

Background

- At least 43% of women report experiencing some form of contact sexual violence, with 81% of rape survivors reporting that victimization occurred before age 25-years-old (CDC, 2015).
- It is estimated that 75% of survivors disclose the details of their victimization to someone else, while 25% of survivors keep this experience to themselves (Carson et al., 2019).
- The majority of sexual victimization research with emerging adults (ages 18-25; Arnett, 2000) uses a college sample (e.g., Carson et al., 2019; Carson et al., *under review*). However, there is limited research investigating unwanted sexual experiences in non-college attending emerging adults and the associated disclosure process.
- Furthermore, 11 to 17.4% of female sexual victimization survivors develop posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD; Liu et al., 2017).
- The goal of the current research is to use an online study to further understand sexual victimization experiences, the disclosure process, and the subsequent recovery in non-college attending females.

Objectives

To assess demographic and assault characteristics for non-college attending emerging adult sexual victimization survivors.

Methods

Procedure & Participants

- 538 sexual trauma survivors (see Table 1 for participant characteristics) were recruited via flyers posted in the community and online (i.e., Reddit and Craigslist).
- Participants first completed an online screener to determine their eligibility for the study, followed by a series of validity checks for data quality assurance. They then completed a demographics questionnaire followed by an assessment of unwanted sexual experiences.
- Data were checked for honest and valid responding. Participants who failed two or more data quality assurance checks were not compensated for participation and their data were excluded (see Figure 1).

Measures

- Demographics Questionnaire
- Sexual Experiences Survey (SES; Koss & Oros, 1982)

Data Analysis

- Descriptive statistics were calculated using SPSS v. 26.
- All data presented in the current poster is preliminary data.

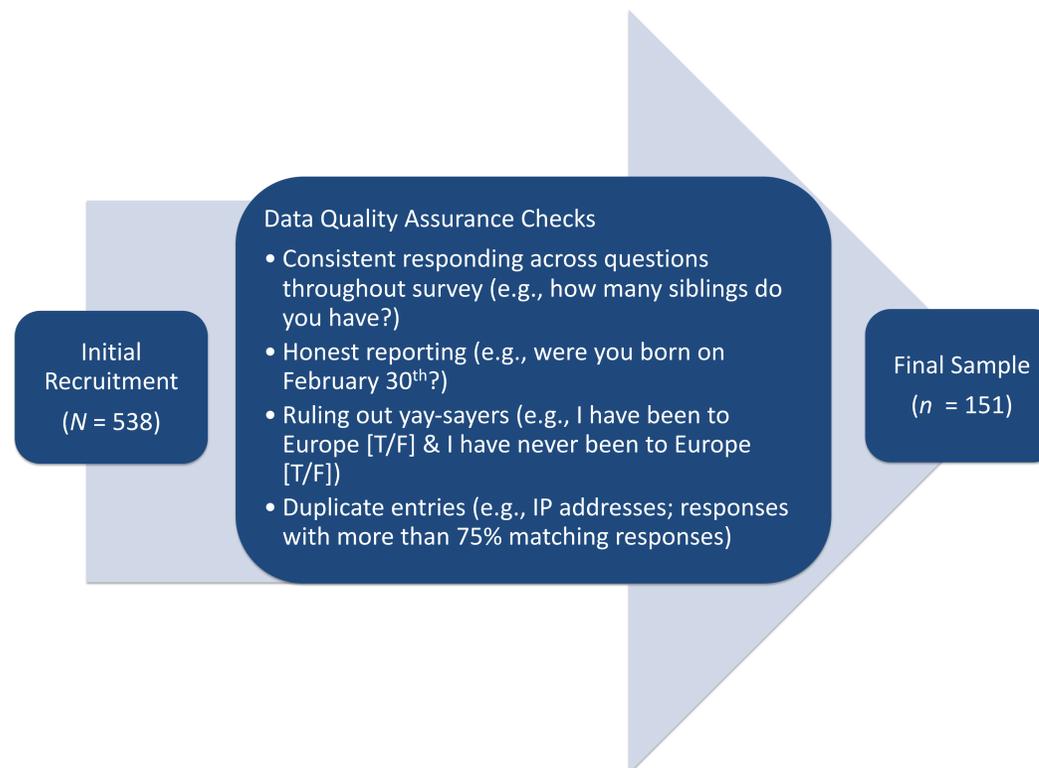


Figure 1. Data Quality Assurance Protocol

Table 1. Demographic Characteristics

| Variable | Non-College Emerging Adults |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Age (<i>M, SD</i>) | 22.43 (1.73) |
| Income (<i>M, SD</i>) | \$90,556 (\$61,140) |
| Education (<i>n, %</i>) | |
| Some High School | 2 (1%) |
| High School Graduate or Equivalent | 24 (16%) |
| Trade Certificate | 0 (0%) |
| Some College | 59 (39%) |
| Associates Degree | 10 (7%) |
| Bachelor's Degree | 40 (26%) |
| Graduate Degree | 4 (3%) |
| Race (<i>n, %</i>) | |
| African American & Black | 16 (11%) |
| Alaska Native & American Indian | 3 (2%) |
| Asian & Asian American | 25 (17%) |
| Caucasian | 94 (62%) |
| Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander | 1 (0.7%) |
| Ethnicity: Hispanic (<i>n, %</i>) | 18 (12%) |

Table 2. Assault Characteristics

| Variable | Non-College Emerging Adults |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Sexual Assault Event (<i>n, %</i>) | |
| Sex Play | 30 (20%) |
| Attempted Sex Act | 3 (2%) |
| Completed Sex Act | 15 (10%) |
| Attempted Intercourse | 16 (11%) |
| Completed Intercourse | 58 (38%) |
| Age at Assault (<i>M, SD</i>) | 17.28 (3.72) |
| Disclosure Status (<i>n, %</i>) | |
| Yes | 95 (63%) |
| No | 41 (27%) |

Discussion

- By utilizing online methodology we were able to recruit a more generalizable, diverse sample of emerging adult female sexual victimization survivors in regards to race, ethnicity, education, and socioeconomic status.
- However, there are multiple threats to reliability and validity when using online data.
- After employing a strict data quality assurance protocol, our sample was reduced by 387 participants (72% of the initial sample).
- Preliminary data suggests that non-college attending females experience all forms of sexual assault, with highest rates of completed intercourse. Additionally, disclosure and nondisclosure rates are similar to college samples (Carson et al., 2019).

References

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- Carson, K.W., Babad, S., Brown, E.J., Brumbaugh, C.C., Castillo, B.K., & Nikulina, V. (2019). Sexual victimization: Why women are not talking about it and how nondisclosure is associated with psychopathology. *Violence Against Women*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1077801219832913>
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