

1-1-1985

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Becoming More Responsible
For Your Actions:
A Study on Sexual Responsibility

May 8, 1985

Julie Chambers

Independent Study

Harry Canon

For my independent study, I chose to survey the women in the Northern Illinois University Residence Hall System. I was assessing their level of sexual responsibility through the use of a pre- and post-term survey. The surveys were created by Jacque Waller and myself. The initial survey was extremely lengthy. It consisted of a quiz and then some demographic information, ending with their personal sexual habits.

The initial survey was given to six all women floors consisting of 50 women each. The surveys were given to the R.A.s, who then administered them to their floor members. The surveys were to be returned to the R.A.s, who marked them with what particular floor they were coming from, and then they would turn them in to me. I then took each separate floor's surveys and color coded them according to the floors, so that when it came time to tally I would know exactly where each floor stood.

After administering the initial survey to the floors, I then chose to treat certain floors and with the remaining, use them as the control for our experiment. Two of the floors had posters tacked up in their bathroom stalls entitled "Sex Facts", and one other floor had a verbal birthcontrol program as a treatment method.

The posters consisted of facts about sex, birthcontrol, and venereal diseases. There were three fact sheets posted. Each sheet stayed up for three days. Any sheet that was removed was replaced immediately upon finding. The sheets had 3-5 facts on them. One sheet even had a diagram to refer to for further explanation. This treatment lasted 9 days.

The birthcontrol program was put on by Jacque Waller and myself. Jacque had obtained actual devices so that people could become more familiar with them. Each type of birthcontrol was discussed. We went through the use of the method, percent of effectiveness, and its pros and cons. As the method was being discussed, the device was being passed around the room, and observed at a closer level. We had invited the individuals participating to ask questions at any time during the program. The program lasted approximately one hour.

After the treatment began, and the initial surveys were being tallied, it was during this time that Jacque and myself needed to assess the population's weak area and create a tool to assess their intake of information from the specific treatment areas. It was during this time that we made the second survey based on the information given during the program and what had been posted in the stalls. The survey was much shorter, it too consisted of a quiz and a short assessment on the educational tools used for their specific treatment, if any at all.

The results of the first survey showed that most people had a Health Education class in high school and its content included sex education. 75% of the population surveyed said they felt their instructor appeared to be comfortable talking about the subject, but that only 60% discussed specific birthcontrol techniques. To take that even another step, 50% of those surveyed said they were not taught more than they already knew at the time.

The majority of those surveyed had their first sexual intercourse experience when they were 18 years old, 50% of them did not use birthcontrol their first time. Presently, more than 50% are

not using birthcontrol, but are still active. 80% of the population feel that both individuals are responsible when it comes to birthcontrol, yet there are still approximately 15% who feel its is solely their responsibility. 35% of the surveyed population use the pill, 35% use nothing, 12% use the condom, and of the 35% using the pill approximately 5% use it with the condom.

The communication prior to the first experience of sexual intercourse for the couples about the use of birthcontrol, was 55% did talk prior to and 45% did not talk at all. Presently, 87% of the couples have talked about birthcontrol and have talked in depth. 60% of individuals did talk about the possibility of becoming pregnant before their first time.

The reasons individuals gave for not having sexual intercourse varied greatly, with against their morals having the greatest response rate. Friends, parents, and the individual themselves had the greatest impact on whether to have or not have sexual intercourse.

From the results of this survey, I feel safe in saying that most individuals are not responsible the first time they have sexual intercourse due to the fact, 50% of them used no means of birthcontrol eventhough 60% of them talked about the possibility of becoming pregnant. Furthermore, most couples, 45%, did not talk about birthcontrol with their partner.

Some other observations I made when tallying the results of the survey, were those individuals that had not experienced sexual intercourse as of yet, did not have as part of their health education curriculum, sex education. This is only a personal observation, and by no means has any significance unless further investigation

proves this to be so. Also, on the quiz many of the individuals did not know the function of the clitoris, or that the size of the male penis had nothing to do with the level of satisfaction. Maybe, not enough anatomy and physiology is brought into the teaching of birthcontrol.

As for the post-test, the return rate was not very good. However, a few conclusions were brought to my attention. First of all, the individuals that had the posted signs in their bathroom stalls had a significantly higher score on the second quiz with a dramatic difference from the results of the first quiz. Those individuals who attended the birthcontrol program did perform better on the second quiz, however, it was not as dramatic as the posting groups change.

Most of the population surveyed found the educational tools used for treatment to be beneficial, with either the gaining of new information or the reinforcement of old information. For some, since the implementation of the tools, they have gone out and investigated the topic of sexual intercourse more on their own. Approximately 1/3 have gone to the campus Health Center as a resource for more information on sex.

After surveying these individuals for the third time, I feel maybe that it might be to our benefit to go into the high school and assess the female population there. Since a majority of the population surveyed had sex at the age of 18 years old. We also might find out that these sex education classes are simply arousing the curiosity of some and leaving them with no other alternative but to try out what everyone's been talking about.

My population was too small to have anything significant to

have published. However, after going through this study virtually solo, I have found that it would be impossible to monitor every loop hole in the study. Not to mention, trying to obtain all the surveys back once they have been administered. It has definitely been an enlightening experience, and I know I will be able to utilize this experience in my graduate studies.

Enclosed is a copy of the surveys administered to the desired population, which Jacque & I developed.

Dr. Canon would like me to return to N.I.U. during the Fall semester & try the surveys again. He feels that it would be the most effective time & perfect opportunity to have enough data for an article!

In reference to the past survey you may have filled out, I would appreciate your filling this one out also.

The following is a quiz, please fill it out to the best of your ability.

- T F 1. Central nervous system damage can be one of the results of untreated, advanced syphilis.
- T F 2. A female can become pregnant during sexual intercourse without the male achieving orgasm.
- T F 3. A woman's chances of becoming pregnant are much greater if she experiences orgasm during sexual intercourse.
- T F 4. Women are biologically more capable of multiple orgasms than are men.
- T F 5. The most sensitive area to sexual stimulation in most women is the clitoris.
- T F 6. Only one contraceptive prevents against VD: the condom which usually blocks transmission of germs from either partner to the other during sexual intercourse.
- T F 7. You can get pregnant by just touching an erected penis to the vagina.
- T F 8. The clitoris has no other function except for pleasure.
9. When no means of birthcontrol are used, the odds of pregnancy resulting are:
Less than 50%
50%
Greater than 50%

The following is a short survey. I would appreciate you filling this out to the best of your ability, and then folding it up, and giving it to your R.A.. Thank You for your time and honesty.

1. Age- 17___ 18___ 19___ 20___ 21___ 22 & up___
2. Year in school- Frosh. ___ Soph. ___ Jr. ___ Sr. ___
3. How would you describe your sexual orientation?
Heterosexual___ Homosexual___ Bisexual___
4. Are you sexually active? Yes___ No___
5. If yes, have you ever considered the possibility of contracting a venereal disease? Yes___ No___

10. Would you ever consider leaving your partner if he or she were not sexually satisfied with you? Yes _____ No _____

11. How would you describe your relationship?

- 11a. _____ with present status of relationship
- 11b. _____ by your partner (but your decision)
- 11c. _____ of partner without your consent
- 11d. _____ it was the right time

12. Did you attend the birth-control program or hear any information about sex or the program? Yes _____ No _____

13. Did your floor have information about "Sex Facts" posted in the hallway? Yes _____ No _____

14. Did you find these educational tools beneficial? Yes _____ No _____

15. In 1968, did you gain new information? Yes _____ No _____

16. Since the implementation of the educational tools, have you directly raised the topic of sexual intercourse on your own? Yes _____ No _____

17. Have you ever considered using the campus Health Center as a resource for more information on sex? Yes _____ No _____

18. Do you feel these educational tools made you more sexually comfortable? Yes _____ No _____

This is a survey being distributed to the undergraduate women of Northern Illinois. It is on a voluntary basis that you are being asked to do this survey. If for any reason you do not feel like filling this out please leave this blank and return it to your R.A. in the envelope provided. Your anonymity will be maintained throughout this study. The purpose of this survey is to gather data about sexual information. When filling out this survey please be as thorough as possible. This survey is for you to fill out individually, and not with the help of friends. Thank you for your time and cooperation.

After filling out this survey, PLEASE PLACE IT IN THE ENVELOPE PROVIDED AND SEAL IT. Then give it to your R.A. Again, Thank you for your time and cooperation.