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Rape Myth Acceptance in Social Fraternities and Sororities Compared to Nonaffiliated Students

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Rape Myth Acceptance in Social Fraternities and Sororities

Compared to Nonaffiliated Students

(TITLE)

BY

Karissa B. Light

THESIS

SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS
FOR THE DEGREE OF

Master of Science in College Student Affairs

IN THE GRADUATE SCHOOL, EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
CHARLESTON, ILLINOIS

2018

YEAR

I HEREBY RECOMMEND THAT THIS THESIS BE ACCEPTED AS FULFILLING
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Abstract

The purpose of this study was to examine the relationship of the acceptance and attitudes toward rape myth and sexual assault among fraternity and sorority members and nonaffiliated students as well as the differences in acceptance between men and women. Utilizing the data gathered through a quantitative survey using the Illinois Rape Myth Acceptance Scale (IRMA), the researcher found that although there is no definite difference between Greek-affiliated students compared to nonaffiliated students or between men and women, there are some differences to take note of.

Dedication

This thesis is dedicated to the many individuals that helped me get through my 18 years of education.

To my grandma- My role model. Thank you for defining what a strong woman looks like. I wouldn't have even graduated high school without you, let alone finished a Master's Degree

To my grandpa-Thank you for putting humor into my life during the stressful times. Also, thank you for fixing my car every time it breaks down.

To Dara, my best friend- My freshman roommate and sorority sister. Thank you for helping me realize that education is important and forcing me to study when I would rather take a nap.

To Alec, my fiancé-Thank you for being my shoulder to lean on for the last two years. Thank you for cheering me on for every page I completed of this thesis. Thank you for all of the dad jokes. I was really laughing on the inside, I promise.

To all of the survivors of sexual assault-You are not alone. If this research prevents even one sexual assault, it has done its job.

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Rape myth acceptance among social fraternities and sororities
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Chapter I **Introduction**

Sexual assault has been a topic that has been referred to a great deal in the media over the past couple of years. The media has televised many high-profile cases of sexual assault at institutions of higher education and the lack of accountability on the perpetrator's part. Brock Turner, a Stanford University swimmer, was convicted of sexual assault of a woman after a party (People v. Turner, 2016). Although Turner was found guilty of sexual assault, he only served three months in the local jail. Most states have the maximum sentence of life in prison for sexual assault, however the average sentence is about five years (Report to Congress: Analysis of Penalties for Federal Rape Cases). A Columbia University student, Emma Sulkowicz, was sexually assaulted in her residence hall and the man that allegedly committed the sexual assault was found not responsible Sulkowicz decided that she would carry her mattress on campus as long as her rapist was still enrolled at the university. Although Sulkowicz attended her graduation, she made sure that she took her mattress with her to show that the man who raped her was still enrolled at the university (Taylor, 2015). Her actions of carrying her mattress around campus received a large amount of media attention, as well as awareness of the occurrence of sexual assault on other college campuses (Taylor, 2015). *The Hunting Grounds*, a documentary about sexual assault on college campuses shows multiple stories of survivors of sexual assault and the lack of resources that institutions have to offer across the country. The documentary also shows insight into the process of filing a complaint against an institution when they do not take the proper steps when it comes to sexual assault on campuses.

Similar stories about sexual assault on college campuses have been reported in the news all over the nation. At Florida State University, one woman's claim that Jameis

Winston, the freshman starting quarterback of the Seminoles football team and eventual Tampa Buccaneers quarterback, raped her during her freshman year at the institution (Novkov, 2016). She reported the rape to both Tallahassee police as well as administration on campus, where she was met with victim blaming and intrusive questions from both entities. Winston was allowed to keep playing football for the Seminoles and even went on to play in the NCAA football championship. The one thing that the university did to investigate the case was try to question Winston, however he evaded the interview by going to baseball practice. The investigation was suspended shortly after when police claimed the victim was not cooperating in the investigation, even though she had repeatedly attempted to contact the police to check on the status of her case (Novkov, 2016).

At the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, a woman who was sexually assaulted her first weekend on campus her freshman year was asked by a campus administrator if she had too much to drink and asked what she was wearing that night. The administrator then compared rape to football and said, "Rape is like a football game. And if you look back on the game, what would you do differently in that situation?" (The Hunting Grounds, 2015) The student had gone to the administrator's office looking for resources and support from what had happened, however she was met with judgement. A woman at the University of California-Berkley was asked if she said "no" to her attacker. When she told the administrators that she told the man no, they then asked "How did you say "no"?" (The Hunting Grounds, 2015). These women's stories all have a common theme of being sexually assaulted in a fraternity house or by an athlete or in their residence hall and their institution did little to help with the issue. There are many similar narratives that are being told at institutions of higher education all over the country. While not all

institutions act in this manner, it is however a growing complaint by many individuals on college campuses.

Fraternity membership has also been linked with higher levels of sexual aggression (Seabrook, Ward & Giaccardi, 2016). The traditions and rituals of fraternities and sororities have been an instrumental part of many college students' journey through their time at an institution of higher education. The first fraternity was created in 1776 at William and Mary College in Williamsburg, Virginia (General History of Fraternities and Sororities in the United States, 2016). The Phi Beta Kappa Society was the first North American organization that used Greek letters to identify themselves. Although today's idea of fraternities and sororities are very different than what was first created in the late 1700's and early 1800's, the ideas of secret rituals, handshakes, and passwords still exist among members. Today's fraternities and sororities are primarily used as social organizations where the secret rituals create a family-like bond.

Sexual assault and rape have been topics of increasing importance in conversations in higher education in recent years. Fraternities and sororities are a type of peer group in which the members of said organizations spend countless hours together and form bonds that may be considered like family. The peer group may influence an individual in their values, social interactions, and actions (Schwartz & Nogrady, 1996). Other research has concluded that men in fraternities may feel the need to be sexually aggressive in order to conform to the masculinity stereotype of being a member of a fraternal organization (Seabrook, Ward, & Giaccardi, 2016).

One in five women will be sexually assaulted while they are enrolled at an institution of higher education (Aizenman & Kelly, 1988; Shaw, 2016). The acceptance of

rape myth is an important factor that plays into the amount of sexual assaults that happen on a given campus. Rape myth is the prejudicial, stereotyped, or false beliefs about rape, rape victims, and rapists (McMahon, 2010). These stereotypes are often used to justify violence against women or rape victims in general (McMahon, 2010). The outfit that the person is wearing when they are sexually assaulted is often-times scrutinized in belief that it caused the sexual assault. Alcohol also plays a factor in rape myth acceptance when individuals believe that the victim consented, even though they were intoxicated, or that the assaulter didn't mean to rape the victim because they were too intoxicated (Seabrook & Ward, 2016). Although men are not the only gender to commit sexual assault, rape, and harassment, women are the highest number of survivors of those particular crimes. Fraternity men are three times more likely to commit sexual assault than their nonaffiliated counterparts (Bleecker & Murnen, 2005). Due to fraternities and sororities being rich in tradition, members of these groups may hold a higher rape myth acceptance than nonaffiliated students.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study was to examine the relationship of the acceptance and attitudes toward rape myth and sexual assault among fraternity and sorority members and nonaffiliated students as well as the differences in acceptance between men and women. This study was intended to help administrators create sexual assault awareness programs at their institutions that could potentially be marketed to certain populations on campus.

Research Questions

The researcher sought to understand what relationship, if any, exists on the acceptance rate of the rape myth among members of Greek-lettered organizations as compared to their nonaffiliated peers as well as how men and women differ in their acceptance of rape myth. It was investigated by answering the following research questions:

RQ1: What are the differences between social fraternities and sororities and nonaffiliated students in their levels of rape myth acceptance?

RQ2: What are the differences between men and women in their levels of rape myth acceptance?

Hypotheses

The researcher's hypotheses were as follows:

Ho1: There will be a significant difference between fraternity and sorority members compared to nonaffiliated students in the acceptance of rape myth.

Ho2: There will be a significant difference between men and women in the acceptance of rape myth.

Significance

Through the research and findings of the above study, higher education administrators will be more aware of the need of sexual assault awareness prevention programs at their institution, specifically directed towards members of Greek-lettered organizations. This study will guide higher education administrators on what steps need to be taken to help reverse the attitudes and acceptance of the rape myth at their institution in general.

Limitations

There are a number of limitations within this study. The first limitation was that the nature of this survey and some of the survey questions may be a trigger to individuals participating in the research. Sexual assault can be a very traumatic experience for individuals. The informed consent listed contact information for the institution's counseling center as well as other resources on campus. The participant was also able to opt out of the survey at any time if they feel uncomfortable.

A second limitation that the researcher found was that there was a much higher percentage of women who took the survey than men. There was also a generally low response rate to the survey when sent out to students across campus. The researcher attempted to reduce these limitations by sending out reminder emails at weeks two and three. Participants may also have answered the survey question to what they think the researcher expects (negative rape myth beliefs) rather than answering what they truly believe. Participants may have also answered the survey in a set response, meaning that they just selected the same answer for all statements. This was combated by the researcher putting a reverse format question in the survey.

A third limitation that the researcher encountered is that during the time that the survey was active, the "Me Too" movement was becoming active in Hollywood and throughout the United States. The movement called out many celebrities and other high-profile individuals that had committed sexual assault or sexual harassment. The Harvey Weinstein case brought this movement to life when many celebrities accused him of sexual assault from when they worked with him on movies in the past.

During the time that data was being collected, it was a very turbulent time for fraternities at the institution. There were fraternities that were being suspended from campus for various reasons. This could have caused individuals that used to be affiliated with a fraternity to no longer identify as such, therefore they would not complete the survey or they would not disclose that they were affiliated with a fraternity.

Definitions of terms

Consent. The conscious agreement to participate in sexual activity without coercion or guilt (U.S. Department of Education).

Dear Colleague Letter. A letter sent from the United States Department of Education to all colleges and universities across the United States concerning sexual assault (U.S. Department of Education, 2011). A copy of the Dear Colleague Letter is included as Appendix D.

Fraternity. A fraternity represents, “a social organization of male students or alumni of a college or university, usually with a name consisting of Greek letters. This group has their own unique traditions, rituals, values, and practices” (Boeringer, 1996).

Greek-lettered organizations. For the current research, a Greek-lettered organization is defined as a social fraternity or sorority.

Non-affiliated student. For the current research, a non-affiliated student was be operationally defined as a student that is not affiliated with a social fraternity or sorority.

Rape Myth. Prejudicial, stereotyped, or false beliefs about rape, rape victims, and rapists. These stereotypes are often false and justify violence against women or rape victims in general. (McMahon, 2010).

Rape Myth Acceptance. The acceptance and attitudes towards rape myth. Often-times used as a measure in order to find if an individual blames the victim for their rape or sexual assault (McMahon, 2010).

Sexual Assault. Forced sexual contact, which many times includes attempted or completed rape (Franklin, 2016).

Sexual Harassment. Psychological experience based on a sexually unwanted, offensive, or threatening behavior (Topa, Morales, & Depolo, 2008)

Sexual Violence. any type of sexual contact or behavior that occurs without the explicit consent of the recipient (Champlin, Everbach, & Sarder, 2017).

Sorority. A sorority represents “a social organization of women students or alumni of a college or university usually with a name consisting of Greek letters. This is a national group which has local chapters at the university or college institution. This group has their own unique traditions, ceremonies, values, and practices (Strombler, 1994).

Title IX. Title IX and the Education Amendment of 1972 prohibits institutions and programs that receive federal money from discriminating against a person based on their sex. Title IX is used as an overarching rule on college campuses for sexual assault (Title IX, N.D.).

Summary

This chapter contains the introduction into the rape myth and fraternity and sorority life. It included the main research questions that the researcher used to interpret data. The researcher hypothesizes that social fraternity and sorority members will have a significant difference in their rape myth acceptance and attitudes than nonaffiliated

students. The second hypothesis states that social fraternities will have a significant difference in rape myth acceptance and attitudes compared to social sororities. The research questions and hypotheses are stated above and will guide the rest of this study. Chapter two will include a review of literature and theoretical framework. Chapter three will include the methods section of the study.

Chapter II

Review of Literature

This chapter contains a detailed review of literature. This review will contain an in-depth examination of past research conducted on sexual assault, rape myth, rape myth acceptance, social fraternities and sororities. I will also cover a few different prevention programs that colleges and universities are using in order to reduce rape myth acceptance on their campuses.

Sexual Assault

Sexual assault is a leading problem in higher education and has been a topic of research since the late 1980's. Sexual assault is defined as forced sexual contact, which often-times includes attempted or completed rape (Franklin, 2016). Research has suggested that one in five women will be sexually assaulted while they are enrolled in a college or university (Aizenman & Kelly, 1988; Shaw, 2016). Another leading study that came out of the 1980's is Koss's et al (1987) that was conducted on 6,159 students at 32 different institutions of higher education across the United States. Of the participants, 3,187 (51.7%) were women and 2,972 (48.3%) were men. The women reported higher levels of sexual assault on the questionnaire. Fourteen percent of the respondents had been victims of unwanted sexual advances and contact.

Studies on sexual assault and rape started appearing in the 1950's, when researchers believed that convicted rapists all had psychopathy (De River, 1950). The author of the book wanted individuals to know inside the mind of a "sexual psychopath". The author of the book, De River, had no formal psychological education, however he was the founder and director of the Sex Offence Bureau of the Los Angeles Police

Department. De River researched men who had been convicted of sexual assault and compared their personalities and mental states to nonoffenders. De River interviewed individuals that were convicted of rape and were put into jail. De River defined rape in six different ways, which included an individual being under the age of consent, when the individual is incapable due to lunacy, when the individual resists, when the individual is prevented from resisting by threats, when the individual is unconscious, when the individual believes that she is having sex with her husband, but she is really not (De River, 1950, pg. 41). The research found that there was not one personality trait that all of the offenders had that the nonoffenders did not have, however many of the offenders were found to be psychopaths. There was also at least four to five out of twelve individuals that were interviewed that had a sadistic characteristic (De River, 1950, pg. 57).

The first research to show a correlation between sexual assault and college campuses was conducted by Kirkpatrick and Kanin (1957). Their study included 291 women that were surveyed about their sexual experiences on their college campus. The men who were in the class were dismissed so that no woman may have felt pressured to answer a certain way. Of the participants, 55.7% of the women had reported that they had been offended (the term the researchers used for assaulted) at least once in the past academic year (Kirkpatrick & Kanin, 1957). The Sexual Experience Survey was created in 1987, after three decades of feminist psychology that had dominated sexual assault research (McDermott, Kilmartin, McKelvey & Kridel, 2015). The Sexual Experience Survey (SES) was created by Koss and her colleagues (1987) in order to assess sexual assault happening on college campuses. The SES asked questions of the participants to

assess sexual behaviors that one may have experienced or perpetrated against another person's will (Koss et al., 1987).

One component that counts a sexual experience as sexual assault or rape is if the perpetrator did not have consent to proceed with the act. Consent is the agreement to participate in sexual activity without coercion or guilt (U.S. Department of Education). Many universities have adopted an affirmative consent standard when it comes to their policy on sexual assault. Affirmative consent is the thought process that one can never just assume consent is given, and therefore consent needs to be expressed by both participants of the sexual activity (Napolitano, 2015). The state of California recently passed a law that requires all institutions in the state to adopt an affirmative consent standard. There are a few different ways that a person could not be giving consent when it comes to sexual activity, which includes saying "no", saying nothing at all, being asleep or unconscious, being under the influence of alcohol or drugs, being under the legal age of consent, or the person cannot consent due to a mental disability (U.S. Department of Education, 2011). An individual can also withdraw consent at any given time, and if the other participant keeps going or persists the individual into coercion, it then would be considered sexual assault.

With the use of the SES and other instruments developed by researchers, there have been a few different findings that many researchers believe may lead to one committing sexual assault. When a man views violent pornography, he is more likely to later attempt or commit sexual assault (Murnen & Kohlman, 2007). A widely held belief that many college students have is that alcohol increases their chances of having sex. Men who believe that drinking alcohol and buying their date alcohol increases their

chances of having sex have a higher rate of sexual assault (Abbey, 2011). Some individuals may believe that the person that they are taking on a date would owe them sex for the money that was spent (Porges & Peper, 2015). Unsurprisingly, individuals who have a higher acceptance of rape myth have a higher incidence of sexual assault (Murnen, Wright, & Kaluzny, 2002). Rape myth is the culturally constructed myths that many people believe causes sexual assault, such as blaming the victim on certain parts of their life as well as believing the perpetrator could not resist the urge and did not mean to commit the crime (Murnen, Wright, & Kaluzny, 2002). On the other hand, associating or being friends with others who also support the acceptance of the rape myth leads to higher rates of sexual assault perpetration. When a person believes that their peers endorse the rape myth, they are also more likely to commit sexual assault (Abbey, McAuslan, Zawacki, Clinton, & Buck, 2001; Swartout, 2013). Finally, a leading factor that may lead to future sexual assault is joining and living with a fraternity (Murnen & Kohlman, 2007).

When thinking about sexual assault, many individuals believe that there is a stranger in the night committing these acts or crimes. However, approximately 80% of sexual assault cases come from acquaintances, or someone that the victim knows (Tjaden & Thoennes, 1999). The acquaintance may use their relationship as a way to gain trust from their victim before they commit the sexual assault. The relationship that the two individuals have gained could potentially affect the chances of the victim reporting the sexual assault to authorities (Estrich, 1987).

Rape Myth/Rape Myth Acceptance

As stated before, the age group of women who are most likely to get sexually assaulted or raped are those between the ages of 16 to 24 (Lombardi & Jones, 2009). This means that many women who have recently graduated high school or entered college are more likely to be sexually assaulted. Rape myth acceptance has been linked to future sexual assault, mostly when a student is in college (Swartout, 2013).

Rape myth acceptance (RMA) is the stereotypes, prejudices, or false beliefs that relate to the violence forced upon women or any other individual who may have experienced sexual violence (McMahon, 2010). These false beliefs are often-times culturally constructed, or considered a social norm to justify sexual aggression of men against women or other individuals (Browniller, 1975). One quantitative study conducted by Aronowitz, Lambert, and Davidoff (2012) explored students' sexual knowledge, social norms about sexual behaviors, and rape myth acceptance. The researchers randomly selected first and second year students from the registrar's listserv to invite to participate in the study using a web-based questionnaire that was sent out via email. The survey had demographic questions, such as age, year of education, Greek affiliation, and major, as well as a Likert-type scale to measure social norms, and rape myth acceptance, while a multiple-choice test was used to assess sexual knowledge. On the multiple-choice section of the assessment, students were given one point for each question that they answered correctly. The higher the score, the more sexual knowledge the participant had.

The survey used a form of the Illinois Rape Myth Acceptance-Short Form (IRMA-SF) to assess rape myth acceptance among the students. Participants rated their agreement of statements on a 7-point Likert scale. The Illinois Rape Myth Acceptance-

Short Form has four different subcategories that all feed into general rape myth acceptance, which include disbelief of rape claims, the victim was responsible for rape, the rape reports are used as manipulation, and the rape only happens to certain kinds of women, such as prostitutes or promiscuous women. Another subcategory that is oftentimes used is that the man cannot help when he commits rape. The lowest score a person could get on the IRMA-SF was 17, while the highest was 119. Higher scores mean that that particular participant holds a higher rape myth acceptance. Only eight percent of the participants were involved in Greek life. Overall, the participants had a high sexual knowledge. Ninety-one percent of the participants believed that latex condoms were the safest way to prevent sexually transmitted diseases if one is sexually active. There were a few items that a high percentage of participants did not know, such as 44 percent did not know that gonorrhea and syphilis are curable. The researchers also found that the less sexual knowledge an individual participant had the more likely they were to accept the rape myth (Aronowitz, Lambert, & Davidoff, 2012). The researchers also found that males had a significantly higher rape myth acceptance than females. Of the participants, 41 percent of the sample believed that a woman is partly responsible for her rape if she is drunk, while 63 percent of the participants believed that it was okay for a man to push sex onto a woman if she were already making out with him (Aronowitz, Lambert, & Davidoff, 2012).

Rape culture is the thought that society accepts rape and sexual assault as “normal” (Gittos, 2015). Television, movies, jokes, and popular music perpetuate the stereotype that rape is socially acceptable, mostly when it is committed by men to women (Gittos, 2015). Due to rape culture, there are many instances where individuals believe

that rape is inevitable, specifically if women do not take steps to prevent the rape, which would feed directly into rape myth (Gittos, 2015). Rape myth and rape culture are also reinforced in the higher education setting (Adams-Curtis & Forbes, 2004). The high use of alcohol often plays into rape and sexual assault due to individuals not being able to consent, however the culture of colleges and universities encourage individuals to have sexual intercourse while they are intoxicated (Adams-Curtis & Forbes, 2004).

A study conducted in 2010 by McMahon that examined the rape myth beliefs of incoming college students. There were 2338 students that completed the survey, with 52% percent of participants being female. All incoming students at the university were required to go through a rape prevention program during a mandatory orientation session (McMahon, 2010). The survey was administered before the program to assess the rape myth acceptance of the first year students. The researchers administered the Illinois Rape Myth Acceptance-Short Form. The researchers also wanted to focus on the accountability of the rape and victim blaming. After analysis, it was found that first-year students had a significant amount of rape myth scale ($t=2.51$, $SD = .56$). The subscales were ranked from highest to lowest, which included *He didn't mean it* ($M = 2.81$, $SD = .82$); *she lied* ($M = 2.79$, $SD = .73$); *she asked for it* ($M = 2.76$, $SD = .77$); *alcohol* ($M = 2.13$, $SD = .76$); *and it wasn't really rape* ($M = 1.68$, $SD = .73$). Overall, men were more likely to have a higher rape myth acceptance than women. Those individuals that were pledging fraternities and sororities also had a higher rape myth acceptance rate. Also, as hypothesized, individuals with little to no rape education had a high rate of rape myth acceptance.

Title IX

Title IX and the Education Amendment of 1972 prohibits institutions and programs that receive federal money from discriminating against a person based on their sex (Title IX, n.d). In relation to sexual assault and rape, Title IX is the overarching rule over sexual violence on college campuses that requires the institution to hold an investigation and hearing if the survivor chooses. When the United States Department of Education released Title IX, there was confusion on what specifically federally funded institutions should do in order to reduce and eliminate discrimination based on sex. The research site and most institutions of higher education have an entire portion of their website dedicated to Title IX and what happens after an individual experiences sexual assault (U.S. Department of Education,2011). The first thing that university officials would do once a sexual assault is reported is to make sure that the victim is safe from harm and then would be given resources that they may need in the near future, such as counseling options. The web page also outlines what the investigation and hearing phase may look like if the victim chooses to file a report and go ahead with the process. Sexual assault and sexual violence cases are filed through the Office of Civil Rights the research site's campus as well as most other college and universities across the United States. The United States Department of Education also has an Office of Civil Rights, which prompts institutions to only take about 60 days to complete a Title IX investigation (Dudley, 2016).

Dear Colleague Letter

On April 4th, 2011, a Dear Colleague Letter was sent from the United States Department of Education to all colleges and universities across the United States

concerning sexual assault (U.S. Department of Education, 2011). The letter covered 19 pages of text and has footnotes to help individuals with certain laws and procedures. The letter begins by stating that all students enrolled in college have the right to an education that is free of discrimination, specifically sexual harassment (U.S. Department of Education, Paragraph Two, 2011). It also outlines that sexual violence is a type of sexual harassment and therefore is a form of discrimination against the student.

The U.S. Department of Education reminded school districts, colleges, and universities that Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 states that all institutions that receive federal financial assistance prohibit discrimination based on sex, including sexual harassment and violence, in education programs and activities provided by the institution (U.S. Department of Education, 2011). The letter then goes on to define sexual violence as the “physical sexual acts perpetrated against a person’s will or where a person is incapable of giving consent due to the victim’s use of drugs or alcohol” (U.S. Department of Education, 2011). Rape, sexual assault, sexual battery, and sexual coercion all fall within the category of sexual violence. The letter then states that the entire category falls under Title IX and therefore is a crime.

The letter then goes into statistics that have been cited multiple times in previous literature, such as one in five women will be sexually assaulted before they graduate college (U.S. Department of Education, 2011). The letter also claimed that individuals with intellectual disabilities also have a higher rate of being sexually assaulted. In the next paragraph, the letter explains that sexual harassment, including unwanted sexual advances and sexual assault can create a hostile environment in which students live, learn, and work (U.S. Department of Education, 2011). A hostile environment may be

detrimental to the productivity of the workplace or education. If a college or university knows about sexual harassment, including sexual violence, at their institution, they are required by Title IX to take immediate action against the individual that is creating the hostile environment. This requirement also still stands if the sexual violence occurred off campus or outside of a sanctioned function put on by the university (U.S. Department of Education, 2011).

Colleges and universities are required to publish a nondiscrimination clause and grievance procedures (U.S. Department of Education, 2011). Due to this requirement, employees of the universities are federally mandated to report any occurrences of sexual assault that students disclose to them. Colleges and universities are also required to train employees, including faculty, professional staff, and student staff, on how to recognize and identify sexual harassment and sexual violence as well as the steps to report it to the proper office or department. If there is a complaint or report filed with a college or university about sexual violence, the institution is required to process the complaint through outlined procedures that are published by the institution, whether the report is believed or not.

Although the first part of the letter is dedicated to the policies and laws that the United States Department of Education and Title IX outline, the second half of the letter is dedicated to steps that institutions can take in order to prevent sexual harassment and sexual violence on campuses. The Office of Civil Rights recommends that all institutions begin preventive education programs and make resources for victims, including counseling available (U.S. Department of Education, 2011). The preventive educational programs should be aimed towards new students, faculty, staff, and employees. The letter

also states that resident advisors (RAs) and athletic coaches should also have specific training that pertains to their position at the institution. Finally, the letter recommends that institutions should create materials, including flyers and pamphlets that outline the policies and resources for sexual violence that are able to be handed out by faculty and staff on campus.

In 2017, the current administration in federal government withdrew the Dear Colleague Letter due to a lack of due process for individuals who are accused of sexual assault. It is not yet known what this action will do to affect colleges and universities in their Title IX investigations. A copy of the Dear Colleague Letter is included as Appendix D.

Fraternities and Sororities

As stated in chapter one, fraternities and sororities have a history of rich values and traditions at colleges and universities across the United States. The Interfraternity Council (IFC) is the overarching council that oversees the 69 national and international fraternities across the United States and Canada (North American Interfraternity Conference, n.d). Institutions that have two or more fraternity chapters on campus are eligible to have an IFC chapter to help govern the fraternities on campus. The IFC creed states that the purpose of IFC is to promote shared values of all fraternities, which includes leadership, service, brotherhood, and scholarship (NIC Indy, para 3). Fraternity members try to foster their academic achievement by keeping each other accountable.

Generally, men have a higher rape myth acceptance than women (Rosenstein, 2015). There are theories that men and women believe in different myths and at different levels (Carroll, Rosenstein, Foubert, Clark, & Korenman, 2016). Fraternities (as well as

athletic teams) have also been found to encourage members to show aggression toward women that is associated with hypermasculinity (Mosher & Tomkins, 1988).

Hypermasculinity is the term that is used when there is an exaggeration of stereotypical male behavior. Hypermasculinity has been found to be a strong predictor of sexual assault and aggression (Carroll, Rosenstein, Foubert, Clark, & Korenman, 2016).

Sororities were founded during a time when it was still not widely accepted that women should be at institutions of higher education. Most of the time, the founding members of sororities had to meet in complete secrecy, as they would get chastised if they were found doing anything other than studying their academics or the Bible (National Panhellenic Conference, n.d). There are currently 26 national and international sororities that operate under the National Panhellenic Conference. The mission of the National Panhellenic Conference is “The National Panhellenic Conference is the premier advocacy and support organization for the advancement of the sorority experience” (National Panhellenic Conference, n.d, para 2). Today, many sororities aim toward advancing women who are in membership of the Greek-lettered organizations. However, sororities do have traditions that revolve around social norms, such as finding a suitable husband when they are paired with fraternities. Other norms that sororities may promote is women need to be feminine, beautiful, and dependent on a man (Franklin, 2008). Sorority women are also linked to higher rates of being victims of sexual aggression (Mohler-Kuo, Dowdall, Koss, & Wechsler, 2004).

One study collected samples from three different institutions, which included two military academies and one large, Midwestern university (Carroll, Rosenstein, Foubert, Clark, & Korenman, 2016). The researchers wanted to compare the differences between

fraternity men and male military recruits as well as sorority women and female military recruits. The participants completed the Illinois Rape Myth Acceptance-Short Form scale. When completing the survey, the participants answered 17 questions in a Likert-type scale format. When calculating results, the researchers calculated the percentage of participants that answered either “agree” or “strongly agree” on the survey. Most of the participants, both men and women had a general disagreement about rape myth in general. Overall, the men in both fraternities and in the military had a higher rape myth acceptance rate than the women who were participating in the study. Men also had more rape myths in general that they accepted, compared to women. The only rape myth that there was no significant difference was “If a woman is raped while she is drunk, she is at least somewhat responsible for letting things get out of control” (Carroll, Rosenstein, et al, 2016, pg. 6). Other statements that were accepted by the men in the study related to women not wearing enough clothing or that the woman lied about her sexual assault. There were three rape myths that received low levels of acceptance from both men and women, which included that nice men do not rape, that rape will not happen in a woman’s neighborhood, or that rape only involves the use of some type of weapon (Carroll, Rosenstein, et al, 2016). Overall, it was found that men in fraternities had the highest levels of rape myth acceptance than any other group, mostly when it came to the specific rape myth that generalizes that men do not mean to force sex on women, therefore sexual assault is a complete accident.

One stereotype that Greek-lettered organizations hold to the public eye is that these particular organizations consume more alcohol more than nonaffiliated students, therefore alcohol causes more sexual aggression (Frintner & Rubinson, 1993). Although

the rape myth would hold that a rape is the responsibility of both parties involved if alcohol is involved, many people believe this as a fact. There has been research conducted that directly ties sexual aggression to the consumption of alcohol (Kanin, 1984), however other research has shown that there was an indirect link among sexual aggression and the consumption of alcohol, by individuals believing that alcohol makes it easier to have sexual contact (Abbey, 1991). The indirect link also found that men who join fraternities are more likely to hold the assumptions that women are more likely to want to engage in sexual activity when they are intoxicated (Abbey, 1991).

The National Pan-Hellenic Council, Incorporated (NPHC) was established on May 10, 1930 at Howard University, a Historically Black institution (HBCU) (NPHCHQ.org). NPHC was established to create a council for the existing Greek-lettered fraternities and sororities primarily for African American individuals. The first fraternity that was created just for African American men is Alpha Phi Alpha, Fraternity Incorporated. It was founded at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York by seven men as a support and study group for students who were facing racial prejudice at the time. Although Alpha Phi Alpha was founded at Cornell University, most of the NPHC affiliated organizations were founded at Howard University (NPHCHQ.org).

In fraternities and sororities, there are three types of membership. The first type of membership is the new member period. This period is also sometimes called associate member period or pledging, depending on the Greek-lettered organization. New membership is the shortest membership status of an organization. It usually lasts a semester and is dedicated to getting to know the organization better and the history behind it. New members are expected to learn the rules, regulations, and policies of the

organization to prepare to be initiated. There are a number of different names for this first type of membership, including new members, associate members, or pledges (Martin & Hummer, 1989). Most of the time, particularly in IFC or PHC organizations, new members get what is known as a big brother or big sister, depending on the organization. Big brothers or big sisters are individuals who serve as mentors to the new member and get them socialized to the organization. (Martin & Hummer, 1989). Once a member is initiated, they become an active or collegiate member. Collegiate members are typically what individuals think of when they think of fraternities or sororities. These members are active in the chapter for usually up to four years. They recruit new members, plan socials, and hold philanthropy events. The final stage of membership is when a collegiate member becomes an alumni member. This usually happens when the member graduates from college, however can also happen if the member has to leave their institution for any reason. Alumni membership is the longest status, as it is the status that an individual takes on for the rest of their life.

There seem to be many critics of Greek-lettered organizations that claim fraternities and sororities only exist to perpetuate drinking culture at their university, however fraternities and sororities have a positive effect on their communities as well. Men that are initiated into fraternities are found to have a higher GPA than nonaffiliated men at the same institution (Bradshaw & Kahoe, 1967). Being in a Greek-lettered organization also provides many leadership skills and opportunities. Individuals can serve in committee, chair, or executive positions to gain leadership skills. These leadership skills that fraternity and sorority members can gain be transferable to the workplace after the student graduates, which may be why all but four United States Presidents since 1825

have been members of social fraternities (Glass, 2012). Members of Greek organizations also have a networking tool in their back pocket for when they are looking for jobs and careers once they graduate from college. Since fraternities and sororities have been around since the 1800's there are many alumni members who have gone to do amazing things and may be hiring in their field.

The national graduation rate for institutions of higher education is around 59% (National Center for Education Statistics). The graduation rate for fraternity and sorority membership is around 76% according to a study coordinated by the Office of Greek Life and Office of Institutional Research and Assessment at Auburn University.

Hypermasculinity

Research conducted by Martin and Hummer (1989) found that fraternities are mostly concerned with masculinity when it comes to all aspects of the organization. The researchers conducted qualitative research in which they interviewed members of fraternities and sororities as well as nonaffiliated members. When interviewing members of fraternities, they discussed that it was important to recruit men who are athletic and could be good in intramural sports as well as men who can hold their liquor (Martin & Hummer 1989). The members also discussed that they try to avoid having a wimpy or "gay" reputation on campus, specifically shying away from giving bids (the offer of membership) to men who are in traditionally women-dominated fields, such as nursing or education. They also more than likely would not give a bid to man if he had longer than normal hair or admittedly did not drink alcohol. These individuals could give the organization the reputation of being too feminine (Martin & Hummer, 1989).

The social skills of potential new members are also scrutinized during the time that an individual is trying to join a fraternity. One individual that was interviewed described that a man “must have the ability to relate to girls” (Martin & Hummer, 1989). This being said, most fraternities look for individuals with good personalities that will fit in with the rest of the membership of the organization. Some organizations will even go as far as to weed out individuals who are suspected of being gay (Martin & Hummer, 1989). This is because those individuals who may or may seem to be gay could cause the reputation of the fraternity to go down in relation to other fraternities.

Hypermasculinity is described as the phenomenon that prompts males to behave and think aggressively. Hypermasculinity also promotes men to act violently and to exert dominance in certain situations and environments (Ray & Rosow, 2009). In hypermasculine environments, men must act in an aggressive, tough, or dominant way and be the exact opposite of feminine (Mosher & Anderson, 1986). Hypermasculinity ties directly to sexual assault because men are encouraged by peers and society to be aggressive in their pursuit of women.

Theoretical Framework

Scripting theory describes that most of sexual behavior for both men and women are social norms for their specific sex or gender (Wiederman, 2005). The theory would go on to say what is and is not appropriate for individuals to do when they are being sexually active with another person. Rape myth acceptance would tie into the scripting theory, because it is a social norm for men to be sexually aggressive in the United States and most other countries.

Summary

The above chapter discussed the prevalence of sexual assault on college and university campuses across the nation, which includes statistics such as one in five women being sexually assaulted during their time at an institution of higher education (Aizenman & Kelly, 1988; Shaw, 2016). Rape myth acceptance are the stereotypes that blame the victim rather than the actual perpetrator (Aronowitz, Lambert, & Davidoff, 2012). Fraternities and sororities have many traditions that set them apart from other organizations across campus, however the hypermasculinity and social norms creates an environment in which fraternity men are more likely to accept the rape myth as well as more likely to commit sexual assault, while sorority women are more likely to be sexually assaulted than nonaffiliated women (Carroll, Rosenstein, Foubert, Clark, & Korenman, 2016). Chapter three will include the methods section of this study.

Chapter III

Methods

This chapter will outline the methodological procedures for this quantitative study. The chapter will include the design of the study, participants in the study, research site, data handling, and analysis. A quantitative approach will be used in order to obtain more generalized results to compare the two different groups, those affiliated with a social, Greek-lettered society and those that are not affiliated with a Greek-lettered society or organization.

Design of the Study

The design of this study is primarily focused towards undergraduate students at a rural, Midwestern university. This study attempted to find differences in rape myth acceptance between members of fraternities and sororities and nonaffiliated college students, as well as between men and women

The research questions for this study are as follows: RQ1: “What are the differences between social fraternities and sororities and nonaffiliated students in their levels of rape myth acceptance?” RQ2: “What are the differences between men and women in their levels of rape myth acceptance?” This research will include conducting *t* tests in order to find significance among the different groups of individuals, including men, women, and Greek affiliation. The questionnaire will include a list of closed-ended statements that the participants would answer in a Likert-type scale format, where answers would rank from “strongly agree” to “strongly disagree”. The questionnaire will include subcategories that are found on the Illinois Rape Myth Acceptance-Short Form (IRMA-SF) scale, which includes “she asked for it”; “he didn’t mean to”; “it wasn’t

really rape”; and “she lied”. Some of the statements on the survey will include “If a girl is raped while she is drunk, she is at least somewhat responsible for letting things get out of hand.” “When guys rape, it is usually because of their strong desire for sex”; “If a girl doesn’t physically resist sex—even if protesting verbally—it can’t be considered rape”; and “A lot of times, girls who say they were raped agreed to have sex and then regret it.” The full survey can be found in Appendix C.

Participants

The sample of this study will be comprised of undergraduate and graduate students at a mid-sized, Midwestern university. The sample was obtained by sending out the survey via the university registrar to 1000 undergraduate students via email. Only completed surveys were included in the analysis of data. The participants participated in the study on their own free will and there was no pressure involved to participate in the study. Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval was sought and approved before the instrument was given to the participants. The researcher collected 143 completed surveys. The demographic information of the 143 participants is shown in Table 3.1.

Table 3.1.
Participant Demographic Information and Frequency Statistics

Participants	Frequency	Percentage
Gender		
Male	25	13.7
Female	110	60.1
Other	3	1.6
Prefer not to answer	1	.5
Race/Ethnicity		
White	105	57.4
Black or African American	13	7.1
American Indian or Alaska Native	2	1.1
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	2	1.1
Other	14	7.7
Prefer not to answer	4	2.2
Year in school		
Freshmen	9	4.9
Sophomore	27	14.8
Junior	41	22.4
Senior	58	31.7
Graduate	5	2.7
Are you a member of a fraternity or sorority that is in the Panhellenic Council, Interfraternity Council, or National Pan-hellenic Council		
Yes	49	26.8
No	91	49.7
Have you now or have you ever lived in a fraternity's or sorority's housing?		
Yes	39	21.3
No	101	55.2

Research Site

The setting for this investigation was a mid-sized, rural, four-year, public, Midwestern university with a student population of 7,415 total students, with 5,957 undergraduate students and 1,458 graduate students. There were 3,407 men and 5,113 women enrolled at the institution. Of the total student population, more than 1000 students were affiliated with a fraternity or sorority in one of the three councils, Panhellenic Council (PHC), Interfraternity Council (IFC), and National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC). There are nine organizations (sororities) that are affiliated with the Panhellenic Council, ten organizations (fraternities) that are affiliated with the Interfraternity Council, and seven organizations (fraternities, sororities, and one co-ed fraternity) that are affiliated with the National Pan-Hellenic Council.

Instrument

Illinois Rape Myth Acceptance Scale. The instrument used in research was the Illinois Rape Myth Acceptance scale (IRMA) that was a Likert-type scale with closed-ended questions pertaining to rape myth acceptance and the subcategories, which include “she deserved it”; “he didn’t mean to”; “it wasn’t really rape” and “she lied”. The Likert scale has rankings from one (1) to seven (7), with one being “strongly disagree” and seven being “strongly agree”. When developing the IRMA, researchers kept validity in mind in order for other individuals to use the scale in the future (Payne, Lonsway, & Fitzgerald, 1999). The researchers attempted to use wording in the scale that all individuals are able to understand. They also had multiple studies within the one general study in order to measure construct validity. In order to measure reliability, the researchers used content weighing. Content weighing is making sure that each subscale

and the statements questions within the overall scale is measuring what it is supposed to measure to contribute to the overall reliability of the scale (Payne, Lonsway, & Fitzgerald, 1999). The Illinois Rape Myth scale was updated in 2011 in order to keep validity high. Subscales and statements were changed and updated in order for individuals to better understand what is being said.

Demographic Questionnaire. A number of demographic questions was asked, including class standing, race, gender, if the participant is affiliated with a Greek-lettered organization, and whether the participant had lived in fraternity or sorority housing. These demographic questions were given at the end of the questionnaire in order to avoid survey fatigue by participants. The questionnaire that participants took is included in Appendix B. The participants also read an informed consent form at the beginning of the questionnaire (Appendix A).

Reversed Format Question. In efforts to avoid response bias, the researcher reversed the order of one question and added it to the Illinois Rape Myth Acceptance scale. The statement was “A person has the right to withdraw consent at any point during sex,” which should have a higher score than the rest of the statements on the IRMA scale.

Data Collection

The questionnaires were distributed electronically during October and November 2017. The justification for this timeline is so that participants that may have been nonaffiliated with a fraternity or sorority at the beginning of the semester with the idea of joining a Greek-lettered organization may do so before they participate in the research. The survey was sent out via Qualtrics™ and was open for one month. The survey was

sent out on a Tuesday morning and there were two reminder emails on the two following Tuesdays, and the survey was closed on Friday.

Treatment of Data

The data was compiled into Qualtrics™, and did not ask for any personal identifying information. The information that was collected by Qualtrics™ was imported into Microsoft Excel and then imported into SPSS for further analysis. The Qualtrics™ survey was protected by the researcher's username and survey, therefore all data will be kept private. The data will be kept for three years and then destroyed in accordance to the institution's IRB policy.

Data Analysis

Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS™) was utilized for data analysis. SPSS™ was able to provide descriptive statistics for all of the demographic questions. An internal consistency reliability test was utilized to examine the reliability and validity of the instrument created by the researcher.

Summary

The study investigated rape myth acceptance in undergraduate and graduate students to see if there is a difference among fraternity and sorority members compared to their nonaffiliated counterparts. The data was collected by a Qualtrics™ survey that was sent out via email. The survey was compiled by questions from the Illinois Rape Myth Acceptance-Short Form (IRMA-SF) scale. The data was analyzed through SPSS™. A reliability test was conducted in SPSS™ in order to find the reality of the research instrument.

Chapter IV

Results

The study was conducted by collecting data on rape myth attitudes and acceptance by using the Illinois Rape Myth Acceptance (IRMA) scale to answer the research questions of this study. A t-test was conducted to test the two research questions: “What are the differences between social fraternities and sororities and nonaffiliated students in their levels of rape myth acceptance?” and “What are the differences between men and women in their levels of rape myth acceptance?” There were 143 valid responses from undergraduate and graduate students. Below are the findings for the two research questions and analysis of the data.

Descriptive Statistics

Descriptive statistics (means and standard deviations) were conducted on the data collected on the participants rape myth acceptance score based on the subscales of the Illinois Rape Myth Acceptance (IRMA) scale including, “*They asked for it*” (Table 4.1); “*He didn't mean to*” (Table 4.2); “*It wasn't really rape*” (Table 4.3); and “*She lied*.” (Table 4.4).”

Table 4.1. *Descriptive Statistics for the “They asked for it” subscale-Total Sample*

Subscale	Mean	Standard Deviation
If a person is raped while she is drunk, they are at least somewhat responsible for letting things get out of hand	1.77	1.390
When a person goes to parties wearing slutty clothes, they are asking for trouble	1.76	1.454
If a person goes to a room alone with someone at a party, it is their own fault if they are raped	1.51	1.178
If a person acts like a slut, eventually they are going to get into trouble	2.34	1.652
When a person gets raped, it’s often because the way they said “no” was unclear	1.94	1.403
If a person initiates kissing or hooking up, they should not be surprised if the other person assumes they want to have sex	2.56	1.828

Note. The overall mean for the “They asked for it” subscale was 1.98.

Table 4.2. *Descriptive Statistics for the “He didn’t mean to” subscale-Total Sample*

Statement	Mean	Standard Deviation
When guys rape, it is usually because of their strong desire for sex	3.01	1.749
Guys don’t usually intend to force sex on a girl, but sometimes they get too sexually carried away	2.81	1.778
Rape happens when a guy’s sex drive goes out of control	2.19	1.469
If a guy is drunk, he might rape someone unintentionally	2.79	1.873
It shouldn’t be considered rape if a guy is drunk and didn’t realize what he was doing	1.90	1.40
If both people are drunk, it can’t be rape	2.04	1.586

Note. The overall rape myth acceptance mean for the “He didn’t mean to” subscale was 2.46

Table 4.3. *Descriptive Statistics for the "It wasn't really rape" Subscale-Total Sample*

Statement	Mean	Standard Deviation
If a girl doesn't physically resist sex-even if protesting verbally-it can't be considered rape	1.51	1.267
If a person doesn't physically fight back, you can't really say it was rape	1.44	1.074
A rape probably doesn't happen if a person doesn't have any bruises or marks	1.34	1.044
If the accused "rapist" doesn't have a weapon, you really can't call it rape	1.29	1.010
If a person doesn't say "no," they can't claim rape	2.14	1.543

Note. The overall mean for the "It wasn't really rape" subscale was 1.544

Table 4.4. *Descriptive Statistics for the "She Lied" Subscale-Total Sample*

Statement	Mean	Standard Deviation
A lot of times, girls who say they were raped agreed to have sex and then regret it	2.85	1.734
Rape accusations are often used as a way of getting back at guys	2.59	1.70
A lot of times, girls who say they were raped often led this guy on and then had regrets	2.38	1.552
A lot of times girls who claim they were raped have emotional problems	2.69	1.863
Girls who are caught cheating on their boyfriends sometimes claim it was rape	2.93	1.802

Note. The overall Rape Myth Acceptance Score for the "She lied" subscale is 2.688.

RQ1: Descriptive Statistics**Table 4.5.** *Mean and Standard Deviation for Fraternities/Sororities Compared to Nonaffiliated Students on the “They asked for it” Subscale*

Statement		N	Mean	SD
If a person is raped while she is drunk, they are at least somewhat responsible for letting things get out of hand	Greek:	49	1.69	1.211
	Non-Greek:	90	1.81	1.483
When a person goes to parties wearing slutty clothes, they are asking for trouble	Greek:	49	1.67	1.360
	Non-Greek:	91	1.80	1.507
If a person goes to a room alone with someone at a party, it is their own fault if they are raped	Greek:	49	1.65	1.378
	Non-Greek:	91	1.44	1.056
If a person acts like a slut, eventually they are going to get into trouble	Greek:	49	2.24	1.601
	Non-Greek:	91	2.38	1.685

Note. The RMA score for Greek-lettered individuals on the “They asked for it” scale was 1.81, while the RMA score for the nonaffiliated students was 1.85.

Table 4.6. *Mean and Standard Deviation for Fraternities/Sororities Compared to Nonaffiliated Students on the "He didn't mean to" Subscale*

Statement		N	Mean	SD
When guys rape, it is usually because of their strong desire for sex	Greek:	49	3.00	1.696
	Non-Greek:	91	3.01	1.786
Guys don't usually intend to force sex on a girl, but sometimes they get too sexually carried away	Greek:	49	2.80	1.871
	Non-Greek:	91	2.82	1.736
Rape happens when a guy's sex drive goes out of control	Greek:	49	2.24	1.521
	Non-Greek:	91	2.16	1.447
If a guy is drunk, he might rape someone unintentionally	Greek:	49	2.57	1.893
	Non-Greek:	91	2.90	1.862
It shouldn't be considered rape if a guy is drunk and didn't realize what he was doing	Greek:	49	1.98	1.436
	Non-Greek:	91	1.86	1.387
If both people are drunk, it can't be rape	Greek:	49	1.94	1.405
	Non-Greek:	91	2.10	1.680

Note. The overall RMA mean for Greek-affiliated students on the "He didn't mean to" subscale was 2.42, while the mean of nonaffiliated students was 2.12.

Table 4.7. Mean and Standard Deviation for Fraternities/Sororities Compared to Nonaffiliated Students on the “It wasn’t really rape” subscale

Statement		N	Mean	SD
If a girl doesn’t physically resist sex-even if protesting verbally-it can’t be considered rape	Greek:	49	1.65	1.393
	Non-Greek:	91	1.43	.906
If a person doesn’t physically fight back, you can’t really say it was rape	Greek:	49	1.47	.915
	Non-Greek:	91	1.42	1.155
A rape probably doesn’t happen if a person doesn’t have any bruises or marks	Greek:	49	1.47	1.138
	Non-Greek:	91	1.27	.990
If the accused “rapist” doesn’t have a weapon, you really can’t call it rape	Greek:	49	1.43	1.242
	Non-Greek:	91	1.22	.858
If a person doesn’t say “no,” they can’t claim rape	Greek:	49	2.10	1.517
	Non-Greek:	91	2.16	1.565

Table 4.8. *Mean and Standard Deviation for Fraternities/Sororities on the "She lied" Subscale*

Statement		N	Mean	SD
A lot of times, girls who say they were raped agreed to have sex and then regret it	Greek:	49	3.00	1.952
	Non-Greek:	91	2.77	1.621
Rape accusations are often used as a way of getting back at guys	Greek:	49	2.63	1.641
	Non-Greek:	91	2.57	1.622
A lot of times, girls who say they were raped often led this guy on and then had regrets	Greek:	49	2.39	1.469
	Non-Greek:	91	2.37	1.480
A lot of times girls who claim they were raped have emotional problems	Greek:	49	2.73	1.520
	Non-Greek:	89	2.66	1.856
Girls who are caught cheating on their boyfriends sometimes claim it was rape	Greek:	49	3.22	1.739
	Non-Greek:	91	2.77	1.782

RQ2: Descriptive Statistics**Table 4.9.** Means and Standard Deviation for Gender on the “They asked for it” Subscale

Statement		N	Mean	SD
If a person is raped while she is drunk, they are at least somewhat responsible for letting things get out of hand	Male:	25	1.84	1.405
	Female:	109	1.62	1.216
When a person goes to parties wearing slutty clothes, they are asking for trouble	Male:	25	1.45	1.828
	Female:	110	2.52	1.080
If a person goes to a room alone with someone at a party, it is their own fault if they are raped	Male:	25	1.4	1.344
	Female:	110	1.37	1.057
If a person acts like a slut, eventually they are going to get into trouble	Male:	25	2.96	1.814
	Female:	110	2.06	1.454

When a person gets raped, it's often because the way they said "no" was unclear	Male:	25	2.12	1.333
	Female:	110	1.80	1.312
If a person initiates kissing or hooking up, they should not be surprised if the other person assumes they want to have sex	Male:	25	2.64	1.604
	Female:	110	2.41	1.793

Table 4.10. Means and SD for Gender on the "He Didn't Mean To" Subscale

Statement		N	Mean	SD
When guys rape, it is usually because of their strong desire for sex	Male:	25	2.56	1.583
	Female:	110	3.14	1.763
Guys don't usually intend to force sex on a girl, but sometimes they get too sexually carried away	Male:	25	2.88	1.764
	Female:	110	2.85	1.806
Rape happens when a guy's sex drive goes out of control	Male:	25	2.32	1.574
	Female:	110	2.18	1.473
If a guy is drunk, he might rape someone unintentionally	Male:	25	3.04	1.968
	Female:	110	2.68	1.807
It shouldn't be considered rape if a guy is drunk and didn't realize what he was doing	Male:	25	2.60	1.826
	Female:	110	1.63	1.048
If both people are drunk, it can't be rape	Male:	25	2.72	1.792
	Female:	110	1.75	1.294

Table 4.11. *Mean and Standard Deviation for Gender on the "It wasn't really rape" subscale*

Statement		N	Mean	SD
If a girl doesn't physically resist sex-even if protesting verbally-it can't be considered rape	Male:	25	1.76	1.393
	Female:	110	1.31	.906
If a person doesn't physically fight back, you can't really say it was rape	Male:	25	1.52	.714
	Female:	110	1.31	.916
A rape probably doesn't happen if a person doesn't have any bruises or marks	Male:	25	1.56	1.121
	Female:	110	1.20	.764
If the accused "rapist" doesn't have a weapon, you really can't call it rape	Male:	25	1.44	1.227
	Female:	110	1.17	.660
If a person doesn't say "no," they can't claim rape	Male:	25	2.72	1.621
	Female:	110	1.91	1.392

Table 4.12. *Mean and Standard Deviation for Gender on the "She lied" Subscale*

Statement		N	Mean	SD
A lot of times, girls who say they were raped agreed to have sex and then regret it	Male:	25	3.32	1.952
	Female:	110	2.66	1.621
Rape accusations are often used as a way of getting back at guys	Male:	25	2.88	1.641
	Female:	110	2.42	1.622
A lot of times, girls who say they were raped often led this guy on and then had regrets	Male:	25	2.64	1.469
	Female:	110	2.22	1.480
A lot of times girls who claim they were raped have emotional problems	Male:	25	2.68	1.520
	Female:	110	2.57	1.856
Girls who are caught cheating on their boyfriends sometimes claim it was rape	Male:	25	3.24	1.739
	Female:	110	2.79	1.782

When a person gets raped, it's often because the way they said "no" was unclear	Greek:	49	2.15	1.584
	Non-Greek:	91	1.84	1.293
If a person initiates kissing or hooking up, they should not be surprised if the other person assumes they want to have sex	Greek:	49	2.84	1.830
	Non-Greek:	91	2.42	1.820

Independent Samples *t*-Test

RQ1: What are the differences between social fraternities and sororities and nonaffiliated students in their levels of rape myth acceptance?

An independent samples *t*-test was conducted on the first research question: "Is there a significant difference between social fraternities and sororities and nonaffiliated students in their acceptance of rape myth?" The independent samples *t*-test was conducted on each of the statements outlined in the Illinois Rape Myth Acceptance (IRMA) scale. The researcher created tables based on the subscales of the IRMA, including "*They asked for it*" (Table 4.5); "*He didn't mean to*" (Table 4.6); "*It wasn't really rape*" (Table 4.7); and "*She lied*." (Table 4.8)".

The null hypothesis for the first research question was: There will not be a significant difference between fraternity and sorority members compared to nonaffiliated students in their levels of rape myth acceptance. Because there was only one statement

that was significant in measuring fraternity and sorority members compared to nonaffiliated students, the null hypothesis could not be rejected.

Table 4.13. *Independent Samples t-Test on the "They asked for it" subscale- Fraternities/Sororities compared to Nonaffiliated Students*

Statement	F	t	Sig (2-tailed)
If a person is raped while they are drunk, they are at least somewhat responsible for letting things get out of hand	1.011	-0.503	0.636
When a person goes to parties wearing slutty clothes, they are asking for trouble	.844	-.514	.608
If a person goes to a room alone with someone at a party, it is their own fault if they are raped	2.440	.945	.347
If a person acts like a slut, eventually they are going to get into trouble	.023	-.483	.630
When a person gets raped, it's often because the way they	1.444	1.169	.246

said “no” was unclear

If a person initiates kissing or hooking up, they should not be surprised if the other person assumes they want to have sex	.007	1.295	.198
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Note. None of the statements in this subscale had a significant difference.

Table 4.14. *Independent Samples t-test on the “He didn’t mean to” subscale-Fraternities/Sororities compared to Nonaffiliated Students*

Statement	F	T	Sig.
When guys rape, it is usually because of their strong desire for sex.	.883	-.035	.349
Guys don’t usually intend to force sex on a girl, but sometimes they get too sexually carried away.	.596	-.089	.442
Rape happens when a guy’s sex drive goes out of control.	.148	.307	.701
If a guy is drunk, he might rape someone unintentionally.	.122	-.993	.728
It shouldn’t be considered rape if a guy is drunk and didn’t	.058	.810	.492

realize what he
was doing.

If both people are drunk it can't be rape	4.00	-.568	.047
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Note. The statement "If both people are drunk, it can't be rape" was significantly different between individuals affiliated with fraternities/sororities and nonaffiliated students.

Table 4.15. *Independent Samples t-test on the “It wasn’t really rape” subscale- Fraternities/Sororities compared to Nonaffiliated Students*

Statement	F	t	Sig
If a girl doesn’t physically resist se-even if protesting verbally-it can’t be considered rape	1.406	1.00	.238
If a person doesn’t physically fight back, you can’t really say it was rape	.000	.271	.997
A rape probably doesn’t happen if a person doesn’t have any bruises or marks	2.043	1.053	.155
If the accused “rapist” doesn’t have a weapon, you really can’t call it rape	3.599	1.152	.060
If a person doesn’t say “no” she can’t claim rape	.047	-.229	.828

Note. None of the statements in this subscale had a significant difference.

Table 4.16. *Independent Samples t-Test on the “She lied” Subscale-Fraternities/Sororities compared to Nonaffiliated Students*

Statement	F	t	Sig
A lot of times, girls who say they were raped agreed to have sex and then regret it	1.924	.750	.168
Rape accusations are often used as a way of getting back at guys	.054	.203	.772
A lot of times, girls who say they were raped often led the guy on then had regrets	.546	.051	.461
A lot of times, girls who claim they were raped have emotional programs	.216	.216	.643
Girls who are caught cheating on their boyfriends sometimes claim it was rape	.208	1.431	.649

Note. None of the statements on this subscale had a significant difference.

RQ 2: What are the differences between men and women in their levels of rape myth acceptance?

An independent sample *t*-test was conducted on the second research question “Is there a significant difference between men and women in rape myth acceptance?” The independent samples *t*-test was conducted on each of the statements outlined in the Illinois Rape Myth Acceptance (IRMA) scale. The researcher created tables based on the subscales of the IRMA, including “They asked for it” (Table 4.9); “He didn’t mean to” (Table 4.10); “It wasn’t really rape” (Table 4.11); and “She lied. (Table 4.12).” Overall,

men had a higher rape myth acceptance with a mean of 2.445 ($M= 2.445$), while women had a mean rape myth acceptance of $M= 2.022$.

The null hypothesis for the second research question was: There will not be a significant difference between men and women in their levels of rape myth acceptance. Because there were only five statements that were significant in measuring men and women, the null hypothesis could not be rejected.

Table 4.17. *Independent Samples t-test for the “They asked for it” subscale-Gender*

Statement	F	t	Sig
If a person is raped while they are drunk, they are at least somewhat responsible for letting things get out of hand	.017	.778	.896
When a person goes to parties wearing slutty clothes, they are asking for trouble	16.252	3.884	.000
If a person goes to a room alone with someone at a party, it is their own fault if they are raped	3.096	1.893	.081
If a person acts like a slut, eventually they are going to get into trouble	1.729	2.652	.191
When a person gets raped, it’s often because the way they said “no” was unclear	.535	1.098	.395
If a person initiates kissing or hooking up, they should not be surprised if the other person assumes they want to have sex	.729	.592	.395

Note. The statement “When a person goes to parties wearing slutty clothes, they are asking for trouble” was significantly different between men and women. Women had a higher RMA for this one particular statement with a mean of 3.14 with a standard deviation of 1.763, while men had a mean of 2.56 with a standard deviation of 1.583.

Table 4.18. *Independent Samples t-Test on the "He didn't mean to" subscale-Gender*

Statement	F	t	Sig
When guys rape, it is usually because of their strong desire for sex	1.926	-1.52	.167
Guys don't usually intend to force sex on a girl, but sometimes they get too sexually carried away	.049	.064	.825
Rape happens when a guy's sex drive goes out of control	.364	.418	.548
If a guy is drunk, he might rape someone unintentionally	.022	.880	.882
It shouldn't be considered rape if a guy is drunk and didn't realize what he was doing	15.295	3.583	.000
If both people are drunk, it can't be rape	9.507	3.120	.002

Note. The statement "It shouldn't be considered rape if a guy is drunk and didn't realize what he was doing" was significantly different between men and women. The statement "If both people are drunk, it can't be rape" was also significant.

Table 4.19. *Independent Sample t-Test for the “It wasn’t really rape” subscale-Gender*

Statement	F	t	Sig
If a girl doesn’t physically resist sex-even if protesting verbally-it can’t be considered rape	3.328	2.012	.070
If a person doesn’t physically fight back, you can’t really say it was rape	.148	1.078	.701
A rape probably doesn’t happen if a person doesn’t have any bruises or marks	6.722	1.935	.011
If the accused “rapist” doesn’t have a weapon you really can’t call it rape.	6.027	1.561	.015
If a person doesn’t say “no” she can’t claim rape	1.017	2.549	.315

Note. The statement “A rape probably doesn’t happen if a person doesn’t have any bruises or marks,” was significantly different between men and women. The statement “If the accused ‘rapist’ doesn’t have a weapon you really can’t call it rape” was significantly different between men and women.

Table 4.20. *Independent Sample t-Test on the “They lied” Subscale-Gender*

Statement	F	t	Sig
A lot of times, girls who say they were raped agreed to have sex and then regret it	1.545	1.757	.216
Rape accusations are often used as a way of getting back at guys	.003	1.282	.954
A lot of times, girls who say they were raped often led the guy on and then had regrets	.034	1.288	.854
A lot of times, girls who claim they were raped have emotional problems	3.384	.265	.068
Girls who are caught cheating on their boyfriends sometimes claim it was rape	.130	1.142	.719

Note. None of the statements on this subscale had a significant difference.

Summary

This chapter examined the results of the rape myth acceptance of students at a mid-sized, Midwestern university. The mean rape myth acceptance of the participants were relatively low, with an overall mean of 2.168. There was one statement when measuring Greek-lettered organizations compared to nonaffiliated students that was significantly different, which was “If both individuals are drunk it is not considered rape”. There were five significant statements when comparing gender. Men had a higher rape myth acceptance on four statements, including “It shouldn’t be considered rape if a

guy is drunk and didn't realize what he was doing," "If both people are drunk, it can't be rape," "A rape probably doesn't happen if a person doesn't have any bruises or marks," and "If the accused 'rapist' doesn't have a weapon you really can't call it rape". Women had a higher rape myth acceptance score on the statement , "When a person goes to parties wearing slutty clothes, they are asking for trouble".

Chapter V

Discussion

This research was conducted to study rape myth acceptance in social fraternities and sororities compared to nonaffiliated students. In the previous chapter, data was analyzed to answer the research questions: “Is there a significant difference between social fraternities and sororities in rape myth acceptance compared to nonaffiliated students?” and “Is there a significant difference between men and women in rape myth acceptance?” In this chapter, the findings from this study will be presented and compared to the research findings in the literature review. To conclude this discussion of the findings and how it relates to others’ research, there will be a discussion of recommendations for student affairs professionals and further research.

RQ1: What are the differences between social fraternities and sororities and nonaffiliated students in their levels of rape myth acceptance?

Rape myth acceptance (RMA) is the collection of stereotypes, prejudices, or false beliefs that relate to the violence forced upon women or any other individual who may have experienced sexual violence (McMahon, 2010). Overall, the level of rape myth acceptance in the study was lower than expected. The means for the subscales of the Illinois Rape Myth Acceptance Scale for this study ranged from a mean of 1.54 (*It wasn't really rape*) to 2.68 (*She lied*). Although there was a relatively low rape myth acceptance among participants, there was still a number of participants that agreed with the different statements on the IRMA.

In the Independent Samples t-test conducted on individuals in Greek-lettered organizations compared to nonaffiliated students, only one statement had a significant

difference. The statement “*If both people are drunk, it can't be rape*” was significantly higher in fraternity/sorority affiliated individuals ($M=2.10$) compared to their unaffiliated peers ($M=1.94$). This may be due to fraternities generally consuming a higher amount of alcohol than nonaffiliated students (Frintner & Rubinson, 1993). This particular statement could be tied to sexual aggression and its direct ties to alcohol (Kanin, 1984). With alcohol being such a pivotal and controversial part of the image of fraternity and sorority life, this furthers the negative perception of fraternity and sorority members when alcohol and sex are directly linked to each other.

RQ2: What are the differences between men and women in their levels of rape myth acceptance?

There were more significant differences between men and women than among Greek-lettered individuals compared to nonaffiliated students. Men and women had significantly different mean scores on five of the statements, with four of the statements being significantly higher for men, while only one of the significantly different statements was rated higher by women. Men and women believe in different myths and at different levels (Carroll, Rosenstein, Foubert, Clark, & Korenman, 2016), and generally, men have a higher rape myth acceptance than women (Rosenstein, 2015).

The statement “*It shouldn't be considered rape if a guy is drunk and didn't realize what he was doing*” was significantly higher in men ($M=2.60$) than women (1.63). There has been a direct tie to sexual aggression in many men when they are drinking alcohol (Kanin, 1984), and although alcohol does decrease awareness, individuals typically do know what they are doing in the moment when they are drunk. Individuals may not remember what happened the previous night when they are intoxicated, however they

could still be aware of what they are doing in the moment which could be important in a student conduct or judiciary hearing.

The statement “*If both people are drunk, it can't be rape*” also had a significant difference among men ($M=2.72$) and women ($M=1.75$) with men's acceptance being higher than women's. Many individuals believe that they can obtain sexual contact easier when they consume alcohol, therefore it is not rape (Abbey, 1991). Other individuals believe that alcohol gives them more courage, which would make them believe that it is easier to have sex with an individual when they are intoxicated. This is reinforced with the direct correlation between alcohol and sexual aggression (Kanin, 1984). Another reason that this particular rape myth may be supported is that many individuals believe that if they take someone on a date or buy them a drink, that date now owes them sexual intercourse (Porges & Peper, 2015). Individuals may think that they are not committing sexual assault, even if the individual is under the influence, because they paid for a drink earlier in the night.

The statement “*A rape probably doesn't happen if a person doesn't have any bruises or marks*” was significantly higher in men ($M=1.56$) than women ($M=1.20$). This aligns with the stereotype that sexual assault and rape are only committed by strangers who leave physical marks of their crime (McMahon, 2010). Although this belief is false, many individuals believe that the only way to prove sexual assault is by having bruises on one's body, which would indicate that the woman fought back or violence was used during the interaction.

The statement “*If the accused "rapist" doesn't have a weapon you really can't call it rape*” was significantly different in men ($M=1.44$) and women ($M=1.17$) with men

having higher acceptance of this myth than women. This relates to the belief that rapists are only strangers to individuals, rather than most cases of sexual assault being acquaintance rape (McMahon, 2010). There is a general perception that when a woman does get raped, it is done violently by a stranger on the streets. While stranger rape does happen, it is much more common for someone to be raped by someone they know and potentially trust than a stranger (McMahon, 2010).

The final statement to be significant when testing for gender was "*When a person goes to parties wearing slutty clothes, they are asking for trouble*". This statement was surprisingly rated significantly higher by women (2.52) than men (1.45). This could be tied to individuals blaming the victim of sexual assault or rape for the crime that was committed against them (Murnen, Wright, & Kalvzny, 2002). Many women are taught from a young age that they are the only one that can prevent their own rape and are taught ways to prevent rape, including being told to dress modestly and not show too much skin. Individuals may believe that women are asking for their rape if they dress in "slutty" clothes because they did not take the steps to lower the chance of being raped.

With the prevalence of alcohol on college campuses, the belief that rape is perpetuated only by strangers, and general assumptions about the necessity for violence for rape to have occurred, students are vulnerable to situations that may result in those affected to not classify a non-consensual relationship as rape even though it may in fact meet the legal and institutional definitions. Greater education for both Greek and non-affiliated students regarding rape, consent, and the role of alcohol is needed for students to be safe and secure in their campus community.

Recommendations for Student Affairs Professionals

The first recommendation for student affairs professionals is to educate and familiarize themselves with the issues and concerns regarding rape myth acceptance so they are able to gauge the level of rape myth acceptance at their own institution. Being informed on this topic will allow for greater support of students in multiple settings including housing, student life, and student conduct.

Secondly, professionals can use that knowledge to create programs and educational services to combat the acceptance of common rape myths and potentially reduce the number of sexual assaults that occur. These programs should be directed towards both fraternity and sorority students as well as nonaffiliated students. Several campus offices including Orientation, Women's Centers, Health Services, and others could collaborate and combine educational resources to address these issues in addition to creating partnerships with Greek Life offices using Greek Life-specific language.

Third, student affairs professionals should create an educational activity for students to complete before they start their educational careers at an institution of higher education. This could range from anything from webinars, pre- and post-test IRMA completion in conjunction with an educational intervention, or role play activities during orientation covering topics such as sexual assault and sexual harassment for all genders and sexual orientations.

Lastly, student affairs professionals should not be afraid to have conversations with individuals on what is considered sexual assault and rape and be prepared to give resources to students who may have experienced sexual assault. In addition to university

employees being mandated reporters, they can also serve as a supportive resource for students, referring them to offices, such as the counseling center or the community sexual assault advocacy center. If a student decides to pursue judicial action, having a supportive staff member can make their experience with the process better.

Recommendations for Future Research

- Additional studies could be performed on additional campuses to determine a more representative evaluation of the student population's level of rape myth acceptance.
- This study could be replicated with specific attention to special populations that have a similar history of concern with sexual violence, such as athletics.
- This study could be conducted at different institution types (e.g. community college, major research, private liberal arts) to determine if there is a difference in levels of rape myth acceptance based upon institutional identity.
- This study could be replicated for schools in different geographical regions to identify any regional differences.
- The Illinois Rape Myth Acceptance Scale (IRMA) could be used as a pre- and post-test for evaluating educational interventions.

Conclusion

The researcher sought to determine if students that are affiliated with fraternities and sororities have a higher rape myth acceptance than nonaffiliated students. Although the rape myth acceptance score of all of the individuals that participated was relatively low, and while there was not enough data to determine whether there was a higher rape myth acceptance score in individuals that were in social fraternities and sororities than nonaffiliated students, nor any significant difference between men and women, there

were indications there some differences did exist. Student affairs professionals need to be aware of these issues and create preventive educational and interactive programming directed toward students regarding this topic. There also needs to be further research done to better understand rape myth acceptance in other areas of the university, such as athletics and other student organizations. Rape myths can be detrimental to both individuals that believe them and survivors of sexual assault. Regardless of whether it is the individual perpetrating the act that truly doesn't believe their actions are wrong, or the student who does not recognize the truth of their assault, students are potentially not being served and supported as much as they need to be. Professionals need to be both educated and aware to challenge these damaging societal norms.

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*Appendix A**Informed Consent***CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE IN RESEARCH****Sexual Knowledge in Undergraduate Students**

You are invited to participate in a research study conducted by Karissa Light from the Counseling and Student Development at Eastern Illinois University. Your participation in this study is entirely voluntary. Please ask questions about anything you do not understand, before deciding whether or not to participate.

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The purpose of this study is to understand attitudes regarding sexual assault among undergraduate students at Eastern Illinois University.

PROCEDURES

If you volunteer to participate in this study, you will be asked to:

1. Partake of the following questionnaire that will ask a series of questions in order to gauge your understanding of sexual knowledge
2. The questionnaire will take approximately 5-10 minutes and will be completely anonymous.
3. Following the questionnaire, the graduate students will compile the data and examine different understandings rape myth acceptance.
4. Please do not speak with your fellow students about the questionnaire as to all information you've expressed is confidential.

POTENTIAL RISKS AND DISCOMFORTS

The following questionnaire will ask questions about Gender, and questions of sexual nature. There may be some questions that describe sexual assault. If at any time you feel discomfort please express your concern to the Graduate students administering the questionnaire. The counseling center on campus has been notified about this research.

EIU Counseling Center

Human Services Building

Phone: (217) 581-3413

Hours: 8 AM- 4:30 PM

Sexual Assault Counseling and Information Service (SACIS)

1505 18th St Suite 2, Charleston, IL 61920

Phone: (217) 348-5033

Hours: 8 AM-5 PM

The Office of Student Standards, Deputy Title IX Coordinator

Dr. Heather Webb
MLK Jr. University Union-Lower Level
Phone: (217) 581-3827

POTENTIAL BENEFITS TO SUBJECTS AND/OR TO SOCIETY

The benefits that this study aims to help Eastern Illinois University administration to better understand the sexual knowledge that students have in order to better program for students.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Any information that is obtained in connection with this study and that can be identified with you will remain confidential and will be disclosed only with your permission or as required by law. Confidentiality will be maintained by means of keeping the research data in a closed envelope after the time of our study. Upon completion of our study the data and questionnaires will be placed in a shredder and tossed.

PARTICIPATION AND WITHDRAWAL

Participation in this research study is voluntary and not a requirement or a condition for being the recipient of benefits or services from Eastern Illinois University or any other organization sponsoring the research project. If you volunteer to be in this study, you may withdraw at any time without consequences of any kind or loss of benefits or services to which you are otherwise entitled.

There is no penalty if you withdraw from the study and you will not lose any benefits to which you are otherwise entitled.

IDENTIFICATION OF INVESTIGATORS

If you have any questions or concerns about this research, please contact:

Lead Researcher:

Karissa Light
(812)605-3479
Eastern Illinois University

Faculty Sponsor:

Dr. Jon Coleman
(217) 581-7240
Eastern Illinois University

RIGHTS OF RESEARCH SUBJECTS

If you have any questions or concerns about the treatment of human participants in this study, you may call or write:

Institutional Review Board

Eastern Illinois University
600 Lincoln Ave.
Charleston, IL 61920
Telephone: (217) 581-8576
E-mail: eiuirb@www.eiu.edu

You will be given the opportunity to discuss any questions about your rights as a research subject with a member of the IRB. The IRB is an independent committee composed of members of the University community, as well as lay members of the community not connected with EIU. The IRB has reviewed and approved this study.

*Appendix B**Sample Questionnaire*

Rate each statement on a scale of one to seven, which one being “strongly disagree” and seven being “strongly agree”.

1. If a person is raped while they are drunk, they are at least somewhat responsible for letting things get out of hand.
2. When a person goes to parties wearing slutty clothes, they are asking for trouble.
3. If a person goes to a room alone with someone at a party, it is their own fault if they are raped.
4. If a person acts like a slut, eventually they are going to get into trouble.
5. When a person gets raped, it’s often because the way they said “no” was unclear.
6. If a person initiates kissing or hooking up, they should not be surprised if the other person assumes they want to have sex.
7. When guys rape, it is usually because of their strong desire for sex.
8. Guys don’t usually intend to force sex on a girl, but sometimes they get too sexually carried away.
9. A person has the right to withdraw consent at any point during sex.
10. Rape happens when a guy’s sex drive goes out of control.
11. If a guy is drunk, he might rape someone unintentionally.
12. It shouldn’t be considered rape if a guy is drunk and didn’t realize what he was doing.
13. If both people are drunk, it can’t be rape.
14. If a girl doesn’t physically resist sex—even if protesting verbally—it can’t be considered rape.
15. If a person doesn’t physically fight back, you can’t really say it was rape.
16. A rape probably doesn’t happen if a person doesn’t have any ab or marks.
17. If the accused “rapist” doesn’t have a weapon, you really can’t call it rape.
18. If a person doesn’t say “no” she can’t claim rape.
19. A lot of times, girls who say they were raped agreed to have sex and then regret it.
20. Rape accusations are often used as a way of getting back at guys.

21. A lot of times, girls who say they were raped often led the guy on and then had regrets.
22. A lot of times, girls who claim they were raped have emotional problems.
23. Girls who are caught cheating on their boyfriends sometimes claim it was rape.

Demographic Questions

1. What is your gender?
2. Are you a member of a fraternity or sorority that is in the Panhellenic Council, Interfraternity Council, or National Pan-hellenic Council?
3. Have you now or have you ever lived in your fraternity's or sorority's housing?
4. What is your race/ethnicity?
5. What is your class standing?

*Appendix C**Email Communication to Potential Participants*Initial email

Good Morning,

You are invited to participate in a survey that is being conducted at Eastern Illinois University regarding sexual assault by Karissa Light, a graduate student in the College Student Affairs program. This survey is completely voluntary and you may withdraw consent at any time. The following resources have been made available if you have felt any discomfort at any time during the duration of this survey:

EIU Counseling Center
Human Services Building
Phone: (217) 581-3413
Hours: 8 AM- 4:30 PM

Sexual Assault Counseling and Information Service (SACIS)
1505 18th St Suite 2, Charleston, IL 61920
Phone: (217) 348-5033
Hours: 8 AM-5 PM

The Office of Student Standards, Deputy Title IX Coordinator
Dr. Heather Webb
MLK Jr. University Union-Lower Level
Phone: (217) 581-3827

Thank you,

Karissa Light, Candidate M.S. in College Student Affairs

Follow-up email #1

Hello,

This is a reminder that you have been invited to participate in a research study regarding sexual assault at Eastern Illinois University. The survey will be closing in one week.

Thank you,

Karissa Light, Candidate M.S. in College Student Affairs

Follow-up #2

Hello,

This is your final reminder that you have been invited to participate in a research study regarding sexual assault. This survey will close this Friday at 5 PM.

Thank you,

Karissa Light, Candidate M.S. in College Student Affairs