

ARE THEY SLUTS? THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SORORITY
MEMBERSHIP, SOCIOSEXUAL ORIENTATION,
SOCIAL NORMS AND ALCOHOL USE

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By
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CERTIFICATION OF APPROVAL

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DEDICATION

Gracias a mi padres, ya que sin su amor y apoyo incondicional esta tesis no habría sido terminada. Gracias a mi madre, quien me levantaba cada mañana con sus licuados para asegurarse que no fuera a enfermarme. Y gracias a mi padre, por su paciencia y contribución financiera. Los quiero mucho.

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ABSTRACT

This thesis examined whether sorority and non-sorority women differed in their sociosexual orientation, or willingness to engage in casual sex. In addition, alcohol consumption and social norms were examined as potential mediators of this difference. There was no difference in sociosexual orientation; however, a significant difference was found between the number of sexual partners of sorority women and non-sorority in the past twelve months. Sorority women had a slightly higher of sexual partners and were also found to consume more alcohol. Social norms also differed significantly between the two groups; sorority women perceived their peers as having more unrestricted sociosexual orientations than non-sorority women. In addition, both alcohol consumption and social norms were found to be significantly correlated to the number of sexual partners of a sorority woman, and significantly mediated the difference in number of sexual partners between sorority and non-sorority women. In conclusion, being part of a Greek organization may be related to higher alcohol consumption and perceptions of peers having an unrestricted sociosexual orientation, which may then be related to sexual behaviors.

INTRODUCTION

Engaging in sexual behaviors is common among college women and is linked to a number of negative consequences. The American College Health Association (ACHA) conducts an assessment of health related behaviors in college students every spring. In 2010, their assessment included 139 postsecondary institutions with 95,712 respondents, 59,831 of which were female. Among these women, 42,779 engaged in oral sex, vaginal or anal intercourse, with 3,293 women reporting four or more sexual partners over the past 12 months. Engaging in such behaviors was not without its physical consequences: Out of all female respondents, 2,940 indicated they had been treated for a sexually transmitted infection in the past 12 months [The American College Health Association (ACHA), 2010]. Mental health issues are also present in women who engage in casual sex (Grello, Welsh, & Harper, 2006; Owen, Finchman, & Moore, 2011).

Hooking up and casual sex have been found to correlate with a variety of negative mental health problems in college women. Casual sex is defined as having a sexual encounter with someone where there is no expectation of developing a committed romantic relationship (Grello et al., 2006). While casual sex may imply more than one encounter, hooking up is defined as having a one-time sexual experience with no expectation of future encounters (Paul, MacManus, & Hayes, 2000). Women with a greater number of casual sexual partners tend to worry more about their sexual partner's investment in the relationship than men (Townsend &

Wasserman, 2011). Other studies suggest that women who hook-up frequently also experience negative emotions about their hook-up (Owen, Rhoades, Stanley, & Finchman, 2010), including feelings of regret (Eshbaugh & Gute, 2008) and loneliness (Owen et al., 2011). Additionally, women who hook-up or engage in casual sex experience greater symptoms of depression than those who do not (Fielder & Carey, 2008; Grello et al., 2006; Owen et al., 2011). Specifically, there is a strong correlation between the number of casual sex partners and distress, with more partners being associated with greater symptoms of distress (Grello et al., 2006). Given the negative consequences associated with multiple sexual partners, it is important to address why women engage in uncommitted sex.

Sociosexual Orientation

Sociosexual orientation is the willingness to engage in sexual activity outside of an emotional commitment (Simpson & Gangestad, 1991). Sociosexual orientation can range from a restricted sociosexuality to an unrestricted sociosexuality. Restricted individuals need to feel commitment and closeness in a relationship to engage in sex with their romantic partner, while unrestricted individuals are comfortable in engaging in sex without such feelings (Simpson & Gangestad, 1991). More recently this one-dimensional concept has been expanded into three dimensions to separately assess past sexual behaviors, attitudes toward uncommitted sex, and sociosexual desire (Penke & Asendorpf, 2008). Using three dimensions allows us to examine the complexity of human sexuality by studying how each dimension; both individually and together, form sociosexual orientation.

Sociosexuality has been associated with certain aspects of mating such as sexual behaviors and partner choice. Individuals who possess an unrestricted sociosexual orientation experience sex earlier in life (Yost & Zurbriggen, 2006; Ostovich & Sabini, 2005) and earlier in their relationships (Simpson & Gangestad, 1991). Over the course of their lifetime individuals with an unrestricted sociosexual orientation also acquire a greater number of sexual partners in comparison to individuals with a restricted sociosexual orientation (Yost & Zurbriggen, 2006; Ostovich & Sabini, 2004). An individual's choice in romantic partners is also related to their sociosexuality. Unrestricted individuals are drawn to partners who are more physically and sexually attractive while restricted individuals are more focused on qualities such as kindness, responsibility, and faithfulness (Simpson & Gangestad, 1992). Sociosexual orientation is, therefore, a major factor in explaining why women might engage in sex outside of a committed relationship. Another factor that might explain differences in women's sexual behavior is sorority membership.

Sorority Women

College women who are part of the Greek system, i.e., sorority women, differ from non-sorority women in a variety of ways. For example, college students in their senior year who were part of a Greek organization interacted more with faculty members and felt their college education contributed to gains in both their academic and personal development (Pike, 2003). Greek students also spend more hours participating in extracurricular activities and in community service or volunteer work (Asel, Seifert, & Pascarella, 2009). Despite these positive college experiences,

sorority women engage in more academically dishonest behaviors (Williams & Janosik, 2007), such as fabricating sources (Eberhardt, Rice, & Smith, 2003), and plagiarism (Storch & Storch, 2002), and have lower grades when compared to non-sorority women (Asel et al., 2009).

A difference in health related behaviors has also been found in sorority women when compared to non-sorority women. Sorority women in particular have been found to smoke more often, and consume drugs more than non-sorority women (Scott-Sheldon, Carey, & Carey, 2008). Alcohol consumption (Capone, Wood, Borsari, & Laird, 2007) and heavy episodic drinking (McCabe, Schulenberg, Johnston, O'Malley, Bachman, & Kloska, 2004) are also more common among college women who are part of a sorority. Sorority women are also more likely to be influenced by their peers in regards to their own sexual behaviors (Reed & Weinberg, 1984), although, findings regarding the sexual behaviors of sorority women are mixed. One study found sorority women have more sexual partners when compared with non-sorority women (Scott-Sheldon et al., 2008) while another found no such difference (Sawyer, Schulken, & Pinciario, 1997). Though informative, these studies did not assess casual sex or sociosexual orientation directly. In addition, while sociosexual orientation is not the same concept as casual sex it does measure the willingness to engage in uncommitted sex, especially in the behavioral subscale. Given the negative consequences of such behavior it is important to study whether a difference in sociosexual orientation between sorority and non-sorority women exists.

Sexual Behaviors

Most research addressing the sexual behaviors of sorority women is largely centered on sexual victimization (e.g., Kalof, 2000; Minow & Einolf, 2009). Two studies found sorority women were not more likely to have experienced rape when compared to non-sorority women (Kalof, 2000; Sawyer et al., 1997). Other studies, however, have found sorority women were more likely to be victims of attempted and completed rapes than non-sorority women (Minow & Einolf, 2009; Tyler, Hoyt, & Whitbeck, 1998). Some of these contradicting results might result from methodological issues. For example, Kalof (2000) had a small sample of sorority women, and Copenhaver and Grauerholz (1991) reported a low response rate (28%). Regardless, some studies suggest alcohol may play a role in the sexual victimization of sorority women.

One study found sorority women are more likely to be victims of alcohol related non-consensual sex, defined as having sexual intercourse when a person cannot consent as a result of consuming alcohol (Kalof, 2000). Alcohol consumption is also correlated with unwanted sexual contact, attempted rape and completed rape in sorority women (Copenhaver & Grauerholz, 1991, Minow & Einolf, 2009). However, in one study the increased risk of sexual assault associated with membership in the Greek system and involvement in sorority activities remained significant even when controlling for alcohol consumption, which suggests that other factors, such as social context might, play a role (Minow & Einolf, 2009).

Similar to research linking sorority membership to sexual victimization, research addressing other sexual behaviors is also contradicting. To my knowledge, there are currently two studies available that address the consensual sexual behaviors of sorority women. Scott-Sheldon et al. (2008) conducted an exploratory analysis designed to examine the risky health behaviors of college students. With an overall sample of 1,595 undergraduate students (1,020 female) they obtained 856 non-sorority and 164 sorority participants. Participants were volunteers from an introductory psychology course who received partial course credit after answering the questionnaires administered in groups. Though the study included various survey measures, of particular interest are the three questions that examined the number of sexual partners a participant had in a certain time period. Responses to these questions indicated that sorority women had significantly more sexual partners in their lifetime, during the past year, and during the past three months than non-sorority women.

In contrast Sawyer, Schulken, and Pinciario (1997) conducted their study on sexual victimization by obtaining a sample of 627 sorority women. Participants from twelve different sororities on the same campus were recruited through the Advisor/Coordinator of Greek Life. Through the advisor, the researchers were able to attend the Panhellenic Association's planning meeting to present the purpose of the study to the president of each sorority. The researchers were given permission by each president in attendance to attend the weekly meetings of her respective sorority to administer the paper and pencil questionnaire to volunteers. Although this study

did not include a sample of non-sorority women, they compared obtained data to samples of non-sorority women in other studies; the authors did not specify why they chose such samples. Sorority women were more sexually active than non-sorority women but did not differ in their number of lifetime sexual partners.

These two studies were conducted in large universities, i.e., one public, the University of Maryland (Scott-Sheldon et al., 2008) and one private, Syracuse University (Sawyer et al., 1997), where the environment is likely very different than smaller public universities. The sexual behaviors of sorority women attending a small public university, such as California State University, Stanislaus, might vary in comparison to sororities in larger universities. For example, CSU Stanislaus, a commuter school, has a smaller student population than larger universities where more students tend live off campus and may not be likely to become members of organizations. In addition, there is no Greek housing either on campus or in the neighboring communities. Living in a sorority house could affect the influence of social norms among sorority women (Page & O'Hegarty, 2006). It is clear that no consensus exists in regards to the sexual behaviors of sorority women, whether in regards to sexual victimization or number of lifetime sexual partners. However, when differences have been found, they are consistently in the direction of sorority women having more sexual experience.

Alcohol Consumption

As noted in the previous section, negative sexual experiences of sorority women have been related to alcohol use. In examining the relationship between

sororities and sexual behavior, is important to identify whether drinking is more prevalent in sororities than in non-sororities.

Students who consume high amounts of alcohol in high school are more likely to join a Greek organization in college (Park, Sher, & Krull, 2008; Park, Sher, Wood, & Krull, 2009). After joining a fraternity or sorority, their alcohol consumption continues to rise, and is twice as high as students who are not in a Greek organization (Park et al., 2008; Park et al., 2009; Asel et al., 2009). Generally, women who are in a sorority are also likely to consume twice as much alcohol as non-sorority women (Capone et al., 2007; Tyler et al., 1998; Minow & Einolf 2009). In particular, sorority women engage in heavy episodic drinking, defined as having five or more alcoholic drinks in one occasion, more frequently than non-sorority women (McCabe et al., 2004; Strano, Cuomo, & Venabel, 2004). Furthermore, one study that defined heavy episodic drinking as four or more drinks per sitting, also found that sorority women engage in more heavy episodic drinking than non-sorority women (Scott-Sheldon et al., 2008).

There is a lack of research addressing the relationship between sorority women's alcohol consumption and their sexual behavior; however, research is available in the general female college student population. Specifically, sexually experienced women drank alcohol more frequently and in larger amounts than sexually inexperienced women (LaBrie, Kenney, Migliuri, & Lac, 2011). College women also report that alcohol facilitated their engagement in sexual behaviors by experiencing an increase in their sexual assertiveness and motivation (Lindren,

Pantalone, Lewis, & George, 2009). In addition, participants who had multiple sex partners were more likely to have consumed alcohol before their last engagement in sexual activity in comparison to participants with one sexual partner (Desiderato & Crawford, 1995). It was also found that college women who engage in heavy episodic drinking, five or more drinks per occasion, are more likely to engage in sex while under the influence of alcohol (Piombo & Piles, 2008). Finally, women who engage in hook-ups or casual sex were found to consume more alcohol in comparison to women who do not (Owen et al., 2010; Owen et al., 2011).

If there is a difference in the sexual behaviors of sorority and non-sorority women, alcohol may be one important reason. However, other factors, such as social norms, might also explain these differences.

Social Norms

Peers, or perceptions of peers, can influence sexual behaviors. In general, people tend to overestimate the sexual behaviors of their peers. Sullivan (2009) found college student participants perceived their peers engaged in sexual behaviors such as petting, oral sex, and vaginal intercourse twice as much as they actually did. In another study, 80% of the participant's peers had 0 to 1 sexual partners in the previous year, but the participants felt only 22% of their peers had such a low number of partners (Scholly, Katz, Gascoigne, & Holck, 2005).

On the face of it, overestimations may seem harmless. However, such overestimations may affect sexual behavior. This concept is referred to as social norms, whereby perceptions of the behaviors of peers lead to a behavioral change

(Martens et al., 2006; Scholly et al., 2005; Stephenson & Sullivan, 2009). Social norms theory has been extended to include the perceived attitudes of sexual behaviors held by one's peers. Numerous studies on both adolescents and college students have confirmed the impact of perceived sexual attitudes and behaviors (Potard, Courtois, & Rusch, 2008; Page, Hammermeister, & Scanlan, 2000).

There is a correlation between a participant's behavior and the perceptions of his or her peers' engagement and frequency in different sexual behaviors. For example, various studies have reported a positive correlation between an adolescent's own sexual experiences and his or her perceptions of whether or not peers are engaging in intercourse (Ali & Dwyer, 2011; Potard et al., 2008; L'Engle & Jackson, 2008; Selvan, Ross, Kapadia, Mathai, & Hira, 2001). Specifically, the more participants perceived their peers as engaging in sexual intercourse the more likely participants engaged in those same behaviors (Ali & Dwyer, 2011; L'Engle & Jackson, 2008; Potard et al., 2008). In terms of perceived attitudes, an adolescent's perception of his or her peers' positive attitudes toward one-night-stands was found to be correlated positively with their own number of sexual partners and likelihood of engaging in sexual intercourse (L'Engle & Jackson, 2008; Potard et al., 2008). Additionally, sociosexual orientation is associated with perceptions of friends' attitudes towards casual and responsible sex (Agostinelli & Seal, 1998). On the other hand, perceptions of peers' engagement and attitudes toward sexual behaviors could also serve as a protective factor. Condom use by participants was correlated positively to the perception of condom use among their peers (Potard et al., 2008).

Participants who perceived their peers as avoiding sexual behaviors and holding an attitude that did not support sexual intercourse were less likely to engage in such behaviors either (Selvan et al., 2001). Similar findings have been established for college students and for women in particular.

A study by Martens et al. (2006) found college students' overestimation of their peers' engagement in oral sex, anal sex, and vaginal intercourse was positively correlated with their own behaviors in these areas. There is also a long-standing interest in the area of social norms and sexual behaviors of female college students. Studies conducted in the late 1960s indicate an association between perceptions of sexual attitudes and behavior in peers and female college students' own behavior. Mirande (1968) found that 100% of the female college students in their sample who were sexually experienced had a sexually experienced friend while only 33% of those who were not sexually experienced had at least one friend who was sexually experienced. Their engagement in sexual intercourse also increased their perceptions of friends engaging in the same behavior (Schulz, Borhnstedt, Borgatta, & Evans, 1968). Specifically, for every friend perceived to engage in sexual intercourse there was a 12% increase in the likelihood the participant had done so as well. Reed and Weinberg (1984), whose data were collected in the late 1960s, also reported women's sexual behaviors were correlated to the perceived sexual behaviors of their peers. Perceptions of peers' attitudes towards sexual behaviors were found to be related to female college students' sexual behaviors, including their amount of sexual experience (Mirande, 1968), number of sexual partners, and age of first sexual

intercourse (Daugherty & Burger, 1984). These earlier studies did not indicate the gender of the participants' peers; as such, they could have been either male or female.

More recently, engaging in sexual activity was also found to be associated with perceptions of peers' sexual behaviors and vice versa (Hammermeister, & Scanlan, 2000; Page et al., 2000). Unlike earlier studies, participants were asked about the sexual behaviors of only their female peers. Similar to findings described in older studies, participants who had engaged in sex in the past 30 days were more likely to believe a high number of their peers engaged in the same type of sexual behavior. The more the participants thought women on campus had recently engaged in sexual intercourse, the more likely they were to engage in those behaviors as well. As a participant's number of lifetime sexual partners increased, so did the perception of their peers' number of partners.

Another study found participants' behaviors were correlated with perceptions of their peers engaging in some behaviors but not others (Lewis, Lee, Patrick, & Fossos, 2007). For example, a female college student's number of sexual partners was not correlated with her perception of her female peers' number of sexual partners. However, the participant's engagement in casual sex was correlated with her perceptions of her female peers engaging in casual sex. A correlation between specific types of sexual behavior and perceptions has also been found. In her dissertation, Buchanan (2008) specifically addressed vaginal intercourse. She found participants' behaviors were correlated with the perceptions of their peer's number of sexual partners and engagement in vaginal intercourse.

There are contradictions regarding the correlation between perceptions and safe sexual behaviors. One study found perceptions of sexual abstinence by peers was correlated with the abstinence of the participants (Page et al., 2000), while another found an unexpected finding of a small significant negative correlation ($r = -.09$) between condom use and perceptions of female peers using condoms (Buchanan, 2008).

Considering the studies presented above are correlational it is important to note that the direction of the relationship between perceptions and the participants' own behaviors has not been established. Engaging in a behavior can lead to a perception, perhaps to justify a behavior by assuming peers also engage in that behavior. It could also be argued that a perception of others' behavior can lead to a change in one's own behavior. Despite a lack of directionality between perceptions and a change in behavior, the relationship between these two variables has been supported through many studies. The relationship between social norms, sexual behaviors and sorority membership in particular has also been addressed in other studies.

Social Norms in Sorority Women.

Social norms theory has been studied in relation to sorority membership. Mirande (1968) conducted the first study regarding this topic and reported sorority women's sexual behaviors were more consistent with their perceptions of peers' approval of sexual intercourse than non-sorority women. Although this was not the focus of their study, these results suggest sorority women might be more susceptible

to the effects of social norms than non-sorority women. Since then, similar results regarding the relationship between sorority membership and social norms have been found.

One study found a negative correlation between sorority affiliation and the perceived sexual behaviors of friends (Reed & Weinberg, 1984). In this study, participants were asked, based on their perceptions, whether their peers had “little sexual actual experience” or “lots of actual sexual experience.” Female participants who were members of a Greek organization were more likely to think their peers had little sexual experience. Similarly, another study found that sorority women did not perceive their peers as more accepting of casual and permissive sexual behaviors than non-sorority women (Lottes & Kuriloff, 1994). Despite the perception of peers lacking sexual experience and not accepting of casual sex, sorority women’s perceptions were found to be positively correlated to their own behaviors (Reed & Weinberg, 1984). This may indicate a relationship between sorority membership and sexual behavior, whether it leads to engaging in more casual sex or not remains unclear.

Two studies in particular found sorority membership may influence the participant’s sexual behaviors through factors other than perceptions (Reed & Weinberg, 1984; Schulz et al., 1968). Both studies found a positive correlation between sorority membership and dating frequency. Dating frequency in turn was positively correlated to the perceptions of peers’ sexual behaviors, which then positively influenced the participant’s sexual behaviors. These findings indicate

sorority membership may not directly influence the participant's own sexual behaviors through perceptions but rather through dating frequency. Addressing if sorority membership, alcohol consumption and social norms differ between the two groups of women and how it might affect their sexual behaviors is the goal of this thesis.

Summary

I found that while studies of casual sex in the general college population (especially in women) are quite abundant, there is a lack of research addressing the difference in sexual behaviors between sorority women and non-sorority women. Moreover, the studies that are available present contradictory findings (e.g., Sawyer et al., 1997; Scott-Sheldon et al., 2008). In addition, other studies have only assessed sexual behaviors through one or two questions. These data are informative, but not as robust as established measures of sociosexual orientation.

A person's sociosexual orientation, restricted or unrestricted, is correlated with different types of sexual behaviors. In addition sociosexual orientation is composed of three different dimensions: sociosexual behaviors, sociosexual attitudes and sociosexual desires. Perhaps a clearer picture of how different groups of female college students differ in sexual behaviors can be obtained through the use of this concept. Thus, the first purpose of this study is to examine whether a difference in sociosexual orientation exists between sorority women and non-sorority women.

It is also of interest to this study to this researcher to address what factors, other than sorority membership, might correlate with sociosexual orientation. Two

factors in particular have been previously found to correlate with changes in sexual behavior: Social norms and alcohol consumption. Social norms are correlated with sexual behavior in adolescents (L'Engle & Jackson, 2008; Potard et al., 2008; Selvan et al., 2001), college students in general (Martens et al., 2006), and more specifically in sorority women (Reed & Weinberg, 1984). Although alcohol consumption has been found to affect the sexual behaviors of college women (Lindren et al., 2009; Owen et al., 2010; Owen et al., 2011; Piombo & Piles, 2008) no research exists addressing this relationship in sorority women despite their high consumption of alcohol.

More importantly there are no studies that combine all of these factors. Those studies that do address some of these factors may present contradictory findings. Given the research presented, the purpose of this thesis is to assess how sorority membership, sociosexual orientation, social norms, and alcohol consumption are associated with one another and to address contradictions in the literature.

Research Questions/Hypotheses

Question 1 - Is there a difference in sociosexual orientation between sorority and non-sorority women? It is expected that women in sororities will have a more unrestricted sociosexual orientation. Considering research available addresses number of sexual partners rather than sociosexual orientation a difference in number of partners will also be assessed. It is also expected that women in sororities will have a higher number of sexual partners compared to sorority women.

Question 2a - Are social norms related to participants' sociosexual orientation? Since other studies have found a positive correlation between social norms and sexual behaviors, a similar result is also expected in relationship to sociosexual orientation.

Question 2b – Do sorority women and non-sorority women differ in their perceptions of the sociosexual orientation of their peers (i.e., in social norms)? Though the research is not consistent, it is expected that sorority women will perceive their peers as having a more unrestricted sociosexual orientation.

Question 3a – Is alcohol consumption related to sociosexual orientation and the number of sexual partners? Based on previous research, a positive correlation is expected in both cases.

Question 3b - Do sorority women and non-sorority women differ in their alcohol consumption? Given that sorority women more frequently engage in heavy episodic drinking, they are expected to consume higher amounts of alcohol compared to non-sorority women in this study.

Question 4 - If there is a difference in sociosexual orientation between sorority and non-sorority women, do social norms or alcohol consumption mediate the relationship between sorority membership and sociosexual orientation? Considering sorority women's perceptions of their peer's sexual behaviors and their consumption of alcohol are related to their own behaviors, it is predicted their unrestricted sociosexual orientation may be explained by the influence of social norms and/or alcohol consumption.

METHODOLOGY

Participants

Participants were recruited from the California State University, Stanislaus campus community through SONA, the online participant management system. Sorority participants were specifically recruited through similar methods used by Sawyer et al. (1997). The Greek advisor on campus provided contact information for nine different sororities. Each sorority's president was sent an e-mail describing the purpose of the study and asked to share the study information and link to the study to their members. A total of 200 female college students were recruited with 49 being a member of a sorority. The mean age of the participants was 21.3 years old ($SD = 3.47$) and the range was from 18 to 40 years. Some participants received a SONA credit that may have been used in their courses as extra credit for participating in the study.

Materials

Demographic Questionnaire

Participants were asked to provide demographic information including age, relationship status, year in school, major, sorority status, and alcohol use (see Appendix A). The alcohol questions were drawn from The National College Health Assessment (NCHA) (American College Health Association [ACHA], 2010). Participants were asked how many days within the past 30 they had consumed alcohol and the average number of drinks consumed last time they partied/socialized.

Participant's engagement in heavy episodic drinking was also included in the questionnaire through the following question: "Over the last two weeks, how many times have you had four or more drinks of alcohol at a sitting?" Considering some authors make the argument to define heavy episodic drinking as four or more drinks for women, the number, originally set as five or more, was lowered for this study (Wechsler, Dowdall, Davenport, & Castillo, 1995; Wechsler, Dowdall, Davenport, & Rimm, 1995; Wechsler, & Kuo, 2000). Cronbach's alpha for this scale was .70. Students provided answers in an open response format (see Appendix A). Although self-monitoring is not a variable in this thesis, and will not be examined in this study, the Self Monitoring Scale is included for its potential contribution to future research. The Self-Monitoring Scale includes 18 statements with high scores indicting high self-monitoring and low scores indicating low self-monitoring (See Appendix B).

Sociosexual Inventory Revised

Simpson and Gangestad (1991) originally developed the sociosexual orientation inventory (SOI), which was composed of seven items. The original sociosexual orientation inventory has internal consistency (Cronbach's $\alpha = .73$; Simpson & Gangestad, 1991) and has been used in numerous studies (e.g., Simpson & Gangestad, 1992; Yost & Zurbriggen, 2006; Mikach & Bailey 1999; Hebl & Kashy, 1995). One major criticism of the original measure, however, is that it does not distinguish between behavior, attitudes, and desire. Thus in this study, I used the revised version of the sociosexual orientation inventory (Penke & Asendorpf, 2008; see Appendix C), a nine-item measure that can be used to generate a single global

sociosexual orientation score, or as three subscales (sociosexual behavior, sociosexual attitudes, and sociosexual desire) each consisting of three items.

The past sociosexual behavior of an individual is assessed in items 1-3. Participants could respond using a 9-point rating scale with options ranging from 0, to 20 or more. The sociosexual attitudes subscale consists of items 4-6 and assesses an individual's agreement with casual sex. Response options are given in a 9-point rating scale ranging from 1 = *strongly disagree* to 9 = *strongly agree*. The three remaining items assess an individual's sexual desire with response options ranging from 1 = *never* to 9 = *at least once a day*.

Example items of the behavior, attitude, and desire components of the SOI-R include, "With how many different partners have you had sex in the past 12 months," "Sex without love is OK," and, "How often do you have fantasies about having sex with someone with whom you do not have a committed romantic relationship," respectively. Scores were determined by computing the mean response across questions, and item six was reverse coded as described by Penke and Asendorpf (2008). Cronbach's alphas for the SOI-R global, behavior, attitude and desire scales were .86, .82, .81, and .88, respectively.

Social Norms Questionnaire

Social norms were measured by modifying all the items in the SOI-R regarding sexual behaviors, attitudes, and desire to reflect those of the participant's peers (see Appendix D). Examples of the items used to measure perceptions of sexual behaviors in peers are, "On average how many sexual partners do you think your

female friends have had in the past 12 months?”, “My female friends think sex without love is OK.”, and “In everyday life how often do your female friends have spontaneous fantasies about having sex with someone they just met?” In accordance with the scoring instructions of the Sociosexuality Inventory Revised (SOI-R), item six was reverse coded. Answer options were also modeled after the original SOI-R. Cronbach’s alphas for the Social Norms global, behavior, attitude and desire scales were .91, .88, .85, and .91 respectively.

Procedure

Participants completed the study online at Qualtrics.com and reviewed a consent form with information about the study including risks and advantages of participating prior to beginning the study (see Appendix E). Given the sensitive nature of the information asked, participants were informed of their ability to skip questions, and/or drop out of the study at any time. Participants were given the option to print the consent form for their records. Approval to conduct this study was given by the Institutional Review Board (IRB) at California State University Stanislaus. Following their completion of the consent procedure, participants completed the demographic questionnaire, the Alcohol Consumption Questionnaire, the SOI-R, the Self-Monitoring Scale, and the Social Norms Questionnaire. Finally, participants were given a debriefing form (see Appendix F) and the purpose of the study was fully explained. In order to avoid order effects, the questionnaires were counterbalanced; half of the participants completed the Social Norms Questionnaire before the SOI-R. The remaining participants completed the survey in the order described above.

RESULTS

While the majority of the scales had close to a normal distribution, some scales had problematic skewness and kurtosis (i.e., values larger than ± 2). For all analyses the following scales were transformed by log10: Global sociosexuality, sociosexual behavior, social norms behavior and alcohol consumption.

Question 1- Sociosexual Orientation

Table 1

Independent sample t-tests comparing sorority and non-sorority college women by sociosexuality, social norms, alcohol consumption and their respective subscales.

Variable	Sorority	Non-sorority	<i>t</i>	<i>df</i>	<i>d</i>
	<i>M(SD)</i>	<i>M(SD)</i>			
Sociosexual Orientation					
Global ^a	2.7(1.21)	2.5(1.39)	0.96	196	.16
Behavior ^a	2.1(1.35)	1.9(1.13)	0.96	196	.16
Attitude	3.3(1.81)	2.9(2.03)	1.19	196	.20
Desire	2.6(1.60)	2.8(1.89)	-0.69	196	.11
Social Norms					
Global	3.9(1.36)	3.4(1.48)	2.27*	196	.37
Behavior ^a	3.3(1.37)	2.8(1.46)	3.24*	102.10 ^b	.53
Attitude	4.9(1.82)	4.0(2.09)	2.81*	193	.47
Desire	3.8(1.64)	3.4(1.77)	1.28	193	.21
Alcohol Consumption					
Overall ^a	2.5(2.20)	2.0(2.60)	2.04*	198	.34
Past 30 days	3.4(3.63)	2.8(4.47)	0.82	198	.14
Heavy episodic	0.8(1.61)	0.6(1.60)	0.50	198	.08
Number of drinks last time partied/socialized	3.4(3.67)	2.7(2.83)	1.50	197	.25

Note. ^aVariable was log 10 transformed prior to conducting the t-test. ^bDegrees of freedom were adjusted due to lack of homogeneity of variance.

* $p < .05$

The results of independent samples t-tests comparing sorority and non-sorority women on all scales are presented in Table 1. Sorority women did not have a more unrestricted sociosexual orientation as predicted. Similarly, they did not present

any significant differences in sociosexual behavior, sociosexual attitude or sociosexual desire when compared to non-sorority women. However, an independent samples Mann-Whitney U test revealed sorority women ($M = 2.5$, $SD = 1.40$) had a higher number of sexual partners in the past 12 months compared to non-sorority women ($M = 2.0$, $SD = 1.15$), $p = .01$. Although, sorority women ($M = 0.8$, $SD = 0.80$) did not date more often than non-sorority women ($M = 0.8$, $SD = 0.90$), $p = .79$.

Pearson correlation coefficients between SOI-R, Social Norms Questionnaire, and Alcohol Consumption scores are presented in Table 2. Since a significant difference was present for number of sexual partners (SOI Question 1), correlations with that item, sociosexual orientation, social norms, alcohol consumption and their respective subscales are included. The relationships are primarily between a medium and large effect size.

Question 2 – Social Norms

As predicted, a significant positive correlation between social norms and sociosexual orientation was found (see Table 2). Significant associations were also found for each subscale of the Social Norms Questionnaire and their corresponding subscale in the SOI-R. The largest effect size was found between sociosexual desire and social norms desire scores ($r = .54$). All other effect sizes were of medium effect. Similarly, a significant positive correlation was also found between the number of sexual partners in the past 12 months (SOI-1), social norms and its respective subscales. The largest effect size found was between SOI-1 and social norms desire while the others ranged from low to medium effect.

Table 2

Pearson correlations for social norms, sociosexuality, alcohol consumption their respective subscales and SOI-1.

	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.
1. Social Norms (SN)	--											
2. SN Behavior	.82	--										
3. SN Attitude	.87	.67	--									
4. SN Desire	.80	.49	.48	--								
5. Global SOI	.39	.27	.35	.38	--							
6. SOI Behavior	.31	.36	.25	.18	.62	--						
7. SOI Attitude	.27	.18	.36	.14	.87	.49	--					
8. SOI Desire	.37	.18	.19	.54	.77	.30	.51	--				
9. Alcohol Consumption	.30	.30	.28	.20	.41	.43	.29	.26	--			
10. 30 Days	.29	.27	.25	.19	.37	.45	.28	.26	.79	--		
11. Heavy Episodic	.26	.25	.21	.18	.29	.39	.21	.19	.62	.75	--	
12. Partied/Socialized	.23	.19	.22	.18	.32	.28	.24	.23	.80	.47	.39	--
13. SOI-1	.30	.33	.22	.21	.55	.82	.44	.34	.40	.48	.39	.26

Note. All correlations presented are significant at $p < .05$ SOI refers to sociosexual orientation inventory score. Alcohol consumption is a global average of scores from the 30 days, heavy episodic drinking and partied/socialized items. Thirty days is how many days within the last past 30 a participant had consumed alcohol, partied/socialized is the average number of drinks they had last time they partied/socialized and heavy episodic drinking is how many times they had four or more drinks of alcohol at a sitting. SOI-1 refers to item one of the Sociosexual Inventory Revised, which asks about the number of sexual partners in the past 12 months.

As expected, significant differences were present in the Social Norms

Questionnaire scores of sorority and non-sorority women (see Table 1). On average, sorority women felt their peers were more unrestricted in their sociosexuality when compared to non-sorority women's perceptions of their peers. There was also a

significant difference in perceptions of peer's sociosexual behavior and attitude.

Sorority women's perceptions of their peers' sociosexual behaviors and attitudes were more unrestricted when compared to non-sorority women's perceptions of their peers attitudes and behaviors. No significant difference was found for the desire social norms subscale.

Although an independent sample t-test revealed no significant differences in sociosexual orientation, it is possible the relationships between social norms and sociosexual orientation might differ between sorority and non-sorority members. The MODPROBE procedure for SPSS developed by Preacher and Hayes (2004) was used to examine potential interactions between sorority membership and social norms on sociosexual orientation along with their corresponding subscales. No significant interactions were found, $\Delta R^2s < .004$, $F_s < 3.16$, $ps > .08$.

Question 3 - Alcohol Consumption

As predicted, overall, sorority women consumed significantly more alcohol, with a Cohen's *d* of 0.34 indicating a moderate effect size (see Table 1). However, there were no differences in the individual components of the alcohol measure: They did not drink significantly more alcohol in the past 30 days, engage in more heavy episodic drinking, or have more alcoholic drinks the last time they partied/socialized when compared to non-sorority women ($ps > .14$). In addition, each aspect of alcohol consumption was significantly correlated with social norms, sociosexual orientation, their respective subscales and number of sexual partners (SOI-1) (see Table 2). Particularly, as expected, a positive correlation was found between alcohol

consumption and number of sexual partners in the past twelve months. All correlations were medium effect sizes.

Question 4 – Mediators

Considering there was no significant difference in sociosexual orientation between sorority and non-sorority women, it was not possible to test whether alcohol consumption and social norms were potential mediators in the relationship between sorority membership and sociosexual orientation. Since a significant difference was found in number of sexual partners for sorority and non-sorority women, the bias-corrected and accelerated bootstrapping procedure for SPSS outlined by Preacher and Hayes (2008) was also conducted to test whether social norms and alcohol consumption mediated the relationship between sorority membership and number of sexual partners (see Figure 1). This procedure provides confidence intervals around the indirect effect for each variable. The variable is a significant mediator if the confidence interval does not contain zero. Alcohol consumption (95% CI[-.103, -.003]) and social norms (95% CI [-.085, -.005]) were both significant mediators in the number of sexual partners of sorority women. This analysis also revealed no difference in the amount of variance explained between social norms and alcohol consumption.

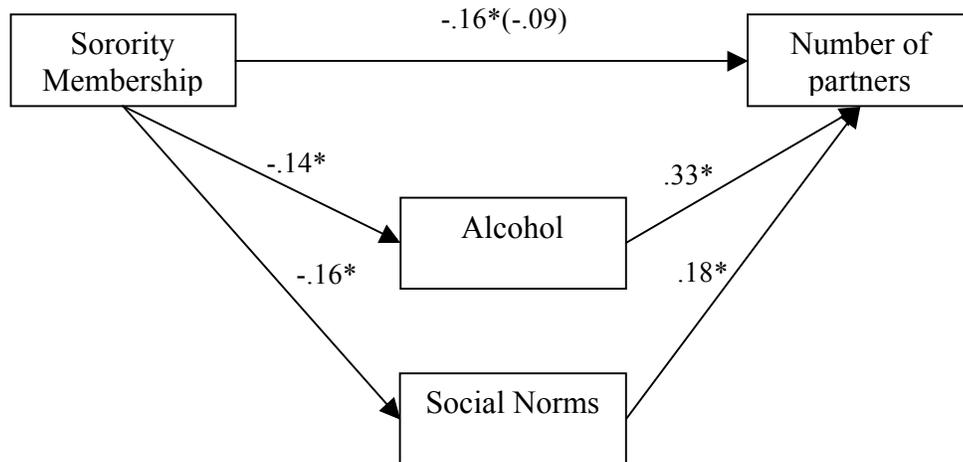


Figure 1. Standardized coefficients showing alcohol and social norms as mediators of sorority membership on number of partners. The number in parentheses is the direct effect of sorority membership on number of partners after controlling for alcohol and social norms. Sorority membership is coded as 1 = sorority, 2 = non-sorority. * $p < .05$.

DISCUSSION

The focus of this study was to examine the relationship between sorority membership, sociosexual orientation, social norms, and alcohol consumption. This was the first study of differences in sociosexual orientation between sorority and non-sorority women. Although no significant differences were found in sociosexual orientation, sorority women reported slightly more sexual partners in the past 12 months compared to non-sorority women, which is similar to previous research (Scott-Sheldon et al., 2008). With regard to alcohol, sorority women did drink more than non-sorority women but they did not engage in heavier episodic drinking. Lastly, it was found sorority women were significantly more likely to perceive their peers' sociosexual orientation as unrestricted. When taking all these variables into account it was found that both alcohol and social norms influenced the number of sexual partners of sorority women.

Sociosexual Orientation

Despite my prediction of finding a difference in sociosexual orientation among sorority women compared to non-sorority women, there was no such finding. A possible explanation for this could be that college women in general possess mostly a similar sociosexual orientation despite membership in Greek organizations.

However, upon closer examination of Question 1 of the Sociosexual Orientation Scale (SOI -1) it was found on average sorority women did have more sexual partners in the past 12 months compared to non-sorority women, however the

difference is small. These findings are similar to those of Scott-Sheldon et al. (2008) who found sorority women in their sample had significantly more sexual partners during the past year compared to non-sorority women. Interestingly enough, these findings contradicted those of Sawyer, Schulken and Pinciaro (1997) whose methodology this study closely resembled. A similar recruitment method was used by reaching direct contact with every sorority's president on campus through the Greek advisor. However, in this study the questionnaires were not administered in person at each sorority's weekly meeting; instead, a direct link to the study was provided to each president for distribution to her respective members. Unlike the findings of the current study, the authors did not find a difference in the number of sexual partners between sorority and non-sorority women. Since this study was implemented online, a difference in findings could not only be due to a difference in implementing the questionnaire but also, most importantly, in assessing for number of sexual partners in the past 12 months as opposed to a lifetime number of sexual partners.

Although sorority women were found to have more sexual partners they were not found to be more unrestricted. One could argue the difference in number of sexual partners is due to sorority women being more involved in relationships rather than a willingness to engage in casual sex. This is supported by the lack of differences in the Behavior Subscale of the Sociosexual Orientation Scale between sorority women and non-sorority women. The Behavior Subscale examines a willingness to engage in casual sex through three questions intended to measure number of sexual partners, one-time sexual experiences, and sex without an interest in a long-term commitment.

Thus, although sorority membership was associated with SOI Question 1, number of sexual partners, this particular item may not directly reflect an interest in casual sex. Since no differences were found it could be inferred that sorority women are not necessarily engaging in casual sex more often but rather engaging in serial monogamy. For example, sorority women could have more boyfriends than non-sorority women. As a sorority women's number of boyfriends increase so does their number of sexual partners, making it appear as though they are engaging in casual sex more frequently explaining the minimal difference between them and non-sorority women. As such, future studies should examine whether participants' number of sexual partners are associated with their romantic relationships.

Finally, previous studies found sorority membership to influence sexual behaviors through dating frequencies' correlation with perceptions (Reed & Weinberg, 1984; Schulz et al., 1968). However, no significant differences were found in dating for sorority and non-sorority women in this study. A lack of difference in dating can be due to the methods used to measure it. Studies that did find a difference did not define the variable date specifically; instead they relied on the open interpretation of the word itself to obtain results (Reed & Weinberg, 1984; Schulz et al., 1968). Dating in this study also relied on the subjective meaning of the word date, although, it did indicate to participants that a date included only a male and the participant. The word itself could have been defined in a variety of ways such as an outing or "hanging out" with a male. Dating could also have different meanings to participants. Some may refer to dating as a monogamous relationship whereas others

can use the term to describe a romantic or physical involvement with a number of men with no exclusivity. Although date was defined more clearly in this study compared to past ones a more concrete definition of the word date is necessary in order to obtain consistent results. In addition, a month is a short period of time to obtain significant differences. Further research should expand on the timeline in which dating is assessed.

Social Norms

As hypothesized, a significant positive correlation was found between a participants' perception of their peers' sociosexual orientation and their own. This is similar to an association found between sociosexual orientation and perceptions of friends' attitudes towards casual and responsible sex in another study (Agostinelli & Seal, 1998). Furthermore, these correlations indicate that perceptions of peers' unrestrictive behaviors can lead to more unrestrictive behaviors in the participants. Similar results have been found in literature for both adolescents (Ali & Dwyer, 2011; Potard et al., 2008; L'Engle & Jackson, 2008; Selvan et al., 2001) and college women (Mirande, 1968; Daugherty & Burger, 1984; Hammermeister & Scanlan, 2000, Page et al., 2000, Reed & Weinberg, 1984; Schulz et al., 1968). More specifically, each corresponding subscale of the Social Norms Questionnaire had a positive correlation with those of the SOI-R. This finding supports the idea of a multidimensional concept of sociosexuality. Each dimension was significantly correlated to their counterpart in the other scale suggesting each facet of sociosexuality is affected by perceptions of different variables such as behavior, attitude, and desire. The number of sexual

partners of a participant also correlated significantly with her Social Norms score. An increase in unrestrictive perceptions of peers' sexual behaviors was associated with an increase in the number of sexual partners across all participants (see Table 2). A number of studies have also found an association between perceptions of peers' attitudes and behaviors and the participants' number of sexual partners (Daugherty & Burger, 1984; Hammermeister & Scanlan, 2000; Page et al., 2000).

Sorority women viewed their peers as having a particularly unrestricted sociosexual orientation overall and also for the behavior and attitude subscales. These differences contradict an earlier finding that sorority women perceived their friends as lacking sexual experience (Reed & Weinberg, 1984) and not accepting of casual sex (Lottes & Kuriloff, 1994). Although, in accordance with previous findings (Reed & Weinberg, 1984) these perceptions were positively correlated to their own behaviors as indicated above. These contradicting results could stem from the methods used to study perceptions in this study. The SOI-R was modified to create the measure of social norms. In order to assess whether sorority women's perceptions were those of their sorority sisters, their peers were described as females. The use of the word female was similar to the methods used by other studies (Page et al., 2000, Hammermeister, & Scanlan, 2000). However, using the word female did not assess whether sorority women, in particular, perceived the sexual behavior of their sorority sisters when answering the Social Norms Questionnaire. It is possible sorority women perceived friends other than sorority sisters as their point of reference for the questionnaire. Vice versa, non-sorority women can also have close friends who are

involved in a sorority. For future studies a question of how often a sorority woman spends time with her sorority sisters outside business/mandated activities should be included in the survey. Perhaps the more time a sorority member spends time with her sisters could be associated with her perceptions of her peers' unrestrictive behavior.

Despite finding sorority women having unrestricted perceptions of their peers' sexual behaviors, sociosexual orientation did not differ between sorority and non-sorority women. However, sorority membership was associated with an increase in number of sexual partners. It is possible participation in a sorority alone is not the only factor affecting their sexual behavior; alcohol consumption could potentially play a role in these differences.

Alcohol Consumption

Similar to other studies, sorority women consumed more alcohol than non-sorority women (Capone et al., 2007; Tyler et al., 1998; Minow & Einolf 2009). There was no difference between sorority and non-sorority women in alcohol consumption for the past 30 days, which also agrees with previous research (Scott-Sheldon et al., 2008). In contradiction to previous research, however, no difference was found between sorority and non-sorority women in heavy episodic drinking (McCabe et al., 2004; Scott-Sheldon et al., 2008; Strano, Cuomo, & Venabel, 2004). Lastly, no significant difference was found for alcohol consumption the last time the participant partied/socialized. This result is surprising since sorority women are more likely to be involved in Greek events where alcohol is served (Minow & Einolf, 2008). Another study found sorority women living in a sorority house drank more

when they partied compared to non-sorority women who lived on other parts of campus (Page & O'Hegarty, 2006). Perhaps a difference in this study was not found since there are no sorority houses on campus.

Contradicting results could be due to differences in methods when studying alcohol consumption. There is no universal method of assessing alcohol consumption in studies where the focus is students who participate in Greek organizations. The questions for this study were taken from the American College Health Association National College Health Assessment (2010). Scott-Sheldon et al. (2008) used a modified version of the Daily Drinking Questionnaire (Collins, Parks, & Marlatt, 1985), Capone et al. (2007) designed their own method of assessing alcohol consumption, and Minow and Einolf (2009) used an average of alcohol consumption per week to assess alcohol consumption. Most noticeable is the discrepancy in literature of defining heavy episodic drinking as four or more drinks per sitting (Scott-Sheldon et al., 2008) or five or more drinks (McCabe et al., 2004; Strano, Cuomo, & Venabel, 2004). Although, the contradiction in results for drinking when partying may not be explained by the phrasing of the questions, since this study and Page and O'Hagerty (2006) used almost the same question. A common method may need to be implemented in order to find stable results throughout the literature; however, it is likely that a real effect would be robust enough to present itself even when questions are worded slightly differently. There may be other factors, such as housing, that lead to inconsistent results in the literature.

Alcohol consumption was significantly correlated with a participant's sociosexual orientation and number of sexual partners. Specifically the higher one's overall alcohol consumption score the more unrestricted her sociosexual orientation. This can be compared to other studies that found sexually experienced women drank more often and in larger amounts than sexually inexperienced women (LaBrie et al., 2011) and women who engage in hook ups and casual sex consume more alcohol than those who do not (Owen et al., 2010; Owen et al., 2011). Similarly an increase in alcohol consumption was associated with an increased number of sexual partners. This result can also be compared to another study that found women with multiple sexual partners were more likely to have consumed alcohol before their last engagement in sexual activity in comparison to participants with one sexual partner (Desiderato & Crawford, 1995). Alcohol consumption is clearly related to sorority membership and sexual behaviors. It may also account for a difference in the number of sexual partners between sorority and non-sorority women.

Mediators

A significant difference in sociosexual orientation between sorority and non-sorority women was not found. As such, the role that social norms and alcohol could have potentially played in such a difference was not possible to test. However, a significant difference was found in the number of partners, social norms, and alcohol consumption between sorority and non-sorority women. Since these three variables were correlated to one another the role that social norms and alcohol consumption might play in the difference of sexual partners was tested. Both social norms and

alcohol consumption significantly mediated the difference in number of sexual partners between sorority and non-sorority women. This means being a member of a sorority organization alone does not explain the difference in number of partners, but rather being a member of a sorority influences a sorority woman's perceptions of their friends' behaviors and attitudes and their consumption of alcohol. In turn these two variables are what influence the number of sexual partners a woman may have, but the difference is small and may be due to involvement in romantic relationships. As explained above, both social norms and alcohol consumption are significantly correlated to a person's sexual behavior. It is unclear why unrestricted social norms are more prevalent in sorority women. However, it has been found they consume more alcohol. Being part of a sorority also means participating in more social events where alcohol is served (Minow & Einolf, 2009). It seems that being part of a sorority creates a certain culture where sexual behaviors may be more prevalent. It is important to understand why that may be.

Greek culture may vary from campus to campus throughout the United States. An evident difference between CSU Stanislaus and other universities may be that there is no Greek housing in or around the neighboring communities. As such the results of this study are limited to being interpreted only to this campus. Larger universities may have housing and this factor alone could alter the relationships. Housing has been found to influence sorority members in factors such as alcohol consumption (Page & O'Hegarty, 2006). However, eliminating Greek housing as a variable may be a strength. It allowed the relationship between sorority membership

and sociosexual orientation to be examined without the confounding variable of Greek housing. Whether housing can influence sexual behaviors is a suggested topic for future research. Administering the questionnaire online, as oppose to paper and pencil, could also affect the responses of the participants. College women may be more honest with online questionnaires since they do not have to worry about social desirability. In addition, this campus is notably known as a “commuter school” where students mostly come on campus to attend classes but don’t live on campus. With a student body that does not show much interest in extracurricular activities, it is hard to compare a small sample of students who participate in Greek organizations to non-Greek students. Additionally, this was a relatively small, and perhaps a non-representative sample of students at CSU Stanislaus. With these limitations in mind, a suggestion for future research is to broaden the universities that students are drawn from to several campuses ranging from small to large universities.

This was the first study to examine differences in sociosexual orientation between sorority and non-sorority women. In addition, this has been perhaps the only recent study in the past decade or so that studies social norms in this population. Even more important, this is the only study of its kind that studies the relationship between sexual behaviors, social norms and alcohol consumption in sorority women. The implications of this study are important in that we now have a greater understanding of what factors besides sorority membership are related to a college women’s increase in the number of sexual partners. The sexual behaviors of college women are not without consequences. Understanding why this specific population of the student

body may engage in more risky sexual behaviors may inform initiatives to reduce risky sexual behaviors in college women. So are sorority women sluts? Not necessarily. They may simply have more boyfriends, drink more or be more likely to think other sorority sisters are. But most importantly we now know that alcohol consumption and social norms play a role in the sexual behavior of sorority women.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A
DEMOGRAPHICS

Age: _____

Current class standing: _____

Which of the following best describes your current relationship status?

- Single
- In a relationship
- Engaged
- Married
- Divorced
- Widowed

Please indicate how many different men have you gone on a date with where it was just you two in the past month.

Are you a member of a sorority organization on campus?

- Yes
- No

How many sorority sisters are considered active in your chapter?

If you are a member of a sorority organization please indicate which of the following describes your involvement:

- Active sorority member
- Inactive sorority member
- Alumni

Which of the following best describes your sorority organization:

- Local organization
- National organization

Please respond honestly to the following questions by indicating the appropriate number:

Within the last thirty days, on how many days did you use alcohol?

The last time you "partied"/socialized, how many alcoholic drinks did you have?

Over the last two weeks, how many times have you had four or more drinks of alcohol in one sitting?

APPENDIX B

THE SELF-MONITORING SCALE

The statements below concern your personal reactions to a number of different situations. No two statements are exactly alike so consider each statement carefully before answering. If a statement is true or mostly true as applied to you mark true as your answer. If a statement is false or not usually true as applied to you mark false as your answer. It is important that you answer as frankly and as honestly as you can. Record your responses in the spaces provided on the left.

- 1. I find it hard to imitate the behavior of other people.
- 2. At parties and social gatherings, I do not attempt to do or say things that others will like.
- 3. I can only argue for ideas which I already believe.
- 4. I can make impromptu speeches even on topics about which I have almost no information.
- 5. I guess I put on a show to impress or entertain others.
- 6. I would probably make a good actor.
- 7. In a group of people I am rarely the center of attention.
- 8. In different situations and with different people, I often act like very different persons.
- 9. I am not particularly good at making other people like me.
- 10. I'm not always the person I appear to be.
- 11. I would not change my opinions (or the way I do things) in order to please someone or win their favor.
- 12. I have considered being an entertainer.
- 13. I have never been good at games like charades or improvisational acting.
- 14. I have trouble changing my behavior to suit different people and different situations.
- 15. At a party I let others keep the jokes and stories going.
- 16. I feel a bit awkward in public and do not show up quite as well as I should.
- 17. I can look anyone in the eye and tell a lie with a straight face (if for a right end).
- 18. I may deceive people by being friendly when I really dislike them.

APPENDIX C

THE REVISED SOCIOSEXUAL ORIENTATION INVENTORY (SOI-R)

Please respond honestly to the following questions:

1. With how many different partners have you had sex within the past 12 months?

- 0 1 2 3 4 5-6 7-9 10-19 20 or more

2. With how many different partners have you had sexual intercourse on *one and only one* occasion?

- 0 1 2 3 4 5-6 7-9 10-19 20 or more

3. With how many different partners have you had sexual intercourse without having an interest in a long-term committed relationship with this person?

- 0 1 2 3 4 5-6 7-9 10-19 20 or more

4. Sex without love is OK.

- 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
Strongly disagree Strongly agree

5. I can imagine myself being comfortable and enjoying “casual” sex with different partners.

- 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
Strongly disagree Strongly agree

6. I do *not* want to have sex with a person until I am sure that we will have a long-term, serious relationship.

- 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
Strongly disagree Strongly agree

7. How often do you have fantasies about having sex with someone with whom you do *not* have a committed romantic relationship?

- 1 – never
 2 – very seldom
 3 – about once every two or three months
 4 – about once a month
 5 – about once every two weeks
 6 – about once a week
 7 – several times per week
 8 – nearly every day
 9 – at least once a day

8. How often do you experience sexual arousal when you are in contact with someone with whom you do *not* have a committed romantic relationship?

- 1 – never
- 2 – very seldom
- 3 – about once every two or three months
- 4 – about once a month
- 5 – about once every two weeks
- 6 – about once a week
- 7 – several times per week
- 8 – nearly every day
- 9 – at least once a day

9. In everyday life, how often do you have spontaneous fantasies about having sex with someone you have just met?

- 1 – never
- 2 – very seldom
- 3 – about once every two or three months
- 4 – about once a month
- 5 – about once every two weeks
- 6 – about once a week
- 7 – several times per week
- 8 – nearly every day
- 9 – at least once a day

APPENDIX D

SOCIAL NORMS QUESTIONNAIRE

Please respond honestly to the following questions:

1. How many different sexual partners do you think each of your female friends typically had in the past 12 months?

- 0 1 2 3 4 5-6 7-9 10-19 20 or more

2. With how many different partners do you think each of your female friends, on average, have engaged in sex with, on *one and only one* occasion?

- 0 1 2 3 4 5-6 7-9 10-19 20 or more

3. With how many different partners do you think each of your female friends, on average, have had sexual intercourse without having an interest in a long-term committed relationship with this person?

- 0 1 2 3 4 5-6 7-9 10-19 20 or more

4. In general, my female friends believe sex without love is OK

- 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Strongly disagree

Strongly agree

5. In general, my female friends imagine themselves being comfortable and enjoying “casual” sex with different partners.

- 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Strongly disagree

Strongly agree

6. In general, my female friends do not want to have sex with a person until they are sure they will have a long-term serious relationship.

- 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Strongly disagree

Strongly agree

7. How often do you think each of your female friends, on average, have fantasies about having sex with someone with whom they do not have a committed relationship?

- 1 – never
 2 – very seldom
 3 – about once every two or three months
 4 – about once a month
 5 – about once every two weeks
 6 – about once a week

- 7 – several times per week
- 8 – nearly every day
- 9 – at least once a day

8. How often do you think each of your female friends, on average, experience sexual arousal when they are in contact with someone with whom they do not have a committed romantic relationship?

- 1 – never
- 2 – very seldom
- 3 – about once every two or three months
- 4 – about once a month
- 5 – about once every two weeks
- 6 – about once a week
- 7 – several times per week
- 8 – nearly every day
- 9 – at least once a day

9. In everyday life, how often do you think each of your female friends, on average, has spontaneous fantasies about having sex with someone they just met?

- 1 – never
- 2 – very seldom
- 3 – about once every two or three months
- 4 – about once a month
- 5 – about once every two weeks
- 6 – about once a week
- 7 – several times per week
- 8 – nearly every day
- 9 – at least once a day

APPENDIX E
INFORMED CONSENT

1. The purpose of this study is to examine female college students' experiences with sexual intercourse and alcohol consumption. You will be asked a variety of questions regarding your personal behavior and attitudes in these matters. You will also be asked to provide similar information regarding your friends' behaviors and attitudes. Please DO NOT participate in this study if you are not comfortable with these types of questions.
2. You will be asked for information that is of a sensitive nature. You may skip any questions that make you feel uncomfortable. You are also free to discontinue participation in this study at any time should you choose to do so. You will not be penalized for doing so and you will receive credit for participating.
3. Your participation does not guarantee any benefits to you, but you may receive extra credit and/or learn more about how psychological research is conducted.
4. If you agree to participate, the study will last about 15 minutes.
5. You will be given additional information about this study after your participation is complete.
6. Information collected during this study will be kept from inappropriate disclosure and your name and any other identifying information will not be associated

with your responses. Any information regarding friend's behaviors and attitudes will also be kept anonymous.

7. This study has been designed to reduce the possibility of any negative experiences as a result of participation. However, if your participation in this study causes you concerns, anxiety, or distress, contact the Student Counseling Center (209-667-3381) at CSU, Stanislaus.

8. You may contact the researcher (Liminsen Sandoval, liminsens@hotmail.com) through the project supervisor (Dr. Victor X. Luevano, vluevano@csustan.edu) in the Department of Psychology at CSU, Stanislaus if you have any questions or concerns regarding your participation in this study.

9. If you have any questions about your rights as a participant, you may contact the Campus Compliance Officer of CSU, Stanislaus at IRBAdmin@csustan.edu or (209)667-3747.

10. You may print a copy of this form by clicking CTRL + P on a PC or Command + P on a MAC.

11. By clicking the next button you are indicating that you consent to participate in scientific research being conducted by Liminsen Sandoval, and that you are at least 18 years of age.

APPENDIX F
DEBRIEFING FORM

Thank you for your participation in our study. We are interested in examining why some women are willing to have sex outside of a committed relationship, but others are not. We would like to see if belonging to a sorority, alcohol use, and impressions of the attitudes and behavior of one's friends are associated with a willingness to have sex without an emotional commitment.

All the information collected during this study will be kept from inappropriate disclosure. If you have any questions about your rights as a research participant, you may contact the Campus Compliance Officer of CSU, Stanislaus at IRBadmin@csustan.edu or 209-667-3747. In addition if you have experienced any distress or anxiety as a cause of participating in this study you may contact the Student Counseling Center (209-667-3381) at CSU, Stanislaus.

You may contact the researcher (Liminsen Sandoval, liminsens@hotmail.com) through the project supervisor (Dr. Victor X. Luevano, vluevano@csustan.edu) in the Department of Psychology at CSU, Stanislaus if you have any questions or concerns regarding your participation in this study.

You may print a copy of this form by clicking CTRL + P on a PC or Command + P on a MAC.

If you are interested in learning more about this topic we suggest the following references:

- Penke, L., & Asendorpf, J. B. (2008). Beyond global sociosexual orientations: A more differentiated look at sociosexuality and its effects on courtship and romantic relationships. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 95*, 1113-1135. doi:10.1037/0022-3514.95.5.1113
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