

Environmental & Individual Risk Factors for Bar-related Sexual Assault

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Research supported by NIAAA R01 AA014499

Research to Date

- Pernanen, 1991
 - Less than 10% of aggression in bars involved women
- Collins et al., 2007
 - Female physical aggression: precipitated by rowdy behavior, among strangers, and severity & overall aggressiveness associated with initiation of incident
- Graham et al., 2010
 - Thematic examination of observations of aggressive behaviors associated with romantic overtures in bars

Research to Date

- Parks & Miller, 1997: Our preliminary study
 - Continuum of aggression
 - 32.6% of women self-reported severe bar-related sexual aggression
- Parks (2000); Parks & Zetes-Zanatta (1999): The original survey
 - 63% of women self-reported moderate/severe bar-related aggression;
 - Environmental & social factors increased risk for severe bar-related aggression (younger patrons, drug use/sales, alcohol consumption, interacting with more people)

Current Study

- Focus on risky sexual behavior associated with bars including sexual assault
- 286 young (18-30 years) female weekly bar drinkers
- Measures allowed for replication and extension of previous analyses
- Bar environment
- Social interactions
- Individual characteristics



Sample Characteristics

Variable		
Ethnicity:		
	European-American	79.9
	African-American	12.8
	Other Minority	7.3
Education:		
	< High School	2.4
	High School	12.2
	Some College or more	83.9
Employment:		
	Unemployed	10.5
	Student	58.7
	Part-time	61.5
	Full-time	43.7
Marital Status:		
	Never Married	98.6

Environmental Factors: Drinking & Social Activity in Bars

Variable	Mean (SD)
Weekly Drinks	17.4 (9.2)
Usual Drinks per Occasion in Bar	5.2 (2.4)
Time in Bar in past month (hours)	38.6 (27.9)
	%
# People Interact with:	
Limited (1-4)	15.4
Moderate (5-10)	52.4
Many (> 10)	32.2
Type of People Interact with:	
Mostly Friends	18.2
Acquaintances & Friends	52.4
Acquaintances & Strangers	26.2
Mostly Strangers	3.1
Type of People Leave with:	
Partner/Significant other	23.4
Friend(s)	65.4
Alone	6.3
Other	4.9

Individual Factors

Variable	Mean (SD)
Psychological Symptom	
Anxiety	0.59 (0.63)
Depression	0.60 (0.65)
Hostility	0.65 (0.65)
Sex-related Alcohol Expectancies	
Sexual Risk	2.58 (1.13)
Disinhibition	3.04 (1.09)
Enhancement	4.40 (0.98)
	%
Behavioral Risk Taking	
Leaving with man just met	43.7
Sex with man just met	25.9
Childhood Sexual Abuse History	30.4

Bar-related Sexual Assault

Variable	%
None	35.7
Unwanted Contact	4.9
Coerced Sex	18.2
Attempted Rape	22.0
Completed Rape	19.2

41.2

64.3

Hierarchical Linear Regression for Severity of Bar-related Sexual Assault

Variable	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5	Step 6	Final	ΔR^2
Ethnicity	-.168**	-.110	-.100	-.062	-.094	-.095	-.092	.032*
Age	.051	.023	.019	.011	-.032	-.031	-.006	
Child Sexual Abuse		.315**	.305**	.240**	.229**	.229**	.221**	.095**
Expectancies – Sex Risk Enhancement			.068	.043	.048	.046	.056	.031*
Disinhibition			.160*	.124	.143*	.143*	.141*	
Depression			-.026	-.046	-.127	-.134	-.154	
Anxiety				.052	.057	.058	.078	.079**
Hostility				.188*	.201*	.197*	.194*	
Left w/man just met				.102	.093	.092	.078	
Sex w/man just met					.018	.016	.015	.025*
					.168*	.167*	.171*	
Usual # drinks in bar						.039	.023	.001
# People Interact w/							.128*	.024
Type People Talk to							.040	
Who Leave w/							-.085	
Time spent in a bar							-.047	

Coefficients are β ; * $p < .05$, ** $p < .01$



Results

- Specific factors within the bar context associated with the social environment increase risk for more severe sexual assault
 - Interacting or having contact with a greater number of individuals
- Specific individual factors appear to increase vulnerability for more severe sexual assault
 - A history of CSA
 - Increased anxiety
 - Expectancy that alcohol enhances sex
 - Choosing to have sex with someone just met

Summary

- Findings replicate and extend our previous work.
 - The environmental and individual factors found within the bar context and among female bar drinkers increase risk/vulnerability for more severe bar-related sexual assault.
 - The more people one interacts with, the more one expects alcohol to enhance sex, the more one engages in sexual risk taking, the more likely one is to meet a sexually aggressive man.
- Does **NOT** implicate the victim
 - Suggests avenues for intervention
 - Supports ongoing research efforts
 - Cue recognition
 - Behavior modification

Thank you!



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