Lifetime Victimization Experiences Among a Sample of College Men and Women

Presenter
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(1) The following personal financial relationships with commercial interests relevant to this presentation existed during the past 12 months:

“No relationships to disclose”
Purpose of this analysis

Describe the lifetime victimization experiences and self-reported mental health difficulties of a sample of college men and women.
Experiences of sexual victimization

- **Child (< 11 yo)**
  - “Has anyone ever touched the sex organs of your body when you did not want this?”
  - “Has anyone ever made you touch the sex organs of their body when you did not want this?”
  - “Has anyone ever forced you to have sex when you did not want this?”

Reference: Leserman, 1995
Experiences of sexual victimization

- **Early adolescence (11-14 yo)**
  - "Has anyone ever touched the sex organs of your body when you did not want this?"
  - "Has anyone ever made you touch the sex organs of their body when you did not want this?"
  - "Has anyone ever forced you to have sex when you did not want this?"
  
  Reference: Leserman, 1995

- **Late adolescence (18 - 22 yo)**
  - Determined by answering yes to any of the 8 acts of victimization or the two additional questions about alcohol and sexual acts.
  
  Reference: Koss et al., 2006
1. What percentage of males and females report sexual violence victimization during childhood, early, and late adolescence among a sample of college students?

2. What percentage of males and females report lifetime experiences of sexual victimization among a sample of college students?

3. Are there a difference in mental health difficulties (as measured by Impact of Events subscales) among those reporting lifetime experiences of sexual violence victimization?

4. Are there differences in mental health difficulties between male and female college students?
Q1. Sexual Victimization-Childhood

- Total Sample: 14.7%
- Males: 2.7%
- Females: 12.0%
Q1. Sexual Victimization—Early Adolescence

- Total Sample: 30.2%
- Males: 6.8%
- Females: 23.4%

Report sexual violence victimization
Q1. Sexual Victimization - Late Adolescence

Report sexual violence victimization

- Total Sample: 35.6%
- Males: 8%
- Females: 27%
Q1. Lifetime Victimization

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Sample</td>
<td>57.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Males</td>
<td>13.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females</td>
<td>43.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Report sexual violence victimization
Q2. Lifetime Victimization by Gender

- Males:
  - Reports one sexual violence experience: 8.9%
  - Reports sexual violence victimization child and early/late adolescence: 0.6%
- Females:
  - Reports one sexual violence experience: 24.6%
  - Reports sexual violence victimization child and early/late adolescence: 4.4%
  - Reports two sexual violence experiences: 14.5%
Q3. Lifetime Experiences of Sexual Victimization

- **Child only**
- **Child/Early adol**
- **Child/Late Adol**
- **Early Adol Only**
- **Child, Early and Late Adol**
- **Early and Late Adol**
- **Late Adol Only**

[Bar chart with categories: Total Sample, Males, Females, and different experiences of sexual victimization.]
Q4. Lifetime experiences of sexual victimization and IOE subscales

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Males (*mean scores)</th>
<th>Avoidance*</th>
<th>Hyperarousal*</th>
<th>Intrusion*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No victimization</td>
<td>0.12</td>
<td>0.04</td>
<td>0.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One experience</td>
<td>0.32</td>
<td>0.12</td>
<td>0.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two experiences</td>
<td>0.29</td>
<td>0.27</td>
<td>0.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three experiences</td>
<td>----</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>2.75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Females (*mean scores)</th>
<th>Avoidance*</th>
<th>Hyperarousal*</th>
<th>Intrusion*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No victimization</td>
<td>0.38</td>
<td>.09</td>
<td>0.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One experience</td>
<td>0.57</td>
<td>0.32</td>
<td>0.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two experiences</td>
<td>0.75</td>
<td>0.38</td>
<td>0.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three experiences</td>
<td>1.25</td>
<td>0.96</td>
<td>0.87</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q4. Sexual victimization and mental health

- Two-way ANOVA examining gender and experiences of sexual victimization (SV) on subscales (avoidance, hyperarousal, intrusion) of the Impact of Events Scale (Weiss, 2006)
  - Avoidance
    - Interaction between gender and SV experiences: Not Sig
    - Gender: Not sig
    - Experiences of victimization: Sig (p<.002)
  - Hyperarousal
    - Interaction between gender and SV experiences: Not Sig
    - Gender: Not sig
    - Experiences of victimization: Sig (p<.003)
  - Intrusion
    - Interaction between gender and SV experiences: SIG
    - Gender: Sig (p<.007)
    - Experiences of victimization: Sig (p<.001)
Men reporting sexual victimization during childhood, early and late adolescence experienced the following symptoms (moderate to extreme):

- I had dreams about it.
- I thought about it when I didn’t mean to.
- I was jumpy and easily startled.
- My feelings about it were kind of numb.
- I had strong waves of strong feelings about it.

Women reporting sexual victimization during childhood, early and late adolescence experienced the following symptoms (moderate to extreme):

- I had trouble concentrating.
- I felt watchful and on-guard.
- I tried not to talk about it.
- I tried not to think about it.
- I tried to remove it from my memory.
Experiences of sexual violence—prevalent among college men and women.

As expected, there is a cumulative effect of violence on mental health.

Gender differences in the mental health difficulties experienced by men and women.
Conclusions

- The pervasiveness of sexual violence victimization in this sample further stresses the need for early identification.

- Identifying best methods for assessment of lifetime victimization important.

- Linkages to treatment and resources during college years may impact future health.

- College campuses and college health providers are in a unique position to identify and refer.