

# NEARI NEWS:

TRANSLATING RESEARCH INTO PRACTICE

*An Essential Tool for Professionals Working with those who Sexually Abuse or... A Great New Way to Stay Current with Cutting Edge Sexual Abuse Research.*



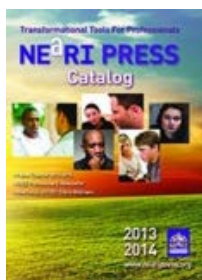
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Dear Colleague,

This month we want to announce the release of our [2013-2014 catalog](#). It is filled with new books that we have published as well as a few new books that we think will be of interest to you.

We also have information about NEARI News, our monthly newsletter translating research into practice and our growing webinar series featuring our internationally recognized authors and experts in the field. To view the catalog or these resources, please select the catalog photo below or visit our website at [www.nearipress.org](http://www.nearipress.org).



This NEARI News issue highlights the work of Abbey, McAuslan, Zawacki, Clinton, and Buck. They hypothesized that a number of factors would discriminate between college-aged men who had committed sexual assault or rape and those who did not. The researchers found a number of important correlations including attitudes about gender roles, attitudes about alcohol, and the number of consensual sex partners among many others. This research suggests that clinicians working with young men consider exploring young men's attitudes

## **Attitudinal, Experiential, and Situational Predictors of Sexual Assault Perpetration**

by Steven Bengis, David S. Prescott, and Joan Tabachnick

### **Question**

What are the differentiating factors for college-aged men who commit sexual assault and those who do not?

### **The Research**

In 2001, based on several prior studies, Abbey, McAuslan, Zawacki, Clinton, and Buck hypothesized that a number of factors would discriminate between college-aged men who had committed sexual assault or rape and those who did not. To test this hypothesis, they administered a questionnaire to 343 mixed-race/ethnicity college men with a median age of 21. The questionnaire explored:

- The attitudes of participants towards women
- Their coercive or aggressive sexual history
- Their involvement with groups whose beliefs supported coercive/aggressive sexual behavior
- Their dating and sexual history, and
- Their attitudes towards and use of alcohol during sexual encounters/aggressive acts.

Similar to previous studies, the researchers found that one-third of the respondents admitted they had committed a "sexual assault" (other studies ranged from 25-57%). This term was not well defined in this study or in the related literature. However, of great importance is that 8% reported behavior that met the legal definition of rape or attempted rape (other studies ranged from 7-25%).

The researchers also found important correlations between attitudes about gender roles and alcohol, number of consensual sex partners, how well the man knew the woman, how isolated the setting was, alcohol consumption during the event, the man's misperception of the woman's cues during the event, and prior consensual sexual activity between the man and the woman for situations that were considered sexual assault. The findings also suggested there were a number of distinctions in the young men using different strategies to obtain sex. For example, men who committed rape or attempted rape were most likely to use physical force, alcohol or drugs, while men who used coercion to obtain sex were most likely to use verbal pressure, perceived the assault (as defined by the authors) as serious, and found that the "event" had a less disruptive effect on the relationship. Finally, the study results indicated that peer approval of forced sex and verbal pressure was

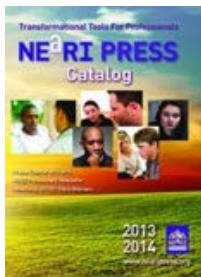
towards women (e.g., hostility and other adversarial beliefs) as well as questions about peer group involvement and alcohol use as part of a risk assessment interview protocol.

Finally, if you have not had a chance to participate in our FREE webinars, please join us on June 4 with Susan Robinson who speaks about: *Growing Beyond: An Introduction to Adolescent Girls with Sexually Abusive Behavior*. If you missed one of the previous webinars with Phil Rich, Robin Wilson, David Prescott, Joann Schladale, Rob Longo, Kevin Creeden, Geral Blanchard, Gerry Blasingame, Tom Leversee, or Pat Wilcox, you can listen to a recording on our website at [www.nearipress.org](http://www.nearipress.org).

Please consider becoming a sponsor of our 2013-2014 NEARI Press Webinar series. As a small non-profit organization, we rely on subscribers to help support our webinar work. We will be announcing next year's series shortly. Please know it is your subscriptions that allow us to continue this series. For more information or to sign up, please contact Diane Langelier at 413.540.0712 x14.

As always, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us at [info@nearipress.org](mailto:info@nearipress.org) or call us at 413-540-0712, x14.

Sincerely,  
Joan Tabachnick and Steven Bengis



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significantly higher for those who perpetrated sexual violence.

### **Implications for Professionals**

This research suggests that clinicians working with young men consider exploring young men's attitudes towards woman (e.g., hostility and other adversarial beliefs) as well as questions about peer group involvement and alcohol use as part of a risk assessment interview protocol. Popular measures such as the JSOAP-II, ERASOR, and MIDSA address these and other pro-offending attitudes. This study speaks to the importance of exploring each client's attitudes about what is acceptable in the pursuit of sexual relationships. Such exploration could provide valuable information and should take into account the client's cognitive, reading, and learning disability levels. Further, when considering treatment protocols for clients who are cognitively and neurologically capable of benefiting from psycho-education in these areas, addressing these factors in treatment may enhance treatment outcomes if addressed through the development of relevant protective factors.

### **Implications for the Field**

This research suggests the importance of providing knowledge about healthy sexuality and building resilience and protective factors in adolescent boys and college age young men. It is essential that we provide helpful alternative social messaging for boys and young men -- through a variety of media -- of positive attitudes towards women. Our field can further enhance the impact of these messages by focusing on the peer groups of these young men (e.g., ideally in sports, fraternity and other men's groups), supporting bystander programs whenever they specifically address these risk factors, and encouraging responsible alcohol consumption. Those working with adolescents or young men often look only at the individual client and possibly the most important people in that client's life. Again, this research suggests that integrating the environmental influences of family, peers, and key leaders in the young man's life into assessments will have a significant impact on the client's ultimate success in becoming a productive members of the community.

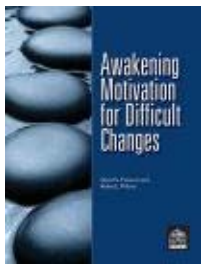
### **Abstract**

Past research demonstrates that sexual assault perpetration is caused by multiple factors including attitudes, early experiences, and situational factors. In this study, 343 college men described either a sexual assault they had committed or their worst date. Discriminant function analysis indicated that attitudes about gender roles and alcohol, number of consensual sex partners, how well the man knew the woman, how isolated the setting was, alcohol consumption during the event, the man's misperception of the woman's cues during the event, and prior consensual sexual activity between the man and the woman discriminated between sexual assaults and worst dates. Additionally, tactics used to obtain sex, self-attributions, the perceived seriousness of the assault, and the extent to which it disrupted relationships with others significantly discriminated between men who committed forced sexual contact, sexual coercion, and rape. These results demonstrate the importance of considering both individual characteristics and situational factors in theories and prevention activities.

### **Citation**

- Abbey, A; McAuslan, P; Zawacki, T; Clinton, A; & Buck, P. (2001). Attitudinal, Experiential, and Situational Predictors of Sexual Assault Perpetration. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*. Vol 16. No. 8. pp. 784-807.

To print a pdf of this article, click [NEARI NEWS](#).



## [Awakening Motivation for Difficult Changes](#)

by David S. Prescott and  
Robin Wilson

Prescott and Wilson deal directly with motivation, providing a framework for engaging clients in the face of the fact that most clients feel ambivalent about entering treatment.

Once a client moves into treatment, this workbook provides the concrete steps for a client to examine and address their barriers to effective treatment and ultimately, positive change.

Paperback, 96 pages  
ISBN: 978-1-929657-62-9  
PRICE: \$19.00

## NEARI PRESS WEBINAR

### **Growing Beyond: An Introduction to Adolescent Girls with Sexually Abusive Behavior**

**JUNE 4, 2013**

**2:00pm-3:00pm EST**

In the next one-hour NEARI Press Webinar, Susan Robinson will provide an overview of the research on, as well as assessment and treatment considerations for, adolescent girls who have engaged in sexually abusive behavior. Robinson is the author of the first workbook specifically designed for teenage girls who have sexually abused.

Space is limited, so please register now to be guaranteed a spot! To register for this webinar, [click here](#). After you register, we will send you information about how to sign on.

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