

WHAT WERE THEY THINKING?  
COLLEGE MEN'S THOUGHTS THAT FACILITATE SEXUAL COERCION

BY

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### Abstract

Researchers have recognized the need to increase understanding of sexually coercive college men. The current exploratory study examines sexually coercive men's written descriptions of their experience in situations when they wanted to have sex with a woman and she did not agree to it. We compared each man's descriptions of a situation involving coercion to their description of a situation in which they used less coercion, by comparison. 57 male undergraduates at a large Midwestern University participated in a self-report open-ended questionnaire. Results indicated that differences between situations existed on a variety of situational and cognitive factors. Differences suggest that men believe that their desire to obtain sexual pleasure motivated them to engage in sexual coercion.

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## What Were They Thinking?

### College Men's Thoughts That Facilitate Sexual Coercion

Rape and other forms of sexual coercion affect a substantial percentage of college women (Kirkpatrick & Kanin, 1957; Kanin & Parcell, 1977; Muehlenhard & Linton, 1987; Koss, Gidycz, & Wisniewski, 1987). In a nationally representative sample of over 6,000 college students' sexual experiences since age 14, over half of the women reported experiencing some form of sexual coercion and 15% of women reported experiencing completed acquaintance rape (Koss, Gidycz, & Wisniewski, 1987). Similar victimization prevalence rates have been reported in other studies (Abbey et al., 1996a; Copenhaver & Grauerholz, 1991; Humphrey & White, 2000; Mills & Granoff, 1992; Tjaden & Thoennes, 2000) and it has been suggested that prevalence rates have remained consistent since the 1990s (Basile, Chen, Black, & Saltzman, 2007).

Although such prevalence rates remain high, scientific understanding of sexually coercive college men has grown immensely since the 1980s. Much of this information was found by comparing men who reported having engaged in coercive sexual behaviors and men who reported never having been sexually coercive (for a review, see Adams-Curtis & Forbes, 2004). For example, research comparing the backgrounds of sexually coercive men and noncoercive men has identified differences in childhood experiences (e.g., sexually coercive men are more likely than noncoercive men to have experienced child abuse).

Such research, however, provides limited insight into what actually happens during sexually coercive situations and limited information about intervention programs that might reduce the incidence of rape and sexual coercion. In situations in which men are sexually

coercive, what were their thoughts about having sex with a woman who had expressed not being agreeable to it? Why did they continue their sexual advances? How did this situation differ from situations in which they stopped their sexual advances after she expressed lack of willingness? Knowing the answers to such questions might provide researchers with additional clues about why some men are sexually coercive and about what interventions might reduce the risk of sexual coercion. The purpose of the present study was to address these questions.

The following section is a brief literature review of factors found to be associated with sexual coercion. These findings are organized within Finkelhor's (1984) Four-Preconditions Model of Sexual Abuse. Finkelhor's model suggests that for sexual abuse to occur, four preconditions must occur: (a) the perpetrator must be motivated to sexually abuse, (b) the perpetrator must overcome internal inhibitors, (c) the perpetrator must overcome external inhibitors, and, (d) the perpetrator must overcome the resistance of the victim. Although Finkelhor developed this model to understand the conditions necessary for child sexual abuse to occur, this model has also been used to conceptualize the conditions necessary for rape to occur (Russell, 1993).

### **A Motivation To Engage In The Act**

According to Finkelhor's (1984) model, a perpetrator must be motivated to engage in the act. Some researchers have found evidence about men's motivations to rape. Research suggests that rape is often motivated by the perpetrator's desire to have sex. Kanin (1985) examined differences between 71 male undergraduate students who "voluntarily presented themselves as possible rapists" (p. 221) and 227 male, heterosexual, unmarried undergraduates. He found that significantly more rapists (79%) than comparison group participants (32%) reported dissatisfaction with the frequency of their sexual activity in the past year, even though the rapists

engaged in sex acts with a partner significantly more often than the controls. This, among other findings, led Kanin to conclude that the men who commit rape experience a hypersexual socialization process that creates exaggerated aspiration levels for sex. Kanin speculated that these hypothetically high aspiration levels for sex create levels of sexual frustration high enough that “the inability to achieve sexual success can, on a select occasion, result in an expression of violence sufficient to achieve rape” (p. 224).

Additionally, Russell (1982; 1990) suggested that rape can be a means of obtaining sex that is used when consensual sex is not accessible. After interviewing 930 women about rape in marriage, she formulated a typology of husbands who rape their wives. One variant was described as, “husbands who would prefer consensual sex with their wives, but who are willing to rape (or try to rape) them when their sexual advances are refused” (Russell, 1982, p. 133). Scully and Marolla (1983) also found supporting evidence from interviews with 114 incarcerated rapists; some men reported having felt entitled to sexual pleasure even if they had to use violence to obtain it.

Researchers have also found support for the idea that the motivation to rape is rooted in the desire to hurt the victim. There is ample evidence that rape can be used as a tactic of violence during wartime (Farwell, 2004; Milillo, 2006). Some scholars have identified a type of rapist called an “anger rapist” in empirical studies investigating the motivations of incarcerated rapists (Douglas, Burgess, Burgess, & Ressler, 2006; Polaschek & Ward, 2002; Pardue & Arrigo, 2008). Anger rapists are characterized by their intent to physically harm, humiliate, and degrade their victims (Palermo & Kocsis, 2005) and to engage in rape to express or release anger.

Evidence has also been found that some rapes are motivated by the desire to dominate and control the victim (Graney & Arrigo, 2002). Groth and Birnbaum (1979) suggested that



“power rapists” exercise strength, authority and control over their victims to reduce their feelings of inadequacy and assert their masculinity. This category of rapists has been further conceptualized as those who only use the coercion or physical violence necessary to force victims into intercourse (Shiple & Arrigo, 2007). One study of undergraduates found that having dominance as a motive for sexual acts was predictive of sexually aggressive behavior (Malamuth, 1986).

### **Overcoming Internal Inhibitors**

Another precondition in Finkelhor’s (1984) model is that a perpetrator must overcome any internal inhibitors that would prevent him from going through with the act. One way sexually coercive men may overcome internal inhibitors is by drinking alcohol. Approximately half of sexual assault perpetrators have reported consuming alcohol before or during an assault (for a review see Testa, 2002). The level of intoxication of the perpetrator has been shown to be associated with the occurrence and the severity of a sexual assault (Muehlenhard & Linton, 1987; Parkhill, Abbey, & Jacques-Tiura, 2009). Muehlenhard and Linton (1987) found that participants’ dates that involved sexual aggression, compared with their most recent dates, were more likely to involve heavy alcohol or drug use by the perpetrator. Perpetrators’ increased consumption of alcohol may be associated with an increase in the severity of the sexual assault because the pharmacological or expectancy effects of alcohol may lower internal inhibitions about committing the assault.

Another way sexually coercive men may overcome internal inhibitors is by decreasing a feeling of responsibility for their behavior. For example, a perpetrator may feel reduced responsibility for the assault by conceptualizing his actions as being dictated by alcohol intoxication. Scully and Marolla (1983) found that 77% of the incarcerated rapists who admitted

to rape reported that their alcohol consumption either affected their behavior or was the sole cause of their behavior. Similarly, Kanin (1984) reported that 62% of rapists in his college sample said they had committed rape because of their alcohol consumption. George and Marlatt (1986) suggested that consuming alcohol was used by some of his college participants as justification for engaging in deviant sexual behavior because “behaviors performed under the influence of alcohol are expected to be judged less harshly by the self and perceived less seriously by others” (p. 157).

Other studies have suggested that perpetrators feel “led on” by their victims (Goodchilds & Zellman, 1984; Muehlenhard & Linton, 1987; Ward, Hudson, Johnston, & Marshall, 1997) and use this as a means of justifying sexual assault. Kanin (1985) found that 81% of rapists, compared with 40% of nonrapists, believed that their reputations would be enhanced if their best friends found out that they had raped a “known teaser,” possibly suggesting that they regard rape as justified with certain women. Some rapists in Scully and Marolla’s (1983) study depicted their victim as culpable for the rape because the victim had made some sexual advances or was a seductress who lured them into sexual activity. Therefore, perpetrators may choose to believe that nonconsenting women who desire sex deserve to be raped because this belief serves to reduce their internal inhibition against engaging in sexual coercion or rape.

### **Overcoming External Inhibitors**

According to Finkelhor’s (1984) model, perpetrators must also overcome external inhibitors that would prevent them from committing rape. Private places are repeatedly shown to be more likely settings for rape than are public places (Miller & Marshall, 1987; Muehlenhard & Linton, 1987; Mynatt & Allgeier, 1990). For example, Miller and Marshall (1987) found that 75% of reported coercive incidents occurred in private living areas such as a home, apartment,

fraternity house, or residence hall. Such findings may suggest that rape is more likely to be completed when the perpetrator and victim are alone together. However, the findings could be accounted for by a more complicated effect. Researchers have found evidence that a woman's going to a man's house when nobody is home (Goodchilds & Zellman, 1984) or going to a man's apartment (Muehlenhard et al., 1985) may be assumed to mean that she wants sex. It may be that some men feel encouraged to try to engage in sex when they feel more in control of their surroundings or when they perceive women to be more willing to have sex than they actually are.

Rape perpetrators may face relatively few external inhibitors because sexual coercion often goes unpunished. In Koss and colleagues' (1987) study, only 5% of the female victims of completed or attempted rape reported it to the police, 42% of the victims never told anyone about their experience, and none of the coercive men were incarcerated. Current statistics of 130 colleges and universities given federal grants to aid campus sexual assault prevention suggest that college perpetrators rarely (10-25% of the time) are expelled from their school when they are found to be responsible for assault by the disciplinary system within the school (CPI, 2003).

### **Overcoming the Victim's Resistance**

The fourth precondition in Finkelhor's (1984) model is that the perpetrator must overcome the victim's resistance. Sexually coercive men use numerous methods to obtain intercourse from unwilling women. Men often overcome their victims' verbal or nonverbal objections by intentionally or unintentionally ignoring them. Muehlenhard and Linton (1987) found that over half (64%) of the men who reported being involved in sexual intercourse against a woman's will reported that they "just did it, even after she said no" (p. 190). Another method to overcome the victim's resistance is by targeting women who are perceived to be less likely to resist. For example, research suggests that perpetrators target women who have been drinking

(Abbey et al., 2004). Kanin (1985) reported that 76% of rapists admitted to intoxicating a woman with alcohol to have sex with her.

### **Limitations of Current Research**

Situational factors associated with sexual assault have been reviewed above. For example, sexual coercion is more likely to occur when the perpetrator and victim are drinking alcohol, the woman has agreed to some level of consensual sexual activity and then refused intercourse, and the perpetrator misperceives the victim's willingness to engage in sex (Abbey & McAuslan, 2004). However, to our knowledge, no published study has investigated how perpetrators' thoughts about a sexual encounter are related to their use of sexual coercion.

One unpublished study did investigate this question. McCoy and Muehlenhard (1991) measured 398 college men's self-statements in three sexual situations. Men were asked about situations in which they had "made a sexual advance toward a woman with whom they'd never had sexual intercourse," and she had "indicated (either physically or verbally) that she did not want to have sex" (p. 1). The three situations varied in whether the man then (a) stopped making sexual advances (the Stop situation), (b) made additional sexual advances but "for some reason the two did not engage in sexual intercourse at the time" (the Continue situation; p. 1), or (c) made "additional advances, and even though the woman did not indicate physically or verbally that she wanted to have sex, the two engaged in sexual intercourse" (the Rape situation; p. 1). Men answered questions about each situation they had been in, indicating to what extent 66 self-statements, derived from a pilot study, were important to them immediately after the woman refused intercourse. Each self-statement was rated on a scale from *didn't occur to me at all* (0) to *was very important to me* (3).

The men were divided into three groups. The Rape group (16.2%,  $n = 63$ ) comprised all the men who had reported being in the Rape situation. The Continue group (39.9%,  $n = 155$ ) included those who reported being in the Continue situation but not the Rape situation. The Stop group (29.6%,  $n = 115$ ) consisted of the men who had only been in the Stop situation. Men only in one situation were compared using between-subjects analyses of variance (ANOVA). Men who had been in more than one situation were compared using three separate within-subject analyses (i.e., MANOVAs). Findings revealed that men in the Stop group were more likely to know the woman well than were the men in the Rape group or men in the Continue group. The researchers also found that men in the Rape group were significantly more intoxicated than the men in the Stop group, and that men in both the Rape group and the Continue group described their partners as more intoxicated or affected by alcohol than the men did in the Stop group.

There were corresponding significant differences in the ways self-statements were rated both between and within subjects. As compared with the self-statements rated as important by the Rape group, the statements rated as important by the Stop group reflected willingness to do what the woman wanted in the situation, concern with hurting their romantic relationship or friendship, and respect for her wish to remain a virgin. All three groups rated their partners as indicating “no” with approximately equal strength, but the Stop group was more likely to believe the woman meant it when she said “no.” Men in the Continue group rated the self-statements that they “wanted to have sex, but not bad enough to force her” (p. 3), and that they did not engage in intercourse because their partner said “no” again when they continued advances as more important than the other groups. The self-statements rated as important to men in the Rape group reflected that they were more focused on their own sexual arousal in the situation, perceived that the woman wanted to have sex, did not perceive the woman as being honest when she said “no,”

and viewed the woman as responsible for stopping his sexual advances. The self-statements rated as important by participants in the Rape group also reflected the perception (likely based on experience) that if a woman says “no” to sex, all a man has to do to get her to engage in sex is to get her sexually aroused or get her more intoxicated.

### **The Present Study**

The purpose of the present study was to explore the thoughts men reported having when they tried to have sex with a woman and she refused. We were especially interested in men’s thoughts during situations similar to those used by McCoy and Muehlenhard (1991). Our goal was to use this information to speculate on college men’s motivation to exert pressure on the woman in order to have sex with her. The rationale for this study was to gain insight into how men think about and describe such behavior as acceptable so that such information might be used to improve college rape prevention programs.

### **Method**

#### **Participants**

The initial sample consisted of 130 male students enrolled in an introductory psychology class at a large Midwestern university. Participants received class credit for participation and were recruited through an online course website that did not mention the topic of the study. Four international students were excluded because of our focus on United States culture. Six men were excluded because their questionnaires were incomplete. Useable questionnaires were obtained from 120 men. The percentages of participants who reported having been in each situation are presented in Table 1.

Because this study involved within-subject comparisons of men’s experiences in different situations, the final sample consisted of the 57 men who had been in more than one of the

situations. Of the 56 men who answered the demographics questions at the end of the questionnaire, the mean age was 19.65 years ( $SD = 1.42$ ; range = 18-25). Data on respondents' race or ethnicity and sexual orientation are presented in Table 2. Most participants identified as European American or White (80%;  $n = 45$ ) and as heterosexual (98%,  $n = 55$ ). All men indicated having had penile-vaginal sex at least once in their life (100%,  $n = 56$ ). Less than a fourth of the sample indicated being a member of a fraternity (21%,  $n = 12$ ), and less than half of the men reported being a current member of an all-male sports team (41%,  $n = 23$ ).

Table 1

*Initial Sample Prevalence of Experience Related to Each Situation (N = 120)*

Situation	Yes		Similar		No	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Stop	88	73	14	12	18	15
Continue	61	51	31	26	28	23
Coercion	22	18	27	23	71	59

*Note.*  $N = 120$ , the number of participants who turned in completed questionnaires. Table entries are numbers and percentages of men giving each response. Rows sum to 100%, but columns do not because men could report having been in more than one situation.



Table 2

*Sample Characteristics*

Characteristic	<i>n</i>	%
<b>Race or ethnicity</b>		
African-American/Black	2	4
Asian American	1	2
European American/White	45	79
Hispanic-American/Latino	1	2
Native American/American Indian	1	2
Biracial/multiracial	5	9
Other	1	2
No answer	1	2
<b>Sexual orientation</b>		
Heterosexual	55	96
Bisexual	1	2
No answer	1	2

*Note.* Table entries are the *ns* and percentages of participants giving each response. These data are based on the final sample ( $n = 57$ ). Percentages do not sum to 100% because of rounding error.

## Questionnaire

Participants completed a four-part questionnaire (see Appendix A). For the first three parts of the questionnaire, participants answered questions about three situations in which they had made a sexual advance toward a woman with whom they were trying to have intercourse. In each situation, the woman indicated either verbally or nonverbally that she did not want to have sex. The three situations varied in that, following the woman's signal of refusal, the man (a) stopped making sexual advances (the Stop situation), (b) made additional sexual advances, but for some reason did not have sex with her at that time (the Continue situation), or (c) made additional advances and then had sex with the woman, even though she never signaled that she was agreeable to it (the Rape situation). On the questionnaire, the Continue situation was first, the Coercion situation was second, and the Stop situation was third; we arranged them in this sequence to avoid placing them in order of increasing coerciveness.

The Stop situation was defined as the following:

- (1) You tried to get a girl to have sex with you.
- (2) She signaled, either verbally or nonverbally, that she was not agreeable to it.
- (3) You did not make any additional sexual advances.

There were 15 follow-up questions about this situation. Most of the questions were common across the three situations: for example, "How did you know the girl/what was your relationship to her at the time?," "What happened during the situation?," "What did you do to try to get her to have sex with you?," and "How did she signal that she was not agreeable to sex?" One item was specific to the Stop situation: "What were your reasons for stopping to make sexual advances after she signaled she was not agreeable to sex?"

The Continue situation was defined as the following:

- (1) You tried to get a girl to have sex with you.
- (2) She signaled, either verbally or nonverbally, that she was not agreeable to it.
- (3) You made additional sexual advances,
- (4) but for some reason you did not engage in sex with her at that time.

There were 18 follow-up questions about this situation. One item was specific to this situation: “Why didn’t you engage in sexual intercourse with her after you made additional sexual advances/why did you eventually stop making advances?” Another item was specific to this situation and the Coercion situation (below): “What would have happened if you had stopped making sexual advances immediately after she signaled that she was not agreeable to sex?”

The Coercion situation was defined as the following:

- (1) You tried to get a girl to have sex with you.
- (2) She signaled, either verbally or nonverbally, that she was not agreeable to it.
- (3) You made additional sexual advances,
- (4) and then you did have sex with her (even though she never signaled that she was agreeable).

There were 18 follow-up questions about this situation. Two questions were specific to this situation: “What were your reasons for having sex with her after she signaled that she was not agreeable to sex?” and “What thoughts were going through your mind while you were having sex with her?”

For each situation, respondents were asked to use a checkmark to indicate whether (a) they had been in the situation, (b) they had not been in this exact situation but had been in a similar situation, or (c) they had never been in the situation or anything close to it. If they had been in the situation, they were instructed to answer the follow-up questions thinking of that

experience. If they had been in the situation more than once, they were instructed to answer the questions according to their most memorable experience with the situation. If they had not been in the situation but had been in a similar situation, they were instructed to answer the follow-up questions thinking of that similar experience; our rationale for asking about similar situations was to identify false negatives—men who had been in the situation but who did not think that it was close enough to check the yes option. If participants had not been in the situation or a similar situation, they were instructed to answer the questions the way someone might who *had* been in the situation. Our rationale for requesting hypothetical answers was to protect participants' privacy so that all the participants would answer all the questions, regardless of their experience.

**Demographics section.** The last part of the questionnaire consisted of a series of demographic questions (see Appendix A). Respondents indicated how old they were, what ethnicity they identified as, whether or not they were an international student, what their sexual orientation was, how many penile-vaginal intercourse partners they had had, how old they were when they had intercourse for the first time, what their current relationship status was, and what extracurricular activities they engaged in.

### **Procedure**

Participants completed questionnaires in groups of 20 or fewer. They were seated at least four feet apart to protect their privacy. Two female undergraduate research assistants distributed envelopes enclosing a consent form (see Appendix B), an instruction overview sheet (see Appendix C) and the questionnaire. The research assistants instructed the participants to review the consent form and gave them several minutes to do so. Then the research assistants read the instruction overview sheet out loud, explaining information such as the definitions of each situation and the fact that for this questionnaire, the word “sex” referred to penile-vaginal sexual

intercourse. Participants were instructed not to write their names or student identification numbers anywhere on the questionnaire.

After they completed the questionnaire, participants returned their completed questionnaires inside an envelope. They were given a debriefing form (see Appendix D), which included contact information for the researchers, for the university's Institutional Review Board, and for local counseling resources in case the study raised issues that they wanted to discuss further.

Because the topic of this study was nonconsensual sex, we thought carefully about the debriefing form. We did not want to sound accusatory (e.g., we did not want to say, "If you answered yes to Situation 2, you are a rapist"), but we did want to inform participants that we did not endorse having sex with a woman who has not consented to it. Thus, we included this statement in the debriefing form: "We think it's important to mention that, regardless of what experiences anyone has had in the past, it is best to take a woman's signals seriously and not to have sex until you get a clear signal that she is willing."

### **Data Analysis**

We had planned to begin our data analysis by reading each narrative that had been checked *yes* or *similar* and deciding whether the narrative did or did not match the definition of the situation for which it was written. This method has been used in other studies (e.g., Muehlenhard & Shippee, 2009; Peterson & Muehlenhard, 2007) to identify false positives (i.e., situations in which the participant had checked *yes* but had written a narrative that did not fit the definition) and false negatives (i.e., situations in which the participant had checked *similar* and had written a narrative that did fit the definition). In the present study, however, we found it impossible to determine whether the narrative met our definition. For some of the participants'

narratives, we found it impossible to determine whether the woman had been willing to have sex. Thus, we decided to classify the narratives based solely on the participants' checkmarks: if a participant checked *yes*, we counted the narrative as fitting the definition; if a participant checked *similar*, we counted the narrative as not fitting the definition. This is the technique that has been used in most studies of rape among college students (see Kolivas & Gross, 2007, for a review).

Of the 57 men who indicated having been in at least two of the situations, 53 men had been in both the Stop situation and the Continue situation, 20 had been in both the Stop situation and the Coercion situation, and 18 had been in both the Continue situation and the Coercion situation (see Figure 1). To identify themes present in the narratives, we used thematic analysis (Braun & Clarke, 2006). We began by reading each narrative multiple times and noting themes or statements that were mentioned by multiple men. We used this information, as well as theory, empirical research, and the research assistants' knowledge of the university's social and sexual culture, to construct a coding sheet (see Appendix E).

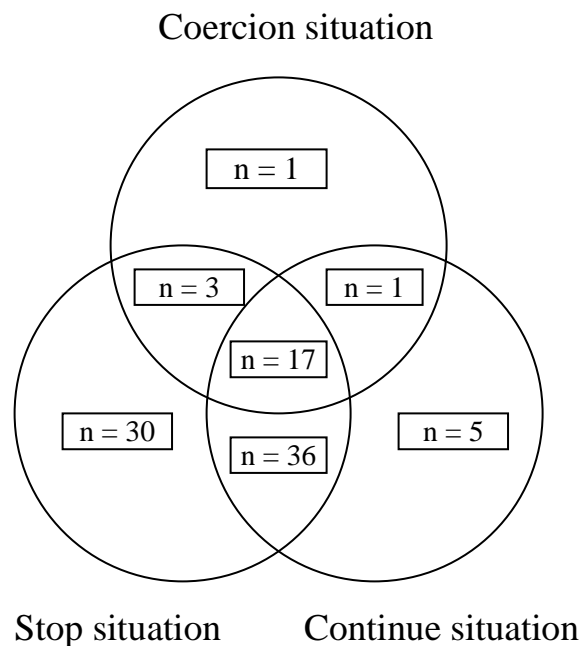


Figure 1. Number of participants who indicated having been in each situation.

The coding sheet listed various themes that we thought might be relevant to understanding men's motivations and thoughts in the situations. The themes related to participants' beliefs, motives, and cognitions, as well as situational variables. The method of *constant comparison* (Glaser & Strauss, 1967) was used to modify the themes as we coded the narratives. Each narrative was coded independently by two research assistants. Coding discrepancies were resolved through discussion. See Appendix F for a full description of how themes were coded.

For those participants who had been in at least two situations, we compared how the themes present in each participant's narratives differed as a function of the situation they were in. Significant differences between groups were identified using one of two within-subject tests for dependent samples: McNemar's test was used to compare variables with two levels, and the Stuart-Maxwell test was used to compare variables with three or four levels. The findings are illustrated with sample quotations from participants' narratives. Quotations were copied verbatim from participants' narratives; we did not correct spelling or grammatical errors. Ellipsis points within a quotation indicate that we omitted part of the participant's response or that the quoted material was taken from his answers to more than one question. Quotations are either preceded by or followed by a written indication of which situation the narrative was taken from (i.e., Stop, Continue, or Coercion situation). Each quotation is also identified by the number we assigned to the participant. Results are organized by the type of dependent variable involved: situational variables (e.g., the setting, the relationship between the man and the woman), the men's thoughts and actions when they first tried to initiate sex, how the men interpreted the woman's signal, the men's thoughts after the woman's signal, and the men's subsequent reflections on the situation.

## Results

### Situational Factors

The questionnaire had asked participants to describe their relationship with the woman involved in the situation. We classified the relationships based on the whether they seemed to be relationships in which sex might have occurred in the past or might be expected in the future. If a participant described the woman as being a date, a girlfriend, or an ex-girlfriend, we classified this as a “sexual” relationship. If he described the woman as being a friend, an acquaintance, or someone he had just met, we classified this as a “nonsexual” relationship. Of the men who had described the relationships clearly enough to be classified, significantly more of the Coercion situations (45%,  $n = 9$ ) than of the Stop situations (25%,  $n = 5$ ) involved a sexual relationship. The percentage for the Continue situation was between those for the Stop situation and Coercion situation but did not differ significantly from the other two (see Table 3).

Participants had been asked where the situation had occurred. We divided their responses to this question into two categories: statements that the situation occurred at his residence, and statements that the situation occurred somewhere else (e.g., a party, her residence, a car, etc.). Of the narratives that mentioned where the situation occurred, the Coercion situation (78%) was significantly more likely than the Continue situation (22%) to have occurred at the man’s residence (see Table 3). One repeatedly mentioned theme was that participants perceived a woman’s willingness to go to their house as an indication that she was willing to have sex with them. For example, one participant wrote about the Coercion situation that “usually if a girl goes home with you then the intent is usually sex” and in the Stop situation that “girls shouldn’t spend the night (in my bed) if intimacy is not intended” (#61).



Table 3

*Situational Factors Mentioned in the Narratives*

Themes mentioned	Stop and Cont ( <i>n</i> = 53)			Stop and Coercion ( <i>n</i> = 20)			Cont and Coercion ( <i>n</i> = 18)		
	Stop <i>n</i> (%)	Cont <i>n</i> (%)	<i>p</i>	Stop <i>n</i> (%)	Coercion <i>n</i> (%)	<i>p</i>	Cont <i>n</i> (%)	Coercion <i>n</i> (%)	<i>p</i>
Sexual relationship	17 (33)	20 (38)	.47	5 (25)	9 (45)	.05*	7 (39)	8 (44)	.71
Nonsexual relationship	35 (67)	32 (62)		15 (75)	11 (55)		11 (61)	10 (56)	
His residence	9 (50)	7 (39)	.53	2 (29)	5 (71)	.08	2 (22)	7 (78)	.03*
Not his residence	9 (50)	11 (61)		5 (71)	2 (29)		7 (78)	2 (22)	
Alone at initiation	25 (64)	30 (77)	.10	12 (80)	15 (100)	.08	11 (79)	13 (93)	.16
Not alone at initiation	14 (36)	9 (23)		3 (20)	0 (0)		3 (21)	1 (7)	
Alcohol/drug use									
Neither person	19 (39)	16 (33)	.47	4 (27)	5 (33)	1.00	6 (35)	7 (41)	1.00
Him only	25 (51)	30 (61)		10 (67)	9 (60)		10 (59)	9 (53)	
Her only	0 (0)	0 (0)		0 (0)	0 (0)		0 (0)	0 (0)	
Both people	5 (10)	3 (6)		1 (7)	1 (7)		1 (6)	1 (6)	

*Note.* Table entries are numbers and percentages (in parenthesis) of men who mentioned each situational theme. In many cases, the cell *ns* do not sum to the number of participants who had been in both situations because of missing or unclear answers. For example, 53 men had been in both the Stop and the Continue situations, but only 18 clearly mentioned where both their Stop situation and their Continue situations had occurred. Percentages were calculated based on the number of nonmissing, clear answers. Percentages for each situation do not always sum to 100% because of rounding error.

\**p* < .05. \*\**p* < .01.

### Thoughts and Actions When First Trying To Initiate Sex

After writing basic information about the situation, respondents described what they were thinking and what they were doing to obtain sex with the woman before her signal (see Table 4).

One item prompted the respondents to write about what thoughts were going through their heads at the time they were first trying to get the woman to have sex with them. Another item prompted them to write about what they did to try to get the woman to have sex with them. We assumed that every action taken by a respondent arose from his thought to take the action, so any action mentioned was coded as both an action and a thought. We did not code thoughts also as actions because not all thoughts are necessarily put into action.

Table 4

*Initial Thoughts and Actions Mentioned in the Narratives*

Themes mentioned	Stop and Cont ( <i>n</i> = 53)			Stop and Coercion ( <i>n</i> = 20)			Cont and Coercion ( <i>n</i> = 18)		
	Stop <i>n</i> (%)	Cont <i>n</i> (%)	<i>p</i>	Stop <i>n</i> (%)	Coercion <i>n</i> (%)	<i>p</i>	Cont <i>n</i> (%)	Coercion <i>n</i> (%)	<i>p</i>
<b>Thoughts</b>									
Voice desire for sex	19 (36)	25 (47)	.13	5 (29)	9 (53)	.16	7 (41)	8 (47)	.74
Flatter her	14 (26)	14 (26)	1.00	4 (20)	2 (10)	.32	6 (33)	2 (11)	.16
Act like “good” guy	1 (2)	1 (2)	1.00	1 (5)	0 (0)	.32	0 (0)	0 (0)	---
I am horny	26 (49)	27 (51)	.83	10 (50)	15 (75)	.06	10 (56)	12 (67)	.41
Turn her on	32 (60)	37 (70)	.17	14 (70)	14 (70)	1.00	15 (83)	12 (67)	.26
Give her alcohol	0 (0)	2 (4)	.16	0 (0)	1 (5)	.32	1 (6)	2 (11)	.56
Alcohol makes me horny	0 (0)	2 (4)	.16	0 (0)	0 (0)	---	0 (0)	0 (0)	---
I need a strategy	1 (2)	0 (0)	.32	0 (0)	0 (0)	---	0 (0)	0 (0)	---
Wear her down	0 (0)	3 (6)	.08	0 (0)	1 (5)	.32	3 (17)	1 (6)	.32
Spend money on her	1 (2)	2 (4)	.56	1 (5)	0 (0)	.32	1 (6)	0 (0)	.32
Get her alone	1 (2)	1 (2)	1.00	0 (0)	1 (5)	.32	1 (5)	1 (5)	1.00
Positive thoughts of her	14 (26)	18 (34)	.35	4 (20)	4 (20)	1.00	6 (33)	4 (22)	.41
I am nervous	0 (0)	0 (0)	---	0 (0)	1 (5)	.32	0 (0)	1 (6)	.32
She is a slut	0 (0)	1 (2)	.32	0 (0)	0 (0)	---	1 (6)	0 (0)	.32
I don’t care about her	1 (2)	0 (0)	.32	0 (0)	1 (5)	.32	0 (0)	1 (6)	.32
I expect to have sex	1 (2)	6 (11)	.06	1 (5)	6 (30)	.03*	2 (11)	5 (28)	.08
<b>Actions</b>									
Voiced desire for sex	19 (36)	24 (45)	.20	5 (29)	9 (53)	.16	7 (41)	8 (47)	.74
Turned her on	32 (60)	37 (70)	.17	14 (70)	14 (70)	1.00	15 (83)	12 (67)	.26
Flattered her	14 (26)	14 (26)	1.00	4 (20)	2 (10)	.32	6 (33)	2 (11)	.16
Gave her alcohol	0 (0)	1 (2)	.32	0 (0)	1 (5)	.32	0 (0)	2 (11)	.16
Made feel obligated	0 (0)	1 (2)	.32	0 (0)	0 (0)	---	0 (0)	0 (0)	---
Wore her down	0 (0)	3 (6)	.08	0 (0)	1 (5)	.32	3 (17)	1 (6)	.32
Acted like “good” guy	1 (2)	1 (2)	1.00	1 (5)	0 (0)	.32	0 (0)	0 (0)	---
Got her alone	1 (2)	0 (0)	.32	0 (0)	1 (5)	.32	0 (0)	1 (6)	.32
Spent money on her	1 (2)	1 (2)	1.00	1 (5)	0 (0)	.32	0 (0)	0 (0)	---

*Note.* Table entries are numbers and percentages of men who mentioned thoughts they had and actions they took when first trying to get the woman to have sex with them. Some thoughts and actions were identical because we wanted to capture if a respondent thought about trying to do something (e.g., to get her alone) but did not actually execute this action (e.g., he never tried to get her alone). For a more detailed description of the themes mentioned, see Appendix F. Percentages were calculated based on all participants who had been in both situations. Percentages for each situation do not necessarily sum to 100% because participants could have mentioned more than one theme or none of these themes.

\* $p < .05$ .

One theme that we coded was whether or not participants mentioned entering the situation with thoughts that the woman would have sex with them. Thoughts included in this category were any statements that implied that the man thought the woman would consent to sex, that she would probably have sex with him, that he expected sex, or that he could probably obtain sex from her. Men who had been in both the Continue situation and the Stop situation were more likely to have mentioned initially thinking that the woman would have sex with them in the Continue situation (11%) than in the Stop situation (2%), although this difference was only marginally significant ( $p = .06$ ). One man's initial thoughts illustrate this trend; in the Continue situation he wrote, "I thought for sure she would have sex with me and that only a fool could mess it up now," but in the Stop situation he wrote, "Please God, let her at least be midly [sic] interested in me!" (#90).

Men were significantly more likely to mention initially thinking that the woman would have sex with them in the Coercion situation (30%) than in the Stop situation (5%). For example, one participant described initially thinking in the Coercion situation, "I knew I was going to have sex with her"; in contrast, he described initially thinking in the Stop situation, "Should I really be trying?" (#120). Another participant wrote, "I can't wait to get the noodle wet" in the Coercion situation but wrote, "Ask and you may receive" (#10) in the Stop situation.

A similar theme we coded was whether or not participants mentioned having had initial thoughts about feeling sexually aroused or "horny." In the Coercion narratives (75%), compared with the Stop narratives (50%), men were more likely to mention thinking that they were sexually aroused, although this difference was only marginally significant ( $p = .06$ ).

We also coded men's descriptions of the behaviors they used to try to obtain sex at the beginning of the situation. We found no differences between any of the situations.

**Interpretation of the Woman's Signal**

Participants were next asked to report how the woman signaled that she was not agreeable to sex. The way she signaled—that is, whether she signaled verbally, nonverbally, or both—was not associated with the different situations. However, men's perceptions of the women's signals were associated with the situations. The men's interpretations of the woman's signals were coded based on how men described her signal and how the men described their thoughts about the meaning of her signal. If respondents clearly mentioned how they interpreted the woman's signal, one of the following interpretations was coded: that she *did not* want sex (e.g., "I realized that it wasn't going to work and I accepted that. I didn't want to push the issue," #3), that she *might* want sex (e.g., "She might be up to letting me have sex the first day," #120), or that she *did* want sex (e.g., "She was lying to herself and really wanted to have sex," #115). These data are presented in Table 5.

Table 5

*Interpretations of the Woman's Signal Mentioned in the Narratives*

Themes mentioned	Stop and Cont ( <i>n</i> = 53)		Stop and Coercion ( <i>n</i> = 20)		Cont and Coercion ( <i>n</i> = 18)	
	Stop <i>n</i> (%)	Cont <i>n</i> (%)	Stop <i>n</i> (%)	Coercion <i>n</i> (%)	Cont <i>n</i> (%)	Coercion <i>n</i> (%)
<b>How she signaled</b>						
Verbal signal	37 (71)	37 (71)	16 (84)	14 (74)	15 (88)	14 (82)
Nonverbal signal	10 (19)	9 (17)	1 (5)	5 (26)	2 (12)	3 (18)
Both verbal and non	5 (10)	6 (12)	2 (11)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
<b>Perception of signal</b>						
Did not want sex	50 (98)	28 (55)	19 (95)	8 (40)	10 (56)	8 (44)
Might want sex	1 (2)	15 (29)	1 (5)	1 (5)	6 (33)	1 (6)
Did want sex	0 (0)	8 (16)	0 (0)	11 (55)	2 (11)	9 (50)

Note. Table entries are numbers and percentages of men who mentioned how the woman signaled she was not agreeable to sex and numbers and percentages of men who mentioned how they perceived her signal. For a more detailed description of the themes mentioned, see Appendix F. In some cases, the cell *ns* do not sum to the number of participants who had been in both situations because of missing or unclear answers. Percentages were calculated based on the number of nonmissing, clear answers. Percentages for each situation do not necessarily sum to 100% because of rounding error.

Of the men who clearly indicated how they perceived the woman's signal, when in the Stop situation (98%), compared with the Continue situation (55%), men were significantly more likely to think that the woman *did not* want to have sex ( $p < .001$ )<sup>1</sup>. When in the Continue situation (29%), compared with the Stop situation (2%), men were significantly more likely to think that the woman *might* want to have sex ( $p < .01$ ). For example, one participant wrote, "Maybe I can convince her to agree" in the Continue situation (#30). Another man wrote, "Well, she told me she didn't want to. I respect that. What else needs to be said?" (#6). Men in the Stop situation (95%), as compared with the Coercion situation (40%), were significantly more likely

<sup>1</sup> The *p* values reported in this paragraph are based on follow-up McNemar's tests that were conducted.

to believe that the woman *did not* want sex ( $p < .001$ ). For example, one man wrote that he interpreted the woman's signal in the Stop situation as "no means no" (#88). We did not find any differences in how men in both the Coercion situation and Continue situation mentioned interpreting the woman's signal.

### **Thoughts about Continuing Advances After Signal**

Next, we asked men to explain what thoughts influenced their decision to continue making sexual advances. The questionnaire had asked men in the Stop situation, "What were your reasons for stopping to make sexual advances after she signaled she was not agreeable to sex?" (see Appendix A). The questionnaire had asked men in the Coercion and Continue situations, "What were your reasons for continuing to make sexual advances after she signaled she was not agreeable to sex?" and "What thoughts were going through your mind while you were continuing to make sexual advances (after she signaled that she was not agreeable to sex)?" Because the question was not identical across situations, we did not conduct statistical comparisons. Descriptive data are presented in Table 6.

Table 6

*Thoughts About Continuing Advances Mentioned in the Narratives*

Themes mentioned	Stop and Cont (n = 53)		Stop and Coercion (n = 20)		Cont and Coercion (n = 18)	
	Stop n (%)	Cont n (%)	Stop n (%)	Coercion n (%)	Cont n (%)	Coercion n (%)
<b>Reasons NOT to continue</b>						
Did not want to force her	18 (34)	8 (15)	5 (25)	0 (0)	5 (28)	0 (0)
Cared about her	17 (32)	4 (8)	3 (15)	0 (0)	2 (11)	0 (0)
Did not want sex	6 (11)	3 (6)	4 (20)	0 (0)	1 (6)	0 (0)
Was tired of trying	6 (11)	5 (9)	4 (20)	0 (0)	3 (17)	0 (0)
Felt rejected	1 (2)	1 (2)	1 (5)	0 (0)	1 (6)	0 (0)
Wanted to prolong	1 (2)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)

*Note.* Table entries are numbers and percentages of men who mentioned thoughts about why they should not or should continue their sexual advances after the woman's signal. For a more detailed description of the themes mentioned, see Appendix F. Percentages were calculated based on all participants who had been in both situations. Percentages for each situation do not necessarily sum to 100% because participants could have mentioned more than one theme or none of these themes.

One theme we coded was whether or not the man mentioned respecting the woman's decision not to have sex. For a coder to endorse the presence of this theme, the participant had to mention that he respected the woman's choice not to have sex, that he did not want to force her into sex, that he believed that "no means no," that he realized that she actually did not want to have sex, that he did not want to have sex when it was a stupid or impulsive decision, that he wanted to act like a good person, that he believed that coercion was not necessary, or that he wanted to let her show him what type of sexual activity she wanted.

Of the men in the Stop situation, 25-34% mentioned respecting the woman's decision not to have sex. Examples of statements that were coded as mentioning this theme in the Stop situation include, "I respected her wishes" (#29) and "Didn't want to force her into something



she didn't want to do" (#129). Similarly, 15-28% of the men in the Continue situation mentioned this theme. Some responses suggested that men respected the woman's decision not to have sex in the Continue situation because they perceived the woman to be uninterested in having sex with them. Other participants mentioned not wanting to use force in the Continue situation because they only foresaw negative consequences associated with doing so: For example, one man wrote, "She clearly had no intention of sleeping with me and to continue would be some where between begging (which is pathetic) and rape" (#61).

Another theme we coded was whether or not men mentioned caring about the woman as a reason for stopping their advances. The presence of this theme within a narrative was signified by mention of any of the following: that they liked or loved her so they should stop their advances; that they respected *her* (not that they respected her *choice* not to have sex); that they believed that she was not ready to have sex yet; that they did not want to take her virginity; that they did not want her to feel angry or upset; that they did not want to make her uncomfortable or hurt; or that they did not want to jeopardize their friendship or their romantic relationship. Some examples from Stop situation narratives include, "It's her vagina. Because it would have made her uncomfortable" (#102) and, "Didn't want to make her mad" (#82). As shown in Table 6, men often mentioned that they cared about the woman in the Stop situation (15-32%).

A third theme we coded was whether or not men mentioned that they no longer wanted to have sex after the woman's signal. We coded statements saying that the men did not want or need sex anymore. Sometimes the men mentioned no reasons for feeling this way. Other times they mentioned various reasons, such as that he engaged in another sexual act with the woman, that he realized that the woman did not like him, that he believed that he could still have fun without having sex, or that he believed that coercion would not be as sexually fulfilling.

When in the Stop situation, men repeatedly mentioned that they no longer wanted to have sex after her signal, as well that they were tired of trying to have sex. For example, men wrote statements such as, “She was cold and uncaring, my feelings were hurt and I found I wasn't in the mood anymore,” (#82), “I didn't want to have sex with her while she was on her period,” (#83) and “Eventually I started to sober up and realized I wasn't even attracted to her,” (#85). Men were also likely in the Stop situation to mention that they wanted to give up trying to have sex—sometimes out of “laziness,” (#86) but often because “it obviously wasn't gonna happen,” (#61).

When men were in the Continue situation, the two most common reasons (56% and 28%, respectively) mentioned for choosing not to have sex with the woman were because they respected her decision not to have sex (e.g., “because she didn't want to and you have to respect that,” #10) and because they cared about her (e.g., “I loved her and she didn't want to do it,” #88). When in the Continue situation, but not the Coercion situation, these participants often mentioned a threshold of coercive behavior that they viewed as personally acceptable; having sex with the woman would be crossing the threshold (e.g., “I did not want to force her too much,” #54; “I don't rape chicks,” #85; “every guy gets denied sometimes, but good guys understand that ‘no means no,’” #30). Other less common reasons for not having sex in the Continue situation varied; for example, one man wrote, “B/c [sic] I got tired of it,” (#84), and another man wrote, “After awhile the situation's conditions became unfavorable for me to close the deal so I began to drink heavily” (#87).

**Most commonly mentioned reasons to have sex.** The questionnaire had asked men in the Coercion situation, “What were your reasons for having sex with her after she signaled that she was not agreeable to sex?” Of the 21 men who had been in the Coercion situation, one of the

two most common responses to this questionnaire item was that the men physically desired sex (48%; e.g., “I can’t give up yet and let the johnny down,” #10; “I really just wanted to have sex, condom or not,” #83; “I was horny, and wanted to make love,” #54). The other most common reason that men gave for having sex with the woman was because she wanted to (48%; e.g., “We both really wanted to, I could tell,” #84; “She was being hard to get. . . . I could tell that she wanted it,” #88; “She was lying to herself and really wanted to have sex,” #115). Participants also reported having sex with the woman in the Coercion situation because they wanted to make her happy (29%). For example, one man wrote, “I really liked her and wanted to expand our relationship” (#3). Another wrote, “Cause I knew she would be happy after I took care of her” (#53). Some men (19%) also mentioned reasons that suggested a degrading view of the woman, such as, “I wanted to have sex with her before the other guy did because I didn’t like him” (#120), “Come on - I hope I don't go to sleep without getting any” (#53) and, “I knew she was corruptible” (#85).

The questionnaire also asked men in the Coercion situation to describe what they were thinking about while they were having sex with the woman. Over half (52%) of these men mentioned sexual pleasure or happiness, such as, “This is awesome!” (#53), “I’m the man” (#87), or “Aww yeah!” (#127). Other thoughts that men mentioned having had during sex were, “About time” (#17), and “I have to really do it for a long time in order to have her brag about my sex” (#120). One participant wrote, “Why the hell am I doing this...it’s not worth the trouble down the road” while he was having sex with an ex-girlfriend who “had not moved on from the relationship” (#61).

**Feelings After The Situation**

Two final survey items prompted men to reflect on the situation after recounting it: “How did you feel about the situation afterward?” and “If you were in the same situation again, would you do anything differently, why or why not?” (see Appendix A). Below, Table 7 presents the data on what themes men mentioned in their reflection on the situations.

Table 7

*Feelings After the Situation That Were Mentioned in the Narratives*

Themes mentioned	Stop and Cont ( <i>n</i> = 53)			Stop and Coercion ( <i>n</i> = 20)			Cont and Coercion ( <i>n</i> = 18)		
	Stop <i>n</i> (%)	Cont <i>n</i> (%)	<i>p</i>	Stop <i>n</i> (%)	Coercion <i>n</i> (%)	<i>p</i>	Cont <i>n</i> (%)	Coercion <i>n</i> (%)	<i>p</i>
<b>His feelings</b>									
Not change actions	33 (83)	20 (50)	< .01*	8 (67)	9 (75)	.56	7 (50)	11 (79)	.10
Regretted actions	4 (8)	13 (25)	.02*	3 (15)	3 (15)	1.00	5 (28)	3 (17)	.41
Satisfied with actions	22 (42)	16 (30)	.20	8 (40)	17 (85)	< .01*	7 (39)	14 (78)	.03*
Indifferent	10 (19)	9 (17)	.76	4 (20)	0 (0)	.06	1 (6)	1 (6)	1.00
Disappointed no sex	12 (23)	8 (15)	.25		--			--	
Hurt	5 (10)	4 (8)	.65	1 (6)	0 (0)	.32	1 (6)	0 (0)	.32
Negatively about self	7 (13)	6 (12)	.71	4 (22)	0 (0)	.05*	3 (17)	0 (0)	.08
Negatively about her	3 (6)	3 (6)	1.00	2 (10)	0 (0)	.16	2 (11)	0 (0)	.16
Positively about her	2 (4)	3 (6)	.56	2 (10)	3 (15)	.56	1 (6)	3 (17)	.32
<b>His friends' feelings</b>									
Indifferent	11 (21)	13 (25)	.56	1 (6)	1 (6)	1.00	4 (22)	1 (6)	.08
Agreed with actions	4 (8)	3 (6)	.32	1 (6)	3 (17)	.32	0 (0)	3 (17)	.08
Disagreed with actions	2 (4)	2 (4)	1.00	0 (0)	0 (0)	--	0 (0)	0 (0)	--
Negatively about her	1 (2)	3 (6)	.15	0 (0)	0 (0)	--	0 (0)	0 (0)	--

*Note.* Table entries are numbers and percentages of men who mentioned feeling each theme after the situation occurred. For a more detailed description of the themes mentioned, see Appendix F. Percentages were calculated based on all participants who had been in both situations. Percentages for each situation do not necessarily sum to 100% because participants could have mentioned more than one theme or none of these themes.

\**p* < .05. \*\**p* < .01.

In the Continue situation, men were more likely than in the Stop situation to mention feeling regret for their actions (25% and 8%, respectively) and wanting to behave differently if

they were in the situation again (50% and 17%, respectively). Some narratives in the Continue situation suggested that the men's dissatisfaction with the situation was because they did not resist the urge to make unwanted sexual advances. Some men mentioned feeling regret (e.g., felt "a little bad for putting her through it," #5; "a little guilty that I pursued it further at all," #61) and/or having wished they had not acted according to their sexual desires (e.g., "I would have quit the first time because it made me look like a pig when I tried after she already said no," #129; "The first time she said no I would drop it entirely," #61; "I wouldn't ask her to have sex because looking back she was obviously uncomfortable," #72). Yet men in the Continue situation also mentioned feeling regret and a desire to change their actions in the situation for other reasons. Some men mentioned regret because they did not obtain sex (e.g., "I thought it was a waste of my time. . . . I would ask her to leave because she wasn't 'down,'" #53); others mentioned regret because of the resulting change in relationship dynamic (e.g., "I regretted it later because she was a friend and it made things weird," #58).

In the Stop situation, compared with the Coercion situation, men were less likely to mention being satisfied (see Table 7). Instead men mentioned feeling indifferent (e.g., "Didn't really think twice about it until now," #87) and feeling bad about themselves (e.g., "Forlorned [sic], hurt, and little paranoid," #82) more often in the Stop situation than in the Coercion situation. Sometimes, however, men mentioned feeling satisfied in the Stop situation because they had effectively exercised control over their sexual impulses, either for personal or for reputational reasons (e.g., "Proud of myself for stopping," #80; "I feel I acted appropriately," #59).

In the Coercion situation, men were significantly more likely than in the Continue situation to report feeling satisfied with their behavior (see Table 7). The men used words like

“satisfied” to describe how they had felt after the situation more often in the Coercion situation (e.g., “Great. Confident. Tired,” #87) than in the Continue situation. For example, one participant wrote, “I’m glad we did it” in the Coercion situation but “upset sexually, not at her” (#54) in the Continue situation. Other participants expressed some dissatisfaction with both the Continue situation and the Coercion situation. For example, one man wrote in the Coercion situation, “I felt a little guilty the next day,” and wrote in the Continue situation, “I was disappointed that I didn’t get to have sex but it ended up okay” (#96).

We also coded men’s descriptions of the feelings they would expect their friends to have (or, if applicable, the feelings or reactions their friends actually expressed) after being told about their behaviors in the situation. We found no significant differences between any of the situations.

### **Inconsistencies in the Coercion Situation Answers**

The questionnaire’s definition of the Coercion situation was initially written to be a behaviorally specific definition of rape (see Appendix A). The questionnaire asked about a situation in which the participant had “tried to get a girl to have sex with you,” and even though she had “signaled, either verbally or nonverbally, that she was not agreeable to it,” the participant had “had sex with her (even though she never signaled she was agreeable).” Our intention was that anyone who reported having been in this situation would have engaged in rape. We found, however, that our participants’ written descriptions of their experiences in the Coercion situation were sometimes too ambiguous for us to determine whether they had, in fact, engaged in rape. This led us to change the name of situation from the Rape situation to the Coercion situation.

In some cases, it seemed possible that the woman had consented to sex after she initially refused sex at the beginning of the situation (e.g., “She jumped on top,” #85; “Sometimes it takes

time to warm her up, and she usually enjoys it,” #54; “She wanted to kiss so we did, it eventually made her more into it, I guess, and it led to other things,” #126). In other narratives, it seemed possible that the man had coerced the woman into consenting to sex through manipulation or persistence. For example, one man wrote that he “petitioned” for sex after his partner refused (#82).

However, because evidence (reviewed previously) suggests that rapists frequently intentionally or unintentionally presume women’s consent to sex, we cannot be sure that men described the consent process accurately. For example, one man wrote the following description of why he continued advances and had sex with his ex-girlfriend:

Hedonism, mostly. . . . Figured her objections were mostly moot because I knew she wanted to and sex with her wasn’t exactly breaking new ground. . . . I knew it was still consensual and that she was still very sexually attracted to me. (#61)

This man’s description of the situation as “consensual” seems unconvincing because he does not describe any specific behaviors that the woman used to signal that she consented to sex. Rather, it seems that he ignored her refusals to have sex; if so, he would have engaged in rape. He may have assumed that the woman was sexually attracted to him and/or that sexual arousal was synonymous with consent to sex. Researchers have found evidence that women sometimes feel sexual desire for intercourse but do not consent to it (Peterson & Muehlenhard, 2007), so this man may have acted on the basis of inaccurate assumptions.

In other narratives, men more clearly described an awareness that the woman did not consent to sex and having had sex with her despite this. For example, one man wrote, “I didn’t care if she was on the rag and didn’t want to have sex” and guessed that if he had stopped making advances, he “would have gotten angry and probably hit her” (#98). Another man



described his overt dismissal of the woman's verbal signal, stating that he continued advances because he "knew she was corruptible" (#85).

In summary, the 21 men who checked that they had been in the Coercion situation likely described situations that varied in terms of whether the woman consented feely or consented at all. Some of the men's descriptions of their experience in the Coercive situation probably fit our definition of rape whereas other men's descriptions probably did not.

### **Discussion**

The purpose of this study was to identify what thoughts men reported having in situations in which they tried to have sex with a woman and she indicated that she did not want to have sex. This information could provide insight into college men's motivation for pressuring women to have sex. Significant or interesting differences between the three situations are reviewed below.

#### **A Motivation To Engage In The Act**

In our coercive narratives, sexual themes were most often mentioned as reasons for having sex with the woman. The most commonly mentioned reason for having sex with the woman was the men's strong sexual desire for intercourse, often described with words such as "horny" and "hormones." Similarly, the most commonly mentioned thoughts during intercourse were expressions of sexual satisfaction.

At least one man mentioned a different motive, however. One man described having sex with the woman for the purpose of harming another man: "She was coming down to see another guy she was talking to at the time, but wanted to see me first ... I wanted to have sex with her before the other guy did because I didn't like him ... The guy she was coming to see was a teammate of mines [sic] that I didn't like" (#120).

### **Overcoming Internal Inhibitions**

The second precondition in Finkelhor's (1984) model is that perpetrators must overcome their internal inhibitions against acting coercively. Some of our findings could be interpreted as evidence of how participants overcame their inhibitions. Several men in the Coercion situation attributed at least some blame for their actions to alcohol. For example, one man wrote, "I'm sure the alcohol affected how outgoing I was and how I proceeded" (#87). Another man wrote that the alcohol he drank "made [him] go against her wishes" (#96).

Other findings suggest that coercive men sometimes felt "led on" by the women, which the men may have used as an internal means of justifying their coercive behavior. We found that men were more likely to mention expecting that they would have sex with the woman in the Coercion situation than they in the Stop situation. For example, one man described his initial thoughts in the Coercion situation as, "I knew I was going to have sex with her"; in contrast, in the Stop situation, this man described his initial thoughts as, "Should I really be trying?" (#120).

Additionally, the Coercion situations were more likely to occur at the man's residence than the Stop situations were. Some men mentioned believing that when a woman goes to their house, it is a signal that she desires sex. For example, one participant wrote, "Girls shouldn't spend the night (in my bed) if intimacy is not intended" (#61). Other researchers have reported evidence that a woman going to a man's house is often perceived by men as indicative of the woman's desire to have sex (Burt, 1980; Muehlenhard, 1988; Muehlenhard, Friedman & Thomas, 1985). Thus, if a man interpreted a woman's willingness to go to her house as a signal that she would have sex with him, he might have felt "led on" and thus might have felt justified in having sex with her.

We found that men were also more likely to describe the woman as someone with whom they had a current or past sexual relationship when they were in the Coercion situation than in the Stop situation. Some of the men in the Coercion situation seemed to assume that if the woman had agreed to have sex in the past, then she actually wanted to have sex in the present, despite her communication otherwise. One man in the Coercion situation wrote about his experience with his girlfriend: “We had been in this situation many times before and always ended up having sex ... She said she was too tired ... I was comfortable, she was my gf [sic] and nothing was different. I could tell we would end up having sex” (#126). Our finding that men were more likely to describe the woman as someone with whom they had a current or past sexual relationship in the Coercion situation than in the Stop situation is consistent with other studies. For example, Koss and colleagues’ (1988) reported that of the female participants who had experienced acquaintance rape, 60% were casual or steady dates of the perpetrator and 30% were nonromantic acquaintances of the perpetrator.

More than half of the men who described an experience in the Coercion situation mentioned that the reason they had sex with the woman was because she wanted him to. One participant who described his experience in the Coercion situation wrote, “I never really thought her actions meant she actually didn't want sex and I was right” (#87). Another man in the Coercion situation “figured her objections were mostly moot because [he] knew she wanted to” (#61). Similarly, McCoy and Muehlenhard (1991) found that the self-statements men rated as important during the Rape situation reflected the men’s view that the woman wanted to have sex and that she was being dishonest when she said “no.”

Similarly, some men’s descriptions of the Continue situation suggested that only when the woman refused repeatedly in response to their repeated advances did her signal mean that she

did not want sex. For example, one man reported thinking, “maybe she actually wanted to” (#119) after she signaled that she was not agreeable to sex in the Continue situation. Other researchers have also suggested that women’s signals of nonconsent are often perceived by coercive men as token resistance (Abbey, McAuslan, et al., 2001). McCoy and Muehlenhard (1991) found that men in their Continue group were more likely than those in the Rape group or Stop group to highly rate the importance of a self-statement about not wanting to engage in intercourse because the woman said “no” again to continued advances. Abbey and McAuslan (2004) reported that one sexually coercive participant in their study wrote, “Most women say ‘no’ at first most times. A man has to persist to determine if she really means it” (p. 753).

### **Overcoming External Barriers**

As mentioned above, the Coercion situations were more likely than the Stop situations to have occurred at the man’s residence, which he might have interpreted as a signal that she would have sex with him. The link between the man’s residence and sexual coercion, however, could also be interpreted as a way that men overcame external barriers against engaging in coercion. It is possible that men are more likely to be sexually coercive when they feel more in control of their environment or when they have privacy.

Our finding that men were more likely to describe the woman as someone with whom they had a current or past sexual relationship in the Coercion situation than the Stop situation could also be associated with men’s ability to overcome external barriers. Being in a sexual relationship increases the number of sexual situations that men will be in with the woman. The greater the number of sexual situations, the greater the chance that men will be able to effectively coerce the woman without being thwarted by external barriers. For example, another person may intervene to stop the man from coercing the woman during one sexual situation but not another.

### **Overcoming Victim Resistance**

Some men who had been in the Coercion situation seemed to overcome the woman's objection to sex by ignoring it. For example, one man wrote that he had sex with the woman because "She was just doing the old 'I don't usually do this, I'm hard to get' act" (#86). Other men may have used verbal manipulation or persistence to have sex with the unwilling woman (e.g., "I talked her into having sex with me," #17).

A few men seemed to describe using alcohol to facilitate coercion. One man described using alcohol during the Coercion situation, "because I knew it would make us more relaxed and willing to make bad decisions ... it had a major affect on her" (#120). Another man, who had been in all three situations, described a failed attempt to use alcohol to get sex in the Continue situation: "I was buying her shots ... Not the effect on her that I was looking for ... I should not have boughten [sic] her the shots" (#10).

### **Implications**

Research has often highlighted differences between sexually coercive and noncoercive men that occur before they even reach puberty (e.g., delinquent tendencies or experiencing child abuse). Studies like this one, which identify situational factors that differed between sexual situations and focus on what the men were thinking at the time, might be more useful for rape prevention programming for high school and college men.

The thoughts mentioned in the Coercion situation narratives may provide insight into how men think about and describe such behavior as acceptable. For example, the descriptions men gave of reasons they had sex could be interpreted as the result of their efforts to reduce the

regret they experienced after being in the situation. They may have entered the situation with the perception that they were incapable of coercion, yet found themselves engaging in coercive behavior. If so, thoughts that they wanted to have sex and/or that the woman actually wanted to have sex may have originated during or after the situation to reduce their guilt or shame. College rape prevention programs might try to decrease the social acceptability of the idea that if a man has an intense physical desire for sex, it is okay to coerce intercourse.

### **Limitations and Future Directions**

This study has several important limitations. The sample of men in this study was small, which makes it difficult to draw conclusions. Yet McCoy and Muehlenhard's (1991) larger study provides support that the present results are meaningful because their study yielded similar findings. Additional studies with more participants could be useful. Other empirical methods of identifying men's reasons for engaging in sexual coercion in some situations and not others could also be investigated, such as using implicit measurement techniques. Longitudinal methods are also likely to yield rich data. Analyzing qualitative data, as we did, is unlikely to be feasible with a large sample of men.

We wrote the Coercion situation so that it corresponded to our definition of rape—that is, any man who had been in this situation would have committed rape. Twenty of the men in our sample indicated having been in this situation, but some of them wrote that the woman had changed her mind or that she really wanted to have sex. It could be that they are correct and that the women actually did engage in sex willingly—that is, it could be that these situations were not rape. On the other hand, it could be that the women did not engage in sex willingly, meaning that these situations were rape. We obtained only the men's perspectives on these situations, and the men might not actually know whether or not the women had been willing. In future research, it

would be useful to question women and men who had been each other's sexual partners to assess how they had interpreted the same situation.

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## Appendix A

## Questionnaire

(Space between items was abbreviated)

**Do NOT put your name or KU ID anywhere on this questionnaire****Situation One: (occurring in the following order)**

1. You tried to get a girl to have sex with you.
2. She signaled, either verbally or nonverbally, that she was not agreeable to it.
3. You made additional sexual advances,
4. but for some reason you did not engage in sex with her at that time.

1. Check which of these applies to you, and follow the directions for that choice. Check one.

\_\_\_ **I have been in this situation.**

DIRECTIONS: Answer these questions thinking about this situation. If you have had this experience more than once, choose the time that stands out most in your mind.

\_\_\_ **I have never been in this situation, but I have been in a similar situation.**

DIRECTIONS: Answer these questions thinking about that experience.

\_\_\_ **I have never been in this situation, or anything close to it.**

DIRECTIONS: Answer these questions the way someone might if they *had* had the experience.

2. How did you know the girl/what was your relationship to her at the time?
3. Describe what led up to the situation.
4. What happened during the situation?
5. What did you do to try to get her to have sex with you?
6. What thoughts were going through your mind when you were first trying to get her to have sex with you?
7. How did she signal that she was not agreeable to sex?
8. What were your reasons for continuing to make sexual advances after she signaled that she was not agreeable to sex?
9. What thoughts were going through your mind while you were continuing to make sexual advances (after she signaled that she was not agreeable to sex)?
10. What would have happened if you had stopped making sexual advances immediately after she signaled that she was not agreeable to sex?
11. Why didn't you engage in sexual intercourse with her after you made additional sexual advances/why did you eventually stop making advances?
12. Did you engage in other sexual activities with her? Describe them.
13. Had you been using alcohol or drugs during the situation (or right before)? If so, what were your reasons for using them? What effect, if any, did they have?
14. Had the girl been using alcohol or drugs during the situation (or right before)? If so, what reasons do you think she had for using them? What effect, if any, do you think they had on her?



15. If you told your friends about this situation, what did they think or say about it? (If you have **not** told any of your friends about it, what do you think they would say if you told them?)
16. How did you feel about the situation afterward?
17. If you were in the same situation again, would you do anything differently? Why or why not?
18. Do you have any additional comments that could help us understand the situation?

Do NOT put your name or KU ID anywhere on this questionnaire

**Situation Two: (occurring in the following order)**

1. You tried to get a girl to have sex with you.
2. She signaled, either verbally or nonverbally, that she was not agreeable to it.
3. You made additional sexual advances,
4. and then you did have sex with her (even though she never signaled that she was agreeable).

1. Check which of these applies to you, and follow the directions for that choice. Check one.

\_\_\_ **I have been in this situation.**

DIRECTIONS: Answer these questions thinking about this situation. If you have had this experience more than once, choose the time that stands out most in your mind.

\_\_\_ **I have never been in this situation, but I have been in a similar situation.**

DIRECTIONS: Answer these questions thinking about that experience.

\_\_\_ **I have never been in this situation, or anything close to it.**

DIRECTIONS: Answer these questions the way someone might if they *had* had the experience.

2. How did you know the girl/what was your relationship to her at the time?
3. Describe what led up to the situation.
4. What happened during the situation?
5. What did you do to try to get her to have sex with you?
6. What thoughts were going through your mind when you were first trying to get her to have sex with you?
7. How did she signal that she was not agreeable to sex?
8. What were your reasons for continuing to make sexual advances after she signaled that she was not agreeable to sex?
9. What thoughts were going through your mind while you were continuing to make sexual advances (after she signaled that she was not agreeable to sex)?
10. What would have happened if you had stopped making sexual advances immediately after she signaled that she was not agreeable to sex?
11. What were your reasons for having sex with her after she signaled that she was not agreeable to sex?
12. What thoughts were going through your mind while you were having sex with her?
13. Had you been using alcohol or drugs during the situation (or right before)? If so, what were your reasons for using them? What effect, if any, did they have?

14. Had the girl been using alcohol or drugs during the situation (or right before)? If so, what reasons do you think she had for using them? What effect, if any, do you think they had on her?
15. If you told your friends about this situation, what did they think or say about it? (If you have **not** told any of your friends about it, what do you think they would say if you told them?)
16. How did you feel about the situation afterward?
17. If you were in the same situation again, would you do anything differently? Why or why not?
18. Do you have any additional comments that could help us understand the situation?

Do NOT put your name or KU ID anywhere on this questionnaire

Situation Three: (occurring in the following order)

1. You tried to get a girl to have sex with you.
2. She signaled, either verbally or nonverbally, that she was not agreeable to it.
3. You did not make any additional sexual advances.

1. Check which of these applies to you, and follow the directions for that choice. Check one.

\_\_\_ **I have been in this situation.**

DIRECTIONS: Answer these questions thinking about this situation. If you have had this experience more than once, choose the time that stands out most in your mind.

\_\_\_ **I have never been in this situation, but I have been in a similar situation.**

DIRECTIONS: Answer these questions thinking about that experience.

\_\_\_ **I have never been in this situation, or anything close to it.**

DIRECTIONS: Answer these questions the way someone might if they *had* had the experience.

2. How did you know the girl/what was your relationship to her at the time?
3. Describe what led up to the situation.
4. What happened during the situation?
5. What did you do to try to get her to have sex with you?
6. What thoughts were going through your mind during the time you were trying to get her to have sex with you?
7. How did she signal that she was not agreeable to sex?
8. What were your reasons for stopping to make sexual advances after she signaled she was not agreeable to sex?
9. Did you engage in any other sexual activities with her? Describe them.
10. Had you been using alcohol or drugs during the situation (or right before)? If so, what were your reasons for using them? What effect, if any, did they have?
11. Had the girl been using alcohol or drugs during the situation (or right before)? If so, what reasons do you think she had for using them? What effect, if any, do you think they had on her?
12. If you told your friends about this situation, what did they think or say about it? (If you have **not** told any of your friends about it, what do you think they would say if you told them?)
13. How did you feel about the situation afterward?
14. If you were in the same situation again, would you do anything differently? Why or why not?

15. Do you have any additional comments that could help us understand the situation?

1. Gender:  Male  Female
2. Age \_\_\_\_\_
3. Race/Ethnicity: (check one)
  - African American/Black
  - Asian American
  - European American/White
  - Hispanic American/Latino/Latina
  - Native American/American Indian
  - Biracial/Multiracial
  - Other \_\_\_\_\_
4. Are you an international student?
  - No  Yes
5. Sexual orientation
  - Heterosexual/straight
  - Homosexual/gay
  - Bisexual
  - Unsure
  - Other \_\_\_\_\_
6. Has your sexual behavior been: (check one)
  - Only with males
  - Mostly with males
  - Equally with males and females
  - Mostly with females
  - Only with females
  - Not applicable/no sexual experience
  - Other \_\_\_\_\_
7. Have you ever engaged in sexual intercourse (penile-vaginal sex)? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
8. With how many partners have you engaged in sexual intercourse? \_\_\_\_\_
  - If you cannot recall the exact number, please estimate it.
  - If you have not had sexual intercourse, write N/A for not applicable.
9. How old were you when you first had sexual intercourse? \_\_\_\_\_
  - If you cannot recall the exact age, please estimate it.
  - If you have not had sexual intercourse, write N/A for not applicable.
10. What best describes your current relationship(s)? (check one)
  - never dated anyone
  - not dating anyone now
  - dating one person casually (i.e., with no agreement to be exclusive)
  - dating more than one person casually (i.e., with no agreement to be exclusive)
  - dating one person exclusively
  - engaged
  - other: \_\_\_\_\_
11. Please check all extracurricular activities you engage in:
  - mixed-gender sports team
  - all-male sports team
  - mixed-gender service group
  - all male fraternity/service group
  - mixed-gender academic club/society
  - all-male academic club/society
  - mixed-gender hobby group
  - all-male hobby group
  - none
  - other: \_\_\_\_\_

## Appendix B

### Consent Form

**INTRODUCTION:** The Department of Psychology at the University of Kansas supports the practice of protection for human subjects participating in research. The following information is provided for you to decide whether you wish to participate in the present study. You are free to decide whether or not to participate in this study. Even if you agree to participate, you are free to withdraw at any time without penalty. If you do withdraw from this study, it will not affect the credit you received up to that point.

**PURPOSE OF THE STUDY:** The purpose of this study is to examine men's sexual attitudes and behaviors, especially when the woman he wants to have sex with signals that she is not agreeable to it.

**PROCEDURES and INFORMATION TO BE COLLECTED:** This study involves a questionnaire. The questionnaire will be anonymous and will take no more than one hour of your time. Some of the questions that you will be asked will be personal. For example, many of the questions ask about your own attitudes toward and experiences with sex. However, everyone will be able to answer all the questions, regardless of past sexual experiences.

**ANONYMITY:** *All questionnaires are completely anonymous. Nowhere on the questionnaire do we ask for your name, and we have avoided asking questions that might identify you indirectly.*

**RISKS and BENEFITS:** *We do not anticipate that participating in this study will cause any risks. If you are uncomfortable with any of the questions, you may skip them.*

*In exchange for your participation, you will receive one credit toward your PSYC 104 research requirement for every half hour or portion thereof that you participate.*

**USE OF THE DATA:** The data collected in this study will be used by graduate student Michelle Kanga, Professor Charlene Muehlenhard, and Professor Muehlenhard's students to better understand the sexual attitudes and behaviors of college students. The data collected in this study could be used at any time in the future.

**PARTICIPANT CERTIFICATION:** I have read this Information Sheet. I have had the opportunity to ask, and I have received answers to, any questions I had regarding the study. I understand that if I have any additional questions about my rights as a research participant, I may contact David Hann, dhann@ku.edu, or Mary Denning, mdenning@ku.edu, at the Human Subjects Committee Lawrence Campus (HSCL), University of Kansas, 2385 Irving Hill Road, Lawrence, Kansas 66045-7563, (785) 864-7429.

*Completion of the survey indicates your willingness to participate in this project and that you are at least 18 years old.*

## Appendix C

## Instruction Overview Sheet

## OVERVIEW

This study involves 3 short questionnaires.

We would like you to answer questions about three different situations you may or may not have been in. Each situation begins like this:

1. You tried to get a girl to have sex with you.
2. She signaled, either verbally or nonverbally, that she was not agreeable to it.

Then each situation differs in what happened next...

Situation One:

3. You made additional sexual advances,
4. but for some reason you did not engage in sex at that time.

Situation Two:

3. You made additional sexual advances.
4. Then you did have sex with her (even though she never signaled that she was agreeable).

Situation Three:

3. You did not make any additional sexual advances.

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If you have been in some but not all of the situations, first fill out the questionnaires about the situations you have been in; then fill out the rest.

If you have been in all or none of these situations, fill out the questionnaires in any order.

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NOTE:

- Do not put your name or KU ID on the questionnaires.
- If you have been in a situation more than once, choose a time that stands out most in your mind.
- For this survey, "sex" refers to penile-vaginal sexual intercourse.
- Please take your time and provide as much detail as possible.
- The information you provide will never be connected to any identifying information about you. You should feel free to be as honest as possible when answering these questions.
- When you are finished, put your questionnaire into the manila folder and hand it in. This is to further protect your privacy.

## Appendix D

### Debriefing Form

#### Debriefing Form

The purpose of this study is to examine men's thoughts and behaviors in sexual situation, especially after a woman signals that she is not agreeable to sex.

Research suggests that some men have had the experience of continuing to make sexual advances after a woman has signaled that she was not agreeable to it. The purpose of this study is to learn more about what distinguishes between situations in which men stop making sexual advances versus continue making advances, and what distinguishes between situations in which they do versus do not end up having sex.

We think it's important to mention that, regardless of what experiences anyone has had in the past, it is best to take a woman's signals seriously and not to have sex until you get a clear signal that she is willing.

This study is an example of a *qualitative pilot study*. By a *qualitative study*, we mean that rather than giving you a list of answers to choose from, we asked open-ended questions, and you could answer however you liked. We plan to use men's answers to this study to create a questionnaire to be used in another study.

**Thank you** for your participation in this study!

Because of the nature of this research and the personal questions that it involved answering, you may have questions or issues that you would like to discuss further. We have provided information about how to contact us in case you would like to talk about your feelings concerning your participation in this study. We have also listed the phone numbers of some organizations on campus and in Lawrence that provide counseling services in case your participation in this study has raised some issues that you want to talk about with someone.

The graduate student conducting this study:

Michelle Kanga  
Email: mkanga@ku.edu

The faculty advisor for this study:

Charlene Muehlenhard, Ph.D.  
Phone: (785) 864-9860  
Email: charlene@ku.edu

Counseling services:

- KU Psychological Clinic, 315 Fraser Hall, (785) 864-4121. Small fee per session.
- Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS), Watkins Health Center, (785) 864-9580. Small fee per session.
- Headquarters Counseling Center, available 24/7, free of charge, for any concern: (785) 841-2345. No charge.

To discuss your rights as a research participant:

Human Subjects Committee Lawrence, (785) 864-7429  
David Hann, dhann@ku.edu, or Mary Denning, mdenning@ku.edu

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Number of credits:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Researcher's initials:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**MK1**

## Appendix E

## Example Qualitative Coding Sheet

Participant number:			
<b>Situation 1 - Continue</b>			
<b>Who was the other person? (at the time of situation)</b>			
Girlfriend at time			
Ex-girlfriend at time			
Someone I was dating; casual date; we'd been talking/hanging out			
Friend; just a friend			
Friend with benefits; someone I hooked up with in the past			
Acquaintance			
Friend of a friend; someone they met through a friend			
Someone I just met; one-night stand; random hook up			
Other			
No answer			
<b>Where did the situation take place?</b>			
In the man's place of residence			
In the woman's place of residence			
In someone else's place of residence			
At a fraternity house			
At a sorority house			
At a bar			
In a car			
Unclear			
Other			
No answer			
<b>What was the atmosphere of the situation?</b>			
At a party			
Alone together			
Small group of people (more than 2 and less than a party)			
Unclear			
Other			
No answer			
<b>Actions – initial strategies for getting sex “I __ to get her to have sex with me”</b>			
Communicated my desire for sex (explicitly stated or asked)			
Vaguely asked if she wanted to have sex (eg. go upstairs, bedroom)			
Asked even more vaguely for sex (eg. go home together, leave party)			
Flirted with her/engaged in non-sexual touching			
Engaged in sex-related behavior to try to turn her on			
Flattered her			
Expressed interest in her for reasons other than sex			
Acted in ways to try to make her feel obligated			

Gave her alcohol			
Wore her down through persistence/got her to give in			
Pretended to be okay with not having sex			
Manipulated her or the situation so that she was alone with me			
Spent money on her			
Showed her my good qualities			
Faked that I had good qualities			
Acted like I had good qualities (sincerity not clear)			
Unclear			
Other			
No answer			
<b>Thoughts when first trying to get sex</b>			
<b>About a specific strategy</b>			
Communicate my desire for sex (explicitly state or ask)			
Vaguely ask if she wants to have sex (eg. go upstairs, bedroom)			
Ask even more vaguely for sex (eg. go home together, leave party)			
Engage in sex-related behavior to try to turn her on			
Flatter her			
Express interest in her for reasons other than sex			
Act in ways to try to make her feel obligated			
Give her alcohol			
Wear her down through persistence/get her to give in			
Pretend to be okay with not having sex			
Manipulate her or the situation so that she is alone with me			
Spend money on her			
Show her my good qualities			
Fake that I have good qualities			
Act like I have good qualities (sincerity not clear)			
Unclear			
Other			
<b>About a general strategy</b>			
I need to think of a strategy for getting sex (no strategy stated)			
<b>Other</b>			
I am horny			
Alcohol is causing me to initiate sexual activity			
Positive thoughts about her			
I will be probably be able to have sex with her			
She is a slut			



I do not care about what she wants			
Other negative thoughts about her			
Excited			
Nervous			
Unclear			
Other			
No answer			
<b>How did she signal that she was not agreeable to sex?</b>			
Verbally = 1, Nonverbally = 2, Both = 3			
Unclear			
No answer			
<b>Reasons/thoughts for continuing to make sexual advances AFTER signal</b>			
<b>Conducive to continuing</b>			
I'll feel awkward if I stop			
I'll be pissed off if I stop			
I need/want sex or I'm horny			
I'll experience negative physical consequences			
Nothing bad will come of it			
Her reasons for not consenting are unreasonable			
I don't mind going against her wishes			
I don't care about her other than to get sex			
She might be someone I can get sex from			
She'll be mad if I stop doing sexual things after she signals no			
I like her a lot			
I want to pleasure her			
Having sex with her will demonstrate that I care about her			
Sex will boost our moods			
I deserve/am entitled to sex (for no apparent reason)			
I deserve/am entitled to sex because I spent \$ on her			
I deserve/am entitled to sex cause of something else I did for her			
I deserve/am entitled to sex because she is a slut			
I deserve/am entitled to sex because we've had sex before			
She also signaled yes by coming to my place			
She also signaled yes by inviting/allowing me to go to her place			
She also signaled yes by showing interest in me (pre-kissing)			

## Appendix F

## Descriptions of Criteria Necessary for Each Theme

*Components of Themes Examined, categorized chronologically*

Theme	Components of theme ( <i>presentation of one or more signifies presence of theme</i> )
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**Situational factors (coders select all that apply)**

Romantic	History with woman involves a romantic relationship: girlfriend or ex-girlfriend at the time; dating ( <i>casual date; talking or hanging out</i> ); non-romantic sexual partner ( <i>"friends with benefits"</i> )
Platonic	History with woman involves no romantic relationship: friend; acquaintance; woman just met ( <i>stranger, introduced to</i> )
His residence	His living space ( <i>house; apartment; dorm room; fraternity bedroom</i> )
Other place	Anywhere other than his residence: her living space ( <i>house; apartment; dorm room; sorority bedroom</i> ); someone else's living space; fraternity house; sorority house; at a bar; in a car
Alone	Alone together ( <i>clear that only he and woman were present</i> )
Not alone	With large group; with small group ( <i>more than 2 and less than a party</i> ); other
Alcohol/drug	Code as: neither (evidence that neither participant or woman are drinking or using drugs); both (evidence that both are either drinking, drugging, or both); him only (he used alc/drugs, but she didn't); her only (she used, he didn't)

**Participant's thoughts and/or actions when first initiating sex (i.e., before her signal) (coders select all that apply)**

Voiced desire <sup>a</sup>	Voice desire for sex explicitly ( <i>asked for sex</i> ); vaguely ( <i>go upstairs</i> ); more vaguely ( <i>go home together</i> )
Showed interest <sup>a</sup>	Flirt; non-sexual touching; flatter; express interest in her for reasons unrelated to sex
Turned-on <sup>a</sup>	Engage in sex-related behavior to try to turn her on
Gave alcohol <sup>a</sup>	Give woman alcohol ( <i>for purpose of increasing chance of sex</i> )
Wore down <sup>a</sup>	Through persistence; get her to give in
Got alone <sup>a</sup>	Manipulate her or the situation so she is alone with him
Spent money <sup>a</sup>	Buy woman something ( <i>for purpose of increasing chance of sex</i> )
Acted "good" <sup>a</sup>	Pretend to be okay with not having sex; show, act or fake good qualities; act like a "good" person
Obligation	Acted in ways to try to make her feel obligated to have sex with him ( <i>she owes him; is supposed to</i> )
Needed strategy	Need to think of a strategy for getting sex (no strategy stated)
Blamed alcohol	Believes alcohol is causing him to initiate sexual activity
Expected sex	Thinking he will be probably be able to have sex with her
Slut	Thinking she is a slut ( <i>or other word for being "too" sexually active</i> )
Didn't care-her	Thinking that he does not care about what she wants
Negative-her	Thinking any other type of negative thought about her ( <i>not mentioned above</i> )
Positive-her	Thinking about her or situation in a positive way
Excited	Thinking about being excited; happy ( <i>or anticipation</i> )
Nervous	Thinking about being nervous; afraid

**Way woman signaled that she was not agreeable to sex (coders select only one)**

Verbal	Using words; noises; exclamations
Nonverbal	Using body to make gestures; moving whole body at once; leaving situation
Both	At least one verbal and one nonverbal signal component is mentioned

**Participant interpreted signal as meaning she: (coders select only one)**

Did not want	Evidence that he believed she did not want sex ( <i>stated directly in some way, ie. "no means no"</i> )
Might want	Evidence that he was unsure if she wanted sex; questioned ( <i>stated directly in some way, ie. "confused"</i> )
Did want	Evidence that he thought woman did want sex ( <i>stated directly in some way, ie. "I'll change her mind"</i> )

**Reasons for stopping sexual advances immediately after signal -- Stop ONLY (coders select all that apply)****Statements conducive to stopping advances:**

No force	Does not want to force her into sex; believes that "no means no;" realizes she actually did not want to have sex; does not want to do something stupid or impulsive; want to be (or appear to be) a "good person;" believes that rape is not necessary; let her direct him ( <i>she makes moves</i> )
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## Thoughts That Facilitate Coercion

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Cared for her	Love/like her; respect her or decision or reason; isn't ready to have sex yet; not want to take virginity; don't want her to be mad; don't want to make her uncomfortable or hurt; don't want to jeopardize friendship or romantic relationship
Hopeless	Getting sex from her is hopeless; tired of trying
Felt rejected	Humiliating/awkward/beneath him to keeping trying; thinks he may not be good enough
Discomfort	Does not want to feel uncomfortable ( <i>vague</i> ), stupid, regretful, impulsive; sex not worth the neg consequences ( <i>vague</i> )
Not want sex	Do not want/need sex anymore ( <i>vague</i> ); because engaged in other sex act; since she doesn't like him; okay with being rejected for sex ( <i>don't care</i> ); still fun without having sex; since rape is not as sexually fulfilling
Prolong	Sex might be better if we prolong it; increase sexual tension
She left	Woman exited the situation and he did not follow

### Reasons/thoughts for continuing advances after signal -- Continue and Rape ONLY (*coders select all that apply*)

#### Statements conducive to continuing advances:

Alcohol	Alcohol is preventing him from stopping his sexual advances
Awkward	Believes he will feel awkward/uncomfortable/embarrassed if he stops making advances after signal
Wanted sex	Need/want sex; horny; avoid neg physical consequences ( <i>ie. "blue balls"</i> ); because he is a guy ( <i>this is what guys do</i> )
Didn't care-her	No neg consequences; her reasons are bad; don't mind going against her wishes; only care about getting sex from her
Pleasure her	Want to give pleasure/demonstrate care/boost their moods; likes her; she'll be mad if he stops sex activity after signal
She wanted sex	She is undecided ( <i>no means maybe</i> ); wants him to do something <i>more</i> ( <i>no means not yet</i> ); might change her mind ( <i>no doesn't always mean no</i> ); is playing hard to get/teasing ( <i>no means yes</i> ); thinks he will likely have sex with her; she also signaled yes by: coming to his residence, or inviting (or allowing) him to her place, or showing interest ( <i>pre-kissing</i> ), or engaging in some sexual behavior with him ( <i>including getting naked near him</i> ), or acting like she wants sex ( <i>vague</i> )
Deserved sex	entitled to sex; because spent money on her; did something for her; she is a slut; had sex before; will be mad if stops

#### Statements conducive to stopping advances (same as above)

### Reasons sex did not happen -- Continue ONLY (*coders select all that apply*)

#### Statements conducive to stopping advances: (same as above)

### Reasons for having sex after signal, even though she never agreed to it -- Rape ONLY (*coders select all that apply*)

#### Statements conducive to continuing: (same as above)

### Thoughts while having sex -- Rape situation ONLY (*coders select all that apply*)

Awkward	Feels uncomfortable; uneasy; anxious
Blamed alcohol	Alcohol or drug intoxication is responsible for him having sex ( <i>ie. too aroused to stop</i> )
Positive-her	Any thoughts about the woman that suggest a positive view of her or positive feelings about her
Negative-her	Any thoughts about the woman that suggest a negative view of her or negative feelings about her
Didn't care-her	States that he does not care about her needs, desires, or well-being
Deserved sex	Any statement that involves the notion that he is entitled to having sex with her ( <i>ie., he earned it</i> )
Sexual arousal	Statements or exclamations that suggest the man is focused on his sex satisfaction or physical sensations
Anger	States feeling angry; mad; upset; glad to be getting revenge/harming her

### Opinions/comments of his friends (*coders select all that apply*)

Not continue	Thought that he should not continue advances after her signal
Yes continue	Thought he should have made advances after signal, or tried harder to get sex
Rejection ok	Think getting rejected for sex is normal; is not a big deal
Made fun	Made fun of him for not obtaining sex; laughed at his actions or rejection; amused (Stop or Continue ONLY)
Impressed	Happy/proud/respectful that he tried to get sex (in Stop or Continue) or did get sex (in Rape)
Not impressed	Unhappy/disappointed that he did not have sex (Stop or Continue)
Neg view-her	Have a negative view of the girl; degrade or devalue her
Indifferent	Do not have any feelings, opinions, or comments about the situation or how he acted

### How he felt about the situation afterward (*coders select all that apply*)

Satisfied	Satisfied with actions during the situation
Positive-her	Positive feelings about her or about their relationship
Negative-her	Negative feelings about her or their relationship

## Thoughts That Facilitate Coercion

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Regret	Regrets his actions during the situation
Sad no sex	Disappointed/upset about not getting sex
Hurt	States feeling hurt; sad; rejected; humiliated
Other neg	States having any other negative feelings about himself ( <i>besides regret or hurt</i> )
Neutral	Feels indifferent about the situation; not caring; not memorable

### **If he was in the same situation again, would he do anything differently? (*coders select only one*)**

No changes	Reported not wanting to change anything about the way he acted in the situation; not regretting any actions
Not continue	Reported wishing he had not continued advances after signal; would not make additional advances if again
Yes continue	Reported wishing he had continued advances after signal; would make additional advances if in situation again

### **Was derogatory language used to describe the woman? (*coders select only if “yes”*)**

Yes	Portrays woman as lesser than human; degrades; she is not worth much/worthless
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### **Was there a resulting negative effect on his relationship with the woman? (*coders select only if “yes”*)**

Yes	He perceives that the situation directly caused negative effect on relationship or future interaction between them
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*Note.* If a participant mentioned any component of a variable, he was categorized as mentioning this variable in his narrative. If he did not mention any of the components, he was coded as not having the variable present in his narrative. If the presence of a theme was unclear or unanswered, that was coded. The italicized, parenthetical phrases provided additional guidance to coders.

<sup>a</sup>This variable was coded twice: once as an action and once as a thought (and both could be endorsed). We wanted to capture information about both types of themes because a respondent could think about doing something but never execute that action.