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GENDER DIFFERENCES IN UNDERGRADUATES' SEXUALITY: A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF SEXUAL ATTITUDES AND SEXUAL ASSERTIVENESS

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Significance: The study of gender differences in sexuality has been somewhat confusing and shallow. Gender differences in sexology are often exaggerated due to a lack of comprehensive measurements and poorly constructed measurements. Moreover, sexual assertiveness has been ill-defined and rarely has it been studied in various demographics. **Objectives:** The current study sought to address these gaps in the research by comprehensively studying gender differences in associated sexual measures. The study sought to answer two research questions: Which sexual attitude and sexual assertiveness measures are significantly correlated with each other? Are there gender differences in sexual attitude and sexual assertiveness measures among sexually active college students? **Methodology:** Sexually active undergraduate adults from the NEIU psychology department were recruited through Sona Systems and directed to an online consent form. Participants answered 101 items regarding sexual permissiveness, responsibility, communion, instrumentality, conventionality, avoidance, control, power, communication about sexual initiation and satisfaction, refusal of unwanted sex, sexual history communication, and demographic information, including religious beliefs/practices. The study took about 15 minutes to complete and participants were debriefed with information about NEIU's counseling services. **Projected results:** First, it is expected that scores on sexual conventionality will be positively correlated with scores on (a) communication about sexual initiation and satisfaction, (b) refusal of unwanted sex, and (c) sexual history communication, respectively (hypothesis 1). Second, it is expected that scores on sexual communion and sexual avoidance will be positively correlated (hypothesis 2). Third, it is expected that scores on sexual communion and sexual responsibility will be negatively correlated (hypothesis 3). Fourth, it is expected that men will score higher on sexual permissiveness, sexual instrumentality, communication about sexual initiation and satisfaction, refusal of unwanted sex, sexual history communication, sexual conventionality, and sexual responsibility than women (hypothesis 4). Fifth, it is expected that women will score higher on sexual communion and sexual avoidance than men (hypothesis 5). Finally, it is expected that there will not be a gender difference in scores on sexual power and sexual control (hypothesis 6).