

Attitudes Toward Interpersonal Violence Against Women as a Function of Relationship

by  
Olivia Musgrove

A thesis presented to the Honors College of Middle Tennessee State University in partial fulfillment of the requirements for graduation from the University Honors College

Fall 2015

Attitudes Toward Interpersonal Violence Against Women as a Function of Relationship

by

Olivia Musgrove

APPROVED:

---

Mary Ellen Fromuth, PhD  
Psychology

---

Dr. Greg W. Schmidt  
Chair of Psychology Department

---

Dr. Janis Brickey  
Human Sciences  
Honors Council Representative

---

Dr. Philip E. Phillips, Associate Dean  
University Honors College

## Acknowledgements

I would like to thank my thesis advisor, Dr. Mary Ellen Fromuth, and research assistants, Kin Chan and Milena Guerra. I would not have been able to complete this project without their help and support. Dr. Fromuth was continuously patient, helpful, and supportive in guiding me through this research process. Kin and Milena also were essential in this research process. I would not have been able to complete data collection or data analysis without their diligent assistance. I also would like to thank my family and friends for their support on this project. None of this would have been possible without all of their love and support.

## Abstract

This study hypothesized that people would be more accepting of violence towards prostitutes than towards other victims, that women would be less tolerant of violence toward either party than men, and that women would see both situations as equally unacceptable, but men would see violence toward prostitutes as more acceptable than violence against an ex-lover.

Participants (114 undergraduate students) were asked to read one of two scenarios involving violence: one involving a prostitute relationship and the other involving an ex-lover relationship. The attitudes being measured were analyzed using a 2 (participant gender) x 2 (relationship: prostitute or ex-lover) ANOVA. The results of this study support all three hypotheses. Women were more pro-victim than men; people were more accepting of violence toward the prostitute than the ex-lover; and women saw both situations as equally unacceptable, but men saw violence toward prostitutes as more acceptable than violence against the ex-lover.

## Table of Contents

I. Introduction .....	1
II. Method .....	8
Participants .....	8
Measures .....	8
Procedure .....	9
III. Results .....	10
Analytical Plan .....	10
Main Effects: Gender .....	10
Main Effects: Relationship .....	10
Interaction: Gender and Relationship .....	15
IV. Discussion .....	17
References .....	22
Appendices .....	28
Appendix A: IRB Approval .....	29
Appendix B: Prostitute Scenario Survey .....	30
Appendix C: Ex-lover Scenario Survey .....	33
Appendix D: Informed Consent .....	36
Appendix E: Debriefing Sheet .....	38

## **CHAPTER I**

### **Introduction**

Assault, as defined by the U.S. Department of Justice, is the “unlawful physical attack or threat of attack” (U.S. Department of Justice, 2015, para. 2). Assault can be a diverse crime, ranging from using a weapon, to threats, to minor injuries; it does not include rape or sexual assault. Rape is defined as forced intercourse, and sexual assault is defined as unwanted sexual interaction (U.S. Department of Justice, 2015, para. 4). Assault is a serious societal issue in the United States. The Bureau of Justice Statistics noted 3,683,750 reported cases of assault and 125,910 reported cases of sexual assault and rape in 2009 (U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2010). There are many different situations in which women are susceptible to assault. A year-long study within six universities in Ontario found that 24% of female students reported having been physically assaulted and 15% reported having been sexually assaulted (Newton-Taylor, DeWit, & Gliksman, 1998). This is contrasted with a population-based sample of women between 18 and 45 years old. According to P. H. Smith, Thornton, DeVellis, Earp, and Coker (2002), 18.4% of these female participants reported intimate partner violence with their most recent male partner or relationship, 8.6% reported having been physically assaulted, 8.2% reported having been sexually assaulted, and 6% reported having been psychologically battered.

These statistics represent the general public, but they do not represent assault that occurs in prostitution. According to Arnold, Stewart, and McNeece (2000), prostitutes are not likely to report the violence against them because they view it as part of their job description. There is little research on the violence against prostitutes due to their evasion of police. Some

research shows violence against prostitutes may be higher than that of the general public (Matthews, 2015).

Regarding prostitution, violence most often displays itself in relationships between prostitutes and their Johns, or customers, and relationships between prostitutes and their pimps. With Johns, women are often assaulted in situations where they are expected to perform acts seen in pornographic movies (Arnold et al., 2000). According to Williamson and Cluse-Tolar (2002), pimps, on the other hand, see prostituted women as a commodity in a capitalistic world. The capitalistic world of pimps comes with rules and regulations for the prostitutes. Women are typically faced with assault when the rules are broken (Williamson & Cluse-Tolar, 2002). Marcus, Horning, Curtis, Sanson, and Thompson (2014) observed that when pimps were present, so was violence. In a study by Cepeda and Nowotny (2014), 61% of sex workers on the border of U.S. and Mexico reported having been abused since the start of their career as sex workers. It also was reported that most of the violence against sex workers came from their clients (Cepeda & Nowotny, 2014).

The effects of these violent situations are often exceptionally damaging to the women being assaulted. According to Farley and Barkan (1998) and Arnold et al. (2000), violence against prostitutes often results in physical, psychological, and relational damage. The physical effects of prostitution, which often results in regular assault, frequently play themselves out in cardiovascular problems, joint pain, HIV (Farley & Barkan, 1998), and substance abuse (Arnold et al., 2000). Psychological effects mainly come in the form of unstable mental health (Arnold et al., 2000), but are often demonstrated in the form of posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) (Farley & Barkan, 1998). According to Zhang et al. (2014), mental health problems in female sex workers were significantly higher for those

who reported sexual assault than those who did not report sexual assault. Assault often can have an effect on the victims' relationships. Consequently, pimps often control prostitutes emotionally; therefore, their self-worth is dependent upon their pimps (Williamson & Cluse-Tolar, 2002). An example of relational damage would be women losing custody of their children after experiencing violence in the life of prostitution (Arnold et al., 2000).

By exploring attitudes toward violence, the prevalence, situations, and effects of violence can be better understood. In a literature review by Deering et al. (2014), it was noted that sex workers were overlooked in the context of violence prevention and also in research determining the effects of violence. It is important to recognize people's attitudes toward prostitutes, as it may be an explanation for the absence of prevention and the limited knowledge of effects of violence against sex workers. Understanding belief in a just world and victim blaming may explain people's attitudes toward violence.

Belief in a just world is the belief that people generally get what they deserve (Lerner & Clayton, 2011). Belief in a just world has effects on how people interact with violence and victims of violent situations. According to Vonderhaar and Carmody (2015), belief in a just world has an impact on acceptance of rape myths. Belief in a just world also has an impact on people's participation in victim blaming. Greater belief in a just world results in more victim blaming, creating a perpetual cycle (Strömwall, Alfredsson, & Landström, 2013).

Victim blaming is when people place total or partial responsibility on the victims of a crime for what happened to them (Schwartz & Leggett, 1999). There are many factors that lead people to participate in victim blaming. According to Savani, Stephens, and Markus (2011), people tend to blame victims more if the victims had the perceived choice to be in the place where they were victimized. Additionally, Adams-Price, Dalton, and Sumrall (2004)

found participants were more likely to blame the victim of a severe situation rather than a minor situation. They also found that older adults participated in victim blaming more than young adults or middle-aged adults (Adams-Price et al., 2004). Additionally, Black and McCloskey (2013) found that people with more traditional gender roles participated in victim blaming more than those with more liberal gender roles.

A major factor in both victim blaming and belief in a just world is gender. According to Caron and Carter (1997), men are more likely to participate in victim blaming than women. Similarly, in interviews conducted by Grubb and Harrower (2008), women were more likely to be pro-victim than men. This is consistent with Cowan's (2000) research that showed men to hold higher belief in a just world than women. Similarly, S. C. Smith, Ellis, and Benson (2001) reported significant attitude differences between men and women, where women held more intolerant attitudes toward violence than men did. Hayes, Lorenz, and Bell (2013) also showed men to hold higher belief in a just world for their own lives, but there was no significant difference in gender and belief in a just world when viewing the lives of others. There also is research, however, that shows no significant difference between victim blaming and belief in a just world for men and women. According to Sleath and Bull (2010), men and women had no significant differences in their belief in a just world.

Gender also may play a role not only in rape myth acceptance, but also in general attitudes toward rape. Rape myths are cultural beliefs about rape that often attribute blame to the victim and allow a more acceptable view of rape in society (Gerger, Kley, Bohner, & Siebler, 2007). According to Earnshaw, Pitpitan, and Chaudoir (2011), women had less rape myth acceptance than men. Also, according to Caron and Carter (1997), men had a greater acceptance of rape, while women viewed the rapist more negatively. Ching and Burke (1999)

found that women had more rape intolerant attitudes than men. A study by Hammond, Berry, and Rodriguez (2011), however, found men to blame the rapist more than men blame the victim.

Although gender may play a role in victim blaming and belief in a just world, there are other explanations for different views of victim blaming and belief in a just world. According to Lambert and Raichle (2000), participants' attitudes toward violence were better predicted by ideological views rather than gender. According to Caron and Carter (1997), people with more egalitarian views, which view men and women as having equal roles and rights, are more likely not to victim blame and have less belief in a just world. Similarly, Black and McCloskey (2013) and Valor-Segura, Exposito, and Moya (2011) found traditional gender roles to be more predictive of victim blaming than gender.

Another factor affecting attitudes toward interpersonal violence is the type of relationship the victim has to the perpetrator. People are more likely to blame the victim for assault if the victim has a close or even acquaintance relationship with the perpetrator. For example, when asking closed-ended questions, Worden and Carlson (2005) found that over 40% of participants agreed that women's actions toward men may cause some cases of domestic violence. Similarly, they found about one-quarter of participants believed that, secretly, some women want to be abused by their partners. In a review of the literature concerning perceptions of rape, Grubb and Harrower (2008) reported differences in attitudes based on the relationship of the victim to the perpetrator. For example, Ben-David and Schneider (2005) found that rape was taken less seriously when the victim had a closer relationship with the perpetrator than a more distant one. In contrast, Angelone, Mitchell, and Lucente (2012) found that once the victim was perceived to be in a romantic relationship

with the perpetrator, the length of the relationship did not change if the victim was attributed blame or not; however, participants did hold more pro-victim attitudes when they had more knowledge about the victim's situation. In summary, the literature suggests that the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator may influence perceptions.

One explanation for the acceptance of violence against victims of rape and sexual violence may be rape myth acceptance. According to Hockett, Saucier, Hoffman, Smith, and Craig (2009), the more people accept rape myths the lower levels of empathy they show. Similarly, higher rape myth acceptance led to people being less likely to help the rape victim (Earnshaw et al., 2011). According to Sleath and Bull (2010) and consistent with research regarding gender attitudes toward violence, men were more likely to accept rape myths and also hold less egalitarian views than women.

Many people believe a distorted reality not only about rape, but also about prostitution. According to Sawyer, Metz, Hinds, and Brucker (2001), men hold negative views about prostitution while also holding inaccurate understandings of prostitution as a whole. Further, these attitudes may lead to the victimization of prostitutes. According to Matthews (2015), prostitutes are among the most victimized group in society. These attitudes may be an indicator of victim blaming and belief in a just world toward prostitutes. Although Ulibarri et al. (2014) reported approximately one-third of prostitutes in two Mexican cities to have been abused in the last 6 months, a review by Deering et al. (2014) reported violence against sex workers to be ignored. Despite little research in victim blaming and prostitution, lack of attention for prostitute's health also may be an indicator of victim blaming and belief in a just world. According to Rössler et al. (2010), prostitutes were negatively affected by sex

work resulting in a financial dependency, infection, relational issues, and emotional difficulties, such as feelings of sadness and guilt.

In summary, assault is a major issue in the United States. Previous research suggests gender (Caron & Carter, 1997), relationship status (Worden & Carlson, 2005), victim blaming (Savani et al., 2011), and belief in a just world (Vonderhaar & Carmody, 2015) to be factors in people's attitudes toward violence against women. These attitudes may explain the victimization of prostitutes, as well as the lack of acknowledgement of that victimization. Based on previous research on victim blaming, violence against women, relationship status, and prostitution, I hypothesized that in the current study

1. the results would show that people would be more accepting of violence towards prostitutes than towards other victims;
2. women would be less tolerant of violence toward either party than men;
3. there would be an interaction between men's and women's acceptance of violence; women would see both situations as equally unacceptable, but men would see violence toward prostitutes as more acceptable than violence against the ex-lover.

## CHAPTER II

### Method

#### Participants

The participants in this study came from the undergraduate MTSU psychology research pool during the fall of 2015. The surveys of two participants had to be discarded from the data because the participants chose not to answer the demographic question regarding gender. There were 114 undergraduate students remaining. I attained 75.44% female participation (86 women) and 24.56% male participation (28 men). Regarding age, 86.84% of participants were between 18 and 20 years old, 8.77% between 21 and 23 years old, and 4.39% were 24 years or older. Regarding ethnicity, 2.63% of participants were Hispanic or Latino, 34.21% were Black or African American, 50% were Caucasian, 12.28% answered “other,” and 0.88% did not wish to answer the question. Participants received course credit or extra credit for participating in the study. The current study received approval from the MTSU IRB committee (see Appendix A).

#### Measures

The instruments used were author-constructed surveys consisting of two separate scenarios and 16 questions. The first scenario was one of a prostitute being physically assaulted, and the second one involved an ex-lover being physically assaulted. The assessment measured attitudes towards overall acceptance of violence in the situation as well as potential responses and cultural explanations for the violence. The assessment of these attitudes was on a 1 to 7 scale: 1 being *strongly disagree* and 7 being *strongly agree*. The same measurement scale was used to assess both scenarios. The surveys also assessed the demographics gender (men and women), age (18 to 20, 21 to 23, and 24 and over), and

ethnicity (Hispanic or Latino, Black or African American, Caucasian, and other). See Appendices B and C for surveys.

### **Procedure**

After having completed an informed consent form (see Appendix D), each participant received one of two surveys. The surveys were given in an alternating pattern. The assessment that followed was on a 1 to 7 scale: 1 being *strongly disagree* and 7 being *strongly agree*. Before the participants left, they received a contact sheet with instructions on how to contact the researcher as well as mental health resources (see Appendix E).

## CHAPTER III

### Results

#### **Analytical Plan**

Analyses were done using 2 (men versus women) x 2 (prostitute versus ex-lover) ANOVAs. Follow-up tests were run using a REGWQ on the items with a statistically significant interaction between gender and relationship status.

#### **Main Effects: Gender**

As seen in Table 1, there were several statistically significant differences between the responses of men and women. For example, when asked if the woman put herself in the situation, and therefore, was responsible for the assault, women were more pro-victim than men. Similarly, when asked if the man had good reason to assault the women, women disagreed more than men. There also was a significant difference between genders when participants were asked if they would find the man innocent. Men's responses were higher than women's regarding the perpetrator's innocence. Additionally, when participants also were asked if the woman deserved to be assaulted, women's responses were more pro-victim than men's responses. Lastly, there was a significant difference between genders when asked if the woman was the cause of the assault and, therefore, had no right to complain about the consequences. Women agreed less than men that the woman was the cause of the assault and, therefore, had no right to complain about the consequences.

#### **Main Effects: Relationship**

As seen in Table 2, there were several statistically significant differences between responses based on the prostitute and ex-lover surveys. For example, when asked if the man was completely responsible for his actions, participants agreed that the man was less

Table 1

*Gender and Attitudes Toward Violence Against Women*

Variable	Women ( <i>n</i> = 86)		Men ( <i>n</i> = 28)		<i>F</i> (1,110)
	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	
The man is completely responsible for his actions against the woman.	6.77	0.52	6.61	0.79	1.57
The woman should report the action towards her to the police.	6.64	0.72	6.54	1.04	0.37
The woman put herself in this situation and, therefore is responsible for the assault.	1.63	1.10	2.18	1.66	4.91*
The man should be prosecuted for the actions done to the woman.	6.35	1.06	6.43	1.26	0.11
If I witnessed this situation, I would intervene on behalf of the woman.	5.38	1.55	6.00	1.22	3.67
The man has good reason to assault the woman.	1.09	0.39	1.36	0.91	4.67*
If I witnessed these actions occurring, I would report the man for assault.	6.27	1.03	6.14	1.01	0.30
The woman is the cause of the assault and has no right to complain about the consequences.	1.26	0.72	1.75	1.32	7.11**

(continued)

Table 1

*Gender and Attitudes Toward Violence Against Women (continued)*

Variable	Women ( <i>n</i> = 86)		Men ( <i>n</i> = 28)		<i>F</i> (1,110)
	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	
The man should spend time in jail for his actions.	6.28	0.79	6.18	1.28	0.25
The woman must have done something in her past to deserve this type of treatment.	1.45	0.97	1.82	1.36	2.46
The man has the right to be angry in this situation.	1.49	1.12	2.00 <sup>a</sup>	1.49	3.69 <sup>b</sup>
If I were on a jury, I would find the man innocent.	1.20	0.48	1.79	1.34	11.80***
The woman deserves to be assaulted.	1.05	0.21	1.32	0.82	8.37**
If I were watching this occur, I would not take any actions to help the woman.	1.69	0.96	1.86	1.30	0.55
The woman has the right to refuse sexual advances.	6.81	0.94	6.46	1.35	2.30
I would refer this woman to a place of safety.	6.45	1.04	6.25	0.84	0.88

<sup>a</sup>*n* = 27. <sup>b</sup>*F*(1,109).

\**p* ≤ .05. \*\**p* ≤ .01. \*\*\**p* ≤ .001.

Table 2

*Relationship Status and Attitudes Toward Violence Against Women*

Variable	Prostitute ( <i>n</i> = 57)		Ex-lover ( <i>n</i> = 57)		<i>F</i> (1,110)
	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	
The man is completely responsible for his actions against the woman.	6.63	0.72	6.82	0.43	5.36*
The woman should report the action towards her to the police.	6.40	0.98	6.82	0.50	6.88*
The woman put herself in this situation and, therefore is responsible for the assault.	2.25	1.57	1.28	0.56	24.98***
The man should be prosecuted for the actions done to the woman.	6.16	1.32	6.58	0.80	4.74*
If I witnessed this situation, I would intervene on behalf of the woman.	5.35	1.56	5.72	1.41	1.12
The man has good reason to assault the woman.	1.25	0.74	1.07	0.32	3.03
If I witnessed these actions occurring, I would report the man for assault.	6.25	1.06	6.23	1.00	0.00
The woman is the cause of the assault and has no right to complain about the consequences.	1.67	1.20	1.09	0.34	16.16***

(continued)

Table 2

*Relationship Status and Attitudes Toward Violence Against Women (continued)*

Variable	Prostitute ( <i>n</i> = 57)		Ex-lover ( <i>n</i> = 57)		<i>F</i> (1,110)
	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	
The man should spend time in jail for his actions.	6.23	0.98	6.28	0.88	1.01
The woman must have done something in her past to deserve this type of treatment.	1.67	1.27	1.42	0.84	1.01
If I were on a jury, I would find the man innocent.	1.30	0.76	1.39	0.88	0.39
The man has the right to be angry in this situation.	1.53	1.17	1.70 <sup>a</sup>	1.31	0.99 <sup>b</sup>
The woman deserves to be assaulted.	1.14	0.58	1.09	0.29	2.67
If I were watching this occur, I would not take any actions to help the woman.	1.81	0.95	1.65	1.14	0.76
The woman has the right to refuse sexual advances.	6.68	1.00	6.77	1.12	0.13
I would refer this woman to a place of safety.	6.30	1.15	6.51	0.80	0.95

<sup>a</sup>*n* = 56. <sup>b</sup>*F*(1,109).

\**p* ≤ .05. \*\**p* ≤ .01. \*\*\**p* ≤ .001.

responsible for the assault against the prostitute than the assault against the ex-lover. Similarly, there was a statistically significant difference when participants were asked if the woman should report the assault against her. Participants agreed that the ex-lover should report the assault more than the prostitute. There also was a significant difference when participants were asked if the woman was responsible for the assault because she had put herself in that situation. Participants were more likely to say that the ex-lover was less responsible for the assault than the prostitute. Similarly, participants were more likely to say that the prostitute was the cause of the assault and should not complain about the consequences than the ex-lover. Lastly, participants were more likely to say that the man should be prosecuted for the actions done to the woman in the ex-lover scenario than in the prostitute scenario.

### **Interaction: Gender and Relationship**

As seen in Table 3, there were some statistically significant interactions between gender of the participant and relationship status of the victim in the scenario. For example, when asked if the woman put herself in this situation and, therefore, was responsible for the assault, men who answered this question in the prostitute scenario agreed more that the prostitute was responsible than men who answered the ex-lover scenario and women who answered either scenario. Similarly, men with the prostitute scenario disagreed less that the women deserved to be assaulted than men with the ex-lover scenario or women with either scenario. Women did not make a distinction between the ex-lover and prostitute scenarios, while men were more accepting of violence toward the prostitute than the ex-lover.

Table 3

*Interactions Between Gender and Relationship*

Variable	Men ( <i>n</i> = 28)				Women ( <i>n</i> = 86)				<i>F</i> (1,110)
	Ex-lover (Group 1)		Prostitute (Group 2)		Ex-lover (Group 3)		Prostitute (Group 4)		
	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	
The woman put herself in this situation and, therefore, is responsible for the assault.	1.29	0.83	3.07	1.82	1.28	0.45	1.98	1.41	4.79 <sup>*a</sup>
The woman deserves to be assaulted.	1.14	0.36	1.50	1.09	1.07	0.26	1.02	0.15	4.51 <sup>*a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>*REGWQ*: 2 > 4,3,1.

\**p* ≤ .04. \*\**p* ≤ .01. \*\*\**p* ≤ .001. *n* = 114.

## CHAPTER IV

### Discussion

This study explored attitudes toward violence against women. The three hypotheses of this study were all partially supported by the results. There were statistically significant differences in attitudes between men and women, between participants who read the prostitute scenario versus the ex-lover scenario, and there were interactions between participants' gender and scenario.

The hypothesis that women would be less tolerant of violence than men was supported by the results of this study. Women were less tolerant of violence and more pro-victim than men. For example, women disagreed that the woman put herself in the situation where she was assaulted and, therefore, was responsible for the action more than men did. Women also disagreed more than men when asked if the man had good reason to assault the woman. Furthermore, women disagreed more than men when asked if the woman was the cause of the assault and had no right to complain about the consequences. These findings are consistent with previous research regarding differences in gender attitudes toward violence. In a research study with undergraduate students, Grubb and Harrower (2008) also found women to be more pro-victim than men. Although both women and men disagreed that the woman was responsible for the assault, men disagreed less than women. This suggests that men were more likely to participate in victim blaming and belief in a just world than women. Similarly, Strömwall et al. (2013) found that people who participate in victim blaming to be more likely to hold belief in a just world as well.

The hypothesis that the results would show that people would be more accepting of violence towards prostitutes than towards other victims also was supported. Participants

showed more acceptance toward violence in surveys concerning the prostitute scenario than in the ex-lover scenario. For example, when asked if the woman put herself in the situation and, therefore, was responsible for the assault, participants who read the prostitute scenario disagreed significantly less than participants who read the ex-lover scenario. Similarly, when asked if the man was completely responsible for his actions against the woman, participants with the prostitute scenario agreed significantly less than participants with the ex-lover scenario. Furthermore, when asked if the woman was the cause of the assault and had no right to complain about the consequences, participants with the prostitute scenario disagreed significantly less than the participants with the ex-lover scenario.

Although there is not much research on attitudes toward violence against prostitutes, research does suggest that people's perceptions of violence are influenced by the relationship of the victim to the perpetrator. For example, Ben-David and Schneider (2005) found rape to be perceived as less harmful when the victim had a current, close relationship with the perpetrator compared to other relationships. In the current study, when asked if the victim was the cause of the violence and had no right to complain about the consequences, participants disagreed significantly less to the prostitute scenario than the ex-lover scenario. These responses may be an indicator of belief in a just world and victim blaming. Savani et al. (2011) found that people tend to blame victims more if the victims had the perceived choice to be in the place where they were victimized. Prostitutes may be viewed as having a perceived choice to be in the situation where they are assaulted, which may be an explanation for more accepting attitudes toward their victimization. Belief in a just world and victim blaming may be why, according to Matthews (2015), prostitutes are among the most victimized group in society.

The last hypothesis, that women would see both situations as equally unacceptable, but men would see violence toward prostitutes as more acceptable than violence against the ex-lover, also was partially supported by the results. For example, when asked if the woman put herself in the situation and, therefore, is responsible for the assault, men with the prostitute scenario disagreed significantly less than the rest of the groups. The same results were observed when participants were asked if the woman deserved to be assaulted. The results of the current study are supported by Dollar, Perry, Fromuth, and Holt (2004), who found significant interactions between participant gender and the specific scenario depicting teacher and student sexual relationships. Men made more of a distinction based on the scenario than women did.

One explanation for these attitudes may be misperception of the victim's situation. An example of this is the acceptance of stereotypes about rape. According to Hockett et al. (2009), the more people accept rape myths, the lower levels of empathy they show. Similarly, Earnshaw et al. (2011) as well as Caron and Carter (1997) found that women held less rape and rape myth acceptance than men. Although there is not much research about attitudes toward the victimization of prostitutes, Sawyer et al. (2001) found that men held negative views about prostitution while also holding inaccurate understandings of prostitution as a whole. These inaccurate understandings about different situations of violence may lead men to be more accepting of prostitute victimization.

An implication of this research is the need to educate people on victimization and its consequences. Whether the victim is a prostitute, ex-lover, sister, friend, or mother, there are numerous effects of assault. These effects can be in the form of physical (Farley & Barkan, 1998), psychological, and relational damage (Arnold et al., 2000). When participants were

asked if they were on a jury, if they would find the man innocent of assault, men disagreed significantly less than women. Similarly, when asked if the woman should report her victimization to the police, participants with the prostitute survey agreed significantly less than participants with the ex-lover scenario.

Educating people about assault situations and their consequences may allow assault to be taken more seriously by the general public. In a literature review by Deering et al. (2014), it was noted that sex workers were overlooked in the context of violence prevention. It is important to educate people on assault and the effects of assault so it can be prevented as well as reported accurately when it happens, despite the situation of the assault victim.

There are many limitations to this study, which include the student population compared to the general population and the low participation rate. The sample, being made up of undergraduate college students, may be biased in the age and educational level of the participants. It also may be biased in the participants being predominantly from the Southeast region rather than from different areas of the nation. The number of male participants also limits the study, as only 24.56% of participants were men. Another limitation to consider is the consistency of participants' attitudes with behavior. If participants respond in a way that is inconsistent with the way they act, it would limit this study's validity. Another limitation of the study would be the use of an author-constructed survey; there is no evidence of its validity. Similarly, the survey only dealt with issues concerning women; results may be different if it were to address assault against both women and men. Despite these limitations, this study does provide evidence for the need for education on assault, the effects of assault, and how to respond more effectively to assault.

There are many areas of future research necessary in this field. For example, measuring people's knowledge of the effects of violence may be valuable in future research. This study only assessed physical assault. It may be beneficial to see if people find either physical assault or sexual assault more severe than the other. Future research also may benefit in gaining knowledge on violence toward men, as that is a topic with little research examining it. Finally, there is a need to continue research on different attitudes towards violence in regard to gender and relationship status, especially concerning prostitutes.

## References

- Adams-Price, C. E., Dalton, W. T., III, & Sumrall, R. (2004). Victim blaming in young, middle-aged, and older adults: Variations on the severity effect. *Journal of Adult Development, 11*, 289-295. doi: 10.1023/B:JADE.0000044532.83720.74
- Angelone, D. J., Mitchell, D., & Lucente, L. (2012). Predicting perceptions of date rape: An examination of perpetrator motivation, relationship length, and gender role beliefs. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 27*, 2582-2602. doi: 10.1177/0886260512436385
- Arnold, E. M., Stewart, J. C., & McNeece, C. A. (2000). The psychosocial treatment needs of street-walking prostitutes: Perspectives from a case management program. *Journal of Offender Rehabilitation, 30*(3/4), 117-132. doi: 10.1300/J076v30n03\_06
- Ben-David, S., & Schneider, O. (2005). Rape perceptions, gender role attitudes, and victim-perpetrator acquaintance. *Sex Roles, 53*, 385-399. doi: 10.1007/s11199-005-6761-4
- Black, K. A., & McCloskey, K. A. (2013). Predicting date rape perceptions: The effects of gender, gender role attitudes, and victim resistance. *Violence Against Women, 19*, 949-967. doi: 10.1177/1077801213499244
- Caron, S. L., & Carter, D. B. (1997). The relationships among sex role orientation, egalitarianism, attitudes toward sexuality, and attitudes toward violence against women. *Journal of Social Psychology, 137*, 568-587. doi: 10.1080/00224549709595479
- Cepeda, A., & Nowotny, K. M. (2014). A border context of violence: Mexican female sex workers on the U.S.–Mexico border. *Violence Against Women, 20*, 1506-1531. doi: 10.1177/1077801214557955

- Ching, C. L., & Burke, S. (1999). An assessment of college students' attitudes and empathy toward rape. *College Student Journal*, *33*, 573-583. Retrieved from:  
<https://www.questia.com/library/journal/1G1-62839472/an-assessment-of-college-students-attitudes-and-empathy>
- Cowan, G. (2000). Beliefs about the causes of four types of rape. *Sex Roles*, *42*, 807-823.  
doi: 10.1023/A:1007042215614
- Deering, K. N., Amin, A., Shoveller, J., Nesbitt, A., García-Moreno, C., Duff, P., ... Shannon, K. (2014). A systematic review of the correlates of violence against sex workers. *American Journal of Public Health*, *104*(5), e42-e54. doi: 10.2105/AJPH.2014.301909
- Dollar, K. M., Perry, A. R., Fromuth, M. E., & Holt, A. R. (2004). Influence of gender roles on perceptions of teacher/adolescent student sexual relations. *Sex Roles*, *50*, 91-101.  
doi: 10.1023/B:SERS.0000011075.91908.98
- Earnshaw, V. A., Pitpitan, E. V., & Chaudoir, S. R. (2011). Intended responses to rape as functions of attitudes, attributions of fault, and emotions. *Sex Roles*, *64*, 382-393. doi: 10.1007/s11199-010-9920-1
- Farley, M., & Barkan, H. (1998). Prostitution, violence, and posttraumatic stress disorder. *Women and Health*, *27*(3), 37-49. doi: 10.1300/J013v27n03\_03
- Gerger, H., Kley, H., Bohner, G., & Siebler, F. (2007). The acceptance of modern myths about sexual aggression scale: Development and validation in German and English. *Aggressive Behavior*, *33*, 422-440. doi: 10.1002/ab.20195

- Grubb, A., & Harrower, J. (2008). Attribution of blame in cases of rape: An analysis of participant gender, type of rape and perceived similarity to the victim. *Aggression and Violent Behavior, 13*, 396-405. doi: 10.1016/j.avb.2008.06.006
- Hammond, E. M., Berry, M. A., & Rodriguez, D. N. (2011). The influence of rape myth acceptance, sexual attitudes, and belief in a just world on attributions of responsibility in a date rape scenario. *Legal and Criminological Psychology, 16*, 242-252. doi: 10.1348/135532510X499887
- Hayes, R. M., Lorenz, K., & Bell, K. A. (2013). Victim blaming others: Rape myth acceptance and the just world belief. *Feminist Criminology, 8*, 202-220. doi: 10.1177/1557085113484788
- Hockett, J. M., Saucier, D. A., Hoffman, B. H., Smith, S. J., & Craig, A. W. (2009). Oppression through acceptance?: Predicting rape myth acceptance and attitudes toward rape victims. *Violence Against Women, 15*, 877-897. doi: 10.1177/1077801209335489
- Lambert, A. J., & Raichle, K. (2000). The role of political ideology in mediating judgments of blame in rape victims and their assailants: A test of the just world, personal responsibility, and legitimization hypotheses. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin, 26*, 853-863. doi: 10.1177/0146167200269010
- Lerner, M. J., & Clayton, S. (2011). *Justice and self-interest. Two fundamental motives*. New York: Cambridge University.

- Marcus, A., Horning, A., Curtis, R., Sanson, J., & Thompson, E. (2014). Conflict and agency among sex workers and pimps: A closer look at domestic minor sex trafficking. *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, *653*, 225-246. doi: 10.1177/0002716214521993
- Matthews, R. (2015). Female prostitution and victimization: A realist analysis. *International Review of Victimology*, *21*, 85-100. doi: 10.1177/0269758014547994
- Newton-Taylor, B., DeWit, D., & Gliksman, L. (1998). Prevalence and factors associated with physical and sexual assault of female university students in Ontario. *Health Care for Women International*, *19*(2), 155-164. doi: 10.1080/073993398246485
- Rössler, W., Koch, U., Lauber, C., Hass, A., Altwegg, M., Ajdacic-Gross, V., & Landolt, K. (2010). The mental health of female sex workers. *Acta Psychiatrica Scandinavica*, *122*(2), 143-152. doi: 10.1111/j.1600-0447.2009.01533.x
- Savani, K., Stephens, N. M., & Markus, H. R. (2011). The unanticipated interpersonal and societal consequences of choice: Victim blaming and reduced support for the public good. *Psychological Science*, *22*, 795-802. doi: 10.1177/0956797611407928
- Sawyer, S., Metz, M. E., Hinds, J. D., & Brucker, R. A., Jr. (2001). Attitudes towards prostitution among males: A 'consumers' report.' *Current Psychology*, *20*, 363-376. doi: 10.1007/s12144-001-1018-z-1018-z
- Schwartz, M. D., & Leggett, M. S. (1999). Bad dates or emotional trauma? The aftermath of campus sexual assault. *Violence Against Women*, *5*, 251-271. doi: 10.1177/10778019922181211
- Sleath, E., & Bull, R. (2010). Male rape victim and perpetrator blaming. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, *25*, 969-988. doi: 10.1177/0886260509340534

- Smith, P. H., Thornton, G. E., DeVellis, R., Earp, J., & Coker, A. L. (2002). A population-based study of the prevalence and distinctiveness of battering, physical assault, and sexual assault in intimate relationships. *Violence Against Women, 8*, 1208-1232. doi: 10.1177/107780102320562691
- Smith, S. C., Ellis, J. B., & Benson, T. A. (2001). Gender, gender roles and attitudes towards violence: Are viewpoints changing? *Social Behavior and Personality, 29*, 43-48. doi: 10.2224/sbp.2001.29.1.43
- Strömwall, L. A., Alfredsson, H., & Landström, S. (2013). Rape victim and perpetrator blame and the just world hypothesis: The influence of victim gender and age. *Journal of Sexual Aggression, 19*, 207-217. doi: 10.1080/13552600.2012.683455
- Ulibarri, M. D., Strathdee, S. A., Lozada, R., Magis-Rodriguez, C., Amaro, H., O'Campo, P., ... Patterson, T. L. (2014). Prevalence and correlates of client-perpetrated abuse among female sex workers in two Mexico–U.S. Border cities. *Violence Against Women, 20*, 427-445. doi: 10.1177/1077801214528582
- U.S. Department of Justice. Bureau of Justice Statistics. (2010). *Criminal victimization, 2009, 2010* (NCJ Publication number: 231327) [Data file]. Retrieved from <http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=tp&tid=316>.
- U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics. (2015). *Terms and definitions*. Retrieved from: [http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=tp&tid=31#terms\\_def](http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=tp&tid=31#terms_def)

- Valor-Segura, I., Exposito, F., & Moya, M. (2011). Victim blaming and exoneration of the perpetrator in domestic violence: The role of beliefs in a just world and ambivalent sexism. *Spanish Journal of Psychology*, *14*, 195-206. doi: 10.5209/rev\_SJOP.2011.v14.n1.17
- Vonderhaar, R. L., & Carmody, D. C. (2015). There are no 'innocent victims': The influence of just world beliefs and prior victimization on rape myth acceptance. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, *30*, 1615-1632. doi: 10.1177/0886260514549196
- Williamson, C., & Cluse-Tolar, T. (2002). Pimp-controlled prostitution: Still an integral part of street life. *Violence Against Women*, *8*, 1074-1092. doi: 10.1177/107780102401101746
- Worden, A. P., & Carlson, B. E. (2005). Attitudes and beliefs about domestic violence: Results of a public opinion survey: II. Beliefs about causes. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, *20*, 1219-1243. doi: 10.1177/0886260505278531
- Zhang, C., Li, X., Chen, Y., Hong, Y., Shan, Q., Liu, W., & Zhou, Y. (2014). Alcohol and other drug use, partner violence, and mental health problems among female sex workers in Southwest China. *Health Care for Women International*, *35*(1), 60-73. doi: 10.1080/07399332.2012.757317

## **Appendices**

## APPENDIX A: IRB Approval

### IRB

#### INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD

Office of Research Compliance,  
010A Sam Ingram Building,  
2269 Middle Tennessee Blvd  
Murfreesboro, TN 37129



### EXPEDITED PROTOCOL APPROVAL NOTICE

Tuesday, September 08, 2015

Investigator(s): Olivia Musgrove (PI) and Mary Ellen Fromuth  
Investigator(s) Email: ojm2e@mtmail.mtsu.edu; maryellen.fromuth@mtsu.edu  
Department: Psychology  
Protocol Title: "Attitudes toward interpersonal violence against women"  
Protocol ID: 16-2026

Dear Investigator(s),

The MTSU Institutional Review Board (IRB), or its' representative, has reviewed the research proposal identified above. The MTSU IRB or its representative has determined that the study poses minimal risk to participants and qualifies for an **EXPEDITED** review under 45 CFR 46.110 and 21 CFR 56.110 within the category (7) *Research on individual or group characteristics or behavior*. This approval is valid for one year from the date of this letter **for 200 (TWO HUNDRED) participants** and it expires on **9/9/2016**.

Any unanticipated harms to participants or adverse events must be reported to the Office of Compliance at (615) 494-8918 within 48 hours of the incident. Any change(s) to this protocol must be approved by the IRB. The MTSU HRP defines a "researcher" as someone who works with data or has contact with participants. Anyone meeting this definition needs to be listed on the protocol and needs to complete the required training. New researchers can be amended to this protocol by submitting an Addendum request researchers to the Office of Compliance before they begin to work on the project.

Completion of this protocol **MUST** be notified to the Office of Compliance. A "completed research" refers to a protocol in which no further data collection or analysis is carried out. This protocol can be continued up to **THREE** years by submitting annual Progress Reports prior to expiration. Failure to request for continuation will automatically result in cancellation of this protocol and you will not be able to collect or use any new data.

All research materials must be retained by the PI or the faculty advisor (if the PI is a student) for at least three (3) years after study completion. Subsequently, the researcher may destroy the data in a manner that maintains confidentiality and anonymity. IRB reserves the right to modify, change or cancel the terms of this letter without prior notice. Be advised that IRB also reserves the right to inspect or audit your records if needed.

Sincerely,

Institutional Review Board  
Middle Tennessee State University

**APPENDIX B: Prostitute Scenario Survey**

**Instructions: Please fill out the demographic information below.**

- Gender: 1) Male      2) Female      3) I do not wish to answer this question.  
 Age: 1) 18-20      2) 21-23      3) 24+      4) I do not wish to answer this question.  
 Ethnicity: 1) Hispanic/Latino      2) Black/African American      3) Caucasian      4) Other  
 5) I do not wish to answer this question.

**Instructions: Carefully read the scenario below then answer the questions on a 1 to 7 scale.**

A 23-year-old woman prostitute is walking home from work when she is approached by a regular customer. He makes sexual advances, and she does not return the advances. He then becomes angry and physically assaults her.

<b>Questions</b>	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Slightly Disagree</i>	<i>Neutral</i>	<i>Slightly Agree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Strongly Agree</i>
1. The man is completely responsible for his actions against the woman.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2. The woman should report the action towards her to the police.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3. The woman put herself in this situation and, therefore, is responsible for the assault.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4. The man should be prosecuted for the actions done to the woman.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

<b>Questions</b>	<b><i>Strongly Disagree</i></b>	<b><i>Disagree</i></b>	<b><i>Slightly Disagree</i></b>	<b><i>Neutral</i></b>	<b><i>Slightly Agree</i></b>	<b><i>Agree</i></b>	<b><i>Strongly Agree</i></b>
5. If I witnessed this situation, I would intervene on behalf of the woman.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6. The man has good reason to assault the woman.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7. If I witnessed these actions occurring, I would report the man for assault.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8. The woman is the cause of the assault and has no right to complain about the consequences.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9. The man should spend time in jail for his actions.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10. The woman must have done something in her past to deserve this type of treatment.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

<b>Questions</b>	<b><i>Strongly Disagree</i></b>	<b><i>Disagree</i></b>	<b><i>Slightly Disagree</i></b>	<b><i>Neutral</i></b>	<b><i>Slightly Agree</i></b>	<b><i>Agree</i></b>	<b><i>Strongly Agree</i></b>
11. If I were on a jury, I would find the man innocent.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
12. The man has the right to be angry in this situation.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
13. The woman deserves to be assaulted.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
14. If I were watching this occur, I would not take any actions to help the woman.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
15. The woman has the right to refuse sexual advances.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
16. I would refer this woman to a place of safety.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

**APPENDIX C: Ex-lover Scenario Survey**

**Instructions: Please fill out the demographic information below.**

- Gender: 1) Male      2) Female      3) I do not wish to answer this question.  
 Age: 1) 18-20      2) 21-23      3) 24+      4) I do not wish to answer this question.  
 Ethnicity: 1) Hispanic/Latino      2) Black/African American      3) Caucasian      4) Other  
 5) I do not wish to answer this question.

**Instructions: Carefully read the scenario below then answer the questions on a 1 to 7 scale.**

A 23 year old woman is walking to her car from work when a recent ex-lover approaches her. He makes sexual advances, and she does not return the advances. He then becomes angry and physically assaults her.

<b>Questions</b>	<i><b>Strongly Disagree</b></i>	<i><b>Disagree</b></i>	<i><b>Slightly Disagree</b></i>	<i><b>Neutral</b></i>	<i><b>Slightly Agree</b></i>	<i><b>Agree</b></i>	<i><b>Strongly Agree</b></i>
1. The man is completely responsible for his actions against the woman.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2. The woman should report the action towards her to the police.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3. The woman put herself in this situation and, therefore, is responsible for the assault.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4. The man should be prosecuted for the actions done to the woman.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

<b>Questions</b>	<b><i>Strongly Disagree</i></b>	<b><i>Disagree</i></b>	<b><i>Slightly Disagree</i></b>	<b><i>Neutral</i></b>	<b><i>Slightly Agree</i></b>	<b><i>Agree</i></b>	<b><i>Strongly Agree</i></b>
5. If I witnessed this situation, I would intervene on behalf of the woman.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6. The man has good reason to assault the woman.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7. If I witnessed these actions occurring, I would report the man for assault.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8. The woman is the cause of the assault and has no right to complain about the consequences.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9. The man should spend time in jail for his actions.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10. The woman must have done something in her past to deserve this type of treatment.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

<b>Questions</b>	<b><i>Strongly Disagree</i></b>	<b><i>Disagree</i></b>	<b><i>Slightly Disagree</i></b>	<b><i>Neutral</i></b>	<b><i>Slightly Agree</i></b>	<b><i>Agree</i></b>	<b><i>Strongly Agree</i></b>
11. If I were on a jury, I would find the man innocent.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
12. The man has the right to be angry in this situation.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
13. The woman deserves to be assaulted.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
14. If I were watching this occur, I would not take any actions to help the woman.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
15. The woman has the right to refuse sexual advances.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
16. I would refer this woman to a place of safety.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

## APPENDIX D: Informed Consent

**Principal Investigator: Olivia Musgrove**

**Study Title: Attitudes Toward Interpersonal Violence Against Women**

**Institution: Middle Tennessee State University**

Name of participant: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

The following information is provided to inform you about the research project and your participation in it. Please read this form carefully and feel free to ask any questions you may have about this study and the information given below. You will be given an opportunity to ask questions, and your questions will be answered. Also, you will be given a copy of this consent form.

Your participation in this research study is voluntary. You are also free to withdraw from this study at any time. In the event new information becomes available that may affect the risks or benefits associated with this research study or your willingness to participate in it, you will be notified so that you can make an informed decision whether or not to continue your participation in this study.

For additional information about giving consent or your rights as a participant in this study, please feel free to contact the MTSU Office of Compliance at (615) 494-8918.

**1. Purpose of the study:**

You are being asked to participate in a research study that examines perceptions of physical violence against women. The information you provide us will help expand the understanding of attitudes toward physical violence.

**2. Description of procedures to be followed and approximate duration of the study:**

This is an anonymous survey that will take less than 30 minutes to read and complete. You will be asked to read a scenario involving physical assault and answer questions regarding your perception of the scenario. You also will fill out limited demographic information, but there will be no questions regarding your own personal experience with physical assault.

**3. Expected costs:**

None

**4. Description of the discomforts, inconveniences, and/or risks that can be reasonably expected as a result of participation in this study:**

There are no known risks if you decide to participate in this research study.

**5. Compensation in case of study-related injury:**

MTSU will not provide compensation in the case of study related injury.

**6. Anticipated benefits from this study:**

Participants will benefit by learning more about the research process. Society also will benefit by having more information on attitudes toward violence in interpersonal relationships.

**7. Alternative treatments available:**

Not Applicable

**8. Compensation for participation:**

You will receive compensation for your participation in this study by receiving 1 credit toward psychology research participation.

**9. Circumstances under which the Principal Investigator may withdraw you from study participation:**

Not Applicable

**10. What happens if you choose to withdraw from study participation:**

Your participation in this study is voluntary. If you choose not to participate in this research study there will be no penalty. You may choose not to participate in this research study at any time without penalty.

**11. Contact Information.** If you should have any questions about this research study or possible injury, please feel free to contact **Olivia Musgrove** at **[ojm2e@mtmail.mtsu.edu](mailto:ojm2e@mtmail.mtsu.edu)** or my Faculty Advisor, **Dr. Mary Ellen Fromuth** at **(615)898-2548** or **[MaryEllen.Fromuth@mtsu.edu](mailto:MaryEllen.Fromuth@mtsu.edu)**.

**12. Confidentiality.** All efforts, within reason, will be made to keep the personal information in your research record private but total privacy cannot be promised. Your information may be shared with MTSU or the government, such as the Middle Tennessee State University Institutional Review Board, Federal Government Office for Human Research Protections,

**13. STATEMENT BY PERSON AGREEING TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS STUDY**

**I have read this informed consent document and the material contained in it has been explained to me verbally. I understand each part of the document, all my questions have been answered, and I freely and voluntarily choose to participate in this study.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of patient/volunteer

Consent obtained by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Olivia Musgrove , Researcher  
Printed Name and Title

## APPENDIX E: Debriefing Sheet

This research study is evaluating attitudes toward physical assault against women. Assault may cause feelings of distress. If you are experiencing any type of assault, please contact any of these resources. If anyone you know is experiencing assault, please refer them to any of these resources.

### **Mental Health Resources**

#### **On-Campus resources:**

##### **University Counseling Center**

Address: Keathley University Center, Room 326-S

Phone: (615) 898-2863

Website: <http://www.mtsu.edu/countest/>

#### **Off-Campus resources:**

##### **Murfreesboro Domestic Violence Shelter**

Address: 2106 E Main St, Murfreesboro, TN 37130

Phone: (615)896-2012

Website: [dvpshelter.org/](http://dvpshelter.org/)

##### **Domestic Violence Hotline**

Phone: 1-800-799-7233

Phone: 1-800-787-3224 (TTY)

Website: <http://www.thehotline.org/>

##### **The Guidance Center**

This practice serves all patients regardless of inability to pay. Discounts for essential services are offered depending on household income. For fee scale, please contact 1-877-567-6051.

Address: 2126 North Thompson Lane

Phone: (615) 898-0771

Website: <https://www.vbhcs.org/locations/murfreesborothe-guidance-center/>

### **Researcher Contact Information**

If you have any questions regarding the research being done in this study, please contact the researcher, Olivia Musgrove, at [ojm2e@mtmail.mtsu.edu](mailto:ojm2e@mtmail.mtsu.edu) or the faculty advisor at [MaryEllen.Fromuth@mtsu.edu](mailto:MaryEllen.Fromuth@mtsu.edu) or (615) 898-2548.

Thank you for your time and participation in this research study!