Barriers to Reporting Sexual Assault for Heterosexuals, Gay Men and Lesbians

An Honors Thesis (HONRS 499)

By

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May 2011

Expected Date of Graduation

May 2011
Abstract

Sexual assault is one of the most underreported crimes in the country (Sable, Danis, Mauzy, & Gallagher, 2006). There are several barriers that prevent victims from reporting their experience to law enforcement and medical providers (Sable et al., 2006). Considering that rates of sexual assault within gay and lesbian community is estimated to be higher than in the heterosexual population (Baslsam, Rothblum, & Beauchaine, 2005), the current study wishes to determine what unique barriers gay men and lesbians perceive when deciding to report their sexual assault, if gay men and lesbians perceive their peers to have higher rape myth acceptance than heterosexuals, and if there are gender differences in reporting barriers. Results show that gay men and lesbians rate “fear of a hostile response to your sexual preference” as significantly more important than do heterosexuals when the perpetrator is a male and female. There were no significant differences between peer rape myth acceptance and sexual orientation. Results of gender comparisons are similar to Sabel et al. (2006).
Acknowledgments

I would like to thank Dr. Chadwick Menning for advising me through this project. His encouragement and expertise throughout this process was invaluable. This semester proved to be an incredible learning experience and personal journey. Thank for your spirit of perseverance and endurance.
Barriers to Reporting Sexual Assault for Heterosexuals, Gay Men, and Lesbians

Sexual assault is a complex term that includes attacks such as rape or attempted rape, as well as any unwanted sexual contact or threats (National Center for Victims of Crime, 2008). While laws differ by state, generally, a sexual assault occurs when someone touches any part of another person's body in a sexual way, even through clothes, without that person's consent (National Center for Victims of Crime, 2008).

While the past thirty years have brought on legal and social reforms to reduce victim blaming and increase sexual assault awareness on college campuses, sexual assault continues to be a major public concern. It is estimated that one in six women and one in 33 men will be sexually assaulted in their lifetime (RAINN, 2009). Sexual assault within the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community reports higher rates of sexual coercion and assault than their heterosexual counterparts (Duncan, 1990; Baier, Rosenzweig, & Whipple, 1991). Recent epidemiological reports suggest that 21-40% of lesbians report experiencing adult sexual assault (Baslam, Rothblum, & Beauchaine, 2005).

Effects of Victimization

These statistics are worrisome considering the severe psychological and physical effects of sexual victimization. Women who have been sexually assaulted are more likely to experience a fear of intimacy, lack of sexual pleasure and anxiety about sexual performance (Golding, 1996). They are more likely to engage in health compromising behaviors, such as smoking cigarettes, excessive alcohol consumption, illicit drug use, and risky sex behaviors (Golding, 1996). They are also more likely to be diagnosed with
a sexually transmitted infection and report overall poorer physical health (Golding, 1996).

Experience of sexual assault is also related to poorer psychological health. For example, women with a history of sexual assault are more likely to experience major depression disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, and obsessive-compulsive disorder (de Visser, Rissel, Richters, & Smith, 2007). In addition, victims may use alcohol and drugs as a means of coping with stress, which can contribute to lower overall psychological and physical health (de Visser et al., 2007). Sexual assault is found to result in higher rates of PTSD compared to other traumatic events, such as physical assault or robbery with a weapon (Norris, 1992).

Some researchers have suggested that because of the chronic stress associated with their sexual orientation status, GLBT sexual assault survivors may have a more difficult time recovering than heterosexual survivors (Kantor, 1998). Added sociocultural factors, such as internalized homophobia, have been found to affect the psychological health of GLBT sexual assault survivors. Internalized homophobia is a result of accepting negative stereotypes and myths about homosexuality and is associated with depression, demoralization, and less openness about one’s sexual orientation (Herek, Cogan, Gillis, & Glunt, 1997). For gay men and lesbians that have high rates of internalized homophobia, a sexual assault may cause them to feel weak, crazy and vulnerable (Gold, Marx, Dickstein, & Lexington, 2009). Gold et al. (2009) found that internalized homophobia was associated with depressive and PTSD symptom severity. Because women develop PTSD and other negative psychological trauma symptoms at higher rates
than men (Simmons & Granvold, 2005), lesbians with high levels of internalized homophobia may be at particularly high risk poor to psychological health after an assault.

Extreme cases of childhood sexual abuse can result in personality disorders, such as Dissociate Identity Disorder (DID; Yuan, Koss. & Stone, 2006). Characteristics of DID include patterns of instability in relationships, goals, values, mood, nonfatal suicidal behavior and suicidal threats and other harmful impulsive behaviors, such as substance abuse and unsafe sex (Yuan et al., 2006). Finally, sexual dysfunction has been associated with childhood sexual abuse. Najman, Dunne, Purdie, Boyle, and Coxeter (2005) found that 32% of women who experience childhood sexual abuse experienced three or more symptoms of sexual dysfunction (e.g. lack of interest in sex, inability to orgasm, orgasm too quickly, and lack of sexual pleasure) compared to only 15% of women with no history of sexual assault.

Despite the high prevalence and severe consequences of sexual assault, it remains one of the most underreported crimes in the country (Sable, Danis, Mauzy, & Gallagher, 2006). According the National College Women Sexual Victimization Survey, less than 5% of completed or attempted rapes against college age women were reported to the police (Fisher, Cullen, & Turner, 2000, as cited in Sable et al., 2006). It is also estimated that male and sexual minority reports of sexual assault are even lower, considering the numerous stereotypes about male sexuality and the widespread homophobic attitudes shared by many that prevent victims from telling others (RAINN, 2009).

**Benefits of reporting**

While reporting sexual assault to law enforcement is a personal decision, there are some benefits for those that decide to report. One benefit is that the victim may become
eligible for state crime victim compensation funds (National Center for Victims of Crime, 2008). These funds can possibly pay for medical expenses, ongoing sexually transmitted disease testing or treatment, psychological counseling and treatment, lost wages and other services. Additionally, victims may feel a sense of accomplishment and empowerment by protecting themselves.

Finally, it has been shown that actively holding back thoughts, emotions or behaviors is associated with physical ailment and disease. Pennebaker, Kisecolt-Glaser, & Glaser (1988) assigned 50 undergraduates to write either about their traumatic experience or irrelevant topic for four consecutive days. Measures of immune-system function were taken the day before, the day after and six weeks after the last writing day. Results show that individuals who are forced to confront negative experiences show improved physical health compared to those who do not. More specifically, it was found that those with the greatest health improvements wrote about problems that they have actively restrained from telling others (Pennebaker et al., 1988). Sexual assault victims who report the attack actively confront the trauma, allowing for a better understanding and assimilation of their experience.

Reporting sexual assault also has benefits for society. Perpetrators who are not apprehended and prosecuted are free to live in the community and continue sexually victimizing others. Abel et al. (1987) interviewed 561 unincarcerated offenders who were recruited through therapist and legal sources. This study showed that unincarcerated self-identified sex offenders reported an average number of victims and crimes that is much higher than estimates by earlier literature (Abel et al., 1987). Within this sample were 126 self-reported rapists who disclosed 907 rapes against 882 victims, an average of seven
victims per perpetrator. Reporting rape and sexual assault to the police can prevent the perpetrator from victimizing other individuals. The more sex offenders that are prosecuted and incarcerated, the smaller the number of victims.

**Barriers to Reporting**

With these benefits in mind, people may be misled to believe that reporting sexual assault is easy decision to make. There are several reasons why victims of sexual assault do not report these incidences to the police. First, sexual assault victims tend to blame themselves for being raped, especially when alcohol was involved (Bachman, 1998). Victims who are assaulted by someone they know may not label their experience as a rape or sexual assault, making it less likely they will seek help for assault-related services (Koss & Gidcyz, 1985). Being judged negatively by others is one possible reason for not reporting the incident. Other reasons include fear of retaliation by the offender, embarrassment, lack of confidence that the offender will be arrested and belief that the experience should remain private (Bachman, 1998).

Sable, Danis, Mauzy, and Gallagher (2006) had 215 college-age students rate the importance of a list of barriers to reporting sexual assault or rape. These barriers included “shame, guilt, embarrassment,” “fear of being judged gay,” “fear of retaliation” as well as “unaware of importance of treatment.” Results concluded that men scored higher on barriers related to personal dignity (confidentiality concerns, shame, guilt, embarrassment, fear of not being believed) than women. Women scored higher on barriers that were related to lack of resources, fear and protection of the perpetrator (“fear of retaliation,” “financial dependence,” “does not want perpetrator to be prosecuted”). One limitation is that this study did not determine the gender of the perpetrator. The
current study predicts similar results for barriers with male perpetrators, but expects changes when a female is portrayed as the offender.

In general, incidents that involve a high degree of injury, involve a weapon and perpetrated by a stranger are more likely to be reported to the police (Bachman, 1998). Because many sexual assault victims have minimal physical injuries and are more likely to be coerced through psychological pressure by individuals that they personally know, these acts are rarely brought to the attention of law enforcement (Fisher et al., 2003).

**Rape Myths**

Traditional rape myths include a number of false beliefs such as that victims want or enjoy rape and that victims (especially women) encourage rape by engaging in risky behaviors (Burt, 1980). These beliefs lead people to attribute blame to victims and use factors such as level of attractiveness, dress and respectability to determine how responsible the victim is for his/her attack. For example, if the victim had been wearing provocative clothing at the time of the attack, a greater amount of blame is placed on this victim.

Because we tend to display preference for in-group members, people tend to place more on victims who are dissimilar to themselves (Brewer, 1979). Wakelin and Long (2003) examined the effects of victim gender and sexuality on judgments of sexual assault victims. Heterosexual men made the most anti-victim judgments while gay men were less likely to endorse male rape myths or blame the victim. Additionally, gay males and heterosexual females received the most blame and were seen has having a greater desire for rape to happen. This finding suggests that it is not only membership in a minority group that increases blame (if that was the case, gay men and lesbian would
have received equal amounts of blame), but the amount of blame also seems to be influenced by homophobia against gay men in particular.

Because of the in-group theory and the strong presence of homophobia, gay male victims experience more victim blaming than heterosexual men and they are aware of this. Hodge and Canter (1998) found that most men who report rape to the police claim to be heterosexual because they believe that there is a greater chance that they will be believed. Because of this, it would be understandable that members of the GLBT community have higher rates of perceived peer rape myth acceptance than heterosexuals. This is important considering that sexual assault survivors report fewer assault details when they believe their peers are more accepting of common rape myths in addition to the finding that estimated peer rape myth acceptance is also associated with PTSD and depressive symptoms in victims (Paul, Gray, Elhai, & Davis, 2009). Therefore, a victim who estimates the level of rape myth acceptance by his/her peers to be high, the more likely he/she is to experience severe symptoms of PTSD and depression.

Unique barriers of GLTB

Research on gay and lesbian relationships has largely been ignored (Elliot, 1996, as cited in Waldner-Hougmd, 1999). This is surprising considering that the rates of sexual assault and abuse are similar, if not higher than heterosexuals. Also, because of their sexual orientation, they experience different barriers that may prevent them from ever reporting the incident to the police or medical personal (Fisher et al., 2003; Waldner-Hougrud, 1999).

Because minority groups are not always accepted or even tolerated within our society, the current study seeks to determine the different barriers that heterosexual and gay men
and lesbians face when reporting a sexual assault as well as to determine differences, if any, between estimated peer rape myth acceptance of heterosexual and gay men and lesbians. In addition, this study looks to replicate the findings of Sable et al., 2006, which found that men rate issues related to personal integrity as more important than women and women rate issues of resources and protection of the perpetrator as more important than men. Since the previous study did not distinguish between male and female perpetrators, the current study hopes to determine if certain barriers are contingent upon the gender of the perpetrator. It is important to identify and understand the factors that deter victims from seeking help considering the possible benefits of reporting these crimes (Skogan, 1976).

Method

Participants

A total of 233 (193 women and 38 men) respondents were recruited to participate in an anonymous online survey. Participants were recruited through social networking websites as well as university email. Most (81.9%) were between the ages of 18 and 24 years old. The majority identified as exclusively or predominantly heterosexual (86.7%) while 5.6% identified as, predominantly homosexual and exclusively homosexual. Seventy four percent have completed some college. Most (42.9%) participants reported being single, 30% reported being in a relationship, 11.6% were engaged or married, and 7.7% were in a cohabitating relationship.

Materials

The participants were presented with a survey including a demographics section, the Illinois Rape Myth Acceptance-Short Form (IRMA-SF) and a reporting barriers measure. The IRMA-SF assesses the respondent's level of endorsement of rape myths
BARRIERS TO REPORTING  

(Payne, Lonsway, & Fitzgerald, 1999). Rape myths are defined as prejudicial, stereotyped, or false beliefs about rape, victims and perpetrators and create a hostile environment for rape victims (Paul et al., 2009). Sample items include “If a woman is raped while she is drunk, she is at least somewhat responsible for letting things get out of control.” and “It is usually only women who dress suggestively that are raped.” An analysis of the psychometric factors concluded that the IRMA-SF has adequate internal consistency and reliability, as well as construct validity (Payne et al., 1999).

Respondents also rated the level of perceived importance for 19 barriers to reporting using a five point Likert scale. Such barriers include “confidentiality concerns,” “financial dependence on perpetrator” and “fear of being judged as gay.” This measure is a modified version of a reporting barrier measure used by Sable et al. (2006). For this survey, participants completed this scale once for a male perpetrator and once for a female perpetrator.

Procedure

The online survey was administered to participants anywhere they had access to the internet. All participation was voluntary and data was collected anonymously. After reading a study information sheet, participants entered the survey which lasted approximately 15-20 minutes. After completing the survey, participants viewed a debriefing page that included contact information to local and national crisis hotlines.

Results

In this study, participant’s perceptions of the importance of 19 factors that prevent victims from seeking help were measured. T-tests were conducted to examine differences between heterosexual and gay men/lesbian participants regarding perceived importance
of barriers of reporting sexual assault when a male is an offender. Table 1 presents the importance rating for all 19 reporting barriers for heterosexual and gay men/lesbians. Gay and lesbian respondents perceived the barrier “fear of hostile response due to your sexual preference” to be significantly more important than heterosexual participants, \( t(10.44) = -3.15, p < .05 \). When the perpetrator was portrayed as a female, gay and lesbian respondents also perceived the “fear of hostile response due to your sexual preference” to be significantly more important than heterosexual participants, \( t(11.86) = -3.98, p < .05 \) (see Table 2). Table 3 presents means of the IRMA-SF. No significant differences were found between the mean scores of gay men/lesbian and heterosexual peer rape myth acceptance scores.

Table 4 shows the rating of importance among all 19 barriers to males and females when the perpetrator is male. To determine gender differences, t tests were used regarding perceived importance of barriers to reporting rape and sexual assault. When a male was portrayed as the perpetrator, men scored significantly higher on barrier “fear of being judged gay” \( t(33.51) = -2.86, p < .05 \). Women rated “fear of retaliation from the assailant” \( (p < .05) \), “fear of family member or friend being prosecuted” \( (p < .05) \) and “financial dependence on perpetrators” \( (p < .05) \) as significantly more important than men. These results for women are consistent with Sable et al. (2006), in that women rate issues related to resources, fear and protection of the perpetrator as more important than men. However, men did not rate issues such as “confidentiality concerns” and “shame, guilt, embarrassment” as significantly more important than women as concluded by Sable et al. (2006).
When a female was portrayed as the perpetrator, men and women rated “feelings of shame, guilt, and embarrassment” as important, however these scores were significantly higher for women than men $t(28.14)= 2.51, p < .05$. Women reported ‘fear of being judged gay’ ($p<.01$), “fear of retaliation from the assailant” ($p < .01$) and “confidentiality concerns” ($p < .05$) as significantly more important than men. “Fear of not being believed” was rated as important for both men ($M=3.96$) and women ($M=3.95$). Men also rated “disbelief in successful prosecution” ($M=3.61$) and “fear of being blamed” ($M=3.52$) as important reporting barriers. Table 5 shows the rating of importance among all 19 barriers to males and females when the perpetrator is female.

Discussion

Gay men and lesbians rated the barrier “fear of a hostile response because of one’s sexual preference” significantly higher than heterosexual participants when the perpetrator is portrayed as male or female. This finding suggests that homophobia can be a deciding factor in whether or not gay and lesbian sexual assault victims seek help. This is consistent with other research detailing how homophobia affects the mental health and interpersonal relationships of GLBT individuals (Waldner-Hougard, 1999; Baslsam et al., 2005; Wakelin & Long, 200). Because colleges play a large role in educating young people about services available for victims of sexual assault and rape (Sable et al., 2006), findings of this study suggest that these offices and organizations should include symbols that signify their support for the GLBT community. These symbols, such as a rainbow or a Safe Zone flier, communicate to the community that GLBT individuals will be treated with respect and equality. Because gay men and lesbians report “fear of hostile response due to sexual
orientation” as significantly more important than heterosexuals, symbols of inclusiveness and acceptance of the GLBT community may motivate more GLBT victims to seek the services of that organization or office.

While this study did not find significant differences between PRMA scores of gay/lesbians and heterosexuals, other studies suggest that organizations participate in education and training specific to the GLBT community. While positive reactions to disclosure, such as emotional support, have small positive or nonsignificant effects on psychological health, negative reactions, such as victim blaming and disbelief, show strong negative effects for victims (Ullman & Filipas, 2001). Formal sources of support (police and physicians) are generally rated as less supportive and more victim blaming than informal sources (Ullman, 1999). However, victims who do not disclose their experience may avoid negative reactions, but they also fail to process the trauma thoroughly and receive needed support (Ullman & Filipas, 2001). Training to reduce the rape myth acceptance of these professionals could reduce the revictimization of sexual assault survivors and allow them to receive the appropriate help.

As expected, men rated “fear of being judged gay” as more important than women when the perpetrator is portrayed as a male. Similar to Sable et al. (2006), women scored higher on barriers that were related to fear and protection of the perpetrator (“fear of retaliation, “fear of friend or family member being prosecuted” and “financial dependence on perpetrator”) compared to males. When the perpetrator was portrayed as a female, both men and women reported issues related to not being believed as important.

These results reinforce other literature that details why men do not report sexual assault. The high score that males gave the barrier “fear of being judged as gay” may
endorse society’s perception that male sexual assault occurs in the gay, not general, population (Isely & Gehrenbeck-Shim, 1997). Also, reporting sexual assault may undermine an individual’s masculine identity which encompasses strength, independence and aggressiveness (Isely & Gehrenbeck, 1997).

Stereotypes of women are portrayed in these findings as well. Both men and women scored “fear of not being believed” as important when the perpetrator was portrayed as a woman. There is a general reluctance to label women as potential perpetrators of crime (Waldner-Haugrud, 1999). Gender roles require women to be passive, caring and nurturing individuals—most definitely not characteristics we associate with sexual offenders. Because of these deeply ingrained roles and characteristics, victims of sexual assault perpetrated by women seem to be cautious in reporting their experience due to the perception they may not be believed.

There were several limitations to this study that may have resulted in few significant findings. First, the sample size for the gay and lesbian group was very small (N=13), only 5.6% of the entire sample. My recommendations for future research include collecting more data from gay and lesbian participants. Having more participants may result in more significant findings. Second, this sample was a relatively young group, mostly consisting of college-aged participants. Results of this survey are not generalizable to other age populations. Future studies should try to be more inclusive of older participants to make the results more generalizable.
### Table 1

*Reporting Barrier Importance Rating for Heterosexual and Gay Men/Lesbians for a Male Perpetrator*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reporting Barrier</th>
<th>Heterosexual</th>
<th>SD</th>
<th>Gay Men/Lesbian</th>
<th>SD</th>
<th>( p )</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feelings of shame, guilt, embarrassment</td>
<td>3.38</td>
<td>1.35</td>
<td>3.60</td>
<td>.67</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fear of being judged as gay</td>
<td>1.90</td>
<td>1.37</td>
<td>2.90</td>
<td>1.80</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fear of retaliation from the assailant</td>
<td>3.62</td>
<td>1.27</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>1.41</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confidentiality concerns</td>
<td>3.86</td>
<td>1.14</td>
<td>3.90</td>
<td>1.38</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fear of being blamed for the assault</td>
<td>3.89</td>
<td>1.34</td>
<td>3.90</td>
<td>1.10</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fear of not being believed</td>
<td>3.89</td>
<td>1.13</td>
<td>3.90</td>
<td>1.10</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial dependence on perpetrator</td>
<td>2.79</td>
<td>1.48</td>
<td>2.60</td>
<td>1.65</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fear of family member or friend being prosecuted</td>
<td>3.10</td>
<td>1.40</td>
<td>3.10</td>
<td>1.29</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disbelief in successful prosecution</td>
<td>3.42</td>
<td>1.23</td>
<td>3.50</td>
<td>1.18</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unaware of importance of treatment</td>
<td>2.93</td>
<td>1.43</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>1.63</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of knowledge about how to get help</td>
<td>3.25</td>
<td>1.44</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>1.70</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of resources to obtain help</td>
<td>3.23</td>
<td>3.14</td>
<td>1.43</td>
<td>3.50</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of available services</td>
<td>2.42</td>
<td>1.61</td>
<td>2.80</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dislike or distrust of police and justice system</td>
<td>3.14</td>
<td>1.43</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>1.43</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language barriers to obtaining help</td>
<td>2.42</td>
<td>1.61</td>
<td>2.80</td>
<td>1.98</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fear of &quot;coming out&quot; to your family, court system and police</td>
<td>2.41</td>
<td>1.62</td>
<td>3.40</td>
<td>1.90</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fear of betraying your community by accusing another person of your sexual preference of sexual assault</td>
<td>2.40</td>
<td>1.48</td>
<td>2.90</td>
<td>1.73</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fear of a hostile response due to your sexual preference</td>
<td>2.40</td>
<td>1/56</td>
<td>3.90</td>
<td>1.45</td>
<td>&lt;.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fear of having your experience sensationalized</td>
<td>3.34</td>
<td>1.32</td>
<td>3.50</td>
<td>1.15</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: 1 = not important at all, 5 = very important*
### Table 2

**Reporting Barrier Importance Rating for Heterosexuals and Gay Men/Lesbians for a Female Perpetrator**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reporting Barrier</th>
<th>Heterosexual</th>
<th>SD</th>
<th>Gay Men/Lesbians</th>
<th>SD</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feelings of shame, guilt, embarrassment</td>
<td>3.74</td>
<td>1.32</td>
<td>3.80</td>
<td>1.30</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fear of being judged as gay</td>
<td>2.86</td>
<td>1.58</td>
<td>2.60</td>
<td>1.71</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fear of retaliation from the assailant</td>
<td>3.24</td>
<td>1.42</td>
<td>3.80</td>
<td>1.62</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confidentiality concerns</td>
<td>3.80</td>
<td>1.27</td>
<td>4.10</td>
<td>1.20</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fear of being blamed for the assault</td>
<td>3.60</td>
<td>1.20</td>
<td>3.50</td>
<td>1.58</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fear of not being believed</td>
<td>3.98</td>
<td>1.22</td>
<td>4.11</td>
<td>.93</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial dependence on perpetrator</td>
<td>2.33</td>
<td>1.54</td>
<td>2.80</td>
<td>1.62</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fear of family member or friend being prosecuted</td>
<td>2.98</td>
<td>1.52</td>
<td>2.90</td>
<td>1.37</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disbelief in successful prosecution</td>
<td>3.67</td>
<td>1.33</td>
<td>3.80</td>
<td>1.55</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unaware of importance of treatment</td>
<td>2.93</td>
<td>1.51</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>1.56</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of knowledge about how to get help</td>
<td>3.17</td>
<td>1.51</td>
<td>3.89</td>
<td>1.54</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of resources to obtain help</td>
<td>3.19</td>
<td>1.53</td>
<td>3.80</td>
<td>1.48</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of available services</td>
<td>3.17</td>
<td>1.54</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>1.49</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dislike or distrust of police and justice system</td>
<td>3.05</td>
<td>1.53</td>
<td>3.33</td>
<td>1.50</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language barriers to obtaining help</td>
<td>2.33</td>
<td>1.68</td>
<td>2.20</td>
<td>1.48</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fear of &quot;coming out&quot; to your family, court system and police</td>
<td>2.38</td>
<td>1.63</td>
<td>2.90</td>
<td>1.66</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fear of betraying your community by accusing another person of your sexual preference of sexual assault</td>
<td>2.47</td>
<td>1.52</td>
<td>3.50</td>
<td>1.65</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fear of a hostile response due to your sexual preference</td>
<td>2.44</td>
<td>1.60</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>1.16</td>
<td>&lt;.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fear of having your experience sensationalized</td>
<td>3.62</td>
<td>1.41</td>
<td>3.80</td>
<td>1.40</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** 1 = not important at all, 5 = very important
Table 3

*Peer Rape Myth Acceptance (PRMA) means for Heterosexuals and Gay*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rape Myth</th>
<th>Heterosexual</th>
<th>SD</th>
<th>Gay Men/Lesbian</th>
<th>SD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>If a person is sexually assaulted while they are drunk, they are at least somewhat responsible for letting things get out of control.</td>
<td>3.19</td>
<td>1.11</td>
<td>2.50</td>
<td>1.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Although most people wouldn’t admit it, they generally find being physically forced into sex a real “turn-on.”</td>
<td>2.45</td>
<td>1.02</td>
<td>2.20</td>
<td>1.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If a person is willing to “make out” with another individual, then it’s no big deal if that individual goes a little further and has sex.</td>
<td>2.53</td>
<td>1.18</td>
<td>2.40</td>
<td>1.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Many people secretly desire to be sexually assaulted.</td>
<td>2.02</td>
<td>1.95</td>
<td>1.60</td>
<td>1.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most rapists are not caught by the police.*</td>
<td>3.50</td>
<td>1.10</td>
<td>3.30</td>
<td>1.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If a person is willing to “make out” with another individual, then it’s no big deal if that individual goes a little further and has sex.</td>
<td>2.48</td>
<td>1.11</td>
<td>2.30</td>
<td>1.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individuals from nice middle-class homes almost never sexually assault someone.</td>
<td>2.57</td>
<td>1.10</td>
<td>2.50</td>
<td>1.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual assault accusations are often used as a way of getting back at someone.</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>1.06</td>
<td>2.50</td>
<td>1.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Everyone should have access to self-defense classes.*</td>
<td>4.06</td>
<td>1.79</td>
<td>3.90</td>
<td>1.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It is usually only those individuals who dress suggestively that are sexually assaulted.</td>
<td>2.92</td>
<td>1.16</td>
<td>2.70</td>
<td>1.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If the offender doesn’t have a weapon, you really can’t call it a sexual assault.</td>
<td>1.91</td>
<td>1.16</td>
<td>2.10</td>
<td>1.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual assault is unlikely to happen in the victim’s own familiar neighborhood.</td>
<td>2.39</td>
<td>1.08</td>
<td>2.50</td>
<td>1.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victims tend to exaggerate how much sexual assault affects them.</td>
<td>2.61</td>
<td>1.11</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>1.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A lot of women lead a man on and then they cry rape.</td>
<td>2.90</td>
<td>1.11</td>
<td>2.40</td>
<td>1.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It is preferable that a female police officer conduct the questioning when a woman reports a rape.*</td>
<td>3.66</td>
<td>1.88</td>
<td>3.70</td>
<td>1.95</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Continued on next page
Table 3 cont.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>SD</th>
<th>Median</th>
<th>Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A person who &quot;teases&quot; deserves anything that might happen.</td>
<td>2.58</td>
<td>1.17</td>
<td>2.22</td>
<td>1.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When individuals are sexually assaulted, it's often because the way they said &quot;no&quot; was ambiguous.</td>
<td>2.80</td>
<td>1.14</td>
<td>2.67</td>
<td>1.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most people don't usually intend to force sex on another person, but sometimes they get too sexually carried away.</td>
<td>3.06</td>
<td>1.02</td>
<td>2.90</td>
<td>1.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A person who dresses in skimpy clothes should not be surprised if another individual tries to force them to have sex.</td>
<td>3.04</td>
<td>1.22</td>
<td>2.70</td>
<td>1.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual assault happens when a man's sex drive gets out of control.</td>
<td>2.98</td>
<td>1.03</td>
<td>2.60</td>
<td>1.17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: 1=Strongly Disagree, 5=Strong Agree  
*Fillier items
### Table 4

*Reporting Barrier Importance Rating for Males and Females for a Male Perpetrator*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reporting Barrier</th>
<th>Women ((M))</th>
<th>SD</th>
<th>Male ((M))</th>
<th>SD</th>
<th>(p)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feelings of shame, guilt and embarrassment</td>
<td>3.40</td>
<td>1.36</td>
<td>3.48</td>
<td>1.25</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fear of being judged as gay</td>
<td>1.85</td>
<td>1.37</td>
<td>2.78</td>
<td>1.58</td>
<td>&lt;.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fear of retaliation from assailant</td>
<td>3.79</td>
<td>1.21</td>
<td>2.85</td>
<td>2.85</td>
<td>&lt;.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confidentiality concerns</td>
<td>3.90</td>
<td>1.15</td>
<td>3.63</td>
<td>1.25</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fear of being blamed for the assault</td>
<td>3.58</td>
<td>1.30</td>
<td>2.63</td>
<td>1.28</td>
<td>&lt;.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fear of not being believed</td>
<td>3.92</td>
<td>1.15</td>
<td>3.56</td>
<td>1.28</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial dependence on perpetrator</td>
<td>2.97</td>
<td>1.52</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>1.27</td>
<td>&lt;.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fear of family member or friend being prosecuted</td>
<td>3.10</td>
<td>1.39</td>
<td>3.10</td>
<td>1.29</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disbelief in successful prosecution</td>
<td>3.44</td>
<td>1.23</td>
<td>3.42</td>
<td>1.36</td>
<td>&lt;.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unaware of important of treatment</td>
<td>2.92</td>
<td>1.47</td>
<td>2.92</td>
<td>1.47</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of knowledge about how to get help</td>
<td>3.29</td>
<td>1.50</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>1.47</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of resources to obtain help</td>
<td>3.30</td>
<td>1.49</td>
<td>2.88</td>
<td>1.51</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of available services</td>
<td>3.33</td>
<td>1.47</td>
<td>3.04</td>
<td>1.43</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dislike or distrust of police and justice system</td>
<td>3.19</td>
<td>1.46</td>
<td>2.96</td>
<td>1.48</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language barriers to obtaining help</td>
<td>2.61</td>
<td>1.87</td>
<td>1.77</td>
<td>1.34</td>
<td>&lt;.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fear of ‘coming out’ to your family, court system, and police</td>
<td>2.62</td>
<td>1.69</td>
<td>2.35</td>
<td>1.70</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fear of betraying your community by accusing someone of the same sexual preference</td>
<td>2.56</td>
<td>1.53</td>
<td>1.85</td>
<td>1.23</td>
<td>&lt;.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fear of a hostile response due to your sexual preference</td>
<td>2.58</td>
<td>1.61</td>
<td>2.38</td>
<td>1.63</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fear of having your experience sensationalized</td>
<td>3.47</td>
<td>1.31</td>
<td>3.15</td>
<td>1.49</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: 1= not important at all, 5=very important*
Table 5

Reporting Barrier Importance Rating for Males and Females for a Female Perpetrator

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reporting Barrier</th>
<th>Women (M)</th>
<th>SD</th>
<th>Male (M)</th>
<th>SD</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feelings of shame, guilt, embarrassment</td>
<td>3.82</td>
<td>1.30</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>1.48</td>
<td>&lt;.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fear of being judged as gay</td>
<td>3.07</td>
<td>1.56</td>
<td>1.52</td>
<td>1.20</td>
<td>&lt;.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fear of retaliation from the assailant</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>1.38</td>
<td>2.04</td>
<td>1.37</td>
<td>&lt;.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confidentiality Concerns</td>
<td>3.95</td>
<td>1.23</td>
<td>3.13</td>
<td>1.34</td>
<td>&lt;.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fear of being blamed for the assault</td>
<td>3.60</td>
<td>1.32</td>
<td>3.52</td>
<td>1.47</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fear of not being believed</td>
<td>3.95</td>
<td>1.26</td>
<td>3.96</td>
<td>1.22</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial dependence on the perpetrator</td>
<td>2.47</td>
<td>1.61</td>
<td>2.04</td>
<td>1.36</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fear of family member or friend being prosecuted</td>
<td>3.05</td>
<td>1.54</td>
<td>2.48</td>
<td>1.47</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disbelief on successful prosecution</td>
<td>3.67</td>
<td>1.35</td>
<td>3.61</td>
<td>1.56</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unaware of importance of treatment</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>1.55</td>
<td>2.52</td>
<td>1.50</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of knowledge about how to get help</td>
<td>3.26</td>
<td>1.58</td>
<td>2.83</td>
<td>1.44</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of resources to obtain help</td>
<td>3.27</td>
<td>1.57</td>
<td>2.91</td>
<td>1.51</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of available resources</td>
<td>3.22</td>
<td>1.60</td>
<td>3.13</td>
<td>1.52</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dislike or distrust of police and justice system</td>
<td>3.09</td>
<td>1.56</td>
<td>3.09</td>
<td>1.57</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language barriers to obtaining help</td>
<td>2.47</td>
<td>1.74</td>
<td>1.77</td>
<td>1.34</td>
<td>&lt;.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fear of 'coming out' to your family, court system and police</td>
<td>2.57</td>
<td>1.67</td>
<td>1.74</td>
<td>1.36</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fear of betraying your community by accusing someone of your same sexual preference</td>
<td>2.64</td>
<td>1.56</td>
<td>2.17</td>
<td>1.56</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fear of a hostile response due to your sexual preference</td>
<td>2.71</td>
<td>1.65</td>
<td>2.26</td>
<td>1.66</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fear of having your experience sensationalized</td>
<td>3.73</td>
<td>1.35</td>
<td>3.48</td>
<td>1.62</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: 1 = not important at all, 5 = very important
References


study. *Archives of Sexual Behavior, 34,* 517-526.


RAINN (2009). Retrieved from


[213889-2] Barriers to Reporting Sexual Assault for Heterosexual and LGBT Individuals

You have Full access to this project.

Research Institution Ball State University, Muncie, IN
Title Barriers to Reporting Sexual Assault for Heterosexual and LGBT Individuals
Principal Investigator Matthews, Ashley
Status Approved
Lock Status Locked

The documents for this project can be accessed from the Designer.

Submitted to:
Ball State University IRB 02/28/2011 Approved 03/03/2011. Review details.

The previous package (213889-1) has a status of Exempt.

Shared with the following IRBNet users

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IRBNet User</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Access Type</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ashley Matthews</td>
<td>Ball State University, Muncie, IN</td>
<td>Full</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chadwick Menning</td>
<td>Ball State University, Muncie, IN</td>
<td>Full</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Barriers to Reporting Sexual Assault for Heterosexuals and LGBTQ Individuals

My research team and I are interested in determining the factors that heterosexual and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and questioning individuals consider when reporting a sexual assault. For many individuals, these factors play a large role in whether or not the crime is actually reported. You do not have to be a victim of sexual assault to participate in this survey. However, you must be 18 years or older to continue with the survey.

In this survey, you will provide demographic information and rate the importance of 19 different barriers to reporting sexual assault on a scale from 1-5. You will also be asked about your feelings, and how you perceive you peers to think, about sexual assault and rape. Participation in this study will last approximately 15 minutes. If thinking about or answering these kinds of questions causes excessive discomfort, then you should consider not participating in this study. If you do choose to participate, you are free to leave items blank that you do not feel comfortable answering and/or discontinue participation in the study by closing your web browser, thus ending the survey.

All data will be maintained as anonymous and no identifying information will be asked of you or presented in the data. This data will be stored on the Primary Investigator’s hard drive and stored until all analyses are complete.

Your participation in this study is complete voluntary and you are free to withdraw from the survey at any time without penalty from the investigator.

To participate in this study, proceed by clicking on the button below. By clicking on this link, you acknowledge that you have read this description of the study and have had any questions answered to your satisfaction, and therefore give your consent to participate.

**Researcher Contact Information**

Principal Investigator: Ashley Matthews
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For more information about one's rights as a research subject, please contact Research Compliance, Sponsored Programs Office, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306, (765) 285-5070, irb@bsu.edu.
Demographic information

Gender

Male
Female
Male to Female Transgender
Female to Male Transgender
Male to female Transsexual
Female to male Transsexual
Androgynous
Prefer not to answer
Other:__________

Age

-under 18
-18-24
-25-34
-35-44
-45-54
-55-64
-Over 65
-Prefer not to answer

My ethnicity is

American Indian / Native American
Asian
Black / African American
White / Caucasian
Pacific Islander

Other:_____

Are you of Hispanic origin?
Yes/No

Marital Status
Married
Single
Dating
In a relationship
In a cohabitating relationship
Married
Separated
Divorced
Widowed
Prefer not to answer
Other: _____

Sexual Preference

Exclusively heterosexual
Predominantly heterosexual only incidentally homosexual
Predominantly heterosexual, but more than incidentally homosexual
Equally heterosexual and homosexual.
Predominantly homosexual but more than incidentally heterosexual
Predominantly homosexual, only incidentally heterosexual
Exclusively homosexual
Asexual, Non-sexual
Prefer not to answer
Other: ________

Education

Some high school
High school
Some college
College graduate or more
Other: ________
Prefer not to answer

Sexual assault is a very serious issue that is largely unreported, with under 39% of
all sexual assaults reported to the police (Catalano, 2005). The term ‘sexual assault’ has many forms including attacks such as rape or attempted rape, as well as any unwanted sexual contact or threats. Usually a sexual assault occurs when someone touches any part of another person’s body in a sexual way, even through clothes, without that person’s consent (National Center for Victims of Crime). The following questions will ask you about your beliefs concerning sexual assault. There are no right or wrong answers.

**Rape Myth Acceptance**

Rate the following items for what YOU personally believe:

1= Strongly Agree
2= Agree
3= Unsure
4= Disagree
5= Strongly Disagree

1. _____ If a person is sexually assaulted while they are drunk, they are at least somewhat responsible for letting things get out of control.

2. _____ Although most people wouldn’t admit it, they generally find being physically forced into sex a real “turn-on.”

3. _____ If a person is willing to “make out” with another individual, then it’s no big deal if that individual goes a little further and has sex.

4. _____ Many people secretly desire to be sexually assaulted.

5. _____ Most rapists are not caught by the police.

6. _____ If a individual doesn’t physically fight back, you can’t really say that it was sexual assault.

7. _____ Individuals from nice middle-class homes almost never sexually assault someone.

8. _____ Sexual Assault accusations are often used as a way of getting back at someone.

9. _____ Everyone should have access to self-defense classes.

10. _____ It is usually only those individuals who dress suggestively that are sexually assaulted.

11. _____ If the offender doesn’t have a weapon, you really can’t call it a sexual assault.
12. Sexual assault is unlikely to happen in the victim’s own familiar neighborhood.

13. Victims tend to exaggerate how much sexual assault affects them.

14. A lot of women lead a man on and then they cry rape.

15. It is preferable that a female police officer conduct the questioning when a woman reports a rape.

16. A person who “teases” deserves anything that might happen.

17. When individuals are sexually assaulted, it’s often because the way they said “no” was ambiguous.

18. Most people don’t usually intend to force sex on another person, but sometimes they get too sexually carried away.

19. A person who dresses in skimpy clothes should not be surprised if a another individual tries to force them to have sex.

20. Sexual assault happens when a man’s sex drive gets out of control.

Perceptions of Peer Rape Myth Acceptance

Rate the following items for what you believe your PEERS think:
1= Many of your peers would strongly agree with this statement
2= Many of your peers would agree with this statement
3= Unsure
4= Many of your peers would disagree with this statement
5= Many of your peers would strongly disagree with this statement

1. If a person is sexually assaulted while they are drunk, they are at least somewhat responsible for letting things get out of control.

2. Although most people wouldn’t admit it, they generally find being physically forced into sex a real “turn-on.”

3. If a person is willing to “make out” with another individual, then it’s no big deal if that individual goes a little further and has sex.

4. Many people secretly desire to be sexually assaulted.
5. ______ Most rapists are not caught by the police.

6. ______ If a individual doesn’t physically fight back, you can’t really say that it was sexual assault.

7. ______ Individuals from nice middle-class homes almost never sexually assault someone.

8. ______ Sexual Assault accusations are often used as a way of getting back at someone.

9. ______ Everyone should have access to self-defense classes.

10. ______ It is usually only those individuals who dress suggestively that are sexually assaulted.

11. ______ If the offender doesn’t have a weapon, you really can’t call it a sexual assault.

12. ______ Sexual assault is unlikely to happen in the victim’s own familiar neighborhood.

13. ______ Victims tend to exaggerate how much sexual assault affects them.

14. ______ A lot of people lead an individual on and then they cry rape.

15. ______ It is preferable that a female police officer conduct the questioning when a woman reports a sexual assault.

16. ______ A person who “teases” deserves anything that might happen.

17. ______ When individuals are sexually assaulted, it’s often because the way they said “no” was ambiguous.

18. ______ Most people don’t usually intend to force sex on another person, but sometimes they get too sexually carried away.

19. ______ A person who dresses in skimpy clothes should not be surprised if another individual tries to force them to have sex.

20. ______ Sexual assault happens when a man’s sex drive gets out of control.

Reporting Barriers
Imagine that a male friend of yours has sexually assaulted you. Rate each of the following items on a scale of 5 to 1 on the importance of these factors when considering whether to share or not to share your experience to the police and medical service providers.
(5=extremely important, 1=not important)

1. ______ Feelings of shame, guilt, embarrassment
2. ______ Fear of being judged gay
3. ______ Fear of retaliation from the assailant
4. ______ Confidentiality concerns
5. ______ Fear of being blamed for the assault
6. ______ Fear of not being believed
7. ______ Financial dependence on perpetrator
8. ______ Fear of family member or friend being prosecuted
9. ______ Disbelief in successful prosecution
10. ______ Unaware of importance of treatment
11. ______ Lack of knowledge about how to get help
12. ______ Lack of resources to obtain help
13. ______ Lack of available services
14. ______ Dislike or distrust of police and justice system
15. ______ Language barriers to obtaining help
16. ______ Fear of 'coming out' to your family, court system and police
17. ______ Fear of betraying your community by accusing another person of your sexual preference of sexual assault
18. ______ Fear of a hostile response due to your sexual preference
19. ______ Fear of having your experience sensationalized

Imagine that a female friend has sexually assaulted you. Rate each of the following items on a scale of 5 to 1 on the importance of these factors when reporting your experience to the police and medical service providers.
(5=extremely important, 1=not important)

1. ______ Feelings of shame, guilt, embarrassment
2. ______ Fear of being judged gay
3. ______ Fear of retaliation from the assailant
4. ______ Confidentiality concerns
5. ______ Fear of being blamed for the assault
6. ______ Fear of not being believed
7. ______ Financial dependence on perpetrator
8. ______ Fear of a family member or friend being prosecuted
9. ______ Disbelief in successful prosecution
10. ______ Unaware of importance of treatment
11. ______ Lack of knowledge about how to get help
12. ______ Lack of resources to obtain help
13. _____Lack of available services
14. _____Dislike or distrust of police and justice system
15. _____Language barriers to obtaining help
16. _____Fear of 'coming out' to your family, court system and police
17. _____Fear of betraying your community by accusing another person of your sexual preference of sexual assault
18. _____Fear of a hostile response due to your sexual preference
19. _____Fear of having your experience sensationalized

For Ball State Students, counseling services are available to you through the Counseling Center at Ball State University (765-285-1376) if you develop uncomfortable feelings during your participation in this research project. You will be responsible for the costs of any care that is provided [note: Ball State students may have some or all of these services provided to them at no cost]. Victim services for Ball State students are accessible through the Office of Victim Services (765-285-7844). For those participants outside of Ball State University, counseling and other services can be obtained from the National Sexual Assault Hotline (1.800.656.HOPE), LGBT Crisis Hotline (773-871-CARE), or the GLBT National Hotline (888-THE-GLNH) if you develop uncomfortable feelings during your participation in this research project. You will be responsible for the costs of any care that is provided. It is understood that in the unlikely event that treatment is necessary as a result of your participation in this research project, law requires that Ball State University, its agents, and employees will assume whatever responsibility is required by law.
GUIDELINES FOR PREPARING THE NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION OF THE RESEARCH STUDY

SECTION 1 – TITLE, PURPOSE OF THE STUDY, AND RATIONALE

1.1 Title. Barriers to Reporting Sexual Assault for Heterosexuals and the LGBTQ Individuals

1.2 Purpose of the study. The purpose of this study is to determine the differences in perceived barriers to reporting sexual assault for heterosexual and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and questioning individuals while also assessing individual rape myth acceptance and perceptions of peer rape myth acceptance.

1.3 Rationale. A large body of literature exists about the effects of sexual victimization for heterosexual women (Kilpatrick et al., 1997; Hanson, 1990; Truchik et al., 2010). However, there is very little empirical evidence on the unique experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and questing individuals (LGBTQ). Additionally, much of the literature about the experiences of gay and bisexual men in terms of sexual assault is equated with prison samples and the prevalence of same sex assault in prison (Greenfeld, 1997; Eigneberry, 1989). Members of the LGBTQ community are at a greater risk of sexual assault, and because of their sexual orientation they experience different barriers that may prevent them from ever reporting the incident to the police or medical personal (Waldner-Haugrud, Vaden Gratch, 1997). Additionally, it has been found that sexual assault survivors report fewer assault details when they believe their peers are more accepting of common rape myths (Paul, Gray, Elhai, & Davis, 2009). The current study wishes to explore and identify those different factors that heterosexual and LGBT individuals view as important when considering sharing their sexual assault experience with others while also assessing perceptions of peer rape myth acceptance.

SECTION 2 – DESCRIPTION OF SUBJECT POPULATION

2.1 Number of subjects. 200-400

2.2 Describe the subject population. Subjects for this study will include adults over the age of 18. Males and females will be included as well as heterosexual and gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and questioning individuals. Subjects of all ethnicities are encouraged to participate.

2.3 Describe any specified inclusion/exclusion criteria. Subjects must be over the age of 18 years old.
SECTION 3 – SUBJECT RECRUITMENT

3.1 Describe the method of subject recruitment. Subjects will be recruited online. Links to the survey will be posted on Facebook profiles, twitter accounts and personal web pages. Subjects will be encouraged to continue distributing the link. (Please see “Recruitment Text” a copy of the message that will be forwarded).

SECTION 4 – METHODS AND PROCEDURES

4.1 Describe the methods and procedures to be used. Subjects will click on a link that leads them to survey on surveymonkey.com. Since the subjects are able to take the survey online, the location of the research setting will be different for each subject. The survey is estimated to take 15 minutes to complete. (Please see “Survey”).

SECTION 5 – ANONYMITY/CONFIDENTIALITY OF DATA

5.1 Describe how data will be collected and stored. Data will be collected anonymously and subjects will not be asked to provide any type of identifying information at any time. The Surveymonkey account that will be used to create and administer the survey is the account of the Sociology Department. This particular account utilizes secure-socket layer encryption, which provides extra assurance against electronic eavesdropping and thus further assures anonymity. The data will be downloaded onto the PI’s hard drive and will be made available to all key personnel. Information downloaded on this hard drive will be stored until all analyses are complete. While others may be exposed by this data, subjects will not be identifiable by any information included in the Survey Monkey data.

SECTION 6 – POTENTIAL RISKS AND BENEFITS

6.1 Describe the potential risks and discomforts. Considering the sensitivity surrounding the issues of sexual assault, some subjects may experience some psychological discomfort when thinking about being assaulted. However, the research is of minimal risk to the subjects because this discomfort is not greater than what they may experience in everyday life.

6.2 Describe how the risks will be minimized. In case of psychological discomfort or trauma, the contact information of the BSU Office of Victim Services, the BSU Counseling Center, the LGBT Crisis Hotline, and the GLBT National Hotline and the National Sexual Assault Hotline will be provided.
6.2 **Describe the potential benefits.** Since there is a lack of information and research concerning LGBT and gender differences in sexual assault situations, the findings of the current study will add to and expand on the current limited knowledge base. By knowing which barriers are most important to different types of people, service providers can better aid sexual assault victims and develop more effective outreach programs. Additionally, this information will be used to develop a sexual assault prevention program.

**SECTION 7 – SUBJECT INCENTIVES/INDUCEMENTS TO PARTICIPATE**

7.1 **Describe any inducements/incentives to participate that will be offered to the subject.** Subjects will have no incentives to complete the survey.

**SECTION 8 – OTHER FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

8.1 **Describe any financial expense to the subject.** This study will be of no financial expense to the subject.

8.2 **Describe any provisions for compensation for research-related injury.** There is no risk of physical injury associated with the participation in the current study. Since the current study does include slight psychological risk, the following phrase will be added at the end of the survey.

“For Ball State Students, counseling services are available to you through the Counseling Center at Ball State University (765-285-1376) if you develop uncomfortable feelings during your participation in this research project. You will be responsible for the costs of any care that is provided [note: Ball State students may have some or all of these services provided to them at no cost]. Victim services for Ball State students are accessible through the Office of Victim Services (765-285-7844). For those participants outside of Ball State University, counseling and other services can be obtained from the National Sexual Assault Hotline (1.800.656.HOPE), LGBT Crisis Hotline (773-871-CARE), or the GLBT National Hotline (888-THE-GLNH) if you develop uncomfortable feelings during your participation in this research project. You will be responsible for the costs of any care that is provided. It is understood that in the unlikely event that treatment is necessary as a result of your participation in this research project that Ball State University, its agents and employees will assume whatever responsibility is required by law.”

**SECTION 9 – INFORMED CONSENT**

9.1 This study may be appropriate for exempt status.

9.2 No required elements must be waived.
9.3 There will be a message describing the study before they begin the survey itself on Survey monkey. This message will be the first page of the Survey Monkey file. This message will include the purpose of the study, directions to continue with the survey and a link to learn more about research. (See “Introductory Letter” for a copy of this message)

SECTION 10 – ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

10.1 List all attachments related to or referenced in this narrative.

Subject Recruitment Text
Survey
Introductory Letter