

Process-Based Sexual Consent Among College Men

The Moderating Effects of Alcohol-Involved Sexual Consent & Hostility Toward Women

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Background

As opposed to viewing sexual consent as a binary transaction, process-based consent (PBC) reflects an ongoing negotiation in the absence of coercion. Understanding factors associated with PBC attitudes and behaviors may illuminate intervention targets for improving communication.

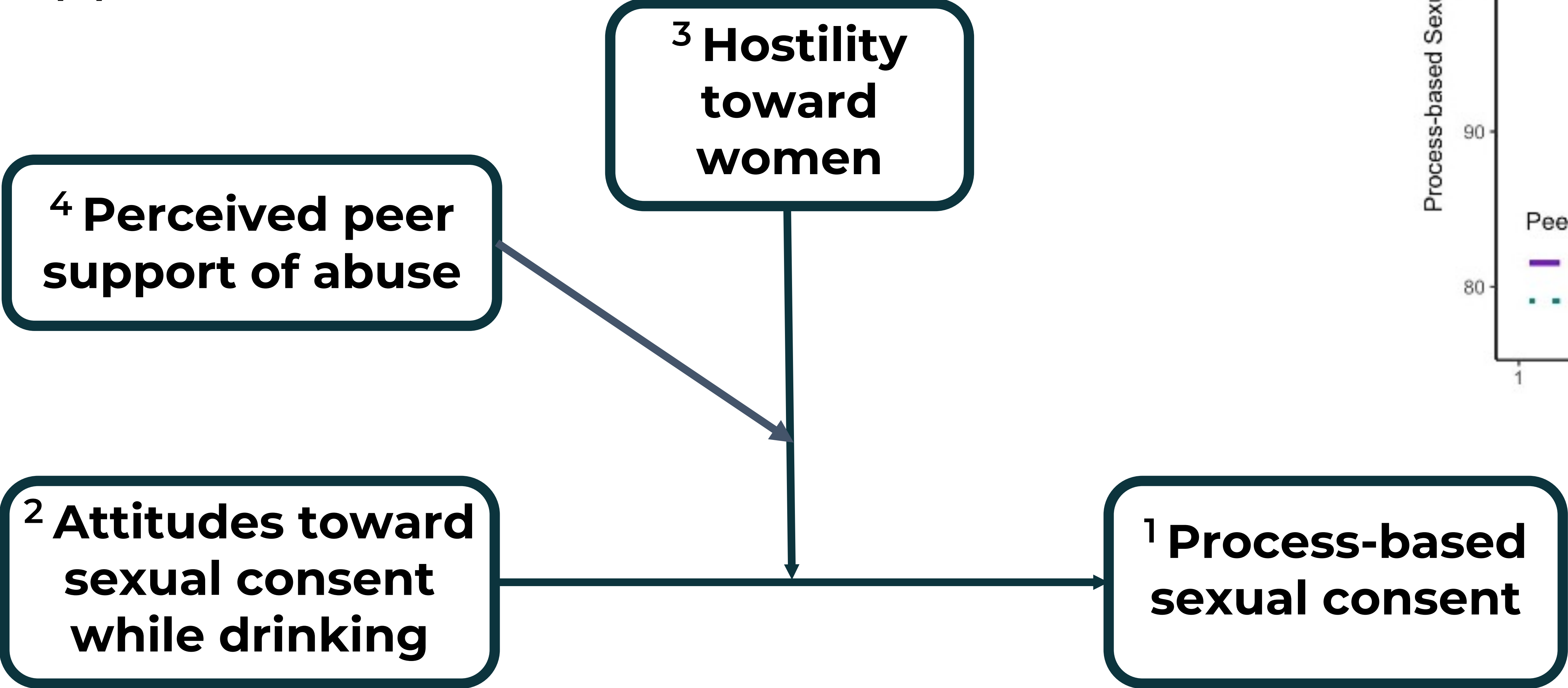
Research Question

How do attitudes about alcohol-involved sexual experiences and hostility toward women influence college men’s process-based sexual consent?

Participants (N = 463)

98.9% Aged 18 – 22 years old
56% First-year students
92.8% Heterosexual
63.4% White, Non-Hispanic
57% Single

Hostility toward women moderated the association between attitudes toward sex while drinking and process-based consent—the strength of this moderation effect depended on perceived peer support of abuse.



Measures

- 1. Process-Based Consent (PBC)
- 2. Alcohol & Sexual Consent (ASC)
- 3. Hostility Toward Women (HTW)
- 4. Peer Support of Abuse (PPA)

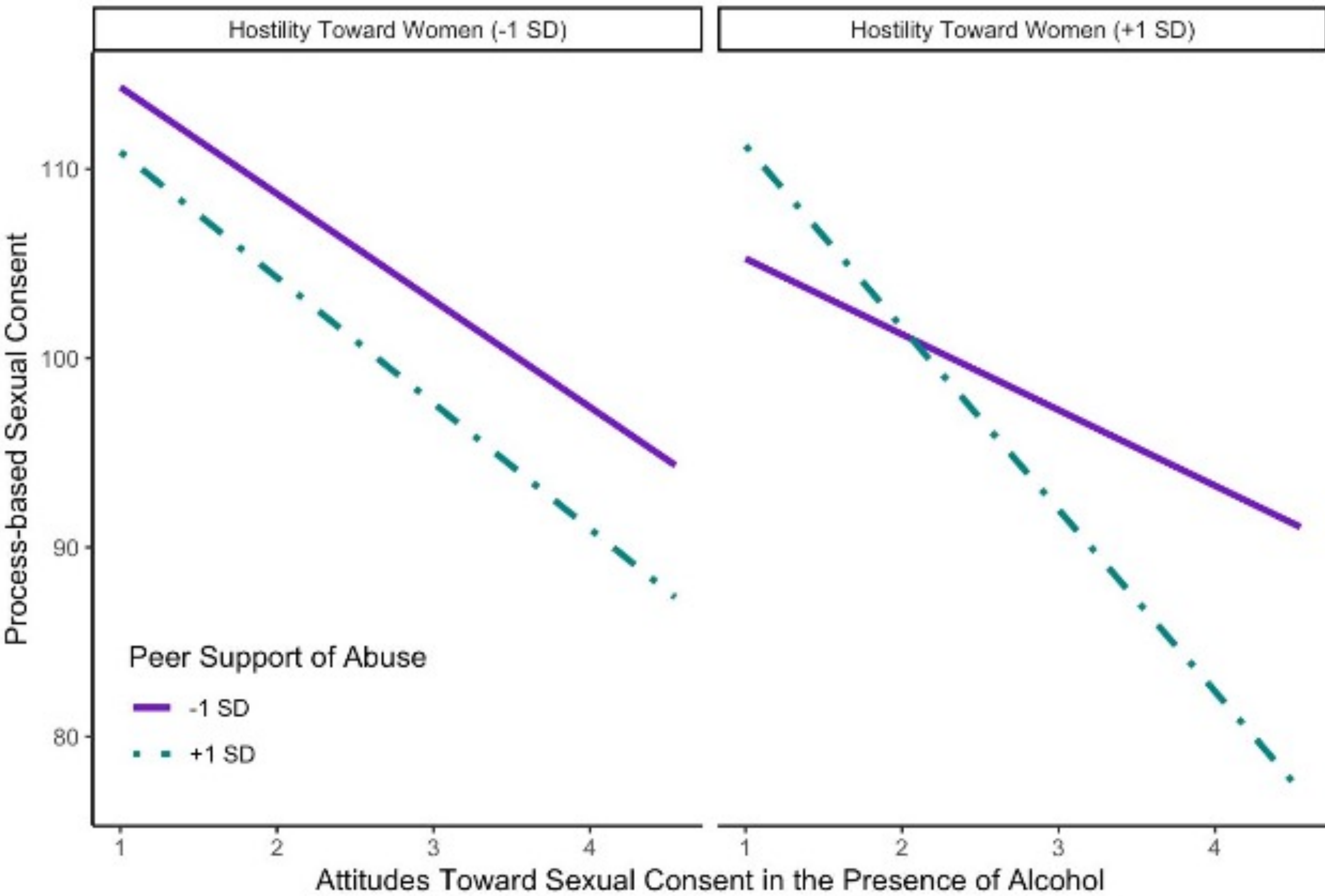
¹Glace et al., 2020; ²Ward et al., 2012;
³Lonsway et al., 1995; ⁴DeKeseredy, 1988

Limitations

Data were cross-sectional, precluding conclusions related to temporality. Students were from a single, public university in the midwestern U.S., which limits the generalizability of our findings to diverse samples and non-college-educated individuals.

Results

Figure 1.



Implications

Our findings highlight the need for ecologically valid, research-driven sexual education programs that consider contextual factors embedded in the campus climate and tailor interventions for college men accordingly. Such programs should aim to address sociocultural pressure to pursue intoxicated sex and the gendered power dynamics that underpin sexual coercion.