

## INTRODUCTION

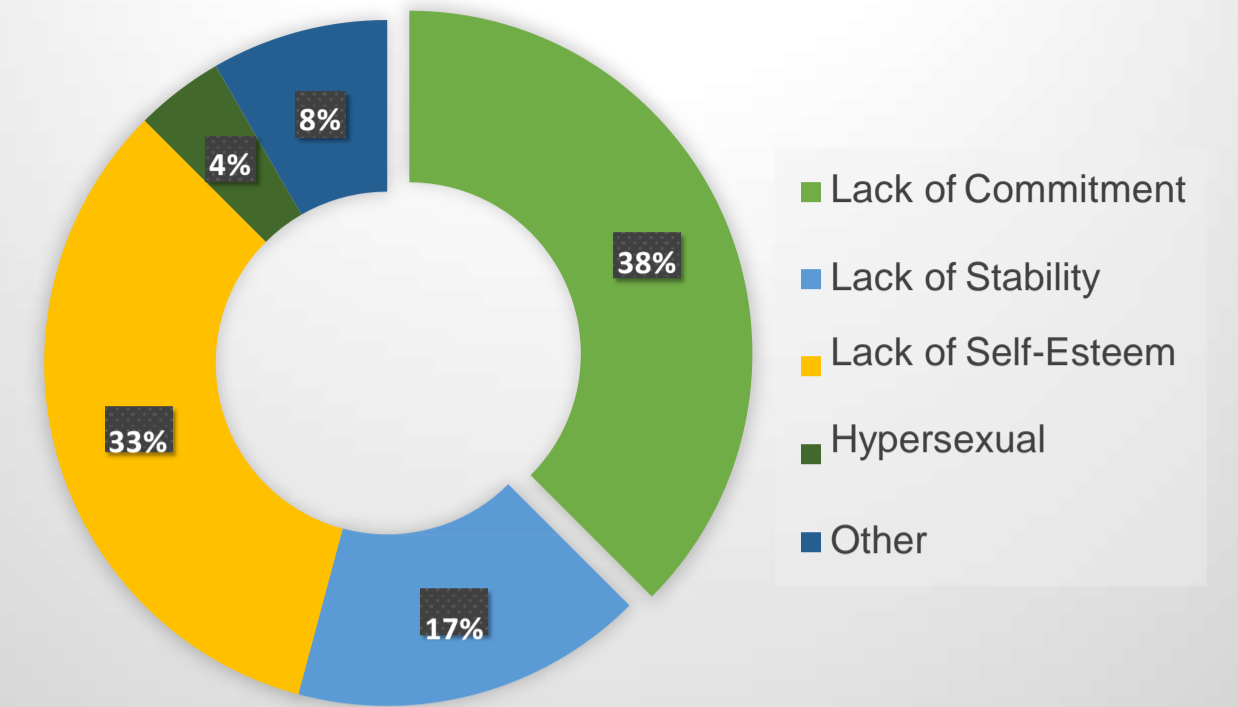
This project involves the analysis of 2017 survey data containing Binghamton University undergraduates' open-ended responses to vignettes of hypersexuality that vary in gender and sexuality. The participants were asked to identify problematic factors in the examples of hypersexuality and non-hypersexuality given. The responses to the examples of hypersexuality are illustrated in the charts below.

## SEX ADDICTION

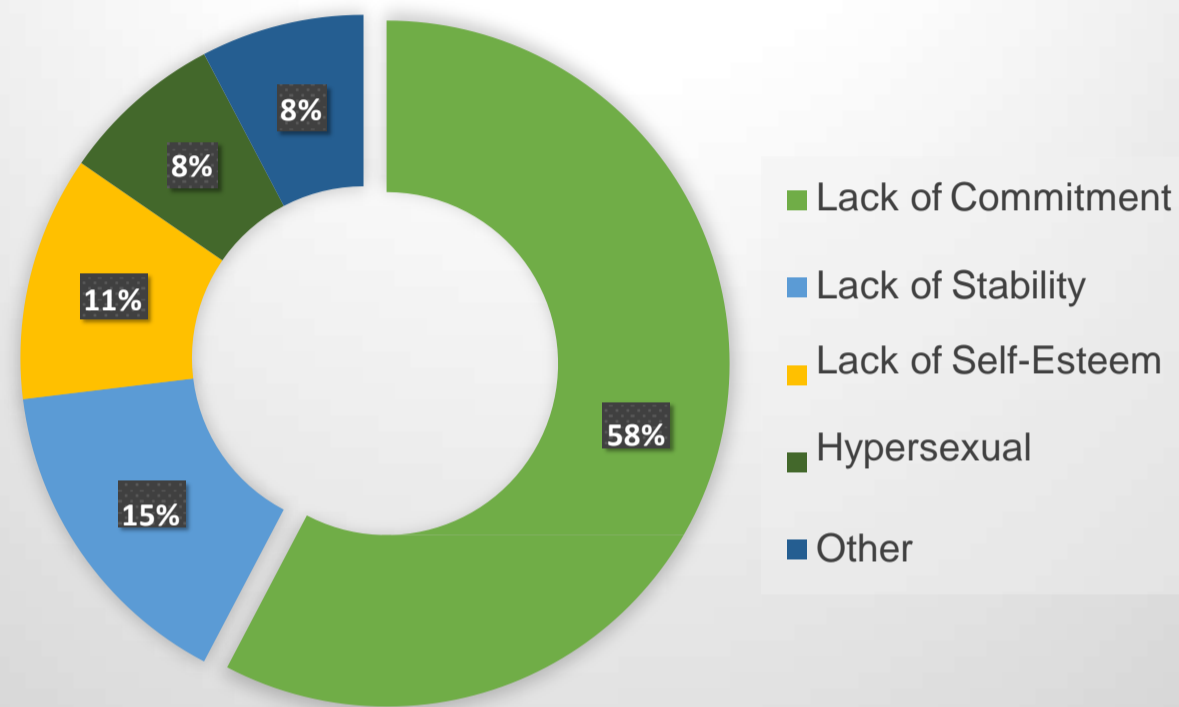
The societal misunderstanding of sex addiction has made evaluation and development of treatment methods difficult, as the disorder is understudied and bears characteristics that can be misconstrued as promiscuity. As a result, the available resources for college students affected by hypersexuality, if any, are often inadequate, despite extensive studies on the widespread nature of college hookup culture.

Sex addiction is often characterized by repetitive and compulsive preoccupations with sexual fantasies, urges, and behaviors that distress the individual and/or result in impairment of psychosocial function.

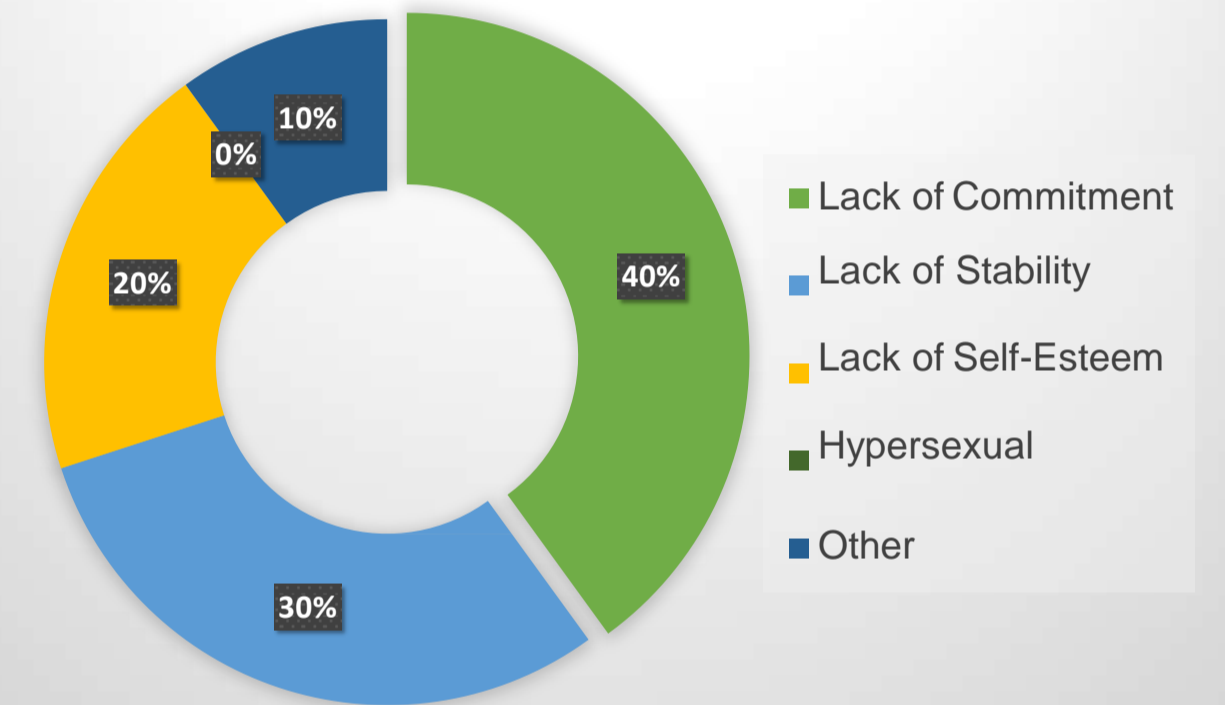
### RESPONSES TO FEMALE-STRAIGHT-HYPERSEXUAL EXAMPLE



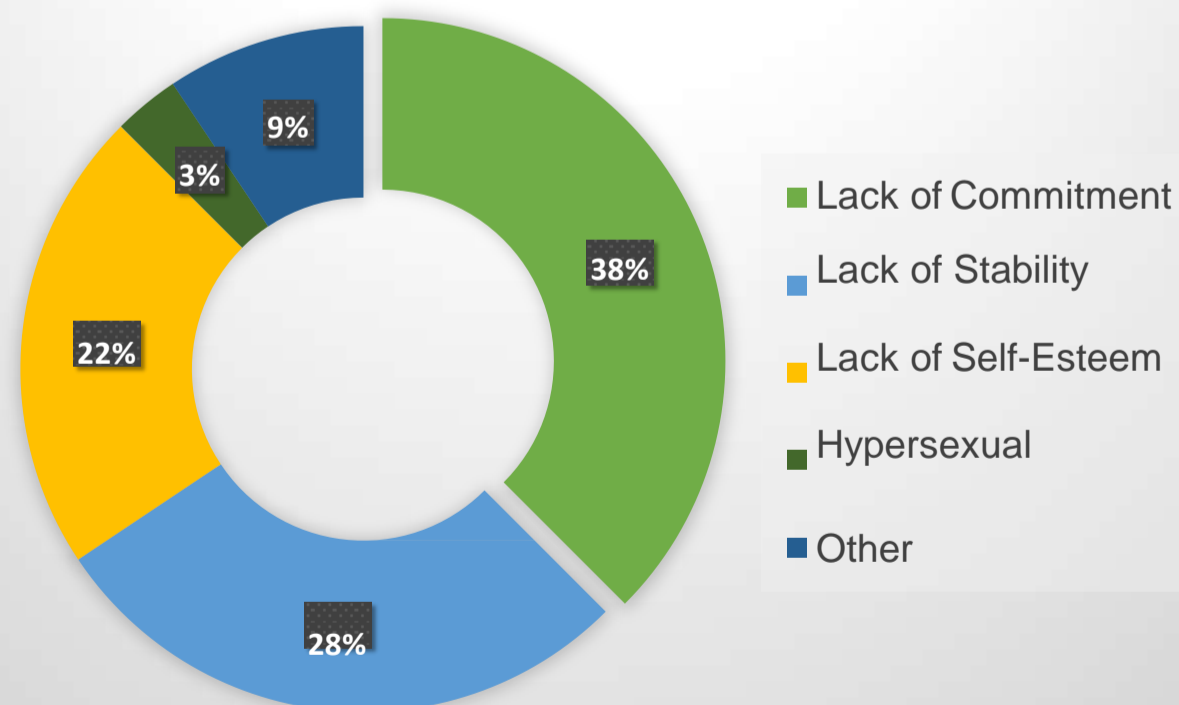
### RESPONSES TO MALE-STRAIGHT-HYPERSEXUAL EXAMPLE



### RESPONSES TO FEMALE-LESBIAN-HYPERSEXUAL EXAMPLE



### RESPONSES TO MALE-GAY-HYPERSEXUAL EXAMPLE



## OBSERVATIONS & CONCLUSIONS

- For all hypersexual vignettes, the majority of the participants identified a lack of commitment as the problematic factor.
- In homosexual vignettes, participants were more likely to attribute symptoms of hypersexuality to a lack of stability. This is true for both male and female vignettes.
- Participants were significantly more likely to attribute hypersexuality in heterosexual females to a lack of self-esteem.
- Participants were most likely to correctly identify hypersexuality in heterosexual males, and were least likely to identify hypersexuality in homosexual females.
- Though not shown in these illustrations, the language used to describe a lack of commitment also differed, with participants specifically criticizing the number of partners in heterosexual females and homosexual males and females. This was not as notably observed for the vignette of a heterosexual male.

## REFERENCES

- Fong T. W., Reid R. C. & Parhami I. (2012). Behavioral addictions: Where to draw the lines? *Psychiatric Clinics of North America*, 35(2), 279–296.
- Derbyshire, K. L., & Grant, J. E. (2015). Compulsive sexual behavior: a review of the literature. *Journal of behavioral addictions*, 4(2), 37-43.

# SEX ADDICTION: SOCIETY'S CONFLATION OF A BEHAVIORAL DISORDER WITH PROMISCUITY

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