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# Ethnic Minority Endorsement of Rape Myths

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Running head: ETHNIC MINORITY ENDORSMENT OF RAPE MYTHS

**Ethnic Minority Endorsement of Rape Myths**

**by**

**Bianca Oney**

A Dissertation Presented to the School of Psychology  
of Nova Southeastern University  
in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements  
for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy

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**DISSERTATION APPROVAL SHEET**

This dissertation was submitted by Bianca Oney under the direction of the Chairperson of the dissertation committee listed below. It was submitted to the School of Psychology and approved in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Clinical Psychology at Nova Southeastern University.

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Abstract

While multiple studies have been conducted assessing rape myth acceptance among Whites, few studies have examined rape myth acceptance among a broad range of ethnic minorities. Therefore, the purpose of this study was to assess and examine rape myth acceptance among a diverse set of ethnic minorities. This study had 150 participants divided into four categories: Black, Hispanic, White, and Multi-Racial. Six scales were examined rape myth acceptance, own sex role satisfaction, sex role stereotypes, sexual conservatism, adversarial sexual beliefs, and acceptance of interpersonal violence. Participants were predominately single, young adult, low income, highly educated, African-American females who live in an urban area. Participants were heavily recruited through online social networks which included Craigslist, the root.com, BlackPlanet.com, and amightyriver.com. Also, participants were recruited at a private university in South Florida through posters sharing a link to the survey. Dr. Martha Burt's Rape Myth Scale was used and demographic information was obtained. Results showed that gender significantly impacted rape myth acceptance, adversarial sexual beliefs, and acceptance of interpersonal violence. When gender was held constant, race was significant with Blacks endorsing higher sex role satisfaction, sex role stereotypes, and sexual conservatism compared to Hispanics. Blacks had greater sex role satisfaction and sex role stereotyping compared to Multi-Racial individuals. Lastly, Blacks had greater sex role stereotyping and sexual conservatism when compared to White individuals. Additionally, Hispanic individuals endorsed higher sex role satisfaction when compared to Whites and sexual conservatism when compared to Multi-Racial individuals. These results could impact rape prevention programs and clinical work that targets rape myths.

## **Chapter 1: Statement of the Problem**

Violence against women remains an enduring problem with far reaching implications. The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) reported that in 2010 there were a total of 270,000 cases of completed, attempted, or threatened rape or sexual assault perpetrated against women (Planty, Langton, Krebs, Berzofsky, & Smiley-McDonald, 2013). Out of the total number of sexual assaults, only 35% were reported to the authorities, highlighting the degree to which crime statistics may underestimate the true prevalence of sexual violence. In addition to high prevalence rates, rape also has negative personal and societal impacts. Rape touches multiple areas of a survivors' lives, including costs of medical care, utilization of mental health services, loss of economic productivity, police investigations, correctional system costs, and insurance administration costs (Miller & Wiersema, 1996). According to recent statistics, sexual violence costs America \$450 billion per year in decreased quality of life and lowered productivity for rape survivors (Miller & Wiersema, 1996; Post, Menzey, Maxwell, & Wibert, 2002).

Beliefs that justify or condone abusive acts may contribute to the perpetration of sexual violence by creating a culture of tolerance. Although rape is prevalent, nearly two thirds of rapes are never reported to authorities and many others are not prosecuted to the full extent of the law (Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2014; Sinclair & Bourne, 1998). One explanation for the low rate in reported and prosecuting rape cases may relate to cultural beliefs and stereotypes regarding rape that serve to place blame on victims and minimize culpability of perpetrators (Sinclair & Bourne, 1998). Evidence for this idea comes from research indicating that the most common reasons women cite for not reporting acts of sexual assault to the authorities are fear of reprisal (20%) and beliefs that it was a

personal matter (13%) (Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2012). Another explanation related to cultural beliefs and stereotypes is that situational characteristics (i.e. where the rape takes place, how the rape is committed, who commits the rape, and injuries from the rape) dictate if a person will report a rape (Heath, Lynch, Fritch, & Wong, 2013). Those situational characteristics deny rape has occurred if the perpetrator is known, rape took place in a familiar area, did not involve force, and resulted in mild to moderate injuries (Heath, et. al, 2013). Rape myths mediate conceptualizing and categorizing situational characteristics and research shows that 42% of rape victims fail to report their rape because their experience has one or more of the characteristics listed previously (Fisher, Daigle, Cullen, & Turner, 2003).

### **Defining Rape**

Rape, sexual assault, statutory rape, inappropriate sexual touching, molestation, sexual harassment, and sexual violence are terms that have been used to describe some form of unwanted sexual activity. What this short example shows is how complex the issue of rape is. There is no definitive definition nor is there a definitive term used to encompass these crimes. The issue of rape is a moving target with many nuance and complex pieces. This dissertation provides the fundamental aspects of rape that includes an overview of rape, information about myths, the complexity of identifying rape occurrence, and where minorities fit into this picture. First a look at the many definitions of rape and different types of rape.

Rape is a hard to define crime due to multiple factors including environment in which the rape took place, context of the investigation, identification of the crime, sex of the victim and perpetrator, attitudes regarding sex and gender roles, and intrusiveness of



the act (i.e. penetration) (Brownmiller, 1975; Burt 1980; Estrich, 1986). Due to these factors there is great subjectivity in the definition, statistics, and identification of rape. First, a look at the federal nuances of rape definitions and statistics.

**Federal: Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).** The Uniform Crime defines rape as the “carnal knowledge of a female forcibly and against her will” and it includes assaults and attempted rapes (FBI, 2011). This definition does not include statutory rape or other sexual offenses. In 2011, the Federal Bureau of Investigations changed the definition of rape to be more inclusive to “Penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim” (FBI, 2011). This definition was created for the purpose of having a more inclusive definition that would capture greater number of sexual crimes. Currently, there are no published statistics with this new definition. However, using the old definition, they found that there are 83,425 reported cases of rape and a fairly steady downward trend in reported rapes. See Table 1 for statistics reported since 1992. It is important to note that racial demographics are not provided.

**Federal: The Bureau of Justice Statistics' (BJS) National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS).** This organization divides sexual violence into two types: sexual assault and rape. First, sexual assault is defined as a diverse number of unwanted sexual victimizations that includes grabbing, fondling, and verbal threats. These may be completed or attempted attacks and they may or may not involve force. Sexual assault includes all behaviors that are not classified as rape (Bureau of Justice, 2014).

Second, rape is defined as completed or attempted forced (physical or psychological) sexual acts that involve penetration or verbal threats. Rape can happen to males, females, heterosexuals, gays, and lesbians (Bureau of Justice, 2014).

BJS found that in 2010, there were 270,000 female rape and sexual assault victims which is a decrease from the 556,000 female victims in 1995 (Planty, Langton, Krebs, Berzofsky, & Smiley-McDonald, 2013). Men were not included in the study because preliminary data analysis showed that the sample size for men was too small for meaningful analysis. Between 1995 and 2005 they represented 9% of the rape and sexual assault victims with this number decreasing with time (Planty, et al., 2013). Vulnerable populations: individuals who are ages 12-17, ethnic minorities specifically multi-racial individuals, American Indians, Black individuals; never married or separated, individuals who make less than \$25,000, and people who live in rural areas. See Table 2-6 for statistics reported since 1994.

**Federal: National Institute of Justice.** According to the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), sexual violence can be divided up into three core areas with increased severity: The first is sexual harassment defined as "unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct that enters into employment decisions or conduct that unreasonably interferes with an individual's work performance or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment" (Rubin, 1995). Verbal actions can include unwanted discussions of a sexual nature that include degrading remarks and jokes (Hill and Silva, 2006). Physical actions include someone exposing themselves or gesturing, and touching (including grabbing, pinching) another person in an unwanted sexual manner (Hill and Silva, 2006). As the definition shows,

sexual harassment is often conceptualized within a workplace setting and should some of the previously listed behaviors occur outside of that setting then it would be considered sexual assault.

Second, sexual assault includes all unwanted sexual behaviors that does not include penetration. These behaviors include unwanted exposure to sexual organs, forced exposure to pornographic images, inappropriate touching of another's sexual organs, secretly observing others while they are naked or engaged in sexual acts, and presenting private sexual images (Sexual harassment, sexual assault, and rape, 2010). Sexual assault might include attempted or completed actions and actual or threatened violence (that might include pressure, intimidation, coercion, intimidation). It is important to note that these behaviors are taking place against someone's consent or when a person is unable to consent such as when the person is underage, intellectually disabled, or under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

The third and final type of sexual violence highlighted by the NIJ is rape. Rape is defined as "nonconsensual oral, anal, or vaginal penetration of the victim by body parts or objects using force, threats of bodily harm, or by taking advantage of a victim who is incapacitated or otherwise incapable of giving consent. Incapacitation may include mental or cognitive disability, self-induced or forced intoxication, status as minor, or any other condition defined by law that voids an individual's ability to give consent (Sexual harassment, sexual assault, and rape, 2010)." National Institute of Justice does not collect local or national data regarding sexual harassment, sexual assault, or rape but their comprehensive definitions provide greater guidance on how to conceptualize various forms of sexual violence.

**Federal: Center for Disease Control.** The Center for Disease Control has only one definition that covers sexual assault and rape under the heading of sexual violence. Sexual violence is a forced sexual act which includes rape (nonconsensual sex), attempted nonconsensual sex, abusive sexual contact, and non-contact sexual abuse (sexual harassment, threatened sexual assault/rape, exhibitionism) (Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 2014).

An expanded definition is:

nonconsensual completed or attempted contact between the penis and the vulva or the penis and the anus involving penetration, however slight; nonconsensual contact between the mouth and the penis, vulva, or anus; nonconsensual penetration of the anal or genital opening of another person by a hand, finger, or other object; nonconsensual intentional touching, either directly or through the clothing, of the genitalia, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or buttocks; or nonconsensual non-contact acts of a sexual nature such as voyeurism and verbal or behavioral sexual harassment. All the above acts also qualify as sexual violence if they are committed against someone who is unable to consent or refuse (Basile & Saltzman, 2009, p.16).

The CDC found that the lifetime occurrence of rape for women is 18.3% and 1.4% for men. For sexual assault the lifetime occurrence for women is 5.6% and 5.3% for men. This statistic includes being made to penetrate someone else. Sexual coercion can be divided up by 13% for women and 6% for men. See Table 7 for the racial division.

**State.** Each state has their own definition of sexual harassment, sexual assault, and rape. One example would be Florida's definition. The Florida State Legal Statue is known as sexual battery, statue 794.011, and has many detailed definitions of rape. In general rape is defined as, "a person who forcefully penetrates the sexual organs of another either anally, vaginally, or orally and the perpetrator is 12-years-old or older" (Digest, 2003).

**Advocacy Organizations: Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network.** The Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network (RAINN) is an advocacy organization that works to educate people on and raise awareness of rape and collect money for prevention of rape. According to this organization, rape is defined "as forced sexual intercourse, including vaginal, anal, or oral penetration. Penetration may be by a body part or an object (Rape, 2009)." The RAINN organization found that in 2008 there were 237,868 cases of rapes, attempted rapes, and sexual assaults (Rape, 2009).

There are numerous other national, local, and advocacy organizations with their own set of definitions and statistics regarding some form of sexual violence. However, it is beyond the scope of this paper to include all of those organizations. The organizations cited in this dissertation were the organizations most cited in academic journals and books and were thus included in the paper. Though there is no uniformed definition, a case could be made that the best definitions are those provided by the individual states because they impact legal decisions that are made regarding rape cases that are being brought to trial within those states. Lastly, it is important to note that despite the variety of definitions presented, they all carry the overall theme of force and penetration being a

part of rape. Where touching and exposure of genitals would fall under the heading of sexual assault.

### **Types of Rape**

Susan Estrich, a noted legal rape researcher, proposed that there are two types of rape. The first is traditional rape which occurs when a stranger suddenly and violently sexually attacks a woman. This type of rape is accepted as a “real” or “blitz” rape and is seen as a serious crime (Caringella, 2009; Estrich, 1986). Generally, this type of rape occurs in settings that are thought to be safe by rape victims such as the victim’s home or large outdoor areas (Hucker, 1994). This type of rape is characterized with being more violent, frequent use of weapons, more threats towards the victim, and greater trauma (Hucker, 1994). However, this is not the most common type of rape (Jackson, 1996; Warshaw, 1988). Traditional rape accounts for roughly 20-30% of rape cases that are reported to the police (Jackson, 1996; Warshaw, 1988).

The second is non-traditional (“simple”, “confidence” “date” or “acquaintance”) rape which occurs when an acquaintance, husband, boyfriend, friend, or trusted authority figure sexually attacks a woman (Caringella, 2009; Estrich, 1986). In this type of rape, there is a previous amount of interaction between the rape victim and the rapist. This type of rape is distinguished as involving some type of intoxicating agent (e.g. drugs or alcohol), takes place in a longer time frame, and occurs in a setting that the rapist is familiar with (e.g. the rapist’s residence or the rapist’s vehicle) (Hucker, 1994). Generally, this type of rape is less violent physically than traditional rape but the rapist do present with aggressive behaviors 48% of the time. The aggressive behaviors presented are when the rapist instructs the rape victim not to tell and frightening the victim (Hucker,

1994). Rapists in non-traditional rape tend to be verbally coercive in order to commit their crime and the rapists engage in pacifying behaviors 43% of the time. Pacifying behaviors include expressing regret, providing assistance, and acting as if no crime took place by asking to see the victim again in a romantic situation (Hucker, 1994). This is the most common type of rape with rape crisis centers reporting 70-80% of the rapes reported to them (Warshaw, 1988) but is also the most disputed due to the many complex characteristics described earlier. An important part of non-traditional rape is that some occurrences of rape in this category are legally, religiously, or socially sanctioned (Hucker, 1994; Lira, Koss & Russo, 1999). This is evidenced by the laws that stated that men had a right to take sex from their wives by force (e.g. rape them) and it would not be considered rape (Hucker, 1994). Recently, the legal community has tried to protect women from being as vulnerable to rape by enacting the Drug-Induced Rape Prevention and Punishment Act of 1996 that made the punishment for the possession or sale of Flunitrazepam (Rohypnol) harsher. Also, a law was enacted in 2000 to make the punishment for the possession or sale of  $\gamma$ -hydroxybutyrate (GHB) harsher (Meyer & Quenzer, 2005, p371). Finally, the Drink Safe Technologies has created a coaster called, the Drink Safe Coaster that allows women to test their drinks for GHB and Ketamine (Meyer & Quenzer, 2005).

### **Recognition of rape: Schemas and Scripts**

The recognition that a sexual criminal act has occurred has changed from generation to generation. This is due first to how each generation defines rape (Burt, 1980; Brownmiller, 1975; Estrich, 1986). Second, it is due partly to individual characteristics of both the victim and the individual characteristics of the perpetrator(s).

The individual characteristics considered for rape victims include the victim's age, race, sex, clothing, sobriety, sexual reputation, sexual history, amount of resistance used, and relationship with the perpetrator specifically the sexual history with the perpetrator. The individual characteristics considered for perpetrators(s) include age, race, sex, sobriety, amount of force used, and relationship with the victim especially their previous sexual history with the victim (Caringella, 2009; Gordon & Riger, 1989). Furthermore, the setting of the sexual act is considered when trying to decide if a rape occurred. It is important to note that there are a number of factors that influence a rape victim reporting their rape and a part of that is fear of judgment. In fact, research has shown that police officers, juries, health care workers, and district attorneys tend to hold negative beliefs about rape survivors that makes prosecution of perpetrators challenging (Campbell & Johnson, 1997; Chaplaeu, Oswald & Russell, 2008; Forhmann, 1991; Koss, 2000). Lastly, rape recognition is mediated by schemas and scripts.

Schemas are “cognitive structures that represent organized knowledge about a given domain” (Schank & Abelson, 1977) or “a general habitual pattern of thinking” about a particular topic (Beck, 1976; Leahy, 2003). Another way of thinking about schemas would be a loose organization of ideas or beliefs related to a general topic. For example: a schema regarding men might include strong, powerful, resourceful, and rational minded, etc. A schema for rape might include physical force, nighttime, stranger perpetrator, physical resistance, and verbal resistance. These previous examples illustrate how schemas are the building blocks to scripts. Schemas provide individuals with broad and meaningful terms that are loosely associated around a topic.



Scripts are forms of schemas and can be defined as “a schema for a particular type of event that contains information about pops, roles, rules, and a sequence of events” (Fiske & Taylor, 1991; Littleton & Axsom, 2003). Another way of thinking about scripts, scripts are refined and organized schemas regarding a particular topic that help create a story. For example: a rape script for heterosexual rape might be that a stranger male physically restrains a female and verbally threatens her with serious injury or death. The female verbally resists by saying no and hits the male in various body parts etc. This rape script takes all of the elements of the noted rape schema (physical and verbal force, physical and verbal resistance) and creates a story of how an event might proceed.

### **Men**

The discussion of rape and men heavily revolves around institutionalized rape. This is a great disservice that is done to men because it frames male rape as exclusively taking place among institutions. Further research needs to be done to better understand rape that occurs outside of institutions. Recently, the government has grown concerned about the frequency of rape in institutionalized settings. Therefore, a law called the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 was established to research rape that occurs in institutionalized settings. The Prison Rape Elimination Act defines rape (or sexual victimization/sexual assault/sexual violence) in correctional facilities as: “ all types of sexual activity, e.g. oral, anal, or vaginal penetration; hand jobs; touching of the inmate’s buttocks, thighs, penis, breast, or vagina in a sexual way; abusive sexual contacts; and both willing and unwilling sexual contact with staff .” It appears that roughly 7% of inmates report being raped (Bryden & Lengnick, 1997). However, these numbers are highly disputed.

Literature on male rape tends to focus on males being raped in correctional institutions (Hucker, 1994). One reason this is done is because rape and sexual assault are a reoccurring problem in institutionalized settings with staff making advances towards inmates and inmates making advances towards other inmates (Bryden & Lengnick, 1997). The second reason why the literature focuses on institutionalized male rape is because researchers have poorly conceptualized institutionalized male rape. An older conceptualization of institution male rape asserted that rape in institutionalized settings was rare and only occurred between heterosexual men when the preferred sexual object was not readily accessible (Hucker, 1994). Recent researchers of institution male rape assert that rape in institutionalized settings is a pervasive problem and occurs between heterosexual and homosexual men (Bryden & Lengnick, 1997;Hucker, 1994).

Second, as my previous examples illustrate, rape is conceptualized as a crime that occurs most often against women and not men. Often times identification, definitions, and theories of rape place the males in the role of rapist and women as rape victims (Hucker, 1994). Statistics researching rape that occurs to males are few and the information provided is statistically uncertain. However, research has shown that 5 to 10 % of adult men are raped in a non-institutionalized setting (Hucker, 1994) and roughly 7% of institutionalized adult males are raped (Bryden & Lengnick, 1997). It is important to note that the statistics on rape in correctional institutions vary greatly. Some place the number as high as 11% of inmates are rape victims and some would place the number at zero (Mair, Frattaroli & Teret, 2003). It has been found that 3% of American men have encountered rape in their lifetime (Rape, 2009). Therefore, caution should be taken when

evaluating the percentage of rapes that occur in an institutionalized setting. Also, note how none of the percentages given account for racial differences.

In non-institutionalized settings there have been two popular views of rape. First, that male rape tends to be perpetrated by homosexual rapist towards heterosexual men. Second, that male rape tends to be perpetrated by heterosexual rapist towards homosexual men. This latter view has more empirical support than the former (Hucker, 1994). Similar to female rape cases, the male rapist is someone that the victim has interacted with before. Thus, non-traditional tends to be the highest type of rape that occurs in male rape cases (Hucker, 1994).

### **Purpose of Rape**

In Susan Brownmiller's groundbreaking book on rape, *Against Our Will*, she stated that rape is used by society as a means to control the actions of women by keeping women in a constant state of fear of rape. Ms. Brownmiller proposed that all rape (historical and present) is used by men in society to establish their "manhood" and that women are groomed by society to be vulnerable to rape by established gender roles (e.g. acceptable sporting activities for each gender, clothing difference among the sexes, and accepted means of communications) (1977). However, there are people who disagree with this conceptualization of rape and the role it has in society.

According to Edward Shorter a historian it is true that modern occurrences of rape take place due to a "political" agenda established by a patriarchal society trying to oppress women but historical rapes took place due to "sexual frustrations" (Shorter, 1977). Mr. Shorter notes a number of historical texts that describe the lack of sexual opportunities and society's restrictive attitudes towards sex outside of marriage. He

presents these texts as confirmation that historical rape was a crime of sexual passion and sexual release (Shortner, 1977). Yet, some individuals have stated that there are flaws with both Brownmiller's and Shorter's conceptualizations. Ms. Hartmann and Ms. Ross believe that Brownmiller is correct in stating that rape is a political act by a patriarchal society but Ms. Brownmiller cannot provide sufficient support that this was true of historical rapes (Hartmann & Ross, 1978). However, Mr. Shorter is wrong in stating that historical rapes were committed as a crime of passion. Research has shown that rape is a violent and aggressive crime that often has little to do with satisfying sexual urges (Shorter, 1977). This old debate on the purpose of rape continues to this day with new philosophers and clinicians continuing to argue about the origins of rape (Cahill, 2001). Also, this is not the only topic being contested within this field of study because rape is a multifaceted crime that is constantly being redefined by politicians, philosophers, researchers, scientists, and clinicians.

### **Rape Myths**

Rape myths are "prejudicial, stereotyped, or false beliefs about rape, rape victims, and rapists" (Burt, 1980, p.217). Examples of rape myths include "she was leading him on with how she was dressed," "she deserved to be raped because she should have never gotten into that car," "she likes it rough, so it's okay if he forced her," "some women want to be raped," "she said she wanted to be a porn star," and "she's a prostitute and you can't rape a prostitute." These types of beliefs "are generally false, but are widely and persistently held, and serve to deny and justify male sexual aggression against women (Lonsway & Fitzgerald, 1994)." Rape myths are important because they

minimize, deny, and trivialize rape, which may lead sex crimes perpetrated against women to be socially sanctioned (Brownmiller, 1975; Cromer & Freyd, 2007).

Research has documented a high rate of rape myth endorsement within the general population (Burt, 1978; Field 1978; Giacopassi & Dull, 1986; Gilmartin-Zena, 1987; Lonsway & Fitzgerald, 1994). Rape myths tend to be endorsed at higher rates amongst males and individual who hold other negative stereotypical attitudes towards women (Lonsway & Fitzgerald, 1994). For example, higher rape myth endorsement is reported amongst older men who embrace traditional gender roles, have a high level of adversarial sexual beliefs, are conservative, and are aggressive (Anderson, Cooper, & Okamura, 1997). In contrast, higher levels of education and self-esteem are associated with lower endorsement of rape myths (Burt, 1978). Individuals with high sex role satisfaction, high self-esteem, and better education endorsed less sex role stereotyping, fewer adversarial sexual beliefs, less sexual conservatism, lower acceptance of interpersonal violence (Burt, 1978). In regards to women, those who have been exposed to rape victims or are rape victims, generally have a lower endorsement of rape myths (Anderson, Cooper, & Okamura, 1997). Females who endorse negative attitudes towards feminism and greater hostility toward men have a higher rape of rape myth attitudes (Senn & Radtke, 1990).

### **Types of Rape Myths**

Rape myths permeate multiple areas with researchers finding that there are four general types of rape myths (Bohner, 1998; Briere, Malamuth, & Check, 1985; Burt, 1980, 1991; Costin, 1985; Gerger, Kley, Bohner, & Siebler, 2007; Lonsway & Fitzgerald, 1994; Payne, Lonsway, & Fitzgerald, 1999). First type, victim blaming myths (i.e., “if

she didn't want to have sex she should not have dressed that way"). Second type, discrediting myths (i.e., "women often lie about rape"). Third type, perpetrator justification myths (i.e., "he just couldn't help himself because he was so overcome by desire"). Fourth type, victim characteristic myths (i.e., "Hispanic women desire men who are going to take sex by force").

### **Negative Outcomes Associated with Rape Myths**

Endorsement of rape myths is associated with a variety of negative outcomes. Rape myths effect the predisposition to engage in sexually coercive behaviors (Abbey & McAuslan, 2004). Research studies have shown a significant correlation between rape supportive attitudes, including those consistent with rape myths, and perpetration of sexual assault (Helmus, Hanson, Babchishin, & Mann, 2013; Mann, Webster, Wakeling, & Marshall, 2007). Other research has found that rape myth acceptance is associated with sexual aggression and hostile behaviors towards women (Suarez & Gadalla, 2010). In a prospective study investigating the impact of negative attitudes about women and sexual aggression have documented a relationship between adversarial beliefs about women and sexual aggressiveness reported during a seven month follow-up period (Loh, Gidycz, Lobo, & Luthra, 2005).

In regards to effects on victims, research has shown that, when rape victims present for treatment, they generally hold an assortment of distorted cognitions related to the abuse (Resick, Monson & Chard, 2010). Women may attempt to cope following a sexual assault by adopting rape myths in order to maintain a belief that the world is just and that bad things happen to bad people and good things happen to good people (Lerner, 1980). This "just world" belief may offer a sense of perceived protection and limit the

need to accept the reality of personal vulnerability (Lonsway & Fitzgerald, 1994; Suarez & Gadalla, 2010). A key component in treatment with rape victims is to challenge these beliefs and incorporate new information that takes into account the reality of the rape without going to extremes (Resnick et al., 2010). However, cultural acceptance of rape myths makes this difficult, if not impossible, for this vital clinical process to occur because they reinforce distorted cognitions. Therefore, rape victims maintain a cycle of self-blame and guilt related to the abuse (Resick, et al., 2010).

### **Rape Myths among Ethnic Minorities**

Amongst ethnic minority groups, rape exists within a historical context of oppression and subjugation. The historical impact of both racism and sexism may influence ethnic minorities' attitudes towards rape. For example, historical oppression of African Americans in the United States may have led to cultural specific rape myths, such as "most rapes are committed by African-American men" and "African-American women are promiscuous" (White, Strube, & Fisher, 1998). These types of beliefs may impact treatment of rape survivors and decrease the likelihood of reporting abuse (Tillman, Bryant-Davis, Smith, & Marks, 2010; Bryant-Davis, Belcourt-Dittloff, Chung, & Tillman, 2009). Although African Americans experience sexual assaults at greater rates than other ethnic groups, they are less likely to report or seek support following sexual assaults (Tillman et al., 2010). Rape myths may therefore act as additional barriers to reporting, leading ethnic minorities women to be doubly disadvantaged (Bryant-Davis et al., 2009; Tillman et al., 2010).

Although ethnicity may be an important variable in understanding the impact of rape myths, most studies of rape myth acceptance have been conducted with White

college students (Lonsway & Fitzgerald, 1994). The limited research in the area has found that ethnicity and racial identity are significantly related to attitudes about rape (Suarez & Gadalla, 2010). In one study, participants were more likely to indicate that a hypothetical crime vignette was acceptable if the victim was African-American, rather than White (Foley, Evancic, Karnik, King, Parks, 1995). Another study of White college students rated African-American female rape survivors as having a higher level of responsibility for the assault (Willis, 1992). These studies point to the importance of culture and ethnicity in understanding attitudes about rape and responses to victims of sexual assault.

### **Research Rationale and Hypotheses**

Although the existing literature on rape myths is growing, there is less understanding of how endorsement of rape myths varies across culture and ethnicity. Research has shown that African-Americans (Dull & Giacomassi, 1987; Giacomassi & Dull, 1986; Williams & Holms, 1981) and Hispanics (Fischer, 1987; Williams & Holms, 1981) are more accepting of rape myths than whites. Research suggest that these differences can be explained by conservative sex roles within the Hispanic culture and cultural histories of rape among African-Americans (Williams & Holmes, 1981). Despite these noted difference there is still a need for clear, theoretically based relationships between race and rape myth attitudes. No known study has examined rape myth acceptance amongst a broader range of ethnic groups.

This study examined ethnic minority endorsement of rape myth attitudes, including rape myth acceptance, sex role satisfaction, sex role stereotyping, sexual conservatism, adversarial sexual beliefs, and acceptance of interpersonal violence. Based



on previous research examining rates of rape myth endorsement across ethnic groups, it was hypothesized that Black, Hispanic, and Bi-racial Americans would report higher endorsement of rape myths than White Americans. While ethnic minority groups were expected to differ in their endorsement of rape myths in comparison to white participants, no differences between other ethnicities were expected.

## **Chapter II: Method**

### **Participants**

There were a total of 170 individuals who participated in the study. Data from 20 participants was missing greater than half of responses and dependent variables and was therefore excluded from analyses. The majority of participants were women ( $n = 128$ ; 85.3%). Men composed 14.7% ( $n = 22$ ) of study participants (Table 8). A majority of participants were Black (46.0%), with the remainder being Hispanic (34.0%), Multi-Racial (10.7%), or White (9.3%). Most participants were between the ages of 18 and 39 (78%) and reported a gross annual income of \$45,000 or less (83.4%). Most participants resided in urban ( $n = 115$ , 76.7%) areas with 35 (23.3%) participants living in rural areas. In terms of education, 78% of participants had attained a bachelor's degree or higher level of education. Additional participant characteristics found in Tables 9-12.

### **Procedure**

Participants were recruited using a poster advertisement and were invited to complete study measures on-line or in-person. Participants who participated in-person were contacted by phone and given an appointment time. On the day of the study, they were provided with an informed consent document detailing the study purpose and procedures. After signing the informed consent, they completed study questionnaires and

were thanked for their participation. Participants who were recruited online provided electronic informed consent and completed study measures using survey monkey. After the participants completed the study they were thanked for their participation and given the investigators contact information if future questions arose. If a participant was aware of any personal distress they were provided counseling reference numbers.

## **Measures**

**Demographic Information.** Demographic information gathered included where the person heard about the study, gender, race, age, country of origin, age of moving to the US, current country of residence, primary language, primary language spoken at home, generation as an American, area of residency, education, occupation, income, marital status, religious/spiritual affiliation, and religious/spiritual involvement.

**Burt Rape Myth Acceptance Scale.** The Rape Myth Acceptance Scale (Burt, 1980) assesses a broad range of sexual beliefs and attitudes. It assesses three core myth types: denial of rape's existence, excusal of rape, and denial of rape's seriousness and six rape myth acceptance scales (Hall, Howard, & Beozio, 1986). Questions on all subscales were answered used a seven-point Likert scale (*1-Disagree Strongly to 7-Agree Strongly; 1-Almost None to 7-Almost All; 1-Never to 7-Always*).

The Rape Myth Acceptance subscale contains 19-items that measures endorsement of statements that justify rape. It includes items such as, "Any healthy woman can successfully resist a rapist if she really wants to" and "In the majority of rapes, the victims is promiscuous or has a bad reputation." This scale had good reliability (Cronbach's  $\alpha = 0.86$ ).

The sex-role satisfaction subscale includes 10-items assessing participants' perceptions of how satisfied participants perceive themselves to be in terms of embodying the self-identified characteristics of their biological sex within work, family, and social interactions. Questions included "how satisfied are you with your ability to express your emotions", "how satisfied are you with the amount of socializing you do?" This scale had good reliability in the present sample (Cronbach's  $\alpha = 0.80$ ).

The sex role stereotyping subscale includes 9-items that assess widely held but oversimplified ideas of the roles that various biological sex members must engage in. Questions included "A man should fight when the woman he's with is insulted by another man" and "There is nothing wrong with a woman going to a bar alone?" Cronbach's alpha for these items was 0.70 indicating good reliability.

The sexual conservatism subscale contains 10-items measuring self-identified restrictions on with whom and when to engage in sexual intercourse and the type and context of sexual intercourse. Questions on this subscale included "people should not have oral sex" and "men have a biologically stronger sex drive than women." This scale had good reliability of  $\alpha = 0.70$ .

The adversarial sexual beliefs subscale contains 9-items that assess the belief that sexual relationships are steeped in exploitation with sexual partners being manipulative and untrustworthy. Questions from this scale included, "a lot of women seem to get pleasure in putting men down" and "men are out for only one thing." This scale had good reliability of  $\alpha = 0.84$ .

The acceptance of interpersonal violence subscale includes 6-items assessing the degree to which respondents view violent (i.e. force or coercion) actions as a legitimate

way to engage in interpersonal relationships. These questions included statements, such as “sometimes the only way a man can get a cold woman turned on is to use force” and “being roughed up is sexually stimulating to many women.” This scale had poor reliability (Cronbach’s  $\alpha = 0.55$ ).

Martha Burt, Ph.D. created a measure to help assess the rape myth acceptance of individuals who were asked questions assessing a broad range of sexual beliefs and attitudes. The instrument was based upon the definition of rape myths as “prejudicial, stereotyped, or false beliefs about rape, rape victims, and rapists” (Burt, 1980, p. 217). It has a seven point Likert scale that is summed to obtain a total score with a high score indicating greater rape myth acceptance. The measure can be administered as a self-report measure or in a clinical interview format and takes about ten minutes to complete (Beere, 1990). Dr. Burt’s measure has been tested numerous times and appears to have adequate reliability and validity. In regards to reliability, Burt’s study yielding an alpha coefficient of .875, item-total correlations were .27 to .62 (Burt 1980, 1983). Studies conducted by other researchers had similar reliability findings with a coefficient alpha of .874 (Beere, 1990; Margolin, Miler, & Moran, 1989).

In regards to validity, a number of studies were conducted with other measures and significance was tested. First, such study was conducted by Check and Malamuth (1983) who gave the rape myth acceptance scale along with the Sex Role Stereotyping Scale and found a significant correlation ( $r=.54$ ) between the two measures. Second, was a study conducted by Ashton (1982) where a dogmatism and trustworthiness scales were provided along with the rape myth acceptance scale significance was found with both scales; dogmatism ( $r=.51$ ) and trustworthiness ( $r=.46$ ). Third, a study was conducted by

researchers Larsen and Long (1987) where the General Scale of Attitudes Toward Rape scale and the Rape Myth Acceptance Scale were provided together and significance was found ( $r=.63$ ). Fourth, researcher Field (1978) provided participants with the Attitudes Toward Rape Scale and the Rape Myth Acceptance Scale with significance found ( $r=.77$ ). Fifth, Margolin et al. (1989) found significant gender differences among college men and women.

Dr. Burt created 19 items assessing thoughts and feelings towards women and self. It assess for three core myth types: denial of rape's existence, excusal of rape, and denial of rape's seriousness (Hall, Howard, & Beozio, 1986). Therefore looking at the key areas: (1) attitudinal correlates specifically (a) attitudes towards women, (b) sexual conservatism, (c) adversarial sexual beliefs, (d) acceptance of interpersonal violence; (2) personality correlates specifically (e) satisfaction with one's own gender role performance, (f) satisfaction with one's own gender role behavior and experiences, (g) satisfaction with one's own sexual role behavior and experiences, (h) generalized self-esteem; (3) experiential correlates specifically (i) knowing rape victims or sexual assailants, (j) having been sexual victimized her/himself, (k) exposure to popular media treatments of sexual assault and aggressive sexuality, (l) intrafamilial violence; (3) demographic correlates specifically (m) age, (n) race, (o) sex, (p) marital status (q) education, (r) occupational; (4) Rape Myth Acceptance. The demographic measure was expand to from Burt's to include additional information. All the items gathered in the demographic questionnaire were where the person hear about the study, gender, race, age, country of origin, age of moving to the US, current country of residence, primary language, primary language spoken at home, generation as an American, area of

residency, education, occupation, income, marital status, religious/spiritual affiliation, and religious/spiritual involvement.

### **Analytic Plan**

The main hypotheses of this study involved analyzing the impact of ethnicity on rape myth acceptance. First, descriptive statistics, correlations, and regressions were run. Next, the relationship between ethnicity and rape myth acceptance was analyzed using a Multivariate Analysis of Covariance. Finally, a step-down procedure was used to investigate significant differences identified in the analysis of variance using pairwise comparisons.

## **Chapter III: Results**

### **Descriptive Statistics**

Descriptive statistics regarding rape myths acceptance scales are presented in Table 13. Rape myth acceptance scale scores can range from 19 to 133. This study found that on the rape myth acceptance scale, scores ranged from 19 to 78 with  $M = 33$  and  $SD = 12.1$  which would indicate mild endorsement of rape myth acceptance. Own sex role satisfaction scale scores can range from 10 to 70. This study found that on the own sex role satisfaction scale scores ranged from 27 to 69 with  $M = 55.3$  and  $SD = 8.7$  which would indicate high endorsement of own sex role satisfaction. Sex role stereotyping scale scores can range from 9 to 63. This study found that on the sex role stereotyping scale scores ranged from 9 to 51 with  $M = 25.2$  and  $SD = 9.1$  which indicated mild endorsement of sex role stereotyping. The sexual conservatism scores can range from 10 to 70. The scores obtained on this scale ranged from 10 to 49 with  $M = 27.3$  and  $SD = 9.1$  which indicate moderate endorsement of sexual conservative attitudes. Adversarial sexual

beliefs scale scores can range from 9 to 63. This study found scores ranged from 9 to 49 with  $M = 22.4$  and  $SD = 10$  which indicates mild endorsement of adversarial sexual beliefs. For the last scale, acceptance of interpersonal violence scale scores can range from 6 to 42. The scale range scores for this study were from 6 to 31 with  $M = 13$  and  $SD = 5.2$  which indicates mild endorsement of acceptance of interpersonal violence. Therefore, Rape myth acceptance was moderate overall with participants reporting endorsement across subscales that slightly below the midpoint on the scale and this indicated that they agreed somewhat to rape myths.

### **Correlations and Regression**

Bivariate correlations amongst subscales on the measure of rape myth acceptance were significant and in the expected directions (Table 14). It is also important to note that the sample contained a greater number of women in comparison to men. A linear regression was carried out to determine influence of gender on rape myth acceptance. The regression revealed that gender significantly predicted total rape myth acceptance scores ( $\beta = -.260, p = 0.001$ ). The adjusted  $R^2$  indicated that 6% of the variance in total rape myth acceptance scores was explained by gender. Gender also significantly predicted adversarial sexual beliefs ( $\beta = -.217, p = 0.008$ ) and acceptance of interpersonal violence ( $\beta = -.257, p = 0.002$ ). As a result of these significant relationships and the differences in group sizes, gender was controlled for in all subsequent analysis (e.g., included as a covariate in the MANCOVA).

### **Multivariate Analysis of Covariance**

A multivariate analysis of covariance was used to determine the effects of respondent's race (Black, Hispanic, White, or Bi-racial) on the six rape myth subscales. Gender was included as a covariate in all analyses. The multivariate main effect of race was significant ( $F(18, 394) = 2.76, p = 0.00$ ). Follow-up univariate tests revealed significant effects of race on sex role satisfaction ( $F(3, 150) = 3.81, p = 0.01$ ), sex role stereotypes ( $F(3, 150) = 6.04, p = 0.00$ ), and sexual conservatism ( $F(3, 150) = 7.52, p = 0.00$ ). Pairwise comparisons indicated that Blacks and Hispanics differed significantly on reports of satisfaction with their own sex roles, with African Americans endorsing significantly higher levels of sex role satisfaction than Hispanics ( $p = 0.00$ ). Blacks and Multi-Racial individuals also differed significantly, with Blacks endorsing significantly higher levels of sex role satisfaction ( $p = 0.06$ ). Furthermore, Hispanics and Whites differed significantly with Hispanics endorsing significantly higher levels of sex role satisfaction than Whites ( $p = 0.03$ ). Multi-Racial individuals and Whites differ significantly with Multi-Racial individuals endorsing significantly higher levels of sex role satisfaction than Whites ( $p = 0.07$ ).

In regards to the sex role stereotyping scale, pairwise comparisons indicated that Blacks and Hispanics differed significantly with Blacks endorsing greater levels of sex role stereotyping than Hispanics ( $p = 0.00$ ). Also, Blacks and Multi-Racial individuals differ significantly with Blacks endorsing greater levels of sex role stereotyping than Multi-Racial individuals ( $p = 0.01$ ). Lastly, Blacks and whites differ significantly with Blacks endorsing greater levels of sex role stereotyping than Whites ( $p = 0.00$ ).



In regards to sexual conservatism scale, pairwise comparisons indicated that Blacks and Hispanics differ significantly with Blacks endorsing higher levels of sexual conservatism than Hispanics ( $p = 0.00$ ). Furthermore, Blacks and Whites differ significantly with Blacks endorsing higher levels of sexual conservatism than whites ( $p = 0.01$ ). Lastly, Hispanic and Multi-Racial individuals differ significantly with Hispanics endorsing higher levels of sexual conservatism than Multi-Racial individuals ( $p = 0.04$ ).

#### **Chapter IV: Discussion**

The purpose of this study was to gain an understanding of how endorsement of rape myths varies across culture and ethnicity. Research has shown that ethnicity makes a difference in rape myth acceptance with Blacks (Dull & Giacopassi, 1987; Giacopassi & Dull, 1986; Williams & Holms, 1981) and Hispanics (Fischer, 1987; Williams & Holms, 1981) having a higher rate of endorsement of rape myths when compared to whites. According to Williams and Holms (1981) this difference might be explained by culture (i.e. sex roles and sexual trauma history with that community). Yet, there still remains the question, how much rape myth endorsement is there within a broader range of ethnic minorities.

Overall, the results of this study indicated moderate rape myth endorsement among a broader range of ethnic minorities. The analyses presented in this study suggest that gender lead to significant differences within rape myth acceptance, adversarial sexual beliefs, and acceptance of interpersonal violence. Therefore, a MANCOVA was run, keeping gender constant, and race was found to be significant in sex role satisfaction, sex role stereotyping, and sexual conservatism. The findings indicate that Blacks have a higher endorsement of sex role satisfaction, sex role stereotyping, and sexual

conservatism compared to Hispanic individuals. Furthermore, Blacks have greater sex role satisfaction and sex role stereotyping compared to Multi-Racial individuals. Lastly, Blacks have greater sex role stereotyping and sexual conservatism when compared to White individuals. In regards to Hispanic individuals, they endorse higher sex role satisfaction when compared to Whites and sexual conservatism when compared to Multi-Racial individuals. Future research further assessing Multi-Racial individuals and other ethnic minorities is needed.

The implications of these findings are multi-faceted. First, knowing that certain scales are endorsed more often by certain minorities might allow rape prevention programs to individualize material targeting rape within those communities. Therefore, possibly increasing the effectiveness of the prevention material presented and helping to eliminate rape within ethnic minority communities. At the least, it may reduce perpetration and increase reporting of sexual assaults.

Second, clinically it will be important to assess for rape myth acceptance and cognitive distortions due to their potential impact on treatment. It may be important for clinicians working with trauma survivors to explore culturally specific rape myths and cognitive distortions, thus potentially increasing the effectiveness of interventions following trauma.

Third, given the negative impact that rape myths has on rape victims, clinicians should take care to adequately assess for these types of cognitive distortions. Particularly among ethnic minority groups due to their prevalent amongst this community. Also, clinicians should avoid inadvertently perpetuating these false beliefs.

Finally, it is important to note that this study had a few limitations. First, the sample was heavily female. Future research needs to include a gender diverse sample to help confirm whether the same findings hold true amongst samples with a larger proportion of male subjects.

Second, the majority of participants were either categorized as Black or Hispanic and this may have impacted the findings. Future research needs to include an ethnically more diverse sample to further enrich the rape myth research literature.

Third, there were limited number of racial categories used which might impact the findings of the study. Participants were collapsed into categories that could be easily studied. This categorization made data analysis easier and data interpretation understandable but made it difficult, if not impossible, to evaluate the rich depth of cultural rape myth acceptance. Future research should consider including large sample ethnic categories or doing a culture specific study.

Fourth, previous research has found that education is a large contributor to rape myth acceptance with higher levels of education being related to lower endorsement of rape myths (Burt, 1980). The sample utilized in this study was primarily comprised of individuals who had obtained a college education or higher (78%). In line with previous findings, the sample endorsed moderate rape myth acceptance over all. Although differences were found between groups, overall mild endorsement of rape myths, sex role stereotyping, adversarial sexual beliefs, and acceptance of interpersonal violence. Despite these scales being statistically significant, do the differences found have a significant impact on the existing body of literature? On the surface, the results of the study would suggest no. It appears that the group's homogeneity made it difficult to find significantly

meaningful differences. However, the study could be viewed as a thoughtful and concentrated examination of a subset of a larger community.

Fifth, researcher William Cross developed a model of black identity (Vandiver, Cross, Worrell, & Fhagen-Smith, 2002) that depicted four stages of development. This relates to rape myths because rape myth acceptance may be related to stage of ethnic identity development. As participants in this study were well educated and most lived in urban areas, they may have had experiences that led to a higher level of ethnic identity development, thus resulting in lower acceptance of stereotypes and rape myths.

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Table 1

*Federal Bureau of Investigations Rape Statistics: Crime in the United States*

| Year  | Population  | Forcible rape | Forcible rape rate |
|-------|-------------|---------------|--------------------|
| 1992  | 255,029,699 | 109,062       | 42.8               |
| 1993  | 257,782,608 | 106,014       | 41.1               |
| 1994  | 260,327,021 | 102,216       | 39.3               |
| 1995  | 262,803,276 | 97,470        | 37.1               |
| 1996  | 262,228,572 | 96,252        | 36.3               |
| 1997  | 267,783,607 | 96,153        | 35.9               |
| 1998  | 270,248,003 | 93,144        | 34.5               |
| 1999  | 272,690,813 | 89,411        | 32.8               |
| 2000  | 281,421,906 | 90,178        | 32.0               |
| 2001  | 285,317,559 | 90,863        | 31.8               |
| 2002  | 287,973,924 | 95,235        | 33.1               |
| 2003  | 290,788,976 | 93,883        | 32.3               |
| 2004  | 293,656,842 | 95,089        | 32.4               |
| 2005  | 296,507,061 | 94,347        | 31.8               |
| 2006  | 299,398,484 | 94,472        | 31.6               |
| 2007  | 301,621,157 | 92,160        | 30.6               |
| 2008  | 304,059,724 | 90,750        | 29.8               |
| 2009  | 307,006,550 | 89,241        | 29.1               |
| 2010* | 309,330,219 | 85,593        | 27.7               |
| 2011  | 311,591,917 | 83,425        | 26.8               |

\* The crime figures have been adjusted

Table 2

*Bureau of Justice Statistics: Rape statistics divided by age**Rate per 1,000 females age 12 or older*

| Age         | 1994-1998 | 1999-2004 | 2005-2010 |
|-------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 12-17       | 11.3      | 7.6       | 4.1       |
| 18-34       | 7.0       | 5.3       | 3.7       |
| 35-64       | 2.3       | 1.8       | 1.5       |
| 65 or older | 0.1*      | 0.2*      | 0.2*      |

\*Based on 10 or fewer sample cases or coefficient of variation is greater than 50%



Table 3

*Bureau of Justice Statistics: Rape statistics divided by race**Rate per 1,000 females age 12 or older*

| Race                             | 1994-1998 | 1999-2004 | 2005-2010 |
|----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| White                            | 4.3       | 3.1       | 2.2       |
| Black                            | 4.2       | 4.1       | 2.8       |
| Hispanic/Latina                  | 4.3       | 1.8       | 1.4       |
| American Indian/Alaska<br>Native | 6.4*      | 4.8*      | 4.5*      |
| Asian/Pacific Islander           | 2.5       | 1.2       | 0.7*      |
| Two or more races                | N/A       | 6.6*      | 5.1*      |

\*Based on 10 or fewer sample cases or coefficient of variation is greater than 50%

Table 4

*Bureau of Justice Statistics: Rape statistics divided by marital status*

*Rate per 1,000 females age 12 or older*

| Marital Status           | 1994-1998 | 1999-2004 | 2005-2010 |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Never                    |           |           |           |
| Married                  | 8.6       | 6.6       | 4.1       |
| Married                  | 1.3       | 0.7       | 0.6       |
| Widowed                  | 0.8       | 0.2*      | 0.8       |
| Divorced or<br>Separated | 9.0       | 6.3       | 4.4       |

\*Based on 10 or fewer sample cases or coefficient of variation is greater than 50%

Table 5

*Bureau of Justice Statistics: Rape statistics divided by household income*

*Rate per 1,000 females age 12 or older*

| Household Income      | 1994-1998 | 1999-2004 | 2005-2010 |
|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Less than<br>\$25,000 | 6.1       | 5.6       | 3.5       |
| \$25,000-\$49,999     | 3.3       | 2.7       | 1.9       |
| \$50,000 or more      | 2.9       | 2.0       | 1.8       |
| Unknown               | 3.5       | 2.1       | 1.8       |

\*Based on 10 or fewer sample cases or coefficient of variation is greater than 50%

Table 6

*Bureau of Justice Statistics: Rape statistics divided by residency*

*Rate per 1,000 females age 12 or older*

| Location of Residence | 1994-1998 | 1999-2004 | 2005-2010 |
|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Urban                 | 5.1       | 4.0       | 2.2       |
| Suburban              | 3.9       | 2.7       | 1.8       |
| Rural                 | 3.9       | 2.5       | 3.0       |

\*Based on 10 or fewer sample cases or coefficient of variation is greater than 50%

Table 7

*Rape Statistics from the Center for Disease Control*

---

| Racial Demographics               |        |
|-----------------------------------|--------|
| Non-Hispanic Blacks               | 22.00% |
| Hispanics                         | 14.60% |
| Non-Hispanic Whites               | 18.80% |
| American<br>Indian/Alaska Natives | 26.90% |
| Multiple Races                    | 35.50% |

---

Table 8

*Demographic Characteristics of Participants*

| Variable                    | N=150      |                    |           |
|-----------------------------|------------|--------------------|-----------|
| Race                        | n (%)      | Age                | n (%)     |
| Black                       | 69 (46.0)  | 18-29              | 79 (52.7) |
| Hispanic                    | 51 (34.0)  | 30-39              | 38 (25.3) |
| White                       | 16 (10.7)  | 40-49              | 16 (10.7) |
| Multi-Racial                | 14 (9.3)   | 50 or older        | 17 (11.3) |
| Sex                         | n (%)      | Income             | n (%)     |
| Female                      | 128 (85.3) | Under \$20,000     | 54 (36.0) |
| Male                        | 22 (14.7)  | \$20,000-\$45,000  | 49 (32.7) |
|                             |            | \$45,001-\$65,000  | 22 (14.7) |
| Education                   | n (%)      | \$65,001-\$85,000  | 13 (8.7)  |
| Some High School            | 2 (1.3)    | \$85,001-\$105,000 | 6 (4.0)   |
| High School Diploma/GED     | 3 (2.0)    | \$105,001 plus     | 6 (4.0)   |
| Some College                | 24 (16.0)  |                    |           |
| Associates Degree           | 4 (2.7)    | Marital Status     | n (%)     |
| Bachelor's Degree           | 21 (14.0)  | Single             | 84 (56.0) |
| Some Post Bachelor's Degree | 20 (13.3)  | Married            | 53 (35.3) |
| Master's Degree             | 46 (30.7)  | Divorced           | 12 (8.0)  |
| Doctoral Degree             | 30 (20.0)  | Separated          | 1 (0.7)   |

Table 9

*Ethnic Minority Distribution of Participants*

|                           | Frequency | Percent |
|---------------------------|-----------|---------|
| African                   | 1.00      | 0.7     |
| African-American          | 59.00     | 39.3    |
| Haitian                   | 3.00      | 2.0     |
| Haitian-American          | 2.00      | 1.3     |
| Jamaican                  | 3.00      | 2.0     |
| Jamaican-<br>American     | 3.00      | 2.0     |
| Mexican                   | 3.00      | 2.0     |
| Mexican-<br>American      | 16.00     | 10.7    |
| Puerto Rican              | 3.00      | 2.0     |
| Puerto Rican-<br>American | 11.00     | 7.3     |
| Cuban                     | 2.00      | 1.3     |
| Cuban-American            | 9.00      | 6.0     |
| White                     | 14.00     | 9.3     |
| Bi-racial                 | 11.00     | 7.3     |
| Bahamian-<br>American     | 1.00      | 0.7     |
| Colombian-<br>American    | 2.00      | 1.3     |
| American Indian           | 1.00      | 0.7     |
| Middle Eastern            | 1.00      | 0.7     |
| Spanish-<br>American      | 2.00      | 1.3     |
| Ecuadorian-<br>American   | 1.00      | 0.7     |
| Honduran-<br>American     | 1.00      | 0.7     |
| Brazilian-<br>American    | 1.00      | 0.7     |
| Total                     | 150.00    | 100     |

Table 10

*Occupation Status of Participants*

| Occupation                                                 | Frequency |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Administrative Assistant                                   | 2         |
| Administrative Secretary                                   | 1         |
| Alumni Relations Coordinator                               | 1         |
| Assistant Professor                                        | 4         |
| Assistant Professor / Counselor Educator                   | 1         |
| Author                                                     | 1         |
| Automotive detailing                                       | 1         |
| Cashier                                                    | 2         |
| Clinical Mental Health Professional                        | 1         |
| College Professor                                          | 1         |
| College Student                                            | 1         |
| Community organizer                                        | 1         |
| Counseling intern and graduate assistant                   | 1         |
| Counselor                                                  | 5         |
| Counselor Educator                                         | 3         |
| Course Administrator                                       | 1         |
| Crisis Assessor                                            | 1         |
| Curriculum Specialist                                      | 1         |
| Deputy and Student                                         | 1         |
| Dietary Aid                                                | 1         |
| Director of Treatment Services                             | 1         |
| Doctoral candidate                                         | 1         |
| Doctoral student                                           | 3         |
| Doctoral student, Early Childhood Mental Health Specialist | 1         |
| Educator                                                   | 1         |
| Elementary school counselor                                | 1         |
| Employee at a School Restaurant                            | 1         |
| Entertainer                                                | 1         |
| Finance rep                                                | 1         |
| Front desk at Center for Student Involvement               | 1         |
| Full Time Student                                          | 1         |
| Golf course associate                                      | 1         |
| Government Employee and Ph.D. Student                      | 1         |
| Graduate Assistant                                         | 1         |
| Graduate student                                           | 4         |
| Higher Ed Credential Analyst                               | 1         |
| Homeland security                                          | 1         |



|                                             |    |
|---------------------------------------------|----|
| Host                                        | 1  |
| Human Resources Generalist                  | 1  |
| Journalist                                  | 1  |
| Licensed Professional Counselor             | 1  |
| LPC-Intern Crisis Counselor                 | 1  |
| Marketing                                   | 1  |
| Martial Arts Grandmaster & Instructor       | 1  |
| Media Manager                               | 1  |
| Mental Health Counselor                     | 1  |
| Middle Management                           | 1  |
| N/A                                         | 1  |
| Nonprofit CEO                               | 1  |
| Nurse                                       | 2  |
| Outpatient Therapist                        | 1  |
| Page at a library                           | 1  |
| Professional Counselor                      | 1  |
| Professional counselor and graduate student | 1  |
| Professor                                   | 5  |
| Program Assistant                           | 1  |
| Psychologist                                | 2  |
| Psychotherapist                             | 2  |
| REGISTERED NURSE                            | 1  |
| Religion Coordinator for a Catholic School  | 1  |
| Researcher                                  | 1  |
| Researcher & Doctoral Candidate             | 1  |
| Resource linkage coordinator                | 1  |
| Restaurateur                                | 1  |
| Retired                                     | 3  |
| Salesman                                    | 1  |
| Sales                                       | 2  |
| School Teacher                              | 1  |
| Sexual assault advocate                     | 1  |
| Social service counselor                    | 1  |
| Sr Administrative Coordinator               | 1  |
| Ssi                                         | 1  |
| Stay at home mom                            | 1  |
| Student                                     | 25 |
| Student / Administration                    | 1  |
| Student and housewife                       | 1  |
| Student/ mental health tech                 | 1  |
| Student/Secretary                           | 1  |
| Student/University Professor                | 1  |
| Subway                                      | 1  |

|                                  |     |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| Supportive Professional Staff    | 1   |
| Teacher                          | 5   |
| Therapist                        | 4   |
| Trainee Counselling Psychologist | 1   |
| Tutor                            | 2   |
| Unemployed                       | 4   |
| University administration        | 1   |
| Visiting Assistant Professor     | 1   |
| Writer                           | 1   |
| Total                            | 150 |

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Table 11

*Primary Language Spoken by Participants*

| <u>Primary Language</u> | <u>Frequency</u> |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| English                 | 142.00           |
| English and Spanish     | 2.00             |
| Farsi                   | 1.00             |
| Spanish                 | 4.00             |
| Spanish/English         | 1.00             |
| <u>Total</u>            | <u>150.00</u>    |

Table 12

*Primary Language Spoken at Home by Participants*

| Primary Language Spoken at Home | Frequency |
|---------------------------------|-----------|
| Creole                          | 1.00      |
| English                         | 126.00    |
| English & Spanish               | 1.00      |
| English and Ebonics             | 1.00      |
| English and Nepali              | 1.00      |
| English and Spanish             | 3.00      |
| Farsi                           | 1.00      |
| NA                              | 1.00      |
| Portuguese                      | 1.00      |
| Spanish                         | 12.00     |
| Spanish and English             | 2.00      |
| Total                           | 150.00    |

Table 13

*Descriptive Statistics for rape myth acceptance subscales*

| Variables                               | # of Items | M    | SD   | <i>a</i> |
|-----------------------------------------|------------|------|------|----------|
| 1. Rape Myth Acceptance                 | 19         | 33.0 | 12.1 | 0.86     |
| 2. Own Sex Role Satisfaction            | 10         | 55.3 | 8.7  | 0.80     |
| 3. Sex Role Stereotyping                | 9          | 25.2 | 9.1  | 0.70     |
| 4. Sexual Conservatism                  | 10         | 27.3 | 9.1  | 0.84     |
| 5. Adversarial Sexual Beliefs           | 9          | 22.4 | 9.9  | 0.70     |
| 6. Acceptance of Interpersonal Violence | 6          | 12.6 | 5.2  | 0.55     |

Table 14

*Bivariate correlation for rape myth acceptance subscales*

| Variable                                | 1       | 2        | 3       | 4       | 5       |
|-----------------------------------------|---------|----------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. Rape Myth Acceptance                 |         |          |         |         |         |
| 2. Own Sex Role Satisfaction            | -0.149  |          |         |         |         |
| 3. Sex Role Stereotyping                | 0.405** | -0.096   |         |         |         |
| 4. Sexual Conservatism                  | 0.598** | -0.262** | 0.511** |         |         |
| 5. Adversarial Sexual Beliefs           | 0.469** | -0.143   | 0.636** | 0.499** |         |
| 6. Acceptance of Interpersonal Violence | 0.599** | -0.25**  | 0.389** | 0.636** | 0.353** |

*Note.* \*\* Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).



### **Participation letter for the Attitudes Study**

My name is Bianca Oney and I am a Ph.D. student at the Center for Psychological Studies at Nova Southeastern University. I am currently conducting research under the supervision of Dr. Lenore Walker on attitudes about sexual assault and rape. The study will gather information regarding your attitudes towards self and others, in particular, attitudes toward women. The study should only take 10-30 minutes to complete a total of 66 questions. This study is intended for self-identified ethnic minority individuals. One hundred and fifty participants are needed to aid this researcher in completing her dissertation research. There are no costs to you or payments made for participating in this study. All information obtained in this study is strictly confidential and anonymous.

#### **If participating, In Person:**

After reading this participation letter and you decide to participate in the study, you will be asked 17 questions assessing your demographic information (e.g. gender, race, age, etc). After you have completed the demographic information, you will then be given an Attitude Scale, which contains 49 questions. Upon completion, you will be given the investigators contact information. Participation is anonymous.

There is a minimal chance of the survey questions causing emotional or psychological distress. It is believed that should you become distressed it would only last for the duration the study. For individuals who experience discomfort, a list of counseling referral agencies will be provided. If you have any questions about the research, your research rights, or have a research-related injury, please contact Bianca Oney at (754) 234-4925 or [obianca@nova.edu](mailto:obianca@nova.edu). You may also contact the IRB at the numbers indicated below with questions as to your research rights.

You have the right to leave this study at any time or refuse to participate. If you do decide to leave or you decide not to participate, you will not experience any penalty or loss of services you have a right to receive.

For questions/concerns about your research rights, contact:  
Human Research Oversight Board (Institutional Review Board or IRB)  
Nova Southeastern University  
(954) 262-5369/Toll Free: 866-499-0790  
[IRB@nsu.nova.edu](mailto:IRB@nsu.nova.edu)

Respectfully,

Bianca Oney

PhD Candidate



**By continuing to complete these surveys, you are agreeing to participate in this research study, entitled “Attitudes Study.”**

**Appendix C: Participation Packet for In-person participants: Demographics**

Background Information:

Please mark the box next to the correct response or type a response that best answers the question.

1. How did you hear about the study?
  - I am a Nova Southeastern University Student
  - I am a Broward College Student
  - I am a Florida Atlantic University Student
  - I am a Florida Memorial University Student
  - I am a Florida International Student
  - I am a University of Miami Student
  - American Psychological Association
  - Craigslist
  - The Root.com
  - BlackPlanet.com
  - Amightyriver.com
  - Other (Please Specify) \_\_\_\_\_
  
2. What is your gender?
  - Female
  - Male
  - Other (Please Specify) \_\_\_\_\_
  
3. What is your race?
  - African
  - African-American
  - Haitian
  - Haitian-American
  - Jamaican
  - Jamaican-American
  - Mexican
  - Mexican-American
  - Puerto Rican
  - Puerto Rican-American
  - Cuban
  - Cuban-American
  - Dominican
  - Dominican-American
  - Other (Please Specify) \_\_\_\_\_

4. How old are you?
  - 18-29
  - 30-39
  - 40-49
  - 50 or older
  
5. What country were you born in: \_\_\_\_\_
  
6. How old were you when you moved to the United States of America: \_\_\_\_\_
  
7. Currently, do you live in the United States of America?
  - Yes
  - No
  
8. What is your primary language: \_\_\_\_\_
  
9. What is the primary language spoken at home: \_\_\_\_\_
  
10. Are you \_\_\_\_\_ American?
  - First Generational
  - Second Generational
  - Third Generational
  - Fourth Generational
  - Fifth Generational
  - Sixth Generational or more
  
11. Currently, do you reside in a \_\_\_\_\_ residence?
  - Urban
  - Rural
  
12. What is your highest obtained level of education?
  - Some High School
  - High School Diploma/GED
  - Some College
  - Associates Degree
  - Bachelor's Degree
  - Some Post Bachelor's
  - Master's Degree
  - Doctoral Degree

13. What is your current occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

14. What is your annual income:

- Under \$20,000
- \$20,000-\$45,000
- \$45,001-\$65,000
- \$65,001-\$85,000
- \$85,001-\$105,000
- \$105,001 plus

15. Are you:

- Single
- Married
- Divorced
- Separated
- Widowed

16. Do you have a religious or spiritual affiliation?

- Yes
- No

17. If yes, (to question 16) how actively involved are you with your religion or spiritual affiliation?

- Not actively involved
- Mildly involved
- Moderately involved
- Actively involved

**Appendix D: Participation Packet for In-person participants: Burt Rape Myth Scale**

See scan below

## Ethnic Minority Endorsement of Rape Myths 68

For the statements which follow, please circle the number which best indicates your opinion—what you believe. If you strongly disagree you would answer “1”; if you strongly agree you would answer “7”; if you feel neutral you would answer “4”, and so on.

| Disagree<br>Strongly | Disagree<br>Somewhat | Disagree<br>Slightly | Neutral | Agree<br>Slightly | Agree<br>Somewhat | Agree<br>Strongly |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1                    | 2                    | 3                    | 4       | 5                 | 6                 | 7                 |

- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |               |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| 1. A woman who goes to the home or apartment of a man on their first date implies that she is willing to have sex.                                                                                                         | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 |
| 2. Any female can get raped                                                                                                                                                                                                | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 |
| 3. One reason that women falsely report a rape is that they frequently have a need to call attention to themselves.                                                                                                        | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 |
| 4. Any healthy woman can successfully resist a rapist if she really wants to.                                                                                                                                              | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 |
| 5. When women go around braless or wearing short skirts and tight tops, they are just asking for trouble.                                                                                                                  | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 |
| 6. In the majority of rapes, the victim is promiscuous or has a bad reputation.                                                                                                                                            | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 |
| 7. If a girl engages in necking or petting and she lets things get out of hand, it is her own fault if her partner forces sex on her.                                                                                      | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 |
| 8. Women who get raped while hitchhiking get what they deserve.                                                                                                                                                            | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 |
| 9. A woman who is stuck-up and thinks she is too good to talk to guys on the street deserves to be taught a lesson.                                                                                                        | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 |
| 10. Many women have an <u>unconscious</u> wish to be raped, and may then <u>unconsciously</u> set up a situation in which they are likely to be attacked.                                                                  | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 |
| 11. If a woman gets drunk at a party and has intercourse with a man she's just met there, she should be considered "fair game" to other males at the party who want to have sex with her too, whether she wants to or not. | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 |

Please use the following key to answer the next two questions. Circle the number that shows what fraction you believe to be true.

| Almost None | A Few | Some | About Half | Many | A Lot | Almost All |
|-------------|-------|------|------------|------|-------|------------|
| 1           | 2     | 3    | 4          | 5    | 6     | 7          |

12. What percentage of women who report a rape would you say are lying because they are angry and want to get back at the man they accuse?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

13. What percentage of reported rapes would you guess were merely invented by women who discovered they were pregnant and wanted to protect their own reputation?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Please use the following key to answer the next question.

| Never | Rarely | Sometimes | Half the Time | Often | Usually | Always |
|-------|--------|-----------|---------------|-------|---------|--------|
| 1     | 2      | 3         | 4             | 5     | 6       | 7      |

14. A person comes to you and claims they are raped. How likely would you be to believe their statement if the person were:

- |                          |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|--------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| a. Your best friend?     | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| b. An Indian woman?      | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| c. A neighborhood woman? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| d. A young boy?          | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| e. A Black woman?        | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| f. A White woman?        | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |



Please use the following key to answer the next question.

| Very Dissatisfied | Dissatisfied Somewhat | Dissatisfied Slightly | Neutral | Satisfied Slightly | Satisfied Somewhat | Very Satisfied |
|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| 1                 | 2                     | 3                     | 4       | 5                  | 6                  | 7              |

1. How satisfied are you with:
- a. Your sympathy and understanding for others. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
  - b. Your competence and skillfulness. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
  - c. The amount of socializing you do. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
  - d. The amount of money you earn. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
  - e. Your independence and ability to make decisions by yourself. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
  - f. Your participation in sports and athletic activities. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
  - g. Your ability to express your emotions. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
  - h. Your initiative, or "get-up-and-go." 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
  - i. Your dependability in times of crisis. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
  - j. Your attractiveness to the opposite sex. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

## Ethnic Minority Endorsement of Rape Myths 72

For the statements which follow, please circle the number which best indicates your opinion—what you believe. If you strongly disagree you would answer “1”; if you strongly agree you would answer “7”; if you feel neutral you would answer “4”, and so on.

| Disagree<br>Strongly | Disagree<br>Somewhat | Disagree<br>Slightly | Neutral | Agree<br>Slightly | Agree<br>Somewhat | Agree<br>Strongly |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1                    | 2                    | 3                    | 4       | 5                 | 6                 | 7                 |

- |                                                                                                              |               |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| 2. A man should fight when the woman he's with is insulted by another man.                                   | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 |
| 3. It is acceptable for the woman to pay for the date.                                                       | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 |
| 4. A woman should be a virgin when she marries.                                                              | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 |
| 5. There is something wrong with a woman who doesn't want to marry and raise a family.                       | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 |
| 6. A wife should never contradict her husband in public.                                                     | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 |
| 7. It is better for a woman to use her feminine charm to get what she wants rather than ask for it outright. | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 |
| 8. It is acceptable for a woman to have a career, but marriage and family should come first.                 | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 |
| 9. It looks worse for a woman to be drunk than for a man to be drunk.                                        | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 |
| 10. There is nothing wrong with a woman going to a bar alone.                                                | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 |
| 11. A woman will only respect a man who will lay down the law to her.                                        | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 |
| 12. Many women are so demanding sexually that a man just can't satisfy them.                                 | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 |
| 13. A man's got to show the woman who's boss right from the start or he'll end up henpecked.                 | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 |
| 14. Women are usually sweet until they've caught a man, but then they let their true self show.              | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 |

|                                                                                                                |               |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| 15. A lot of men talk big, but when it comes down to it, they can't perform well sexually                      | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 |
| 16. In a dating relationship a woman is largely out to take advantage of a man                                 | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 |
| 17. Men are out for only one thing.                                                                            | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 |
| 18. Most women are sly and manipulating when they are out to attract a man.                                    | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 |
| 19. A lot of women seem to get pleasure in putting men down.                                                   | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 |
| 20. A woman who initiates a sexual encounter will probably have sex with anybody.                              | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 |
| 21. A woman shouldn't give in sexually to a man too easily or he'll think she's loose.                         | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 |
| 22. Men have a biologically stronger sex drive than women.                                                     | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 |
| 23. A nice woman will be offended or embarrassed by dirty jokes.                                               | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 |
| 24. Masturbation is a normal sexual activity.                                                                  | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 |
| 25. People should not have oral sex.                                                                           | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 |
| 26. I would have no respect for a woman who engages in sexual relationships without any emotional involvement. | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 |
| 27. Having sex during the menstrual period is unpleasant.                                                      | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 |

28. The primary goal of sexual intercourse should be to have children.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

29. Women have the same needs for a sexual outlet as men.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

30. People today should not use "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth" as a rule for living.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

31. Being roughed up is sexually stimulating to many women.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

32. Many times a woman will pretend she doesn't want to have intercourse because she doesn't want to seem loose, but she's really hoping the man will force her.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

33. A wife should move out of the house if her husband hits her.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

34. Sometimes the only way a man can get a cold woman turned on is to use force.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

35. A man is never justified in hitting his wife.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

**Appendix E: Participation Packet for In-person participants: Counseling Numbers**

**Counseling Reference Numbers:**

**National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:** 1-800-273-8255

**First Call for Help:**

National: 211

Broward: (954) 537-0211

**Nova Southeastern University:**

Psychology Services Center: (954) 678-2273

Henderson Student  
Counseling: (954) 424-6911

**ARC:** (954) 746-9400

**Archways:** (954) 763-2030

**Bayview Mental Health:** (954) 888-7999

**Chrysalis Center:** (954) 587-1008

**Henderson Mental Health:** (954) 791-4300

**Seth Line (Mental Health Crisis  
Line):** (954) 578-5640

**Appendix F: Participation Packet for Online participants**

See snapshot below

Participation letter for the Attitudes Study

My name is Bianca Oney and I am a Ph.D. student at the Center for Psychological Studies at Nova Southeastern University. I am currently conducting research under the supervision of Dr. Lenore Walker on attitudes about sexual assault and rape. The study will gather information regarding your attitudes towards self and others, in particular, attitudes toward women. The study should only take 10-30 minutes to complete a total of 80 questions. This study is intended for self-identified ethnic minority individuals 18 years old or older. One hundred and fifty participants are needed to aid this researcher in completing my dissertation research. There are no costs to you or payments made for participating in this study. All information obtained in this study is strictly confidential and anonymous.

If participating, Online:

After logging on to the Survey Monkey website and reading this participation letter you will begin filling out the first measure which contains 17 questions assessing your demographic information (e.g. gender, race, age, etc). After you have completed the demographic information, you will complete the, Attitude Scale, which contains 63 questions. Upon completion, you will be given the investigators contact information. Please note that no IP address will be collected.

There is a minimal chance of the survey questions causing emotional or psychological distress. It is believed that should you become distressed it would only last for the duration of the study. For individuals who experience discomfort, a list of counseling referral agencies will be provided. If you have any questions about the research, your research rights, or have a research-related injury, please contact Bianca Oney at (754) 234-4925 or obianca@nova.edu. You may also contact the IRB at the numbers indicated below with questions as to your research rights.

You have the right to leave this study at any time or refuse to participate. If you do decide to leave or you decide not to participate, you will not experience any penalty or loss of services you have a right to receive.

For questions/concerns about your research rights, contact:  
Human Research Oversight Board (Institutional Review Board or IRB)  
Nova Southeastern University  
(954) 262-5369/Toll Free: 866-499-0790  
IRB@nsu.nova.edu

Respectfully,  
Bianca Oney  
PhD Candidate

By continuing to complete these surveys, you are agreeing to participate in this research study, entitled "Attitudes Study."

Please mark the box next to the correct response or type a response that best answers the question.

**\*1. How did you hear about the study?**

- I am a Nova Southeastern University Student
- I am a Broward College Student
- I am a Florida Atlantic University Student
- I am a Florida Memorial University Student
- I am a Florida International University Student
- I am a University of Miami Student
- American Psychological Association
- Craigslist
- The Root.com
- BlackPlanet.com
- Amightyriver.com
- Other (please specify)

**\*2. What is your gender?**

- Female
- Male
- Other (please specify)



**\*3. What is your race?**

- African
- African-American
- Haitian
- Haitian-American
- Jamaican
- Jamaican-American
- Mexican
- Mexican-American
- Puerto Rican
- Puerto Rican-American
- Cuban
- Cuban-American
- Dominican
- Dominican-American
- Other (please specify)

**\*4. How old are you?**

- 18-29
- 30-39
- 40-49
- 50 or older

**\*5. What country were you born in?**

**6. How old were you when you moved to the United States of America?**

**\*7. Currently, do you live in the United States of America?**

- Yes
- No

**\*8. What is your primary language?**

**\*9. What is the primary language spoken at home?**

**\*10. Are you \_\_\_\_\_ American?**

- First Generational
- Second Generational
- Third Generational
- Fourth Generational
- Fifth Generational
- Sixth Generational or more

**\*11. Currently, do you reside in a \_\_\_\_\_ residence?**

- Urban
- Rural

**\*12. What is your highest obtained level of education?**

- Some High School
- High School Diploma/GED
- Some College
- Associates Degree
- Bachelor's Degree
- Some Post Bachelor's
- Master's Degree
- Doctoral Degree

**\*13. What is your current occupation?**

**\*14. What is your annual income?**

- Under \$20,000
- \$20,000-\$45,000
- \$45,001-\$65,000
- \$65,001-\$85,000
- \$85,001-\$105,000
- \$105,001 plus

**\*15. Are you:**

- Single
- Married
- Divorced
- Separated
- Widowed

**\*16. Do you have a religious or spiritual affiliation?**

- Yes
- No

**17. If yes, (to question 16) how actively involved are you with your religion or spiritual affiliation?**

- Not actively involved
- Mildly involved
- Moderately involved
- Actively involved

For the statements which follow, please circle the number which best indicates your opinion-what you believe. If you strongly disagree you would answer "1"; if you strongly agree you would answer "7"; if you feel neutral you would answer "4", and so on.

**\*18. A woman who goes to the home or apartment of a man on their first date implies that she is willing to have sex.**

- Disagree Strongly-(1)
- Disagree Somewhat-(2)
- Disagree Slightly-(3)
- Neutral-(4)
- Agree Slightly-(5)
- Agree Somewhat-(6)
- Agree Strongly-(7)

**\*19. Any female can get raped.**

- Disagree Strongly-(1)
- Disagree Somewhat-(2)
- Disagree Slightly-(3)
- Neutral-(4)
- Agree Slightly-(5)
- Agree Somewhat-(6)
- Agree Strongly-(7)

**\*20. One reason that women falsely report a rape is that they frequently have a need to call attention to themselves.**

- Disagree Strongly-(1)
- Disagree Somewhat-(2)
- Disagree Slightly-(3)
- Neutral-(4)
- Agree Slightly-(5)
- Agree Somewhat-(6)
- Agree Strongly-(7)

**\*21. Any healthy woman can successfully resist a rapist if she really wants to.**

- Disagree Strongly-(1)
- Disagree Somewhat-(2)
- Disagree Slightly-(3)
- Neutral-(4)
- Agree Slightly-(5)
- Agree Somewhat-(6)
- Agree Strongly-(7)

**\*22. When women go around braless or wearing short skirts and tight tops, they are just asking for trouble.**

- Disagree Strongly-(1)
- Disagree Somewhat-(2)
- Disagree Slightly-(3)
- Neutral-(4)
- Agree Slightly-(5)
- Agree Somewhat-(6)
- Agree Strongly-(7)

**\*23. Women who get raped while hitchhiking get what they deserve.**

- Disagree Strongly-(1)
- Disagree Somewhat-(2)
- Disagree Slightly-(3)
- Neutral-(4)
- Agree Slightly-(5)
- Agree Somewhat-(6)
- Agree Strongly-(7)

**\*24. A woman who is stuck-up and thinks she is too good to talk to guys on the street deserves to be taught a lesson.**

- Disagree Strongly-(1)
- Disagree Somewhat-(2)
- Disagree Slightly-(3)
- Neutral-(4)
- Agree Slightly-(5)
- Agree Somewhat-(6)
- Agree Strongly-(7)

**\*25. Many woman have an unconscious wish to be raped, and may then unconsciously set up a situation in which they are likely to be attacked.**

- Disagree Strongly-(1)
- Disagree Somewhat-(2)
- Disagree Slightly-(3)
- Neutral-(4)
- Agree Slightly-(5)
- Agree Somewhat-(6)
- Agree Strongly-(7)

**\*26. If a woman gets drunk at a party and has intercourse with a man she's just met there, she should be considered "fair game" to other males at the party who want to have sex with her too, whether she wants to or not.**

- Disagree Strongly-(1)
- Disagree Somewhat-(2)
- Disagree Slightly-(3)
- Neutral-(4)
- Agree Slightly-(5)
- Agree Somewhat-(6)
- Agree Strongly-(7)

**\*27. In the majority of rapes, the victim is promiscuous or has a bad reputation.**

- Disagree Strongly-(1)
- Disagree Somewhat-(2)
- Disagree Slightly-(3)
- Neutral-(4)
- Agree Slightly-(5)
- Agree Somewhat-(6)
- Agree Strongly-(7)

**\*28. If a girl engages in necking or petting and she lets things get out of hand, it is her own fault if her partner forces sex on her.**

- Disagree Strongly-(1)
- Disagree Somewhat-(2)
- Disagree Slightly-(3)
- Neutral-(4)
- Agree Slightly-(5)
- Agree Somewhat-(6)
- Agree Strongly-(7)

Please use the following key to answer the next two questions. Circle the number that shows what fraction you believe to be true.

**\*29. What percentage of women who report a rape would you say are lying because they are angry and want to get back at the man they accuse?**

- Almost None-(1)
- A Few-(2)
- Some-(3)
- About Half-(4)
- Many-(5)
- A Lot-(6)
- Almost All-(7)

**\*30. What percentage of reported rapes would you guess were merely invented by women who discovered they were pregnant and wanted to protect their own reputation?**

- Almost None-(1)
- A Few-(2)
- Some-(3)
- About Half-(4)
- Many-(5)
- A Lot-(6)
- Almost All-(7)



Please use the following key to answer the next questions.

A person comes to you and claims they were raped. How likely would you be to believe their statement if the person were:

**\*31. Your best friend?**

- Never-(1)
- Rarely-(2)
- Sometimes-(3)
- Half the Time-(4)
- Often-(5)
- Usually-(6)
- Always-(7)

**\*32. An Indian woman?**

- Never-(1)
- Rarely-(2)
- Sometimes-(3)
- Half the Time-(4)
- Often-(5)
- Usually-(6)
- Always-(7)

**\*33. A neighborhood woman?**

- Never-(1)
- Rarely-(2)
- Sometimes-(3)
- Half the Time-(4)
- Often-(5)
- Usually-(6)
- Always-(7)

**\*34. A young boy?**

- Never-(1)
- Rarely-(2)
- Sometimes-(3)
- Half the Time-(4)
- Often-(5)
- Usually-(6)
- Always-(7)

**\*35. A Black woman?**

- Never-(1)
- Rarely-(2)
- Sometimes-(3)
- Half the Time-(4)
- Often-(5)
- Usually-(6)
- Always-(7)

**\*36. A White woman?**

- Never-(1)
- Rarely-(2)
- Sometimes-(3)
- Half the Time-(4)
- Often-(5)
- Usually-(6)
- Always-(7)

Please use the following key to answer the next questions.

How satisfied are you with:

**\*37. Your sympathy and understanding for others.**

- Very Dissatisfied-(1)
- Dissatisfied Somewhat-(2)
- Dissatisfied Slightly-(3)
- Neutral-(4)
- Satisfied Slightly-(5)
- Satisfied Somewhat-(6)
- Very Satisfied-(7)

**\*38. Your competence and skillfulness**

- Very Dissatisfied-(1)
- Dissatisfied Somewhat-(2)
- Dissatisfied Slightly-(3)
- Neutral-(4)
- Satisfied Slightly-(5)
- Satisfied Somewhat-(6)
- Very Satisfied-(7)

**\*39. The amount of socializing you do.**

- Very Dissatisfied-(1)
- Dissatisfied Somewhat-(2)
- Dissatisfied Slightly-(3)
- Neutral-(4)
- Satisfied Slightly-(5)
- Satisfied Somewhat-(6)
- Very Satisfied-(7)

**\*40. The amount of money you earn.**

- Very Dissatisfied-(1)
- Dissatisfied Somewhat-(2)
- Dissatisfied Slightly-(3)
- Neutral-(4)
- Satisfied Slightly-(5)
- Satisfied Somewhat-(6)
- Very Satisfied-(7)

**\*41. Your independence and ability to make decisions by yourself.**

- Very Dissatisfied-(1)
- Dissatisfied Somewhat-(2)
- Dissatisfied Slightly-(3)
- Neutral-(4)
- Satisfied Slightly-(5)
- Satisfied Somewhat-(6)
- Very Satisfied-(7)

**\*42. Your participation in sports and athletic activities**

- Very Dissatisfied-(1)
- Dissatisfied Somewhat-(2)
- Dissatisfied Slightly-(3)
- Neutral-(4)
- Satisfied Slightly-(5)
- Satisfied Somewhat-(6)
- Very Satisfied-(7)

**\*43. Your ability to express your emotions.**

- Very Dissatisfied-(1)
- Dissatisfied Somewhat-(2)
- Dissatisfied Slightly-(3)
- Neutral-(4)
- Satisfied Slightly-(5)
- Satisfied Somewhat-(6)
- Very Satisfied-(7)

**\*44. Your initiative, or "get-up-and-go"**

- Very Dissatisfied-(1)
- Dissatisfied Somewhat-(2)
- Dissatisfied Slightly-(3)
- Neutral-(4)
- Satisfied Slightly-(5)
- Satisfied Somewhat-(6)
- Very Satisfied-(7)

**\*45. Your dependability in times of crisis**

- Very Dissatisfied-(1)
- Dissatisfied Somewhat-(2)
- Dissatisfied Slightly-(3)
- Neutral-(4)
- Satisfied Slightly-(5)
- Satisfied Somewhat-(6)
- Very Satisfied-(7)

**\*46. Your attractiveness to the opposite sex.**

- Very Dissatisfied-(1)
- Dissatisfied Somewhat-(2)
- Dissatisfied Slightly-(3)
- Neutral-(4)
- Satisfied Slightly-(5)
- Satisfied Somewhat-(6)
- Very Satisfied-(7)

For the statements which follow, please circle the number which best indicates your opinion-what you believe. If you strongly disagree you would answer "1"; if you strongly agree you would answer "7"; if you feel neutral you would answer "4", and so on.

**\*47. A man should fight when the woman he's with is insulted by another man**

- Disagree Strongly-(1)
- Disagree Somewhat-(2)
- Disagree Slightly-(3)
- Neutral-(4)
- Agree Slightly-(5)
- Agree Somewhat-(6)
- Agree Strongly-(7)

**\*48. It is acceptable for the woman to pay for the date.**

- Disagree Strongly-(1)
- Disagree Somewhat-(2)
- Disagree Slightly-(3)
- Neutral-(4)
- Agree Slightly-(5)
- Agree Somewhat-(6)
- Agree Strongly-(7)

**\*49. A woman should be a virgin when she marries.**

- Disagree Strongly-(1)
- Disagree Somewhat-(2)
- Disagree Slightly-(3)
- Neutral-(4)
- Agree Slightly-(5)
- Agree Somewhat-(6)
- Agree Strongly-(7)

**\*50. There is something wrong with a woman who doesn't want to marry and raise a family.**

- Disagree Strongly-(1)
- Disagree Somewhat-(2)
- Disagree Slightly-(3)
- Neutral-(4)
- Agree Slightly-(5)
- Agree Somewhat-(6)
- Agree Strongly-(7)

**\*51. A wife should never contradict her husband in public.**

- Disagree Strongly-(1)
- Disagree Somewhat-(2)
- Disagree Slightly-(3)
- Neutral-(4)
- Agree Slightly-(5)
- Agree Somewhat-(6)
- Agree Strongly-(7)

**\*52. It is better for a woman to use her feminine charm to get what she wants rather than ask for it outright.**

- Disagree Strongly-(1)
- Disagree Somewhat-(2)
- Disagree Slightly-(3)
- Neutral-(4)
- Agree Slightly-(5)
- Agree Somewhat-(6)
- Agree Strongly-(7)

**\*53. It is acceptable for a woman to have a career, but marriage and family should come first.**

- Disagree Strongly-(1)
- Disagree Somewhat-(2)
- Disagree Slightly-(3)
- Neutral-(4)
- Agree Slightly-(5)
- Agree Somewhat-(6)
- Agree Strongly-(7)

**\*54. It looks worse for a woman to be drunk than for a man to be drunk.**

- Disagree Strongly-(1)
- Disagree Somewhat-(2)
- Disagree Slightly-(3)
- Neutral-(4)
- Agree Slightly-(5)
- Agree Somewhat-(6)
- Agree Strongly-(7)

**\*55. There is nothing wrong with a woman going to a bar alone.**

- Disagree Strongly-(1)
- Disagree Somewhat-(2)
- Disagree Slightly-(3)
- Neutral-(4)
- Agree Slightly-(5)
- Agree Somewhat-(6)
- Agree Strongly-(7)



**\*56. A woman will only respect a man who will lay down the law to her.**

- Disagree Strongly-(1)
- Disagree Somewhat-(2)
- Disagree Slightly-(3)
- Neutral-(4)
- Agree Slightly-(5)
- Agree Somewhat-(6)
- Agree Strongly-(7)

**\*57. Many women are so demanding sexually that a man just can't satisfy them.**

- Disagree Strongly-(1)
- Disagree Somewhat-(2)
- Disagree Slightly-(3)
- Neutral-(4)
- Agree Slightly-(5)
- Agree Somewhat-(6)
- Agree Strongly-(7)

**58. A man's got to show the woman who's boss right from the start or he'll end up henpecked.**

- Disagree Strongly-(1)
- Disagree Somewhat-(2)
- Disagree Slightly-(3)
- Neutral-(4)
- Agree Slightly-(5)
- Agree Somewhat-(6)
- Agree Strongly-(7)

**\*59. Women are usually sweet until they've caught a man, but then they let their true self show.**

- Disagree Strongly-(1)
- Disagree Somewhat-(2)
- Disagree Slightly-(3)
- Neutral-(4)
- Agree Slightly-(5)
- Agree Somewhat-(6)
- Agree Strongly-(7)

**\*60. A lot of men talk big, but when it comes down to it, they can't perform well sexually.**

- Disagree Strongly-(1)
- Disagree Somewhat-(2)
- Disagree Slightly-(3)
- Neutral-(4)
- Agree Slightly-(5)
- Agree Somewhat-(6)
- Agree Strongly-(7)

**\*61. In a dating relationship a woman is largely out to take advantage of a man.**

- Disagree Strongly-(1)
- Disagree Somewhat-(2)
- Disagree Slightly-(3)
- Neutral-(4)
- Agree Slightly-(5)
- Agree Somewhat-(6)
- Agree Strongly-(7)

**\*62. Men are out for only one thing.**

- Disagree Strongly-(1)
- Disagree Somewhat-(2)
- Disagree Slightly-(3)
- Neutral-(4)
- Agree Slightly-(5)
- Agree Somewhat-(6)
- Agree Strongly-(7)

**\*63. Most women are sly and manipulating when they are out to attract a man.**

- Disagree Strongly-(1)
- Disagree Somewhat-(2)
- Disagree Slightly-(3)
- Neutral-(4)
- Agree Slightly-(5)
- Agree Somewhat-(6)
- Agree Strongly-(7)

**\*64. A lot of women seem to get pleasure in putting men down.**

- Disagree Strongly-(1)
- Disagree Somewhat-(2)
- Disagree Slightly-(3)
- Neutral-(4)
- Agree Slightly-(5)
- Agree Somewhat-(6)
- Agree Strongly-(7)

**\*65. A woman who initiates a sexual encounter will probably have sex with anybody.**

- Disagree Strongly-(1)
- Disagree Somewhat-(2)
- Disagree Slightly-(3)
- Neutral-(4)
- Agree Slightly-(5)
- Agree Somewhat-(6)
- Agree Strongly-(7)

**\*66. A woman shouldn't give in sexually to a man too easily or he'll think she's loose.**

- Disagree Strongly-(1)
- Disagree Somewhat-(2)
- Disagree Slightly-(3)
- Neutral-(4)
- Agree Slightly-(5)
- Agree Somewhat-(6)
- Agree Strongly-(7)

**\*67. Men have a biologically stronger sex drive than women.**

- Disagree Strongly-(1)
- Disagree Somewhat-(2)
- Disagree Slightly-(3)
- Neutral-(4)
- Agree Slightly-(5)
- Agree Somewhat-(6)
- Agree Strongly-(7)

**\*68. A nice woman will be offended or embarrassed by dirty jokes.**

- Disagree Strongly-(1)
- Disagree Somewhat-(2)
- Disagree Slightly-(3)
- Neutral-(4)
- Agree Slightly-(5)
- Agree Somewhat-(6)
- Agree Strongly-(7)

**\*69. Masturbation is a normal sexual activity.**

- Disagree Strongly-(1)
- Disagree Somewhat-(2)
- Disagree Slightly-(3)
- Neutral-(4)
- Agree Slightly-(5)
- Agree Somewhat-(6)
- Agree Strongly-(7)

**\*70. People should not have oral sex.**

- Disagree Strongly-(1)
- Disagree Somewhat-(2)
- Disagree Slightly-(3)
- Neutral-(4)
- Agree Slightly-(5)
- Agree Somewhat-(6)
- Agree Strongly-(7)

**\*71. I would have no respect for a woman who engages in sexual relationships without any emotional involvement.**

- Disagree Strongly-(1)
- Disagree Somewhat-(2)
- Disagree Slightly-(3)
- Neutral-(4)
- Agree Slightly-(5)
- Agree Somewhat-(6)
- Agree Strongly-(7)

**\*72. Having sex during the menstrual period is unpleasant.**

- Disagree Strongly-(1)
- Disagree Somewhat-(2)
- Disagree Slightly-(3)
- Neutral-(4)
- Agree Slightly-(5)
- Agree Somewhat-(6)
- Agree Strongly-(7)

**\*73. The primary goal of sexual intercourse should be to have children.**

- Disagree Strongly-(1)
- Disagree Somewhat-(2)
- Disagree Slightly-(3)
- Neutral-(4)
- Agree Slightly-(5)
- Agree Somewhat-(6)
- Agree Strongly-(7)

**\*74. Women have the same needs for a sexual outlet as men.**

- Disagree Strongly-(1)
- Disagree Somewhat-(2)
- Disagree Slightly-(3)
- Neutral-(4)
- Agree Slightly-(5)
- Agree Somewhat-(6)
- Agree Strongly-(7)

**\*75. People today should not use "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth" as a rule for living.**

- Disagree Strongly-(1)
- Disagree Somewhat-(2)
- Disagree Slightly-(3)
- Neutral-(4)
- Agree Slightly-(5)
- Agree Somewhat-(6)
- Agree Strongly-(7)

**\*76. Being roughed up is sexually stimulating to many women.**

- Disagree Strongly-(1)
- Disagree Somewhat-(2)
- Disagree Slightly-(3)
- Neutral-(4)
- Agree Slightly-(5)
- Agree Somewhat-(6)
- Agree Strongly-(7)

**\*77. Many times a woman will pretend she doesn't want to have intercourse because she doesn't want to seem loose, but she's really hoping the man will force her.**

- Disagree Strongly-(1)
- Disagree Somewhat-(2)
- Disagree Slightly-(3)
- Neutral-(4)
- Agree Slightly-(5)
- Agree Somewhat-(6)
- Agree Strongly-(7)

**\*78. A wife should move out of the house if her husband hits her.**

- Disagree Strongly-(1)
- Disagree Somewhat-(2)
- Disagree Slightly-(3)
- Neutral-(4)
- Agree Slightly-(5)
- Agree Somewhat-(6)
- Agree Strongly-(7)

**\*79. Sometimes the only way a man can get a cold woman turned on is to use force.**

- Disagree Strongly-(1)
- Disagree Somewhat-(2)
- Disagree Slightly-(3)
- Neutral-(4)
- Agree Slightly-(5)
- Agree Somewhat-(6)
- Agree Strongly-(7)

**\*80. A man is never justified in hitting his wife.**

- Disagree Strongly-(1)
- Disagree Somewhat-(2)
- Disagree Slightly-(3)
- Neutral-(4)
- Agree Slightly-(5)
- Agree Somewhat-(6)
- Agree Strongly-(7)

If you are experiencing any discomfort, due to the completion of these surveys, please contact the following agencies for help:

Counseling Reference Numbers:

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255

First Call for Help:

National: 211

Broward: (954) 537-0211

Nova Southeastern University:

Psychology Services Center: (954) 678-2273

Henderson Student Counseling: (954) 424-6911

ARC: (954) 746-9400

Archways: (954) 763-2030

Bayview Mental Health: (954) 888-7999

Chrysalis Center: (954) 587-1008

Henderson Mental Health: (954) 791-4300

Seth Line (Mental Health Crisis Line): (954) 578-5640



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