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COLLEGE MEN'S SEXUAL AGGRESSION PERPETRATION:
UNDERSTANDING THE ROLE OF CHILD ABUSE, ROMANTIC
REJECTION, AND SELF-WORTH

by

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A thesis submitted for the partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the Honors in the Major program in Psychology
in the College of Sciences
and in the Burnett Honors College
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Abstract

Sexual aggression is a pervasive issue on college campuses, and many risk factors have been studied in an attempt to understand and reduce perpetration. In the current study, I focus on men's history of child abuse, romantic rejection, and sources of self-worth as potential predictors of sexual aggression perpetration. As part of an ongoing online cross-sectional study (target $N = 600$), data were analyzed for 72 college men. Descriptive statistics and bivariate correlations were used to characterize the current sample describe patterns of relationships between study variables. Results indicate that all forms of child abuse were significantly positively associated with each other, but only child neglect was associated with romantic rejection experiences in adulthood. Child abuse was also negatively correlated with family, virtue, and competition of sources of self-worth. Although too few participants reported sexual aggression perpetration to conduct inferential statistical tests in the current sample, patterns of means indicate that child abuse was higher among men who reported perpetration.

Keywords: child abuse, romantic rejection, self-worth, sexual aggression, perpetration

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Introduction

Sexual aggression is a pervasive issue, especially on college campuses (Cantor, D., 2015; Hanson & Gidycz, 1993; Jozkowski & Humphreys, 2014). Sexual aggression includes perpetrating any unwanted sexual act or attempt including rape, sexual assault (any unwanted touching, kissing, etc.), and harassment (Fedina et al., 2018). 26.4% of undergraduate women experience sexual assault or rape through forced means such as force, the threat of force, incapacitation, or coercion (Cantor, D., 2015). Recent studies have found that at least 10% of college men reported sexual aggression perpetration in the prior year (Abbey & McAuslan, 2004; Kingree & Thompson, 2015; Thompson et al., 2011; White & Smith, 2004), and research indicates that sexual aggression perpetration remains a pervasive issue on college campuses (Harell et al., 2009).

Many sexual assault interventions have been implemented on college campuses, yet sexual assault among college students has not substantially declined over time (Banyard, Moynihan, & Plante, 2007; Gidycz, Borchowski, & Berkowitz, 2011; Stephens & George, 2009). Therefore, additional research is needed to understand risk factors in order to prevent further incidences. Previous studies have established that both child abuse and romantic rejection are potential predictors for men's sexual aggression (Blake et al., 2018; Broidy & Agnew, 1997; Casey et al., 2009; Kelly et al., 2015; Leary et al., 2006; Mason & Smithey, 2012) but further research is necessary to understand potential moderators. One potential moderator is self-worth, which may enhance the effects of romantic rejection and child abuse on sexual aggression perpetration; however, to extend past research, this study will focus on sources of self-worth—such as approval from others, appearances, and family support—as moderators. Although past research suggests low self-worth might be a risk factor for perpetration (Wheeler et al., 2002),

there is a need to further understand the role of different sources of self-worth, which can provide more nuanced insight into how self-worth operates in this context to more effectively inform prevention efforts.

Child abuse and romantic rejection are two factors that may contribute to men's risk for sexual aggression (Blake et al., 2018; Broidy & Agnew, 1997; Casey et al., 2009; Kelly et al., 2015; Leary et al., 2006; Mason & Smithey, 2012). Many men experience child abuse or romantic rejection and they do not respond by becoming sexually aggressive, so it is essential to understand not only their direct influence, but also how other factors moderate their influence. One such factor to consider is sources of self-worth. Repeated experiences of rejection in romantic relationships may influence sexual aggression, primarily among men with low self-worth who have more difficulty processing or coping with rejection (Romero-Canvas et al., 2010). These factors are being considered together because both child abuse and romantic rejection can negatively impact an individual's sense of power, control, and sense of self (Baumeister et al., 1996; Canning, 2008). Further, their impact is likely to depend on how individuals derive a sense of self-worth. These factors have not always been considered jointly in tandem with sources of self-worth, which is necessary to provide greater context for the psychosocial risk factors that predict sexual violence.

For this study, I aim to assess the associations between men's experiences of child abuse, romantic rejection, sources of self-worth, and sexual aggression. Specifically, the study aims include 1) evaluating the extent to which child abuse and romantic rejection are associated with adult sexual aggression perpetration, and 2) explore the extent to which these associations are moderated by different sources of self-worth among college-aged men attending a large, public University. Specifically, I hypothesize that both child abuse and romantic rejection will be

positively associated with sexual aggression and that these relationships depend on sources of self-worth. Given the dearth of existing research on sources of self-worth in relation to sexual aggression, hypotheses regarding which specific sources of self-worth will influence these associations are not generated in advance. This work may help to further our understanding of the confluence of risk factors for men's sexual aggression and ultimately help shape the development of interventions that reduce its prevalence.

Child Abuse

Child abuse is defined as any harm (emotional, verbal, or physical) inflicted on a child under the age of 18 (Kaplan et al., 1999). The relationship a child forms with their parent(s) may be a crucial component in predicting future sexual aggression (Bowlby, 1979; Bretherton, 1985; Ouimette & Riggs, 1998; Smallbone & Dadds, 2000). Research has shown that both witnessing or experiencing parental abuse is associated with sexual aggression perpetration later in life among men (Glasser et al., 2001). A child looks to their parents (and their relationship) as a guide, which helps shape the expectations a child has for his future relationships (Grych et al., 2002; Shamir et al., 2001).

Previous studies conducted on samples of students that were survivors of childhood sexual abuse showed higher odds of sexual aggression perpetration in young adulthood (Tharp et al., 2013). Men who experience childhood sexual abuse are at greater risk for sexual aggression perpetration (Abbey et al., 2006; Casey et al., 2009). Specifically, men who were abused by other men in their childhood have a higher tendency to later present sexually aggressive behavior (Kobayashi et al., 1995). A qualitative interview conducted with a survivor of child abuse and relationship therapist establishes that once a child witnesses or experiences abuse, a connection is made between abuse and love and between abuse and power (Canning, 2008). This relationship may be indicative of the association an individual makes between parental love (abuse) and the expression of love (abuse) in future romantic relationships. Canning goes on to describe that some who are abused as children wish to regain the power and control that was taken from them, therefore translating the pain of abuse into power of their own by perpetrating acts of sexual aggression (2008). Experiencing abuse from a parent—whether physical, sexual, or verbal—

dramatically impacts the child and his future behavior into deviancy or non-culturally accepted behavior, including the perpetration of sexual aggression.

However, sexual aggression is complex and multi-determined and, therefore, the potential influence of child abuse needs to be considered alongside other risk factors. Next, I discuss another factor – romantic rejection – that, like child abuse, reflects an individual's sense of power, control, and sense of self (Baumeister et al., 1996; Canning 2008). Then, I discuss how the effects of child abuse and romantic rejection on sexual aggression perpetration are influenced by other factors, namely sources of self-worth. Therefore, I aim to explore the influence of different sources of self-worth on the association between child abuse and sexual aggression.

Romantic Rejection

Romantic rejection is defined as any refusal (real or imagined) on behalf of a woman to get closer to a man (Tom & Walther, 2011). Examples of this include refusing to give contact information (phone number, social media, etc.), refusing to go out with someone (on a date, for coffee, etc.), and ignoring or rejecting sexual and romantic advances. Experiencing romantic rejection can influence the ways in which men approach interactions with subsequent relationships and partners (Downey & Feldman, 1996; Hafen et al., 2014). Although romantic rejection is a common experience and does not necessarily directly cause men to become sexually aggressive, some men can and will respond aggressively (Blake et al., 2018; Baumeister et al., 2002; Leary et al., 2006; Woerner et al., 2018). Therefore, it is essential to understand why romantic rejection might result in sexual aggression, as well as moderating factors that explain why rejection results in sexual aggression for some but not all men.

Men who experience rejection, whether frequent, real or imagined, are more likely to exhibit aggressive behaviors in response (Leary et al., 2006). Rejection—in this study, romantic rejection—may be met with blaming the individual inflicting the rejection to repair the man's image and self-worth; the perpetration of sexual aggression to reclaim said image may also present itself (Baumeister et al., 2002). Other research has found that the rejected individual attempts to defend his ego's destruction, turning to aggressive measures to prevent humiliation or pain (Blake et al., 2018). Baumeister and colleagues found that men who exhibit sexually aggressive behavior could be doing so in an attempt to reinstate their control over the situation or as a method to exact revenge over the person who rejected them (1996). Those who respond aggressively to rejection might convince themselves the woman is at fault. Some studies have found that sexual aggression perpetration is partly focused on the entitlement men feel they are

owed sex (Blake et al., 2018; Murnen et al., 2002; Polaschek & Ward, 2002; Testa & Livingston, 1999). Additional research has shown that rejection stress can trigger associations with previous negative experiences in relationships (e.g., abuse and infidelity) such that they overperceive or anticipate rejection (Downey et al., 2000).

Given that romantic rejection does not consistently result in sexual aggression perpetration from all men, it is vital to consider variable(s) that moderate the influences of child abuse and romantic rejection on men's sexual aggression. In the current study, I focus on sources of self-worth.

Self-Worth

Self-worth is defined as a person's inclusive, idiosyncratic self-evaluation (Hira & Mugenda, 1999). Self-worth operates as a guiding dynamic in an individual's actions and expressed behaviors (Ferris et al., 2009; Hira & Mugenda, 1999). Kanin's numerous studies (1957, 1983, 1984) have assessed the idealism that sexually aggressive men maintain wherein their self-worth is linked to their sexual experiences and "conquests". Accordingly, men with low self-worth may be more likely to exhibit sexually aggressive behaviors in an attempt to increase and validate their self-worth to themselves and those around them (Wheeler et al., 2002).

The relationship between men's experiences of romantic rejection and sexual aggression perpetration may be dependent on their sources of self-worth, rather than the degree of their self-worth. A study by Crocker and colleagues (2003) showed that men are motivated by their desire to succeed and avoid failure, especially in scenarios where the individual's self-worth is risked. If men "expose" a vulnerability in their self-worth by asking a woman out on a date in front of others and are turned down, this rejection could impact how they view their worth and their interpretation of how others view their worth. Men could also engage in self-worth-protecting-behavior that would allow them to blame their "failures"—getting rejected or ignored by a woman—to other causes (Thompson et al., 1995). Studies also reached the conclusion that the influence of self-worth on an individual's behavior is dependent on what activity their self-worth is risked on (Crocker et al., 2003). Therefore, I hypothesize that sources of self-worth will moderate the association between child abuse and sexual aggression. Specifically, certain

sources of self-worth could act as a motivating factor for men to regain their sense of power, control, and sense of self.

In terms of self-worth and childhood abuse, many studies found that the care one is shown by those around them may contribute significantly to the development of self-worth (Bartholomew, 1990; Bowlby, 1982). Individuals—children, adolescents, and adults—shown significant quantities of love and care develop higher levels of self-worth (Arbona & Power, 2003; Birkeland et al., 2012; Kernis et al., 2000; Laible et al., 2004; Parker & Benson, 2004). Harter (1986) also found that self-worth can be established from the love and support one is shown by family members, not only parents (e.g., source of self-worth based on family support). Lower self-worth has been associated with negative behaviors, delinquency, and poor mental health (Donnellan et al., 2005; McGee & Williams, 2000; Sowislo & Orth, 2013; Trzesniewski et al., 2006). Because neither child abuse nor romantic rejection will consistently and directly influence future sexual aggression, I will explore how different sources of self-worth (Approval of Others, Appearance, Competition, Academic Competence, Family Support, and Virtue) moderate the association between both of these variables and the perpetration of sexual aggression.

This study explores sources of self-worth (Crocker et al., 2012). The focus on sources of self-worth rather than the degree of self-worth (high vs. low) is made in this study to determine possible conflicting influences derived from each source. Specifically, if where an individual derives their self-worth from influences the link between child abuse and sexual aggression perpetration, and the link between romantic rejection and sexual aggression perpetration. Also, previous studies have examined the degree of self-worth and its connection to sexual aggression perpetration (Crocker et al., 2003; Thompson et al., 1995; Wheeler et al., 2002); this study

wishes to go more in depth and examine if and how the sources of self-worth are connected to child abuse, romantic rejection, and sexual aggression perpetration.

The Current Study

This study will examine how child abuse, romantic rejection, and sources of self-worth converge to influence sexual aggression perpetration in a population of college men. Previous studies established connections between child abuse and sexual aggression (Abbey et al., 2006; Casey et al., 2009; Kobayashi et al., 1995; Tharp et al., 2013; Vissing et al., 1991), between romantic rejection and sexual aggression (Blake et al., 2018; Leary et al., 2006; Murnen et al., 2002; Testa & Livingston, 1999; Woerner et al., 2018), and between self-worth and sexual aggression (Burkley et al., 2016; Crocker et al., 2003; Crocker & Nuer, 2003; Zounlome & Wong, 2019). However, there is a lack of research on the specific sources of self-worth, and additional research is needed to understand the interrelationships between these predictors better. Specifically, this study provides a novel contribution to the literature by assessing the extent to which different sources of self-worth moderate the effects of child abuse and romantic rejection on men's sexual aggression.

The focus of this study is to assess the impacts of childhood abuse, romantic rejection, and sources of self-worth on sexual aggression among college men, ages 18-25, who are attracted to women.

The following hypotheses were generated and were assessed with a cross-sectional survey with undergraduate men:

Hypothesis 1: The frequency of childhood abuse (physical, sexual, or emotional) will be positively associated with the severity of sexual aggression perpetration in adulthood. I will explore whether this association is influenced by different sources of self-worth.

Hypothesis 2: Frequency of experiences of romantic rejection will be positively associated with the severity of sexual aggression perpetration in adulthood. I will explore whether this association is influenced by different sources of self-worth.

Method

Participants:

This thesis is part of a larger project recruiting 600 heterosexual undergraduate college men between the ages of 18 and 25 years. At the time of analysis, data were collected from 72 participants. Therefore, the results below reflect the current sample, but data collection will continue until the target sample of 600 participants is obtained. Due to the current sample size, data analysis will be limited to descriptive statistics and correlational analyses. Regression-based hypothesis testing will be conducted after reaching the target sample size.

At the time of analysis, participants were 72 men between the ages of 18 and 24 ($M = 19.33$, $SD = 1.4$). Regarding race, 79.2% of participants identified as White, 13.9% identified as Asian, 11.1% identified as Black/African American, and 1.4% identified as American Indian/Alaskan Native. Participants could select multiple racial identities; therefore, percentages will not add up to 100%. 76.4% of participants identified as Hispanic/Latino. The majority of participants (97.2%) identified as Heterosexual/Straight. More than half of the participants were in their first year of college (52.8%). Almost all participants were enrolled full-time (97.2%). The majority of participants identified themselves as being Single (59.7%) or in an Exclusive Dating Relationship (26.4%). Additional descriptive information is provided in Table 1.

Procedure:

Participants were invited to partake in an IRB-approved research study about sexual aggression. The study was available online only. Participants were able to complete the study from any computer with internet access during the time the study was available. Participants were recruited from the University of Central Florida through the Psychology Department's

online recruitment website, SONA <http://ucf.sona-systems.com/> and completed an online survey hosted on Qualtrics. Participants were compensated with one credit that could be applied towards any eligible Psychology course.

Measures:

Demographics: Participants self-reported their age, race, ethnicity, major, and relationship status. Shown in Appendix A.

Romantic Rejection: was measured by a set of questions asking participants about their dating experiences, including how often they have been ignored, turned down, among other questions. There were five yes/no questions about whether the participant had ever been rejected and specific examples of rejection. If the participant answered yes, more questions on the frequency of the rejection experienced were presented. Responses of “yes” to these rejection experiences were summed such that 0 indicates they did not experience any of these forms of rejection, and 6 indicates that they experienced all of these forms of rejection. Shown in Appendix B.

Sources of Self-Worth: Sources of self-worth were measured with the Contingencies of Self-Worth Scale (SWS; Crocker et al., 2012). The SWS is a modified 30-item questionnaire that evaluates an individual’s self-evaluated source of self-worth. The SWS is made up of six subscales with five items each: Approval of Others, Appearance, Competition, Academic Competence, Family Support, and Virtue (a seventh subscale “God’s Love” was not included in this study given the wide range in religious beliefs and affiliations among this population. The mean for each subscale was calculated such that higher scores indicate greater importance of that source for determining self-worth. Sample items include: “I feel worthwhile when I perform

better than others on a task or skill” and “My self-esteem depends on the opinions others hold of me” are assessed on a scale of Strongly Disagree (1) to Strongly Agree (7). Shown in Appendix C.

Sexual aggression perpetration: Participants’ self-reported sexual aggression perpetration was assessed with the Sexual Experiences Survey Short Form Perpetration (SES-SFP; Koss et al., 2007). The SES-SFP has seven items, each with five sub-items, which ask the individual if he has performed a specific sexual act at any time since the age of 14. A sample item is: “I put my penis, my fingers or objects into a woman’s vagina without her consent by threatening to physically harm her or someone close to her.” (SES-SFP short form; Koss et al., 2007). Participants were then categorized into mutually exclusive ordinal categories: (0) “Non-perpetrator”, (1) “Sexual Contact”, (2) “Attempted Coercion”, (3) “Coercion”, (4) “Attempted Rape”, and (5) “Rape”. Shown in Appendix D.

Child abuse: Participants’ experiences of child abuse victimization were assessed with the Childhood Trauma Questionnaire (CTQ; Bernstein et al., 1994). The CTQ is a 28 item self-report measure that includes five subscales: emotional abuse and neglect, physical abuse and neglect, and sexual abuse. This questionnaire has been validated and widely used in general population samples, psychiatric patient samples, and substance using populations (Bernstein et al., 1994). Sample items include “I felt loved” and “People in my family called me things like lazy, stupid, or ugly” and were assessed on a scale from Never True (1) to Very Often True (5). Scores for each subscale and a combined total score were computed to assess all forms of child abuse, with higher scores indicating more frequent abuse. Shown in Appendix E.

Results

Due to the small sample size, only descriptive statistics and correlational analyses are presented in this thesis. Regression-based hypothesis testing will be conducted after the full target sample size $N = 600$ is reached. These preliminary data analyses provide essential insight into the characteristics of this sample and serve as an important first step for subsequent (appropriately statistically powered) analyses that will test the hypotheses outlined in this thesis using inferential statistics. Therefore, in the current thesis, I will provide information on the prevalence of sexual assault perpetration, the prevalence of different experiences of romantic rejection, means and standard deviations for all study variables, and bivariate correlations between sexual assault perpetration, romantic rejection, childhood abuse, and sources of self-worth.

Descriptive Statistics

Descriptive statistics for childhood abuse, romantic rejection and sources of self-worth are shown in Table 2. Only two individuals in the sample (2.8%) reported sexual assault perpetration. Regarding child abuse, 7.1% reported any instance of sexual abuse, 68.6% reported any emotional abuse, 58.6% reported any physical abuse, 78.6% reported any emotional neglect, and 51.4% reported any physical neglect. Further, 88.9% ($n = 64$) reported at least one experience of romantic and sexual rejection. Specifically, 68.1% ($n = 49$) of participants reported that they had ever asked someone out and they were not interested or said no. 25% ($n = 18$) of participants reported that they had ever asked someone for their phone number or social media information, and they were not interested, said no, or were given fake information. 63.9% ($n = 46$) of participants reported that they had ever been told someone was not interested or not attracted to them. 45.8% ($n = 33$) of participants reported that they had ever messaged/texted

someone on dating apps, and they didn't answer. 36.1% ($n = 26$) of participants reported that they had ever wanted to engage in sexual activity and been turned down or told no.

Correlation Analyses

Correlation analyses are shown in Table 2. All five child abuse subscales were significantly positively associated with each other. However, only childhood physical neglect and childhood emotional neglect were significantly positively correlated with participants' experiences of romantic rejection. Childhood sexual abuse was significantly positively associated with childhood emotional abuse, childhood physical neglect, and childhood emotional neglect. Romantic rejection was significantly positively associated with childhood physical neglect and childhood emotional neglect.

Self-worth based on one's family was significantly negatively correlated with all five child abuse subscales. Self-worth based on competition was significantly negatively associated with childhood physical abuse and childhood sexual abuse and was significantly positively associated with self-worth based on one's family. Self-worth based on one's appearance was significantly negatively correlated with childhood sexual abuse and significantly positively associated with self-worth based on one's family and self-worth based on competition. Self-worth based on one's academics was significantly negatively correlated with childhood sexual abuse and significantly positively correlated with self-worth based on family, self-worth based on competition, and self-worth based on appearances. Self-worth based on virtue was significantly negatively associated with childhood physical abuse, childhood sexual abuse, childhood physical neglect, and childhood emotional neglect. Self-worth based on virtue was also significantly positively associated with self-worth based on family, self-worth based on

appearance, and self-worth based on academics. Self-worth based on approval was significantly positively correlated with self-worth based on appearance.

Although we do not have a large enough sample size yet to conduct inferential statistical analyses predicting men's sexual assault perpetration, general patterns of results indicate that men who reported sexual aggression ($n = 2$) reported more frequent child abuse ($M = 2.74$, $Sd = 0.48$) than men who did not report sexual aggression ($n = 68$; $M = 1.45$, $Sd = 0.45$).

Discussion

Summary of Results

There were no significant correlations between any sources of self-worth (Approval of Others, Appearance, Competition, Academic Competence, Family Support, and Virtue) and experiences of romantic rejection. Due to the small sample size, these results are not definitive and will be revisited upon completion of data collection.

Significant positive correlations were found between all five child abuse subscales. Specifically, indicating that different forms of child abuse tend to co-occur (e.g., if a child experiences physical abuse, they are also likely to experience sexual abuse). Once data collection is completed, potential correlations between child abuse, romantic rejection, and sexual aggression perpetration will also be assessed.

Only two significant relationships were found between the child abuse subscales and romantic rejection. Specifically, (1) childhood emotional neglect and romantic rejection were positively correlated and (2) childhood physical neglect and romantic rejection were positively correlated. This indicates that experiences of neglect in childhood are associated with more experiences of romantic rejection in adulthood.

Without a larger significant sample size, regression-based hypothesis testing about men's sexual assault perpetration cannot be made with the current data. Upon completion of data collection ($n = 600$), the hypotheses will be tested by assessing the effects of child abuse and romantic rejection on sexual aggression perpetration and explore the extent to which these associations are moderated by different sources of self-worth.

Strengths, Limitations, and Suggestions for Future Research

Sexual aggression perpetration is a challenging topic to address due to the fact that it is influenced by a multitude of factors. Therefore, this thesis focused on multiple interrelated factors that could aid in future prediction of sexual assault perpetration or possible risk factors for the perpetration of sexual aggression. Strengths included focusing on two important potential risk factors for sexual aggression – child abuse and romantic rejection – and the extent to which their effects may be influenced by sources of self-worth, which has not been evaluated in relation to sexual aggression to my knowledge.

This thesis also had several limitations. First, the sample was comprised of students from a single university consisting mainly of white participants, which may not generalize to the entire population of adults in the United States. Due to ongoing data collection, only a small subset of the sample is presented in the current thesis, and only two participants so far have reported sexual aggression perpetration, limiting the ability to conduct inferential statistical tests. Conclusions cannot be drawn about causal or temporal relationships in the current study due to the cross-sectional design. Although we know experiences of child abuse occurred prior to sexual aggression perpetration, it is crucial for future research to use longitudinal methods that assess how associations between sources of self-worth, romantic rejection, and sexual aggression perpetration unfold over time. Subsequent research could be influenced to study how different sources of self-worth further influence sexual aggression perpetration or even other related fields such as rape myth acceptance or gender discrimination. Other research could further expand on the matter by adding other moderators such as attachment styles. These findings could be used as a guide to further study the impact of individuals' background and experiences in both childhood and adulthood relate to their likelihood to perpetrate sexual aggression.

Implications and Conclusions

Sexual aggression remains a prevalent issue in the United States, especially on college campuses. This study aims to provide further insight into the risk factors for perpetration, by evaluating the potential role of child abuse and romantic rejection, and the extent to which their effects are moderated by sources of self-worth. Although I am currently unable to test all hypotheses due to the small sample size, results with the full sample have the potential contribute to our understanding of sexual aggression perpetration. If hypotheses are supported with the full sample, then findings will have important implications for how sexual aggression prevention efforts are approached, namely, seeking to address how men internalize and cope with trauma and rejection. It is extremely important to note that victims are never at fault for their own victimization, and that understanding risk factors for perpetration are not to excuse violent behavior, but rather to help researchers and practitioners to better understand targets for intervention.

Table 1. Demographic information (N=72)

	<i>M (Sd)</i>	<i>N (%)</i>
Age	19.33 (1.4)	
Race		
White		57 (79.2%)
Black/African American		8 (11.1%)
Asian		10 (13.9%)
American Indian or Alaskan Native		1 (1.4%)
Ethnicity		
Hispanic or Latino/a/x		55 (76.4%)
Education		
First Year		38 (52.8%)
Second Year		19 (26.4%)
Third Year		11 (15.3%)
Fourth Year		4 (5.6%)
Sexual orientation		
Heterosexual or straight		70 (97.2%)
Bisexual		2 (2.8%)
Enrollment		
Full-time		70 (97.2%)
Part-time		2 (2.8%)
Employment		
Full time		6 (8.3%)
Part time		21 (29.2%)
Furloughed		1 (1.4%)
Unemployed and looking		19 (26.4%)
Unemployed and not looking		25 (34.7%)

Table 2. Bivariate correlations and descriptive statistics (N=72)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1. CTQ: Physical Abuse	-													
2. CTQ: Sexual Abuse	.612**	-												
3. CTQ: Emotional Abuse	.529**	.405**	-											
4. CTQ: Physical Neglect	.531**	.609**	.652**	-										
5. CTQ: Emotional Neglect	.376**	.191**	.472**	.449**	-									
6. CTQ: ALL	.800**	.694**	.834**	.819**	.667**	-								
7. SW-Family	-.323**	-.293*	-.397**	-.433**	-.273*	-.448**	-							
8. SW- Competition	-.342**	-.372**	-.087	-.221	-.049	-.262*	.235*	-						
9. SW- Appearance	-.129	-.270*	.024	-.165	-.066	-.136	.304**	.420**	-					

10. SW-Academic	-.142	-.300*	.032	-.169	-.131	-.161	.325**	.432**	.378**	-				
11. SW-Virtue	-.304*	-.333**	-.111	-.328**	-.100	-.286*	.460**	.177	.320**	.235*	-			
12. SW-Approval	.067	-.128	.026	-.083	.098	.011	.080	.078	.354**	.153	-.017	-		
13. Rejection	.175	.006	.225	.246*	.324**	.264*	-.012	0.085	.217	.019	.186	-.039	-	
14. SAP	.705**	.472**	.247*	.324**	.072	.468**	-.237*	-.249*	-.241*	-.189	-.231	.069	.068	-
Mean	1.391	1.109	1.580	1.243	1.566	1.378	5.13	5.163	4.983	5.347	5.3	4.011	2.339	.1429
Sd	.5902	.4356	.7119	.4042	.5605	.4147	.9816	1.031	.8611	.8021	1.149	1.218	1.43	.8390
Upper Limit	4.00	3.60	4.00	2.80	3.00	2.92	7.00	7.00	6.40	7.00	7.00	6.60	5.00	5.00
Lower Limit	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.80	2.40	2.60	3.60	1.60	1.00	0.00	0.00

Note. * $p < .05$, ** $p < .01$. CTQ = Childhood Trauma Questionnaire. SW = Self-Worth. SAP = Sexual Aggression Perpetration.

APPENDIX:

Appendix A: Demographic Scale

Appendix A: Demographic Scale

1. What is your age?

{drop down menu}

**If age is less than 18 or greater than 25, skip to end*

2. Which best describes your gender identity?

- ☐ Woman
- ☐ Man
- ☐ Transgender woman
- ☐ Transgender man
- ☐ Genderqueer or gender non-conforming
- ☐ Questioning
- ☐ I identify another way, please specify _____

**If answer is anything but "Man" or "transgender man" skip to end*

3. Which best describes your sexual orientation?

- ☐ Heterosexual or straight
- ☐ Gay or lesbian
- ☐ Bisexual
- ☐ Asexual
- ☐ Questioning
- ☐ Another, please specify _____

**If answer is anything but "heterosexual or straight" or "bisexual" skip to end*

4. Are you of Hispanic or Latino/a/x origin?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes

5. Which of the following best describes you? Please select all that apply.

- ☐ White
- ☐ Black or African American

- ☐ Asian
- ☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- ☐ American Indian or Alaskan Native
- ☐ Another, please specify _____

6. What year are you in college?

- ☐ First year
- ☐ Second year
- ☐ Third year
- ☐ Fourth year
- ☐ Fifth year or higher

7. What is your current college enrollment status?

- ☐ Full time
- ☐ Part time

8. Which of the following best describes your current employment status?

- ☐ Employed full time
- ☐ Employed part time
- ☐ Furloughed
- ☐ Unemployed looking for work
- ☐ Unemployed not looking for work
- ☐ Retired

9. Which of the following best describes your political affiliation?

- ☐ Extremely liberal
- ☐ Somewhat liberal
- ☐ In the middle or moderate
- ☐ Somewhat conservative
- ☐ Extremely conservative
- ☐ Do not have a political affiliation

10. Which of the following best describes your religious affiliation?

- Agnostic
- Atheist
- Buddhist
- Christian
- Hindu
- Jewish
- Muslim
- Another, please specify _____
- Do not have a religious affiliation

11. How religious are you?

- Not at all religious
- Slightly religious
- Moderately religious
- Very religious
- Extremely religious

Appendix B: Romantic Rejection

Appendix B: Romantic Rejection

12. Which best describes your current primary relationship status?

- ☐ Single
- ☐ Casually dating or hooking up (brief sexual encounters)
- ☐ Exclusive dating relationship
- ☐ Polyamorous relationship
- ☐ Engaged
- ☐ Married, civil union, or domestic partnership
- ☐ Separated
- ☐ Divorced or widowed

13. How often does someone approach you and show romantic or sexual interest in you?

- ☐ Never
- ☐ Slightly often
- ☐ Moderately often
- ☐ Very often
- ☐ All the time

14. Have you ever asked someone out and they were not interested or said no?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No [*Skip to 17*]

15. How often have you asked someone out and they were not interested or said no?

- ☐ Every time I ask someone out
- ☐ Most of the time
- ☐ About half the time
- ☐ Occasionally
- ☐ Only once

16. When did you most recently ask someone out and they were not interested or said no?

- ☐ In the past week
- ☐ In the past month
- ☐ In the past 3 months
- ☐ In the past 6 months
- ☐ In the past year or two
- ☐ Longer than two years

17. Have you ever asked someone for their phone number or social media information, and they were not interested, said no, or gave you fake information?
- ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No [*Skip to 20*]
18. How often have you asked someone for their phone number or social media information, and they were not interested, said no, or gave you fake information?
- ☐ Every time I ask someone for their information
 - ☐ Most of the time
 - ☐ About half the time
 - ☐ Occasionally
 - ☐ Only once
19. How recently did you ask someone for their phone number or social media information, and they were not interested, said no, or gave you fake information?
- ☐ In the past week
 - ☐ In the past month
 - ☐ In the past 3 months
 - ☐ In the past 6 months
 - ☐ In the past year or two
 - ☐ Longer than two years
20. Has anyone ever told you that they are not interested in you or not attracted to you?
- ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No [*Skip to 23*]
21. How many times has someone told you that they are not interested in you or not attracted to you?
- ☐ Every time I ask someone out
 - ☐ Most of the time
 - ☐ About half the time
 - ☐ Occasionally
 - ☐ Only once
22. How recently has someone told you that they are not interested in you or not attracted to you?
- ☐ In the past week
 - ☐ In the past month
 - ☐ In the past 3 months
 - ☐ In the past 6 months
 - ☐ In the past year or two
 - ☐ Longer than two years

23. Have you ever messaged/texted someone on dating apps and they didn't answer?
- Yes
 - No [*Skip to 26*]
24. How often do you message/text someone on dating apps and they don't answer?
- Every time I message someone
 - Most of the time
 - About half the time
 - Occasionally
 - Only once
25. How recently did you message/text someone on dating apps and they didn't answer?
- In the past week
 - In the past month
 - In the past 3 months
 - In the past 6 months
 - In the past year or two
 - Longer than two years
26. Have you ever wanted to engage in sexual activity and been turned down or told no?
- Yes
 - No [*Skip to 29*]
27. How many times have you wanted to engage in sexual activity and been turned down or told no?
- Every time I want to engage in sexual activity
 - Most of the time
 - About half the time
 - Occasionally
 - Only once
28. How recently did you want to engage in sexual activity and were turned down or told no?
- In the past week
 - In the past month
 - In the past 3 months
 - In the past 6 months
 - In the past year or two
 - Longer than two years

29. Have you ever been in a serious relationship? Serious being a committed, monogamous relationship lasting a month or more.

- Yes
- No [Skip to next set of questions]

30. If so, how many serious relationships have you been in?

- Drop Down list of (“1”- “more than 5”)

31. What was the length of your longest relationship?

- Drop down list of (“less than 1 month”- “more than 5 years”)

Appendix C: Self-Worth

Appendix C: Self-Worth

1. When I think I look attractive, I feel good about myself
[Scale from Strongly Disagree (1) to Strongly Agree (7)]
2. I feel worthwhile when I perform better than others on a task or skill.
[Scale from Strongly Disagree (1) to Strongly Agree (7)]
3. My self-esteem is unrelated to how I feel about the way my body looks.
[Scale from Strongly Disagree (1) to Strongly Agree (7)]
4. Doing something I know is wrong makes me lose my self-respect.
[Scale from Strongly Disagree (1) to Strongly Agree (7)]
5. I don't care if other people have a negative opinion about me.
[Scale from Strongly Disagree (1) to Strongly Agree (7)]
6. Knowing that my family members love me makes me feel good about myself.
[Scale from Strongly Disagree (1) to Strongly Agree (7)]
7. I can't respect myself if others don't respect me.
[Scale from Strongly Disagree (1) to Strongly Agree (7)]
8. My self-worth is not influenced by the quality of my relationships with my family members.
[Scale from Strongly Disagree (1) to Strongly Agree (7)]
9. Whenever I follow my moral principles, my sense of self-respect gets a boost.
[Scale from Strongly Disagree (1) to Strongly Agree (7)]
10. Knowing that I am better than others on a task raises my self-esteem.
[Scale from Strongly Disagree (1) to Strongly Agree (7)]
11. My opinion about myself isn't tied to how well I do in school.
[Scale from Strongly Disagree (1) to Strongly Agree (7)]
12. I couldn't respect myself if I didn't live up to a moral code.
[Scale from Strongly Disagree (1) to Strongly Agree (7)]
13. I don't care what other people think of me.
[Scale from Strongly Disagree (1) to Strongly Agree (7)]
14. When my family members are proud of me, my sense of self-worth increases.
[Scale from Strongly Disagree (1) to Strongly Agree (7)]
15. My self-esteem is influenced by how attractive I think my face or facial features are.
[Scale from Strongly Disagree (1) to Strongly Agree (7)]

16. Doing well in school gives me a sense of self-respect.
[Scale from Strongly Disagree (1) to Strongly Agree (7)]
17. Doing better than others gives me a sense of self-respect.
[Scale from Strongly Disagree (1) to Strongly Agree (7)]
18. My sense of self suffers when whenever I think I don't look good.
[Scale from Strongly Disagree (1) to Strongly Agree (7)]
19. I feel better about myself when I know I am doing well academically.
[Scale from Strongly Disagree (1) to Strongly Agree (7)]
20. What others think of me has no effect on what I think about myself.
[Scale from Strongly Disagree (1) to Strongly Agree (7)]
21. When I don't feel loved by my family, my self-esteem goes down.
[Scale from Strongly Disagree (1) to Strongly Agree (7)]
22. My self-worth is affected by how well I do when I am competing with others.
[Scale from Strongly Disagree (1) to Strongly Agree (7)]
23. My self-esteem is influenced by my academic performance.
[Scale from Strongly Disagree (1) to Strongly Agree (7)]
24. My self-esteem would suffer if I did something unethical.
[Scale from Strongly Disagree (1) to Strongly Agree (7)]
25. It is important to my self-respect that I have a family that cares about me.
[Scale from Strongly Disagree (1) to Strongly Agree (7)]
26. My self-esteem does not depend on whether or not I feel attractive.
[Scale from Strongly Disagree (1) to Strongly Agree (7)]
27. My self-worth is influenced by how well I do on competitive tasks.
[Scale from Strongly Disagree (1) to Strongly Agree (7)]
28. I feel bad about myself whenever my academic performance is lacking.
[Scale from Strongly Disagree (1) to Strongly Agree (7)]
29. My self-esteem depends on whether or not I follow my moral/ethical principles.
[Scale from Strongly Disagree (1) to Strongly Agree (7)]
30. My self-esteem depends on the opinions others hold of me.
[Scale from Strongly Disagree (1) to Strongly Agree (7)]

Appendix D: Sexual Perpetration

Appendix D: Sexual Perpetration

Sexual Experiences	How many times in the past 12 months?	How many times since age 14?
1 I fondled, kissed, or rubbed up against the private areas of someone's body (lips, breast/chest, crotch or butt) or removed some of their clothes without their consent (<i>but did not attempt sexual penetration</i>) by:	0 1 2 3+	0 1 2 3+
a Telling lies, threatening to end the relationship, threatening to spread rumors about them, making promises about the future I knew were untrue, or continually verbally pressuring them after they said they didn't want to.		
b Showing displeasure, criticizing their sexuality or attractiveness, getting angry but not using physical force after they said they didn't want to.		
c Taking advantage when they were too drunk or out of it to stop what was happening.		
d Threatening to physically harm them or someone close to them.		
e Using force, for example holding them down with my body weight, pinning their arms, or having a weapon.		
2 I had oral sex with someone or had someone perform oral sex on me without their consent by:	0 1 2 3+	0 1 2 3+
a Telling lies, threatening to end the relationship, threatening to spread rumors about them, making promises about the future I knew were untrue, or continually verbally pressuring them after they said they didn't want to.		
b Showing displeasure, criticizing their sexuality or attractiveness, getting angry but not using physical force after they said they didn't want to.		
c Taking advantage when they were too drunk or out of it to stop what was happening.		
d Threatening to physically harm them or someone close to them.		
e Using force, for example holding them down with my body weight, pinning their arms, or having a weapon.		
	How many times in the past 12 months?	How many times since age 14?

3 I put my penis or I put my fingers or objects into a woman's vagina without her consent by: 0 1 2 3+ 0 1 2 3+

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

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

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

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

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

4 I put in my penis or I put my fingers or objects into someone's butt without their consent by:

0
1 0 1
2
2
3+ 3+

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

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

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

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

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

5 Even though it did not happen, I TRIED to have oral sex with someone or make them have oral sex with me without their consent by:

0
1 0 1
2
2
3+ 3+

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

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

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

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

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

	How many times in the past 12 months?	How many times since age 14?
6 Even though it did not happen, I TRIED put in my penis or I tried to put my fingers or objects into a woman's vagina without their consent by:	0 1 2 3+	0 1 2 3+

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

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

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

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

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

7 Even though it did not happen, I TRIED to put in my penis or I tried to put my fingers or objects into someone's butt without their consent by:	0 1 2 3+	0 1 2 3+
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a Telling lies, threatening to end the relationship, threatening to spread rumors about them, making promises about the future I knew were untrue, or continually verbally pressuring them after they said they didn't want to.

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

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

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

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

[Only display the following question in participants endorsed any of the above items]:

You indicated that at least one of the experiences described in the above survey happened 1 or more time. What was the gender of the person or persons to whom you did them?

Women only

Men only

Both women and men

Do you think you may have you ever raped someone? Yes No

Appendix E: Child Abuse

Appendix E: Child Abuse

Response options:

<i>Never True (1)</i>	<i>Rarely True (2)</i>	<i>Sometimes True (3)</i>	<i>Often True (4)</i>	<i>Very Often True (5)</i>
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1. When I was growing up, I didn't have enough to eat
2. When I was growing up, I knew that there was someone to take care of me and protect me.
3. When I was growing up, people in my family called me things like 'stupid', 'lazy' or 'ugly'.
4. When I was growing up, my parents were too drunk or high to take care of the family
5. When I was growing up, there was someone in my family who helped me feel that I was important or special.
6. When I was growing up, I had to wear dirty clothes.
7. When I was growing up, I felt loved.
8. When I was growing up, I thought that my parents wished I had never been born.
9. When I was growing up, I got hit so hard by someone in my family that I had to go see a doctor or go to the hospital.
10. When I was growing up, there was nothing I wanted to change about my family.
11. When I was growing up, people in my family hit me so hard that it left me with bruises or marks.
12. When I was growing up, I was punished with a belt, a board, a cord, or some other hard object.
13. When I was growing up, people in my family looked out for each other.
14. When I was growing up, people in my family said hurtful or insulting things to me.
15. When I was growing up, I believe that I was physically abused.
16. When I was growing up, I had the perfect childhood.
17. When I was growing up, I got hit or beaten so badly that it was noticed by someone like a teacher, neighbor, or doctor.
18. When I was growing up, I felt that someone in my family hated me.
19. When I was growing up, people in my family felt close to each other.

20. When I was growing up, someone tried to touch me in a sexual way, or tried to make me touch them.
21. When I was growing up, someone threatened to hurt me or tell lies about me unless I did something sexual for them.
22. When I was growing up, I had the best family in the world.
23. When I was growing up, someone tried to make me do sexual things or what sexual things.
24. When I was growing up, someone molested me.
25. When I was growing up, I believe that I was emotionally abused.
26. When I was growing up, there was someone to take me to the doctor if I needed it.
27. When I was growing up, I believed that I was sexually abused.
28. When I was growing up, my family was a source of strength and support.

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