

Sexual Victimization Among Ethnically Diverse College Women

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Introduction

Women are at risk for sexual violence across their lifetime: in childhood, adolescence and adulthood. One of the most robust findings in the rape victimology literature is the *revictimization effect*, by which an initial experience of sexual violence increases the risk of subsequent sexual victimization (Arata, 2002; Breitenbecher, 2001; Messman & Long, 1996). A recent review of empirical research on this topic states that child sexual abuse survivors are between 2 and 11 times more likely than nonvictims to experience assault as an adult (Messman-Moore & Long, 2003). Results of metaanalysis suggest that between 15% and 79% of women with a history of childhood sexual victimization were raped as adults (Roodman & Clum, 2001). Although the revictimization finding has been replicated in numerous studies using a variety of samples and methods, far less agreement exists in terms of *how* or *why* multiple victimizations are statistically associated.

Traditional psychologists have identified several psychological and behavioral factors that may mediate the relationship between multiple experiences of sexual assault. For example, some studies suggest that *symptoms of trauma* (Arata, 1999a,b; Sandberg, Matorin, & Lynn, 1999; Wilson, Calhoun, & Bernat, 1999), or *number of sexual partners* (Combs-Lane & Smith, 2002; Fergusson, Horwood, & Lynskey, 1997; Merrill et al., 1999) might mediate the relationship between an early experience of sexual assault (e.g., in childhood) and subsequent sexual assault victimization (e.g., in adolescence or adulthood). Other studies have found that *risky behavior* related to substance use and sexual activity can differentiate nonvictims from women who have been raped once from revictimized women (Combs-Lane & Smith, 200; Davis, Combs-Lane, & Jackson, 2002). These three factors: 1) symptoms of *post traumatic stress*, 2) number of *romantic partners*, and 3) *risky behavior* – which are each thought to function as effects of the initial victimization as well as predictors of subsequent abuse – will be analyzed here.

For a variety of reasons, much of the research on sexual revictimization has used college samples. One consequence of this methodological trend has been that most research describes the experiences of predominantly White women. The current study was conducted at a large urban university with substantial ethnic and racial diversity; and can offer a unique perspective on sexual victimization experiences among college women of varying ethnic backgrounds. This presentation looks between ethnic groups to reveal differences in not only baseline rape victimization rates, but also in some of the psychological and behavioral responses to rape that are thought to act as risk factors for subsequent victimization.

The Current Study

The larger project that generated these data applied an ecological framework to understand sexual revictimization (Grauerholz, 2000) among college women. In addition to the individual level variables presented here, a host of interpersonal and contextual variables at the microsystem and exosystem level were measured. Findings regarding environmental influences on revictimization are presented elsewhere (see Wasco, 2003).

Research Questions

Two research questions are addressed here. The first looks at the statistical relationship between ethnicity and sexual victimization: *Do victimization rates vary by ethnic group?* The second question focuses on responses to sexual victimization with ethnic background as a consideration: *What are the effects of sexual victimization on the psychological and behavioral risk factors identified above? Do different ethnic groups show the same pattern of responses?*

Method

To increase comparability between these results and previous work, methods were adapted from previous research on this topic. Similar to other revictimization studies, college women were recruited from Psychology 100 classes for participation in the study. Four hundred and ninety-one college women completed comprehensive surveys that included questions about their ethnicity, sexual victimization history, psychological stress symptoms, consensual sexual activity, and risky behavior.

Measures

Five measures are analyzed in this presentation:

Ethnicity. To measure ethnic identity, participants answered a single question: *How would you describe your ethnicity?* Respondents checked all of the following that applied: African American or Black, European American or White, Latina or Hispanic, Arabic American or Middleeastern, Jewish American or Israeli, Asian American or Pacific Islander, Native American or American Indian, I am not sure of my ethnic heritage, or Other. If more than one category was selected, the participant was coded as Bi/Multi-Racial.

Sexual victimization status. Behaviorally specific language was used to identify participants with histories of sexual victimization. The items were modified from the two-stage measurement format used in the National College Women Sexual Victimization study (Fisher, Cullen, & Turner, 2000). First a series of screen questions were asked to determine if a participant had experienced an act of completed rape (penetration of any type by force or the threat of force) or attempted rape (e.g., *Has anyone ever made you have sexual intercourse by using force or threatening to harm you or someone close to you?*). For each screen item that was endorsed, participants specified in dichotomous (yes/no) follow-up questions whether they experienced the act before they turned 14, whether they experienced the act between ages 14 and 18, and whether they experienced the act after the age of 18. Of the total sample of 502 college women, 11 participants elected to skip the sexual victimization questions. These cases were dropped from the rest of the analyses reported here.

Responses on the sexual victimization items were used to categorize participants by *victimization status*. If none of the screen items were endorsed, the participant was coded as a *nonvictim*. If one or more of the sexual violence screen items *in a single developmental period* (e.g., childhood) was endorsed, the participant was coded as a *single victim*. If at least one of the items in *two or more developmental periods* (e.g., childhood and adolescence) were endorsed, the participant was coded as a *repeat victim*. This variable was used as the grouping variable in

chi-squares and analyses of variance (ANOVAs) reported here. Of the 491 participants who answered the sexual victimization questions, 78.6% reported no history of sexual violence ($n=386$); 16.9% were classified as single victims ($n=83$); and 4.5% were coded as repeat victims ($n=22$).

Romantic partners. Two questions were asked to assess participants' current (within the past 30 days) dating partners and consensual sexual partners: *How many different people did you go on dates with in the last 30 days?* and *How many romantic partners did you willingly engage in any type of sexual activity with in the last 30 days?* To reduce the number of variables included in the multivariate analyses, responses to these two items were summed to create a single variable: *romantic partners*.

Risky behavior. To assess behaviors that have been theorized to increase risk of sexual victimization, the Risky Behavior Summary Score (RBSS) was included in participants' surveys (Davis, Combs-Lane & Jackson, 2002). These 33 items measure the frequency of behaviors including general risk (e.g., *going to bars alone*), sexual risk (e.g., *having sex without a condom*), substance abuse behaviors (e.g., *mixing drugs and alcohol*), and a combination of sexual and substance abuse behaviors (e.g., *drinking alcohol prior to sex*). Participants reported how often they engaged in each behavior in the previous three months on a Likert-type scale ranging from 0 (*never*) to 4 (*often*). Item scores were averaged to yield a risky behavior scale score. Based on post-hoc reliability analyses, this 33-item scale was modified for use in the current study. Seven items with corrected item-total correlations below .30 were dropped from the scale. Scores on the 26-item modified version of the RSS were quite low ($M=0.35$; $SD=0.39$), and the final reliability statistics suggest the revised scale was quite reliable: alpha=.91; CITC range=.34-.63.

Posttraumatic stress. The Crime-Related Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (CR-PTSD) Scale was used to measure posttraumatic stress symptoms (Saunders, Arata & Kilpatrick, 1990). This well-validated scale consists of 28 items from the Symptom Checklist-90-Revised (SCL-90-R; Derogatis, 1977) that were found to differentiate crime victims from nonvictims (e.g., *repeated thoughts that won't leave your mind, having to check and double-check what you do, and sleep that is restless or disturbed*). Participants rated the extent to which they had been bothered by each item in the past seven days using a five point Likert-type scale (0=*not at all*, 4=*extremely*), and an average scale score was computed for each participant. The average score on this scale was fairly low ($M=0.85$; $SD=0.57$), indicating a highly functional sample. Additional analyses suggest that this scale was quite reliable with the current sample: alpha=.92; range of corrected item-total correlations (CITC) = .30-.67.

Analyses

Univariate and bivariate statistics were calculated to describe the frequency distributions of variables included in the study. Then, a 3 x 3 factorial multivariate analysis of variance (MANOVA) was conducted to analyze the effects of ethnicity and victimization status variables identified as risk factors for subsequent sexual violence. Specifically, we examined the effects of victimization status (nonvictim, single victim, repeat victim) and ethnicity (European descent, Asian descent, other ethnic background) on number of romantic partners, risky behavior, and symptoms of post-traumatic stress.

Results

Demographic Characteristics of Participants

Frequency distributions of demographic questions included in the survey suggest a sample of college women that is young, straight, and ethnically diverse (68.9 % women of Color). These data also reflect the commuter nature of the host university setting: the majority of students (about 60%) live at home with their families, with a sizable minority (24.5%) living in the campus dorms; and most students (57.8%) working at least part time in addition to their studies. Table 1 displays these distributions.

Table 1
Demographic Characteristics of Participants (n=502)

| Characteristic | Frequency | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | N | % |
| Ethnicity ¹ | | |
| African American | 63 | 12.5 |
| Asian American | 147 | 29.3 |
| European American | 156 | 31.1 |
| Latina/Hispanic | 97 | 19.3 |
| Other | 39 | 7.8 |
| Sexual Orientation ² | | |
| Heterosexual | 480 | 96.0 |
| Homosexual | 3 | .6 |
| Bisexual | 9 | 1.8 |
| Not sure | 8 | 1.6 |
| Relationship Status | | |
| Single/Never Married | 259 | 51.6 |
| Single/Divorced | 6 | 1.2 |
| Committed Relationship | 224 | 44.6 |
| Married | 13 | 2.6 |
| Employment | | |
| Not employed | 212 | 42.2 |
| Part-time | 279 | 55.6 |
| Full-time | 11 | 2.2 |
| Living Arrangement | | |
| Alone in university dorms | 26 | 5.2 |
| Alone in a house or apartment | 18 | 3.6 |
| With roommate in university dorms | 96 | 19.1 |
| With roommate in a house or apartment | 38 | 7.6 |
| With romantic partner in a house/apt | 27 | 5.4 |
| With my family | 297 | 59.2 |
| Household Income ^{2,3} | | |
| 10,000 or less | 151 | 32.9 |
| 10,001 - 20,000 | 57 | 12.4 |
| 20,001 - 30,000 | 55 | 12.0 |
| 30,001 - 40,000 | 48 | 10.5 |
| 40,001 - 50,000 | 45 | 9.8 |
| Over 50,000 | 103 | 22.4 |
| Age in Years range: 18-46 | | |
| | | <i>M</i> |
| | | <i>SD</i> |
| | | 19.15 |
| | | 1.93 |

¹ Other includes Arabic American (*n*=15), Bi/Multi-Racial (*n*=17) Jewish American (*n*=4), and Native American (*n*=1) participants.

² Frequency counts may not add up to total *n* due to missing data on these questions. Percentages reported exclude missing data.

³ 8.6% missing data on this variable.

Sexual Victimization Rates

One of the most frequently cited prevalence rates for sexual assault, based upon an empirical review of epidemiological studies, is that one of every four women will be raped at some point in her life (Koss, 1993). Table 2 displays how various ethnic groups' experiences "match up" to that rate. As you can see, the "one in four" statistic best describes European American women's experiences. African American, Latina, and Multiracial women all experience victimization at higher rates. Asian American and women of other ethnic heritage report notably lower rape victimization rates.

Table 2
Lifetime Rape Rates Within Various Ethnic Groups (N=491)

| Ethnicity | Frequency | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| | n of rape victims | % within ethnic group | Rate |
| African American | 17 | 26.9 | More than 1 in 4 |
| Asian American | 15 | 10.3 | Approx. 1 in 10 |
| European American | 38 | 25.0 | 1 in 4 |
| Latina/Hispanic | 28 | 29.8 | Nearly 1 in 3 |
| Multiracial | 6 | 35.3 | More than 1 in 3 |
| Other ¹ | 1 | 5.0 | 1 in 20 |

¹Other includes women of Arabic, Jewish and Native American descent.

Factors Used in Multivariate Analyses

For purpose of analysis, ethnicity was reduced to a categorical variable with three groups: “European Americans,” “Asian Americans” and “Everybody Else.” As described in the measures section, victimization status was also coded into a variable into three levels. There was a significant relationship between the two categorical variables used as factors in the ANOVA (χ^2 (df=4)=19.42; $p<.001$). More Asian American women had never been victimized (about 90%) than European Americans (75%) or Everyone Else (73%).

Table 3
Statistical Association Between Ethnicity and Victimization Status

| Victimization Status | Ethnicity | | | Total (N=491) |
|--|---------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| | European American (n=152) | Asian American (n=145) | Everybody Else (n=194) | |
| Never been sexually assaulted ¹ (Nonvictims) | 114 (75%) | 130 (89.6%) | 142 (73.2%) | 386 (78.6%) |
| Sexually assaulted at one developmental stage ² (Single Victims) | 33 (21.7%) | 13 (9.0%) | 37 (19.1%) | 83 (16.9%) |
| Sexually assaulted at more than one stage (Repeat Victims) | 5 (3.3%) | 2 (1.4%) | 15 (7.7%) | 22 (4.5%) |

¹ Attempted or completed rape by force or coercion.

² Three developmental stages assessed are childhood (ages birth-13), adolescence (14-18), and adulthood (over age of 18)

Multivariate Analysis of Variance

At the multivariate level, all three terms – the main effect of victimization status, the main effect of ethnicity, and the interaction between victimization status and ethnicity – were significant on the multivariate outcome. The multivariate outcome variable, *sexual assault risk*, was comprised of three separate measures of romantic partners, risky behavior, and posttraumatic stress. Results of the multivariate analysis of variance are displayed in Table 4.

Table 4
Effects of Victimization Status and Ethnicity on Sexual Assault Risk

| Effect | Pillai's Trace | F Test | Significant? |
|----------------------|----------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| Victimization Status | .08 | $F(6, 956) = 7.03$ | Yes; $p = .000$ |
| Ethnicity | .04 | $F(6, 956) = 3.10$ | Yes; $p = .005$ |
| Two Way Interaction | .05 | $F(12, 1437) = 2.00$ | Yes; $p = .021$ |

Understanding Effects on Romantic Partners

Holding ethnicity constant, there was a main effect of victimization status on romantic partners, $F(2, 479)=4.56; p=.011$, such that the nonvictims had significantly fewer partners, on average, than either single victims or repeat victims. Although repeat victims did report more partners, on average, than single victims, the mean difference did not meet statistical significance. See the marginal means shown in Table 5.

Holding victimization status constant, there was a main effect of ethnicity on romantic partners, $F(2, 479)=3.86; p=.022$, such that women of Asian descent have, on average, fewer partners than women of other ethnicities and women of European descent. These marginal means are displayed in Table 5.

The two-way interaction (ethnicity by victimization status) did not have a significant effect on romantic partners: $F(4, 479)=2.11; p=.079$.

Table 5
Mean Number of Romantic Partners by Ethnicity and Victimization Status (Standard Deviations in Parentheses)

| Victimization Status | Ethnicity | | | Total |
|----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | Asian | Everybody Else | European | |
| Nonvictim | 1.07 (1.08) n=129 | 1.39 (1.29) n=142 | 1.59 (1.42) n=112 | 1.34 (1.28) n=383 |
| | 1.15 (1.07) n=13 | 1.89 (0.99) n=37 | 2.42 (1.87) n=33 | 1.99 ^a (1.47) n=83 |
| | 1.00 (1.41) n=2 | 2.93 (1.75) n=15 | 1.80 (0.45) n=5 | 2.50 ^a (1.62) n=22 |
| Total | 1.07 (1.07) n=144 | 1.61 ^c (1.34) n=194 | 1.78 ^c (1.55) n=150 | N=488 |

^a Statistically different than the marginal mean for nonvictims.

^b Statistically different than the marginal mean for single victims.

^c Statistically different than the marginal mean for Asian Americans

Understanding Effects on Risky Behavior

Holding ethnicity constant, there was a main effect of victimization status on risky behavior, $F(2, 479)=15.25; p=.000$, such that the nonvictims reported significantly less risky behavior, on average, than single victims, who reported significantly less risky behavior than repeat victims. See the marginal means shown in Table 6.

Holding victimization status, there was a main effect of ethnicity on risky behavior, $F(2, 479)=4.57; p=.011$, such that women of Asian descent reported, on average, significantly less risky behavior than women of other ethnicities, who in turn reported less risky behavior than women of European descent. Marginal means are shown in Table 6.

The two-way interaction (ethnicity by victimization status) effect on partners was also significant and is graphically displayed in Figure 1. Women of European ethnicity display the pattern of risky behavior increasing from nonvictims to single victims to repeat victims. Women of Color also seem to follow a pattern where risky behavior increases with victimization status, although the increase in risky behavior between nonvictims and single victims seems less marked. Risky behavior among Asian women increases between nonvictims and single victims, but then dips down again with repeat victims. Please note, however, that the mean risky behavior score for Asian repeat victims represents only two people.

Table 6
Mean Risky Behavior by Ethnicity and Victimization Status (Standard Deviations in Parentheses).

| Victimization Status | Ethnicity | | | Total |
|----------------------|-----------|-------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | Asian | Everybody Else | European | |
| Nonvictim | 0.22 | 0.29 | 0.38 | 0.29 |
| | (0.26) | (0.32) | (0.41) | (0.33) |
| | n=129 | n=142 | n=112 | n=383 |
| Single Victim | 0.46 | 0.35 | 0.69 | 0.50 ^a |
| | (0.42) | (0.28) | (0.65) | (0.50) |
| | n=13 | n=37 | n=33 | n=83 |
| Repeat Victim | 0.33 | 0.87 | 0.89 | 0.83 ^{a, b} |
| | (0.08) | (0.43) | (0.52) | (0.45) |
| | n=2 | n=15 | n=5 | n=22 |
| Total | 0.24 | 0.34 ^c | 0.46 ^{c, d} | |
| | (0.28) | (0.35) | (0.49) | N=488 |
| | n=144 | n=194 | n=150 | |

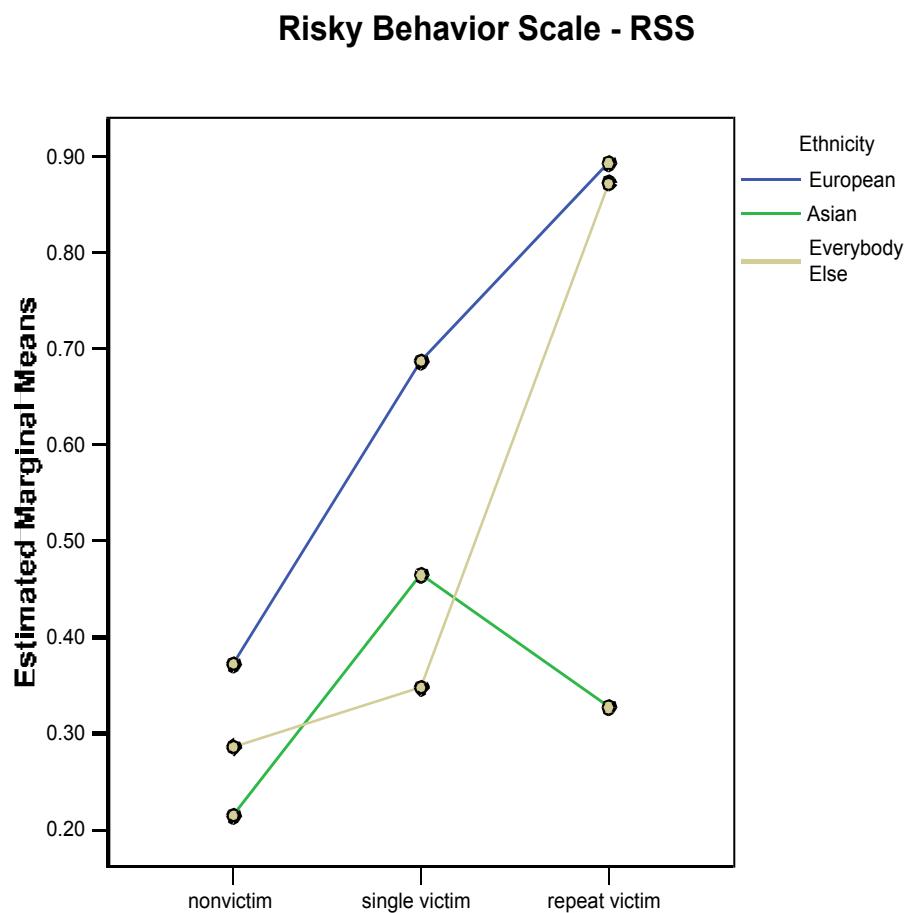
^a Statistically different than the marginal mean for nonvictims.

^b Statistically different than the marginal mean for single victims.

^c Statistically different than the marginal mean for Asian Americans.

^d Statistically different than the marginal mean for Everybody Else.

Figure 1
The Interaction of Ethnicity and Victimization Status on Risky Behavior



Understanding Effects on Posttraumatic Stress

Holding ethnicity constant, there was a main effect of victimization status on posttraumatic stress symptoms, $F(2, 479)=10.29; p=.000$, such that the nonvictims reported significantly fewer symptoms, on average, than either single victims or repeat victims. Although repeat victims did report slightly more stress symptoms, on average, than single victims, the mean difference was not statistically significant. See the marginal means shown in Table 7.

Holding victimization status, there was no effect of ethnicity on posttraumatic stress: $F(2, 479)=0.39; p=.674$. Women of all ethnic backgrounds reported, on average, the same amount of stress symptoms. These marginal means are displayed in Table 7.

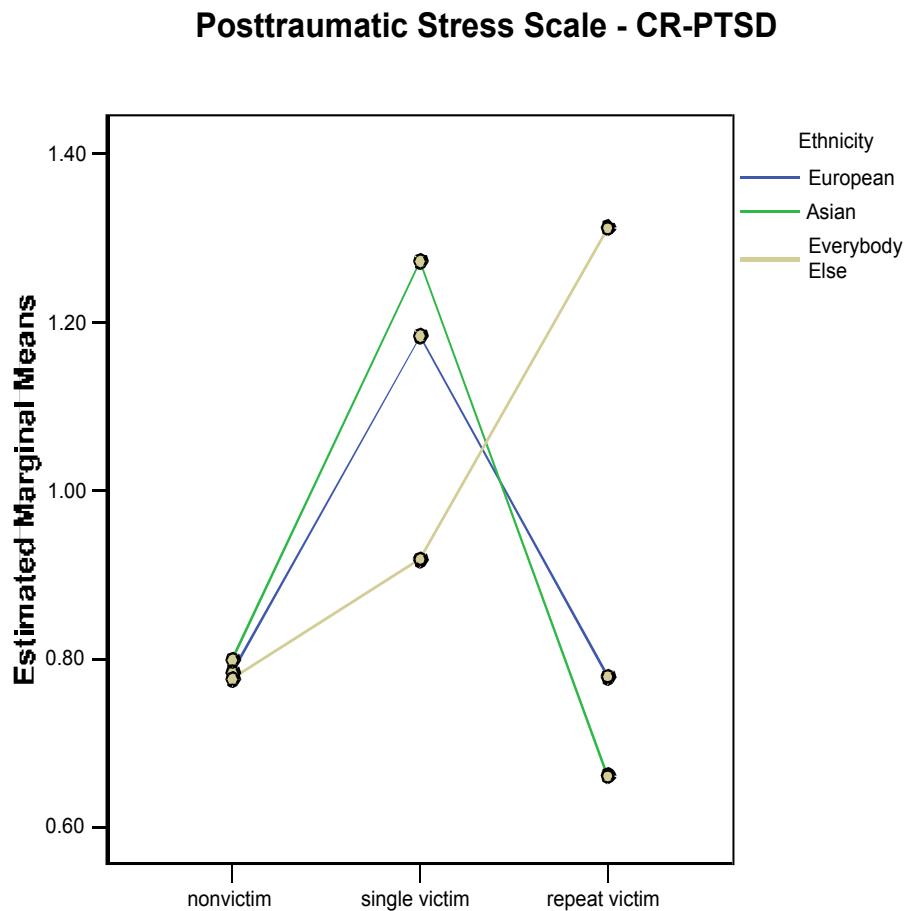
However, the two-way interaction (ethnicity by victimization status) effect on posttraumatic stress was significant, $F(4, 479)=2.52; p=.041$, and is visually presented in Figure 2. Examining the simple effect of victimization status at each level of ethnicity reveals that Everybody Else followed a pattern of increasing posttraumatic stress symptoms at each level of the victimization variable. However, European American and Asian women did not display this pattern of cumulative distress. Instead, both these ethnic groups reported a pattern of relatively low stress symptoms among nonvictims, increased stress symptoms among single victims, returning to lower distress rates among repeat victims.

Table 7
Mean Posttraumatic Stress Symptoms by Ethnicity and Victimization Status (Standard Deviations in Parentheses)

| Victimization Status | Ethnicity | | | Total |
|----------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| | Asian | Everybody Else | European | |
| Nonvictim | 0.80 (0.59) | 0.78 (0.50) | 0.79 (0.51) | 0.79 (0.54) |
| | n=129 | n=142 | n=112 | n=383 |
| | | | | |
| Single Victim | 1.27 (0.74) | 0.92 (0.57) | 1.18 (0.70) | 1.08 ^a (0.66) |
| | n=13 | n=37 | n=33 | n=83 |
| | | | | |
| Repeat Victim | 0.66 (.18) | 1.31 (0.64) | 0.79 (0.43) | 1.13 ^a (0.62) |
| | n=2 | n=15 | n=5 | n=22 |
| | | | | |
| Total | 0.84 (0.62) | 0.84 (0.54) | 0.87 (0.58) | N=488 |
| | n=144 | n=194 | n=150 | |
| | | | | |

^a Statistically different than the marginal mean for nonvictims.

Figure 2
The Interaction of Ethnicity and Victimization Status on Post Traumatic Stress Symptoms



Discussion

Research Question 1: Do Victimization Rates Vary by Ethnic Group?

These data suggest yes. While the European women in this study report sexual victimization (completed or attempted rape) at rates similar to a widely used 1 in 4 prevalence rate for lifetime rape (see Koss, 1993), most women of Color – including African American, Latina and Multi-racial women – report higher rates of victimization. Of particular interest is that women of Asian descent in this study report significantly less victimization: a rate closer to 1 in 10. It is worth noting that rates from this study reflect only completed and attempted rape by force or coercion and excludes lesser forms of sexual victimization (e.g., child sexual abuse by fondling, statutory rape). Also, these rates describe primarily childhood and adolescent rape, as the mean age of participants was just over 19 years.

There are several possible explanations for the relatively low rate of victimization of Asian American women that could be explored in future research. First, this finding might reflect a tendency among Asian Americans to underreport their sexual victimization. The pattern of results for posttraumatic stress scores seems to provide indirect support for this notion (see below). Another explanation is that Asian American women may be more culturally conservative in terms of traditional family structure, social life, and sexual activity, thus reducing their exposure risk to potential perpetrators and situations conducive to sexual assault. The pattern of results for romantic partners and risky behavior might be interpreted as indirect support for this explanation (see below).

Research Question 2: Do Different Ethnic Groups Show the Same Pattern of Responses to Sexual Victimization?

Holding ethnicity constant, these data are consistent with previous findings that suggest a cumulative effect of repeated victimization (Follette, Polusny, Bechtle, & Naugle, 1996). Each step up in victimization status from nonvictim to single victim to repeat victims is associated with an increase on each of the three outcome variables. (Note: Although not all of the post hoc comparisons between single victims and repeat victims were significant in this study, that may be due, in part, to small n's in the repeat victim groups.)

Results become a bit more complex when ethnicity is taken into consideration. Women of different ethnic backgrounds report varying responses to sexual violence. Here, European American women have more romantic partners and exhibit more risky behavior, on average, than other groups, while Asian American women have fewer partners and lower risky behavior. As Asian American women report significantly lower rates of sexual assault than women of other ethnic backgrounds, perhaps this “conservative” social behavior serves as a protective factor against sexual victimization.

There was no main effect of ethnicity on posttraumatic stress, which is an interesting finding given the different reported victimization rates across ethnic groups. The fact that there is no difference between women of Asian descent (who report low victimization rates – 10%) and other women (who report higher victimization rates – 25-27%) in terms of their rape-related stress symptoms may be consistent with an “underreporting” explanation of Asian American women’s relatively low rape rates. Alternatively, Asians’ responses on the posttraumatic stress measure may have been biased towards the middle, or average, response. Or, the posttraumatic stress reported by Asian Americans may be related to other stressful life experiences besides sexual assault. These explanations should be explored in future research.

The significant two-way interaction effects on posttraumatic stress and risky behavior suggest that understanding reactions to rape is more complex than accounting for how many times a woman has been raped. In terms of interpreting the interactions, what happens among repeat victims of differing ethnic backgrounds is the hardest to clarify. The basic pattern between nonvictims and single victims – on all three variables, across all three ethnic groups – is an increase in negative outcome. On the line graphs, all the lines go up on a positive angle (though the slope may vary). The line segments between single victims and repeat victims are different – some go up and some go down. Some of these results support cumulative trauma theory, whereby repeat victims fare worse than single victims. Others indicate that repeat victims may actually have less negative outcomes than single victims. Perhaps these results reflect a finding reported in the literature that repeat victims are more likely to come to the attention of professional caregivers than single victims (Ellis, Atkeson, & Calhoun, 1982), and may have received help that served to reduce some of the negative outcomes of sexual violence. Unfortunately, this study did not ask about help-seeking behavior or community responses.

Limitations

Victimization research is generally limited by its reliance on self-report data, and this study is no exception. Because of the personal nature of victimization experiences, which often go completely undisclosed, it is hard to measure rape prevalence accurately in any other way. However, this does leave the study vulnerable to a host of response biases (e.g., social desirability) as well as the limitation of retrospective recall.

Given the categorical nature of the two variables of interest (ethnicity and victimization status), analysis of variance was adopted post hoc as the primary technique for analyzing these data. However, the study was not designed as an experimental or (even quasi-experimental) study. Thus, subjects were not randomly assigned to each of the cells represented in the factorial design. Thus, means in some cells represent very small numbers of individuals; for example, the mean in the Asian American-Repeat Victim cell represents only two individuals. A more powerful design would have ensured closer to equal numbers of participants in each of the cells in the factorial matrix.

Conclusion

This study has documented differential experiences among women of Color, women of European descent and women of Asian descent in terms of sexual victimization and other outcomes of interest. It is important for those working in the fields of intervention and prevention (especially those that target adolescents and young adults) to be aware of these differences so that programs and interactions with an increasingly ethnically diverse student body can be culturally appropriate and effective. While current analyses explore basic group differences across ethnicity, it does not explain *why* these differences exist. Additional research both across and within ethnic groups (especially racial and ethnic minority groups) should be conducted to develop theory for understanding these patterns.

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