
Symposium WA-1
Wednesday, July 26, 2006



The impact of nationality, and economic, social, and marital status on differences in the frequency of sexually aggressive behaviors among women living in Russia.

P. B. Anderson, S. Lebedev, R. M. Masagutov

The vast majority of the recent research published on the phenomenon of women's sexual aggression has been conducted with populations of college students from the United States and Canada (see: Anderson & Struckman-Johnson, 1998; Spitzberg, 1999; and the Journal of Psychology and Human Sexuality, 8(1/2), 1996). One recent study from Germany, and another from India (see: Krahe, Scheinberger-Olwig, & Bieneck, 2003; and Waldner, Vaden-Goad, & Sikka, 1999) provide the latest accounts of women's sexual aggression outside the U.S.. The present study is the first report of women's sexual aggression gathered from a sample of women in Ufa, Russia. One hundred and twenty one primarily single (64.9%), heterosexual (96.3%), middle class (73.6%) women with a mean age of 23.9 (SD = 9.2) completed the questionnaire. The respondents were relative evenly divided between three ethnic groups; Russian (24.8%), Tartar (35.5%), and Ukrainian (33.9%). Most were University students (68.6%) or clerks (26.4%), reported attending religious services at least once per month (76.9%), and not quite half (47.1%) reported viewing erotic materials at least once per month. Almost all the women (80.9%) reported consensual sexual contact in the past, most (65.5%) reported initiating sexual contact, and not quite half (45.3%) reported overestimating the level of sexual contact that a partner desired at the time. Differences in the use of sexually aggressive and non-aggressive tactics to obtain sex from a reluctant partner were differentiated by nationality, and economic, social, and marital status. Cultural norms, religious differences between nationalities, and the social circumstances of married vs. single women in modern Russia are used to examine the reported differences.

Communicating author:

G. Tendayi Viki; email: Peter B. Anderson, email: panderso@uno.edu