Behavior of College Women

A quantitative study of alcohol consumption and sexual experiences among college-aged women.

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ABSTRACT:

This is a quantitative study of sexual behaviors/ promiscuity and drinking among college women. A sample of 169 women was taken at the University of New Hampshire. Using a promiscuity attitude scale, the results show that the more alcohol a woman consumed, the more liberal her promiscuity score was. And when measuring sexual behavior, the results show that the more drinks a woman consumes, the more likely she is to have a sexual experience that she might not have had when she was sober. Other data shows that year in school, college major and sorority affiliation are all related to more liberal views of promiscuity. Larger implications of this research suggest incorporating males for more diverse results.

INTRODUCTION:

Transitioning throughout college can be extremely troublesome for young women. College is a time about discovering oneself and at times, the demands and different changes one embarks upon can be very stressful. These students handle the stressors in different ways. Research suggests that one way college students cope with the demands and high stress of college is to consume alcohol. Although maybe not the best or most effective way to cope with the different stressors these women encounter, it can be a temporary solution to the problems at hand. One negative effect that alcohol is shown to have on women is on their promiscuity and sexual behaviors. Research shows that not only does it have an effect on the number of partners she may have, but on the safety of the practices she encounters. The purpose of this study was to investigate the relationship of the effects of alcohol on college women and how it relates to their promiscuity and sexual behaviors. Even though it is a temporary solution to these bigger college problems, it has been suggested that alcohol has led to some substantial negative effects on these women. The following research supports these notions in giving some

background knowledge and shedding light on the various behaviors associated with alcohol.

LITERATURE REVIEW:

In a study conducted on the addictive behaviors of college women, Benjamin and Wulfert examined the relationship to binge eating and alcohol abuse. "Binge eating and heavy drinking are prevalent among college-aged women and together are classified as addictive behaviors" (Benjamin and Wulfert, 2003). "Over one-third of college women binge drink (i.e., they consume four or more drinks per occasion) and 17% do so three or more times during a period of two weeks" (Benjamin and Wulfert, 2003). The study also addresses issues of impulsivity, tolerance of deviance, self-esteem, rejection sensitivity, emotional stability, and social desirability. The study showed that issues concerning women who binge drink were statistically significant with socially deviant attitudes and being emotionally unstable. Having a socially deviant attitude about topics such as attending class or drinking can lead to negative effects on these women because if they have the attitude to skip class or drink heavily on weekends, then the consequences of those things will in turn be negative. Also, if a woman is emotionally unstable it can lead her to not fulfill her everyday tasks as efficiently as she might if she did not have emotional issues, so this is another problem that can lead to much greater effects. Both of these findings of socially deviant attitudes and emotional instability in the study can be related to the mental health of women and their drinking habits. This is an important part of our research question on the effects of alcohol on college women. Some limitations to this study are the fact that it was correlational; conclusions cannot be drawn about the

direction of the relationships that were found. Another limitation is that Benjamin and Wulfert "cannot demonstrate that the findings are applicable to women who binge eat or abuse alcohol outside of a college setting" (2003). A strength to this study is that "the results of the present study have potential implications for the conceptualization and treatment of binge eating and alcohol abuse in college women" (Benjamin and Wulfert, 2003).

A recent study conducted by Young et al. addresses the idea of why college women's drinking habits have changed drastically since the 1950's. The purpose of this exploratory study was to examine whether the notion of "drinking like a guy" holds particular resonance for the most recent generation of female college students, and if so, to explore why undergraduate women drink in this fashion (Young et al., 2005). The study used focus groups to examine the ideas of these women. They found that while not all focus group participants felt that 'drinking like a guy' described their own behavior, they all felt the pressure to do so because of the impression they could make on their male peers (Young et al., 2005). This heavy drinking behavior is not to gain power or status over the guys they are drinking around or with, but they drink this way in order to try and make the guys like them. Young et al. found that women say they have an 'upper hand' against other girls if they are able to 'drink like guys can' because men find it attractive when their female peers are able to "match them for a drink" (2005). These guys find it attractive when their female friends or even girlfriends are able to drink as much, if not more than they are able to. It is obvious that there are many reasons why college-aged women choose to drink and we aim to find this out when exploring our research question on the effects of alcohol on college women. Although according to this

study it seems that it is an issue of social desirability rather than a personal issue. A weakness to this study is that because the results come from the current generation of female students, they cannot speak to generations from previous cohorts on what college men find appealing about college women (Young et al., 2005). A strength to this study is that it aims to find out why college women drink and we believe it is a good baseline for future research findings.

Another study was conducted by Goldstein et al., and their main aim was to examine "event-level associations between alcohol use and sexual risk taking across first and repeat oral and vaginal sex encounters among at-risk college student drinkers" (2007). Participants were asked to provide information regarding "alcohol consumption, sexual activity, and event-level data on their most recent (repeat and first) experiences with oral and vaginal sex" (Goldstein et al., 2007). The study found that 80.5% of students reported ever having a vaginal or oral sexual encounter and that "alcohol use was more likely with new, compared with, repeat sexual partnerships" (Goldstein et al., 2007). This shows that among college-aged students, alcohol use plays a large role in their sexual promiscuity. The study also found that "for new sexual partnerships, regardless of the type of sex experience, knowing the partner for less time was associated with an increased likelihood of drinking," and they found that "alcohol use was also associated with fewer discussions of topics pertinent to safe sexual practices" (Goldstein et al., 2007). It is evident that there is a high usage of alcohol among college-aged students and as found in the research above, specifically a growing amount among college-aged women. These students have gotten into the habit of drinking so frequently that is has started to affect extremely important parts of their lives. The fact that alcohol

is leading students to conduct unsafe sexual practices can lead to a number of problems such as STD's, pregnancy, and even low self esteem. A major strength to this study is that it states a large need for "integrated interventions targeting alcohol use and risky sexual practices among high-risk college students" (Goldstein et al., 2007). Maybe with an increased education or intervention program, students will realize just how important an issue this has become. If programs are enacted in order to end this risky behavior, maybe it will be a step to ending the problem. This article is extremely important because it shows that there is a direct relationship between alcohol use and sexual promiscuity in college-aged students. It is especially pertinent to our research question on how college-aged women are affected by alcohol and how it leads to their promiscuity.

"Unwanted sexual behavior remains an all too common experience among college students" (Flack et al., 140). Flack et al., conducted a study in which they researched college students and this 'collegiate hooking up culture' (2007). "The most frequently endorsed reason for unwanted sexual intercourse was impaired judgment due to alcohol" (Flack et al., 147). They sampled 250 students, older than 18 years of age, to examine the relationship between sexual behavior, (unwanted vaginal, anal and oral intercourse, and unwanted fondling); the types of circumstances in which they occur, (such as hookups, dating, ongoing relationships, parties and bars); and the factors that contributed to these instances, such as alcohol (Flack et al., 2007). There were three main reasons that the researchers found for unwanted sexual intercourse of all kinds including: "judgment impaired by alcohol or drugs," "happened before I could stop it," and "taken advantage of because wasted" (Flack et al., 147). Students reported that in the top three reasons for

engaging in unwanted sexual behavior, two of them were because of alcohol use. Also, the study shows that "female students are more likely to experience unwanted sex than are male students" (Flack et al., 150). This study relates to the research we will conduct because of its similarities in the variables that it addresses. The relationship between alcohol and sexual behavior seems to be a common problem among college students and in our research we hope to find similar results. Some limitations to this study were that they sampled all grades of college students asking them to recall events that had happened throughout college, and while the freshman only had one year to report, the seniors might not have been able to recall specific events that happened four years prior. This could skew data in the sense that respondents could have misreported data because they could not recall these specific events. Also, the students that they sampled were mostly white; therefore a generalization cannot be made about the entire student population.

In a study conducted on social influence processes in college student drinking, Wood et al., examined "unique relations between particular facets of social influence and alcohol use and problems in a relatively heavy drinking population, i.e. college students" (32). The literature suggests that about 40% of college students engage in "heavy episodic drinking (5 or more drinks for men and 4 or more drinks for women in one sitting)" (Wood et al., 32). Studies have repeatedly looked at negative consequences associated with heavy drinking, including high risk sexual behavior. They sampled 399 college students who drink from two universities; 66% of the sample was female. The study demonstrated unique relations with alcohol use and relations with alcohol problems such as high risk sexual behavior. Again, this study coincides with our research because

it examines the possibility of alcohol having an effect on risky sexual behavior, which we too hope to find. A similar limitation to this study is the majority of respondents were underclassmen and white; therefore it is not an accurate portrayal of the college's population.

Another study examining alcohol consumption and sexual behavior indicates that "intoxicated college students have been more willing to have unprotected sex with the hypothetical new partner than sober or placebo students" (Abbey et al., 2005). It also indicates that, "In the area of risky sexual behavior 16% of a national sample of college students reported that they had sex without a condom when intoxicated at least once during the past school year" (Abbey et al., 113). Other studies of college students have found similar results of unprotected sexual intercourse when drinking alcohol. The sample included 120 college students over the age of 21 and seven different races. This study reports that some of the reasons as to why alcohol leads to sexual behavior is because cognitive functions are impaired. Some of these functions are "verbal and spatial learning, visual discrimination, episodic and working memory, abstract reasoning, set-shifting, behavioral inhibition, planning, and judgment" (Abbey et al., 113). Concerning sexually transmitted diseases and condom use, this study found that when "engaging in 'hook-ups,' only 20% of college students routinely take precautions to avoid STD's, and even fewer discuss paths to risky behavior with their hook-up partner" (Abbey et al., 114). Because this was a study on drinking behaviors, they only studied respondents over the age of 21; therefore it might not have been accurate of the entire population's behaviors.

METHOD:

We predict that the more alcohol a college aged woman consumes, the more sexually promiscuous she will be. Our null hypothesis states that alcohol consumption is not related to a college woman's sexual promiscuity. In order to test our hypothesis we created a 32-question quantitative survey to sample a population of women students at the University of New Hampshire. Our reasoning for using a survey as our measurement tool, rather than conducting interviews, was because of the results we thought we would be able to get from a survey. We knew we would be able to get a larger sample size, and perhaps be able to use the data to make more of a generalization of the population. We also thought that because of the types of questions we planned to ask, we would get more honest, accurate answers than if we conducted face to face interviews asking about very personal and private activities and behaviors. In order to obtain an accurate sample of the population, we needed to ask women of all ages. Because of the questions we would ask, these women would be admitting to some illegal behaviors, (underage drinking), and asking them in an anonymous and confidential survey, women would be more likely to be truthful more than in a face to face interview. The survey was completely anonymous, confidential, and voluntary, and consisted of four sections.

The first section of questions were multiple choice and fill in the blank (for college major) and were scaled on a Likert scale from 1 to 4 with 1 being the least and 4 being the most. Sorority affiliation and on/off campus housing questions were assessed with a yes/no response, scoring 1 as 'yes' and 2 as 'no'. The first section asked questions

regarding basic information such as year in school, academic major, sorority affiliation, and on/off campus housing.

The second section was multiple choice questions and was scaled on a Likert scale from 1 to 4, also 1 being the least and 4 being the most. This section asked questions about regular weekly activities at UNH such as studying, working, involvement with clubs and activities, etc. The first and second sections were used as 'warm up' sections to try and get the women used to talking about themselves and their activities so they might feel more comfortable talking about their weekly social habits and activities. We knew that we might not use the information from the first and especially the second sections in our data analysis; however, we wanted to include these sections to make the survey more user-friendly and make the participants feel more comfortable. Especially because we were going to ask about drinking habits and sexual behaviors/thoughts, we thought it important to include these sections on the survey.

The third section was similar, being one of the most important, it had all multiple choice questions and answers were scaled on a Likert Scale from 1 to 4, again 1 being the least and 4 being the most. This section consisted of questions that asked about social habits, such as how many times they went out each week, ('going out' was signified as the number of times they went out to do socially related things such as a party, concert, bar, friends dorm/apartment, a play, etc., so there was no confusion), and their drinking habits, (a drink was signified as one beer, one shot of liquor, one glass of wine), when related to these social situations. An example of a question from this section was "On average, when you go out, how many drinks (a drink is considered one beer, one shot of

liquor, and one glass of wine) do you consume?" We wanted to know first, whether or not women went out, and if so, how often, and to what extent alcohol was involved.

A problem that we had with this section of our survey was that some of the questions that we asked were not completely clear, and we think that some of the participants might have gotten confused or answered differently than they might have if they were worded differently. The first question in this section asks how many times she goes out at UNH to do socially related things. We then asked, when she goes out, how many times is alcohol related to the situation, however, we did not use the same terminology by writing "at UNH." We later realized that these women might go out to places other than UNH and, by not clarifying, they might have gotten confused by the difference in wording of the questions. Or she might have not put down all the times she goes out on average, because she doesn't go out at UNH, but she goes out in other places. So, this was something that could have confused participants. We also realized in this same section we asked, "On average, when you go out, how many drinks do you consume?" The answers that we gave were:

1. 1 drink
2. 2-4 drinks
3. 4-6 drinks
4. >6 drinks

We later realized that we did not put "I don't drink" as an answer, so women might have felt obligated to choose one of the answers we gave or they might have just not answered the question all together. These were two problems that we found with our survey, and we would want to change them if we were to repeat our research since they might have been confusing questions, the women might have answered differently than if the questions were worded clearer.

The last section of the survey was a list of questions that asked about sexual practices, attitudes, thoughts, and behaviors. There were 18 questions; also scaled on a Likert Scale with five possible answers ranging from least to most: "Strongly Disagree", "Disagree", "Undecided", "Agree", and "Strongly Agree". This was the most important section because it was where we would get the "thick" of our data about women's thoughts and ideas concerning their sexual behaviors. Because this is such a touchy subject and we knew women wouldn't necessarily be completely honest, we decided to give the option, (so in case they did not want to answer, they wouldn't have to) of "undecided' as an answer. We also did not make the questions directed mainly at what the participant had done. We used questions such as "Do you think that alcohol has a negative effect on sexual behavior?" or "Do you think having casual sexual contacts is okay?" We used questions like this rather than directly asking about their personal behaviors because we knew it was not completely ethical to try and tap into these women's personal and private lives. In order to keep the survey ethical, which was our number one concern, and to still get an idea of what these women think, we based their sexual ideas of promiscuity and sexual behaviors on an attitude scale (discussed in depth in the variables subsection), rather than what they had actually done. We also knew that because of the things we were trying to find out, women might not have been completely honest when attesting to behaviors related to sex, therefore by asking about what their attitude was toward these behaviors, they might be more honest rather than directly reporting. However, in the hopes of getting some data that was a little more personal, we did have one question in this list of questions that was more direct. The question was "Has alcohol ever led you to a sexual experience that you might not have had when you

were sober?" We used all of the other 17 questions to form an attitude scale about these behaviors but kept question 18 as a separate variable to analyze it singly because we knew that if there were significant results that came from this variable, they would be particularly important.

In order to try and acquire a good representation of the population of women students at UNH, we randomly selected 10 majors from a list of all of the majors in all of the five schools, (College of Engineering and Physical Sciences (CEPS), College of Health and Human Services (CHHS), College of Liberal Arts (COLA), College of Life Sciences and Agriculture (COLSA), Whittemore School of Business and Economics (WSBE) and Undeclared) by picking majors at random. The majors that were selected were: Economics, French, Communication, Sociology, Psychology, Geology, Humanities, Marketing, Microbiology, and Occupational Therapy. We then randomly selected classes from each major and contacted the professors requesting the participation of their female students in our research. Most professors contacted us back, but many did not have the time to help us out because it was the end of the semester and they could not fit it into their class time. We sampled 8 classes from the majors: Sociology, Psychology, French and Economics. The classes we sampled were SOC 401, SOC 520, SOC 630, PSYC 581, ECON 401, FREN 401. Three of the professors wanted to keep their classes consistent and wanted us to sample both of their sections if we were going to sample one of them, so we ended up snowball sampling a few of the classes. We used this data because the way we had originally selected these classes was random, therefore we did not think this would skew our data. Since we only wanted to sample women, we requested that we sample the classes at the end of class time so that the male students

could leave. We also thought this might help to get more true results because a male student would not be looking over a female's shoulder while she is trying to answer questions about drinking and sexual activities, which in most cases are a personal and private subject.

Sample:

The sample consisted of 169 female students at the University of New Hampshire. The sample was 66 (39%) freshmen, 37 (22%) sophomores, 34 (20%) juniors and 29 (17%) seniors. Because a few of the classes that we sampled were general education, 400-level classes, we think that might account for the higher number of freshman students. There were students from all of the academic schools at UNH, 6 (4%) were from CEPS, 8 (5%) were from CHHS, 90 (56%) were from COLA, 10 (6%) were from COLSA, 20 (12%) were from WSBE, and 25 (16%) were Undeclared. Our study clearly shows that the majority of participants were from the College of Liberal Arts. When we were selecting majors to sample, COLA was the school with the most majors so we believe this accounts for the higher number of students from it in our study. With more time or a larger study altogether we might be able to incorporate more students from other schools to see if there is any difference in our results. This sample had 14 (9%) participants who were affiliated with a sorority and 146 (91%) were not affiliated with a sorority. Again, if we could repeat this study we might try to incorporate a more diverse population of students.

Variables:

The variables we measured in our survey were sexual experiences, promiscuity attitude score, and alcohol. Sexual experiences and promiscuity were our dependent variables and alcohol was our independent variable. We measured alcohol by asking questions about drinking behaviors, (i.e., how many times do they go out, how often alcohol is involved in those situations, how many drinks they consume when they go out (one drink is considered one beer, one shot of liquor, or one glass of wine), how often they feel intoxicated, and how often they blackout).

We measured sexual behavior by asking one question "Has alcohol ever led you to a sexual experience that you might not have had when you were sober?" We recoded this variable asking a direct personal question on sexual behavior to make it more precise. We incorporated the answers from the "Strongly Disagree" and "Disagree" answers together to make one "Disagree" answer. We also did the same thing for the "Agree" and "Strongly Agree" answers to make one "Agree" answer. So "strongly disagree/disagree" would act as 'no', and "agree/strongly agree" would act as 'yes'. We kept the "Undecided" answer as is.

We measured the variable promiscuity attitude score by creating an attitude scale using most of the questions from the fourth section of our survey. Depending on how the respondent answered the questions in this section they were scored from 1-5, 1 being the least and 5 being the most. We then generated a new variable which incorporated all of these variables into an attitude score. The variables were:

Var16: Do you believe in sex before marriage?
Var17: Do you believe that sex other than a boyfriend/ girlfriend is okay?
Var18: Do you believe in using contraceptives?
Var19: Do you think that having sex with out a condom is okay?

Var20: Do you believe that sex with someone that is NOT a boyfriend/girlfriend while under the influence of alcohol is okay?
Var21: Do you believe that sex with someone who is a boyfriend/girlfriend while under the influence of alcohol is okay?
Var23: Do you think that sex is okay only in stable relationships?
Var24: Do you think that having casual sexual contacts is okay?
Var25: Do you think having multiple sexual partners is okay?
Var28: Have you ever seen one of your friends go home with someone other than a boyfriend/girlfriend after a night of drinking?
Var30: Has a friend ever disclosed to you that they did not use a condom during a sexual experience after a night of drinking?
Var31: Has a friend ever disclosed to you a feeling of regret about a sexual experience after a night of drinking?

Chronbach's alpha score for the scale was .72 the scale had a range from 22 to 56, the mean score was 38.69 and the standard deviation was 6.52. This was then analyzed as the higher the attitude score, the more liberal the participant's thoughts were about promiscuity; and the lower her score, the more conservative her thoughts were.

RESULTS:

Using the statistical program STATA, we examined some of the factors that might have contributed to why these women have a tendency to drink more and have more liberal promiscuous views. To look at these relationships we conducted statistical tests in order to find out if they had any association with each other.

Promiscuity attitude scale and sexual experience demographics:

To examine the relationship between the level of women's attitudes about promiscuity attitude score and their current year of school, a one way ANOVA test was run. The ANOVA test indicated that there was a statistically significant relationship *($F=6.91$, $df=3/155$, $p<.05$)* between attitudes of promiscuity attitude score and year of

school, and that as women were in a higher grade level, their attitudes about promiscuity score was greater. Our data therefore shows that as women's grade level goes up, their ideas about promiscuity and sexual behavior become more liberal.

We conducted a one way ANOVA test to look at the relationship between women's attitudes about promiscuity attitude score and their college major. We coded college major by what school the participant was in with an option of 5 schools and the sixth possibility being undeclared. The five schools are (COLA, COLSA, WSBE etc.), and we found a statistically significant relationship between college major and attitudes about promiscuity/sexual behavior *(F=3.54, df=5/153, p<.05)*. The two schools that were accounting for this significant relationship were the Whittemore School of Business and Economics and the College of Liberal Arts. Data shows that students in the Liberal Arts program have more liberal views about promiscuity and sexual behavior than those women with majors in the Business program.

To examine the relationship between women's attitudes about promiscuity attitude score and their affiliation with a sorority we conducted a one way ANOVA test and found out that there was a significant relationship between the two variables *(F=3.16, df=2/158, P<.05)*. Data shows that women who are associated with a sorority have more liberal views about promiscuity and sexual behavior.

We found that the percentages of women who had a sexual experience that they might not have had when they were sober are: 71 (42%) of the sample answered "disagree", 11(6%) answered "undecided", and half of the sample, 84 (50%) answered "agree" to this question. This means that half of the women have had a sexual experience that they might not have had when they were sober.

We examined the relationship between year in school and sexual experience. Results show that 24 (29%) of freshman, 23 (27%) of sophomores, 17 (20%) of juniors, and 8 (23%) of seniors have had an alcohol related sexual experience that they might not have had when they were sober. Using a chi square test the results were not statistically significant *(χ^2 (6, n=164) =10.84, p>.05)*. This means that year in school is not related to whether or not a woman has a sexual experience that she might not have had when she was sober.

Promiscuity attitude scale results:

To look at the relationship between promiscuity attitude score and the number of drinks that the woman consumed we ran a ANOVA test. Results show that these two variables are statistically significant (*F=3.32, df=3/128, p<.05*). This shows that when women had a more liberal promiscuity score, the amount of alcohol she consumed was greater.

We examined the relationship between promiscuity attitude score and the number of times the woman felt intoxicated by running an ANOVA test. The results show that these two variables are statistically significant *(F=7.17, df=3/144, p<.05*). This means that when a woman's promiscuity score was more liberal, the more times she felt intoxicated was greater.

To examine the relationship between promiscuity attitude score and not remembering events from the night before (blacking out) we ran an ANOVA test and found out that the results were statistically significant *(F=3.99, df=3/144, p<.05*). This

shows that the more liberal the women's views were about promiscuity, the more likely they were to have a tendency to black out.

Sexual Experience results:

To examine the relationship between number of drinks and if alcohol has led them to a sexual experience, we conducted a chi square test. 3(2%) women who on average consume one drink have had a sexual experience that they might not have had when they were sober. 36(23%) women who on average consume 2-4 drinks have had a sexual experience that they might not have had when they were sober. 24(16%) women who on average consume 4-6 drinks have had a sexual experience that they might not have had when they were sober. 19(12%) women who on average consume more than six drinks have had a sexual experience that they might not have had when they were sober. So, women are more likely to have a sexual experience when the number of drinks they consume increases. Results show that these two variables are statistically significant *(χ^2 (6, n=154) = 22.97, p<.05).* These results are shown below in Table 1.

TABLE 1: Sexual Experience and average number of drinks

	Average number of drinks			
Sexual Experience	1 drink (n=5)	2-4 drinks (n=88)	2-4 drinks (n=50)	>6 drinks (n=23)
Disagree	14 9%	33 21%	11 7%	5 3%
Undecided	1 .6%	1 .6%	4 3%	3 2%
Agree	3 2%	36 23%	24 16%	19 12%

Key: Frequency
Column percentage

Note: χ^2 (6, n=154) = 22.97, p<.05

To examine the relationship between feelings of intoxication and sexual experience we conducted a chi square test. The results show that there is a significant relationship between the two variables (χ^2 (6, n=137) = 17.22, p<.05). These results are shown below in Table 2:

TABLE 2: Sexual Experience and Feelings of Intoxication

	Feelings of Intoxication			
Sexual Experience	0 times (n=16)	1-2 times (n=43)	2-4 times (n=60)	>4 times (n=18)
Disagree	8 6%	23 17%	16 12%	2 1%
Undecided	1 .1%	0 0%	6 4%	1 .1%
Agree	7 5%	20 15%	38 28%	15 11%

Key: Frequency
Column percentage

Note: χ^2 (6, n=137) = 17.22, p<.05

To examine the relationship between sexual experiences and drinking to a point where they do not remember events from the night before (blacking out) we ran a chi square test. We found that the results are statistically significant (*X^2 (6, n=153) =17.83, p<.05).* These results are shown in Table 3 below.

TABLE 3: Sexual Experience and Blacking out

	Blacking Out			
Sexual Experience	0 times (n=47)	1-2 times (n=77)	2-4 times (n=23)	>4 times (n=6)
Disagree	29 19%	28 18%	4 3%	1 .1%
Undecided	1 .1%	6 4%	1 .1%	1 .1%
Agree	17 11%	43 28%	18 12%	4 3%

Key: Frequency
Column percentage

Note: X^2 (6, n=153) =17.83, p<.05

DISCUSSION:

The majority of the results above are directly related to our research question of how does alcohol effect college women and how is it related to their promiscuity and sexual behaviors? The data shows that the variables promiscuity attitude score and drinking are statistically significant meaning that when women consume more alcohol, their promiscuity attitude score is more liberal. The data also shows that women who have more of a tendency to drink to the point of intoxication have more liberal promiscuity scores as well. And lastly, women who have more liberal promiscuity scores are also more likely to black out.

The data regarding sexual experiences and drinking are also very much related to our research question. The results show that the more drinks a woman consumes, the more likely she is to have a sexual experience that she might not have had when she was sober. It also shows that the more times a women drinks to the point of intoxication, the more likely she is to have a sexual experience that she might not have had when she was sober. And lastly, a woman who has a tendency to black out, also is more likely to have a sexual experience that she might not have had when she was sober. All of these results show that alcohol has a direct relationship with women's sexual experiences/ behaviors, being that the more she drinks the more likely she is to have a sexual experience. This data also supports our hypothesis of the more alcohol a woman consumes, the more sexually promiscuous she will be.

Some other interesting things that we found in our results are that grade level in college, college major, and affiliation with a sorority all play a part on the views that women have about promiscuity. As grade level goes up, being in a liberal arts major and

affiliation with a sorority all play a part on women having more liberal views about sexual behavior and promiscuity.

The data we collected and analyzed are also consistent with the research from our literature review of previous studies conducted on the topic and related topics. Goldstein et al., found that 80.5% of students reported ever having a vaginal or oral sexual encounter and that "alcohol use was more likely with new, compared with, repeat sexual partnerships" (2007). This was concurrent to the data we found on alcohol being involved in their sexual encounters. Flack et al., found that "The most frequently endorsed reason for unwanted sexual intercourse was impaired judgment due to alcohol" (2007). This was also consistent with our results concerning women having a sexual experience they might not have had, had they been sober. Abbey et al., found that "intoxicated college students have been more willing to have unprotected sex with the hypothetical new partner than sober or placebo students" (2005) which is also related to our findings that the more alcoholic beverages consumed, the more sexual encounters she engaged in. The data that we found regarding sexual encounters related to alcohol all had findings that showed alcohol was related to the sexual experiences that college women have. Our results are concurrent with the rest of these studies because we found alcohol to have a significant relationship with the sexual experiences that women have.

Some things learned from our study are that it seems alcohol does have an effect on a woman's sexual promiscuity and sexual behaviors, and that the more alcohol she consumes, the more likely she is to behave in ways she normally would not if she was sober. By conducting a study like this we have learned how to compose an ethical survey. We have also learned when conducting research, time is a very crucial factor. If

there had been more time in the semester, there would be more time to research the existing literature, have a bigger sample size, survey more students, run more tests in the analyses, and maybe have even included males into our research to get a more diverse sample of the population.

A strength to our study is that it gives us an idea about college women and their drinking and sexual behaviors. Although it is not big enough to generalize to the entire population, in the future because the survey we created produced significant results, the study may be able to be repeated with a larger sample. Our survey was completely anonymous and confidential so this had no risk to participants.

There were some weaknesses to our study since the survey asked about drinking behaviors, even though it was anonymous and confidential, not all women were of the legal drinking age and might not have felt comfortable answering certain questions and disclosing that kind of information to us. A similar weakness was the fact that we asked about sexual behaviors and some women also might not have felt comfortable answering certain questions. Since our sample size was only 169 respondents, we cannot generalize that all college women engage in these behaviors. Since our survey was short answer and multiple choice, it did not yield in-depth responses; like we might have been able to get from a qualitative study. Questions on the survey could have also been confusing and therefore results could be misinterpreted. Another weakness was cost. If we had more money, we could have made more copies of the surveys and therefore had a larger sample size. Another limitation to our study was getting responses from professors to sample their classes. When asking to survey their classes, some professors just said 'no' altogether.

If this study was repeated in the future, some suggestions would include surveying more respondents and getting a larger sample size to be able to generalize about college women as a whole. We would also suggest using qualitative methods as well as quantitative methods in order to get more in-depth responses. We would also recommend surveying men for future research because it would be interesting to see the drinking and sexual behaviors of men as well.

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