Sexual assault is common among female college students (Sinozich & Langton, 2014). One in five women in college experience sexual assault, and females ages 18 to 24 have the highest rate of rape and sexual assault victimizations compared to females in all other age groups. Two factors that seem to play a role in perception of consent is the relationship between perpetrator and victim and use of alcohol.

313 students from Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi participated in an online survey that questions their understanding of sexual consent based on the relationship between the perpetrator and victim, the use of alcohol, and prior sexual involvement. Participants completed measures of sexual attitudes, gender norms, attitudes regarding alcohol, and responded to vignettes describing various romantic interactions.

When examining assumed consent, for actors who were casually dating and did not consume alcohol, higher consent was perceived for those who had prior sexual interaction. In contrast, for actors who were in a relationships and did consume alcohol, higher consent was perceived for those who had prior sexual interaction. Our finding aligns with Shotland and Goodstein's (1992) sexual contract: consenting to unwanted sex can be seen as consensual on the grounds that on other occasions the situation would be reversed.
