NO PRINTING ZONE NO PRINTING ZONE NO PRINTING ZONE NO PRINTING ZONE NO PRINTING ZONE NO PRINTING ZONE NO PRINTING ZONE NO PRINTING ZONE NO PRINTING ZONE NO PRINTING ZONE

# The Prevalence and Identification of the Language Used in Coerced Hook Ups on College Campuses

Laura Whitehill, Carol Day and Alex Theos

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY
School of Nursing & Health Studies
Department of Human Science

Georgetown University Health Education Services

## Background

Sexual victimization is associated with depression, eating disorders and risk taking behavior. (Gidyccz. 2008) One form of sexual victimization that is not often addressed on its own is sexual coercion. Coercion is defined as the use of force or intimidation to obtain compliance. Sexual coercion has been found to occur at the same, if not higher rate as sexual assault on college campuses.(Adams-Curtis, 2004) Verbal coercion is the most common form of coercion, yet its definition in previous studies is vague, including anything from continuous pressure to guilt or fear. The high rate of sexual coercion is often attributed to its acceptance in hook up culture, the dominant culture on college campuses. (Littleton, 2009) Georgetown University defines consent as “means, words, or overt actions indicating a freely given agreement to the sexual act or contact in question.” (Georgetown, 2015) By Georgetown’s definition, consent gained by coercive tactics is not consent. “Coercion is a complicated construct that is not well captured by concepts of forced or nonforced, or the language of unwanted or non-voluntary.” (Hamby, 2003).There is a gap between what is described in the literature and law and what college students experience everyday. This study aims to identify gaps between the language used by lawmakers and college students to define verbal sexual coercion. It will focus on three coercion scripts to better understand how students discuss sexual coercion in everyday life.

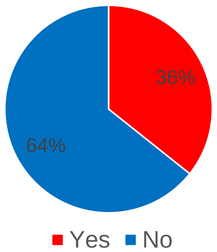
## Methodology:

An online survey was sent out using surveymonkey.com. The survey asks about three coercion scripts, if they have happened to the subject, how they felt after and how they categorize the hook up overall. The three coercion scripts are:

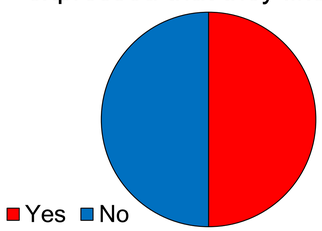
- Continually asking for consent.
- Telling the subject that they like them.
- Asking the subject if they like them.

## Results

In the last 12 months, have you felt pressured to go beyond your comfort zone in a hook up, because person expressed that they like you.



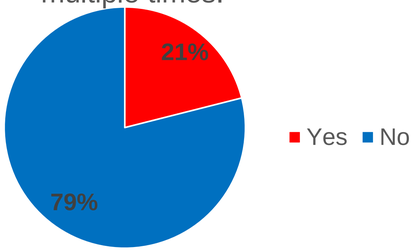

Did the hook up eventually progress beyond your comfort zone because the person expressed that they liked you?



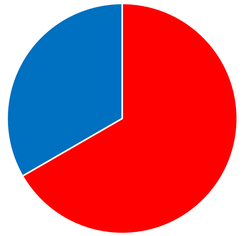

| How would you categorize this hook up? Check all that apply. | |
|---|---|
| Answer Options | Response Count |
| First hook up with that person | 7 |
| Good | 4 |
| Normal | 11 |
| Bad | 1 |
| Consensual | 8 |
| Miscommunication | 3 |
| **Non-consensual** | **0** |
| Other (please specify) | 0 |

## Results

In the last 12 months, have you felt pressured to go beyond your comfort zone in a hook up because the person asked you multiple times.




Did the hook up eventually progress beyond your comfort zone?




| How would you categorize this hook up? Check all that apply. | |
|---|---|
| Answer Options | Response Count |
| First hook up with that person | 7 |
| Good | 1 |
| Normal | 3 |
| Bad | 5 |
| Consensual | 7 |
| Miscommunication | 4 |
| **Non-consensual** | **0** |
| Other (please specify) | 0 |

## Conclusion

Of the 57 people that have had a hook up in the last 12 months 20-36% have experienced sexual coercion. Yet none of them have labeled the hook up as non-consensual, in fact many labeled it normal. The majority of subjects did not feel positively after a hook up in which coercion occurred. Subjects may feel the affects of sexual victimization without understanding why because they have labeled the hook up as normal and consensual. The data presented is preliminary and has not been tested for significance. As I continue to collect data I will continue to build a better picture of how students discuss their experiences with sexual coercion.

## Goals and Future plans:

- Help define sexual coercion in hook ups and its consequences on college campuses.
- Future Programming at Georgetown University (Example NSO, Health Huts).
- Expand to other schools, other coercion scripts.
- Use feedback to improve study.

IRB number 2015-1316

Adams-Curtis, L. E., and G. B. Forbes. "College Women's Experiences Of Sexual Coercion: A Review Of Cultural, Perpetrator, Victim, And Situational Variables". *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse* 5.2 (2004): 91-122..
Georgetown.app.box.com,. (2015). *Georgetown University Sexual Misconduct Reference Guide*. Retrieved 15 December 2015, from https://georgetown.app.box.com/s/ecqtjvivcuqsnqpbjxtp
Gidycz, C., Orchowski, L., King, C., & Rich, C. (2008). Sexual Victimization and Health-Risk Behaviors: A Prospective Analysis of College Women. *Journal Of Interpersonal Violence*, *23*(6), 744-763. http://dx.doi.org/10.1177/0886260507313944
Littleton, H., Tabernik, H., Canales, E., & Backstrom, T. (2009). Risky Situation or Harmless Fun? A Qualitative Examination of College Women’s Bad Hook-up and Rape Scripts. *Sex Roles*, *60*(11-12), 793-804. http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s11199-009-9586-8

NO PRINTING ZONE NO PRINTING ZONE NO PRINTING ZONE NO PRINTING ZONE NO PRINTING ZONE NO PRINTING ZONE NO PRINTING ZONE NO PRINTING ZONE NO PRINTING ZONE NO PRINTING ZONE