

**Sexual Assault by a Romantic Partner is Associated with
Higher risk of Mental Health outcomes of College Students**

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Sexual Assault among College Students

- Sexual assault (SA) is a prevalent issue and is the most common form of violence experienced by college students in the United States (Conley et al., 2017)
- SA has an impact on students' mental health and overall well-being. Students who experienced SA in the past year have higher chances of experiencing depression, anxiety, self-harm, and suicidal ideation (Parr, 2020)
- Identity of the perpetrator can have an effect on victims mental health

Intimate Partner Violence

- Intimate partner violence (IPV) = sexual and physical violence and stalking by an intimate partner (Conley & Griffith, 2016)
- One meta-analysis (Al-Modallal, 2016) showed a three to six-fold increase in depression, PTSD, substance use, and suicidality among IPV victims compared to violence perpetrated by someone other than an intimate partner (non-IPV)
- Being sexually assaulted by an intimate partner can lead to feelings of betrayal, which increases mental health problems (Tang & Freyd, 2012).
- Victims of IPV tend to be victimized by their partners on multiple occasions
- Revictimization is associated with higher risk of mental health problems (Al-Modallal, 2016).

Aims and Hypotheses

The proposed study will examine whether mental health outcomes following sexual assault depend on the perpetrator.

Hypotheses:

1. Victims of relationship-related SA will have more depressive and PTSD symptoms compared to victims of non-relationship SA
2. Betrayal trauma and revictimization will mediate worse mental health outcomes among victims of relationship-related SA

Methods

- Send survey out to a random selection of TCNJ students through qualtrics
- Study will contain questions pertaining to sexual assault, including the relationship to the perpetrator, feelings of betrayal, depressive symptoms, and PTSD symptoms.
- Although prior research proposes a connection between IPV and greater mental health outcomes our study will examine potential explanations (betrayal and revictimization) for higher risk associated with IPV
- Data will be collected via Qualtrics and analyzed using the Process add-on for SPSS

Thank you!

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Resources

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