

A Call for Sexual Violence Education

Melanie Ermler, Madison Saunders, & Changiz Mohiyeddini, Ph.D.

Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine

Introduction

- Sexual violence is a pressing **public health issue** in the U.S., causing various medical impacts on survivors.²
- While multiple agencies have set standard-of-care guidelines for treating these survivors, **practice falls short**.^{1,3-4}
- Education** is proving useful in enhancing medical students' approach to caring for those affected by sexual violence.^{1,4}

Aims and Objectives

- To assess the extent of **rape myth acceptance** (harmful beliefs against sexual violence survivors) in medical students at Oakland University William Beaumont (OUWB).
- To assess students' **competency in providing care** to patients who have experienced sexual violence.
- To establish the link between **previous education** on the topic of sexual violence, **rape myth acceptance**, and **competency in caring for survivors** of sexual violence.
- Assess the **need to include formal education on the topic of sexual violence in the OUWB medical curriculum**.

Methods

Design: cross-sectional, survey-based methodology

Procedure: N = 72 OUWB students were recruited via Qualtrics. **Survey elements included:**

- acceptance of rape myths,
- social desirability index,
- knowledge of standard of care/best practices,
- knowledge of medical complications after sexual violence,
- self-reported confidence/comfort in screening and treating patients who have experienced sexual violence,
- formal and informal educational experiences about the topic of sexual violence,
- and students' belief of need to incorporate sexual violence education into the OUWB medical curriculum.

Analytical Approach: To test the hypothesis, correlation analysis, multiple regression analysis, and analysis of covariance (ANCOVA) were utilized. The Bonferroni correction was applied to control for the effects of multiple testing.

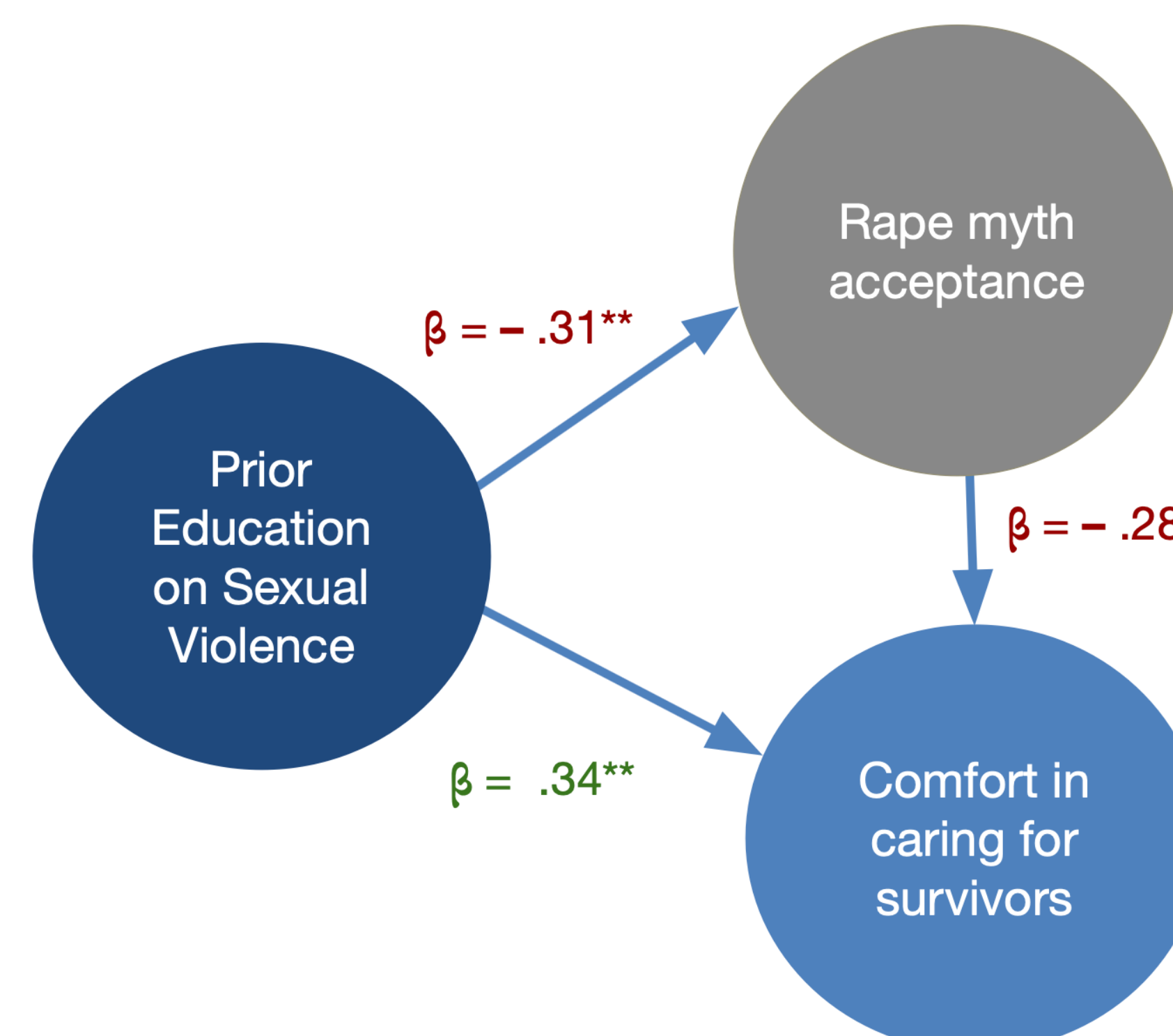
Conclusions

Our research identified **knowledge gaps**, **negative attitudes** towards sexual violence survivors, and **a confidence deficit** in providing care for patients who have experienced sexual violence. As we believe a medical school's role is to train medical students able to **feel comfortable caring for any type of patient or patient population**, this indicates a need for curriculum enhancements in the OUWB medical education. Moreover, there's a **student demand** for learning about this issue.

We advocate for training medical students in screening, caring for, and treating sexual violence survivors.

Results

Mediation Model with Regression Analysis



β the standardized regression coefficient
 * significant result at the .05 level
 ** significant result at the .01 level

61.4%

average score on 20 questions based on knowledge of standard of care and knowledge of medical complications after sexual violence

"In your opinion, should medical students include curriculum elements specifically dedicated to educating students about sexual violence and intimate partner violence?"

Yes (100%)
No (0%)

References

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Acknowledgements

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