

**THE AMOUNT OF UNWANTED SEXUAL EXPERIENCES AMONG COLLEGE
FEMALES**

By

DAVID E. RICH
B.S., UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS LOWELL (1992)

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Abstract

In the last ten years, there have been several studies conducted in an attempt to estimate the amount of rapes that are occurring to college females. Mary Koss & colleagues have directed several research projects on this topic, one of which was conducted on a sample of colleges & universities on a national level in 1987, and showed that 27.5% of the female college respondents reported an incident that met the legal definition of rape or attempted rape.

The present research is considered a replication with extension study, and followed the national exercise's sampling scheme. This study utilized Koss et. als' Sexual Experiences Survey [SES] on a medium sized university in the Northeast, with findings similar to the national study, showing 27.6% of the local sample experiencing an attempted or completed rape. This study continued on to examine issues such as alcohol/illegal drug use immediately prior to the incident, the victim-assailant relationship, and the respondents' perception of rape in regards to their own victimization.

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1. Introduction

This paper is concerned with the incidence of sexual assaults among college aged women. Its objective is to use survey methodology to uncover the “true prevalence” of this phenomenon, unaffected by official reporting which may be misleading at times.

The Uniform Crime Reports 1992 states that there were 109,062 forcible rapes¹ during that year, reflecting an increase of 0.5 rapes per 100,000 people from 1991. This number reportedly brought the rate to 42.8 rapes per 100,000 persons.

Even though this rate may shock some people, they should brace themselves for an even larger jolt: the numbers listed above are believed to be *under-reported*. As most academicians and statisticians know, the UCR pools its data from police and related agencies. True, according to the UCR, this reporting method covers 96% of the nation’s population, but it is obvious that if a victim of a crime decides not to report the incident to any official agency, the UCR would never be able to include that incident in its tabulations.

Many of the rape studies in the past have relied on official reports from victims to obtain their information. In 1975, the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration suggested that only 40% to 50% of rapes are reported. This estimate has been supported by the National Crime Victim’s Survey [NCVS], which reported that from 1973 through 1992, an annual average of 47.8% of those raped did *not* report their victimization to the authorities. With this in mind, the NCVS reports that there were 375,000 and 312,000 rapes in 1992 and 1993, respectively (*National Crime Victimization Survey Redesign*,

¹Both the UCR and the National Crime Victim’s Survey (NCVS) use the following definition for rape: carnal knowledge through the use or threat of force, including attempts. Statutory rape (without force) is not included. The UCR defines the victim as female, the NCVS does not, and also includes both heterosexual and homosexual rapes.

1994)². That results in approximately 266,000 rapes and attempted rapes that are unaccounted for when looking at the UCR's data.

The present study, as have others, recognizes that in order for a victimization to be included in many of the data sets, the incident would have had to be reported to some form of authority. It is for this reason that the present study did not utilize any existing records, but instead decided to gather original data. The research design employed here is similar to the approach originated by Mary P. Koss (1987), and was drafted to include both the incidents that have been counted by the authorities, as well as the numerous victimizations that have never been reported.

Koss's instrument (known as the Sexual Experiences Survey, or SES) was used on a national level in 1987 (Koss, Gidycz, & Wisniewski, 1987), while the present study's version of the instrument was used with a smaller, more local population in the spring of 1994. The first purpose of this research is to compare Koss's 1987 national findings with a sample drawn from a New England university. The comparison between the two findings may lend an insight as to whether the prevalence of unwanted sexual experiences has changed, and if so, to what degree.

The present research should be considered a 'replication with extension' of Koss et al's findings. This research also includes six demographic and five situational questions, with the addition of the question; "In your opinion, have you ever been raped?". This item enables the association between actual and perceived rapes to be calculated. It is possible that a majority of rape victims do not report their attacks to the police because they do not consider the incident to be a 'real rape'. By the victim failing to report the incident, the victimization is not counted, and remains a "hidden" rape.

The second part of this research looks at the respondents' perception of having been raped by the seriousness of the incident, the victims' relationship with their

² In 1994, the Bureau of Justice Statistics announced that it had restructured the National Crime Victims' Survey. The 1992 figures prior to this redesign show 141,000 rapes (including attempts) that year. The statistics used above were obtained through the NCVS' new method.

assailants, and alcohol and/or drug use immediately prior to the incident. The purpose of this is to attempt to offer some insight as to why victims fail to report the incidents to the authorities, as well as trying to understand why some victims of actual rapes don't define themselves as rape victims.

2. Literature Review

There have been several studies conducted regarding rape, attempted rape, and other forms of sexual assaults. Some of them look at the victims' perceptions, how they reacted towards their attackers (Bart & O'Brien, 1984; Levine-MacCombie & Koss, 1986; Warshaw, 1988), while others concern themselves strictly with the role of social organizations (fraternities, sports teams) and their facilitating sexual attacks (Copenhaver & Grauerholz, 1991; Ownby, 1993; O'Sullivan, 1993). Koss and Oros (1982) composed a ten question self-report questionnaire known as the Sexual Experiences Survey [SES], which was designed to uncover different degrees of sexual assaults and victimizations and is capable of identifying hidden rape victims for the purpose of research (Koss and Gidycz, 1985). One of the methods which Koss employed to seek out the respondents who have actually been raped, but did not wish to label or report the incident, was to ask the questions in a situational format, never using the term "rape". The questions ranged from unwanted 'sex play' - "fondling, kissing, petting, but no intercourse", to attempted rape and rape items.

In 1987, Koss, Gidycz, & Wisniewski applied the SES to a nation wide sample of 3,187 women across 32 higher education institutions. Out of Koss et als' female respondents, 12.1% had experienced an attempted rape as the worst situation encountered, and 15.4% have had to deal with a rape. Transferring this into real numbers, 876 students out of the total 3,187 respondents had experienced a rape or an attempted rape. Koss et als' 1987 research is looked at further in this paper's methodology and findings section, and is also summarized in Table 4 on page 23.

Since the orchestration of the SES as well as the implementation of the above mentioned 1987 research, two other studies have been conducted utilizing the SES and versions of Koss, Gidycz, & Wisniewskis' methodology.

In 1992, Johnson, Pallieo, and Gray replicated Koss's 1987 work, but on a much smaller scale: a single southern university. In addition to simply replicating Koss's study, they also investigated the validity of the SES by measuring response set bias. It was argued that since the SES asks ten questions, starting with relatively 'easy' questions to answer affirmatively, and proceeding to items that ask about increasingly serious sexually aggressive acts, the question order may make it easier for respondents to answer affirmatively to the later questions, therefore artificially elevating Koss's results. In Johnson, Pallieo, and Grays' study, they offered two versions of the SES in an attempt to clarify this question; the original version and a shorter version. Their results showed no foundation for the proposed bias, and the findings from the original SES portion of their research showed similar results to Koss's 1987 findings (see Table 4, page 23).

The other study which replicated Koss, Gidycz, & Wisniewskis' 1987 study was conducted in 1991 by Stacey Copenhaver and Elizabeth Grauerholz. In this study the researchers utilized Koss et als' SES, and extended their study to look at sororital and fraternal ties to rape. Their sampling method varied in both the pools of possible respondents and in the method used to draw their sample. Instead of considering the entire female population of the college sampled, they only used sorority members, and while the other two SES studies used class lists to draw their sample, this research employed a self-administered survey mailed to selected females from their list of sorority members. Due to the sampling methods used, Copenhaver and Grauerholzs' only received back 28% of the 500 surveys they sent out (these researchers also cite the secrecy involved within sororal life as part of the low return rate). Just as with Johnson et als' 1992 study, this research's SES results are similar to Koss, Gidycz, & Wisniewskis' 1987 findings (see Table 4, page 23).

Prior to the above listed studies, the prevalence of rape was mainly measured by the amount of incidents of rape and attempted rape which were reported to the police. As mentioned previously, many of the victims may not have reported their victimizations to the authorities, and a large amount of these types of crimes go unaccounted for. Since Koss, Gidycz, & Wisniewskis' national work, the other studies conducted replicated the 1987 research in the midwest and southern sections of our country. It has been seven years since the SES has been used to represent the northeast section of the country, and there has not been many studies administered to measure the amount unwanted sexual experiences in our area. The present research should determine if the 1987 rates of unwanted sexual encounters are still accurate in our region of the country.

3. Methodology

Since the present study's primary goal is replication, this study follows each step in the design and execution of the research initially designed by Koss. Just as with the national exercise, this project's data was gathered through the use of in-class, self-administered questionnaires.

Questionnaire Design

The main goal of this research project is to replicate the national study. Therefore, Koss's ten SES items were presented in the same format that she used in her research:

1. Have you ever given into sex play (fondling, kissing, or petting, but not intercourse) when you didn't want to because you were overwhelmed by a person's continual arguments and pressure?
2. Have you had sex play (fondling, kissing, or petting, but not intercourse) when you didn't want to because a person used their position of authority (boss, teacher, supervisor, etc.) to make you?
3. Have you had sex play (fondling, kissing, or petting, but not intercourse) when you didn't want to because a person threatened or used some degree of physical force (twisting your arm, holding you down, etc.) to make you?
4. Have you had a man attempt sexual intercourse (get on top of you, attempt to insert his penis) when you didn't want to by threatening or using some degree of physical force (twisting your arm, holding you down, etc.) but intercourse did not occur?
5. Have you had a man attempt sexual intercourse (get on top of you, attempt to insert his penis) when you didn't want to by giving you alcohol or drugs, but intercourse did not occur?
6. Have you given in to sexual intercourse when you didn't want to because you were overwhelmed by a person's continual arguments and pressure?
7. Have you had sexual intercourse when you didn't want to because a person used their position (boss, teacher, supervisor, etc.) to make you?

8. Have you had sexual intercourse when you didn't want to because a person gave you alcohol or drugs?
9. Have you had sexual intercourse when you didn't want to because a person threatened or used some degree of physical force (twisting your arm, holding you down, etc.) to make you?
10. Have you had sex acts (penetration by objects other than the penis, or anal or oral intercourse) when you didn't want to because a man threatened or used some degree of force (twisting your arm, holding you down, etc.) to make you?

In an attempt to obtain other information regarding the respondents, a group of demographic questions were added, as were a group of questions about the situation which was being reported.

This project, as have countless others which have been conducted at various academic institutions, had to be approved by the university's Institutional Review Board [IRB]. This board is charged with the responsibility of reviewing all research proposals being conducted by faculty, staff, or students for the purpose of protecting the rights of potential respondents, as well as insuring that high ethical standards are being maintained.

To acquire approval from the IRB for conducting the present study, it was required to submit a copy of the questionnaire that would be used (Appendix A), a crisis center phone contact list which would be distributed (Appendix B), a research proposal, and the appropriate IRB form (Appendix C). Approximately one week after these items were submitted, the IRB chairperson responded with a question regarding the age of respondents (it is illegal to use persons under the age of 18 for the purpose of research without parental/guardian consent). The question was absolved by simply quoting the last paragraph of the cover page on the questionnaire, and offering statistics regarding the number of female day students who were under the age of 18 (see Appendix D). The IRB granted approval for this study on March 1, 1994.

Definitions

Ohio Revised Code's (1980) definition of rape, which was used in the Koss et al's research and also employed in the present study, states; "vaginal intercourse between male and female, and anal intercourse, fellatio, and cunnilingus between persons regardless of sex. Penetration, however slight, is sufficient to complete vaginal or anal intercourse. . . No person shall engage in sexual conduct with another person . . . when any of the following apply: (1) the offender purposely compels the other person to submit by force or threat of force, (2) for the purpose of preventing resistance the offender substantially impairs the other person's judgment or control by administering any drug or intoxicant to the other person."

Koss et al defined SES questions one, two, and three as 'sexual contact' (defined as "fondling, kissing, but no intercourse") items; questions four and five as 'attempted rape' items (defined as "...had a man attempt sexual intercourse...but intercourse did not occur); questions six and seven as 'sexual coercion' items (defined as "given in to" sexual intercourse due to the man's use of status or through arguments and/or pressure); and questions eight, nine, and ten as 'rape' (defined by situations which fit the definition of rape utilized by Koss et al). When the responses are reviewed using these four groupings, the respondents were looked at by the worst case reported, therefore eliminating the possibility of a single respondent appearing in more than one category.

Sampling Plan

When deciding on who to use as respondents for a research project, it must be decided on how the sample will obtain a fair representation of the population. This is extremely important. If this study had only asked female freshman students from small towns if they had been raped, statements regarding the prevalence of rape among all the students at that college would not valid. Because only the female freshman students from small towns had been asked, it would be wrong to make conclusions regarding all the

other female students. It is for this reason that the project attempted to obtain a representative sample for this study.

Considering that the national study attempted to represent higher education students across the country, this local study's goal was to represent the female higher education students at a medium sized (approximately 8,500 students) university in the northeast section of the country. Just as Koss had initial problems with schools denying permission to conduct her research, the present study found a group of instructors forbidding this project to take place in their classes. Out of a total of 24 instructors contacted, only 14 ended up allowing the survey to take place.

Initial decisions. One of the benefits of conducting a replication study is that by replicating someone else's work, some of the basic decisions have already been made. Since a self-administered questionnaire was utilized in the larger study, it wouldn't be proper to deviate from this trail. For similar reasons, as well as opting for a better return rate, these surveys were administered in the class room environment, instead of through the mail.

Selection of classes. Koss sampled a variety of higher education institutions across the country to offer fair representation of the population. This project attempted to reproduce a similar representation, but on the local level, and therefore substituted individual college classes in place of college institutions.

As of the fall semester of 1993 (the most recent data available), the university that was sampled had an enrollment of 8,875 full-time day students, of which 3,486 were female. Within the university, 29.8% of the females were Arts & Science (Humanities & Social Sciences) majors, 10.9% of them were Arts & Sciences (Math & Science) majors, 10% were Education majors, 9.3% were under the schools of Engineering, 4.3% were Fine Arts majors, 22% were Health majors, and 13.5% were Management majors. Obviously this study's sample should attempt to reflect these representations. Coupled with the necessity to keep anonymity among the respondents, it was decided that the most

logical approach to obtaining a fair representation was to use the classes within each of the colleges as an indication of the students' major.

Besides the representitiveness of each college, the study should have fair representation among the four class standings; freshman, sophomore, junior, and senior. The university which was surveyed recommends that freshmen take "100 level" classes, sophomores take "200 level" classes, juniors take "300 level" classes, and seniors take "400 level" classes. Just as the classes within each college were going to be used in an attempt to get a cross sample of the various majors, the class levels could be used to attempt to determine the student's class standing. For these reasons, classes within each college were originally selected based on the above two considerations.

This research understands that this procedure is based on an assumption, but with the various constraints at hand, the method was justified. Prior to the actual consent from each instructor, the original sampling frame looked like this:

Table 1. Original Sample Frame³

<u>College of Class</u>	<u>Average # of Females per Class to be Surveyed</u>	<u># of Classes in Each College to be Sampled</u>	<u>% of Overall Sample</u>	<u>% of Females in Each College</u>
Arts & Sciences (Humanities & Social Sciences)	40	4	36%	30%
Arts & Sciences (Math & Sciences)	12	4	11%	11%
Education	31	1	7%	10%
Engineering	11	4	10%	9%
Fine Arts	5	0	0%	4%
Health Professions	87	1	20%	22%
Management	24	3	16%	14%

Approx. # of Females to be Surveyed: 442 # of classes to be surveyed: 17

These classes were selected due to their size and their college affiliation.

As with many research projects, this one met with difficulties early on. Out of the original seventeen classes to be surveyed, nine could not be used due to various reasons, from unwillingness of the instructors to participate, to not enough females present to justify using the class. This led to the selection of an additional seven classes, of which five were used. By the time these five classes were selected, time constraints were making themselves evident. For this reason, the last group of classes were selected mainly for their student enrollment. The final sample population looked as follows:

³ The “Average # of Females per Class to be Surveyed” was computed by multiplying each of the official class enrollments by the percentage of females in the respective college, and then computing the mean by adding the approximate number of females in each class and dividing it by the number of classes to be surveyed in each college. The “% of Females in Each College” is taken from *Headcount by Race, Gender, and College, Fall 1993*, which was provided by the Office of Planning, Budget, and Assessment at the university which was sampled.

Table 2. Modified Sample Frame⁴

<u>College of Class</u>	<u>Average # of Females per Class to be Surveyed</u>	<u># of Classes in Each College to be Sampled</u>	<u>% of Overall Sample</u>	<u>% of Females in Each College</u>
Arts & Sciences (Humanities & Social Sciences)	40	3	37%	30%
Arts & Sciences (Math & Sciences)	12	4	15%	11%
Education	31	1	10%	10%
Engineering	11	3	10%	9%
Fine Arts	5	0	0%	4%
Health Professions	43	1	13%	22%
Management	24	2	15%	14%

Approx. # of Females
to be Surveyed: 323

of classes to be
surveyed: 14

The decision not to survey any of the classes from the College of Fine Arts was made due to the structure of the classes themselves. Classes having less than 3 females were not selected, for fear of respondents' feeling uncomfortable.

Recruitment of Classes. Once a group of classes to survey had been chosen, the instructors were initially contacted through letters of intent written on University letterhead. The letters explained the basic ideas of the study, assured them that it had already been approved by the Institutional Review Board, and offered them a variety of methods to reply with their willingness to participate.

⁴The "Average # of Females per Class to be Surveyed" was computed by multiplying each of the official class enrollments by the percentage of females in the respective college, and then computing the mean by adding the approximate number of females in each class and dividing it by the number of classes to be surveyed in each college. The "% of Females in Each College" is taken from *Headcount by Race, Gender, and College, Fall 1993*, which was provided by the Office of Planning, Budget, and Assessment at the university which was sampled.

By the point of the project when the initial nine classes refused to participate, time constraints required the telephone to be utilized to speak to the professors of the seven replacement classes. This method appeared to work with much better results than the letter method did, and all seven of the professors agreed to participate (one professor withdrew consent at the actual time the survey; no reason was given). The study now had 14 classes to survey.

Administration of the Questionnaires

The questionnaires were administered in the rooms where the classes took place. With the respondents' emotional state in mind, the surveys were to be proctored by females only. Three undergraduate psychology students and three graduate criminal justice students were recruited to proctor the survey periods, with one proctor present at each session. The instructors and all the male students were asked to leave the room prior the survey being distributed. Thirteen of the fourteen classes agreed to let the questionnaires be passed out ten minutes prior the end of class, and one professor requested that the surveys be completed at the beginning of his class.

All the surveys were to be deposited into a sealed box (with a slot in the cover) once finished. The questionnaires were completed anonymously, and were preambled by a cover sheet that explained basically what the topic of the survey was, and warned the potential respondents of the sensitivity of the questions. Beyond this, it covered all the elements of informed consent. Students who did not wish to participate were given the option to remain in their seats, or to deposit the questionnaire into the box at the front of the room and leave. Out of the returned surveys, 3% declined to participate.

Along with the survey, a list of eleven regional rape crisis centers was distributed to all potential respondents (see Appendix B). It was felt that this could offer some assistance to any of the respondents who may be attempting to deal with a related issue.

All potential respondents were asked to keep the phone list, or to pass it along to someone they felt could use it.

4. Respondents

Out of the 200 returned questionnaires, six (3%) refused to participate, one (0.5%) could not participate due to age limitations, and one (0.5%) was removed to safeguard the respondent’s anonymity. The final sample consisted of 192 females, and were characterized as follows: the respondents’ mean age (minus three blank responses) was 22.9 years; 8% were freshman, 44% were sophomores, 30% were juniors, and 18% were seniors; 68% were Catholic, 22% were Protestant, 7% were “other” religion, 3% were “no religion”, and 1% did not respond. Fifty-five percent of the respondents were from a small to medium sized town (less than 10,000 people to 24,999 people), 18% from a large town (25,000 to 49,999 people), 8% from a small city (50,000 to 99,999 people), and 18% from a medium to large sized city (100,000 to 250,000 or more people).

At the start of this project, it was attempted to gather a sample that would reflect the university’s female distribution throughout its colleges. The exact representation was not reached, though the final sample (see Table 3, below) was not far off the mark in some colleges.

Table 3. Breakdown of Major in Final Sample⁵

⁵ The numbers in the table may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

<u>College</u>	<u>% of Females in Anticipated Sample</u>	<u>% of Females in Actual Sample</u>	<u>% of Females in Each College</u>
Miscellaneous Humanities & Social Sciences		6%	
Criminal Justice	37%	11%	30%
Psychology		20%	
Miscellaneous Math & Science	15%	6%	11%
Education	10%	0%	10%
Engineering	10%	11%	9%
Health Professions		6%	
Nursing	13%	23%	22%
Management	15%	13%	14%
Undeclared Major		1%	
no major cited		1%	

5. Data Analysis

The results of this exercise were gathered and entered into a computer database for the purpose of analysis. For the replication portion of this research, the ten SES items were simply totaled and computed into percentages, and compared against Koss, Gidycz, & Wisniewski (1987), Copenhaver & Grauerholz (1991), and Johnson, Palileo, & Grays' (1992) studies in Appendix E.

For the profiling section of this project, the data recorded was analyzed with Microsoft Excel 4.0 utilizing the crosstabs function. The respondents to be profiled were separated from those who reported no unwanted sexual experiences. This left 111 cases from the original 192 respondents, and these cases were segregated into two groups based on the respondents' perception of whether they had been raped (determined by question #19 in Appendix A - "In your opinion, have you ever been raped?").

From here the respondents reporting at least one case of an unwanted sexual encounter by the demographics (1) age, (2) class standing, (3) religion, (4) religious practice, (5) [college] major, (6) and the respondents' city size (see Appendix E, figures 1a through 2f) were profiled. Next, the respondents were profiled by the characteristics of the situations which the unwanted sexual experience took place in, again dividing the responses by their perception of being raped. The situational characteristics included in these profiles were: (1) the victim/perpetrator relationship, (2) the location of the incident, (3) whether the persons involved had been using drugs or alcohol immediately prior to the incident, (4) and who the victim reported the incident to (Appendix E, figures 3a through 3d). The final characteristic presented is whether the respondent was at a party prior to the incident (Appendix E, figure 4).

A majority of the information will be originally presented in the text of this paper, both in the Findings and the Discussion & Results sections. All of the gathered data is also presented in table format in the Appendix section of this presentation.

6. Results

The results of this project will be presented in the form of answers to a number of research questions concerning the replication of the sexual experience questionnaire and additional questions concerning the validity of these results.

1. What are the results of the SES replication?

Overall 61% of respondents answered "yes" to at least one of the 10 SES items. The distribution of responses to the SES is shown in table 4. Estimates from the present study are very similar to those reported in the Koss et al (1987) national survey and are also similar in magnitude to results of two regional surveys (Copenhaver & Grauerholzs [1991], & Johnson, Palileo, & Gray [1992]). Taking into account the fact that the results of the four surveys cover a period of seven years from 1987 to 1994 and were conducted on national as well as local samples, there is remarkable consistency in the overall estimates of self-reported sexual assault.

Table 4. Results of Koss et als' National Study & Three Regional Replications

<u>Screening Items Used in all Four Studies</u>	<u>Koss, Gidycz, & Wisniewskis' (1987)¹ National Sample</u>	<u>Copenhaver & Grauerholzs' (1991)² Midwestern Sample</u>	<u>Johnson, Palileo, & Grays' (1992)³ Southern Sample</u>	<u>Rich's (1994)⁴ Northeastern Sample</u>
1. Have you ever given into sex play (fondling, kissing, or petting, but not intercourse) when you didn't want to because you were overwhelmed by a person's continual arguments and pressure?	44%	42%	43%	48%
2. Have you had sex play (fondling, kissing, or petting, but not intercourse) when you didn't want to because a person used their position of authority (boss, teacher, supervisor, etc.) to make you?	5%	3%	10%	6%
3. Have you had sex play (fondling, kissing, or petting, but not intercourse) when you didn't want to because a person threatened or used some degree of physical force (twisting your arm, holding you down, etc.) to make you?	13%	14%	11%	14%
4. Have you had a man attempt sexual intercourse (get on top of you, attempt to insert his penis) when you didn't want to by threatening or using some degree of physical force (twisting your arm, holding you down, etc.) but intercourse did not occur?	15%	12%	14%	14%
5. Have you had a man attempt sexual intercourse (get on top of you, attempt to insert his penis) when you didn't want to by giving you alcohol or drugs, but intercourse did not occur?	12%	19%	15%	12%
6. Have you given in to sexual intercourse when you didn't want to because you were overwhelmed by a person's continual arguments and pressure?	25%	18%	23%	31%
7. Have you had sexual intercourse when you didn't want to because a person used their position (boss, teacher, supervisor, etc.) to make you?	2%	0%	3%	2%
8. Have you had sexual intercourse when you didn't want to because a person gave you alcohol or drugs?	8%	12%	7%	9%
9. Have you had sexual intercourse when you didn't want to because a person threatened or used some degree of physical force (twisting your arm, holding you down, etc.) to make you?	9%	7%	8%	10%
10. Have you had sex acts (penetration by objects other than the penis, or anal or oral intercourse) when you didn't want to because a man threatened or used some degree of force (twisting your arm, holding you down, etc.) to make you?	6%	2%	4%	7%
	<i>n</i> = 3,187	<i>n</i> = 140	<i>n</i> = 333	<i>n</i> = 192

¹ Results are taken from Koss, Gidycz, & Wisniewski (1987) *The Scope of Rape: Incidence and Prevalence of Sexual Aggression and Victimization in a National Sample of Higher Education Students*. These results represent female respondents only. Koss et al all categorized the responses as happening "since the age of 14" and also as being "unweighted".

² Results are taken from Copenhaver and Grauerholz (1991) *Sexual Victimization Among Sorority Women: Exploring the Link Between Sexual Violence and Institutional Practices*, and represent the female respondents whom experienced the described sexual behavior since the age of 14.

³ Results taken from Johnson, Palileo, and Gray (1992) "Date Rape" *On a Southern Campus: Reports From 1991*. No mention of age of respondent at time of incident was available.

⁴ Results are taken from Rich (1994) *The Amount of Unwanted Sexual Experiences Among College Females* and represent respondents (all were female) who experienced the described sexual situations. Rich does not distinguish responses other than "before college" and during college.

2. How similar are the replication results to the other studies in terms of item-to-item variation?

The stability in the findings is also apparent for most of the separate survey items. As mentioned earlier in the Methodology section, the SES contained items that reflected four levels of severity: (1) sexual contact (items 1,2,& 3), (2) attempted rape (items 4 & 5), (3) sexual coercion (items 6 & 7), and (4) rape (items 8, 9, & 10). Perhaps the greatest degree of consistency can be found in the sexual contact items of the SES. These items were developed to measure unwanted sexual experiences, not involving attempted or actual sexual intercourse, but were intended to illicit information about sexual contact such as fondling, kissing, or petting in which there were elements of pressure, harassment, and/or threats.

As can be see from the first three items of table 4, the range of estimates about the prevalence of unwanted sexual contact in these four studies is very narrow. For example, the estimates for items 1 and 3 are virtually identical across studies.

The estimates are also very close for the more serious SES items. For example, the attempted rape questions, items 4 and 5, also show stability throughout the four studies, with almost identical results between the national and present studies.

There are some differences across the four studies in estimates of sexual coercion (item 6 and 7). The proportion of females who reported coerced sexual intercourse (item 6) in the present study is approximately 20% higher than that reported by Koss et al seven years ago (31% vs. 25%). However, item 7, which also measured coercive sexual intercourse showed almost no differences in estimates across the studies. The most serious indicators of sexual assault in the SES are those concerned with completed rapes (items 8, 9, & 10). The Rich study showed slightly, but not significantly, higher estimates than the Koss et al effort. The other two studies shown in table 4 reveal slightly lower estimates for items 9 and 10, but again, these differences do not appear to be significant.

The overall results shown in table 4 reveal a relatively stable pattern, indicating some level of reliability for the SES scale. The estimates taken from the Rich project show similar prevalence rates compared to the Koss et al study of seven years earlier. This comparison, coupled with the similar findings from the two other local studies, shows in a high level of consistency in the SES format. This reliability has not only proven itself over a time period of seven years, but also on a variety of sample sizes, both on the national and regional levels.

3. What proportion of respondents who answered affirmatively to an SES item consider themselves to have been raped?

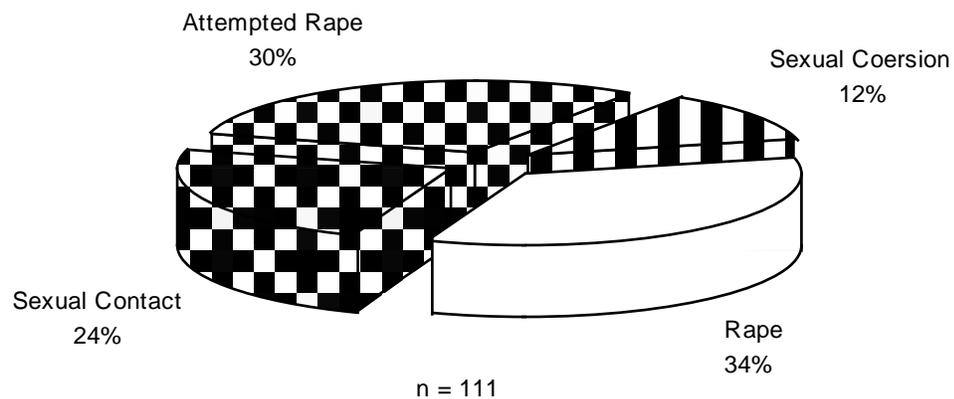
	# of Cases	% of Total Study Pop.
Total cases in study:	192	100%
Affirmative responses to @ least one SES item:	111	57.8%
Of those who answered affirmatively to at least one SES item:		% of Affirmative SES Answers
	# of Cases	
Felt they had been raped:	43	39%
Did not feel they had been raped:	68	61%

Even though roughly 58% of all the respondents replied in the affirmative to one of the SES items, it should be noted that 61% of those respondents also replied that they felt that they had not been a victim of rape. When looking at the wording of the SES item, it should be noted that not all the SES items portray a rape situation. Before any conclusions may be reached, the data above must be further broken down so that it can be seen where the respondents fall in terms of the seriousness of their victimization.

4. What was the relationship between the seriousness of the SES situations and the perception of rape victimization?

The most obvious interpretation about the nature of sexual assault and rape perception is that those reporting the most serious assaults would most likely to define the situation as a rape. The empirical picture that emerges from this study show a more complex portrait.

Figure 1. Seriousness of Incident Reported



Of the 111 victims, 24% reported sexual contact as the worst situation in which they have been involved. Twelve percent responded that sexual coercion was the worst, 30% said that attempted rape was the most serious, and 34% stated that the worst situation in which they were involved resulted in a rape. Table 6 allows us to examine differences in rape perception within the severity categories of the SES. These groupings are broken down below:

Table 6. Victims' Perception of Being Raped by Seriousness of Incident

	Seriousness of Incident				Total ("yes" SES responses)
	Sexual Contact	Attempted Rape	Sexual Coercion	Rape	
Felt they had been raped:	7%	30%	31%	71%	39%
Did not feel they had been raped:	93%	70%	69%	29%	61%
Total:	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

When looking at the table above, one should notice right away that 7% of the respondents who reported sexual contact as the worst situation felt that it constituted a rape. On the other end of the spectrum, 29% of those whom answered affirmatively to at least one of the rape items did not feel that they had been victimized by a rape. Besides this, 30% and 31% of those who were victims of "attempted rape" and "sexual coercion" felt that their victimizations constituted a rape. On the legal side of the rape definition, attempted rape is not included in the rape definition since there is no penetration. There may be a 'gray' area when looking legally towards the "sexual coercion" situations, since these respondents "gave in" to sexual intercourse even though they "didn't want to". As for emotional factors when considering all of the above noted cases, there may be some other motivational issues behind the reasons for these respondents feeling that their victimizations constituted rapes.

5. What was the nature of the victim - offender relationships among females who defined themselves as having been raped compared to the females who did not view themselves as rape victims?

Table 7. Victims Reporting Incidences of Rape by Relationship to Assailant*

	Relationship of Assailant						
	Acquaintance	Boss, Teacher, etc.	Friend	Recently Introduced	Relative	Spouse/Lover	Stranger
Felt they had been raped:	77%	100%	66%	60%	66%	85%	66%
Did not feel they had been raped:	22%	0%	33%	40%	33%	15%	33%
Total:	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
	Percent of Total Rapes						
Total(100%):	19.9%	6.6%	13.2%	11%	13.2%	28.8%	6.6%

* This table has a higher n due to multiple cases reported by some respondents.

The first thing that should be noted when viewing this table is that the respondents who felt that they had been victimized by a rape dominated every category of this chart. At the lowest point of this “domination”, sixty percent of those reported being raped by someone they had recently been introduced to defined themselves as rape victims. An overwhelming 100% of those reporting being raped by a boss, teacher, etc. also felt they were victims of a rape, as well as 85% of the rape reporters with a spouse/lover as the assailant defining themselves as rape victims. As seen previously in Table 6, seventy-one percent of those reporting a rape defined themselves as rape victims. Broken down from this estimate, Table 7 shows that regardless of who the perpetrator is, the majority of rape reporters still define themselves as having been victimized by a rape.

Furthermore, when looking at the lower section of Table 7, it is seen that the 42% of the reported rapes were committed by the victims’ relative or spouse/lover. Another 33% of the rapes had an acquaintance or friend as the assailant. These estimates further confirm that the rape perpetration is being committed by someone known (possibly emotionally close) to the victim. It is a generally agreed upon issue that a portion of the

rapes occurring do not get reported due to the victims' fear of embarrassment. These estimates may lead to a further understanding of why some of the victims fail to report their incidents to the authorities.

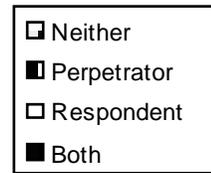
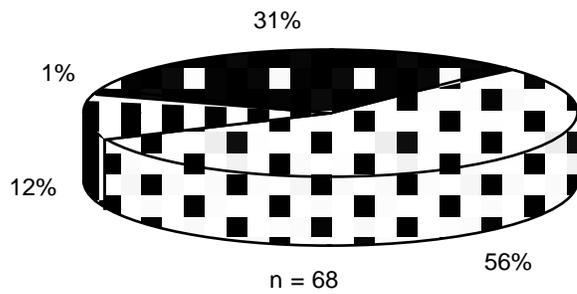
6. Were females who defined themselves as raped more likely to report alcohol or illegal drug use by offender, victim, or both compared to the females who did not see themselves as rape victims?

Besides the opinion of being raped and the alcohol and/or illegal drug use questions in the survey, to answer this question fairly, SES items #5 and #8 should be looked at more closely. SES item #5; "Have you had a man attempt sexual intercourse (get on top of you, attempt to insert his penis) when you didn't want to by giving you alcohol or drugs, but intercourse did not occur?" is one of the two items Koss et al chose to ask about attempted rape, and SES item #8; "Have you had sexual intercourse when you didn't want to because a person gave you alcohol or drugs?" was used to help estimate the prevalence of rape. Even though the definition of rape which was used in both the present research and Koss's 1987 study includes alcohol and/or drug induced 'victims', one should be careful when considering these data. As Neil Gilbert (1992) states, "a positive answer does not indicate whether duress, intoxication, force or the threat of force were present; whether the woman's judgment or control were substantially impaired; or whether the man purposely got the woman drunk to prevent her from resisting his sexual advances" (p.5). Gilbert points out that the wording of these SES questions does not allow for the possibility that a woman could have been trading sex for drugs, or that possibly a few drinks or hits off a marijuana cigarette lowered the respondent's inhibitions, and she let the intercourse occur, later regretting the act. Even with this downfall, the project at hand utilized the original SES questions for purposes of replication, but Gilbert's concerns should be kept in mind when looking at the results.

Figure 2. Substances Used Prior to Incident and Victims' Perception of Being Raped*

* This figure represents all respondents who answered "yes" to at least one SES item.

Victims Who Felt They Had Not Been Raped by Who Used Alcohol or Illegal Drugs Immediately Prior to Incident



Victims Who Felt They Have Been Raped by Who Used Alcohol or Illegal Drugs Immediately Prior to Incident

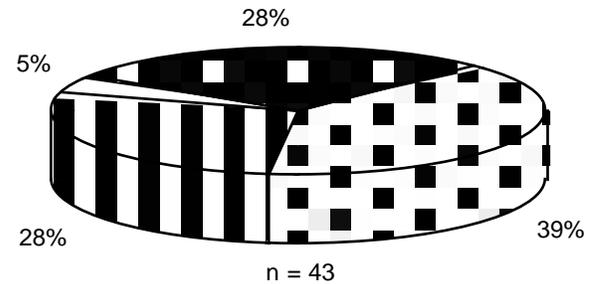
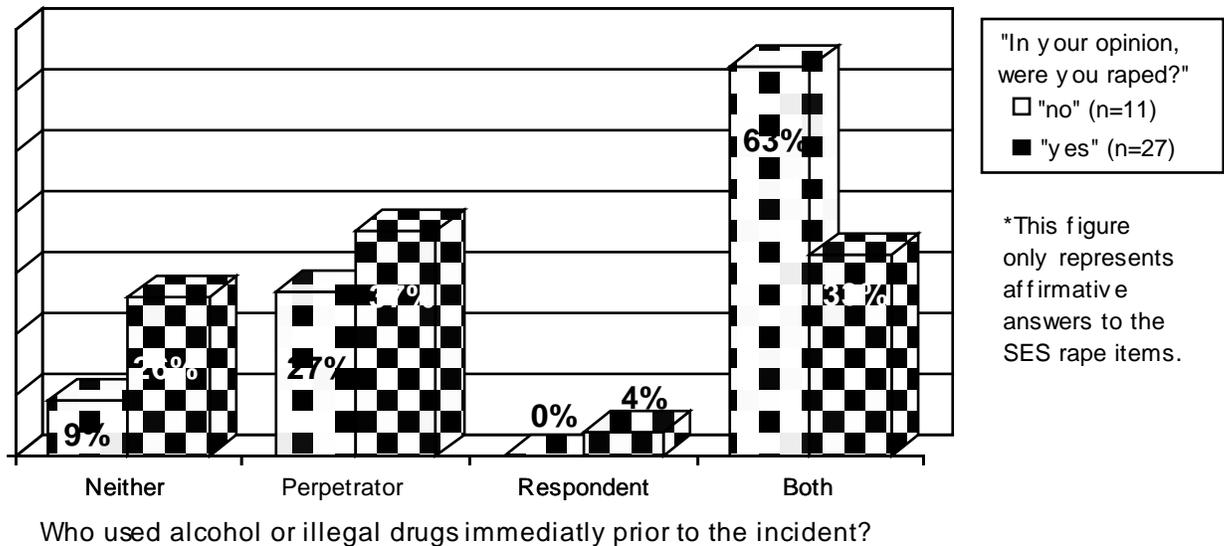


Figure 2 (above) shows us that 28% of the respondents who felt they had been raped reported that the perpetrator had been using either alcohol or illegal drugs immediately prior to the incident. In both illustrations shown, the respondents only use of either substance represents the fewest cases. Surprisingly, when looking at all of the affirmative SES answers, 31% of those who felt they had not been raped and 28% of the rape definers said that both themselves and the offenders had been using alcohol and/or drugs.

When considering all of the SES items combined in the figure above, the most obvious display is that of the groups which reported that neither they nor their assailants had used a form of substance immediately prior to the attack. Thirty-nine percent of the rape definers and 56% of the non-rape victims fall into this category.

Figure 3. Rape Reporters by Who Used Substances Immediately Prior to Incident*



Both Figures 2 & 3 show that in all the unwanted sexual experiences reported to this study, in almost no cases had the victims been the only parties using alcohol or illegal drugs immediately prior to the assault. When looking only at the cases of reported rapes using Figure 3, only 4% of the rape definers said that they were the only ones using substances, and none of the rape deniers reported similar situations

Of those who defined themselves as rape victims, the largest representation involved situations where the attacker was the only one under the influence of a mind altering substance. The second largest group of non-rape definers also reported incidents where the perpetrator alone was using alcohol and/or drugs. This study did not attempt to estimate the attitudes of the perpetrators towards incidents of rape, but it would be interesting to find out if they feel that they would of acted differently had they not used alcohol or illegal drugs immediately prior to the incident.

In the figure above it is noticed right away that an overwhelming 63% of those who did not feel that they had been raped reported that both they and their assailants had used a form of mind altering substance just before the attack. This finding forms a future

research question: since a large proportion of the rape deniers reported both parties involved used mind altering substances just prior to the assault, is it possible that they might not consider themselves as having been raped due to their alcohol and/or drug consumption?

7. Discussion & Recommendations

The data presented in the present study helps show the stability of the rape prevalence figures from the 1987 national research. Koss et al reported that in 1987, 27.5% of college women stated that they had experienced an event which met the legal definition of rape, including attempts. When looking at all reported cases, 27.6% of all of the present study's respondents reported a similar incident. Besides this single statistic, when one compares this local study, along with Copenhaver & Grauerholzs' and Johnson et als' studies, against the national project, they will notice the obvious consistencies (see Table 4, page 23). Keeping in mind that the Uniform Crime Reports in 1992 reported a rate of 4.28 rapes per 10,000 people, this finding simply further supports the evolving fact that the crime of rape is an under-reported incident, and therefore is a much larger problem than previously thought.

When looking at the situational characteristics regarding events reported to the present study, immediate attention should be drawn to the fact the only 3% of the rapes and attempted rapes recorded were actually reported to the police. The only consolation is that at least 46% of the respondents reporting a rape or attempted rape told a friend and 15% sought the help of a therapist or a counseling/crisis center. Of all the rapes and attempted rapes recorded in this study, 23% were not reported to anyone.

The present study did not ask the victims of sexual assaults directly why they decided not to report their victimizations to the police, or not to report them at all. Instead, this study offers the information presented in the Results section: an estimate of rape perception by rape victims, a look at the victim-offender relationship, and an estimate of the use of mind altering substances in relation to the assaults. One could

speculate that possibly the victims falsely perceive their victimization as their own fault, or possibly that their refusal to report (or possibly accept) the victimization is due to embarrassment. But this is only hypothesizing, and could be considered an invitation for future research. The reasons for the non-reporting of sexual assaults and the false perceptions of not being victimized should be sought out, and the victims' fears (if need be) put to rest. Since the present study, combined with the national study of 1987, show that sexual assault is a major problem, it's about time that the issue is given a priority, and the perpetrators dealt with properly.

Ideally, most of the victims would report their victimization to the police so that the perpetrator could be caught, but telling the authorities might not help the victim deal with the incident. Although the apprehension of the offenders is a major concern, time should be spent on finding ways to encourage victims to at least seek the help of someone to talk to, so that those assaulted could possibly begin the healing process more rapidly, and in the correct direction.

Another interesting piece of information is that 39% of those victimized by a rape or attempted rape didn't feel that they had been raped. It is true that in the strictest definition of rape, attempted rapes do not qualify. But when considering this, how does one explain that 55% of the above 39% were involved in situations which met the most rigid definition of a rape? When looking into this fact, one must look into the multitude of hidden variables behind the victim's opinions. Even with this in mind, one thing seems clear; more education is needed, not just directed towards rape prevention, but also aimed at the perception of what a rape is.

With the study at hand, those who direct risk awareness programs, both at the academic and community levels, may wish to utilize the provided results to see where their services may be further needed. Crisis center personnel could use the enclosed information as a sketch of who the unreported victims are. Since the present research used college aged females as respondents, higher education professionals should

especially take heed. They should consider this study as a cry for support and attempt to construct newer ideas to combat this crisis. College professionals should not just look at the victims' angle, but also at the perpetrator's side. Education programs should be fashioned towards groups feared to have involvement in the teaching of these negative social values, but not in an accusatory nature. The data revealed by the present research could be used in a multitude of related fashions, it just needs to be considered and applied.

The present study was not designed to be used as a tool to evaluate those "at risk", but was utilized to examine events which had already taken place. Knowing this, hopefully administrators and program directors will make use of these results to evaluate where their efforts need to be concentrated, as well as calling for additional research to pick up where this study, along with Koss et als', left off.

In the area of research, more information is needed about rape perception. Just what are the factors that lead people to define sexual assault in such disparate ways? Surveys with large samples of young adults using vignettes which contrast a host of situational and background factors are needed to disentangle this complex issue.

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APPENDIX A.
Unwanted Sexual Experiences Questionnaire

Dear Student,

We are conducting a study regarding the types of sexual activity being encountered by the female students of the University. We would like to ask you to participate in our study by filling out this voluntary questionnaire. The survey contains 24 questions and should take about 10 to 15 minutes.

Some of these questions are personal, and because of this many social scientists have avoided asking them. For this reason, as well as the sensitivity of this topic, we feel that the local statistics may have been incorrect in the past. Hopefully the results from this questionnaire will help produce a better understanding of the unpleasant and sometimes violent situations women can be placed in. Your voluntary participation will assist researchers and policy makers in developing improved policies regarding this issue.

We feel that you are perfectly safe in participating in this study. There is no way that any of the information which you report to us in this survey could harm you in any form.

The class you are in has been systematically selected to help represent the University of Massachusetts Lowell female student body as a whole. In order to guarantee your anonymity, your name has never appeared on any list. There is NO WAY which anyone could ever associate your answers on this survey with your name or address. When you return the survey, please deposit it into the provided sealed box.

Once the data on the surveys has been coded into a computer file, all of the questionnaires will be destroyed.

You are under no obligation to participate. This questionnaire is in not a course requirement, and your refusal to complete it will not harm your academic standing in any way. As much as we would like your cooperation, you should feel free to decline filling out this survey. If you decide not to complete the questionnaire, or **if you were present in another class in which this survey was given, you may either immediately return the blank survey and leave, or you may wait until the end of the period and return it with the other respondents.** All of the questionnaires have this same cover sheet and no one will know that yours was not filled out. If you choose to participate, please put a check below indicating your consent.

Unfortunately, if there are some of you here who are not at least the age of 18, we will not be able to use your questionnaire, since you are still considered legal minors. According to the law, minors need to obtain parental consent in order to participate in research of this type. If you are under 18, we apologize from excluding you from our research, but we have no other choice. Please turn in your blank questionnaire by the end of the period.

Thank you for you cooperation.

I have read the above and I agree to participate. []

I have read the above and have decided not to participate. []

I am under the age of 18. []

PLEASE DO NOT WRITE YOUR NAME ON ANY PART OF THIS SURVEY.

1. What is your age as of your last birthday? _____
2. Your class standing?

(1) Freshman	(3) Junior
(2) Sophomore	(4) Senior
3. What is your current college major? _____
4. Under what religion have you been raised?

(1) Buddhist	(2) Catholic
(3) Eastern Orthodox	(4) Episcopalian
(5) Hindu	(6) Jewish

- (7) Methodist
 (9) Protestant
 (11) Other _____
 (please indicate)
- (8) Presbyterian
 (10) No Religion

5. How strictly have you practiced the above mentioned religion?
 (0) never actually practiced
 (1) not very strict
 (2) somewhat strictly
 (3) very strictly
6. What size town /city were you raised in?
 (1) small town (less than 10,000 people)
 (2) medium sized town (10,000 to 24,999 people)
 (3) large town (25,000 to 49,999 people)
 (4) small city (50,000 to 99,999 people)
 (5) medium city (100,000 to 249,999 people)
 (6) large city (250,000 or more people)

These next questions ask about issues which may be private and/or embarrassing to you. We would appreciate if you would answer them to the best of your memory, and remind you again that in no way can your answers be connected with your name or address.

HAVE YOU EVER:

7. given into sex play (fondling, kissing, or petting, but not intercourse) when you didn't want to because you were overwhelmed by a person's continual arguments and pressure?
 (1) yes (2) no
- 7a. If you answered yes to question #7, did the incident occur (circle all that apply):
 (0) before college (1) college freshman year
 (2) college sophomore year (3) college junior year
 (4) college senior year (5) during graduate school
8. had sex play (fondling, kissing, or petting, but not intercourse) when you didn't want to because a person used their position of authority (boss, teacher, supervisor, etc.) to make you?
 (1) yes (2) no
- 8a. If you answered yes to question #8, did the incident occur (circle all that apply):
 (0) before college (1) college freshman year
 (2) college sophomore year (3) college junior year
 (4) college senior year (5) during graduate school
9. had sex play (fondling, kissing, or petting, but not intercourse) when you didn't want to because a person threatened or used some degree of physical force (twisting your arm, holding you down, etc.) to make you?
 (1) yes (2) no
- 9a. If you answered yes to question #9, did the incident occur (circle all that apply):
 (0) before college (1) college freshman year
 (2) college sophomore year (3) college junior year
 (4) college senior year (5) during graduate school

10. had a man attempt sexual intercourse (get on top of you, attempt to insert his penis) when you didn't want to by threatening or using some degree of physical force (twisting your arm, holding you down, etc.) but intercourse did not occur?
(1) yes (2) no
- 10a. If you answered yes to question #10, did the incident occur (circle all that apply):
(0) before college (1) college freshman year
(2) college sophomore year (3) college junior year
(4) college senior year (5) during graduate school
11. had a man attempt sexual intercourse (get on top of you, attempt to insert his penis) when you didn't want to by giving you alcohol or drugs, but intercourse did not occur?
(1) yes (2) no
- 11a. If you answered yes to question #11, did the incident occur (circle all that apply):
(0) before college (1) college freshman year
(2) college sophomore year (3) college junior year
(4) college senior year (5) during graduate school
12. given in to sexual intercourse when you didn't want to because you were overwhelmed by a person's continual arguments and pressure?
(1) yes (2) no
- 12a. If you answered yes to question #12, did the incident occur (circle all that apply):
(0) before college (1) college freshman year
(2) college sophomore year (3) college junior year
(4) college senior year (5) during graduate school
13. had sexual intercourse when you didn't want to because a person used their position (boss, teacher, supervisor, etc.) to make you?
(1) yes (2) no
- 13a. If you answered yes to question #13, did the incident occur (circle all that apply):
(0) before college (1) college freshman year
(2) college sophomore year (3) college junior year
(4) college senior year (5) during graduate school
14. had sexual intercourse when you didn't want to because a person gave you alcohol or drugs?
(1) yes (2) no
- 14a. If you answered yes to question #14, did the incident occur (circle all that apply):
(0) before college (1) college freshman year
(2) college sophomore year (3) college junior year
(4) college senior year (5) during graduate school
15. had sexual intercourse when you didn't want to because a person threatened or used some degree of physical force (twisting your arm, holding you down, etc.) to make you?
(1) yes (2) no

15a. If you answered yes to question #15, did the incident occur (circle all that apply):

- (0) before college
- (1) college freshman year
- (2) college sophomore year
- (3) college junior year
- (4) college senior year
- (5) during graduate school

16. had sex acts (penetration by objects other than the penis, or anal or oral intercourse) when you didn't want to because a man threatened or used some degree of force (twisting your arm, holding you down, etc.) to make you?

- (1) yes
- (2) no

16a. If you answered yes to question #16, did the incident occur (circle all that apply):

- (0) before college
- (1) college freshman year
- (2) college sophomore year
- (3) college junior year
- (4) college senior year
- (5) during graduate school

17. How often has an event similar to those portrayed in questions #13 through #16 occurred to you?

- (0) never (1) once
 (2) twice (3) more than twice, but less than six times
 (4) five or more times

18. If you answered "yes" to any of questions #7 through #16, in your opinion, which event that you answered "yes" to do you consider the most serious?

(please answer by referencing one question number) _____

19. In your opinion, have you ever been raped?

- (1) yes (2) no

Please respond with only one answer for each of the questions below. When answering, please refer to the most serious event which has occurred to you.

20. If you answered "yes" to any of the questions above, which of the terms below would best describe your relationship to the other party?

- (1) acquaintance (2) boss, teacher, supervisor, etc.
 (3) friend (4) recently introduced
 (5) relative (6) spouse / "lover"
 (7) stranger

21. Where did the event which you are referring to occur?

- (1) fraternity / sorority house (2) your work
 (3) your house (4) someone else's house
 (5) your dorm room (6) someone else's dorm room (at UML)
 (7) someone else's dorm room (at another college)
 (8) other _____
 (optional)

22. Did the incident which you are referring to occur during, or directly after, a party which you attended?

- (1) yes (2) no

23. With the event you are referring to, did either of you use alcohol or illegal drugs immediately prior to the incident?

- (1) you (2) other person (3) both

24. If you answered “yes” to any of questions #7 through #16, did you report the most serious incident to (answer all that apply):

- (a) clergy (1) yes (2) no
- (b) a friend (1) yes (2) no
- (c) your parents (1) yes (2) no
- (d) a doctor or other
medical personnel (1) yes (2) no
- (e) a therapist (1) yes (2) no
- (f) school officials (1) yes (2) no
- (g) the police (1) yes (2) no
- (h) a counseling/
crisis center (1) yes (2) no

Thank you for spending time in helping with our research. Hopefully, the findings of this study will aid in promoting a better awareness of the various forms of sexual assault within our society.

APPENDIX B
**Unwanted Sexual Experiences
 Phone Contact List**

Below is a list of phone numbers of people whom you might wish to speak to. The agencies listed here have various functions, and may be able to help you in many ways. If you feel that you need to talk to someone regarding any type of nonconsensual sexual encounter that you or someone you know has experienced, do not hesitate to contact any of those listed here.

Univerisity of Massachusetts Lowell Counsiling Services	508-934-4331
Rape Crisis Center of Greater Lowell	800-542-5212
Women's Resourse Center of Larwence	508-685-2480
Boston Rape Crisis Center	617-492-RAPE
Roxbury Multi-Service Center	617-536-6500
Worcester Rape Crisis Center	508-799-5900
Women's Protective Services of Framingham	508-626-8686
North Shore Rape Crisis Center (Beverly)	800-922-8772
Manchester Rape Crisis Center	603-668-2299
Nashua Rape & Assault Center	603-883-3044
Rape Crisis Center of Fitchburg	800-870-5905

APPENDIX C
INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD
SINGLE PROJECT APPROVAL

STATEMENT BY PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

This form must be typed. Do not leave any blank spaces. If any questions are not applicable, please indicate by NA. If you intend to utilize a questionnaire, please append it to this application. The IRB will utilize a student's on-campus mailbox unless another address is provided.

1. Researcher(s): David E. Rich University _____
 Phone: 934-4167
- | | | |
|---------|--|---|
| Specify | <input type="checkbox"/> Faculty
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Graduate Student(s)
<input type="checkbox"/> Undergraduate Student(s) | (If Student Project:) Student Mailbox # <u>CJ Dept.</u>
Faculty Advisor's Name: <u>Dr. Gerry Hotaling</u>
University Phone: <u>934-4149</u> |
|---------|--|---|
4. Department: Criminal Justice 3. College: Arts & Sciences
 4. Research Project Title: The Extent of Unwanted Sexual Experiences Among College Females
 5. Date Research is Scheduled to Begin: February 28, 1994
 6. Expected Source of Funds: External N/A
 (Agency Name) _____
 7. Date proposal must be submitted to funding agency: N/A
 8. Abstract or summarize your proposed research.
 (Appended copy of an abstract or summary may be used.) **Please see attached.**
 9.
 - a. Who will be the subjects of the research? Female University students.
 - b. Does the research involve: (respond to each category)

	Yes	No
children under 7 years of age?	_____	✓ _____
children 7-18?	_____	✓ _____
students in elementary or high school?	_____	✓ _____
older adults?	_____	✓ _____
inmates in penal institutions?	_____	✓ _____
patients in mental institutions?	_____	✓ _____
physically handicapped?	_____	✓ _____
mentally or emotionally handicapped?	_____	✓ _____
persons incapable of informed consent?	_____	✓ _____
 - c. If any of groups identified in (b) above are involved, could the research possibly be done with adults not listed in above categories? N/A YES ___ NO ___
 EXPLAIN: N/A
 - d. How will subjects be recruited? Questionnaires will be distributed to female students (who volunteer to participate) at the end of selected class periods once male students have left.

10. a. Which of the following will you do with your subjects? (Check all relevant activities.)

Analyze data previously recorded about them
 Analyze tissues or fluids previously taken from them
 Contact by mail
 Contact by telephone
 Meet face-to-face in the field
 Meet in the laboratory
 Interview
 Administer questionnaire
 Test performance
 Manipulate psychological treatment/conditions
 Manipulate physiological treatment/conditions
 Manipulate subjects' behavior
 Record "spontaneous" behavior
 Record physiological measures
 Other, explain

- b. Describe in lay terms what you will do with your subjects: **I plan to have female proctors distribute the questionnaires to female students, who will have the choice to participate. The students will then deposit both the blank and completed surveys into a sealed box on their way out of the classroom.**
- c. If you will be asking questions, testing performance, or manipulating the subject, give examples of the types of questions, types of tests, and types of manipulations or treatment conditions you will use. (You may append copies of questionnaires, tests, interview protocols, or the methods sections of your grant proposal in answer to this item. If you have yet to pick the exact procedures you will be using, then provide specific, concrete examples of the types of test items, treatments, or questions you will use.) **Please see attached questionnaire.**
- d. If you will be utilizing an outside agency to conduct your research, have you appended an appropriate letter indicating their willingness to cooperate with your research. N/A YES _____ NO _____

11. Will you be recording any identifiable, private information about individual subjects: YES _____ NO (NO IDENTIFIERS)

If you have answered "Yes" to item #11, please read the following statement and sign below:

I understand that I am obligated to protect and keep confidential any identifiable, private information gathered about individual subjects through the conduct of my research, and I agree to keep such information confidential unless I obtain the subject's express written permission to do otherwise.

Signed: _____

12. Will you be utilizing audio or videotapes in your research? YES__ NO _____
- If the answer to question #12 is yes, please describe in detail what you are doing and the purpose thereof. Also what will be the disposition of the recorded tapes after completion of your research? If you answered YES to question #11, you will also need to inform the subject of your intent to record your tape and/or video tape, by including this information on the Informed Consent Form.
13. Subjects at risk may be, for example, "any individual who may be exposed to the possibility of injury, including physical, psychological, or social injury, as a consequence of participation as a subject in any research, development, or related activity which departs from the application of those established and accepted methods necessary to meet his/her needs, or which increases the ordinary risks of daily life including the recognized risks inherent in a chosen occupation or field of service."
- Describe any and all potential risks or discomforts that could result to human subjects as a result of this research. **The respondents may feel emotional discomfort through memory recall of specific events.**
 - What safeguards will you employ to minimize these risks or discomforts? **All students present during the distribution of the questionnaire will also be distributed a list of contacts for rape crisis centers, help lines, and other counseling type organizations.**
 - Are there any alternative ways to acquire your research information from human subjects that may avoid the risks identified above?

YES _____ NO _____

If "Yes", explain why the alternatives are not being used:

Could this information conceivably be obtained from animals or other laboratory models?

YES _____ NO _____
14. If your research involves any conceivable risk or discomfort to subjects, or if your subject pool includes any of the groups identified in item #9b, or any similarly vulnerable group, then you **MUST** obtain informed, written consent from your

subjects and/or (for children and persons incapable of informed consent) from a legally responsible guardian. If the above is applicable, have you attached an Informed Consent form that you will utilize. YES NO **(Inclusive on first page of questionnaire.)**

15. To weigh the direct or potential benefit of this research against the inherent risk to the individual, the IRB requires brief and concise answers to the following questions:
- What specific information will this activity provide, and what is the significance of that information? **This study will provide a fair assessment of the amount of unwanted sexual experiences happening to the female student population. This information is significant since it could be utilized in the structuring of future awareness / prevention programs.**
 - Indicate what, if any, benefits may accrue to the human subjects involved: **By handing out the contact lists, this study could possibly aid a rape victim in seeking counseling.**

To individuals who are not subjects, but who are similar: **The data gathered in this study could be used in the development of various rape awareness / prevention programs, and which in turn, could aid other victims who did not participate in this research.**

16. It is understood that I will keep on file (for at least 3 years) and make available on request by the IRB copies of signed Consent Forms of all subjects participating in this research.
17. It is understood that any medical procedures or medical treatments of human subjects for the purposes of the present research will be performed by, or under the supervision of, a Medical Doctor currently licensed to practice in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
18. It is understood that students at the University should be initially recruited as research subjects by public announcements and not by personal solicitation.
19. In signing this statement I certify to the accuracy of the information provided and reassert my intention to abide by the University policies and procedures governing research involving human subjects.

I have enclosed the following:

- 1 Copy(s) of this form complete with all necessary Appendices.
- 1 Copy(s) of the proposed Informed Consent Form.
- √ A copy of the complete research proposal or project description.
- N/A Approval(s) from cooperating agencies or institutions (if needed).

3 Other copy(s) (specify). (**Memo requesting exempt status, Phone Contact List, and questionnaire**)

SIGNATURE: _____
(Researcher)

Date: _____

SIGNATURE: _____
(Faculty Advisor, if Researcher is a Student)

Date: _____

(Note: the original letter was printed on letterhead from the university at which the research took place.)

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APPENDIX D

To: Dr. Stephen Moses,
Chairperson, Institutional Review Board

From: David E. Rich,
Criminal Justice Dept.

Re: "The Extent of Unwanted Sexual Experiences
Occurring to College Females"

Date: February 24, 1994

In regards to the question of how I will be able to assure that my respondents are over the age of 18, I request that your attention be placed on the cover sheet to the survey instrument, "Unwanted Sexual Experiences Questionnaire".

The last paragraph on this cover page reads (emphasis added);

"Unfortunately, if there are some of you here who are not at least the age of 18, we will not be able to use your questionnaire, since you are still considered legal minors. According to the law, minors need to obtain parental consent in order to participate in research of this type. If you are under 18, we apologize from excluding you from our research, but we have no other choice. Please turn in your blank questionnaire by the end of the period.

Thank you for you cooperation.

I have read the above and I agree to participate. []

I have read the above and have decided not to participate. []

I am under the age of 18. []"

Besides this, according to a draft of "*Head Count by Age, Fall 1993*" (supplied by the Office of Planning, Budget, and Assessment), the university only has 8 full time, and 11 part time day students whom are both female and below the age of 18. Since the proposed research is to be conducted during day classes, the study's 400 questionnaires have very little chance of coming across any of the 19 females who are under the age of 18 (the entire study population totals 3,486 female students).

(Note: the original letter was printed on letterhead from the university at which the research took place.)

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APPENDIX D

I hope that I have answered your concerns. If there are any other questions, please feel free to contact me.

c. Dr. Gerry Hotaling
Criminal Justice

APPENDIX E

Profiles of Respondents Whom Feel That They Have Been Raped*

*n = 43

Figure 1a

Age	% of those who reported being raped	
	(n = 43)	(n = 192)
18 thru 20:	35%	44%
21 thru 25:	35%	38%
26 thru 30:	5%	6%
31 thru 35:	14%	5%
35+:	9%	5%

Figure 1b

Class Standing	% of those who reported being raped	
	(n = 43)	(n = 192)
Freshman	7%	8%
Sophomore	37%	44%
Junior	42%	30%
Senior	14%	18%

Figure 1c

Religion	% of those who reported being raped	
	(n = 43)	(n = 192)
Catholic	63%	68%
Protestant	26%	22%
Other	7%	7%
"No Religion"	5%	3%

Figure 1d

Religious Practice	% of those who reported being raped	
	(n = 43)	(n = 192)
Never actually practiced	7%	10%
Not very strict	60%	47%
Somewhat strictly	26%	37%
Very strictly	5%	5%
No response	2%	1%

Figure 1e

Major	% of those who reported being raped	
	(n = 43)	(n = 192)
Criminal Justice	12%	11%
Miscellaneous Health Professions	2%	6%
Miscellaneous Humanities & Soc. Sci.	5%	6%
Miscellaneous Engineering	14%	11%
Miscellaneous Management	9%	13%
Miscellaneous Sciences & Math	5%	6%
Nursing	26%	23%
Psychology	26%	20%
undeclared	2%	1%

Figure 1f

Respondents' City Size	% of those who reported being raped	
	(n = 43)	(n = 192)
Small to Medium sized town (> 10,000 to 24,999 people)	58%	55%
Large town (25,000 to 49,999 people)	28%	18%
Small city (50,000 to 99,999 people)	2%	8%
Medium to Large sized City (100,000 to 250,000 + people)	12%	18%

Total cases in study:	192	100%
Yes answers to SES:	111	58%

Of those who answered "yes" to the SES questions:

Felt they had been raped:	43	39%
Felt they hadn't been raped:	68	61%
	<u>111</u>	<u>100%</u>

All of the above statistics have been rounded to the next largest whole number.

Profiles of Respondents Whom Do Not Feel That They Have Been Raped*

*n = 68

Figure 2a

Age	% of those who reported not being raped	
	(n=68)	(n = 192)
18 thru 20:	60%	44%
21 thru 25:	28%	38%
26 thru 30:	4%	6%
31 thru 35:	3%	5%
35+:	4%	5%

Figure 2b

Class Standing	% of those who reported not being raped	
	(n=68)	(n = 192)
Freshman	9%	8%
Sophomore	51%	44%
Junior	25%	30%
Senior	15%	18%

Figure 2c

Religion	% of those who reported not being raped	
	(n=68)	(n = 192)
Catholic	69%	68%
Protestant	24%	22%
Other	4%	7%
"No Religion"	1%	3%

Figure 2d

Religious Practice	% of those who reported not being raped	
	(n=68)	(n = 192)
Never actually practiced	15%	10%
Not very strict	46%	47%
Somewhat strictly	35%	37%
Very strictly	4%	5%
No response	0%	1%

Figure 2e

Major	% of those who reported not being raped	
	(n=68)	(n = 192)
Criminal Justice	9%	11%
Miscellaneous Health Professions	6%	6%
Miscellaneous Humanities & Soc. Sci.	7%	6%
Miscellaneous Engineering	10%	11%
Miscellaneous Management	6%	13%
Miscellaneous Sciences & Math	9%	6%
Nursing	25%	23%
Psychology	26%	20%
undeclared	0%	1%

Figure 2f

Respondents' City Size	% of those who reported not being raped	
	(n=68)	(n = 192)
Small to Medium sized town (> 10,000 to 24,999 people)	60%	55%
Large town (25,000 to 49,999 people)	16%	18%
Small city (50,000 to 99,999 people)	7%	8%
Medium to Large sized city (100,000 to 250,000 + people)	16%	18%

Total cases in study:	192	100%
Yes answers to SES:	111	58%

Of those who answered "yes" to the SES questions:

Felt they had been raped:	43	39%
Felt they hadn't been raped:	68	61%
	<u>111</u>	<u>100%</u>

All of the above statistics have been rounded to the next largest whole number.

Situational Characteristics (Profiles)

Figure 3a††

Victim/Perpetrator Relationship	"Were you raped?"	
	Yes (n = 54)	No (n = 71)
No response	0%	13%
Stranger	7%	4%
Recently introduced	11%	7%
Acquaintance	19%	14%
Boss, Teacher, etc.	7%	4%
Friend	15%	32%
Relative	13%	3%
Spouse/"Lover"	28%	23%

††This table has a larger n due to multiple incidents.

Figure 3b††

Location of Incident	"Were you raped?"	
	Yes (n = 49)	No (n = 68)
No response	0%	16%
Frat/Sorority house	0%	4%
Your work	4%	0%
Your house	27%	19%
Someone else's house	33%	34%
Your dorm room	6%	3%
Other UML dorm room	2%	4%
Other nonUML dorm room	4%	1%
Other	24%	19%

††This table has a larger n due to multiple incidents.

Figure 3c

Persons Involved Using Alcohol or Other Substances Immediately Prior to Incident	"Were you raped?"	
	Yes (n = 43)	No (n = 68)
Neither	40%	56%
Perpetrator	28%	12%
Respondent	5%	1%
Both	28%	31%

Figure 3d††

Who Victim Reported Incident To	"Were you raped?"	
	Yes (n = 66)	No (n = 76)
clergy.....	2%	0%
friend.....	39%	37%
thier parents.....	8%	3%
doctor or other		
medical personnel.....	3%	3%
therapist.....	11%	3%
school officials.....	3%	1%
police.....	5%	0%
counseling/crisis center.....	9%	1%
did not report.....	17%	32%
no response.....	5%	21%

††This table has a larger n due to multiple incidents.

Figure 4

Respondents Who Answered Yes to S.E.S. & Whether They Were at a Party Prior to Incident

Were you raped?	At a Party			Total
	no response	No	Yes	
No	10%	60%	29%	100%
Yes	2%	70%	28%	100%

Of those who answered "yes" to the SES questions:

Felt they had been raped:	43	39%
Felt they hadn't been raped:	68	61%
	111	100%

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF AUTHOR

David E. Rich has worked in law enforcement both in the the suburb of Wilmington Massachusetts, as well as Roxbury & Dorchester, Massachusetts. He has received an Associate of Science degree in Criminal Justice from Middlesex Community College, a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Massachusetts Lowell, and upon completion of this work, a Master of Arts degree in Criminal Justice, also from the University of Massachusetts Lowell.

The author hopes that this research will help enable those who can aid rape victims to review their policies and procedures so that they can more effectively lend support to those who need it.