SEXUAL VIOLENCE ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES: AN ANALYSIS OF THE EFFECTS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE ON THE ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE, ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION, AND MENTAL HEALTH OF COLLEGE WOMEN (240 pp.)

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The purpose of this study was to examine the effects of sexual violence on female college students’ academic performance, alcohol consumption, and mental health utilizing the Fall 2015 American College Health Association’s National College Health Assessment II. Potential effects were analyzed by demographic variables in regard to students’ experience of sexual violence, the risk of such experience on binge drinking, mental health, and academic performance, and the effect of sexual violence experience on the relationship between mental health and academic performance.

Pre-existing data from 10,341 undergraduate female college students including 1,153 survivors of sexual violence was analyzed. The results found an association between sexual violence experience and age, residence, and sexual orientation. Students who had experienced sexual violence were more likely to report lower rates of overall health and GPA and higher rates of mental health diagnoses and alcohol use. Survivors also faced higher odds of binge drinking, mental health diagnoses and a low GPA compared to peers with no history of sexual violence. Findings include differences in academic performance, mental health and alcohol use between students who experience
specific types of sexual violence and those with no sexual violence history as well as a statistical relationship between sexual violence experience and academic impediment.