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## ABSTRACT

This study compared victims of rape and domestic violence on causal attributions, perceived control, coping, self-blame and depression, anxiety, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and self-esteem. Participants were rape victims from rape crisis centers and victims of domestic violence from domestic violence shelters. A group of victims emerged who were victims of both rape and domestic violence and they were grouped separately for analyses. Victims of both types of violence made significantly more stable attributions for abuse than did victims of rape or domestic violence. There were no between group differences in perceived control, coping, self-blame or emotional status.

This study also examined the relationship between causal attributions, perceived control, coping and self-blame and emotional status. When the joint contribution of all variables was assessed, characterological self-blame and self-blame coping remained the only significant determinants of greater depression and lower self-esteem. Self-blame coping remained the only significant determinant of anxiety, and substance use coping remained the only significant determinant of PTSD. Results were discussed in terms of clinical and public policy implications.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to extend my appreciation and gratitude to the members of my thesis committee, Dr. James Johnson and Dr. Kate Bruce. Their support and knowledge has guided me through this process. To my advisor, Dr. Caroline Clements, I would like to express my deepest, most sincere appreciation for the dedication, support and guidance she provided throughout my graduate work.

I would also like to thank the following agencies for their assistance in this study: The Rape Crisis Center of Coastal Horizons Center, Inc. (Wilmington, NC), Rape Crisis Center of Robeson County, Interact of Raleigh, CASA of Harrisonburg, VA, the North Carolina Coalition Against Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence Shelter and Services, Inc. (Wilmington, NC), Domestic Violence Shelter of Jacksonville, NC and the Domestic Violence Shelter in Burgaw, NC.

Special thanks to my parents, Richard and Joanne Randa, sister Mollie, and grandparents, Sherman and Shirley Randa, who supported me through this process, as difficult as it was at times. Their guidance was invaluable. I would also like to thank the Psychology Department of UNCW and the Graduate School who provided support and assistance through my research and studies.

## DEDICATION

I would like to dedicate this thesis to my Grandmother, Llewellyn Cupstid Bird and my Grandfather, John Dexter Bird II. They inspired this work in a way that no one else could.

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