988) (d) females in general attribute more responsibility to victims of acquaintance rape than victims of stranger rape (Tetreault & Barnett, 1987), and (e) date rapes are more commonly attributed to misunderstandings than stranger rapes (Bridges & McGrail, 1989). These last three differences indicate that victims and the population at large view date rape as less serious than stranger rape. This may have important ramifications in the recovery process.

Although there are differences between stranger and date rape victims, Koss et al. (1988) discovered that victims of both stranger and acquaintance rape share the same psychological experiences such as depression, anxiety, changes in relationship quality, and sexual satisfaction. Therefore, when Rose (1986) describes stranger rape victims as: (a) mistrusting others and themselves or losing their
basic sense of trust, (b) experiencing disruption in their relationships, and (c) withdrawing from sexual activity for a substantial period of time, we might expect the same symptoms to occur in acquaintance rape victims. However, there is evidence to the contrary. For instance, Savastano and Ventis (1992) discovered that some women (those who had a coercive experience within the past year and a half) who experience high degrees of coercive behavior feel more comfortable exploring sexual activities. Burkhart (1983; as cited in Parrot 1989) also discovered that some victims exhibit indiscriminate sexual behavior. Similar results have been found in other studies (Koss & Burkhart, 1989; Roth, Wayland, & Woolsey, 1990; Warshaw, 1988) especially within the adolescent population (Lyons, 1987 as cited in Gallers & Lawrence, 1991).

Because coercive incidents are such complicated phenomena these contradictory results are not surprising. For instance, incidents vary in: (a) the age of the victim, (b) the type of coercion (i.e., physical or emotional), (c) whether or not formal or informal counseling was obtained, (d) how traumatic the experience was for the person, (e) the level of coercive behavior, (f) the nature of the perpetrator, (g) alcohol use, and (h) the victim's perception of the incident. These variables interacting with each other may account for different outcomes. Therefore it is important to examine these variables in one comprehensive study.
Perception and Alcohol Use

One of the most investigated aspects of a coercive incident is the consumption of alcohol either by the victim, the offender, or both. (Aizenman & Kelley, 1988; Koss et al., 1988; Miller & Marshall, 1987; Yegidis, 1986). These differences (i.e., alcohol vs. no alcohol and who was drinking) are important because they may change the victim's perception of blame and responsibility for the occurrence of a coercive incident. It is then these perceptions that may be helpful in predicting the victim's post-incident behavior.

The effects of alcohol on perception have been previously studied (Critchlow, 1985; Richardson & Campbell, 1987). The results indicate that when a male is drinking he is assigned less responsibility for his actions and therefore, he is assigned less blame for the occurrence of the incident. However, when the female is drinking she is attributed greater responsibility and blame for the occurrence of the incident (Richardson & Campbell, 1987). It is important to note, however, that this research focuses on others' perceptions of coercive incidents and not the victims' perceptions themselves.

Sexual Identity Formation and Coercive Sexual Behavior in Adolescence

Adolescence, the time in which most coercive sexual behavior occurs, is characterized by Erikson (1950) as the time when young people learn to form intimacy and trust
within a relationship. This is also a time when individuals begin to express autonomy and to explore their own ideas and feelings towards all aspects of life. One of the areas of exploration can be defined as sexual development or sexual identity formation (Miller & Simon, 1980).

Throughout the literature at least three social aspects (as opposed to the biological aspects) of sexual identity formation have been defined: (a) the amount of trust and intimacy in relationships with the opposite sex (Erikson, 1950), (b) sexual activity (exploration), and (c) the formation of gender role stereotypes (Miller & Simon, 1980). These three aspects are usually defined after years of exploration and consideration of social norms and friends' and families' belief systems. By the end of adolescence individuals begin to form their own ideas and values concerning these matters and, thus, their own unique sexual identity (Josselson, 1980; Marcia, 1980; Miller & Simon, 1980).

Although theorists like Freud and Erikson believe sexual identity is linked to early experiences, Miller and Simon (1980) believe the expression of aspects of sexual identity formation is contingent upon the events in adolescence. Thus how the three aspects of sexual identity formation are expressed may depend on the occurrence and degree of coercive sexual behavior. For instance, Everstine and Everstine (1989; as cited in Gallers and Lawrence 1991), state that rape during adolescence may cause considerable
damage to a victim's sexual identity formation. Many other researchers also agree that rape in adolescence can have significant negative effects on the victim's trust and sexual functioning (Bateman, 1991; Gallers & Lawrence, 1991; Gidycz & Koss, 1991; Hughes & Sandler, 1987; Parrot, 1989; Strand, 1985; Warshaw, 1988). Savastano and Ventis (1992) found a trend which indicated this be especially true when the rape occurs in earlier (under the age of 17) as opposed to later (those between the age of 18-22) adolescence.

Why are the effects more devastating for adolescents than others who have experienced sexual coercion? There are three possible reasons why adolescents experience more acute symptoms than other victims of sexual coercion. First, they are young so they may not have had "good" experiences with relationships or sexual activity to help counteract this negative experience (Warshaw, 1988). Second, for various reasons they do not tell others about the rape and therefore they go through the experience alone (Warshaw, 1988). Third, these victims, as adolescents, are unlikely to have reached an adult level of cognitive functioning that might help to mitigate the effects of sexual assault (Koss & Burkhart, 1989).

Another question which needs to be answered is: why are adolescents at such a high risk to experience sexual coercion? First, there is peer pressure to conform (Bateman, 1991; Roden, 1991), second, they believe they are "invincible," (Elkind, 1974; Muuss, 1988) third, they trust
blindly, fourth, they lack maturity and experience in dealing with difficult dating interactions, fifth, they have low self-esteem (Bechhofer & Parrot, 1991), and sixth, they like to take risks (Strand, 1985). Finally, and most importantly, many adolescents adhere to gender role stereotyping (Calhoun & Townsley, 1991; Parrot, 1989; Roden, 1991; White & Humphrey, 1991). These adolescents believe that when a girl says no she means yes, boys are supposed to try to go "all the way", and that it is the woman's responsibility to satisfy a man's sexual urges (Bateman, 1991). One of the most shocking results, however, is that many of these adolescents believe, that under certain circumstances (e.g., when the man pays), men have the right to perform coercive sexual acts (Aizenman & Kelley, 1988; Goodchilds, Zellman, Johnson, & Giarrusso, 1988).

**Gender role stereotyping**

One of the most studied aspects of sexual identity formation is gender role stereotyping. This is especially true in the field of coercive sexual behavior. However, many studies show contradictory results in terms of the victim's gender roles. One model of gender role stereotyping states that both males and females who hold more traditional stereotypical views are more accepting of, and more likely to be involved in, coercive sexual behavior. For instance, Fischer (1986) suggests that females with more traditional stereotypical roles are at a higher risk for victimization. Greater victimization of more traditional
women also receives support in other literature. Muehlenhard and Linton (1987) discovered that sexual aggression is more likely to occur when the man drives and when he pays for the date. Both of these behaviors are characteristic of traditional roles in society.

Conversely, the other model states that the victims of coercive sexual behavior are less traditional. Muehlenhard and Linton (1987) found that less traditional women were victimized more than traditional women. Evidence to support this comes from studies on stereotypes and drinking. For instance Gomberg (1976) suggests that female drunkenness is considered a violation of appropriate norms; George, Gournic, and McAfee (1988) found that women who drink are seen as more aggressive, a male stereotype. Thus, because women do drink during coercive incidents, and female drinking is considered to be non-stereotypical, the victims of coercive incidents may be perceived as nontraditional women.

**Design and Hypotheses**

As mentioned throughout the paper, coercive sexual behavior is a multi-faceted phenomenon that has no clear consequence, especially in terms of sexual identity formation. This study is exploratory in nature. It is designed to examine many of the aspects of a coercive incident and to look at their relationship to sexual identity formation. Although this is a complicated issue a number of predictions can be made.
The hypotheses are as follows:

1. Women who are drinking during the incident are expected to have less traditional stereotypes than women who are not drinking during the incident.

2. The age at which the incident occurred and the level of coercive behavior are expected to be the two factors having the most influence on sexual identity formation. In addition, the possibility that the age at which the incident occurs may affect other factors of the incident (e.g., if emotional or physical coercion was used, if others were told, etc.) will also be explored.

The relationships of these variables are depicted in 5 different models. See Appendix A for the specific relationships among the variables and the type of analyses which will be utilized in exploring these relationships.

Method

Participants

One hundred and seventy preselected (see Procedure for selection procedures), female students from a liberal arts college Fall 1991 and Spring 1992 Introductory Psychology classes participated in this study. Participants were preselected (see below) to insure that a range of coercive sexual behaviors was explored. The mean age was 19.18 with a standard deviation of .89. All of the participants received class credit.
Materials

Demographic questionnaire.

The demographic questionnaire included questions about the participants age, year in college and sexual orientation (see Appendix B for full details).

Revised Relationship Satisfaction Scale.

This questionnaire is a revised measure of the Relationship Satisfaction Scale developed by Koss et al. (1988). All of the participants were asked to rate their satisfaction with relationships of the opposite sex on a seven point scale (see Appendix C for full scale).

Short version of the Attitudes Toward Women's Scale (AWS).

The AWS is a 25 item scale developed by Spence, Helmreich and Stapp (1978). This questionnaire is designed to measure attitudes towards the role of women in society. It was adapted from the original 55 item Attitudes Toward Women Scale. The correlation between women's scores on the 55 item questionnaire and the 25 item questionnaire was .969. This was significant at the $p < .001$ (see Appendix D for full scale).

Revised Sexual Satisfaction Scale.

Koss's et al. (1988) scale was revised to assess how comfortable an adolescent feels performing sexual activities rather than the satisfaction they receive from engaging in them. This is a seven-point scale. (see Appendix E for full scale).
Modified Sexual Experience Survey (MSES).

This is a 5-item questionnaire that was modified, by Gidycz and Koss (1989), from the original 10-item questionnaire developed by Koss and Oros (1982). The survey is a self report measure in which all the questions are answered in yes-no format. The original measure has an internal consistency of .74 for women (Koss & Gidycz, 1985). In a study of test-retest reliability (Koss & Gidycz, 1985) a 93% mean item agreement was found between the two administrations (see appendix F for full scale).

Aspects of the coercive sexual incident questionnaire.

On this questionnaire, victims were asked to remember their most traumatic sexually coercive incident. The questionnaire consists of several different aspects of the incident including questions about the age of the victim at the time of the incident, whether or not they told anyone about the incident, who they told, the relationship of the victim to the offender (Roth, Wayland, & Woolsey, 1990), whether or not alcohol was used, if they saw the incident as coercive, and who or what they blamed for the occurrence of the incident (see Appendix G for full scale).

Degree of Traumatization Measure.

This questionnaire is designed to measure the degree to which the event was traumatic for the individual. It is comprised of all the common symptoms mentioned in research (Cerio, 1989; Hilberman, 1976 as cited in Gallers & Lawrence, 1991; Gidycz & Koss, 1991; Hughes & Sandler, 1987;

Because not all victims experience symptoms directly after the assault (Warshaw, 1988), they were asked how long after the incident they began to experience the symptoms and the degree to which they experienced them, on a 7-point scale (see Appendix H for full scale).

**Procedure**

Most of the participants were preselected from their responses on the Modified Sexual Experience Survey. A preselection process was used to insure that a continuum of coercive behaviors would be represented in this study. However, once there was a person assigned to each category (0-5; assignment was made on the basis of the highest degree of coercion the person experienced) subjects were chosen on a random basis. However, towards the end of the study women who had experienced sexual coercion were more frequently asked to participate in the study than the students who had not experienced any form of sexual coercion. This procedure was used to guarantee that enough women would fill out the Traumatization Scale so a factor analysis could be conducted.

Fifty-seven non-victimized students and 111 victimized students were asked to participate in the study. Once they were contacted by phone they were asked to come in and fill out a number of questionnaires.

When the participants arrived they were given a numbered packet. The nature of the study was explained to
them, and it was emphasized that all of their answers would remain anonymous and that they were free to leave the study at any time. After the explanation the participants were asked to complete the consent form.

After all of the consent forms were collected the participants were instructed to open their packets and to fill out all of the questionnaires as honestly as possible. The questionnaires were ordered in such a way that the answers on one questionnaire would not influence the answers on another with the more sensitive questionnaires put towards the end of the packet. The order of the questionnaires was as follows: (a) the demographic questionnaire, (b) the relationship questionnaire, (c) the AWS scale, (d) the sexual satisfaction scale, (e) the Modified Sexual Experience Survey, (f) the questionnaire concerning different aspects of the incident, (g) the trauma rating scale. The reason the participants were asked to respond a second time to the Modified Sexual Experience Survey (they were preselected on this measure) was to guarantee anonymity. Therefore, once the individual entered the study her preselected measure was no longer used and she could only be identified by the number on her packet (no name or social security number was known). When the participants were finished they were thanked for their participation and all questions were answered.
Results

Preselection Data

The students were preselected from two different samples. In the first sample (Fall Introductory Psychology classes) 26% of the students had experienced some form of coercion in their lives. In comparison, 24% of the second sample (Spring Introductory Psychology classes) had experienced coercion during their life time.

Study Results

Data analyses were performed on 168 out of the 170 participants in this study. Two of the participants were dropped from the analyses because of inconsistencies in their data.

Percentages.

The data revealed that 66% of the participants in the study had experienced some form of coercive sexual behavior in their lives. Of this 66%, 3% had experienced coercive sexual intercourse where the aggressor had threatened to hurt or had actually tried to hurt the participant. In addition, 24% experienced coercive intercourse when the offender argued or pressured the participant. Table 1 shows the percentage of women who have experienced the various levels of coercive behavior. Table 2 illustrates the different levels of coercive behavior and the percentage of women which indicated that particular behavior as their most severe. In addition 88% of the 66% who experienced sexual coercion were argued with or pressured into the act while
of coercive sexual behavior. All questions begin with the phrase "Have you had a man or boy:"

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>N</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17.0</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21.0</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.5</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>107.0</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Percentages do not equal 100% because some of the participants experienced more than one type of coercive behavior.

Table 1
Table 1.2: Degrees of Coercive Behavior and the Percentage of Women for Whom That Behavior was Their Most Severe

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question (Degrees of Coercive Behavior)</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0. Experienced no form of coercive behavior.</td>
<td>34.0</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Touch your sex organs or try to kiss you when you didn't want to</td>
<td>36.0</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Touch your sex organs or try to kiss you when you didn't want to</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Try to have sexual intercourse when you didn't want to by saying he would hurt you or try to hurt you.</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Would hurt you or tried to hurt you, but sexual intercourse didn't occur.</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Have you had sexual intercourse with a boy or man when you didn't want to because he argued with you or pressured you.</td>
<td>22.0</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Have you had sexual intercourse with a boy or man when you didn't want to because he said he would hurt you or actually try to hurt you.</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Numbers 1-5 begin with the phrase &quot;Have you had a man or boy:&quot; N=168.</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Numbers 1-5 begin with the phrase "Have you had a man or boy:" N=168.
12% were forced or told they would be hurt. For the remainder of the paper we will refer to the former coercion as verbal pressuring and the latter as verbal and physical threat.

Frequency analyses also disclosed that in 40% of the victims' most severe coercive incidents the perpetrator was a boyfriend or lover. In addition 16% of the perpetrators were dates. See Table 3 for a listing of offenders and the percentage of incidents for which they were the perpetrators for the victims' most severe coercive experiences.

It was also discovered that alcohol was used in 47% of the victims' most traumatic coercive incidents. See Table 4 for the percentages of who was drinking during the incident. Furthermore, 63% of the victims told someone about their worst incident. See Table 5 for the percentages of who the victims told and Table 6 for the reasons why the other 37% of the victims did not confide in anyone.

Finally, frequency analyses revealed that 73% of the victims were between the ages of 16-18 when their most severe coercive incident occurred (see Table 7).

**Factor Analysis.**

A principal components analysis was conducted on the Traumatization Scale. Based on the scree test two common factors were extracted. Subsequently, a factor analysis using an oblique rotation was conducted. Because two of the 16 items loaded highly on both of the factors it was decided to drop these two items so that relatively pure factors
Table 3

Types of Perpetrators and the Percentage of Incidents in which they were the Offenders

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of Perpetrators</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Percentages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stranger</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Someone you've seen before but he was not a friend or an acquaintance</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friend</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>14.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acquaintance</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>15.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boyfriend or lover</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>37.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Husband</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher or Professor</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employer</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relative other than father or stepfather</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father or stepfather</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (e.g., co-worker, baby sitter)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Fifty seven participants did not have a perpetrator (they did not experience coercive behavior) Four out of the 111 victims did not answer this question. N=107.
Table 4

Percentages of Who was Drinking During the Victims' Most Severe Coercive Experience

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who was Drinking</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Percentages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No-one</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female Only</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male Only</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Both</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: One victim did not answer this question. N=110.
Table 5  
Percentages of Who the Victims Told about their Most Traumatic Incidents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who the Victims Told</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Percentages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parent</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friend</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counselor</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sibling</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (usually boyfriend)</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The percentages do not equal 100% because many of the victims confided in more than one person. Thirty-seven percent did not confide in anyone. N=71.
Table 6

Reasons why the Victims did not Tell Anyone about their Most Traumatic Incident

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reasons</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Percentages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Embarrassment, shame</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>22.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Didn't view it as a &quot;big deal&quot;</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>30.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Others wouldn't see it as a &quot;big deal&quot;</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Confused, unsure, didn't know what to do</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. My (victim's) fault</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>15.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Worked it out together, misunderstanding</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Because of who the offender was</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Didn't want to believe the incident occurred</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Didn't think anyone would believe her</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. It wasn't anyone's business</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Other</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: One person did not give a reason for not telling anyone. N=40.
Table 7

Ages of the Victims at the Time of their Most Traumatic Incident

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ages</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Percentages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>8.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>16.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>18.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>31.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>8.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: N=111.
could be obtained. Another factor analysis was then conducted after removing the items which measured (a) the degree to which the victim experienced nightmares and (b) the degree to which the victim alienated themselves from friends and family (the two high loading factors). This second analysis revealed two distinct factors. The first factor appears to represent the negative feelings an individual could experience after being victimized. The second factor seems to characterize the self-destructive behaviors that many victims tend to engage in. See Table 8 for the loadings of the 14 items on the two factors from the second factor analysis.

After the second factor analysis was completed, standardized factor scores were analyzed for the 111 participants who had experienced coercion. These scores were then used in the multiple regression equations.

**Regressions and Correlations.**

In order to perform some of the regression analyses the 12 perpetrator categories were made into five smaller groups: (a) stranger, (b) know the perpetrator, (c) family member, (d) romantic perpetrator, (e) other. The participants were placed in the "stranger" category if they had said the perpetrator was a stranger or someone they had seen before but he was not a friend or acquaintance. If the participant stated that it was a friend or an acquaintance then they were placed in the group where they "know" the perpetrator. Participants grouped in the "romantic"
## Table 8

**Loadings of the 14 Items from the Traumatization Scale**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Items (Symptoms)</th>
<th>Factor 1 Negative Feelings</th>
<th>Factor 2 Destructive Behaviors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anxiety</td>
<td>.71</td>
<td>.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depression</td>
<td>.58</td>
<td>.28 **</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fear</td>
<td>.74</td>
<td>.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doubt in your ability to judge others</td>
<td>.59</td>
<td>-.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feel like you have no control</td>
<td>.63</td>
<td>-.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low self-esteem</td>
<td>.64</td>
<td>.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Withdrew from school or social activities</td>
<td>.27</td>
<td>.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engaged in self destructive or risk taking behaviors</td>
<td>.10</td>
<td>.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Began to abuse drugs or alcohol</td>
<td>-.08</td>
<td>.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Embarrassment</td>
<td>.76</td>
<td>-.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helplessness</td>
<td>.81</td>
<td>.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>See the world as an unjust place</td>
<td>.54</td>
<td>.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sense of being &quot;Shaken&quot;</td>
<td>.71</td>
<td>.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Degree to which it was emotionally painful</td>
<td>.78</td>
<td>.10 **</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Participants were asked to rate the degree to which they experienced the above symptoms. N=110 ** N=109.
perpetrator category said the offender was either a date, boyfriend, or lover. The "family" category consisted of participants who said the perpetrator was any type of relative. Participants who stated that the perpetrator was someone different then the people stated above were placed in the "other" category.

Three multiple regressions were conducted on the three aspects of sexual identity (how trusting the adolescent is in relationships as measured by the Revised Relationship Scale, the degree to which they feel comfortable engaging in sexual behavior as measured by the Revised Sexual Satisfaction Scale, and gender role stereotyping as measured by the AWS). In the first equations the predicting variables were (a) the degree of coercive behavior the participant experienced, (b) if they told anyone about the incident, (c) the type of coercion used (verbal pressure or verbal and physical threat), (d) the degree to which the victim saw the incident as coercive, (e) the age of the victim at the time of the incident, (f) the degree to which the victim experienced negative feelings (Factor 1 on the traumatic scale), (g) the degree to which the victims engaged in self-destructive acts (Factor 2 on the traumatic scale), and (h) relationship of the victim and the offender (using the 5 categories specified above). These variables were significant predictors only for the degree to which these adolescents felt comfortable exploring sexual activities $F(11, 90) = 2.40, \ p = .01, R^2 = .23$. See Table
9 for the Beta coefficients and probabilities for each predictor variable. Although the relationship of the victim to the perpetrator did not predict the degree to which the participants could feel trust and intimacy in relationships with members of the opposite sex a subsequent correlation analysis revealed that the victim-offender relationship and trust are negatively correlated when the perpetrator is a family member $r(105) = -0.22$, $p < .01$. If the offender is a family member then the adolescent is less trusting in relationships with the opposite sex.

For the second set of equations the predicting variables were who the participants confided in about their most coercive experience (friend, sibling, parent, teacher, counselor, police, other). The predicting variables for the third set of regressions were degree to which the victim blamed and held the female, male, and alcohol responsible for the incident. None of the above variables, for either regression, were predictive of the three aspects of sexual identity formation.

Further multiple regressions revealed a high predictive ability for (a) gender role stereotyping, (b) the degree of coercive behavior experienced by the participants, (c) the type of coercion which was used during the incident, (d) if they told anyone about the incident, (e) the relationship of the victim to the offender, (f) the degree to which the adolescents feel comfortable exploring sexual activities, (g) the degree to which the participants can
Table 9  
Multiple Regression Coefficients for the Prediction of how Comfortable Adolescents Feel Exploring Sexual Behavior

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>Beta</th>
<th>T</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Degree of coercion experienced</td>
<td>0.97</td>
<td>0.37</td>
<td>3.45**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If the victims told anyone</td>
<td>0.93</td>
<td>0.10</td>
<td>0.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perpetrator, family category</td>
<td>-3.06</td>
<td>-0.19</td>
<td>-1.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perpetrator, other category</td>
<td>3.32</td>
<td>0.15</td>
<td>1.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of coercion</td>
<td>-2.52</td>
<td>-0.19</td>
<td>-1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Degree victim saw the incident</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as coercive</td>
<td>0.26</td>
<td>0.09</td>
<td>0.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perpetrator, stranger category</td>
<td>-3.05</td>
<td>-0.23</td>
<td>-2.07*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engage in self-destructive behavior (Factor 2)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>-0.70</td>
<td>-0.16</td>
<td>-1.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perpetrator, romantic category</td>
<td>-1.35</td>
<td>-0.16</td>
<td>-1.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age when the incident occurred</td>
<td>-0.24</td>
<td>-0.17</td>
<td>-1.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experience negative feelings (Factor 1)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>-0.44</td>
<td>-0.10</td>
<td>-0.76</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Type of coercion is marginally significant $p = .058$.

* $p < .05$  **$p < .01$

$R^2 = .23$, $p = .01$
experience trust and intimacy within relationships, (h) the
degree to which the participant viewed the incident as coercive, and (i) the age of the victim at the time of the incident on the degree of traumatization experienced by the victim. These factors were predictive of the degree to which the participants experience negative feelings (Factor 1) $F(12, 89) = 5.43, p < .001, R^2 = .42$ and the degree to which they engaged in self destructive behaviors (Factor 2) $F(12, 89) = 3.10, p < .001, R^2 = .29$. See Table 10 for the Beta coefficients and the probabilities for each predictor variable for Factor 1 and Table 11 for the Beta coefficients and probabilities for each predictor variable for Factor 2. Although the degree of coercion the participant experienced was not predictive of the first factor (negative feelings) correlation analyses revealed that these two variables are significantly related $r(106) = .25, p < .01$.

Another multiple regression analysis discovered that gender role stereotyping and degree to which the participants feel comfortable exploring sexual behaviors significantly predict the degree of coercion experienced by the participant $F(2, 165) = 5.88, p < .005, R^2 = .07$. See Table 12 for the Beta coefficients and the probabilities for each predictor variable. In addition, correlational analyses examined the relationship between gender role stereotyping and if the female was drinking during the coercive incident. However, this correlation was not significant.
Table 10

Multiple Regression Coefficients for the Prediction of the Degree to which the Victims will Experience Negative Feelings (Factor 1)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>Beta</th>
<th>T</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gender role stereotyping</td>
<td>.00</td>
<td>.06</td>
<td>0.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Degree of Coercion experienced</td>
<td>.09</td>
<td>.15</td>
<td>1.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If the victims told anyone</td>
<td>.46</td>
<td>.23</td>
<td>2.52**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perpetrator, family category</td>
<td>-.34</td>
<td>-.09</td>
<td>-0.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perpetrator, other category</td>
<td>-.42</td>
<td>-.08</td>
<td>-0.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Degree feel trust in relationships</td>
<td>-.02</td>
<td>-.07</td>
<td>-0.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of coercion</td>
<td>.23</td>
<td>.08</td>
<td>0.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Degree victim saw the incident as coercive</td>
<td>.30</td>
<td>.46</td>
<td>5.00**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perpetrator, stranger category</td>
<td>-.61</td>
<td>-.20</td>
<td>-2.03*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Degree feel comfortable exploring</td>
<td>-.03</td>
<td>-.13</td>
<td>-1.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sexual activities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perpetrator, romantic category</td>
<td>-.12</td>
<td>-.06</td>
<td>-0.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age when the incident occurred</td>
<td>-.07</td>
<td>-.19</td>
<td>-1.64</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* p<.05    **p<.01

R² = .42, p = .00
### Table 11

**Multiple Regression Coefficients for the Prediction of the Degree to which the Victims Engage in Self-Destructive Behavior (Factor 2)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>Beta</th>
<th>T</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gender role stereotyping</td>
<td>-0.00</td>
<td>-0.02</td>
<td>-0.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Degree of Coercion experienced</td>
<td>0.22</td>
<td>0.36</td>
<td>3.53**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If the victims told anyone</td>
<td>0.41</td>
<td>0.20</td>
<td>2.01*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perpetrator, family category</td>
<td>-0.25</td>
<td>-0.07</td>
<td>-0.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perpetrator, other category</td>
<td>1.73</td>
<td>0.32</td>
<td>3.15**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Degree feel trust in relationships</td>
<td>-0.01</td>
<td>-0.05</td>
<td>-0.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of coercion</td>
<td>0.04</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>0.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Degree victim saw the incident</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as coercive</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>0.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perpetrator, stranger category</td>
<td>-0.26</td>
<td>-0.09</td>
<td>-0.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Degree feel comfortable exploring</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sexual activities</td>
<td>-0.03</td>
<td>-0.17</td>
<td>-1.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perpetrator, romantic category</td>
<td>-0.14</td>
<td>-0.07</td>
<td>-0.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age when the incident occurred</td>
<td>-0.04</td>
<td>-0.12</td>
<td>-0.90</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* $p < .05$  **$p < .01$  

$R^2 = .29$, $p = .001$
Table 12

Multiple Regression Coefficients for the Prediction of the Degree of Sexual Coercion the Female Experiences

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>Beta</th>
<th>T</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gender role stereotyping</td>
<td>-0.01</td>
<td>-0.03</td>
<td>-0.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Degree feel comfortable</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>exploring sexual behavior</td>
<td>0.10</td>
<td>0.26</td>
<td>3.43**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**p < .01

R² = .07, p = .001
Further correlation analyses revealed a significant, positive relationship between the degree to which the participants feel comfortable exploring sexual activities and the amount of trust and intimacy they feel in relationships with the opposite sex $r(165) = .35, p < .001$. Furthermore, it was discovered that the less the participants believed that "women should not be encouraged to become sexually intimate with anyone before marriage, even her fiance" the more comfortable they felt engaging in sexual behavior $r(165) = .45, p < .001$.

Other analyses revealed significant relationships between the amounts of blame and responsibility assigned by the victim to the male, female, and alcohol for the occurrence of the incident. See Table 13 for the correlations between blame and responsibility for the male, female, and alcohol. Furthermore, the degree to which the males, females, and alcohol were blamed and held responsible for the incident were related to who was drinking during the incident, who the perpetrator was, and the age of the victim at the time of the incident. See Table 14 for the relationship between these variables. Final correlational analyses also revealed relationships between the age of the victim at the time of the incident and who they told about the incident. See Table 15 for these correlations.
Table 13

Correlations of Blame and Responsibility for the Male, Female, and Alcohol

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>BM</th>
<th>BF</th>
<th>BA</th>
<th>RM</th>
<th>RF</th>
<th>RA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BM</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BF</td>
<td>-.25**</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BA</td>
<td>-.01</td>
<td>.33**</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RM</td>
<td>.78**</td>
<td>-.13</td>
<td>-.05</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RF</td>
<td>-.23*</td>
<td>.80**</td>
<td>.34*</td>
<td>-.09</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RA</td>
<td>-.11</td>
<td>.29*</td>
<td>.88**</td>
<td>-.11</td>
<td>.32*</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: For BA and RA N=53. Because of missing data N ranges from 108-110 for all other variables.

* p<.05    **p<.01

BM = Degree the victims blamed the male
BF = Degree the victim blamed the herself
BA = Degree the victim blamed the alcohol
RM = Degree the victim held the male responsible
RF = Degree the victim held herself responsible
RA = Degree the victim held the alcohol responsible
Table 14

Correlations between Blame and Responsibility and Other Variables

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>BM</th>
<th>BF</th>
<th>BA</th>
<th>RM</th>
<th>RF</th>
<th>RA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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Note: The key for the abbreviations is on the previous table. All correlations involving the use of alcohol N=52. Because of missing data N ranges from 105-110 for all other correlations. "." represent correlations which could not be computed. Whenever the family member was the perpetrator alcohol was not involved.

* p<.05    **p<.01

Age = Age of the victim at the time of the incident
Both = When both the male and female are drinking
Female = When the female is drinking
Male = When the male is drinking
Romantic, Stranger, and Family = 3 of the 5 perpetrator categories.
Table 15

Correlations between the Age of the Victim at the Time of the Coercion and who the Victim Told about the Incident

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<th>TT</th>
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N=71.

* p<.05  **p<.01

TP = Told a parent
TF = Told a friend
TT = Told a teacher
TC = Told a counselor
TS = Told a sibling
TPO = Told the police
TOTH = Told another person. This was usually a current boyfriend
Discussion

Consistent with other research many of the women in the present study were coerced at some point in their lives and alcohol was present during many of these incidents. Even though subjects were preselected with a bias towards choosing those who had experienced sexual coercion, the 66% of participants experiencing sexual coercion in this study is less than that found by Muehlenhard and Linton (1987) who reported a victimization rate of 77.6%. This difference might suggest that different populations were used in the two studies. In fact the low percentages of coercion (26% and 24%) experienced by the students from the unbiased, preselection sample would suggest this to be true. Nonetheless, the actual percentage of participants in this study who had experienced coercive sexual intercourse replicates others' findings (e.g., Aizenman & Kelley, 1988; Koss et al., 1988).

The present data also confirm that the perpetrator is usually someone the victim knows romantically. In this study 55.3% of the perpetrators were "romantically" involved with the participant, 23.3% of the victims "knew" the offender, and in only 22% of the cases the offender was considered a "stranger". This replicates the finding by Koss et al. (1988) that sexual coercion occurs more often between intimates than between non-romantic acquaintances or strangers.

The age at which the participants experienced their
most traumatic incident also appears to be consistent with the literature. For example Koss, Gidycz, and Wisniewski (1987) found that 53.8% of the victims in their study had experienced some form of coercion since the age of 14 and many other researchers have shown that most women experience sexual coercion during their high school and college years (e.g., Koss, Dinero, Seibal, & Cox, 1988).

Although these frequency data are consistent with other research, the various aspects of the incident were not consistently related to the three components of sexual identity formation. It was found however, that the more coercive behavior the adolescent experiences the more comfortable she feels exploring sexual activities. This finding is consistent with other research (e.g., Burkhart 1983; as cited in Parrot 1989; Koss & Burkhart, 1989; Roth, Wayland, & Woolsey, 1990; Savastano & Ventis, 1992; Warshaw, 1988). There are two possible reasons for this relationship. First, it might be that after the adolescent experiences coercive behavior she might act out and engage in self-destructive behavior, promiscuous behavior (Lyons 1987; as cited in Gallers & Lawrence, 1991). Although the Traumatization Scale did not assess this specific behavior it appears that the more coercion a women experiences the more likely she is to engage in different types of risk taking behavior (i.e., abuse drugs or alcohol).

The second explanation for this relationship is that adolescents who are comfortable exploring sexual behavior
(versus those who are less comfortable) may tend to be in circumstances where coercive behavior is more likely to occur. The present study, however, did not include questions regarding this hypothesis.

In addition to the degree of coercion the adolescent experiences, the relationship between the victim and the offender is also a significant predictor of the degree to which the adolescent feels comfortable exploring sexual activities. If the offender is a "stranger" the adolescent feels less comfortable exploring sexual activities. Further analyses also revealed that if the perpetrator was a "family" member then the adolescent is less able to form trust and intimacy in relationships with the opposite sex. The above findings show that different types of perpetrators affect adolescents differently in respect to the different aspects of sexual identity formation. This difference may not be due to the nature of the perpetrator but to the emotional closeness between the offender and the victim. This was suggested by Browne and Finkelhor (1986) in a review of the literature on child sexual abuse. In any case what these results do suggest is that although there is a high correlation between trust and intimacy and how comfortable the adolescent feels exploring sexual behaviors it is actually important to distinguish between these two social aspects of sexual identity formation.

Although the degree of coercion the adolescent experiences and the age of the victim at the time of the
incident were not very powerful predictors of sexual identity formation, these two factors, as expected, did relate to other aspects of the coercive incident. The data revealed that the age of the victim at the time of the incident was related to: the relationship between the perpetrator and the offender, who the victim blamed and held responsible for the occurrence of the incident, and who the victim confided in about the incident. It appears that the younger the victim is the more likely the perpetrator was a "family" member. However, the older the victim was at the time of the incident the more likely the perpetrator was a "romantic" partner and the more the female tended to blame herself and hold herself responsible for the occurrence of the incident. In addition, the older the victim was the more likely that she told a friend about the incident. The younger victims, however, tended to confide in their parents and counselors.

In contrast, the degree of coercion predicted the degree to which the adolescent engaged in self-destructive behavior (Factor 2 of the Traumatization Scale). It seems as if the higher the degree of coercion the adolescent experiences the more likely she is to engage in risk taking behaviors.

Other predictors of the degree to which the adolescent is likely to engage in risk taking behaviors are (a) if they told anyone about the incident, and (b) if the perpetrator was in the "other" category. It seems that if the
perpetrator was in the "other" category (baby sitter, co-worker, friend of sibling, or teacher) the more likely the victims were to engage in self-destructive behavior. A possible explanation for this relationship is that these perpetrators are someone the victim is "forced" to see repeatedly after the incident. However, they do not have the same close emotional ties to this type of offender as they would to a family member. It may be then that constant exposure to this type of perpetrator may "cause" the adolescent to engage in destructive behaviors.

Furthermore, it appears that the more apt an adolescent is to tell someone about the incident the more likely she is to engage in self-destructive behaviors. In addition, telling someone about the incident also seems to be related to the degree of negative feelings the adolescent experiences (Factor 1 on the Traumatization Scale). The more likely the adolescent was to confide in someone about the incident the more likely she was to experience negative feelings. This may suggest that the incident was so severe (they were traumatized to the extent they were experiencing negative feelings and engaging in self-destructive behavior) that adolescents needed to talk to someone about the incident. In fact many of the adolescents who chose not to confide in anyone about the incident did so because they considered it "no big deal" (they weren't experiencing high degrees of negative feelings after the incident took place).

It seems that the degree to which the adolescent views
the incident as coercive and the relationship between the victim and offender are also related to the degree to which the adolescent will experience negative feelings. The data suggest that if the adolescent knows the perpetrator she is more likely to experience negative feelings. In addition, the more the adolescent views the coercive experience as coercive the more likely she is to experience negative feelings.

There was also a relationship between who the victim blamed for the incident and who she held responsible. It appears that the more the female blames herself the more she also holds herself responsible for the incident. However, the data also reveal that there is an inverse relationship between the amount of blame the victim assigns to the male and the amount of blame and responsibility she assigns to herself. Therefore, the more she blames the male the less she tends to blame herself and hold herself responsible for the occurrence of the incident.

Furthermore, it was discovered that the women tend to blame themselves and hold themselves more responsible if alcohol is used during the incident. A combination of the two above analyses shows that if the male is drinking he is seen as less responsible for the incident and he is blamed less than the victim herself. If the female is drinking however, the victim again tends to hold herself more responsible and she blames herself more than she blames the offender. These results seem to replicate Richardson and
Campbell (1987) findings. However, in the present study the female victim is personally making the attributions, whereas in the previously cited study outsiders were assigning the degree of blame and responsibility to the offender and the victim.

In addition to the relationship between responsibility and alcohol use, it was discovered that the victim-offender relationship was also related to whether or not the female held herself responsible for the occurrence of the incident. The data suggest that if the perpetrator was in the "romantic" category then the victim held herself more responsible for the occurrence of the incident. However, when the perpetrator was a "stranger" or a "family" member the female tended to hold herself less responsible for the incident.

Finally, in this study gender role stereotyping did not appear to relate to whether or not the female was drinking. This is not consistent with the results reported by George, Gournic, and McAfee (1998). However, there is one critical methodological difference between this study and theirs. They examined others' perceptions of the female drinker's gender role whereas this study examined the gender role of the female drinkers themselves.

This study also did not find any relationships between gender role stereotyping and (a) amount of trust and intimacy adolescents experience in relationships with the opposite sex, (b) the degree to which the feel comfortable
exploring sexual behaviors (Savastano & Ventis, 1992), or (c) the amount of sexual coercion the female experiences (Fischer, 1986; Muehlenhard & Linton, 1987).

The reason that gender role stereotypes were not related to any of the other variables may be because the distribution was skewed. The women in this study tended to be very liberal (M = 62.75, out of a 75 point scale, SD = 7.95).

It is important to mention some of the limitations of this study. First, these results were obtained using college students and therefore should not be generalized beyond this population. Second, this study was only concerned with the most traumatic coercive incident the victim experienced. It is possible that the number of past coercive incidents in a person's life may be a very powerful predictor of an adolescent's sexual identity formation. However, studying all past coercive behavior was beyond the scope of this study. Third, the scale which measures the degree of traumatization for the victims was specifically designed for this study. To date there have been no reliability or validity tests conducted on this scale, therefore interpretations of these results must be made with caution.

In conclusion, the results of this study suggest possible directions for future research. First, researchers need to re-examine the relationship between gender role stereotyping and coercive sexual behavior. The research in
this area is still confusing and this study did not help to clarify the issue. In addition, researchers need to further explore the relationships between coercive sexual behavior and sexual identity formation. Although this study did not find strong relationships between these two phenomena, we cannot ignore the significant relationship found between coercive behavior and how comfortable the adolescent feels exploring sexual activities nor can we disregard the findings by Koss et al. (1988) that victims of date rape experience the same types of symptoms as victims of stranger rape. One possible direction for this research would be to investigate the possible explanations for the relationship between how comfortable an adolescent feels exploring sexual behavior and the degree of coercion the adolescent experiences. Finally, this study suggests that there is a relationship between the victims' perceptions of and others' perceptions of blame and responsibility. The evidence from this one study, however, cannot allow us to conclude that others' perceptions and the victims' perceptions of blame and responsibility are indeed the same, therefore future research needs to be conducted in the area of victims' attributions of blame and responsibility.
Appendix A

Hypotheses Models
Model 1.

Predicting Variables:  

1. Age of victim at the time of the incident
2. If the victim told anyone about the incident
3. Who she told
4. Relationship of victim and offender
5. Degree to which she viewed the incident as coercive
6. Degree to which she blamed the offender, herself, and alcohol
7. Degree to which she held responsible the offender, herself, and alcohol
8. How traumatic the incident was
9. Type of coercion
10. Degree of coercion

Dependent Variables:

1. Trust and intimacy in relationships
2. How comfortable they feel exploring sexual activities
3. Gender-role Stereotyping
4. Relationship of victim and offender
5. Degree to which she viewed the incident as coercive
6. Degree to which she blamed the offender, herself, and alcohol
7. Degree to which she held responsible the offender, herself, and alcohol
8. How traumatic the incident was
9. Type of coercion
10. Degree of coercion

Note. The age of the victim at the time of the incident and the degree of coercion are expected to have the most influence on the three aspects of sexual identity formation (D.V.)
Model 2.

Correlations of: With:

1. Age at the time of the incident 1. Was alcohol used and by whom
2. Degree of coercion 2. Type of coercion
3. To what degree was the incident seen as coercive
4. To what degree was the male, female, and alcohol held responsible
5. To what degree was the male, female and alcohol blamed
6. The degree to which the experience was traumatic for the victim
7. Relationship between the victim and the offender

Note. The age of the victim at the time of the incident and the degree of coercion may also affect other variables that are part of a coercive incident (D.V.). Therefore all aspects of a coercive incident may be related.
Model 3.

Correlation of: With:

1. Age of the victim 1. Degree of coercion at the time of the incident

Note. The age of the victim at the time of the incident may also affect the degree of coercion used in the incident.
Model 4.

Correlations of: With:

1. Was alcohol used 1. Degree to which the victim saw the incident as coercive

2. Who was alcohol used by 2. Degree to which the victim blames the male, female, and the alcohol

3. Degree to which the victim hold the male, female, and alcohol responsible

Note. Alcohol is expected to affect sexual identity formation only by affecting the person's perception (D.V.) of the incident. It is by this reasoning that alcohol use was eliminated from the first model.
Model 5.

Predicting Variable:    Dependent Variable:
1. female vs. no female drinking  1. gender-roles

Note. Women who are drinking during the incident are expected to be non-traditional women.
Appendix B

Demographic Questionnaire
I.D. # ______________

Please answer the following questions.

1. How old are you?
   _______ years _________ months

2. What year are you?
   _____ freshman
   _____ sophomore
   _____ junior
   _____ senior

3. What is your sexual orientation?
   _____ heterosexual
   _____ homosexual
   _____ bisexual
Appendix C

Revised Relationship Satisfaction Scale
Please indicate (by circling the number) on a scale from 1-7, with one being not at all and seven being very much, the extent to which you can:

1. Trust others of the opposite sex

1 _______ 2 _______ 3 _______ 4 _______ 5 _______ 6 _______ 7
not at all very much

2. Make friends with members of the opposite sex

1 _______ 2 _______ 3 _______ 4 _______ 5 _______ 6 _______ 7
not at all very much

3. Get close to members of the opposite sex

1 _______ 2 _______ 3 _______ 4 _______ 5 _______ 6 _______ 7
not at all very much

4. Maintain relationships with members of the opposite sex

1 _______ 2 _______ 3 _______ 4 _______ 5 _______ 6 _______ 7
not at all very much
Appendix D

AWS Scale
The statements listed below describe attitudes toward the role of women in society that different people have. There are no right or wrong answer, only opinions. You are asked to express your opinion about each statement by indicating whether you (A) agree strongly, (B) agree mildly, (C) disagree mildly, (D) disagree strongly. Please indicate your opinion by circling your response.

1. Swearing and obscenities are more repulsive in the speech of a women than of a man.
   (A) agree strongly (B) agree mildly
   (C) disagree mildly (D) disagree strongly

2. Women should take increasing responsibility for leadership in solving intellectual and social problems of the day.
   (A) agree strongly (B) agree mildly
   (C) disagree mildly (D) disagree strongly

3. Both husband and wife should be allowed the same grounds for divorce.
   (A) agree strongly (B) agree mildly
   (C) disagree mildly (D) disagree strongly

4. Telling dirty jokes should be mostly a masculine prerogative.
   (A) agree strongly (B) agree mildly
   (C) disagree mildly (D) disagree strongly

5. Intoxication among women is worse than intoxication among men.
   (A) agree strongly (B) agree mildly
   (C) disagree mildly (D) disagree strongly

6. Under modern economic conditions with women being active outside the home, men should share in household tasks such as washing dishes and doing the laundry.
   (A) agree strongly (B) agree mildly
   (C) disagree mildly (D) disagree strongly
7. It is insulting to women to have the "obey" clause remain in the marriage service.

(A) agree strongly  (B) agree mildly
(C) disagree mildly  (D) disagree strongly

8. There should be a strict merit system in job appointment and promotion without regard to sex.

(A) agree strongly  (B) agree mildly
(C) disagree mildly  (D) disagree strongly

9. A women should be as free as a man to propose marriage.

(A) agree strongly  (B) agree mildly
(C) disagree mildly  (D) disagree strongly

10. Women should worry less about their rights and more about becoming good wives and mothers.

(A) agree strongly  (B) agree mildly
(C) disagree mildly  (D) disagree strongly

11. Women earning as much as their dates should bear equally the expense when they go out together.

(A) agree strongly  (B) agree mildly
(C) disagree mildly  (D) disagree strongly

12. Women should assume their rightful place in business and all the professions along with men.

(A) agree strongly  (B) agree mildly
(C) disagree mildly  (D) disagree strongly

13. A women should not expect to go to exactly the same places or to have quite the same freedom of action as a man.

(A) agree strongly  (B) agree mildly
(C) disagree mildly  (D) disagree strongly
14. Sons in family should be given more encouragement to go to college than daughters.

(A) agree strongly  (B) agree mildly
(C) disagree mildly  (D) disagree strongly

15. It is ridiculous for a women to run a locomotive and for a man to darn socks.

(A) agree strongly  (B) agree mildly
(C) disagree mildly  (D) disagree strongly

16. In general, the father should have greater authority than the mother in the bringing up of the children.

(A) agree strongly  (B) agree mildly
(C) disagree mildly  (D) disagree strongly

17. Women should be encouraged not to become sexually intimate with anyone before marriage, even their fiances.

(A) agree strongly  (B) agree mildly
(C) disagree mildly  (D) disagree strongly

18. The husband should not be favored by law over the wife in the disposal of family property or income.

(A) agree strongly  (B) agree mildly
(C) disagree mildly  (D) disagree strongly

19. Women should be concerned with their duties of childbearing and house tending, rather than with desires for professional and business careers.

(A) agree strongly  (B) agree mildly
(C) disagree mildly  (D) disagree strongly

20. The intellectual leadership of a community should be largely in the hands of men.

(A) agree strongly  (B) agree mildly
(C) disagree mildly  (D) disagree strongly
21. Economic and social freedom is worth far more to women than acceptance of the ideal of femininity which has been set up by men.

(A) agree strongly  (B) agree mildly
(C) disagree mildly  (D) disagree strongly

22. On the average, women should be regarded as less capable of contributing to economic production than are men.

(A) agree strongly  (B) agree mildly
(C) disagree mildly  (D) disagree strongly

23. There are many jobs in which men should be given preference over women in being hired or promoted.

(A) agree strongly  (B) agree mildly
(C) disagree mildly  (D) disagree strongly

24. Women should be given equal opportunity with men for apprenticeship in the various trades.

(A) agree strongly  (B) agree mildly
(C) disagree mildly  (D) disagree strongly

25. The modern girl is entitled to the same freedom from regulation and control that is given to the modern boy.

(A) agree strongly  (B) agree mildly
(C) disagree mildly  (D) disagree strongly
Appendix E

Revised Sexual Satisfaction Scale
I.D. # ______________

Please indicate (by circling the number) on a scale from 1-7, with one being don't do it to and seven being very comfortable, how comfortable you feel engaging in the following behaviors.

1. Kissing and hugging members of the opposite sex.

   1_______2_______3_______4_______5_______6_______7
   not very comfortable

2. Petting and stroking members of the opposite sex.

   1_______2_______3_______4_______5_______6_______7
   not very comfortable

3. Sexual intercourse with members of the opposite sex.

   1_______2_______3_______4_______5_______6_______7
   not very comfortable
Appendix F

(MSES)
I.D. # ____________

Please answer the following questions (by circling the appropriate response).

Have you had any of the following experiences? Have you had a man or boy:

1. Touch your sex organs or try to kiss you when you didn't want to because he argued or tried to pressure you?
   
   yes  no

2. Touch your sex organs or try to kiss you when you didn't want to because he said he would hurt you or actually try to hurt you?
   
   yes  no

3. Try to have sexual intercourse (got on top of you, attempted to insert his penis) when you didn't want to by saying he would hurt you or tried to hurt you, but sexual intercourse did not occur?
   
   yes  no

4. Have you had sexual intercourse (penetration of your vagina by a man's penis) with a boy or man when you didn't want to because he argued with you or pressured you?
   
   yes  no

5. Have you had sexual intercourse (penetration of your vagina by a man's penis) with a boy or a man when you didn't want to because he said he would hurt you or tried to hurt you?
   
   yes  no
Appendix G

Aspects of Coercive Sexual Behavior Questionnaire
If you answered yes to any of the questions on the previous questionnaire (Modified Sexual Experience Survey). Then please answer the following questions by referring to, what you consider to be, your most traumatic incident.

1. How old were you at the time of the incident?
   Age

2a. Did you tell anyone what had happened to you?
   ______yes
   ______no

2b. If you told someone please indicate who you told.
   _____parent
   _____friend
   _____teacher
   _____counselor (professional)
   _____sibling
   _____police
   _____other Specify__________________________

2c. If you did not tell anyone please explain why.
3. What was the relationship between you and the other person involved in the incident (only indicate one answer)?

- stranger
- you've seen them before but he was not a friend or an acquaintance.
- friend
- acquaintance
- date
- boyfriend or lover
- husband
- teacher or professor
- employer
- relative other than father or stepfather
- father or stepfather
- other Specify __________________

4a. Was alcohol used during or immediately before the coercive incident?

- yes
- no

4b. If alcohol was used then who was drinking?

- you
- the other person
- both of you

5a. Rate on a scale (by circling the number) of 1-7, with one being not at all to seven being very much, the degree to which you thought the behavior was coercive.

1  2  3  4  5  6  7
not at all  very much
5b. Rate on a scale *(by circling the number)* of 1-7, with one being not at all and seven being very much, the degree to which you blame the following people and things for the occurrence of the incident.

The male involved

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Yourself

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The alcohol

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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>not at all</td>
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</table>

5c. Rate on a scale *(by circling the number)* of 1-7, with one being not at all and seven being very much, the degree to which you believe the following people and things are responsible for the occurrence of the incident.

The male involved

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>7</th>
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Yourself

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<th>4</th>
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<tbody>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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The alcohol

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<tbody>
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</tbody>
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Appendix H

Degree of Traumatization Measure
I.D. # ______________

If you answered yes to any of the questions on the previous questionnaire (Modified Sexual Experience Survey). Then please answer the following questions by referring to, what you consider to be, your most traumatic incident.

How long after your most traumatic incident did you start to exhibit symptoms, that were related to the incident, such as anger, anxiety, depression?

How many years? __________
How many months? __________

Please indicate (by circling the number) on a scale of 1-7, with one being not at all to seven being very much, the degree to which you experienced the following symptoms, as a result of your most traumatic incident.

1. Anxiety

1____2____3____4____5____6____7
not at all very much

2. Depression

1____2____3____4____5____6____7
not at all very much

3. Fear

1____2____3____4____5____6____7
not at all very much

4. Doubt in your ability to judge others

1____2____3____4____5____6____7
not at all very much
I.D. #______________

5. Feel like you have no control
   1____2____3_____4____5____6_____7
   not at all very much

6. Low self esteem
   1____2____3_____4____5____6_____7
   not at all very much

7. Nightmares
   1____2____3_____4____5____6_____7
   not at all very much

8. Withdrew from school or social activities
   1____2____3_____4____5____6_____7
   not at all very much

9. Engaged in self destructive or risk taking behaviors
   1____2____3_____4____5____6_____7
   not at all very much

10. Began to abuse drugs or alcohol
    1____2____3_____4____5____6_____7
    not at all very much

11. Became alienated from your friends and family
    1____2____3_____4____5____6_____7
    not at all very much
I.D. # _______________

12. Embarrassment

1 2 3 4 5 6 7
not at all very much

13. Helplessness

1 2 3 4 5 6 7
not at all very much

14. You see the world as an unjust place

1 2 3 4 5 6 7
not at all very much

15. Sense of being "shaken"

1 2 3 4 5 6 7
not at all very much

16. Degree to which it was emotionally painful

1 2 3 4 5 6 7
not at all very much
References


VITA

Lisa A. Savastano

The author was born on October 30, 1968 in Lawrence Massachusetts. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from North Adams State College in May, 1990. In August, 1990 she entered the Master of Arts program in psychology at the College of William and Mary.