Sexual Aggression

Attempting to achieve one’s sexual goals without regard for the partner’s sexual wishes.
Types of Sexual Aggression

- **Sexual Assault**: threatening, and/or using physical force against a partner to attain sex.
- **Sexual Coercion**: physical persistence, psychological manipulation (e.g., lying, falsely telling partner that you love them) and/or pressure, and drugs or alcohol to gain sexual access.
In their review of the rape research, Rozee and Koss (2001) found a 15% prevalence rate across studies that focused on female victims.

- National study: 18% of women, 3% of men
- When sexual aggression is defined more generally:
  - Over half of women, and
  - Nearly 25% of men in one college-aged sample
Communication and Sexual Aggression

- Attributing sexual aggression to “miscommunication”
- Consent
  - Knowledge and agreement
- Misattributions of sexual interest
  - Nonverbal cues
  - Dress
  - “Stopping points”
- Token resistance
- Context
  - Secluded or private environment
  - Who initiated the date or drove
  - Alcohol/drugs
“Been taken advantage of sexually during the past year”
- 14.8% (15.4% female, 13.6% male)

94.7% of students who engaged in “unwanted sexual intercourse” had been drinking prior to the incident.
• "Got into an argument or fight"
  ▪ 42%
• Experienced threats of physical violence
  ▪ 14.4% in past year; 66.7% had been drinking
• Experienced actual physical violence
  ▪ 7% in past year; 86.7% had been drinking
1. What were your initial reactions to the AlcoholEdu data? Were you surprised at how closely violence/unwanted sexual activity and alcohol are associated? Why or why not?
2. How does alcohol consumption impact the academic culture at JMU?
3. What, if anything, can faculty do to have an impact on students’ a) alcohol use and b) outcomes such as those we discussed today?