

ABSTRACT

PERCEIVED SEXUAL BEHAVIOR NORMS VERSUS REPORTED SEXUAL BEHAVIOR AMONG A SAMPLE OF CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO STUDENTS

The American College Health Assessment, developed by the National College Health Association, was distributed to Fresno State students through simple random sampling methods. The survey was distributed to 1,500 students via mail in 2001, 2003, and 2004. In 2001, 731 students completed the survey, in 2003, 572 students completed the survey and in 2004, 604 completed the survey. Any student enrolled at Fresno State who was 18 years or older was used in the random sample. A descriptive analysis of the means was used to show if gender affects perceived sexual behavior norms. The descriptive analysis also showed the perceived sexual behaviors means versus the reported sexual behavior means for each of the relevant questions for 2001, 2003, and 2004. The descriptive analysis demonstrated that Fresno State students perceive their peers to be engaging in sexual activities far more frequently, and with more partners, than was reported.

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