Sexual Coercion
Sexual Harassment: Definition

• Between 25 and 50% of women have been sexually harassed at work by supervisors and/or co-workers.

• U.S. EEOC definition includes:
  – Unwelcome sexual advances
  – Requests for sexual favors
  – Other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature
Sexual Harassment in Education

- **Common in College** - 50% of female students have been harassed by professors.
- **Illegal** - *Alexander v. Yale* - sexual harassment of women in education possible violation of their civil rights. Many universities now have now grievance procedures for sexual harassment.
- **Peers harass, too** - 79% of boys and 83% of girls studied experienced peer sexual harassment in U.S. high schools.
Sexual Harassment: Definition

• EEOC definition says harassment takes place when:
  – submission is made a term or condition of an individual’s employment or academic advancement.
  – submission or rejection is used as the basis for academic or employment decisions.
  – the conduct unreasonably interferes with an individual’s work or academic performance.
  – the conduct creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working or educational environment.
Sexual Harassment at Work: Effects

• Women and men victims report that harassment has negative effects on their:
  – emotional and physical condition.
  – ability to work with others on the job.
  – feelings about work.
Sexual Harassment at Work: Types of Harassment

- **Earnest** - desires sexual intimacy but won’t take no for an answer.
- **Hostile** - motivated to dominate woman he sees as competitive with him.
- **Paternalistic-ambivalent** - desires to be like a father; perceives himself as acting benevolently.
- **Competitive-ambivalent** - mixes real sexual attraction with hostile desire to dominate.
Psychotherapist-Client Sex

• 5.5% of male and 0.6% of female psychologists admitted having engaged in sexual intercourse with a client while the patient was in therapy.

• Sexual encounters or coercion between a psychotherapist and a client--or between other professionals (physicians) and patients:
  – Are unethical.
  – hold potential for serious emotional damage to the client.
Rape

• Nonconsensual oral, anal, or vaginal penetration, obtained:
  – by force
  – by threat of bodily harm
  – when the victim is incapable of giving consent
Incidence of Rape

• In 2000:
  – Some 95,000 rapes were reported in the U.S.
  – 28% of college women experienced rape.
The Impact of Rape

- **Rape trauma syndrome** - the emotional and physical effects a woman undergoes following a rape or attempted rape.
- **Post-traumatic stress disorder** - long-term psychological distress suffered by someone who has experienced a terrifying event.
The Impact of Rape

- **Posttraumatic growth** - positive life changes and psychological development following exposure to trauma.

- Rape affects many people besides the victim.
Date Rape

• One of the most common forms of rape, especially on college campuses.
  – In a national study of college women, 57% of rapes involved a date, often a steady dating partner.

• Rohypnol (flunitrazepam) - so-called “date-rape drug” that cause drowsiness or sleep and causes the woman not to remember the event the next day.
Marital Rape

- The rape of a person by her or his spouse.
- A national probability sample showed that 13% of married women had been raped by a current husband.
Marital Rape & Marital Violence

• A man who batters his wife is also likely to rape her.

• Motives:
  – Anger
  – Power and domination
  – Sadism
  – Desire for sex
Possible Causes of Rape

- **Victim-precipitated rape** - view that rape is a result of a woman “asking for it.”
- **Psychopathology of rapist** - rape is committed by a psychologically disturbed man.
- **Power** - Feminist theorists explore the complex links between sex and power.
- **Social disorganization** - rape rates increase when the social organization of a community is disrupted.
Possible Causes of Rape

- Cultural values
- Sexual scripts
- Early family influences
- Peer group

- Characteristics of the situation
- Miscommunication
- Sex and power motives
- Masculinity norms and men’s attitudes
Rapists

- Rapists tend to be repeat defenders.
- Factors that predispose men to engage in sexual coercion of women:
  - Violent home environment
  - Delinquency
  - Sexual promiscuity
  - Hostile masculine personality
Men as Victims of Rape

- **Female rapists** - It is possible for a woman to rape a man, but only 1% of men report being raped by a woman.
  - Men may respond with an erection in emotional states such as anger and terror.

- **Prison rape** - according to one study, 22% of male inmates and 7% of female inmates had been objects of sexual coercion.
  - Prisoners use rape to establish a dominance hierarchy.
Preventing Rape

• Avoiding situations in which there is a high risk of rape.
• If the first strategy has failed, knowing some self-defense techniques in case a rape attempt is actually made.
• Changing attitudes that contribute to rape.
How to Avoid Date Rape Situations

• Set sexual limits.
• Decide early if you would like to have intercourse.
• Do not give mixed messages.
• Be forceful and firm.
• Do not do anything you do not want to just to avoid a scene or unpleasantness.
Preventing Date Rape

• Be aware that alcohol and drugs are often related to date rape.
• Trust your gut level feelings.
• Be careful when you invite someone into your home or you are invited to your date’s home.
• If avoidance does not work, self-defense strategies are needed.
Child Sexual Abuse

- Patterns of child sexual abuse - According to the NHSLS, 17% of women and 12% of men had sexual contact, as a child, with an adolescent or an adult.
- Men are the primary sex abusers of children.
- Incest - sexual contact between relatives.
- Adults who were sexually abused as children display more depression, anxiety, eating disorders, and alcohol and drug dependence.
# Categories of People Who Sexually Abuse Children

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Perpetrators</th>
<th>Percentage of Adults Abused as Children</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stranger</td>
<td>7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teacher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family friend</td>
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<td>Older friend of respondent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Older brother</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stepfather or mother's boyfriend</td>
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<tr>
<td>Father</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other relative</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Percentages do not total 100 because some respondents reported on multiple categories of abuse.

Child Sex Abuse Offenders

• **Pedophilia** (child molesting) - a paraphilia involving an adult having sexual activity with a prepubescent child.
  – Incest or pseudoincest (stepchild) offenders
  – Molesters of familiar children
  – Molesters of unfamiliar children
  – Tend to be repeat offenders (phallometric measures of sexual deviance provide strongest predictor of recidivism)
  – Patterns of preference tend to be stable over time.
Treatments for Child Sex Abuse Offenders

- Surgical castration
- Antiandrogen drugs
- Hormones
- SSRIs - class of antidepressants; includes Prozac and Zoloft
- Cognitive-behavioral therapy
- Jail