

P02-205

A COMPARATIVE STUDY RELATED TO THE EFFECTS OF ALCOHOL, LOCATION AND STRANGER ON SEXUAL ASSAULT IN COLLEGE WOMEN AT UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN COLORADO (UNC), USA

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Introduction: Alcohol involves 50% of sexual assault among college students. Eighty-five percent of on-campus rapes are acquaintance rapes. According to Bohmer and Parrot 25% of college women have experienced forced sex at some time during their college careers.

Objective: To determine the relationship between alcohol, location and stranger with sexual assault in college women at UNC.

Aim: To compare sexual assault in which alcohol was consumed versus assault in which alcohol was not consumed, assault which occurred on campus versus off campus, and friend versus stranger assault.

Methods: This was a retrospective cohort study. Data was collected from 2003-2007. Students surveyed were undergraduates and graduates selected on the basis of non probability convenient sampling. Sample size calculation was done using the W.H.O. software where $\alpha = 0.05$, $1 - \text{Beta} = 90$, $P_o = 0.55$, $P_a = 0.35$, n (sample size) = 52. Binary logistic regression analysis was used to assess risk factors for the dependent variable of sexual assault with a threshold for selection of $p < 0.05$.

Results: Friend assault had a high prevalence of assault than stranger assault (35/84; 41.66% v 17/84; 20.23; $p < 0.05$). On campus assault had an increased prevalence of assault than off campus assault (33/84; 39.28% v 19/84; 22.61%; $p < 0.05$). Friend assault was the strongest predictor for assault and was 2.35 times (95% CI, 2.27 - 2.40) more as compared to stranger assault.

Conclusion: Alcohol increases the probability of sexual assault if the students are on campus and have friendship with the perpetrator.