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Increasing self-reported alcohol/drug-assisted sexual assault.

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There are few self-report data from perpetrators on alcohol- and drug-assisted sexual assault. Of the existing national surveys, two assessed alcohol- and drug-assisted sexual assault in a single item; one assessed only alcohol use. In the current research feedback from a series of focus groups with men indicated confusion about items on the Sexual Experiences Survey (Koss, Gidycz, & Wisniewski, 1987). The purpose of this presentation is to report data from the items which focused on alcohol- and drug-assisted sexual assault. A total of 84 men completed the original SES and a revised version. Of men who answered “no” to the original SES items, and thus were not classified as having committed rape, 14% were reclassified as having committed rape with the revised version. Results reveal that the revised items led to an increase in the percentage of men answering “yes” to at least one of the three critical questions regarding alcohol or drugs and forced sexual contact that resulted in any one of these outcomes: (1) attempted sexual intercourse, (2) completed intercourse, or (3) other sex acts (anal or oral intercourse or penetration by objects other than the penis). In the revised version six questions were asked, two about each of the outcomes using each of the following strategies: “How often has each of the following occurred when you knew she did not want it to happen, but she was so intoxicated or under the influence of alcohol or drugs that she could not object?” and “How often has each of the following occurred when you knew she did not want it to happen because you deliberately gave her alcohol or drugs so she could not object? The results suggest that framing of questions, as well as specificity of behavior and intention, increases the likelihood of self-disclosure.

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