

WOMEN'S ASSERTIVENESS IN DRINK REFUSAL

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## ABSTRACT

This study examined how gender specific assertiveness, drink history, and sexual experience history, were associated with women's ability to refuse alcoholic beverages from a man in a simulated high risk situation. Women (n=111) answered an anonymous survey that included the Inventory of Interpersonal Problems (IIP 64), the Rathus Assertiveness Schedule, the Quantity Frequency Index (QFI), The Women's Sexual Experiences Questionnaire (WSE), and the Sexual Experiences Survey (SES). In addition, participants listened and responded to an audio-taped role play where a man offers multiple drinks in a high risk situation. Women's gender specific assertiveness or assertiveness in general did not predict whether one would have more difficulty refusing alcoholic beverages from a man. Participants with a higher number of drinking days in the past three months were less likely to refuse a drink offer at all three time-points. In addition, women who endorsed having ambivalent sexual experiences were more likely to accept drink offers. This only became significant when the dataset was restricted only to women who had at least one sexual interaction in the past 12 months. Participants had the tendency to deny alcoholic beverages more over time. In other words, fewer women accepted drink offers over time.

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## DEDICATION

I dedicate this thesis entirely to my mother and father. I thank you both for all of your love and support. The best is yet to come.

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## INTRODUCTION

Sexual coercion is a prevalent problem in today's society. It is estimated that half of all women have experienced some sort of sexual coercion in their lifetime; however these women may not know how to accurately label their experiences as such, thus the prevalence rate may be much higher than is reported (Abbey, Zawacki, Buck, Clinton, McAuslan, 2004; Kahn et al., 2003). There are numerous negative associations that sexually coerced women experience. For example, Fitzgerald et al. (1997) investigated the negative outcomes of women who were sexually harassed and/or coerced at the workplace. It was found that women reported less job satisfaction and higher levels of psychological distress. Victims may also feel violated, vulnerable, confused, betrayed, guilt, and shame (DeGue & DiLillo, 2005). Further, many victims report depression, anxiety, obsessive compulsive disorder, and post traumatic stress disorder (Koss, 1994). The implications of sexual coercion are extensive to say the least. Victims of sexual coercion often worry about contracting sexually transmitted diseases and physical and emotional health, are of concern as well. Due to the severity of this problem and the impact it has on women and their lives, it is of the utmost importance to find ways in which we can prevent sexual coercion.

One's belief about sex roles and interpersonal violence may predict whether an individual will deem sexual coercion as acceptable. Martha Burt (1980) coined this as the acceptance of rape myths. Examples of acceptance of rape myths include "women are able to resist rape if they really wanted to", "going to a man's house implies wanting to have sex", and "victims of rape usually are promiscuous and have bad reputations".



There were 598 participants in Burt's original 1980 study exploring rape myths. Sixty percent of the participants were women while the remaining forty percent were men. It was found that the more one believed in sex role stereotyping, held adversarial sexual beliefs, and higher acceptance of interpersonal violence, the more likely one was to also accept rape myths. For men and women, acceptance of interpersonal violence was the strongest predictor of believing in rape myths.

Consistent with this line of research, Emmers-Sommer and Allen (1999) conducted a meta-analysis investigating a path model of sexual coercion. The variables investigated included sexual history, attitudes toward women, past and current relationship status, alcohol, coercive strategies, victim resistance, and rape justifiability. Men who held more negative views of women were also more likely to perceive that coercion did not take place. The men who held these negative attitudes also perceived that rape was more justifiable if they were under the influence of alcohol.

Another study that investigated gender differences and negative views of women was a study conducted by Muehlenhard and Linton (1987). Similar to Emmers-Sommer and Allen's (1999) results, the results of this study indicated that men who engaged in sexual aggression held more traditional sex role attitudes than other men as measured by the Sexual Aggression Scale. Further, women who experienced sexual aggression held less traditional views than other women. Men were found to have higher scores on the Acceptance of Interpersonal Violence Scale, the Adversarial Sexual Beliefs Scale, and the Rape Myth Acceptance Scale than women (Burt, 1980). Women who had experienced sexual aggression were also more accepting of interpersonal violence as measured by the Acceptance of Interpersonal Violence Scale, the Adversarial Sexual

Beliefs Scale, and the Rape Myth Acceptance Scale than women who had not experienced sexual aggression.

There is a plethora of research demonstrating that alcohol plays a pivotal role in the increased probability of sexual coercion. Several studies indicate that almost half of all sexual assaults include the use of alcohol (Davis, George, Norris, 2004; Norris et al., 2006). Moreover, cultural norms have definitely changed the culture in which we live where alcohol consumption is increasingly popular, especially among college students (Young, Connor, Ricciardelli, & Saunders, 2005). This phenomenon cannot be ignored as most college students engage in alcohol use sometime in their college career. Barnett and colleagues (2006) reported that approximately 68% of college students drank within the past month.

In contrast to factors that may increase one's chance of sexual coercion, assertiveness may aid in the prevention of this occurring. Past studies indicate that assertiveness may be a protective factor in regards to sexual victimization (Greene & Navarro, 1998; Westefeld, Galassi, Galassi, 1980). Assertiveness is the ability to freely choose and articulate the appropriate behavior response within the responsibility of their rights and without violating the rights of others (Zuercher, 1983). This makes sense given that the ability to resist and refuse unwanted behavior and activity may diffuse a potentially unsafe situation. Thus, it may be possible that training women to be more assertive in dating situations can aid in the prevention of sexual assault and coercion. Below, past literature concerning alcohol, assertiveness, and sexual experiences are reviewed that is pertinent to the present study.

## **Women's Alcohol Consumption**

Harrington and Leitenberg (1994) conducted a study examining the relationship between alcohol use and instances of sexual coercion. The study results indicated that fifty-five percent of women reported being at least "somewhat drunk" at the time of their experienced incident. The most frequent assaults occurred when the relationship was a romantic acquaintance. Women who were considered "somewhat drunk" at the time of their incident were found to engage in a higher degree of immediate prior consensual contact than their sober counterparts. Further, women who were "somewhat drunk" at the time of the sexual coercion were found to engage in lower levels of resistance than women who were sober at the time. Apparent is that alcohol plays a major function in women's sexual coercion experiences.

Additionally, Norris et al. (2006) examined women's responses to sexual aggression. One hypothesis made was that women would respond more passively after drinking alcohol due to a lower level of perceived stress. Also, it was hypothesized that women would consent more to sexual advances due to the fact that the woman may not be able to correctly appraise the situation if alcohol was involved. The results confirmed with the hypotheses; it was found that women who received a moderate or high dose of alcohol were more likely to respond passively to all levels of sexual advances than sober participants. Alcohol consumption increased the level of consent and passivity.

A study by Flack et al. (2007) examined risk factors and consequences of unwanted sex among university students. They found that the most frequent reasons for having unwanted sexual intercourse was that judgment was impaired by alcohol or drugs, the act occurred before it could be stopped, and the individual was taken advantage of because

they were intoxicated. Further, those who reported experiencing unwanted sexual behavior and unwanted fondling reported drinking more frequently.

Further, George et al. (1988) examined the perceptions of post-drinking female sexuality of gender, beverage choice, and drink payment. In this study, beer, wine, and whiskey were associated with more perceived intoxication than cola. A woman was perceived to be more intoxicated, more sexually disinhibited, and more aggressive if the man paid for the drinks rather than the woman. In addition, the woman who drank alcohol was perceived as less socially skilled than the cola drinking counterpart. The alcohol drinking woman was rated as more responsive to sexual come-ons, easier to seduce, more likely to have the date end with the man seducing the woman, and more “willing” than the cola drinking woman.

One study conducted by Abbey, BeShears, Clinton-Sherrod, and McAuslan (2004) looked at the similarities and differences in women’s sexual assault experiences based on tactics used by the perpetrator. Women were divided into three groups based on their experience. These groups included the use of physical force, verbal coercion, or intoxication /incapacitation. All of the women who were incapacitated at the time of their experience had consumed alcohol. The perpetrators’ and victims’ alcohol consumption were positively correlated; 47% of cases included alcohol consumption by both the perpetrator and the victim. Thus, it could be that the drinking male is urging the female to drink because he has an idea about the effect that drinking will have on the woman. For example, he could choose to use drinking games as a tactic to get her intoxicated and increase the chance to have sexual contact with her (Johnson et al., 1999). Abbey, BeShears, Clinton-Sherrod, and McAuslan (2004) also found that among women who

were verbally coerced, 22% also experienced intoxicated sexual assault at other times. Among women who had experienced physically forced assault 53 % also experienced intoxicated sexual coercion on other occasions.

Another study examining the effects of drinking was Testa and Dermen (1999). They hypothesized that women who drink more are more likely to report being victims of sexual coercion. This study found that women who had experienced rape drank more on a weekly basis and reported more alcohol problems than women who had not experienced rape. The women who experienced rape also tended to drink in combination with engaging in sex and prior to sex more so than women who had not experienced rape. It is important to note that this study cannot assess a cause and effect relationship from the results. It could be possible that women are drinking more because of the trauma they have experienced being raped.

From these studies it is evident that drinking plays a major role in sexual coercion of women. When intoxicated, the chances of a woman being sexually coerced increases due to greater passivity and perhaps greater impaired judgment. The history of alcohol use also plays an important factor in the inability to refuse alcohol advances and the likelihood of being sexually coerced.

### **Women's Drinking History**

A woman with a history of alcohol consumption may have more difficulty refusing alcohol as this can induce powerful cravings in individuals who drink more than others. To draw a parallel to the present study, it is important to note that the participants in this study were not alcoholics per se, however they may have a history of drinking more than what the typical person would.

Streeter and colleagues (2002) used videotaped cues to examine the urge to drink alcohol in alcohol dependent individuals. The results show that when participants were shown alcohol related cues they had a greater urge to drink than if they were shown neutral cues. This finding was relevant for the alcohol dependent group, the moderate alcohol group, and the light alcohol group. However, the urge to drink increased with the historical degree of alcohol consumption, thus the alcohol dependent group had the highest urge to drink, the moderate alcohol group had the next highest urge to drink, and the light alcohol group had the least urge to drink. Finally, responsivity was greatest when the alcohol cues were in vivo rather than the video condition.

Grusser et al. (2006) investigated alcohol craving in problem drinkers and occasional drinkers. Fifty problem drinkers and fifty occasional drinkers participated. Craving was assessed by the use of visual scales ranging from “not at all strong” to “very strong”. The results of this study indicated that problem drinkers reported more craving including reward (e.g. anticipating a positive outcome) and relief craving (e.g. relief of withdrawal and negative mood states) than their occasional drinking counterparts.

Further, Staiger and White (1991) examined cue reactivity in alcohol abusers. The sight plus the smell of an individual’s favorite drink produced the largest change in heart rate, withdrawal symptoms, and desire to drink. Compared to the sight plus the smell, only sight of a stimulus resulted in approximately half the level of changes in heart rate, withdrawal symptoms, and desire to drink. Accordingly, if the stimulus was similar to the individual’s favorite drink there was a larger response than if the stimulus was not similar. For example, if the participant’s favorite drink was whiskey then the similar drink stimulus would be brandy but a non-similar drink would be beer. Symptoms that

participants reported when the sight and smell of a drink was presented were difficulty swallowing, dry mouth, and anxiety.

Kaplan et al. (1985) also found similar findings with alcoholic drinkers. Physiological reactivity and desire to drink were measured with alcohol cues in a laboratory setting. Findings indicated that alcoholic subjects had a greater level of heart rate and skin conductance level than non-alcoholic subjects when exposed to alcohol cues. Among alcoholic subjects, there was a correlation between subjective reports of desire to drink and skin conductance levels during alcohol cue exposure.

A history of alcohol use seems to be important in producing cravings in individuals who drink more than the average person. From the studies above, it is evident that in vivo cues have the greatest impact on eliciting the desire to drink.

In addition to women's drinking, it is important to consider the complexity of this issue as sexual coercion involves more than one individual. Therefore it is also crucial to examine how men's alcohol use contributes to the larger picture of what occurs when a woman is in a potential risky sexual situation. Below a review is given on the literature of men's alcohol use and the possible tactics men use to engage women in sexual behavior.

### **Men's Alcohol Consumption**

Barnett and Fagan (1993) examined alcohol use in male spouse abusers and their female partners. The findings from the study indicate that spouse abusers drink considerably more alcohol and drink for "emotional reasons" more than men who were not spouse abusers. Also, the abusers' female partners were found to drink more alcohol than those females who were not abused by their spouses. It is worth noting that if the women partners of these abusers are drinking more and the literature is finding that

women who drink are more passive to aggression, then this problem may be perpetuating itself.

In a study conducted by Abbey, Ross, McDuffie, and McAuslan (1996) the use of alcohol and dating risk factors were examined for sexual assault. The results found that almost half of the most serious assaults involved the use of alcohol by both the perpetrator and the victim. Further, the man and woman were more likely to drink alcohol when they were acquainted to a lesser degree. Women who were misperceived by a man in a situation where alcohol was used by either sex were more likely to experience sexual assault. This finding supports the notion that many men perceive women drinking alcohol as a sexual cue or indication that sex is wanted by the woman. In addition, the man may misperceive the woman's friendliness as sexual intention and may try to have sex with her against her will.

It is evident that many men who sexually abuse women use alcohol when committing these acts. There are many tactics that men will use to get women intoxicated to potentially coerce them. These tactics include the use of power (Harrington, Koss, & Lyons, 1999) and various drinking games such as games involving teams and motor skill (Borsari, 2004). Below we examine some of the literature on men's motives.

### **Men's Motives to Get Women Intoxicated**

Many men will use alcohol as a tactic to sexually coerce women. Harrington, Koss, and Lyons (1999) investigated the various rape tactics used by men. Specifically, power tactics included alcohol tactics and drug tactics. Results indicated that strangers used more power tactics except for the ex-husband group. Acquaintance groups and dating groups were more likely to use alcohol and drug tactics. Alcohol may provide a relatively



easy way to disinhibit the woman where she may not be able to effectively resist. Also, stereotypes about women drinking make some men feel that they are suitable targets for sexual coercion (Abbey et al., 1996).

Tyler, Hoyt, and Whitbeck (1998) examined strategies of men to coerce women and the various outcomes of women from the use of these tactics. The results indicated that 24% of women in the sample reported engaging in unwanted sexual intercourse when the man used strategies to get them intoxicated or stoned. Moreover, 11% of the women sampled reported engaging in unwanted genital fondling when the man used strategies to get them drunk or stoned. The results also indicated that 23% of men admitted to using strategies of getting their date drunk or stoned to obtain sexual intercourse.

Drinking games are also a popular method for men to intoxicate women to facilitate sexual activity. Drinking games have the goal of getting participants severely intoxicated by having participants drink a lot of alcohol in a relatively short amount of time (Borsari, 2004). When players start drinking, they become intoxicated and are less able to function as the game continues on, and by making more mistakes they in turn drink more since their cognitive and motor abilities are weakened. Drinking games are classified into six categories according to Borsari (2004). These include motor skills, verbal skills, gambling games, media games, team games, and consumption games.

A study on drinking games by Pedersen and LaBrie (2006) examined gender and ethnic implications. Results found that both males and female college students participate in drinking games on a regular basis and when engaged in such games, drink more alcohol than when not engaging in drinking games. Women who play drinking games were found to be at risk for alcohol related negative consequences including unplanned

sexual activity and not using protection during sexual activities as they had higher composite Rutgers Alcohol Problem Index (RAPI) and College Alcohol Problem Scale (CAPS-Social Problems) scores than women who did not play.

In a study conducted by Johnson and Stahl (2004) sexual experiences associated with participation in drinking games were examined. Subjects rated their reasons for playing drinking games along eight dimensions which included competition and thrills, conformity, fun and celebration, social lubrication, novelty, sexual manipulation, boredom, and coping. Negative consequence items were also asked. For women, consumption of alcohol while playing drinking games was the best predictor of the frequency of occurrence of sexual experiences. Men who played drinking games to have sex (sexual manipulation) endorsed more of the perpetration items as having occurred in the previous year.

Simons et al. (2005) also examined drinking games among college students. The study found that monthly drug use frequency was correlated to the number of one night stands, number of sexual partners, having sex with a stranger, and waking up unsure if one had sex with someone familiar. Drinking game participation predicted safe sex negotiations while monthly alcohol use severity, yearly drug use frequency, and drinking game participation predicted if one awoke unsure of having sex with a stranger.

Further Johnson et al. (1999) looked at the reasons for playing drinking games among college students. Reasons for playing drinking games included fun and celebration, relaxation and disinhibition, conformity, and sexual manipulation. Men who felt that they drank alcohol for sexual manipulation reasons were more likely to take advantage of someone in a sexual manner while playing drinking games or afterwards. Further, these

men were found to have more sex partners in general than men who did not endorse sexual manipulation as a reason to participate in drinking games.

Evidently, there are many tactics that men may try to use to engage a woman in sexual activity. A way to possibly reduce the likelihood of being sexually coerced is to behave assertively. Research suggests that assertive behavior may be a protective factor in sexual aggression (Greene & Navarro, 1998).

### **Assertiveness**

Past research has indicated that sexually aggressive men may use alcohol as a tactic to target women and get them intoxicated to potentially coerce them sexually (Johnson, 1999; Pedersen, 2006). Taking this into account, one strategy to consider for preventing or possibly reducing the likelihood of sexual coercion from occurring is to assertively refuse alcohol advances. Men frequently will target women by engaging in various drinking games. By doing so, a woman may believe that a drinking game is of minimal harm and fun. However, what a woman may not realize is that by engaging in this behavior, she could potentially get severely intoxicated in a relatively short amount of time and as a result, be sexually coerced. Another tactic that sexually aggressive men frequently use are in the bar and nightclub environments. By buying a female multiple drinks, she may believe that she is just enjoying a “night out”. This could prove very dangerous if the woman drinks too much as the man may try to coerce her later in the night. And, if she is too intoxicated, she may not be able to stop him.

Numerous studies show that women have a difficult time in effectively refusing unwanted sexual advances. For instance, a study conducted by Masters et al. (2006) where subjects were asked to project the outcome of a sexual assault scenario. Masters et

al. (2006) hypothesized that intoxicated women were more likely to be passive in resistance strategies. As predicted, the results indicated that women who consumed alcohol were less likely to use verbal assertiveness and physical assertiveness, but were more likely to use excuses.

A study by Testa and Dermen (1999) investigated differential correlates of sexual coercion and rape. They hypothesized that sexual coercion would be associated with lower levels of general assertiveness. This hypothesis turned out to be significant; women who had experienced coercion were found to have lower assertiveness than women who had not been previously coerced. Women who had been coerced were also found to have lower levels of self esteem than their counterparts.

Another study exploring assertiveness was conducted by VanZile-Tamsen et al. (2005). Women were randomly assigned to receive a written scenario where the type of perpetrator was manipulated (just met, friend, date, or boyfriend) and to answer various questions about the scenario. Variables investigated in refusal included touching, vaginal intercourse, and oral intercourse. In regards to childhood victimization, it was found that women victimized during childhood and after the age of 14 reported intending to engage in less direct verbal resistance than women who had not been victimized or victimized only once. Women who had a history of multiple victimizations reported the lowest levels of assertiveness.

As well, Corbin et al. (2001) investigated the role of alcohol expectancies and consumption among sexually victimized and non-victimized college women. Corbin et al. (2001) found that women who experienced more severe forms of victimization reported less likelihood of refusing unwanted sexual behavior in the future than women who had

not been victims. It was also found that women who had a history of severe sexual victimization reported having more consensual sex partners than women who had moderate sexual victimization or women who had no prior history of victimization.

A study by Livingston et al. (2007) also examined the relationship between sexual assertiveness and sexual victimization. Livingston et al. (2007) used a prospective path analysis to investigate the relationship between sexual assertiveness and victimization over time. Women were asked to participate in a longitudinal study that consisted of three waves of data collection each one year apart. The study procedure consisted of interviews and computer assisted questionnaires at time one. The second and third waves of data collection consisted of paper and pencil questionnaires. This study found a reciprocal relationship between sexual victimization and sexual assertiveness. Women who reported a history of sexual victimization (particularly women who reported victimization since the age of fourteen at time one) also reported having more difficulty refusing unwanted sexual advances. Also, sexual refusal assertiveness predicted subsequent victimization in women. Specifically, women who were found to have lower levels of sexual refusal assertiveness also were more likely to experience sexual victimization. This finding indicates that women who are less able to refuse a sexual advance are more prone to being vulnerable to experiencing sexual victimization.

Assertiveness has generally been thought to extend to all situations that may arise. However, gender specific assertiveness is different than general assertiveness as it is the assertiveness with the opposite gender (Greene & Navarro, 1998). Many studies have examined assertiveness as a way to reduce the chance of being sexually coerced.

Greene and Navarro (1998) examined gender specific assertiveness in sexual victimization rather than global, general assertiveness. It was hypothesized that assertiveness specific to the opposite gender would be a protective factor against sexual victimization rather than assertiveness in general. In fact, the results indicated that women who were low in gender specific assertiveness were at risk for future sexual victimization. Accordingly, women who had been previously victimized and reported low levels of gender specific assertiveness were most likely to be victimized in the future. Further, women who were found to have low gender specific assertiveness also were found to have higher levels of depression, anxiety, alcohol consumption, and sexual activity.

Assertiveness may be very important in preventing a woman from being sexually victimized. In addition to acting assertively, the time it takes to respond to an advance may also be vital in behaving assertive.

### **Response Latency**

Response latency may be associated with the degree of how assertive one is. There are many studies that show an individual's response time will be faster the more assertive one is.

For example, Collins, Powell, and Oliver (2000) hypothesized that people low in assertiveness take longer in responding because they may feel more ambiguous about their thoughts and beliefs. They found that subjects low in assertiveness took significantly longer to respond to questions about themselves, their opinions, and their preferences than subjects high in assertiveness.

Hops et al. (1986) conducted an experiment among teenagers on cigarette refusal. Twenty-six audiotape social situations were presented to subjects and they were asked to respond to cigarette offers. Results indicated that experimental participants had more appropriate refusal responses such as directly refusing and stating possible health consequences, rather than giving an excuse. Furthermore, the experimental subjects had shorter means on response latency in twenty three of the twenty six social situations.

A study conducted by Westefeld, Galassi, and Galassi (1980) examined the effects of role playing instructions on assertive behavior. It was hypothesized that participants with knowledge of effective behavior would produce shorter response latencies and response durations. Indeed, Westefeld et al. (1980) did find that when participants were told of the criteria for how to behave they had shorter response latencies and shorter response durations than other participants.

Similar findings were reported by Hirsch et al. (1978) who examined latency of responses in association with assertiveness in a group of alcoholics. Hirsch et al. (1978) found that the assertiveness training group had significantly shorter response times than the control group. They concluded that assertiveness training appeared to be successful in reducing the time it takes to respond in a role play situation of assertiveness.

Kimble and Seidel (1991) also found that latency was associated with assertiveness. The authors examined whether vocal loudness and response latency were associated with confidence. The findings show that assertive people tend to speak louder than unassertive people and assertive individuals tend to speak faster than unassertive individuals.

It appears that response latency does have an association to assertive behavior. Assertiveness involves the act of articulating one's thoughts and also the ability to articulate these thoughts in a relatively quick manner.

One's sexual experiences also may be a factor in how assertive one is in refusing an alcoholic advance. It also may be a significant factor contributing in the likelihood of becoming sexually coerced.

### **Sexual Experiences History**

A history of sexual experiences is one of the most consistent predictors of sexual coercion in adults. For example, Wyatt, Guthrie, and Notgrass (1992) examined the effects of women's child sexual abuse and later sexual re-victimization. They found that women who experienced more than one incident in both child sexual abuse and adult sexual abuse were more likely to have a greater number of partnerships and brief sexual encounters than those who had not had these types of experiences. In addition, 45% of women who reported contact abuse (fondling, attempted, or completed intercourse) before the age of 18 years also reported either contact or non-contact (exhibitionism or observing someone masturbating) in their adult lives. In addition, 30% of these women experienced only contact abuse since the age of 18 years.

In a study conducted by Testa and Dermen (1999) it was hypothesized that women who had greater numbers of sexual partners would be more at risk for experiencing sexual assault. Their findings supported this hypothesis; women who had been victims of sexual coercion reported having engaged in more casual sexual activity. Further, the results indicated that women who experienced sexual coercion reported more severe sexual abuse incidents than women who had not been sexually coerced at all.



Messman and Long (2000) found that women with a history of child sexual abuse are at a greater risk for adult abuse than women who have not experienced child sexual abuse. Further, women with a history of child sexual abuse are more likely to self report experiencing date rape and unwanted sexual intercourse with acquaintances and strangers. These findings were further supported by Roodman and Clum (2001) who conducted a meta-analysis of nineteen studies on the re-victimization of women. They included studies that had rates of victimization and a comparison sample of non-victimized women. The meta-analysis yielded a medium effect size of .59 signifying a relationship between childhood sexual victimization and adult victimization.

Desai et al. (2002) examined childhood victimization and subsequent adult re-victimization in a nationally representative sample. There were 8,000 women who participated in a telephone survey. The study investigated whether childhood physical or sexual victimization increased women's risk for victimization in adulthood by different perpetrators. They found that women who experienced childhood sexual abuse were two times more likely to experience adult sexual victimization. Also, women were three times more likely to be a victim of sexual abuse in adulthood by a non-intimate perpetrator if she was also a victim of child sexual abuse. Women who were sexually abused as children were six times more likely to experience current intimate partner violence such as a spouse.

From the numerous studies mentioned above, it is apparent that a history of sexual experiences, including child sexual abuse, adult sexual abuse, and number of partners can increase one's chances of victimization and also perhaps the chances of re-victimization.

## **Role-Play Vignette**

In order to best understand how assertiveness is associated with drink refusal, a role play vignette was made for this study. There are studies in the sexual coercion literature that use role plays as well; outlined below are some examples of vignettes that have been used.

Norris et al. (2006) used a role play of social interaction between a man and woman with varying levels of alcohol consumption, number of dates, and relationship type. The participant starts out conversing with a friend named Susan about a male character named Michael. The participant is interested in Michael and states how many dates she has had (zero or four) with him, but does not want to have sex with him. At the end of the evening which consisted of watching movies, the participant and Susan have another conversation about Michael in which the participant states again her intention not to have sex, but interested in a relationship. The participant is then left alone in the living room with Michael where the story then stops and at three time points there are escalating levels of unwanted sexual advances.

Another example of a role play was conducted by VanZile-Tamsen, Testa, and Livingston (2005). This vignette consisted of the participant being at a friend's house. As the participant goes into the bedroom to get something out of their coat, they realize that someone is behind them. This male then kisses them on the neck who is either a person whom they just met, a friend, a date, or a boyfriend. This individual then proceeds to attempt to pull up the participant's shirt and push them on the bed.

Some of the role-play used for the present study was drawn from the work of Norris et al. (2006), VanZile-Tamsen, Testa, and Livingston (2005), and Noel et al., (2008). A full transcript is discussed below in the methods section and can be found in Appendix H.

Further, Noel, Ogle, Maisto, and Jackson (manuscript in preparation, 2008) conducted a study of focus groups in which women were asked various questions about what was important in considering dating a man. Some of the answers that participants thought were important attributes or characteristics in a man were attractiveness, popularity, ambitious career goals, and congeniality. In making this vignette, the character Dan is portrayed by the characteristics that Noel et al. (unpublished manuscript, May 2008) found in their focus group study.

## Present Study

The research reviewed above suggests that some men will use alcohol as a tactic to try to get women intoxicated to have sexual contact with them. In addition, the literature indicates that gender specific assertiveness may be a protective factor in sexual coercion. Many studies looking at assertiveness and sexual coercion examine women who are already intoxicated. Our concern is that we are interested in what occurs before the woman is intoxicated. More specifically, what is it that a woman can do to prevent sexual coercion when feeling pressured in a social situation? The first step is to examine a combination of variables that include the woman's gender specific assertiveness ability, drink history, and sexual experiences history. However, there has been little research in gender specific assertiveness in drink refusal. Examining the effects of assertiveness in drink refusal has important implications since women may be taught in intervention strategies to effectively refuse alcohol and thus, protect themselves from possible sexual

coercion in various circumstances. Women repeatedly get caught having to walk a “cognitive tightrope” (Nurius & Norris, 1996) as they need to know the correct strategies to refuse assertively and get the appropriate message across, but also doing so without alienating a potential partner. Consequently, the present study will examine these variables to see how gender specific assertiveness, drinking history, and sexual experiences history is associated with the refusal of alcoholic beverages from a man in a simulated social situation.

There are four hypotheses that will be explored in this study:

Hypothesis 1- Women with lower assertiveness, especially gender specific assertiveness, will have more difficulty refusing alcohol than women with higher levels of assertiveness. Since the vignette is of a risky sexual social situation involving a man, it is predicted that a woman who has difficulty being assertive in the presence of a man will find it difficult to refuse alcohol advances especially with repeated advances.

Hypothesis 2- A history of frequent drinking will be associated with a higher likelihood of accepting a drink offer. Naturally, one who is prone to drink frequently will have a greater desire to drink once an advance or cue is presented. Accordingly, it is predicted that a woman who drinks frequently may enjoy drinking more than the average woman and may accept the offer out of habit.

Hypothesis 3- Higher levels of sexual experiences will lead to higher likelihood of accepting a drink offer. A longer history of sexual experiences will lead one to have more chances to be sexually coerced through the lifespan. A woman who has more experience sexually increases her probability of being in risky sexual situations and also increases the use of alcohol being present as some men may use alcohol as a tactic against women

(Johnson et al., 1999). There are numerous studies that indicate women who have been sexually coerced have involved the use of alcohol (Harrington and Leitenberg, 1994).

Another concern is that a woman's persistence may break down after repeated advances. In this study, the character Dan in the vignette makes three drink advances, so there may be a maximum likelihood that the woman participant will acquiesce to the advances. Thus, there is a fourth hypothesis associated to intensity of drink offers.

Hypothesis 4- As the intensity of drink offers increases, the ability to refuse will become progressively harder. It is predicted that refusing will become much more difficult if there are multiple advances with each one becoming more intense as time passes.

Response latency was assessed in addition to the hypotheses stated above. Studies indicate that response latency may be associated with how assertiveness one is (Collins, Powell, and Oliver, 2000). Women who take longer to respond to drink advances may be more likely to accept drink offers. Response latency included the quality of responses from the participants which were coded as well as the time it takes to respond after each drink offer was made.

## Method

### Overview

The present study used questionnaires and a laboratory role play to assess each variable under question. Before the study, each participant was asked to sign an informed consent document. Afterwards, participants received a packet of questionnaires that included a demographic sheet, a revised Inventory of Interpersonal Problems (IIP 64), the RATHUS Assertiveness Schedule, the Quantity Frequency Index (QFI), the Women's Sexual Experiences Questionnaire (WSE), and the Sexual Experiences Survey (SES). In

addition to filling out these questionnaires, participants were asked to listen and respond to an audio-tape with a role play vignette of a risky sexual situation with escalating drink advances from a man. Participants were asked to project themselves into the vignette and respond as if the situation were really occurring to them. All answers from the role play were recorded in order to code answers, assess response latency, and analyze findings. After participants completed the vignette section of the experiment, they were asked to complete a Post-Situation Questionnaire which assessed how well the participant was able to understand the risk of the situation. This measure asked participants to what extent they wanted a drink at each time-point as well as the degree of pressure they felt at each time-point.

### **Participants**

The participants consisted of 111 women between 17-26 years of age (M age = 19.01, SD = 1.462) from a mid-size southeastern university. A total of 92.8% (n= 107) were exclusively heterosexual, but all women reported that they were dating men. The majority of the participants were Caucasian (79.3 %, n=88) and the remaining participants identified their ethnicity as African American (5.4 %, n=6), and Asian, Bi-Racial, or Other (15.3%, n=17). The majority of participants were college freshman (64.9%, n=72), sophomores (13.5%, n=15), juniors (14.4%, n=16), and seniors (7.2%, n=8). The majority of participants were single (57.7%, n= 64), were in a steady dating situation (36.9 %, n=41), and were either married, divorced/separated, or in some other type of dating situation (5.4%, n=6). The majority of participants were from North Carolina (76.6%, n=85) while the remainder of participants were from a variety other states (23.4%, n=26).

The participants were enrolled in an Introductory Psychology course. All participants were recruited through an online sign up system in the Psychology Department. Participants received experimental psychology course credit. Because of the specific research questions that were asked in this study, participation was restricted to women. Since alcohol was not administered in this study, it was not necessary that the participants be 21 years of age or older.

## **Materials**

### *Informed Consent Document*

All participants were asked to sign two informed consent documents; one form went to the participant for their records and the second form was kept by the experimenter. Documents were kept separate from questionnaire packets so to ensure that the participants' identity was kept anonymous (see Appendix A).

### *Demographic Information*

All participants were asked to report their age, current dating or marital status, sexual orientation, educational status, employment status, place they grew up or considered home, and ethnicity (see Appendix B).

### *Gender Specific Assertiveness*

The Inventory of Interpersonal Problems 64 (Horowitz et al, 1988) was used. The IIP 64 identifies interpersonal sources of distress and has a high internal consistency as well as high test-retest reliability. The IIP 64 was modified to assess an individual's level of interpersonal performance, specifically in the domain of gender specific assertiveness. Each item was changed by placing the words "with a man" in each statement (adapted from Greene and Navarro, 1998). There are three subscales within the IIP 64 and these

subscales were used for this study. The first subscale was the Nonassertive measure which gauged the women's self-confidence and self-esteem with men. Individuals who score high on this measure typically have a difficult time being firm with men and communicating their wishes and needs to men. The second subscale was the Overly-Accommodating measure which assesses a tendency for women to be overly submissive in interactions with men. Individuals who score high on this trait report difficulty saying "no" to men and tend to be easily persuaded into doing things they may not necessarily wish to do. The third subscale was the Self-Sacrificing measure which is characterized by a need to be excessively affiliative with men. Women who report scores that are high on this trait tend to be too eager to serve or acquiesce to the needs of men. The IIP 64 has recently begun to be used for gender specific assertiveness such as the study conducted by Greene and Navarro (1998). The IIP 64 uses a five point Likert type scale (see Appendix C).

To assess for global assertiveness and thus, make comparisons to gender-specific assertiveness, the Rathus Assertiveness Schedule (Rathus, 1973) was used in this study. The Rathus has been used in other studies and is a standard measure of assertiveness (Amick & Calhoun, 1987; Johnson, Scott, & Sheets, 1999; Testa & Dermen, 1999). The Rathus Assertiveness Schedule has high test- retest and split half reliability as well as validity (Hirsch et al, 1978). The Rathus is a 30 item assertiveness questionnaire (see Appendix D).

### *Drinking History*

This study assessed one's drinking history by using a modified version of the Quantity Frequency Index (QFI) by Cahalan, Cisin, and Crossley (1969). This scale has



been used in other studies such as Barnett and Fagan (1993). The modified version of this scale measures the frequency and quantity of an individual's drinking habit during the last 3 months (see Appendix E).

#### *Sexual Experiences History*

To measure one's sexual experiences history, the Women's Sexual Experiences Questionnaire (WSE) developed by Noel and Ogle (2006 unpublished) was used. To date, this scale has been used with 350 subjects. In addition, the psychometrics of this scale is still being evaluated currently. The WSE is a self report survey that assesses women's sexual experiences including sexual aggression and victimization. The WSE examines women's experiences within the past year as well as well as over the lifespan, including whether or not women have engaged in sexual interactions willingly, unwillingly, or with ambivalence (see Appendix F). Since the psychometrics of the WSE is still being assessed, the Sexual Experiences Survey (SES) developed by Koss (1982) was also added (see Appendix G).

#### *In Vivo Cues*

The purpose of in vivo cues was to elicit the desire to drink in the participant as such studies by Streeter et al. (2002) and Staiger and White (1991) demonstrate. By making these cues available, it was anticipated that the desire to drink in the participant would be greater. The environment of the lab was realistic as possible to a party setting. A poster of pictures of alcoholic beverages was placed in the lab. In addition, two empty beer bottles were set in the lab as well as highball glasses filled with water that emitted the scent of alcohol. Cotton swabs dipped in alcohol were swiped around the rim of the glasses to emit the scent of alcohol before the participant came into the study.

### *Vignette of a Risky Sexual Situation*

An audiotape was used in this study depicting a risky sexual situation. The participant was prompted to reply aloud to each advance when a beeping noise was sounded. The participant was also prompted by the experimenter before the vignette portion to respond aloud and respond as if the situation in the vignette were a real life situation. The audiotape was stopped at the three time-points so that the participant could respond

The audio tape begins by music and people talking in the background. The scene in the vignette depicts a house party. Jen is casually sitting and talking to her friends Jen and Kelly in the kitchen about their hairstyles and salons. Kelly then states that Dan, a prospective medical school student who is attractive and well known on campus is present at the party. Dan is one of Jen's acquaintances and Jen thinks Dan is attractive. Right when the girls are talking about how Dan is a nice guy, he then walks over and says hello to Jen and starts conversing with her. It is clear that Dan is singling Jen out so that he can talk to her further. Dan asks Jen how she is doing and they have a conversation about school and work. After short conversation, Dan asks Jen if she would be interested in going to a quieter place since it is loud in the party. Dan suggests that there is an empty den upstairs. Jen agrees and they both decide to go upstairs. As the vignette is playing you can hear footsteps of Jen and Dan walking upstairs to the den. In addition, sound effects of the door to the den opening and closing were added so that it was clear to the participant listening to the vignette that Dan and Jen were upstairs in an empty room with no one else around. Once upstairs in the den, Dan states that there is a mini-bar equipped with liquor and beer. At this point he says to Jen, "I'm going to make a drink. Let me make you something too. What do you want?" There is a sound effect of

ice going into a glass and then there is a brief beep to indicate that the participant is prompted to respond. After the participant responds, Dan proceeds to talk and ask Jen if anything new has been going on in her life and if she has been hanging out with the same group of friends lately. Jen replies that she has been hanging out with her same friends and that they have plans to move in together the next semester. Dan replies that they should party together when Jen moves in with her friends. At this point Dan says, “Well I’m ready for another drink. Let me get you something with some alcohol in it! What do you want?” There is the sound of ice going into a glass again along with the beep to indicate to the participant to respond. Once the participant responds, Dan starts to speak again and he says to Jen, “Man, I am feeling really buzzed! You need to catch up with me! Come on Jen, let’s have a drink!” The beeping noise is sounded again to notify the participant to respond.

At the end of the vignette an open ended projection question is asked about the situation. This question was adapted from Masters et al. (2006). Specifically, the vignette reads, “Imagining that this were really occurring, what do you think seems likely to happen next to the characters Jen and Dan in the story?” The beeping noise then sounds to notify the participant to give an answer. This question was added as a manipulation check to examine whether participants would realize that the situation was of high risk see Appendix H).

#### *Response Latency*

Latency was measured by how long it took in seconds for the participant to respond after Dan’s drink offer at each time point in the audio-tape vignette. Response latency

was measured using a stop watch assessing how long it took in seconds for the participant to respond after each drink advance in the vignette.

#### *Post Situation Questionnaire*

In order to assess the validity of the vignette, a brief post test questionnaire was given after the vignette portion of the experiment was completed. The participant was asked to what extent they wanted a drink at the three time points. Specifically, the question asks, "To what extent did you want an alcoholic beverage when Dan asked you the first time?" This question was asked for each time point, so the ending of the question changed respectively. This question was asked on a five point Likert type scale where a score of one indicated that the participant "really wanted a drink", a score of three indicated that the participant felt that they "neither" wanted a drink or did not want a drink, and a score of five indicated that the participant "did not want a drink". In addition, participants were asked to how much pressure they felt at that time. This question was asked in the following manner, "To what extent did you feel pressured to drink when Dan asked you the first time?" Again, this question was asked three times as well with the ending changing respective to the appropriate time-point. A five point Likert type scale was used where a score of one indicated that the participant felt "very pressured", a score of three indicated that the participant felt "neither" very pressured or not pressured, and a score of five indicated that the participant felt "not pressured" at all. Participants were also asked to rate how attractive Dan sounded in the vignette by the question, "How attractive did Dan sound in the role play to you?" This question also used a five point Likert type scale where a score of one was equivalent to "very attractive", a score of three was equivalent to "neither", and a score of five was equivalent to "not attractive".

Finally, the participant was asked whether they would consider going out on a date with Dan by the question, “If you met Dan would you consider going out on a date with him?” Scoring for this question also used the Likert type scale; a score of one was equal to “yes”, a score of three was equal to “maybe”, and a score of five was equal to “no” (see Appendix I).

### **Procedure**

Participants signed up for a scheduled time and date to fill out questionnaires and listen and respond to the audiotape. Due to the nature of this study, each participant was scheduled one at a time. Additionally, since the vignette illustrated a party setting, the experiment took place during the evening hours to make the experience as realistic as possible for the participant.

After entering the lab, the participant was asked to sign an informed consent document. One copy was kept by the experimenter while the other copy was for the participant to keep for their records. The informed consent was read aloud by the experimenter, signed by both the participant and the experimenter, and filed separately from any other forms to ensure confidentiality. All procedures were approved by the University of North Carolina Wilmington Institutional Review Board.

Participants were then given a packet of questionnaires that included the Demographic Information Sheet, Inventory of Interpersonal Problems 64 (IIP 64), the RATHUS Assertiveness Schedule, the Quantity Frequency Index (QFI), the Women’s Sexual Experiences Questionnaire (WSE), and the Sexual Experiences Survey (SES). Participants were asked to fill out the questionnaire packet completely.

The lab was equipped with a two way mirror, a microphone, and an intercom system. This allowed for any communication that was necessary during the experiment. Alcohol cues were placed in the lab and were intended to create a realistic drinking atmosphere.

After the participants filled out the packet of questionnaires, the experimenter explained to the participants that they would be completing the vignette portion of the study next. Research assistants conducting the sessions came into the lab and introduced themselves. The researcher explained that during the experiment all research assistants would be able to see through the two way mirror while the vignette played. This was explained to minimize nervousness and feelings of awkwardness since it was of the utmost concern that the participant be able to project herself into the situation. The experimenter discussed and explained the role playing activity with the participant. The experimenter specifically made clear that the participant would have to respond orally to the vignette and that they should act as if this were a real life situation. After the experimenter made sure that the directions were understood by the participant, the experimenter left the room and entered the observation room for the remainder of the study. The intercom system was turned on in case the participant needed to communicate with the experimenter or vice versa.

Before responding to the actual vignette, participants were asked to answer three neutral prompts to get them familiarized with answering to the audiotape. The neutral prompt questions were as follows: “What are three of your favorite colors?”, “What are your three of your favorite foods?”, and “Before you came to this experiment, what was the last class you were in?”

The participants were instructed on the vignette to listen carefully to the audiotape vignette and imagine that she was the female, Jen, in the situation as the tape played. The vignette also instructed participants that she should imagine that she has a potential romantic interest in Dan. A laptop computer was used to play the audiotape vignette and responses were recorded onto compact discs. Research assistants then labeled the tracks with the date and participant number.

After completing the role-play, the experimenter came back to the room and asked the participant to complete the Post Situation Questionnaire. After participants completed the questionnaire, the experimenter thanked the participant for volunteering and the participant was debriefed. Debriefing consisted of asking if the participant had any questions or concerns. Additionally, the participant was asked if they had an idea of what the study was about and if they noticed the alcohol cues. If participants had any questions, they were given a list of numbers of resources offered in the area for those who have been sexually victimized. Upon completion of the study, all materials were kept in a locked filing cabinet and participants were given credit for their participation.

#### *Coding of Responses*

All participant responses from the vignette were recorded onto compact discs and then coded by two trained coders. Coders were trained to a high degree of reliability as they achieved at least a 90% inter-rater reliability score. Inter-rater reliability is the degree of agreement between raters. A high inter-rater reliability percentage is necessary as it is a measure of the consensus between the raters in measuring a variable. In the event that responses did not converge, a random number table was used for the final measures.

The psychometric properties of the role-play vignette were assessed by a coding procedure. The coding for the present study was adapted from Maisto et al. (2002). The inter-rater reliabilities for each participant were based on 30 scores; 10 dimensions across 3 prompts for each participant. The first five dimensions were coded on a two point scale where a higher score was equivalent to the quality of communication and assertiveness skill. A score of zero would be assessed if the participant gave no response to the prompt, a score of one would be assessed if the participant gave a short answer response to the prompt, and a score of two would be assessed if the participant gave a longer, in depth answer. The five dimensions were as follows: the use of an “I” statement for refusal of unsafe drinking behavior, the use of an “I” statement of intention of safer drinking behavior (e.g. No, I don’t want any alcohol but I’ll have a Coke though.), the provision of a statement of a reason for safer drinking behavior (e.g. I think I’ll have a bottle of water because...), the presence of a positive statement about the person or situation in the scenario, and the suggestion of a specific beverage that is safer than alcohol. An important note is that coders were able to score for more than one of these dimensions at the same time. Theoretically, a participant would have been able to display many of these dimensions all in one response, so coders were trained in this manner.

Dimension six was a behavioral domain and coders were trained to code whether the participant’s response was direct, serious, and clear. Again, a two point scale was used. A score of zero indicated a response that was “not serious, direct, or clear”. A score of one indicated that the response was “somewhat direct, serious, and clear”. A score of two indicated that the participant’s response was “very direct, serious, and clear”.



Dimensions seven, eight, and nine assessed whether the participant was assertive, passive, or aggressive, respectively. These dimensions were coded dichotomously on a zero or one point scale. A score of zero indicated that the participant did not exhibit the respective behavior; a score of one indicated that the participant did exhibit the behavior. Coders were trained to only choose one of the respective behaviors. In other words, a participant could not be coded to exhibit both assertive and aggressive behavior concurrently.

Dimension ten assessed whether the participant accepted the drink offer. This dimension was coded dichotomously on a zero or one point scale. A score of zero indicated that the participant did not accept the drink offer and a score of one indicated that the participant did accept the drink offer.

The two raters independently rated all recordings and the resulting scores they assigned were compared to one another. Few data were lost due to poor audio-tape recording: tracks 28, 30, 31,32,33,36, and 94. All seven tracks were lost due to glitches in the recording system. All tracks except numbers 31, 32, and 33 were transcribed by hand while the vignette portion was played; hence these answers were able to be used in the coding process. The percent agreement for all dimensions ranged from 90.0%-100%. (see Appendix J).

Table 1

Percent agreement by two independent coders on 10 dimensions

	Time 1	Time 2	Time 3
Dimension 1	90%	94.2%	90%
Dimension 2	100%	99%	98%
Dimension 3	96.15%	96.15%	95.19%
Dimension 4	100%	100%	100%
Dimension 5	99%	100%	100%
Dimension 6	100%	96.15%	92.31%
Dimensions 7, 8, 9	99%	96.15%	97.12%
Dimension 10	100%	100%	100%

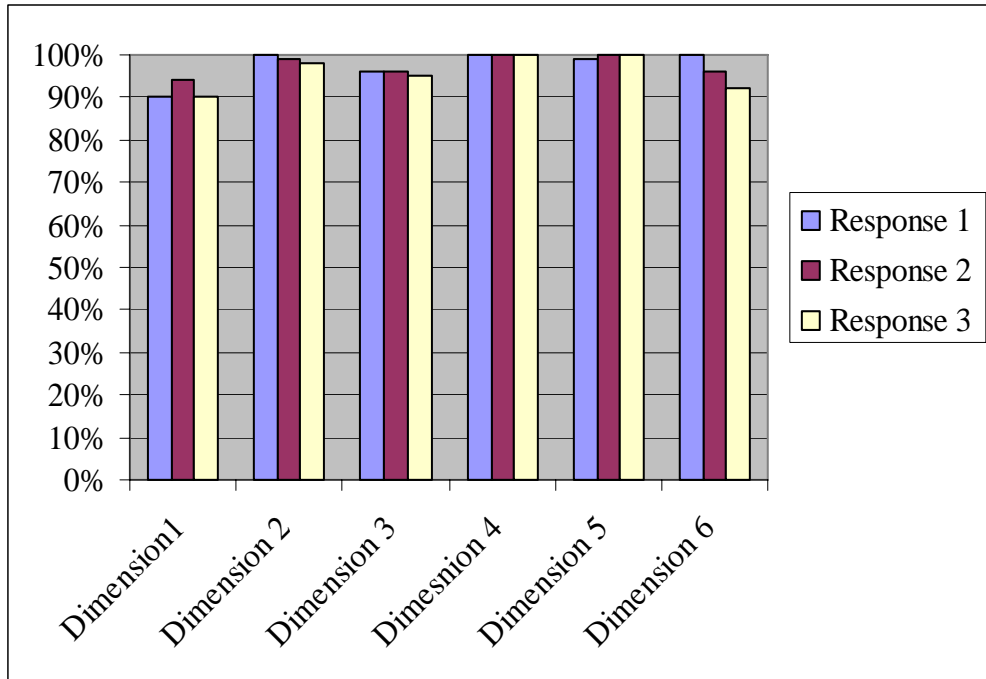


Figure1. Percent agreement by two independent coders on the first 6 dimensions.

## Results

### **Descriptive Data**

#### *Assertiveness*

The IIP 64 has three subscales that were used in the present study. Table 2 shows the IIP 64 participant range of scores, means, and standard deviations for the three subscales.

Table 2

Range of scores, means, and standard deviations of the IIP 64 subscales

Subscales	Range of Scores	<u>M</u>	<u>SD</u>
Non-Assertive	0-28	9.59	5.84
Overly-Accommodating	0-20	8.29	5.03
Self-Sacrificing	0-24	8.84	5.13

For the Rathus Assertiveness Schedule, the more positive a score is, the more assertive the individual is supposed to be. The resulting range of scores was from 4-105 ( $M=46.6$ ,  $SD=21.32$ ). Fifty-three women (47.7%) had scores above the mean; thus these women were classified as assertive.

### **Drinking**

The range of drinking days over the past three months was 0-75 days from the Quantity Frequency Index ( $M=17.15$ ,  $SD=18.48$ ). Also, 62 women (55.9%) reported that their drinking habits stayed the same as usual over the last three months. The largest amount of alcohol consumed in a 24 hour period ranged from 0-30 drinks ( $M=7.09$ ,  $SD=5.59$ ).

At time-point one, 38 (34.2%) women accepted the drink offer ( $M$  days drinking = 27.05,  $SD=19.42$ ) while 66 (59.5%) women refused the drink offer ( $M$  days drinking=11.78,  $SD=15.44$ ). At time-point two 23 (20.7%) women accepted a drink offer ( $M$  days drinking = 30.35,  $SD=21.27$ ) while 80 (72.1%) women refused the drink offer ( $M$  days drinking=13.81,  $SD=15.94$ ). At time-point three 6 (5.4%) women accepted the drink offer ( $M$  days drinking=21.83,  $SD=20.62$ ) while 97 (87.4%) women refused the drink offer ( $M$  days drinking=17.01,  $SD=18.46$ ).

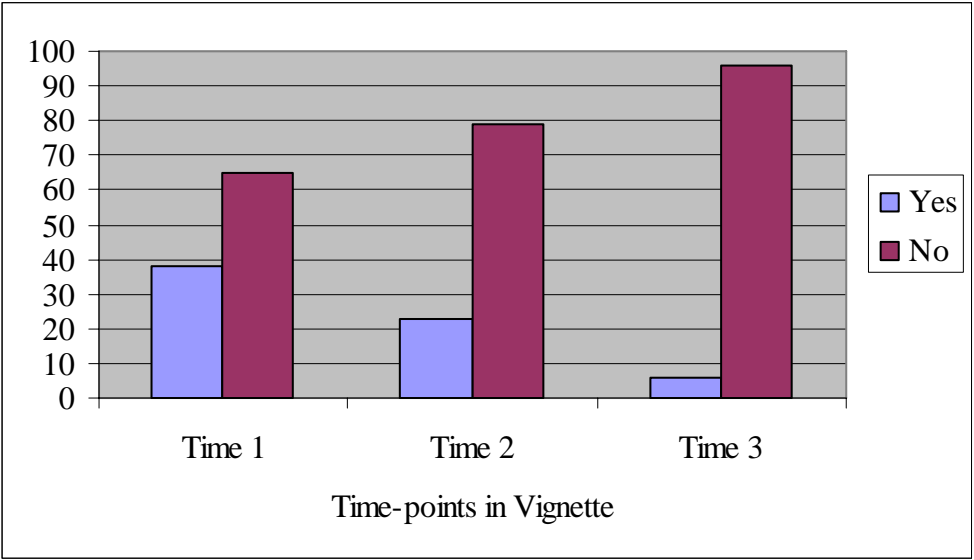


Figure2. Drink acceptance and refusal over the three time-points in the vignette.

## **Women's Sexual Experiences**

From the Women's Sexual Experiences Questionnaire, 87.4% (n= 97) of women had a sexual interaction with a man through mutual consent while 66.7% (n= 74) of women reported having sexual intercourse with a man through mutual consent. Thirty six percent of the sample (n= 40) reported having had a sexual interaction with a man when they were ambivalent and 21.6% (n= 22) reported experiencing actual intercourse with a man when they were ambivalent. Feeling ambivalent was described as not being sure about the situation but going along with it anyway. From the large number of women who have experienced ambivalent sexual interactions, a closer examination of women who reported having sexual interactions and intercourse when they definitely did not want to is found in Table 3 along with the other items found in the Women's Sexual Experiences Questionnaire.



Table 3

Women's Sexual Experiences Questionnaire: number of participants, percentages, medians, means, and standard deviations

Item	Participants (n=111)	Percentage of Sample	Median	<u>M</u>	<u>SD</u>
Had a sexual interaction with a man through mutual consent	97	87.4%	2	2.12	1.42
Had sexual intercourse with a man through mutual consent	74	66.7%	1	1.72	1.60
Had a sexual interaction with a man when you were ambivalent	40	36%	0	.40	.58
Had actual sexual intercourse with a man when you were ambivalent	22	21.6%	0	.21	.43
Had a sexual interaction with a man when you definitely did not want to	7	6.3%	0	.08	.36
Had actual sexual intercourse with a man when you definitely did not want to	10	9.9%	0	.12	.46
Did not engage in sexual interaction or intercourse with a man, even though he indicated that he wanted to	83	76.6%	1	.76	.43

## **Manipulation Checks**

### *Assertiveness Scales*

The Rathus Assertiveness Scale is often used to measure assertive behavior in general. The IIP 64 was modified to measure gender specific assertiveness. The three subscales of the IIP 64 were inter-correlated with one another. The subscale of non-assertiveness correlated with the subscale overly-accommodating [ $r = .68, p < .01$ ]. The subscale non-assertive also correlated with the subscale self-sacrificing [ $r = .46, p < .01$ ]. In addition, the Rathus Assertiveness Schedule and the IIP 64 subscales were correlated with one another. The Rathus was correlated to the subscale of non-assertive [ $r = -.25, p < .01$ ]; the subscale overly-accommodating [ $r = -.34, p < .01$ ], and the subscale self-sacrificing [ $r = -.20, p < .05$ ].

### *Post-Situation Questionnaire*

From the post-situation questionnaire, participants answered to what extent they wanted an alcoholic beverage and felt pressured to drink at each time-point. Participants were also asked if Dan sounded attractive in the vignette and if they would consider going out on a date with Dan if they had a chance to meet him. All questions used a five point Likert type scale. Questions one, three, and five asked the participant to what extent she wanted a drink over the three time-points respectively. A score of one indicated that the participant “really wanted a drink”, a score of three indicated “neither”, and a score of five indicated that the participant “did not want a drink”. Questions two, four, and six asked participants to what extent they felt pressured over the three time-points respectively. This question also used a five point Likert type scale where a score of one indicated “very pressured”, a score of three indicated “neither”, and a score of five

indicated “not pressured”. Question seven asked participants at time three how attractive Dan sounded in the role-play. Again, a five point Likert type scale was used where a score of one indicated “very attractive”, a score of three indicated “neither”, and a score of five indicated “not attractive”. Question eight asked participants if they would consider going out on a date with Dan at time three. From a five point Likert type scale, a score of one indicated “yes”, a score of three indicated “maybe”, and a score of five indicated “no”. Table 4 illustrates participant’s responses to the questionnaire.

Table 4

## Participant responses to the Post Situation Questionnaire

Item	Time 1 Participants % (n=111)		Time 2 Participants % (n=111)		Time 3 Participants % (n=111)	
To what extent did you want an alcoholic beverage when Dan asked you?						
1	27	24.3%	10	9.0%	5	4.5%
2	6	5.4%	3	2.7%	3	2.7%
3	20	18.0%	25	20.7%	17	15.3%
4	2	1.8%	1	3.6%	1	.9%
5	56	50.5%	71	64.0%	85	76.6%
To what extent did you feel pressured to drink when Dan asked you?						
1	12	10.8%	29	26.1%	64	57.7%
2	2	1.8%	16	14.4%	4	3.6%
3	25	22.5%	33	29.7%	20	18.0%
4	1	.9%	4	3.6%	2	1.8%
5	71	64.0%	29	26.1%	21	18.9%
How attractive did Dan sound in the role play to you?						
1					20	18.0%
2					9	8.1%
3					40	36.0%
4					1	.9%
5					41	36.9%
If you met Dan would you consider going out on a date with him?						
1					2	1.8%
2					3	2.7%
3					46	41.4%
4					3	2.7%
5					57	51.4%

Table 5

## Means and Standard Deviations for the Post Situation Questionnaire

Item	Time 1		Time 2		Time 3	
	<u>M</u>	<u>SD</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>SD</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>SD</u>
To what extent did you want an alcoholic beverage when Dan asked you?	3.49	1.69	4.11	1.33	4.42	1.13
To what extent did you feel pressured to drink when Dan asked you?	4.05	1.39	2.89	1.51	2.20	1.58
How attractive did Dan sound in the role play to you?					3.31	1.79
If you met Dan would you consider going out on a date with him?					3.05	1.21

### *Projection Question*

At the end of the role-play vignette, participants were asked to project the outcome of what would happen to Jen and Dan in the situation. A total of 103 participants, or 95% recognized from the role play vignette that the situation was of high risk. Many participants responded that they thought Dan would keep trying to offer drinks to Jen and ultimately try to engage in some type of sexual interaction with her. In fact, 51 women (47%) indicated that they believed that Dan would try to “hook up” or make a move on Jen in order to take advantage of her sexually. Moreover, some women believed that Jen would leave the situation before anything could happen. 11 women (10%) indicated that they believed Jen would leave the room.

### **Primary Analyses**

*Hypothesis 1.* The first hypothesis predicted that women with lower assertiveness, especially lower gender specific assertiveness, would have more difficulty refusing alcohol than women with higher levels of assertiveness. Difficulty of drinking was operationally defined as whether the participant said yes or no to the three drink offers in the vignette. This hypothesis was evaluated by use of a binomial logistic regression. The dependent variable was either a yes or no response where yes was equal to one and a response of no was equal to zero. The Rathus Assertiveness Scale and the IIP64 (subscales: non-assertive, overly accommodating, and self sacrificing) were used in the analyses. An important note is that the dataset was restricted only to women who had at least one sexual interaction in the past twelve months. The resulting sample was 100 women who were included in the analyses. Results from the analyses indicated that gender-specific assertiveness (IIP 64 subscales) was not able to predict whether women

would have more difficulty refusing alcoholic beverages from a man. The IIP 64 subscales which included self-sacrificing [OR=1.41, ns], overly-accommodating [OR=2.89, ns], and non-assertive [OR=.41, ns] did not predict whether women would have more difficulty refusing alcoholic beverages from a man. General assertiveness from the Rathus Assertiveness Schedule also was not able to predict whether women would have more difficulty refusing alcoholic beverages from a man [OR=.14, ns].

Next, a series of correlations were analyzed to examine whether the Rathus Assertiveness Schedule and the IIP 64 subscales were correlated to the behavioral measure in the situation. The first correlation examined the Rathus and IIP 64 in relation to response latency scores across all time-points. The effectiveness of refusing a drink offer was defined as how quickly the participant responded to the drink offers. Results indicated that the Rathus Assertiveness schedule was not associated with the response latency from participant answers [ $r = -.14$ , ns]. In addition, the IIP 64 subscales of non-assertiveness [ $r = .10$ , ns], overly-accommodating [ $r = .13$ , ns], and self-sacrificing [ $r = .06$ , ns] were not associated with the response latency from participant answers. In order to refine our analysis, another correlation was done examining the Rathus and IIP 64 in relation to the first response latency score. The effectiveness of refusing a drink offer was defined as how quickly the participant responded to the first drink offer. Results indicated that the Rathus Assertiveness was not associated with the response latency from the participants' first answer [ $r = -.09$ , ns]. As well, the IIP 64 subscales self-sacrificing [ $r = .15$ , ns], overly-accommodating [ $r = .17$ , ns], and non-assertive [ $r = .08$ , ns] were not associated with the response latency from drink offer one.

However, when specifically examining participant answers that did not accept any drink offers in the vignette (n=59), the IIP 64 subscale overly-accommodating was significantly correlated to the sum scores of response latency [ $r = .31, p < .05$ ]. The IIP 64 subscales self-sacrificing [ $r = .09, ns$ ] and non-assertive [ $r = .19, ns$ ] were not significantly associated with the sum scores of response latency.

The dataset was also restricted to women who accepted at least one drink offer. The resulting sample was 45 participants. The sum scores of assertiveness on coding over the three time-points indicated that the assertiveness scores were significantly associated with sum scores of response latency [ $r = -.34, p < .05$ ].

The next correlation was analyzed by examining the Rathus Assertiveness Schedule and the IIP 64 subscales in relation to the how assertive the participant was according to the two independent coders. The effectiveness of refusing a drink offer was defined as how assertive the participant was coded across all time-points. When examining the sum scores of assertiveness over the three time-points, results indicated that the Rathus Assertiveness Schedule was not significantly associated with assertive behavior according to the two coders [ $r = -.10, ns$ ]. The IIP 64 subscales IIP 64 subscales of non-assertiveness [ $r = -.11, ns$ ], overly-accommodating [ $r = -.12, ns$ ], and self-sacrificing [ $r = -.16, ns$ ] were also not associated with assertive behavior according to the two coders. When only the first assertiveness score was examined, the Rathus was not found to have a relationship with assertive behavior [ $r = -.06, ns$ ]. Further, the IIP 64 subscales were not associated with assertive behavior as well when the first assertiveness score was examined alone; where the subscales included were non-assertiveness, overly-accommodating, and self-sacrificing respectively [ $r = -.05, ns$ ;  $r = -.13, ns$ ;  $r = -.16, ns$ ].



In addition, another correlation was conducted on the Rathus Assertiveness Schedule and the IIP 64 subscales in relation to effective behavior judged by the two independent coders on the first six dimensions used in the coding procedure. The effectiveness of refusing a drink offer was defined as how the participant was coded across all time-points for the first six coding dimensions. When the six dimensions were summed over the three time-points, results indicated that the Rathus Assertiveness Schedule was not significantly associated with effective behavior according to the two coders [ $r = .03$ , ns]. Also, the IIP 64 subscales were not significantly associated with effective behavior according to the two coders where the subscales included were non-assertiveness, overly-accommodating, and self-sacrificing respectively [ $r = .07$ , ns;  $r = .05$ , ns;  $r = -.005$ , ns]. To refine the analyses, correlations on the six dimensions were examined for only the first response. In this analysis, the Rathus Assertiveness Schedule was not associated with the six coding dimensions according to the two coders respectively [ $r = .05$ , ns;  $r = -.19$ , ns;  $r = -.003$ , ns;  $r = -.11$ , ns;  $r = .08$ , ns;  $r = .004$ , ns]. Results also indicated that the IIP subscales were not associated with the six dimensions. The subscale of non-assertive was not significantly associated with the six dimensions respectively [ $r = -.05$ , ns;  $r = .02$ , ns;  $r = .05$ , ns;  $r = .03$ , ns;  $r = -.05$ , ns;  $r = -.11$ , ns;  $r = -.009$ , ns]. The IIP 64 subscale overly-accommodating was not significantly correlated to the six dimensions respectively [ $r = -.008$ , ns;  $r = .05$ , ns;  $r = -.13$ , ns;  $r = -.08$ , ns;  $r = -.08$ , ns;  $r = -.13$ , ns]. The subscale self-sacrificing was not significantly associated to the six dimensions respectively [ $r = -.07$ , ns;  $r = .09$ , ns;  $r = .02$ , ns;  $r = -.11$ , ns;  $r = -.08$ , ns;  $r = -.08$ , ns].

*Hypothesis 2.* The second hypothesis predicted that a history of frequent drinking would lead to a higher likelihood of accepting a drink offer. A binomial logistic

regression was used to examine this hypothesis by examining days drinking and whether the participant accepted or refused the drink at each time-point. The dependent variable was either a yes or no response where yes was equal to one and a response of no was equal to zero. When taking the number of days drinking over the last three months into account from the Quantity Frequency Index, results of this analysis indicated that the number of days drinking was negatively associated with drink refusal [ $R^2 = .1095$ ,  $p < .001$ ]. The higher the number of days drinking the participants reported, the less likely the participant would be to refuse a drink offer when taking into account all three time-points even though the woman was in a risky sexual situation. In other words, participants were more likely to accept a drink if they had a higher number of drinking days in the past three months.

Next, a series of correlations was analyzed to examine whether the number of days drinking was correlated to the behavioral measure in the situation. The first correlation examined the days drinking over the last three months in relation to response latency scores across all time-points. Results indicated that the number of days drinking was not associated with the response latency from participant answers [ $r = -.02$ , ns]. Another correlation was done examining response latency and days drinking for only time one. Results indicated that response latency at time one was not significantly associated with days drinking [ $r = .03$ , ns].

The next correlation was analyzed by examining the number of days drinking in relation to the how assertive the participant was according to the two independent coders. When examining the sum scores of assertiveness over the three time-points, results indicated that days drinking was not associated with assertiveness [ $r = .034$ , ns]. Also,

when days drinking was correlated with the assertiveness for time one only, this did not yield significance [ $r = .02$ , ns].

Another correlation was conducted on days drinking in relation to effective behavior judged by the two independent coders on the first six dimensions used in the coding procedure. When the six dimensions were summed over the three time-points, results indicated that days drinking was not significantly associated with the six dimensions [ $r = -.13$ , ns]. When the six dimensions were correlated to days drinking only on participants' first response, days drinking was associated with dimension one which was the "Use of an "I" statement for refusal of unsafe drinking behavior" [ $r = -.22$ ,  $p < .03$ ]. Dimensions two through six were not correlated with days drinking respectively [ $r = -.11$ , ns;  $r = -.06$ , ns;  $r = .15$ , ns;  $r = .001$ , ns;  $r = -.04$ , ns].

*Hypothesis 3.* The third hypothesis predicted that higher levels of sexual experiences would be associated with a higher likelihood of accepting a drink offer. Binomial logistic regression was used again to investigate this hypothesis. The dependent variable was either a yes or no response where yes was equal to one and a response of no was equal to zero. The Women's Sexual Experiences Survey and whether the participant refused or accepted the drink offers were used in the analyses. The initial analysis used all 111 participants; however this did not yield significant results. Next, the data was restricted to only women who had a sexual interaction within the last 12 months. The resulting sample was 100 women and the results were significant. From this analyses, results indicated that women were more likely to accept a drink offer if they experienced a sexual interaction (not intercourse) with a man when she was ambivalent [ $RO = 4.76$ ,  $p < .029$ ].

Next, a series of correlations was analyzed to examine whether the Women's Sexual Experiences Questionnaire was correlated to the behavioral measure in the situation. The first correlation examined the first seven questions of the WSE in relation to response latency scores across all time-points. Results indicated that WSE items were not associated with the response latency from participant answers respectively [ $r = .12$ , ns;  $r = .06$ , ns;  $r = -.04$ , ns;  $r = -.07$ , ns;  $r = -.09$ , ns;  $r = -.03$ , ns;  $r = .08$ , ns]. The items on the WSE were then correlated against response latency for time one. Again, WSE items were not associated with the response latency from participant answers respectively [ $r = .11$ , ns;  $r = .06$ , ns;  $r = .05$ , ns;  $r = .001$ , ns;  $r = -.05$ , ns;  $r = -.01$ , ns;  $r = .05$ , ns].

The next correlation was analyzed by examining the WSE in relation to how assertive the participant was according to the two independent coders. When examining the sum scores of assertiveness over the three time-points, results indicated that the seven items on the WSE were not associated with assertiveness respectively [ $r = -.03$ , ns;  $r = -.009$ , ns;  $r = -.02$ , ns;  $r = .05$ , ns;  $r = .10$ , ns;  $r = .02$ , ns;  $r = .11$ , ns]. Also, when the WSE was correlated with assertiveness scores for time one only, results indicated that the seven items on the WSE were not associated with assertiveness respectively [ $r = .09$ , ns;  $r = -.03$ , ns;  $r = .02$ , ns;  $r = .09$ , ns;  $r = .04$ , ns;  $r = .05$ , ns;  $r = .17$ , ns].

Another correlation was conducted on the WSE in relation to effective behavior judged by the two independent coders on the first six dimensions used in the coding procedure. When the six dimensions were summed over the three time-points, results indicated that the WSE question three was significantly associated with the six dimensions [ $r = -.28$ ,  $p < .004$ ]. Question one on the WSE was not significantly associated with the six dimensions [ $r = -.07$ , ns] as well as question two [ $r = -.03$ , ns]. Questions four

through seven were also not associated with the six behavioral dimensions respectively [ $r = -.12$ , ns;  $r = .04$ , ns;  $r = -.12$ , ns;  $r = -.08$ , ns]. When the six dimensions were analyzed by participants' first response only, two items on the WSE were significantly associated with the behavioral dimensions. WSE question three which consisted of having a sexual interaction with a man when ambivalent was associated with dimension one which consisted of using an "I" statement for refusal of unsafe drinking behavior [ $r = -.27$ ,  $p < .006$ ]. The WSE question seven which consisted of not engaging in sexual interaction or intercourse with a man even though he indicated that he wanted to was significantly associated with dimension two which was the use of an "I" statement of intention of safer drinking behavior [ $r = -.25$ ,  $p < .01$ ].

*Hypothesis 4.* The fourth hypothesis predicted that as the intensity of drink offers increased, the ability to refuse would become progressively harder. Contrary to this hypothesis, results indicated that fewer women accepted drink offers over time. For time-point one, 38 women accepted a drink offer and 66 women declined the offer. At time-point two, 23 women accepted a drink offer and 80 women declined the offer. At time three, six women accepted the drink offer and 97 women declined the offer.

### **Exploratory Analyses**

An ANOVA was conducted to examine the relationship between the Women's Sexual Experiences Questionnaire and the Rathus Assertiveness Schedule. The RATHUS Assertiveness schedule did have a significant association with the WSE for question five. Women who scored less assertively on the Rathus were more likely to have a sexual interaction (but not intercourse) with a man when they definitely did not want to [ $F(1,91) = 6.25$ ,  $p < .05$ ].

In addition, correlations were conducted to examine the relationship between the days drinking on the Quantity Frequency Index and the Women's Sexual Experiences Questionnaire. Days drinking over the past three months had a significant association with the WSE for two items. Days drinking was associated with having a sexual interaction with a man when ambivalent [ $r = .25, p < .01$ ]. Days drinking was also significantly associated with having sexual intercourse with a man when ambivalent [ $r = .20, p < .05$ ].

Further, correlations examining the associations between the Rathus Assertiveness Schedule and IIP 64 subscales against the Women's Sexual Experiences Questionnaire were conducted. When the dataset was restricted to women that denied all drink offers in the vignette, the Rathus Assertiveness Schedule was significantly correlated to item two on the WSE which consisted of having sexual intercourse with a man through mutual consent [ $r = .30, p < .05$ ]. The IIP 64 subscales overly-accommodating [ $r = .38, p < .01$ ] and non-assertive [ $r = .32, p < .05$ ] were significantly correlated to item three on the WSE as well when the dataset was restricted to women that denied all drink offers. WSE item three consisted of having a sexual interaction with a man when ambivalent. The IIP 64 subscale self-sacrificing was not significantly associated with WSE item three when the dataset was restricted to women who denied all three drink offers [ $r = .14, ns$ ].

The dataset was also restricted to examine those participants who accepted at least one drink offer in the vignette. With the dataset restricted in this manner, two IIP 64 subscales were significantly correlated with items from the WSE. The IIP 64 subscale overly-accommodating was significantly correlated to WSE item three [ $r = .35, p < .05$ ] which consisted of having a sexual interaction with a man when ambivalent and item five

[ $r = .45, p < .01$ ] which consisted of having sexual interaction with a man when you definitely did not want to. The IIP 64 subscale self-sacrificing was significantly correlated to WSE item three [ $r = .56, p < .01$ ], WSE item four which consisted of having sexual intercourse with a man when ambivalent [ $r = .37, p < .05$ ], and WSE item six which consisted of having sexual intercourse with a man when you definitely did not want to [ $r = .31, p < .05$ ].

## Discussion

Past research has suggested that there are various factors, such as past sexual experiences, drink history, and assertive behavior, that may determine the likelihood of a woman being able to refuse an alcoholic beverage assertively. One way in which to examine whether women will be able to refuse an alcoholic beverage from a man in a risky situation is to inspect how well one can assess risk in a situation, such as through the use of a vignette, and to see how one will behave accordingly. The current study utilized an audio-role play vignette in order to examine alcohol refusal behavior in women.

The first hypothesis predicted that women with lower assertiveness, especially lower gender specific assertiveness, would have more difficulty refusing alcohol in a risky sexual situation than women with higher levels of assertiveness. The results from this study indicated that gender specific assertiveness or assertiveness in general did not predict whether women would have more difficulty refusing alcoholic beverages from a man in a risky sexual situation. This finding is not consistent with the literature regarding assertive behavior. For example, Testa and Dermen (1999) found that women who experienced sexual coercion were found to have lower levels of assertiveness. Also,

VanZile-Tamsen (2005) found that women who were sexually victimized after the age of 14 reported intending to engage in less direct verbal resistance when they were randomly assigned to receive a written scenario where the type of perpetrator was manipulated and to answer various questions about the vignette. From studies such as these, one would predict that an individual who lacks assertiveness would have a difficult time refusing drink offers. However, this was not the case for the present study. Perhaps women in this study who were not assertive were still able to refuse drinks because the vignette was not a real life situation. The ability to generalize findings from this vignette is difficult. There were no tangible consequences in reality and this may not have been adequate for the participants in this sample. Further, it may be that women were not able to assess the risk at time one in the vignette, but by time three the risk was clear so that the majority, regardless of assertiveness, was able to refuse at that time-point. Only six women in the sample accepted the drink offer at time three. Women were asked about perceiving risk only at time three, thus the present study was unable to assess whether there was any change in perception of risk throughout the session.

It was also predicted that a history of frequent drinking would lead to a higher likelihood of accepting a drink offer. When taking the number of days drinking over the last three months into account from the Quantity Frequency Index, the number of days drinking was significantly associated with drink refusal. In other words, participants were more likely to accept a drink if they reported a higher number of drinking days in the past three months. This finding is consistent with the current literature (Grusser et al., 2006; Streeter et al., 2002). For the current study, alcohol cues were used and all experimental sessions were conducted in the evening hours to make the situation as real as possible in



order to elicit the desire to drink in the participants. It is likely that this occurred in many of the participants as the total number of drinking days over the last three months ranged from 0-75 days.

Women who drink more may be more likely to accept alcohol offers because they have more experience with the use of alcohol. Thus, these women may feel that they have control over their actions and can handle their alcohol intake. Some women who participated in this study that did accept drink offers explained after their session was over that they felt accepting the drink offers was not putting themselves at risk because three drinks would not be enough to get them intoxicated. Future research using vignettes should aim to make a vignette possibly where the drink offers would have more potential risk for intoxication to the participant.

The third prediction made in this study proposed that higher levels of sexual experiences would lead to higher likelihood of accepting a drink offer. As was expected, women who reported having ambivalent sexual experiences were more likely to accept drink offers. This only became significant when the dataset was restricted only to women who had at least one sexual interaction in the past 12 months. This finding is consistent with the existing literature such as Morris (2006) who found that women who received a moderate or high dose of alcohol were more likely to respond passively to all levels of sexual advances and Flack et al. (2007) who found that the most frequent reasons for women reasons for having unwanted sexual intercourse was that judgment was impaired by alcohol or drugs, the act occurred before it could be stopped, and the individual was taken advantage of because they were intoxicated. It is important to note that there seems to be a reciprocal relationship between drinking history and one's sexual experiences

history. Frequent drinking may be a predictor of sexual coercion and a history of sexual coercion may predict future drinking in an individual. In this study, it was found that women who endorsed having sexual interactions with a partner when the sexual situation was ambiguous were also more likely to accept drink offers in the audio-tape vignette. This finding supports the notion of the reciprocal relationship between these two variables.

The last hypothesis made was that as the intensity of drink offers increases, the ability to refuse would decrease. This finding was not supported. Fewer women accepted drink offers over time. Interestingly, although more women felt pressured by time three they also were more likely to refuse the offer at time three. A total of 10.8% of women felt pressured at time one, 26.1% felt pressured at time two, and 57.7% of women felt pressured at time three. Likewise, 34.2% of women accepted the drink at time one, 20.7% accepted at time two, and only 5.4% accepted the third drink offer in the vignette. Future studies are needed in order to examine this construct further. Perhaps conducting a study where alcohol is administered to participants could help to examine this idea further. Although the present study used alcohol cues, administering alcohol may be a better method in making the atmosphere as real as possible. Perhaps if women were given alcohol in study such as the current study, women would still feel pressured but would accept more drink offers due to the intoxicating effects of the alcohol. Administering alcohol to the participants in a study would serve to help researchers examine the alcoholic effects of women in their decision making that was not able to be examined in the present study.

In regards to the behavioral measures, the IIP 64 and Rathus Assertiveness Schedule were not found to be correlated with the first six dimensions from coding. It is questionable as to know if the six dimensions are tapping into the domain of assertiveness or some other construct. Since the IIP 64 and the Rathus Assertiveness Schedule were correlated with each other, this indicates that they both are probably measuring assertiveness as a trait. However, the six dimensions from the coding are a behavioral measure while the IIP 64 and Rathus are trait measures; because of this there may be some differences in what construct they truly are measuring. Interestingly, trait measures of assertiveness were not associated with the refusal of an alcoholic beverage or the effectiveness of the refusal itself in this study. It seems then that conventional trait measures of assertiveness are not the best predictors of behavior. Instead, pre-behavioral measures or past behavior may be the best measure of current and/or future behavior. In the present study, the number of days drinking within the past three months and previous sexual experiences were found to be significantly associated with whether a woman would accept or refuse drink offers.

The Post-Situation Questionnaire asked women if Dan was attractive and if they might consider going on a date with him. This was a manipulation check to see if the women really thought Dan was attractive, and whether the characteristics from the focus group study would generalize to other situations (Noel et al., manuscript in preparation, 2008) This was not supported; 37.8% of women did not find Dan attractive and 54.1% reported that they would not consider going on a date with Dan. However, women may have thought Dan was a pleasant character in the beginning of the vignette but may have decided to change their mind after hearing the vignette in its entirety.

It is unclear whether the majority of women did not find Dan attractive due to how the voice sounded on the audio-tape or whether it was the content of what Dan said in the vignette. Future studies using audio-tape vignettes should run pilot tests to obtain a voice that is attractive for the role of the male when making the vignette. Future studies should also ask women at the beginning of the study whether Dan sounds attractive in addition to the end of the study. Also, questions regarding whether women were turned off by the male character due to the content of the vignette should be asked to track any changes in how women feel about the male character throughout the vignette.

Another issue to consider in regards to the vignette is whether the pressure exerted by Dan was indeed realistic. In this study, a clear majority of women indicated that they felt pressured to accept a drink offer. In fact the pressure seemed to escalate as time passed; 12.6% reported feeling pressured at time one, 40.5% reported feeling pressured at time two, and 61.3% reported feeling pressured at time three. However, the question that arises is whether this type of pressure really occurs in a natural setting. Future studies examining this construct would benefit from running pilot studies to ensure that any pressure would reflect that of the real world.

The big issue is that many women were found to accept drinks at time one in the vignette with a man they barely knew. A total of 34.2% of women accepted the first drink offer. Even though the number of women who accepted a drink by time three decreased; 5.4% still accepted the drink offer at time three. What is astounding is that 95% of the women were able to assess risk in the vignette, but women were still accepting drinks. In the projection question, most women were able to assess the risk. They knew from listening to the vignette that alcohol was present and that they were in an empty room by

themselves with Dan who was someone they were unfamiliar with. Many women responded to the projection question that they thought Dan would keep trying to get Jen to drink alcohol so that he could take advantage of her sexually. A powerful answer from one participant illustrates the potential risk that most participants recognized, “I think Jen’s in trouble. She needs to high-tail it out.” Another response a participant responded was, “Dan will become drunk and belligerent and become angry and start an argument with Jen for not drinking.” Another participant responded, “I think Dan’s going to try to force himself on Jen and hopefully Jen has not been drinking so she will be smart enough to leave the room.” Because the projection question was asked at the end of the vignette, it is unclear at what exact time the participants assessed risk in the vignette. Future studies similar to the current study should ask participants in the beginning, middle, and end of the study projection questions in order to clarify at what time the participant equated risk at each time-point in the sequence of the vignette.

Another issue is that women may be the victims of sexual coercion and may still accept drinks in a risky sexual situation. From the Women’s Sexual Experiences Questionnaire, seventeen women endorsed either having sexual interactions or intercourse with a man when they definitely did not want to. The mean age of participants in this study was 19.01. Further, 34.2% accepted a drink at time one. These women may not label their experiences as rape. However, if they are accepting multiple drinks from men in these risky situations, they are at an increased risk for experiencing sexual coercion again.

There were limitations to this study. The length of the vignette was approximately three and a half minutes long. The drink offers may have been too close together in time

where not enough time elapsed to make the situation seem real. During the making of the vignette, length was considered and it was desirable to make the vignette as brief as possible to avoid participant fatigue or boredom. A few participants disclosed at the end of their session that they did not accept a subsequent drink because they thought they were still drinking their first drink. Future studies opting to use a vignette should examine ways or conduct pilot studies to ensure they have optimal time in the vignette.

Another limitation is that this study was conducted at a mid-size southeastern university. The results from this study may not be generalizable due to cultural differences around the region. Further, because the sample was drawn from an Introductory Psychology class pool the results may not generalize to those who do not fit the demographics of this study. Interpretations of these results may be limited due to a small sample size as well.

This study makes clear the importance of educating women about making better decisions in risky sexual situations that involve alcohol. From the results of this study, women who have a higher number of drinking days within the past 90 days and those who have had ambivalent sexual experiences seem to be the most at risk for accepting drinks even though they were hypothetically put in a risky sexual setting. Programs aimed at helping women make safer and better decisions should target women who are more experienced drinkers and those who have had ambivalent sexual experiences. It is hoped that the possible contributing factors identified in this study which include drinking and sexual history will be incorporated in the content and processes of such training programs.

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## APPENDICES

### Appendix A. Informed Consent Document

Thank you for participating in this experiment. The purpose of this study is to get a better understanding of how women interact with men in dating and social situations. You will be asked to complete a packet of surveys as well as listen and respond to an audio-taped situation. With your help, we hope to add to the existing literature on this important topic.

There will be approximately 100 women participating in this study and it will approximately last one hour. For your participation in this study, you will receive one credit for your Introductory Psychology course. Your participation is completely voluntary, and you may withdraw your participation at any time and for any reason. You do not have to give a reason and you will not be penalized in any way if you choose to do so. Some of the questions asked may be sensitive in nature regarding sexual behavior. If you feel uncomfortable or simply feel unable to complete the study you may turn in your materials or stay “Stop” at any time. To participate in this study there is minimal to no risk to your health. To the best of our knowledge, the things you will be doing will have no more risk than you would experience in everyday life.

All materials will be kept confidential and information obtained will be anonymous. This means that no one will know the information came from you. Your name will not be on any materials except for this informed consent document.

At the end of this session, we will answer any questions or concerns you might have. If you have any further questions regarding this study you may contact Gina Greene (616) 485-9747 or Dr. Nora Noel (910) 962-4044. If you have any questions regarding your rights as a research participant, please contact Dr. Candace Gauthier, Chair of the UNCW Institutional Review Board (910) 962-3558.

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Participant’s Signature

---

Printed Name

---

Date

### **Investigator’s Statement**

“I certify that I have explained to the above individual the nature and purpose of this study. I have also explained any possible risks associated with participating in this study. I have answered any questions that have been raised, and have witnessed the above signature. I have provided the participant a copy of this signed consent document.”

---

Signature of Investigator

---

Date



Appendix C. Revised Inventory of Interpersonal Problems 64 (IIP 64)

People have reported having the following problems in relating to other people. Please read the list below, and for each item, consider whether this has been a problem for you with respect to **any significant man** in your life. Then write the number that describes how distressing that problem has been beside the item using the following scale.

0-----1-----2-----3-----4  
Not at all      A little bit      Moderately      Quite a bit      Extremely

**It is hard for me to:**

- \_\_\_ 1. Trust men
- \_\_\_ 2. Say "no" to men
- \_\_\_ 3. Join in on groups made up of men
- \_\_\_ 4. Keep things private from men
- \_\_\_ 5. Let men know what I want
- \_\_\_ 6. Tell men to stop bothering me
- \_\_\_ 7. Introduce myself to men
- \_\_\_ 8. Confront men with problems that come up
- \_\_\_ 9. Be assertive with men
- \_\_\_ 10. Let men know when I am angry
- \_\_\_ 11. Make a long term commitment to a man
- \_\_\_ 12. Be a man's boss
- \_\_\_ 13. Be aggressive towards men when the situation calls for it
- \_\_\_ 14. Socialize with men
- \_\_\_ 15. Show affection to men
- \_\_\_ 16. Get along with men
- \_\_\_ 17. Understand a man's point of view
- \_\_\_ 18. Express my feelings to men directly
- \_\_\_ 19. Be firm with men when I need to be
- \_\_\_ 20. Experience a feeling of love for a man
- \_\_\_ 21. Set limits on men
- \_\_\_ 22. Be supportive of a man's goals in my life
- \_\_\_ 23. Feel close to men
- \_\_\_ 24. Really care about a man's problems
- \_\_\_ 25. Argue with men
- \_\_\_ 26. Spend time alone
- \_\_\_ 27. Give a gift to a man
- \_\_\_ 28. Let myself feel angry at a man I like
- \_\_\_ 29. Put a man's needs before my own
- \_\_\_ 30. Stay out of a man's business
- \_\_\_ 31. Take instructions from a man who has authority over me
- \_\_\_ 32. Feel good about a man's happiness



0-----1-----2-----3-----4  
Not at all      A little bit      Moderately      Quite a bit      Extremely

- \_\_\_ 33. Ask a man to get together socially with me
- \_\_\_ 34. Feel angry at men
- \_\_\_ 35. Open up and tell my feelings to men
- \_\_\_ 36. Forgive a man after I've been angry
- \_\_\_ 37. Attend to my own welfare when a man is needy
- \_\_\_ 38. Be assertive without worrying about hurting a man's feelings
- \_\_\_ 39. Be self-confident when I am with a man

**The following are things that you do too much:**

- \_\_\_ 40. I fight with men too much
- \_\_\_ 41. I feel too responsible for solving a man's problems
- \_\_\_ 42. I am too easily persuaded by a man
- \_\_\_ 43. I open up to men too much
- \_\_\_ 44. I am too independent
- \_\_\_ 45. I am too aggressive toward men
- \_\_\_ 46. I try to please men too much
- \_\_\_ 47. I clown around too much
- \_\_\_ 48. I want to be noticed too much
- \_\_\_ 49. I trust men too much
- \_\_\_ 50. I try to control men too much
- \_\_\_ 51. I put a man's needs before my own too much
- \_\_\_ 52. I try to change men too much
- \_\_\_ 53. I am too gullible
- \_\_\_ 54. I am overly generous to men
- \_\_\_ 55. I am too afraid of men
- \_\_\_ 56. I am too suspicious of men
- \_\_\_ 57. I manipulate men to get what I want
- \_\_\_ 58. I tell personal things to men too much
- \_\_\_ 59. I argue with a man too much
- \_\_\_ 60. I keep men at a distance too much
- \_\_\_ 61. I let men take advantage of me too much
- \_\_\_ 62. I feel embarrassed in front of men too much
- \_\_\_ 63. I feel affected by a man's misery too much
- \_\_\_ 64. I want to get revenge against men too much

Appendix D. Rathus Assertiveness Schedule

**Very much like me=6**

**Rather like me=5**

**Slightly like me=4**

**Slightly unlike me=3**

**Rather unlike me=2**

**Very unlike me=1**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Most people seem to be more aggressive and assertive than I am.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. I have hesitated to make or accept dates because of shyness.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. When the food served at a restaurant is not done to my satisfaction, I complain about it to the waiter or waitress.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. I am careful to avoid hurting other people's feelings, even when I feel that I have been injured.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. If a salesperson has gone to considerable trouble to show me merchandise that is not quite suitable, I have a difficult time saying "No".
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. When I am asked to do something, I insist upon knowing why.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. There are times when I look for a good, vigorous argument.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. I strive to get ahead as well as most people in my position.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. To be honest, people often take advantage of me.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. I enjoy starting conversations with new acquaintances and strangers.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. I often don't know what to say to attractive persons of the opposite sex.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. I will hesitate to make phone calls to business establishments and institutions.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. I would rather apply for a job or for admission to a college by writing letters than by going through with personal interviews.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. I find it embarrassing to return merchandise.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. If a close and respected relative were annoying me, I would smother my feelings rather than express my annoyance.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 16. I have avoided asking questions for fear of sounding stupid.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 17. During an argument I am sometimes afraid that I will get so upset that I will shake all over.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 18. If a famed and respected lecturer makes a comment which I think is incorrect, I will have the audience hear my point of view as well.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 19. I avoid arguing over prices with clerks and salespeople.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 20. When I have done something important or worthwhile, I manage to let others know about it.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 21. I am open and frank about my feelings.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 22. If someone has been spreading false and bad stories about me, I see him or her as soon as possible and "have a talk" about it.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 23. I often have a hard time saying "No".
- \_\_\_\_\_ 24. I tend to bottle up my emotions rather than make a scene.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 25. I complain about poor services in a restaurant and elsewhere.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 26. When I am given a complaint, I sometimes just don't know what to say.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 27. If a couple near me in a theater or at a lecture were conversing rather loudly,

I would ask them to be quiet or take their conversation elsewhere.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 28. Anyone attempting to push ahead of me in a line is in for a good battle.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 29. I am quick to express an opinion.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 30. There are times when I just can't say anything.

Appendix E. Modified Quantity Frequency Index (QFI)

**I. Frequency of your alcohol use in the last three months:**

- a. \_\_\_ If you have *never* had an alcoholic beverage (beer, wine, or liquor) in your life, check here and go to I c.
- b. \_\_\_ If you have not had *any* alcoholic beverage in the LAST THREE MONTHS, check here and go to I c.
- c. If you checked I a or I b, please check the reasons for deciding not to drink (check all that apply).
1. \_\_\_ Not old enough (it's illegal)
  2. \_\_\_ Religious or moral disapproval of alcohol use
  3. \_\_\_ Health reasons (e.g. illness, pregnancy)
  4. \_\_\_ Concern that you might have (or develop) an alcohol problem
  5. \_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

- d. If you *did not* check I a, b, or c, please answer the following questions:

During the LAST THREE MONTHS (about 90 days) about **how many days** would you estimate that you drank *at least one* alcoholic beverage? (Think about weekends, parties, stressful events, celebrations with friends, meals, and so on). **Remember to estimate between 1 and 90 days:**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Days**

- e. During the LAST THREE MONTHS (about 90 days), have you experienced a major change in your drinking habits?
1. \_\_\_ No, my drinking stayed the same as usual
  2. \_\_\_ Yes, I quit drinking altogether
  3. \_\_\_ Yes, I started drinking for the first time
  4. \_\_\_ Yes, I started drinking much more than I usually do
  5. \_\_\_ Yes, I started drinking much less than I usually do

**II. Varieties of alcohol used in the last three months:**

a. Think carefully about all the times in the LAST THREE MONTHS that you drank any HARD LIQUOR (including, for example, scotch, gin, bourbon, crème de menthe, kahlua, schnapps, mixed drinks, or similar beverages with high alcohol content).

1. In the LAST THREE MONTHS, how often did you drink HARD LIQUOR?

- almost everyday
- 5-6 days/week
- 3-4 days/week
- 1-2 days/week
- 1-3 days/month
- less than once per month
- never (go to II b)

2. In the LAST THREE MONTHS, on average, how much HARD LIQUOR did you drink PER DAY on the days you drank?

- 4 or more pints
- 1-3 pints
- 8-10 shots/drinks
- 5-7 shots/drinks
- 3-4 shots/drinks
- 1-2 shots/drinks

b. Think carefully about all the times in the LAST THREE MONTHS that you drank any WINE (including, for example, table wine, dinner wine, desert wine, port, or sherry).

1. In the LAST THREE MONTHS, how often did you drink WINE?

- almost everyday
- 5-6 days/week
- 3-4 days/week
- 1-2 days/week
- 1-3 days/month
- less than once per month
- never (go to II c)

2. In the LAST THREE MONTHS, on average, how much WINE did you drink PER DAY on the days you drank?

5 fifths or more  
 3-4 fifths or more  
 2 fifths  
 1 fifth  
 16 oz (3-4 wine glasses or 2 water glasses)  
 8 oz (1-2 wine glasses)

- c. Think carefully about all the times in the LAST THREE MONTHS that you drank any BEER or similar low alcohol beverages ( including, for example, beer, ale, wine coolers, Zima, light or ice beer).

1. In the LAST THREE MONTHS, how often did you drink BEER?

almost everyday  
 5-6 days/week  
 3-4 days/week  
 1-2 days/week  
 1-3 days/month  
 less than once per month  
 never (go to III)

2. In the LAST THREE MONTHS, on average, how much BEER did you drink PER DAY on the days you drank?

16 or more 12 oz cans/bottles (or 6 or more quarts)  
 13-15 12 oz cans/bottles (5-6 quarts)  
 11-12 12 oz cans/bottles (4-5 quarts)  
 8-10 12 oz cans/bottles (3-4 quarts)  
 3-7 12 oz cans/bottles (1-2 quarts)  
 1-2 12 oz cans/bottles

### III. Quantity of alcohol used in the last three months:

- a. People often drink more than one type of alcoholic beverage on a given day. In addition, their drinking often varies depending on whether it is a weekday or weekend. Therefore, we want you to think of a TYPICAL WEEKDAY on which you drank, and estimate the amounts of each of these three beverages you had to drink. (“On Thursdays, when I would get together with friends, I would drink about three 12 oz beers and two mixed drinks”).

1. Estimate average drinking on a TYPICAL WEEKDAY in the LAST THREE MONTHS:

Now we want you to think of a TYPICAL WEEKEND DAY (Friday, Saturday, or Sunday) on which you typically drank, and estimate your average drinking on that day.

2. Estimated average drinking on a TYPICAL WEEKEND DAY in the LAST THREE MONTHS:

3. Finally, of all the days in the LAST THREE MONTHS, what is the LARGEST AMOUNT of alcohol you have had in one 24 HOUR PERIOD?

Appendix F. Women's Sexual Experiences Questionnaire (WSE)

**Instructions:** Sometimes people have sexual interactions when they want to, sometimes when they are not sure but go ahead anyway, and sometimes when they definitely do not want to. This questionnaire is designed to tell us more about reasons why women do or do not engage in sexual behavior. Please rate how often these experiences happened to you in the past year (that is, during the **last 12 months**) using this scale:

**0** = Never   **1** = 1 – 10 times   **2** = 11 - 20 times   **3** = 21 - 30 times   **4** = 31 or more times

- \_\_\_ 1) Had a sexual interaction (but not actual intercourse) with a man through mutual consent (i.e. you both wanted to)
- \_\_\_ 2) Had sexual intercourse with a man through mutual consent (i.e. you both wanted to)
- \_\_\_ 3) Had a sexual interaction (but not actual intercourse) with a man when you were ambivalent (that is, you were not sure you wanted to but went along with it anyway)

If you answered “1” or more, please rate the reason(s) using the same scale:

**0** = Never   **1** = 1 – 10 times   **2** = 11 - 20 times   **3** = 21 - 30 times   **4** = 31 or more times

- \_\_\_ 3a) because you did not want to hurt his feelings
- \_\_\_ 3b) because you thought he seemed too sexually aroused to stop
- \_\_\_ 3c) because you did not want to “create a scene”
- \_\_\_ 3d) because you were afraid he would end his relationship with you
- \_\_\_ 3e) because you felt too incapacitated (e.g. intoxicated) to stop him
- \_\_\_ 3f) because he said things or made you promises that he didn't keep
- \_\_\_ 3g) because you felt afraid of him
- \_\_\_ 3h) because you thought it would satisfy him so he wouldn't want actual intercourse
- \_\_\_ 3i) because he forced you
- \_\_\_ 3j) Other (what?) \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ 4) Had actual sexual intercourse with a man when you were ambivalent (that is, you were not sure you wanted to but went along with it anyway)

If you answered “1” or more, please rate the reason(s) using the same scale:

**0** = Never   **1** = 1 – 10 times   **2** = 11 - 20 times   **3** = 21 - 30 times   **4** = 31 or more times

- \_\_\_ 4a) because you did not want to hurt his feelings
- \_\_\_ 4b) because you thought he seemed too sexually aroused to stop



- \_\_\_ 4c) because you did not want to “create a scene”
- \_\_\_ 4d) because you were afraid he would end his relationship with you
- \_\_\_ 4e) because you felt too incapacitated (e.g. intoxicated) to stop him
- \_\_\_ 4f) because he said things or made you promises that he didn’t keep
- \_\_\_ 4g) because you felt afraid of him
- \_\_\_ 4h) because he forced you
- \_\_\_ 4i) Other (What?) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ 5) Had a sexual interaction (but not actual intercourse) with a man when you definitely did not want to.

If you answered “1” or more, please rate the reason(s) using the same scale:

**0** = Never   **1** = 1 – 10 times   **2** = 11 - 20 times   **3** = 21 - 30 times   **4** = 31 or more times

- \_\_\_ 5a) because you did not want to hurt his feelings
- \_\_\_ 5b) because you thought he seemed too sexually aroused to stop
- \_\_\_ 5c) because you did not want to “create a scene”
- \_\_\_ 5d) because you were afraid he would end his relationship with you
- \_\_\_ 5e) because you felt too incapacitated (e.g. intoxicated) to stop him
- \_\_\_ 5f) because he said things or made you promises that he didn’t keep
- \_\_\_ 5g) because you felt afraid of him
- \_\_\_ 5h) because you thought it would satisfy him so he wouldn’t want actual intercourse
- \_\_\_ 5i) because he forced you
- \_\_\_ 5j) Other (what?) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ 6) Had actual sexual intercourse with a man when you definitely did not want to  
If you answered “1” or more, please rate the reason(s) using the same scale:

**0** = Never   **1** = 1 – 10 times   **2** = 11 - 20 times   **3** = 21 - 30 times   **4** = 31 or more times

- \_\_\_ 6a) because you did not want to hurt his feelings
- \_\_\_ 6b) because you thought he seemed too sexually aroused to stop
- \_\_\_ 6c) because you did not want to “create a scene”
- \_\_\_ 6d) because you were afraid he would end his relationship with you
- \_\_\_ 6e) because you felt too incapacitated (e.g. intoxicated) to stop him
- \_\_\_ 6f) because he said things or made you promises that he didn’t keep
- \_\_\_ 6g) because you felt afraid of him
- \_\_\_ 6h) because he forced you
- \_\_\_ 6i) Other (What?) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ 7) Did not engage in sexual interaction or intercourse with a man, even though he indicated that he wanted to (that is, sexual interaction did not occur, despite his desires)

How did you prevent this from happening?

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\_\_\_ 8) You wanted to have sexual interaction with a man, but he refused.

0 = Never   1 = 1 – 10 times   2 = 11 - 20 times   3 = 21 - 30 times   4 = 31 or more times

9) Were all your sexual interactions with the same man or more than one man (please check)?

\_\_\_ Not applicable (no sexual interactions with men)

\_\_\_ Same man always

\_\_\_ Different men (how many? \_\_\_\_\_)

## Appendix G. Sexual Experiences Survey (SES)

Now please answer the following questions about sexual experiences you have had in your **lifetime**. Please circle the most correct response.

Have you ever (in your lifetime):

- Yes\_\_\_ No \_\_\_ 1. Had sexual intercourse with a partner when you both wanted to?  
Yes\_\_\_ No \_\_\_ 2. Had a partner misinterpret the level of sexual intimacy you desired?  
Yes\_\_\_ No \_\_\_ 3. Been in a situation where a partner became so sexually aroused that you felt it was useless to stop him even though you did not want to have sexual intercourse?  
Yes\_\_\_ No \_\_\_ 4. Had sexual intercourse with a partner when you really did not want to because he threatened to end your relationship otherwise?  
Yes\_\_\_ No \_\_\_ 5. Had sexual intercourse with a partner when you really did not want to because you felt pressured by his continual arguments?  
Yes\_\_\_ No \_\_\_ 6. Found out that your partner had obtained sexual intercourse from you by saying things he did not really mean?  
Yes\_\_\_ No \_\_\_ 7. Been in a situation where a partner used some degree of physical force (twisting your arm, holding you down, etc.) to try to make you engage in kissing or petting when you did not want to?  
Yes\_\_\_ No \_\_\_ 8. Been in a situation where a partner tried to get sexual intercourse with you when you did not want to by threatening to use physical force (twisting your arm, holding you down, etc.) if you did not cooperate, but for various reasons, sexual intercourse did not occur?  
Yes\_\_\_ No \_\_\_ 9. Been in a situation where a partner used some degree of physical force (twisting your arm, holding you down, etc.) to try to make you have sexual intercourse with him but for various reasons, sexual intercourse did not occur?  
Yes\_\_\_ No \_\_\_ 10. Had sexual intercourse with a partner when you did not want to because he threatened to use some degree of physical force (twisting your arm, holding you down, etc.) if you did not cooperate?  
Yes\_\_\_ No \_\_\_ 11. Had sexual intercourse with a partner when you did not want to because he used some degree of physical force (twisting your arm, holding you down, etc.)?  
Yes\_\_\_ No \_\_\_ 12. Been in a situation where a partner obtained sexual acts such as anal or oral intercourse when you did not want to because he used some degree of physical force (twisting your arm, holding you down, etc.)?  
Yes\_\_\_ No \_\_\_ 13. Have you ever been raped?  
Yes\_\_\_ No \_\_\_ 13 a (if **yes** to 13) Have you received counseling for this? (if you would like a referral, please feel free to contact Dr. Noel, whose phone number is on the Informed Consent for a referral.)

## Appendix H. Vignette

### Directions:

You have completed the first portion of the experiment. The second part will consist of an audio-tape role play. Please project yourself into the role play as if you were the female, Jen, in the audiotape. Please do your best to respond as if you would in a real life situation. There will be three time points in which you will be prompted to respond. You will hear a “beep” when you need to give a response. If at any time during this portion of the experiment you have questions, please speak loudly and the lab technician will answer your questions.

To get you familiarized with responding to an audiotape, you will first be asked a series of neutral questions to which you will respond as if someone were really asking you in real life these questions. Again, please make sure to do your best to respond as if this were a real life situation.

Thank you for your participation.

We will begin with the neutral prompts:

### Neutral Prompts:

1. Tell me three of your favorite colors. BEEP
2. What are three of your favorite foods? BEEP
3. Before you came to this experiment today, what was the last class you were in?  
BEEP

Thank you for your answers. Now that you have become more familiar with the answering process, we will begin the vignette portion of this study. Please answer as if this were really occurring to you. Before we begin, you will imagine that you are Jen in this story. You know Dan somewhat by having a few small conversations with him and you definitely think he is attractive. Please remember to respond when you hear the beeping noise.

### Vignette:

Party music and talking in the background.

Party music fades but can still be heard faintly.

Jen: I really need to find a new hairstyle. I think mine is so boring.

Marie: Jen, I think your hair is fine! It always looks great. But if you really want a change, you should go to my hairstylist at Bangz.

Jen: Maybe I will; do you have the number so I can make a call tomorrow to your stylist?

Kelly: Oh my gosh, here comes Dan! Isn't he hot?! He is planning on going to med. school next year and he is such a sweetheart! Hmm Jen... here he comes.

Jen: Well Dan seems really nice. I've talked to him a few times around campus but I

don't know him that well.

Dan: Hey Jen! Some of the guys said you might be here tonight. It's good to see you.

Jen: It's good to see you too Dan.

Dan: How have you been lately?

Jen: I've been good. Just going to school and work. I'm still working at the mall. What about you?

Dan: I've been good. I've just moved to my new apartment and so I'm still trying to get settled. You know how that goes. Hey, it's pretty loud in here, do you want to go upstairs or something? There's a den that no one's in and it's more quiet up there.

Jen: Sure, that's cool.

Dan: Let's go then.

Noise of going upstairs.

Noise of Dan opening the door.

Noise of Dan closing the door.

Dan: Man, this is nice. Look, there's a mini bar. Let's see what's inside... Well there's some beer and some liquor. I'm going to make a drink. Let me make you something too. What do you want? Sound of ice going into a glass.

**Jen: prompted to respond - BEEP**

Dan: So, what else has been new with you? Are you still hanging out with the girls from school?

Jen: Yea, they are so sweet. I love hanging out with them. We've all talked about moving in together next semester. I hope we do.

Dan: That's cool. We can all party together then!

Jen: Yea that would be fun!

Dan: Well I'm ready for another drink. Let me get you something with some alcohol in it! What do you want? Sound of ice going into a glass.

**Jen: prompted to respond-BEEP**

Dan: Man, I am feeling really buzzed! You need to catch up with me! Come on Jen, let's have a drink!

**Jen: prompted to respond-BEEP**

This is the end of the vignette. Imagining that this were really occurring, what do you think seems likely to happen next to the characters Jen and Dan in the story? BEEP

Appendix I. Post Situation Questionnaire (PSQ)

1. To what extent did you want an alcoholic beverage when Dan asked you the first time?  
1 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_ 5  
really wanted a drink                      neither                      did not want a drink
  
2. To what extent did you feel pressured to drink when Dan asked you the first time?  
1 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_ 5  
very pressured                      neither                      not pressured
  
3. To what extent did you want an alcoholic beverage when Dan asked you the second time?  
1 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_ 5  
really wanted a drink                      neither                      did not want a drink
  
4. To what extent did you feel pressured to drink when Dan asked you the second time?  
1 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_ 5  
very pressured                      neither                      not pressured
  
5. To what extent did you want an alcoholic beverage when Dan asked you the third time?  
1 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_ 5  
really wanted a drink                      neither                      did not want a drink
  
6. To what extent did you feel pressured to drink when Dan asked you the third time?  
1 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_ 5  
very pressured                      neither                      not pressured
  
7. How attractive did Dan sound in the role play to you?

1 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_ 5  
very attractive                      neither                      not attractive

8. If you met Dan would you consider going out on a date with him?

1 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_ 5  
yes                                      maybe                                      no

Appendix J. Coding Directions  
PART 1

Directions: Participants' responses to each of the prompts from the vignette will be scored on a 0-2 point scale for 6 dimensions where a higher score will equal better quality of communication and assertiveness skills. PLEASE BE OBJECTIVE! Do not read into the responses; only go by the definitions given to you below.

The dimensions are as follows:

1. Use of an "I" statement for refusal of unsafe drinking behavior
2. Use of an "I" statement of intention of safer drinking behavior (e.g. No, I don't want any alcohol but I'll have a Coke though. -or - I'll have a coke instead.) An intention is an anticipated outcome that is intended or that guides your planned actions for the future. Intention suggests what you have in mind to do. Safer drinking means not accepting alcohol from Dan.
3. Provision of a statement of a reason for safer drinking behavior (e.g. I think I'll have a bottle of water because...) A reason is an explanation of the cause of someone's belief. A declaration made to explain or justify action, decision, or conviction. Safer drinking means not accepting alcohol from Dan.
4. Presence of a positive statement about the person or situation in the scenario.
5. Suggestion of a specific beverage that is safer than alcohol.

SCORING

0= no response at all

1=short answer

2=longer, in depth answer

6. Indications that the participant's response was direct, serious, and clear  
\*(behavioral)\* Doesn't matter if they say yes or no.



## SCORING

0=not serious, direct, or clear

1=somewhat direct, serious, or clear

2=very direct, serious, or clear

NOTE: All 6 dimensions need to be given a score between 0 and 2.

## PART 2

The participant's responses should also be scored as passive behavior, assertive behavior, or aggressive behavior in addition to the scoring process you just did above.

Definitions: These are included in order to give precise information when making judgments related to responses. For example, many times assertiveness and aggressiveness are confused. In order to avoid confusion, below are the definitions that we will use in order to code in such a way that ensures that our judgments are standardized throughout the coding process.

1. Assertiveness- Asking for what one wants or acting to get what one wants in a way that respects the rights and feelings of other people (ability to speak up for oneself confidently or being firm but polite).
2. Passiveness- Submission to others or to outside influences; tone of voice that is neutral or passive.
3. Aggressiveness- Deliberately unfriendly behavior, inclined to behave in an actively hostile manner (doesn't have to be physically).

## SCORING

Passive      1=yes    0=no

Aggressive    1=yes    0=no

Assertive      1=yes    0=no

NOTE: Pick only one! They cannot be a combination, so pick the best response out of the 3 choices.

Examples of Responses are as Follows:

Assertive responses:

1. "No"
2. "Suggestion of a non-alcoholic beverage"
3. "Having a firm tone in voice"
4. "Stop asking me"
5. "I've had enough"

Passive Responses:

1. "I'm not sure"
2. "Maybe later"
3. "Joking tone of voice"
4. "I'll be right back"
5. Changing the subject

Aggressive Responses:

1. "Didn't I tell you to leave me alone"
2. "Get away from me before I go off on you"
3. "You're really pissing me off"
4. "Shut up"
5. "What is wrong with you?"

PART 3

Lastly, a "yes/no" of the participant's response to the advance from Dan should be noted as well.

SCORING

1=yes

0=no

