In the Eye of the Beholder: How a Person’s Age Influences Beliefs about Younger Women’s Sexual Behaviors

Adetora A. Soyemi, Dr. Joseph M. Currin and Amber L. Evans
Texas Tech University

Introduction:
- 28% of females ages 15-44 prefer to use the pill to prevent pregnancy and there is an increased occurrence of women using other hormonal methods and the IUD
- College-aged men were generally not supportive of their partners using contraceptive methods and found using them to be unhealthy
- Women and men had different priorities when to come to selecting contraceptive methods and women generally found condoms not as effective as pills when it came to preventing pregnancies.
- Younger the target individual was the less accepting participants were of their sexual conduct
- Ethnicity and religion of participants plays a huge role in what is deemed sexually appropriate
- Generally, people were more accepting of sexual behaviors if they had higher education, are single, younger and live in an urban area
- Past research has shown that there is a difference between men’s and women’s attitudes towards sexual behaviors

Question:
What are men’s and women’s perceptions of appropriate sexual behavior for men and women (aged 18-24)?

Methods:
- 356 participants; 164 men and 192 women mean age 4.24(0.86) years
- Recruited from Amazon’s participant pool
- Accessed online questionnaire via Qualtrics
- Measures:
  - Age, Ethnicity/Race, Gender, Sexual Orientation, Education, Political Background
  - Rated from 1 (totally unacceptable) to 5 (extremely acceptable) on various sexual and sexual health behaviors

Results:
- Most of the findings weren’t significant
- Age didn’t play a role in what was found significant
- However gender did play a role
- Most sexual health behaviors and some sexual behaviors were found to be significant

Discussion:
- Most of the individuals who participated had at least a high school diploma (99.3%) and the majority had at least a Bachelors (54.5%)
- Issues here isn’t that they are uneducated but the education they receive about sex isn’t sufficient
- Lubbock teen pregnancy rate is 23.42 per 1,000, while the United States is 17.43 per 1,000
- It’s higher than the rest of the country and as get more rural the teen pregnancies rate increase
- This is further troubling as 82% of Texas High schools teach only abstinence
- Texas is at a huge disadvantage as most individuals aren’t getting proper sex education and are relying on other sources that might not be accurate

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acceptability of Men’s Sexual Behaviors</th>
<th>Men 4.17 (0.83)</th>
<th>Women 4.24 (0.86)</th>
<th>t</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Acceptability of Women’s Sexual Behaviors</td>
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<td>Acceptability of Women’s Use of Birth Control</td>
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<td>Graduate Degree</td>
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References:
- Feld et al. (2018).
- Techasrivichien et al. (2016).