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I am submitting herewith a dissertation written by David James Anspaugh entitled "Permissiveness and Premarital Sexual Activity: Behavioral Correlates of Attitudinal Differences." I recommend that it be accepted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Education, with a major in Health Education.

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PERMISSIVENESS AND PREMARITAL SEXUAL ACTIVITY: BEHAVIORAL CORRELATES OF ATTITUDINAL DIFFERENCES

A Dissertation

Presented for the

Doctor of Education

Degree

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville

David James Anspaugh

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DEDICATION

To my wife, Jill, and children, Aimee and Jay, for their sacrifices and unselfish dedication to the writer, and without whom the completion of the study would have been impossible.

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to determine whether students classified as low in sexual permissiveness could be differentiated from students classified as high permissive. For purposes of differentiation, variables reflecting socioeconomic status, reported sexual behavior, and/or knowledge of human sexuality were used. The sample utilized consisted of senior education majors and freshmen at Memphis State University. The freshmen group consisted of 305 subjects. From this group it was determined that 135 were high permissive and 77 were low permissive in their sexual attitudes. The low permissive freshmen group consisted of 17 males and 60 females. The high permissive freshmen group consisted of 55 males and 80 females. A total of 138 senior education majors was tested. The high permissive senior group consisted of 76 subjects, of whom 29 were males and 47 were females. The low permissive senior group consisted of 25 subjects, which consisted of 5 males and 20 females.

The senior education majors were tested in the Spring of 1977, while the freshmen were tested in the Fall of 1977. To gather the data, the following instruments were used: (1) Reiss's Premarital Permissiveness Scale, (2) McHugh's Sexual Knowledge Inventory--Form X, and (3) a socioeconomic questionnaire. The statistical analysis consisted of a stepwise discriminant analysis along with a

one-way analysis of variance which was utilized for the group mean achieved on the Sexual Knowledge Inventory. The stepwise procedure was terminated when no factor satisfied the F test of 1.5 or greater. The analysis of variance was carried out at a .05 level of significances.

The high permissive seniors differed from low permissive seniors in that their parents were living together less often than the low permissive group's parents. Based upon church attendance, the low permissive senior group was a more religious group than its high permissive senior counterparts. The high senior group began dating at a younger age, had sexual intercourse younger, had a high percentage of their group who reported having had coitus, had oral sex younger and in higher percentages than the low permissive senior group. Significant discriminators between the freshmen permissive groups were: if the parents were living together, the church attendance of the subjects, whether intercourse had taken place within the past year, the race of the subjects and the sex of the subjects. The high permissive group's parents were living together less often. In addition, the high permissive freshmen attended church less often and had a higher percentage of subjects having intercourse within the past year. The low permissive group tended to be female and white. When the data for the high permissive groups and the low permissive groups were combined, the same variables that were previously

reported were significant. However, when consideration of the entire data was investigated, the low permissive parents had a reported higher income. The other trends reported above for the various permissive groups held true when the data of the combined groups were analyzed. There were no statistically significant differences in the mean knowledge scores of either the freshmen males, freshmen females, senior males, or senior females. In addition, there was no statistical difference in mean knowledge scores of those classified as high permissive or low permissive. The predictive equation generated by the stepwise discriminant procedure correctly reclassified 94 percent of the high and low permissive subjects.

The conclusions drawn from this investigation were the following:

1. The mean scores achieved on the sexual knowledge inventory by the freshmen males, freshmen females, senior males, or senior females were not significantly different statistically for any of the above groups.

2. The amount of sexual knowledge possessed had no effect upon the present permissive attitudes of either the high or the low permissive groups.

3. Church attendance was a statistically significant discriminator between the high and low permissive groups. The low permissive groups attended church much more frequently, which led to the conclusion that they

were more religious as a group than were the high permissive subjects.

4. Low permissive subjects' parents lived in an intact family situation more often than the high permissive subjects' parents.

5. High permissive groups differed from low permissive groups in that they had experienced sexual intercourse and oral sex more often than the low permissive group members. In addition, high permissive subjects experienced coitus at an earlier age than the low permissive subjects who experienced coitus.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Health education, for many years, has been concerned with providing or utilizing experiences for favorably influencing knowledge, attitudes, and behavior as it relates to the individual, his family, or his community. One specific area within the wide scope of subjects now considered important for inclusion in a comprehensive health curriculum is that of sex education. For almost a hundred years, documents have been appearing which have stressed the need for sex education. Strong (76) reported that . . . "as early as the 1800's members of the social purity movement were advocating sex education for children in order to repress sexual desires and behaviors." The writer certainly does not wish to purport that the goal of sex education is prevention of coitus, but instead points out the fact that the need for sex education has been recognized for well over a century. In addressing the issue of sex education in today's society, McCary wrote . . . "in spite of the fact that a very vocal minority has labeled sex education a 'filthy communist plot,' surveys indicate that the majority of American parents and young people are in favor of including sex education in the public schools" (51). In another survey by Gallup International

(27) which sampled over 1500 adults and almost 300 students, the overwhelming majority of both groups sampled approved of sex education in the public schools.

Even with the general public approving the notion of sex education in our schools, the out-of-wedlock rate continues to increase. In 1976 there were 3851 illegitimate births in Memphis-Shelby County, Tennessee. This was 31.7 percent of all city and county births on record with 24.6 percent of these births being to women 19 years of age and under (58). In the state of Tennessee, 7406 legal abortions were performed in 1974 with 2143 of these being in Memphis. In Memphis over 33 percent of all abortions were for girls age 19 and under (56). In addition, there is no way of accurately knowing the number of pregnant girls who leave the state to complete or terminate their pregnancy. In two surveys of American teenagers, it was reported that 52 percent of all girls between the ages of 15-19 had had sexual intercourse (58). On the national level, more than one million 15-19 year olds become pregnant with two-thirds of these pregnancies conceived out of wedlock. From the one million pregnant teenagers, 27 percent were terminated by induced abortion while 14 percent resulted in miscarriages (80). Other statistics could be cited, but from the aforementioned information, one could seriously question the present role of teachers, parents, religious leaders, and counselors in providing adequate

education and information concerning sexuality. Even assuming the information to be accurate, the question arises if the facts presented are having an influence on attitudes and behavior or if other socioeconomic variables have an over-riding effect on one's attitudes and ultimate behavior concerning sexual activity. Without insight into the areas just alluded to, possible solutions or improvement in the quality of education for understanding our sexuality cannot be accomplished.

Perhaps cognitive information is enough to inform and enable young adults to make intelligent decisions concerning their sexuality. However, the numerous facets of sexuality seem to demand that attention be given to the psychosocial aspects of sexuality. Yorburg (86), in discussing sex and society, believed the current trends toward increased sexual liberalism in urbanized, computerized societies will continue in the future. Yorburg goes on to state that premarital sex is almost universal among young, middle-class women, but that promiscuity isn't the wave of the future because it is contrary to humanistic values. To help fulfill the needs of a modern society, the New York Council for Family Planning (61) prescribed a planned program of human sexuality education for the college campus. The Council described the college as a micro-community within the community and states that the college has a social mandate to provide information and direction to its students.

The social mandate statement by the New York group should be expanded to include all levels of education. However, the important fact remains that to justify sex education at any level, a thorough understanding of the socioeconomic factors, sexual knowledge, permissive attitude, and sexual behavior of young adults must be studied. Without understanding of the factors which contribute to permissiveness, it is impossible to formulate approaches to education, provide counseling, or provide other services necessary for successful programs for either education or service oriented health care. Consequently, further research is justified which seeks to discover new information or adds to the existing body of knowledge concerning the factors that influence sexual permissiveness and behavior. Hopefully, what would come about from such research would be a more solid foundation of knowledge for planning sex education and social services at all levels.

I. PURPOSE OF STUDY

The primary purpose of this investigation was to determine the level of knowledge concerning sex and reproduction, the permissive attitude, and sexual activity of a group of male and female students entering college and another group of male and female students about to graduate from college. These data were assessed to determine those factors which may have influenced permissive attitude and sexual behavior.

II. STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

The problem of this investigation was to ascertain if a difference existed between incoming freshmen and senior education majors as to their permissive attitude, sexual knowledge, and sexual activity, and to determine the socio-cultural factors which contributed to the subjects' permissive attitudes. To add scope and depth to the research, the following were considered as sub-problems to the central issues under investigation. They were:

1. To ascertain if differences between freshmen and seniors existed as to the levels of sexual knowledge each group held.

2. To investigate the socioeconomic factors which contributed to differentiation between high permissive and low permissive seniors.

3. To investigate the socioeconomic factors which contributed to differentiation between high permissive and low permissive freshmen.

4. To ascertain if the combined data resulted in differentiation between high permissive and low permissive subjects.

5. To ascertain if coital rates were different for high permissive subjects than for low permissive subjects.

6. To determine if the level of sexual knowledge possessed by the subjects influenced their permissive attitude.

III. DELIMITATIONS

While conducting this investigation several delimitations were used. The purpose for these delimitations was to maintain the scope of the study and yet present a thorough investigation of the problem. The delimitations were: (1) Only senior men and women education majors and freshmen men and women taking a personal health course were used in the research. The senior education majors consisted of both elementary and secondary majors who graduated in either the Fall semester, 1977, or the Spring semester, 1978. The freshmen sample consisted of all those who had enrolled in a personal health course for the Fall semester, 1977. (2) The data were collected in one testing session for the senior education majors. The test was administered at Memphis State University. (3) Each section of freshmen health classes was tested the second class period during the Fall of 1977. (4) Only individuals who met the above criteria and who had never been married were used in this investigation. (5) The research was not concerned with extra-marital or homosexual behavior--only premarital sexual attitudes, sexual knowledge, sexual behavior, and contributing socioeconomic factors were studied.

IV. LIMITATIONS

In any research project, there tend to be limiting variables which detract from the data collected or the

conclusions drawn. This study was limited by the following: (1) The ability of the testing instruments to identify knowledge, permissive attitude, and the important socioeconomic factors. Each of the instruments was chosen to measure specific aspects of the investigation and the reliability of each instrument was high. (2) This study was limited by the validity and honesty of the responses given by the subjects. Particularly the instruments measuring permissive attitude and socioeconomic information could have been slanted if the subjects had so desired. (3) The study was limited by the inability to control such variables as sleep, diet, fatigue, or psychological and environmental factors which may have had an influence on the responses of the subjects. (4) The study was limited by the ability of the individuals to assess their own sexual beliefs.

V. HYPOTHESES

For purposes of this investigation, the following null hypotheses were tested:

1. There were no differences between incoming freshmen and senior education majors in the level of sexual knowledge each group held.

2. The level of sexual knowledge possessed had no effect on permissive attitude or sexual behavior for either the high permissive attitude or low permissive attitude groups.

3. There were no socioeconomic factors which differentiated high permissive attitude from low permissive attitude senior education majors.

4. There were no differences in sexual activity between high permissive or low permissive attitude seniors.

5. There were no socioeconomic factors which differentiated high permissive attitude from low permissive attitude freshmen.

6. There were no differences in sexual activity between high permissive attitude or low permissive attitude freshmen.

7. There were no differences between the combined groups of high permissive attitude seniors and freshmen and low permissive attitude seniors and freshmen.

8. There were no socioeconomic differences in sexual activity between the combined high permissive attitude groups and the combined low permissive attitude groups.

VI. BASIC ASSUMPTIONS

The basic assumptions accepted to aid in the development of this investigation were:

1. Although the slanting of responses was possible on the permissive scale and socioeconomic questionnaire, it was assumed the data obtained were accurate.

2. The individuals who participated in the study

were cooperative and were motivated to present their true responses.

3. Degrees of permissiveness and levels of sexual knowledge were assumed to be no greater than that of a random sampling of young males and females in the Memphis-Shelby County area.

4. The subjects utilized for purposes of this investigation were aware of their feelings concerning permissiveness and could effectively evaluate those attitudes.

VII. DEFINITION OF TERMS

1. ATTITUDE: A mental position with regard to an act or state that may influence a person's actions in certain situations pertaining to sexual permissiveness.

2. COEFFICIENT OF REPRODUCIBILITY: The degree of accuracy with which the responses of an individual can be reproduced when it is only known into which grouping the respondents fall (71)

3. EFFICIENT OF SCALABILITY: Informs the researcher what proportion of the remaining indeterminateness is removed by the scale in use (57).

4. GUTTMAN SCALE: A relatively small set of homogeneous items that are unidimensional. Since the scales are cumulative, subjects can be ranked according to their scale responses (65).

5. MINIMAL MARGINAL REPRODUCIBILITY: Measure

which takes the modal response for each Guttman Scale item and divides it by the number of items to obtain a reproducibility level that could be obtained with just the knowledge of the extremeness of the modes. The MMR is concerned with the extremeness of the group responses as opposed to individual extremeness of response (18).

6. PERMISSIVE ATTITUDE: What an individual internalizes concerning his/her own heterosexual mores.

7. PREMARITAL SEXUAL PERMISSIVENESS SCALE: Designed to measure the degree of tolerance of certain behavior related to one's personal beliefs about sexual activities (69).

8. SEX EDUCATION: A systematic body of knowledge dealing with biological, sociological, and psychological aspects of human sexuality, which centers around cognitive and affective insight.

9. SEXUAL ACTIVITY: Synonymous with "practices" to indicate overt physical action.

10. SEX INFORMATION: Cognitive-affective awareness of facts and issues involved in human sexuality.

11. SEX KNOWLEDGE INVENTORY: Inventory developed by Dr. Gelolo McHugh (53) to measure knowledge in various areas pertaining to human sexuality.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF THE RELATED LITERATURE

There are many factors operating when human beings make decisions relative to their behavioral patterns. In addressing this question, Kimble and Carmezy made the following statement:

> At least as important as the knowledge, opinions, and beliefs, in governing a person's behavior, and as important a component of his attitudes, are his feelings about things. This suggests the value of identifying an emotional or affective component of attitudes and of defining an attitude in terms of both components. An attitude thus consists of 1) knowledge (or an opinion or a belief) with respect to the object of the attitude and 2) an emotional or affective reaction to the same thing (42).

Taking the above quote into consideration, it seems that knowledge or the lack thereof would play an important part in the attitudes and ultimate behavior of an individual. In addition to knowledge, several other variables must be considered when attempting to determine what influences behavior. For example, the family background, religious upbringing, and various other socio-economic variables all enter into the formulation of attitudes and behavior. Consequently, the purpose of this chapter was to investigate the research which dealt with attitudes, behavior, and the variables which were important in determining sexual permissiveness and knowledge about human sexuality. Further, sexual standards in general were summarized.

I. A THEORY OF HUMAN SEXUAL STANDARDS

Sexual behavior of the American public has been assessed for many years. Two female journalists were among the first individuals to study sexual behavior. Bromley and Britten (9) investigated attitudes among college students in the 1930's. Their major classification consisted of virgins and nonvirgins and sub-categories based upon attitudes expressed by the subjects. The researchers had several procedural problems and their efforts represented a rather non-scientific classification of sexual standards, but the research certainly did represent an attempt to assess college sex life in the 1930's.

Rockwood and Ford (73) in 1945 developed a classification system for premarital sex standards. Their system consisted of four categories for both males and females. The categories were: 1) sexual relations for both men and women, 2) sexual relations for neither, 3) sexual relations for men only, and 4) sexual relations between engaged only. The chief criticism of this system seems to be the necessity of lumping together quite different sexual beliefs. For example, under the heading of sexual relations for neither, this particular classification scheme lumps those who would not accept kissing and those who would pet to orgasm. Reiss also pointed out additional weaknesses in Rockwood and Ford's classification system:

> . . . there are important sexual standards that are left out entirely; for instance, in what category could an individual be placed who believed that men had more sexual rights than women but that women were allowed to have coitus when in love or engaged? If such a person checked "sex relations for both," then the equalitarian aspect is overestimated; if he checked "sex relations for men only," the equalitarian aspect is understated. This is a popular standard in our culture, and yet there does not seem to be a clear-cut category for it in the Rockwood and Ford classification scheme (69).

Another investigator, Ehrmann (20), analyzed the sex codes of students at the University of Florida. His particular set of standards centered around the 1) double, 2) conservative single, 3) general liberal single, and 4) lover liberal single. The categories used by Ehrmann are quite similar to those other investigators have used and consequently are open to the same criticisms cited earlier. Other researchers such as Terman (79), Burgess and Wallin (10), Kinsey (45), Gebhard (46), and Kirkendall (47), are but a few of the researchers who have studied sexual relationships in America. However, the first individual to focus fully on sexual attitudes and not just behavior was Ira L. Reiss. Reiss (69) attempted to overcome some of the limitations of previous studies by developing a set of standards which better met the needs of present-day American society. Like previous researchers his classification for premarital sexual standards was based upon four criteria: 1) Abstinence, 2) double standard, 3) permissiveness without affection, and

4) permissiveness with affection. In addition, each category consisted of sub-headings which allowed individuals to classify themselves into sub-types under each of the four main headings. The complete classification scheme of Reiss's premarital sexual standards is presented in Table I.

As can be determined from Table I, Reiss's classification allows for a more precise definition of an individual's premarital sexual attitudes. Researchers have generally accepted Reiss's classification and even after several years, it still seems to be the standard by which permissive attitude in America is measured. However, Reiss's classification scheme also has certain drawbacks for it is difficult for many individuals to perceive clearly their sexual beliefs. In addition, Reiss pointed out another shortcoming of the classification scheme when he stated ". . . a typological approach involves a mixture of dimensions, and it is difficult to compare all standards along any one continuum" (71). For these reasons Reiss decided to develop a series of scales which would better measure premarital sexual permissiveness. These scales will be discussed in greater detail in Chapter III. The last section of Chapter II presents the research findings in studies which have employed Reiss's scale in addition to other research dealing with sexual permissiveness.

TABLE I

REISS'S PREMARITAL SEXUAL STANDARDS IN AMERICA

Abstinence	Double Standard	Permissiveness without Affection	Permissiveness with Affection
Premarital intercourse is considered wrong for both sexes. (a) Petting without affection--petting is acceptable even when affection is negligible. (b) Petting with affection--petting is acceptable only in a stable, affectionate relationship (c) Kissing without affection--only kissing is acceptable, but no affection is required. (d) Kissing with affection--only kissing is acceptable, and only in a stable, affectionate relationship.	Males are considered to have greater rights to premarital intercourse. (a) Orthodox--males may have intercourse, but females who do are condemned. (b) Transitional--males have greater access to coitus, but females who are in love or engaged are allowed to have intercourse.	Premarital intercourse is right for both sexes regardless of the amount of affection present. (a) Orgiastic--pleasure is of such importance that precautions are not stressed. (b) Sophisticated--pleasure is stressed, but precautions to avoid VD and pregnancy are of first importance.	Premarital intercourse is acceptable for both sexes if part of a stable affectionate relationship. (a) Love--love or engagement is a prerequisite for coitus. (b) Strong affection--strong affection is a sufficient prerequisite for coitus.

Source: Ira L. Reiss, The Social Context of Premarital Sexual Permissiveness. New York: Holt Rinehart and Winston, 1967, p. 19.

II. REISS'S PROPOSITIONS

Using the Premarital Sexual Permissiveness Scale he developed, Reiss (71) tested three major samples. These samples represented the first national probability sample that had been used for sociological analysis of sexual relationships. The permissive scale was tested using the following samples: The Five School Student Sample, The National Adult Sample, and The Iowa College Sample. The total number tested in the three samples was 2734.

The results of Reiss's (71) comparisons were summarized in the form of several propositions or conclusions. From the research the following were reported as propositions:

1. The lower the traditional level of sexual permissiveness in a group, the greater the likelihood that social forces will alter individual levels of sexual permissiveness.

2. The stronger the amount of general liberality in a group, the greater the likelihood that social forces will maintain high levels of sexual permissiveness.

3. To the extent that individual ties to the marital and family institutions differ, individuals will tend to display a different type of sensitivity to permissiveness to social forces.

4. The higher the general level of permissiveness in a group, the greater the extent of equalitarianism within the abstinence and double-standard classifications.

5. Differences in the potential for permissiveness in one's basic set of parentally derived values is a key determinant of the number, rate, and direction of changes in one's premarital sexual standards and behavior.

6. There is a general tendency for the individual to perceive of his parents' permissiveness as a low point on a permissive continuum and his peer's permissiveness as a high point, and to place himself somewhat closer to his peers, particularly to those he regards as his close friends.

7. The greater the responsibility for other family members and/or the less the courtship participation, the greater the likelihood that the individual will be low on permissiveness.

III. INVESTIGATIONS UTILIZING REISS'S PREMARITAL PERMISSIVENESS SCALE

Since the appearance of the Premarital Sexual Permissiveness Scale, investigators have utilized it extensively to test permissive attitude. For example, Harrison, Bennett, Globetti, and Alsikafi (32) used Reiss's permissive scale to assess the premarital sexual standards of rural youth who were juniors and seniors in Mississippi

high schools. One interesting finding was that more Mississippi white youths endorsed "permissiveness without affection" to a greater extent than Reiss's Student Sample. The researchers believed this suggested a relationship to the sexual revolution among the younger population through associating sex with love, and thus seeing sex as a legitimate manifestation of love.

Eysenck (21) used the shorter five item "universal scale" devised by Reiss from the original 12-item scale. Eysenck tested 427 males and 436 female subjects between the ages of 20 and 50 years. The researcher compared certain personality variables with the permissiveness scores of the subjects. It was found that men were more permissive than women on all five items of the universal scale. He also reported that subjects who scored high on the personality scale factor psychoticism were more permissive than those subjects who scored low and that extroverts were slightly more permissive than introverts.

Another study which utilized Reiss's scale involved 117 voluntary women subjects who were tested by McMahon (55). The subjects were taken from classes taught at Washington University in Saint Louis, the secretarial staff at Washington University, and the secretarial staff at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville. The sample was divided into three groups according to age and marital status, and matched for educational background, religious

affiliation and attendance, social class, race, and rural-urban background. The significant findings in this research were that the younger women were more permissive and had less guilty sexual feelings than the older women. Further, the younger married women reported a wider variety of heterosexual behavior than their older counterparts.

IV. ATTITUDE AND SEXUAL BEHAVIOR

The research completed by Diamant (17) was an outgrowth of an investigation done by Halleck (30) at the University of Wisconsin. Halleck suggested that permissive sexual behavior could potentiate mental illness in young females. Diamant tested 116 undergraduates enrolled in upper level courses at the University of North Carolina. The group ranged in age from 19-25 years and consisted of 54 males and 62 females. No relationship could be found between premarital sexual behavior and emotional adjustment for the subjects in this study. In fact no difference in emotional adjustment in either male or female students who had and those who had not had premarital intercourse was found. In this research the average age of initial premarital intercourse for males was 18.09 years and 18.52 years for females. Premarital intercourse was engaged in by 47 of the 62 females. Of the total group of males and females, 26 percent reported having intercourse with only one partner, 11 percent with two or three different partners, and 10 percent had more than three sexual

partners. Interestingly, low permissiveness scores were related to maladjustment in males.

Ard (2) used a group of married couples which had been originally studied by Kelly (40) from 1935-38. At the time Ard tested the group, 322 persons were still living as husband and wife. With the exception of superior education and intelligence, the sample was very similar to the general population. Regarding religious affiliations, 82 percent of the males and 89 percent of the females indicated membership in some church. Of the men 45 percent reported having had premarital intercourse with their future spouse, while 39 percent of the women reported premarital intercourse with their future spouse. The interjudge reliability coefficient was .72 which indicated ". . . a high degree of agreement between the respondents on reporting a mutually experienced fact" (2). The men reported that they had premarital intercourse with others whom they felt considerable affection in 32 percent of the cases, while the women reported this fact in only 9 percent of the cases. In addition, only 1 percent of the women reported having sexual intercourse with a variety of partners, while 20 percent of the men reported such behavior. It is interesting to note that the portion of the sample (men and women) who had premarital intercourse felt that it had no adverse effect on their later marriage. Those who had not had premarital intercourse

rated their experience as having a favorable effect upon their marriages more often than an unfavorable one.

The above-mentioned study also reported the greater likelihood of premarital intercourse as one moved from a casual acquaintanceship to a more affectionate relationship with one's future spouse. Kirkendall (47) reported less premarital intercourse as the interpersonal relationship ranged from casual to a more involved relationship. It must be noted, however, that Kirkendall's findings were based on 200 college level unmarried men between the ages of 17 and 23 years. Kirkendall reasoned that such a group would tend to be exploitative and promiscuous in their sexual behavior. Ard's (2) study does agree with Reiss's (70) that premarital sexual standards in the United States were moving in the direction of being more permissive with affection and linking sex and love together. Another study which supported Reiss's contention was reported by Robinson, King, and Balswick (72). These researchers surveyed 395 females in a southern university to ascertain the extent of change in sexual behavior and attitudes from data gathered five years previously. What was reported was a major change in incidence of premarital coitus and petting in the women from the sample gathered five years earlier.

Frede (25) studied sexual attitudes and behavior of 275 females and 326 males enrolled in a marriage, family, and sex education course. The researcher reported that

males had a higher incidence of premarital intercourse, and masturbation to orgasm than did the females. In addition, the males had a higher active incidence of homosexual relations than the females. Females were found to have more orthodox attitudes toward sex than males, and for the female, "going steady" was the relationship in which the greatest active incidence of premarital intercourse took place. Religious adherence was related negatively to premarital intercourse as was age at first date, onset of adolescence, and size of community in which the high school years were spent. Christensen and Carpenter (14) also found women less permissive than men among college students. They reported that students at small colleges were less permissive than those at the public institutions.

Vincent and Barton (82) studied unmarried coeds enrolled in the personal health courses at the University of South Carolina. In response to questions concerning attitudes and behaviors, the researchers noted that college students were not adament in describing premarital sexual intercourse as right or wrong. As would be expected, sexually active students generally did not consider their behavior incongruous with their value preference. However, many of the abstainers did prefer a value system whereby sexual intercourse was acceptable even though marriage or engagement were not pending.

Vincent and Barton (82) also questioned what the significance of these changing attitudes and behaviors were to the health educator. The researchers feared that many people assumed that the sexually active individual did not need instruction in sex education. They wrote that even though it had been demonstrated that many sexually active students possessed a very low level of knowledge about sexual anatomy, there should be more to sex education than the dissemination of factual knowledge. They quoted Hoyman ". . . love and sexual behavior involve the whole person; so sex education should be concerned with all dimensions of personality, not just the biologic" (35).

Zuckerman, Tushup, and Finner (87) concluded that the typical student electing to take a course in human sexuality at the college level did not represent a random sample of the college population. The researchers stated that those individuals taking a course in human sexuality were more permissive in their attitudes and more experienced in sexual behavior than a random selection of college students in a control group. In general, a course in human sexuality seemed to affect attitudes toward coital experience itself. About 20 percent of the females in this research showed a change to more permissive attitudes, but only 5 percent of the females actually had coital experience with a new partner during the course. Finally, the

researchers concluded that sexual permissiveness in college students seemed to be an expression of a healthy capacity for warm interpersonal relationships rather than a neurotic search for security.

V. KNOWLEDGE AND SEXUAL BEHAVIOR

Hoch (34) studied 100 students in a high school biology class in Indiana to see if there was a change in attitude as a result of sex education. The researcher believed that one of the major criticisms of sex education was that it lowered the moral standards of those taking the course. Using Reiss's Premarital Sexual Permissiveness Scale and a 58 item sex terminology test, Hoch found that the levels of permissiveness for both males and females did not change significantly as a result of the unit of instruction. There was, however, a significant change in the student's confidence in their ability to make correct decisions in the future involving their own sexual behavior. The researchers believed that the subjects were equipped to make more intelligent decisions concerning their sexuality following the unit of instruction.

Neely (60), in his study of 244 unwed pregnant girls who were in the care of a private child-placing agency, found that among this sample of girls there seemed to be no relationship between sexual knowledge and permissiveness.

As a matter of fact, among all the relationships tested by Neely, the only significant relationship was that of church attendance and sexual permissiveness. The greater the church attendance, the less the sexual permissiveness. This relationship was also demonstrated to be true in Reiss's study as reported in Lieberman's (48) anthology. Even though the girls in Neely's study were all pregnant, it was apparent that some of the girls did not know how they had become pregnant nor did they know or understand contraception, labor, or birth. Bowerman, Irish, and Pope (8) felt that premarital sexual coital behavior could be divided into two basic kinds of acts: 1) intercourse resulting from emotional "spontaneous combustion," and 2) intercourse that is rationally contemplated and planned in advance. It is interesting to note that among Neely's (60) sample of pregnant girls, there seemed to be no relationship between permissiveness and having participated in a sex education course.

McHugh (54) tested 196 male and 195 females having a median age of 17 years on their knowledge and vocabulary and anatomy of sex and reproduction. All of the students had recently completed a course in family living prior to the testing. The average high school senior in this study could correctly answer less than 60 percent of the test items. McHugh stated that no one should claim to solve the social and personal sex problems of youth simply by

teaching sex vocabulary and anatomy. However, ". . . clear understanding of facts is a prerequisite to communication of attitudes" (54). As might be expected, McHugh concluded that ". . . knowledge of the beneficial facts of sex and reproduction in high school seniors is far from adequate" (54).

Fassbender (22) compared health and physical education teachers with differing levels of knowledge about sex and family living in terms of their attitudes toward sex and sex education. He also attempted to determine the levels of knowledge by administering the Family Life Sex Education Inventory. The instrument used to measure attitudes was Reiss's permissiveness scale. The results of this research indicated there was no significant association between levels of knowledge about sex and family living and attitudes toward sex or attitudes toward sex education for the health and physical education groups.

Reichelt and Werley (67) compared the sex knowledge of girls before and after sex education rap sessions. In their investigation they used 367 girls ranging in ages from 14 to 17 years who were coming to the Youth Education of Sex Teen Center. The groups were sponsored by the Planned Parenthood League, Inc., of Detroit. The researchers used a Total Knowledge Scale based on 39 venereal disease, birth control, and abortion items. The researchers reported that there was a significant increase

in mean scores on the scales following participation in the rap sessions. In attempting to determine how age, race, socioeconomic status, and educational level affected the results, it was reported that the rap sessions helped everyone increase their knowledge to a level which exceeded the pre-rap session score of the most knowledgeable subgroup.

Several other studies have used sexual knowledge to help assess one's attitude concerning human sexuality. Machen (49) exposed 50 subjects to 10 hours of instruction in sex education with another 50 subjects serving as a control group and receiving no instruction. Each group received a polygraph examination to determine the initial sex concept anxiety level. Machen reported that after receiving instruction in sex education, a significant reduction in the sex concepts anxiety level of the experimental group occurred upon administering a second polygraph examination. Vorgeas (83) also reported similar results for pre-testing and post-testing a group of 117 college freshmen. The researcher found that the group exposed to a unit of instruction and a textbook made greater gains in cognitive and affective changes than those groups who received no instruction or who were given a textbook only. The group receiving sex instruction was also more desensitized to visual and auditory stimuli describing sexual activity.

A group of 194 elementary teachers was tested by Hobbs (33), and he found that elementary teachers with more than 15 hours' graduate work expressed greater sexual knowledge than those with less than 15 hours of graduate work. Further, those teachers with less than five years' experience expressed a more liberal attitude toward sex education than those with more experience. Interestingly, Presbyterians as a religious group had the greatest sexual knowledge; Church of Christ had the least amount of sexual knowledge.

VI. RELIGION AND SEXUALITY

Barfield (4) studied the relationship between sex information scores and selected personality variables, religious commitment, and biographical variables among 780 University of Houston students. She found that among this group of students, religious affiliation did not predict sex information, and sex information did not predict religious commitment. However, the following variables did have an influence on sex information: 1) age, 2) major subject, 3) authoritarianism, 4) sex, 5) marital status, 6) first source of sex information, 7) age when first learned about sex, 8) Scholastic Aptitude Test verbal scores, and 9) socioeconomic status.

As mentioned above, studies have pointed out that religion may or may not be an important variable to

consider when addressing the issue of human sexuality. O'Neil and Donovan, writing in a religious-oriented journal, made the following statement:

> Sexual union is such a total human act that if used irresponsibly it can lead to cynicism, frigidity, desensitization to other human values and emotions. Ultimately it can result in the supreme tragedy of dooming a person to lifelong unhappiness--the inability to love at all (62).

Most writers are not as emphatic, but do realize the importance of religion in determining attitudes. Mol (59) investigated religion and sex in Australia. The researcher surveyed 400 students ranging in age from 17-23 from middle income homes. Half the sample was women. One-third the females admitted having had sexual intercourse. Of the 67 percent who reported they were virgins, 63 percent believed in God. Of the males, 50 percent reported they were virgin and 54 percent of this group expressed a belief in God.

Using six questions modified from Reiss's scale and gathering information concerning religious affiliation and church attendance, Thomas (81) sampled 337 students. The sample was made up of 114 males and 223 females ranging in age from 20-28 years. Thirteen percent of the subjects were married, but were instructed to answer questions as they applied before their marriage. Forty-five percent of the males and 27 percent of the females reported having premarital intercourse. The researcher

found that the lower the conservatism, the poorer the church attendance, the greater the lack of religious affiliation, the more favorable the attitude toward premarital sexual behavior and the greater the incidence of sexual experience among the sample. In all probability strong conservatism seems to be associated with strong religious affiliation. Roodin and Vaught (74), although investigating birth order and conservatism, found that first-born women were no more conservative than later-born siblings, and that there was a definite relationship between the individual's religion and conservatism.

In a study done by Alston (1) on attitudes of white Protestants and Catholics toward nonmarital sex, large percentages of both males and females, whether Catholic or Protestant, believed any sexual contact was wrong. This included extramarital sex or premarital sex for either the male or female. Carpenter (13) attempted to focus on the relationship that existed between differential cultural norms and individual attitudes and behavior concerning premarital intimacy. The researcher tested 149 males and 86 females at the University of Copenhagen, 213 males and 142 females at Purdue University, and 94 males and 74 females at a university enrolling a high proportion of Mormons. Again in this study it was reported that less permissive attitudes and lower rates of premarital coitus were related to higher levels of religious participation

in all three of the cultures investigated.

In Clayton's (15) study the amounts of variation in permissive attitude were attributed to religiosity for 54 of the 90 males and 36 of the 90 females. Dedman (16) tested 46 percent of registered senior males one year and 59 percent the next year. In addition, 80 percent of the incoming freshman males were tested. The results of this study indicated that there was no relationship between the father's social class and premarital sexual behavior. Maranell, Dodder and Mitchell (50) also reported that there was no relationship between social class and permissiveness. Both Dedman's (16) and the Maranell (50) study support the results obtained by Reiss (71) concerning premarital sexual behavior.

King, Abernathy, Robinson, and Balswick (43) reported testing 295 white, single, Protestant college students in a large southern university. The sample included 134 males and 161 females which were matched according to place of residence, age, and social class. The researchers reported that no significant relationship existed between religiosity and premarital sexual behavior. The researchers did state that religiosity was more strongly related to premarital sexual attitudes among males than among females. In essence, the more religious the male, the more likely he was to see premarital sexual intercourse as immoral.

VII. ADDITIONAL SOCIOECONOMIC FACTORS AFFECTING SEXUALITY

Another concern of researchers has been the role of the family and peer groups upon an individual's sexuality. To investigate the role of the family, peers, and other reference groups, Walsh (84) tested 343 females and 82 males taking introductory sociology courses. Several significant results were reported. For example, students were more sexually permissive than their parents with little association between the self-reported permissiveness of a parent and the same sex child. It was also reported that the perceived permissiveness of close friends was highly related to the permissiveness of the students. Further, those who chose the church as their main reference group were lower on permissiveness than those who chose their parents, who in turn were lower than those who chose their peers as their reference group. Finally, 87 percent of the men and 71 percent of the women approved of full sexual relations if their most important reference group approved of it.

Teevan (78), in a study quite similar to the one just mentioned, did not consider religion as a significant factor, but did report that parent-oriented college students were more sexually conservative than those who were less parent-oriented. Like the previous study, Teevan reported that if the peer reference group was conservative, the subjects were also conservative, and

if the peer reference group was permissive, the subjects were permissive. Finally, the individuals who were peer-oriented to permissive peers were the most sexually permissive while those students who were parent-oriented to conservative parents were the least sexually permissive. It seemed that in both the previously mentioned studies, two forces were acting on the subjects as far as permissive attitude: 1) choice of reference group, and 2) the permissiveness of the individual's reference group.

In a study done by Walsh, Ferrell, and Tolone (85), it was reported that during the college careers of students that they became more peer-oriented and less parent-oriented. This change in reference group orientation was positively related to an increase in permissive attitude toward premarital sexual intercourse with a longitudinal movement to a more permissive behavioral pattern.

Gerson (28) commented on the role of the father in female promiscuity. When the father attempted to build an empire within his household, his daughter might have been as destructively and controllingly aggressive as he. But since she was unable to challenge the father openly, she might have found a different way to use this aggression with which she had identified. She might have used her femininity to lure and castrate other strong men, and in the process brought her father's control (and wishes for morality) crashing down on him--an interesting comment, but

one that was difficult to pursue in the literature. Perhaps a more reasonable pursuit would be to view the entire socialization process and the resulting effect upon the individual. A later investigation by Gerson (29) also supported the hypothesis that women whose mothers had been viewed negatively during their upbringing are more likely to become promiscuous than those who viewed them positively. The researcher did go on to state that both parents probably provided a great deal of influence in the development of promiscuity in the female and the overlap of parental influence was probably considerable.

Spanier (75) investigated the sexual socialization process and its impact on premarital sexual behavior. After interviewing 1177 college students, a complex social-psychological network of variables seemed to influence sexual behavior. Religiosity while growing up was not as important as the current feelings toward religion and having premarital sex. Some other variables which were significantly related to premarital sexual involvement were: 1) the college and high school dating frequency, 2) the perceived sexual knowledge, 3) the exposure to sexuality and erotic materials, and 4) previous sexual experiences. For all four of the above-mentioned facts, the earlier and greater the exposure, the greater the sexual involvement. The researcher also reported that male sexuality was subject to more influences from peers

and mass media than were the females. The males reported more sexual involvement at every age level, had more sexual knowledge, were exposed to erotic material more often, and received a greater amount of sex information from their peer group than had the females. For the woman, the mother was a great source of sex information but for both males and females, independent reading was the greatest source of their sex information.

The concept of self-esteem has also been investigated as to how it relates to sexual permissiveness. Perlman (64) used what he described as a moderate Canadian campus and a liberal New York State College. In the moderate group there was a nonsignificant association between low self-esteem and high permissiveness, while in the liberal sample high esteem respondents reported more coital partners. Berman and Osborn (6) did two studies on self-esteem and permissiveness. The results of these studies indicated a significant correlation between low self-esteem and sexual behavior for the males, but not for the females in this particular study. While the former study was done at Northwestern University, utilizing university students, Black and Blankenship (7) used delinquent adolescent girls. These investigators reported that sexually-delinquent girls placed high reward value for love and affection, but had a low expectancy for attaining it. Perhaps it could be inferred that these young women

had low self-esteem and were quite willing to be permissive in an attempt to satisfy their love and affection needs.

Cameron (12) assessed the sexual knowledge and sexual activity of three different age groups. The study consisted of 317 white Detroiters of whom half were female. The age classifications used were 18-25, 40-45, and 65-79 with the subjects evenly divided among the three classifications. The oldest group judged themselves and were judged by the other two groups as having the least amount of sexual knowledge. This is probably to be expected since the makeup of the 65-79-year-old group had the least amount of education of the three classifications. The middle-aged group was judged most knowledgeable about sex and the ones most sexually skillful. The youngest group was judged most desirous of and physically capable of sexual activity. The young group was also believed to make the most attempts at sexual activity as well as having the greatest access and frequency of sexual activity. In another study dealing with sexual activity, Johnson (36) commented on five different bases for extramarital coitus. What was interesting about these suggestions were that four of the statements could be said to be the basis for premarital coitus among the young. The suggestions put forth were: 1) opportunity for involvement, 2) potential or projective involvement, 3) perceived desire of others for involvement, and 4) the justification of involvement. The fifth basis

dealt with marital sexual satisfaction, but the previous four could certainly be considerations for an individual when deciding to have or when seeking premarital coitus.

Kinsey (45, 46) has provided a wealth of data on sexual permissiveness and set the tone for most studies of premarital coitus. In Kinsey's findings the less-educated male began sexual intercourse five-six years earlier than the better-educated male, and the college-educated male never surpassed the less-educated male in sexual activity. Similarly, Kinsey (46) reported the less-educated female began her coital activity five-six years earlier than the high school- or college-educated woman. However, the high school- and college-educated females eventually achieved or surpassed the coital rates for the less-educated female. For Kinsey's research, each educational group was a social class with its own mores. For men (45), level of educational achievement was the most powerful predictor of coital behavior. For women (46) church attendance was the best predictor of coital behavior.

Sutter and Gilliard (77) have pointed out a difference in sexual attitudes and behavior between blacks and whites. These researchers reported that black males' sexual attitudes and behavior were significantly more liberal than those of black females, white females, and white males. This study was conducted at three universities in Louisiana utilizing unmarried subjects between 17 and

29 years of age. This research was in general agreement with what Reiss (68), Kinsey (45, 46) and others have reported in their findings that blacks as a group were more permissive than whites. However, Rainwater (66) pointed out that it is a mistake to assume that all sexual values and practices are alike in all groups. Even though blacks have more liberal attitudes and coitus at earlier ages than their white counterparts, it seems that ". . . competitive and exploitative attitudes on both sides (black male and black female) make sexual gratification an uncertain matter" (66). It is also important to remember that Rainwater had reference to the lower socioeconomic black and his existence in a slum or ghetto culture.

Behavioral patterns and social mores seem to be constantly in flux in our society. For years Americans have been reading about the sexual revolution and the changing attitudes toward premarital sex. Ferm (23) believed that Sweden had a healthier, more favorable attitude toward sex. However, there were indications that there was truly a change taking place in sexual attitudes in the United States. For example, Bell and Chaskes (5) reported that a change has been occurring in sexual experiences of college women since the mid-1960's. The investigators sampled 250 coeds in 1958 and another 205 coeds in 1968. The subjects were matched by age, class standing, social class as measured by education and occupations of the

father, and religious backgrounds. The researchers reported that the commitment of engagement has become a less important condition for many coeds engaging in premarital coitus. Further, there seemed to be less guilt feelings about the experience than in the past. They concluded that there is a widening split between conventional morality of the adult world and the real behavior common to many groups of young people. The actual coitus rate went from 15 percent in 1958 to 28 percent in 1968. Parelius (63) supported the above statements to a degree in her study of emerging sex-role attitudes of college women. This researcher reported that senior college women in 1973 had become much more feminist in their attitude and that their definition of sex-roles had changed rapidly between their first and last years of college. Although not stated as such, it certainly seemed reasonable that this change toward a more liberal attitude might have been accompanied by a change in coitus rates.

Byrne (11) believed that as we grow up, individuals acquire a mixture of positive and negative feelings concerning sexual cues. This mixture of positive and negative feelings is different for each person and leads to individual sexual attitudes which the research labeled erotophilia-erotophobia. Utilizing over 100 Purdue undergraduates, the researcher found that the erotophobes disapproved of premarital sex, felt that sex was unimportant

and should be linked with love, felt that explicit sexual material was potentially harmful, disliked oral sex, and disapproved of abortion and birth control clinics. The erotophiles held opposite views on these matters.

Byrne's (11) research indicated the more negative and anxious individuals were about sexuality (erotophobes), the more likely they were to risk an unwanted pregnancy. The researcher explained this by stating that the negative feelings about sex were not strong enough to inhibit sexual behavior completely, but were strong enough to inhibit the use of contraception. The researcher believed that the erotophobes were less likely to anticipate sexual encounters, to endure the embarrassment of acquiring preventive measures, to communicate with the sex partner concerning contraception, or to utilize contraceptive techniques.

Finger (24) did two studies 30 years apart which assessed the changes in sexual practices and beliefs of the male college student. The researcher concluded that the "sex revolution" following World War II did not take the form of increased heterosexual behavior in males, but rather in the emergence of a more permissive attitude toward premarital coitus, a weakening of the double standard, and increase of intimate premarital sexual behavior in college-age individuals. The researcher reported 40 percent of the females and 60 percent of the

males had sexual intercourse by the end of their senior year in college. This compared to Kinsey's (45, 46) figures of 25 percent for females and 50 percent for males for coital rates of college individuals done several years earlier.

Kaats and Davis (39) reported an unchanging level of sexual activity for college men with a gradual increase in sexual activity for college women through the late 1960's. They went on to state that the double standard still existed, and, for both sexes, affection was desired with the individual with whom they had sexual relations. Athanasion, Shaver, and Tavris (3) in a study of the sexual habits and attitudes of the American public, reported that 75 percent of those sampled believed premarital sexual intercourse was acceptable for consenting adults who shared affection. Interestingly, 80 percent of the sample stated that extra-marital sex was all right under various sets of circumstances. It should be pointed out that this sample was described as politically liberal, young (under 30), and well educated (the median educational level was college). Two-thirds earned over $10,000 a year, and 5 percent of the subjects stated they were atheist or agnostic.

King and Sobel (43) sampled 668 single students attending a four-year state college in northern California. Average age for the 297 men was 21.8 years and for the 371 women, 20.7 years. Forty-one percent of the women and 32

percent of the men reported that their father had at least a college degree. Consequently, this represented a more advantaged portion of the general population. From the research it was noted that 70 percent of the men and 52 percent of the women first engaged in intercourse at 18 years of age or younger. This fact was also pointed out by Gagnon and Simon (26) in 1968 and viewed as a sign of radical change in sexual behavior. The researchers also pointed out that intercourse tended to be more frequent in those in more intimate dating situations. This fact did not seem at all that unusual, but what was worth noting was the fact that almost 12 percent of the men and 9 percent of the women reported living with a lover.

Juhasz (38) assessed the patterns of premarital behavior and reported that the incidence of intimate heterosexuals in 1975 has increased from those figures reported in earlier research. Juhasz reported that 40 percent of the females and 60 percent of the males have had sexual intercourse. These figures compare with 25 percent and 50 percent as reported in Kinsey's (45, 46) work. The researcher also stated that many of the subjects interviewed had no intention of marrying their sexual partner and that oral-sexual activity was a widespread premarital activity.

King and Sobel (44) also found that most student sexual activity took place within the context of an intimate relationship. This concept contradicts the

thought that today's youth's sexual behavior is impersonal and promiscuous. These researchers also believed that the double standard is disappearing. The research concluded that college students of the 1970's were more concerned about the kind of relationship in which intercourse should occur as opposed to whether it should occur before marriage.

VIII. SUMMARY OF RELATED LITERATURE

A review of studies concerned with the measurement of sexual attitudes seemed to indicate that previous to Reiss's extensive research, few studies had probed the area of sexual attitudes: rather than attitudes, the early studies focused on sexual behavior. The permissive scale developed by Reiss had been widely used by many investigators and seemed to be the best instrument to date for the measurement of sexual permissiveness.

The search of the literature indicated there were a multiplicity of considerations in examining sexual attitudes and behavior. Personal and socioeconomic factors such as age, sex, race, income, religion, family attitudes, and peer groups all influence sexual attitudes and behavior. However, indications have been present for some time now that the sexual mores of American society have been changing. The percentage of young adults favoring premarital coitus has been steadily increasing as well as the percentage that has actually engaged in intercourse. Running throughout

the literature was the concept that today's young adult does not question having sexual intercourse, but the framework within which it should take place is an important consideration. With the endorsing of premarital coitus has come the attitude of importance for affection or feeling for one's partner. This attitude was certainly reciprocal to the notion that today's young adults were impersonal and promiscuous in their sexual behavior and attitudes.

CHAPTER III

METHODS AND PROCEDURES

I. SAMPLE

For the purposes of this investigation a sample of male and female college students was used. The sample consisted of incoming freshmen and the senior education majors at Memphis State University. The freshmen men and women were selected from those who had enrolled in Personal Health 1102 during the Fall semester at Memphis State University. All individuals who were classified as freshmen and who had never been married at the time of testing were used in the investigation. From the original group of freshmen tested, all males and all females who were classified as either high permissive attitude or low permissive attitude were selected for analysis. The original freshman group tested consisted of 305 subjects. From this sample Reiss's permissiveness scale was used to categorize the subjects into high or low permissive groups. Out of the original 305 freshmen subjects tested, 135 were classified as having high permissive attitude and 77 were classified as having low permissive attitude. The low permissive group consisted of 17 males and 60 females. Of this group, 12 were black, with the remaining sample being white. The low permissive black group consisted of 4 males and 8 females. The white group

was made up of 12 males and 53 females. The high permissive group consisted of 55 males and 80 females. This group consisted of 17 black males and 31 black females with the remaining group being white. The white group was made up of 38 males and 49 females.

The seniors were elementary and secondary majors who were registered for student teaching during the Fall or Spring semesters of 1977 at Memphis State University. All elementary majors, male and female, were tested in this investigation. A total of 138 were tested with 76 of the subjects classified as high permissive and 25 subjects classified as low permissive subjects. The low permissive senior group consisted of 20 females and 5 males. All were white. The high permissive group was made up of 29 males and 47 females. Nine black males were classified as high permissive subjects. There were no black females classified as either high or low permissive subjects.

These groups were selected for comparison because of the school's role in sex education. The senior group represented those who assumedly had received some instruction in sex education in Personal Health 1102. This course was a requirement for all College of Education majors. The freshman group represented a sample of which the majority would become education majors. Consequently, the amount of knowledge, the permissive attitude, and sexual behavior could be judged at entrance and exit to the college of education.

II. COLLECTION OF DATA

The data for this investigation were collected during the Spring and Fall semesters of 1977. The education majors were administered the instruments during the Spring semester of 1977. This time of the year was selected because all education majors expecting to student teach were scheduled for an orientation session. Since this offered an opportunity to test the entire sample at one setting, all unmarried individuals preparing to student teach were asked to appear one hour prior to the orientation meeting. At that time the research was explained to the subjects and assurances were given as to the confidentiality of the investigation. No names were used in the investigation and the only possible identifying features were age, sex, major area of study, and year in school. In addition, the subjects were given the option of either participating or not participating in the study. All the students who agreed to take part in the investigation were required to sign a Consent to Test form. Those students not present were contacted the next day and asked to participate. All who agreed to complete the test instruments did so the following day. The total groups tested during the two testing sessions were utilized for purposes of analysis. Divorced, widowed or married subjects were not utilized in the study because the researcher was interested only in the knowledge,

permissive attitude, and behavior of single, unmarried individuals.

The data were collected from the freshmen during the second class meeting of their particular sections during the Fall semester 1977. The personal health classes were scheduled either on a Monday-Wednesday-Friday or Tuesday-Thursday sequence. The three day-a-week sections met for 50 minutes while the two day-a-week sections met for an hour and a half. All tests were administered by the researcher. As with the senior education majors, confidentiality and the option to participate were given. All subjects signed the Consent to Test form. The institution offers 14 sections of Personal Health Course. Thirteen sections were tested between 8:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. The one evening section was tested at 6:30 p.m. This particular section was offered on a Wednesday evening. If any of the freshmen meeting the criteria of being single and not divorced were absent, they were contacted and asked to participate. A separate testing session was established to meet the needs of their individual schedules. All subjects who had not appeared at the original testing time were contacted and all agreed to fill out the instruments at a later time. From this total of 305 the sample of high and low permissive males and females was drawn for analysis of their sexual knowledge, permissive attitude, and sexual behavior.

Permission to test the subjects was received from the Dean of the College of Education, the Director of Student Teaching, and the Chairman of the Health, Physical Education, and Recreation Department. Each instructor of the 14 sections was asked to allow their particular section(s) to be tested. All of the individual instructors involved agreed to do so.

Each of the two groups tested was analyzed first to determine the significant socioeconomic and sexual factors associated with each group. The senior education majors were compared as to the differences among the high permissive subjects and low permissive subjects. The freshmen were then analyzed as a group and comparisons among the high permissive and low permissive individuals were made. The freshmen and seniors who were classified as low permissives were then compared with seniors and freshmen who were classified as high permissives for any significant differences in the amount of knowledge, permissive attitudes, sexual behavior, and various socioeconomic variables.

Stated in terms of test hypotheses, the analyses carried out in this investigation were:

1. There were no differences between incoming freshmen and senior education majors in the level of sexual knowledge each group possessed.

2. The level of sexual knowledge possessed had no effect on permissive attitude or sexual behavior for either

the high permissive attitude or low permissive attitude groups.

3. There were no socioeconomic factors which differentiated high permissive attitude from low permissive attitude senior education majors.

4. There were no differences in sexual activity between high permissive or low permissive attitude seniors.

5. There were no socioeconomic factors which differentiated high permissive attitude from low permissive attitude freshmen.

6. There were no differences in sexual activity between high permissive attitude or low permissive attitude freshmen.

7. There were no socioeconomic differences between the combined groups of high permissive attitude seniors and freshmen and low permissive attitude seniors and freshmen.

8. There were no differences in sexual activity between the combined high permissive attitude groups and the combined low permissive attitude groups.

III. INSTRUMENTATION

To facilitate the testing of the hypotheses, three instruments were utilized. The three instruments used were a knowledge inventory, a permissive attitude scale, and a socioeconomic questionnaire.

The Knowledge Inventory

To assess the sexual knowledge of the subjects, the inventory developed by Gelolo McHugh of Family Life Publications was used. The inventory developed was the Sex Knowledge Inventory--Form X (53). Form X was an 80 question, multiple-choice test which dealt with sexual knowledge of which a well-informed individual should be aware. The Sex Knowledge Inventory was selected because it met the criteria suggested by Jones (37) in considering the selection of a test instrument. The criteria were:

1. Appropriateness to grade level: An inventory was needed which was suitable for college level students.
2. Reliability: An inventory was needed which was a reliable measure of factual questions.
3. Ease of Administration: An inventory was needed which was clear in its procedures in administering the test.
4. Ease of Scoring: It was necessary to score the test by computer since several hundred subjects would be taking the test.
5. Economy of Time: It was necessary that the knowledge portion of the testing package be completed in 40-45 minutes.

The validity of Form X was based upon face or content validity of the instrument. This did not represent a serious problem since the items had been evaluated and judged to be relevant to the knowledge area being measured. The instrument has been evaluated by a rather impressive array of experts as to the validity of Form X of the Sex

Knowledge Inventory. The reliability of the instrument was reported as .93 based upon the Kuder-Richardson formula (52). The reliability figure was based upon the revised addition of Form X in 1968 which was based upon the data of the 248 men and 235 women who took the test.

The 248 men used to establish the norms ranged in age from 18-42 with the mean age being 22.7 years. The standard deviation reported for the age factor was 4.07. The educational background ranged from 9 to 20 years with a mean of 14 years or sophomore level in college. The standard deviation reported for education was 4.65. The actual scores achieved by the men ranged from 20 to 73 with a mean of 47 and a standard deviation of 9.53.

The 235 women utilized for norm development ranged in age from 16 to 44 years. The mean age was 20.9 years with a standard deviation of 3.29. The educational range was 9-18 years with the mean being 13.5 years or slightly more than the first year of college. The standard deviation was 1.86 for the years in school. The women's score ranged from 22 to 73 correct responses with a mean score of 48.6 and a standard deviation of 8.84.

The Sex Knowledge Inventory--Form X contained well-constructed multiple-choice questions with five possible responses and was appropriate for college level use. The latter was believed to be true because Form X was originally designed for utilization by young adult groups.

Scale for Permissiveness

To measure premarital sexual permissive attitude, Reiss's permissiveness scale was used. Sexual permissive attitude was measured by a series of Guttman scaled items developed and tested by Ira Reiss. Kerlinger defined the Guttman or cumulative scale as one that ". . . consists of a relatively small set of homogeneous items that are unidimensional (or supposed to be) . . . (they) concentrate on the scalability of sets of items and on the scale position of individuals" (41). The scales were tested on over 2700 subjects in three different samples. The three major samples tested were the Five School Student Sample, The National Adult Sample, and The Iowa College Sample.

There are several statistics which lend strong support as to the validity of the male and female permissive scales as were reported by Reiss (71). All the samples, both student and adult, showed a coefficient of reproducibility of .95 and a coefficient of scalability of about .85. Menzel (57) recommended that the coefficient of scalability should be between .60 and .65. Thus it could readily be seen that the permissive scale indicators of validity were quite high. Also lending support to the validity of the scale was the fact that no item had to be dropped to produce the permissive scale. In a separate investigation by Hampe and Ruppel (31), it was reported that the Premarital Sexual Permissiveness Scale of Reiss's fit the conceptual framework

which had been established for premarital sexuality. In summary, these researchers agreed with Reiss that the Scale was a very valid instrument for measuring premarital sexual attitudes.

The actual permissive scale was made up of 12 statements which covered the dimensions of premarital sexual permissiveness from highly permissive to low in permissiveness. Each question referred to a particular condition of affection, that is, each asked the respondent their views on the acceptability of kissing, petting, and coitus under conditions of engagement, love, strong affection, and no affection. The 12 statements were the basis for both the male and female permissiveness scales; the only difference was the choice of pronoun in reference to sex. In addition, the scale had been used to classify people according to the sexual standards. The self-permissiveness score was obtained by assessing each individual's score on the same sex scale of the respondent.

To avoid confusion on the intent of the key terms, the words love, petting, and strong affection, definitions were provided for the subjects. Upon analysis of the responses to the questions, the subjects could be classified according to several criteria. The possibilities were:

1. How one responded to the scale statements of his own sex.

2. How one responded to the scale statements of the opposite sex.

3. How equalitarian one responded to both scales.

For purposes of this investigation, only the perceptions of the sample's self-permissive score were of interest. In this investigation those individuals who fell into scale type 0 and 1 were classified as low permissive types and those who were classified as scale types 4 and 5 were considered high permissive types. A copy of the Premarital Sexual Permissiveness Scale is contained in Appendix B.

The Socioeconomic Questionnaire

To measure those variables which may have had an effect upon permissiveness of the subjects, a socio-economic questionnaire was used. The initial questions provided basic information of sex, race, years in school, and major area of academic concentration. The second part dealt with measures which assessed religious affiliation, religious devotion, dating patterns, and sexual activity.

The questions used in this research were developed by the researcher and taken from the work done by Ira Reiss (71) and Richard R. Clayton (15). In addition, those variables that were reported in the literature as important considerations for assessing premarital sexual behavior were incorporated. The type of technique used to gather the socioeconomic data was the alternative choice technique.

The subjects simply chose from several alternatives, as in a multiple-choice item, which seemed most relevant or correct for his particular case. This technique was chosen because of the vast amount of information which it afforded in a brief amount of testing time. A copy of the socioeconomic questionnaire is contained in Appendix B.

IV. TREATMENT OF DATA

To aid in the analysis of data gathered, two types of statistical analyses were used. Descriptive analysis was used to depict salient information on the socioeconomic questionnaires for comparing and contrasting the groups utilized in this study. An analysis of variance was employed to determine if there was a statistically significant difference in the mean scores obtained on the knowledge segment of the testing instrument. The analysis of variance was used to determine if the means obtained by the freshmen were significantly different from those obtained by the senior education majors. The actual means tested were those of freshmen men, freshmen women, senior men, and senior women. In addition, the combined mean scores of the high permissive subjects were compared with those of the low permissive subjects. A t-test was utilized to test the latter two comparisons. To test what means were significantly different from the other means tested, the Duncan-Shéffe technique was employed. The analysis of

variance and the t-test was carried out at the .05 level of significance.

A second statistical procedure was employed to determine what factors tended to contribute most heavily to high permissive attitude and low permissiveness attitude, and to determine the dimensions or factors of maximal group differentiation. The particular program utilized for this purpose was a stepwise multiple discriminant analysis program. The input data consisted of the knowledge score and the coded information from the socioeconomic questionnaire. The statistical analysis was carried out at the .05 level of significance. As stated, the stepwise multiple discriminant analysis program was used to determine if high or low permissive attitude could be determined on the basis of knowledge and socioeconomic information.

The stepwise procedure was described by Efroymson (19) as a technique that examined the variables which acted as discriminators between the subjects that had high permissive scores and those subjects that had low permissive scores. Basically, this stepwise procedure calculated the F value at each step in the program for each variable and utilized only those which were significant from a statistical point of view.

In general, variables not yet entered into the discriminant equation were considered at each step or stage and the one with the largest F value was entered. The

resulting calculations were based on the utilization of the variables found in each stage by this selection process. The variable added was described by Efroymson as ". . . the one which makes the greatest improvement in 'goodness of fit'" (19). As the program passed through the stepwise discriminant stages, a presentation of the action of each variable in respect to the discriminant function was obtained. Efroymson further described the stepwise procedure:

> An important property of the stepwise procedure is based on the facts that (a) a variable may be indicated to be significant in any early stage and thus enter the equation, and (b) after several other variables are added to the regression equation, the initial variables may be indicated to be insignificant. The insignificant variable will be removed from the regression equation before adding an additional variable. Therefore, only significant variables are included in the final regression (19).

The computer program selected the best single prediction factor and entered that factor into the regression equation. An F test was then conducted to indicate whether or not that factor made a significant contribution. The next factor was then entered, and the entire process was repeated. This process was carried out until no factor satisfied the F test of 1.5 or greater, at which time the process was terminated. A final statistical procedure generated by the stepwise procedure was a regression equation for reclassifying those who had been so classified by Reiss's sexual permissiveness scale. The regression equation was generated from the statistical significant valuables determined by the stepwise process.

CHAPTER IV

ANALYSIS OF DATA

For purposes of analyzing the data gathered, this chapter is divided into four sections. The first section contains the socioeconomic description of the high permissive and low permissive seniors tested. In addition, the stepwise discriminant analysis is applied to the data to determine any significant differences between the high permissive and low permissive groups. The second section contains the socioeconomic description of the high permissive and low permissive freshmen and the stepwise discriminant analysis for that data. The third section represents the combined significant data for the seniors and freshmen while the fourth section is the testing of the hypotheses which had been generated for this investigation.

I. THE SENIOR EDUCATION MAJORS

The total group of senior education majors consisted of 138 subjects. Of that group 76 were classified by Reiss's Premarital Sexual Permissiveness Scale as being high in permissive attitude by the scale. The low permissive group was all white and consisted of 20 females and 5 males. The low permissive group's average age was 21.8 years. The high permissive group was made up of 29 males and 47 females.

Nine members of this group were black with all these subjects being male. The remaining 67 subjects were white. The average age of the high permissive group was 22.3 years or 0.5 of a year older than the low permissive group. The low permissive group contained 9 elementary majors and 16 secondary majors while the high group consisted of 23 elementary majors and 53 secondary majors.

Investigation of the amount of sexual knowledge each group held revealed that for both the low and the high permissive groups, the mean score was 49 with a median score of 51. A perfect score on Form X of The Sexual Knowledge Inventory was 80. The standard deviation for the low permissive group was 8.85 while the high permissive group's standard deviation was 9.60. The range of scores for the two groups was quite different with the low permissive group having had a range of 34. The high permissive group's range was 54. The highest score achieved by a low group member was 61 with the low score being 27. The high permissive group had a high score of 72 and a low score of 18. There were no significant differences in the mean scores, and each group possessed about the same amount of sexual knowledge as determined by the Sexual Knowledge Inventory.

The social background factors of the two groups were quite variant. However, no trend was established as to birth order of either the high permissive group or the low permissive group. The same was true of the number of

younger or older brothers and sisters. This factor seemed to be equally dispersed throughout the two groups as to the member, sex, and age of siblings in the two permissive classifications. In addition, community size was of no significance in differentiating between the high or low permissive groups with 60 percent of the lows and 58 percent of the highs being from urban communities of at least 60,000 inhabitants. The remaining subjects were equally distributed, coming from communities of less than 60,000 down to 1000 inhabitants or less.

Analyzing the parental factors which may have influenced permissiveness, the education of the fathers was investigated and is shown in Table II. As a group, the average educational level for the fathers of the high permissive group was slightly greater than that of the fathers of the low permissive group. Sixty-one percent of the fathers of the high group had at least some college experience while 52 percent of the fathers of the low group had at least some college experience.

The slight educational advantage of the fathers of the high permissive group was also evident in their occupations. The high permissive subjects' fathers were engaged in managerial, executive, or professional occupations in 51 percent of the cases. The low permissive subjects' fathers were involved in the similar activities in 44 percent of the cases. The researcher attributes this advantage in

TABLE II

HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION ATTAINED BY THE FATHERS OF HIGH PERMISSIVE AND LOW PERMISSIVE SENIOR SUBJECTS

Educational Level	High Permissive Subjects' Fathers			Low Permissive Subjects' Fathers		
	Number	Percentage*	Cumulative Percentage*	Number	Percentage*	Cumulative Percentage*
Elementary School	-	-	-	2	8	8
Some High School	11	14	14	5	20	28
Graduated High School	19	25	39	5	20	48
Some College	25	33	72	4	16	64
Graduated College	6	8	80	5	20	84
Master's/Ph.D.	10	13	93	3	12	96
Law Degree	5	7	100	1	4	100

*Errors in percentages or cumulative percentages were due to rounding errors.

occupational status to the slight educational advantage of the fathers of the high permissives. However, 16 percent of fathers of the high permissives were classified as working at semi-skilled jobs while 12 percent of the fathers of the low permissives were engaged in semi-skilled positions. Interestingly, 44 percent of the fathers of the lows were engaged in semi-professional, small-business, sales or public official type occupations. In the case of the highs, 33 percent were engaged in the above activities.

The mothers of the high permissive subjects were also reported to have a slight advantage in educational attainment. Of the high permissive subjects' mothers, 55 percent had at least some college while 40 percent of the low permissive subjects mothers had some college experience. Once again, the educational attainment was reflected in the occupations of the mothers. The same percentage (36 percent) in both groups was reported to be housewives, while the high permissive subjects' mothers were engaged in semi-professional or better occupations in 34 percent of the cases. The lows' mothers were involved in semi-professional or better occupations in 28 percent of the cases.

In assessing the annual income of the parents, the high permissive group reported higher earning for their parents than did the low permissive group. Reported in Table III are the income levels of the two groups. The average income level of the high permissive group parents

TABLE III

REPORTED ANNUAL INCOME OF PARENTS OF THE HIGH PERMISSIVE AND LOW PERMISSIVE SUBJECTS

Income Level	High Permissive Subjects' Parents			Low Permissive Subjects' Parents		
	Number	Percentage*	Cumulative Percentage*	Number	Percentage*	Cumulative Percentage*
Under $5,000	2	3	3	-	-	-
$5,000-9,999	6	8	11	3	12	12
$10,000-14,999	16	21	32	3	12	24
$15,000-19,999	6	8	39	7	28	52
$20,000-24,999	9	12	51	3	12	64
$25,000-29,999	10	13	64	5	20	84
$30,000-34,999	7	9	74	2	8	92
$35,000-39,999	5	7	80	1	4	96
$40,000-44,999	4	5	86	-	-	-
$45,000-49,999	1	1	87	1	4	100
Over $50,000	10	13	100	-	-	-
	Average Income of Group=$25,000-29,000		Median Income of Group=$20,000-24,999	Average Income of Group=$15,000-19,000		Median Income of Group=$15,000-19,999

*Errors in percentages or cumulative percentages were due to rounding errors.

was in the $25,000-29,999 range with a median income for the high group in the $20,000-24,999 income range. The average and median income for the low permissive subjects' parents was in the $15,000-19,999 income range. Thus it was believed that the high permissive groups' parents averaged a level of income that was substantially greater than the average level of income of the parents of the low permissive group.

An additional factor that set the parents of the two groups apart was the fact that 77 percent of the low permissive parents were still living together in a family unit. The remaining 23 percent had either divorced or had experienced the death of a spouse. The high permissive group's parents were still living together in 70 percent of the cases with 30 percent of these parents being divorced or with one parent being deceased.

Another interesting aspect of the family background was the religion of the parents and the subjects. Table IV contains the religious affiliation of the parents and the subjects of the two groups. The fathers of the high permissive group were Baptist in 33 percent of the cases and Methodist in 16 percent of the cases. These two religious affiliations accounted for 49 percent of the fathers' reported religions. As might be expected, Baptist and Methodist affiliations also accounted for the largest percentage of reported religion for the high permissive group's

TABLE IV

REPORTED RELIGIOUS AFFILIATIONS OF PARENTS AND SENIOR SUBJECTS

Religious Affiliation	High Permissive Parents and Subjects						Low Permissive Parents and Subjects					
	Fathers	%	Mothers	%	Subjects	%	Fathers	%	Mothers	%	Subjects	%
Baptist	25	33	23	30	18	24	14	56	14	56	16	64
Methodist	12	16	15	20	14	18	6	24	6	24	3	12
Presbyterian	9	12	9	12	6	8	1	4	1	4	2	8
Episcopal	3	4	4	5	4	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Catholic	9	12	10	13	10	13	2	8	1	4	1	4
Jewish	2	2	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Church of Christ	10	13	8	11	9	12	1	4	2	8	2	8
No Formal Religion	6	8	6	8	14	19	1	4	1	4	1	4

mothers. Baptist affiliation was reported for 30 percent of the mothers with Methodist affiliation reported in 20 percent of the cases. These two religious groups accounted for 50 percent of the mothers' religious affiliation. For 8 percent of the high permissive group's parents, it was reported that they held no formal religion. The high permissive subjects also reported that the Baptist (24 percent) and Methodist (18 percent) were their religious affiliations. However, 19 percent of the high permissive subjects reported they held no formal religious beliefs. In contrast, only one (4 percent) of the low permissive subjects reported no formal religious beliefs. The low permissive subjects also reported Baptist (64 percent) and Methodist (12 percent) as their choice of religious affiliation.

Of considerable interest was the subjects' church attendance. Table V presents the frequency with which the high and low permissive subjects attended church. If church attendance indicated religiosity, then the low permissive group was a more religious group. This was reflected by the fact that 40 percent of the low permissive group attended church more than twice a week, with 92 percent attending religious services at least once a week. Conversely, the high permissive group reported in 65 percent of the cases to have attended church from a few times a year to seldom or never.

TABLE V

CHURCH ATTENDANCE OF THE HIGH AND LOW PERMISSIVE SENIORS

Church Attendance	High Permissive Seniors			Low Permissive Seniors		
	Subject's Attendance	Percentage*	Cumulative Percentage*	Subject's Attendance	Percentage*	Cumulative Percentage*
More Than Twice a Week	1	1	1	10	40	40
Twice a Week	-	-	-	8	32	72
Once a Week	15	20	21	5	20	92
Several Times a Month	9	12	33	1	4	96
At Least Once a Month	2	3	36	-	-	-
A Few Times a Year	12	16	51	-	-	-
Seldom or Never	37	49	100	1	4	100

*Errors in percentages or cumulative percentages were due to rounding errors.

Another factor which was considered as having influenced permissiveness was membership in a social fraternity or sorority. In neither of the senior groups did membership or the lack thereof seem to influence either high permissive or low permissive attitudes. As was expected, all subjects who reported membership in either a sorority or fraternity were classified as actives or full status members. The low permissive subjects reported membership for 20 percent of this group while high permissive subjects reported membership in 16 percent of the cases.

Another aspect investigated was whether the senior subjects had received formal sex education. This question was of particular interest since health is a required course of all education majors and the course outline prescribes a unit or segment of that course be devoted to sex education. In the high permissive group 55 percent said they had received formal sex education. Of the high permissive group who reported formal instruction in sex education, 98 percent reported it to be at the college level, and the remaining 2 percent said they received their formal sex education through the church. The highs stated the quality of instruction to have been excellent in 31 percent of the cases, good in 52 percent of the cases, and poor in 17 percent of the cases. The low permissive group reported formal sex

education for 48 percent of the subjects. The entire 48 percent stated they received their instruction at the college level with the quality of instruction having been excellent in 17 percent of the subjects' opinions and poor in 83 percent of the cases.

Two things were of interest to the researcher when considering the above factor. First, only a little over half the high and low subjects reported having had formal sex education; and second, such an overwhelming majority of the lows reported the quality of instruction to be poor. In the first incident the subjects may not have recalled receiving instruction or the effort was so cursory as not to have met the requirements for formal sex education in the subjects' estimation. In this case it was difficult to account for possible reasons. Byrne (11) has advanced the concept that the low permissive individuals may be ill at ease with their sexuality. If this represents a plausible explanation, then uneasiness concerning sexuality may have been reflected in their evaluation of the instruction.

In the actual behavior patterns of the high and low permissive senior subjects, there were several factors which tended to differentiate the two groups. However, no distinguishable differences were determined between the two groups as to their dating status, dating frequency, or frequency of double dating. In both groups the dating

status ran the spectrum from unattached and dating many different individuals to engaged to be married. The subjects who reported commitment to another person also varied in both groups from a few weeks to a year or more. The frequency of double dating varied among the groups from frequently to never with no particular pattern for either group.

Reported differences for having engaged in sexual intercourse in the past year were quite different. In the high permissive seniors, 88 percent reported having had intercourse within the past year, while 88 percent of the low permissive group reported not having had intercourse within the past year. Table VI presents the percentage of both groups as to engaging in or refraining from sexual

TABLE VI

HIGH AND LOW PERMISSIVE SENIORS ENGAGING IN SEXUAL INTERCOURSE WITHIN PAST YEAR

	High Permissive Seniors	Low Permissive Seniors
Engaged in Sexual Intercourse	88%	12%
Did Not Engage in Sexual Intercourse	12%	88%
	N = 76	N = 25

intercourse. The reported percent of those having and refraining from coitus in both the high and low groups seemed to indicate that both groups were operating within their particular attitudinal frameworks. This held true for the 12 percent of the low permissive group who had engaged in sexual intercourse. Even having engaged in coitus within the past year they did so with only one partner. Conversely, the high permissive seniors who had coitus reported one partner in the past year in 37 percent of the cases, two partners in 14 percent of the sample, three in 7 percent of the sample, four in 13 percent of the sample, five partners in 3 percent of the cases, and six or more partners in 13 percent of the cases. Only two of the subjects were female who reported six or more partners. However, the reporting of multiple partners by nearly two-thirds of the high permissive group was an indication of more permissive attitude and less consideration before engaging in coitus.

The rate of coitus was also greater for the high permissive group. The high group averaged 2-3 times a week in their coitus rate while the low permissive reported an average coitus rate of once a week. The median coital rate for the highs was also 2-3 times a week while the lows' median coitus rate was once a week.

A question was also asked to determine if the subjects had ever had sexual intercourse, and at what age coitus had

taken place. In the low permissive group 20 percent reported coitus at some time in their lives, while 93 percent of the high permissive group reported having had sexual intercourse at some time in their lives. Table VII presents the reported ages of first intercourse and the percentages reported at each age. The average age of first intercourse for the high permissive seniors was 17.2 years while the low permissive group's average age at first intercourse was 18.4 years. This pattern of early sexual intercourse was also true for the age at which the two groups began to date. For example, the mean age at which the high permissive seniors began dating was 14.5 years with a median age of first dating experience of 14.8 years. Conversely, the low permissive seniors first began dating at an average age of 15.3 years with a median age of first dating experience at 15.5 years. Of the high permissive seniors who reported having had sexual intercourse, 18 were white males, 8 were black males, and 45 were white females. The remaining sample consisted of 2 white males, 1 black male, and 2 white females. The low permissive seniors who had coitus at sometime in their lives consisted of 2 white males and 3 white females. The remaining 3 males and 17 females reported never having had sexual intercourse.

The data generated supported the notion that low permissive subjects would not necessarily rule out sexual intercourse, but the decision to engage in premarital

TABLE VII

REPORTED AGES AT FIRST SEXUAL INTERCOURSE OF THE HIGH AND LOW PERMISSIVE SENIORS

	High Permissive Seniors			Low Permissive Seniors		
Age	Number	Percentage*	Cumulative Percentage*	Number	Percentage*	Cumulative Percentage*
Eleven	3	4	4	-	-	-
Twelve	2	3	7	-	-	-
Thirteen	1	1	8	-	-	-
Fourteen	1	1	9	-	-	-
Fifteen	5	7	16	-	-	-
Sixteen	9	12	28	1	4	4
Seventeen	13	17	45	-	-	-
Eighteen	16	21	66	2	8	12
Nineteen	11	14	80	-	-	-
Twenty	10	13	93	2	8	20
Never Had Intercourse	5	7	100	20	80	100
	$\bar{X}$=17.2 years of age at first intercourse N=71 who reported intercourse			$\bar{X}$=18.4 years of age at first intercourse N=5 who reported intercourse		

*Errors in percentages or cumulative percentages were due to rounding errors.

intercourse involved exceptionally careful evaluation. Another plausible factor was that the older dating age of the lower permissives helped to account for later sexual experimentation and as a consequence, a later age for engaging in sexual intercourse. In the case of the high permissive group, the younger age of first dating and of sexual intercourse may have indicated an attitude of accepting sexual experimentation at a younger age than the low permissive group. Finally, the relatively low rate of sexual intercourse on the part of the low permissive group may have been the result of an unwillingness to have engaged in sexual experimentation at a younger age. This unwillingness may have indicated a high degree of conformity with the prerequisites of family and associative institutional mores.

The differences in attitude between the two groups were also reflected in their participation in oral sex. The high permissive seniors reported having had oral sex in 82 percent of the cases. This compared to 20 percent of the low permissive subjects who reported having had oral sex. The acceptance of oral sex was also noted by the number of partners of the two groups. Of the five low permissive seniors who had experienced oral sex, two reported having two partners while three reported having had one partner. The high permissive subjects reported having had one partner in 28 percent of the cases, two

partners for 12 percent of the subjects, three for 20 percent of the subjects, four partners for 3 percent of the subjects, and five partners for 20 percent of the subjects.

The average age of first oral experience for the high permissive group was 18.9 years. The average age for first oral sex experience for the low permissive group was 20.8 years. Thusly, the early participation, number of partners, and overwhelming majority of high permissive subjects who had oral sex served to further point out the differences between the high and low permissive seniors in their attitudes and sexual practices.

The discriminant analysis utilized in the investigation indicated there were four variables which statistically discriminated between the high and low permissive seniors. Table VIII presents those variables which were significant discriminators. Those four variables were whether the subjects had sexual intercourse, the church attendance of the subjects, the race of the subjects, and the age of initial intercourse. The data from each variable reflected rather substantial differences in percentages for each of the significant variables. For example, 88 percent of the high permissive seniors had experienced sexual intercourse, while only 20 percent of the low permissive group had experienced coitus. In addition, the church attendance of the low permissive seniors was much greater than that of the

TABLE VIII

STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT VARIABLES GENERATED BY THE STEPWISE DISCRIMINANT ANALYSIS FROM THE SENIOR SUBJECTS DATA

	Step Variable Entered	F-Value to Enter Predictive Equation
I.	Subjects Experienced Sexual Intercourse within Past Year	102.15
II.	Church Attendance of Senior Subjects	26.70
III.	Race of Senior Subjects	5.92
IV.	Age of Initial Intercourse	2.32

high permissive group. Finally, these high permissive subjects who had sexual intercourse did so a year in advance of the subjects in the low permissive group. Consequently, it was not surprising that these factors were statistically significant discriminators between the two groups.

The fact that race was a statistically significant discriminator was unexpected. Although the entire low permissive group was made up of whites, the blacks made up only 11.8 percent or nine of the high permissive subjects. The fact that there were no blacks in the low permissive group probably accounts for this variable entering the discriminant equation.

A final set of tests derived from the discriminant

analysis revealed the classification of the subjects into low and high permissive groups using only the discriminant functions. In this way, the potential of the discriminant functions for reclassifying the subjects into the permissive groupings was compared with the classification derived using Reiss's instrument. The classification which resulted utilizing the predictive equation generated by the stepwise procedure has been presented in Table IX.

Of the 25 seniors classified as being low in sexual permissive attitude, 22 were correctly reclassified into the low permissive group utilizing the predictive formula. The percent correctly reclassified was 88 percent. Using Reiss's classification 76 seniors were classified as high

TABLE IX

CLASSIFICATION OF THE SENIOR SUBJECTS BY THE STEPWISE DISCRIMINANT FUNCTIONS

Reiss's Classification	Number of Cases	Low Permissive	High Permissive	% Correctly Classified
Low	25	22	3	88%
High	76	7	69	92%

Total N = 101
Percent Correctly Classified = 90%
Percent Misclassified = 10%

in sexual permissive attitude. The predictive formula generated correctly reclassified 69 of the subjects or 92 percent correct reclassification. The percentage of correct reclassification for both the high and low permissive groups was 90 percent. This indicated that the predictive equation generated by the stepwise procedure was quite accurate in predicting the subjects' sexual permissive attitudes.

In summary, the high permissive seniors tended to differ from the low permissive seniors in several aspects. The social background data of the two groups indicated the high permissive seniors' parents had slightly higher educational and income levels. There was also a greater tendency for the low permissive groups' parents to be living together than was the case with the high permissive groups' parents. In the high permissive group, 19 percent of the high permissive subjects reported no formal religion. In addition, the church attendance of the high permissive group was considerably less than the attendance of the low permissive seniors.

The high permissive seniors began dating at an earlier age and had sexual intercourse earlier than the low permissive group. In fact, 88 percent of the high permissive group had engaged in coitus within the past year, while 88 percent of the low permissive group had not engaged in coitus within the past year. The rate of coitus and number

of partners was greater for the high permissive group. This greater rate also applied to oral sex with the high group engaging in oral sex at an earlier age, in greater percentages, and with a greater number of partners. Four factors were found to be statistically significant between the two groups. Ninety percent of the senior subjects were correctly reclassified using the prediction equation generated by the stepwise discriminant analysis process.

II. THE FRESHMEN MEN AND WOMEN

A total of 305 freshmen were tested with 212 of the subjects utilized for purposes of analysis. Of the 212 subjects utilized, Reiss's scale categorized 135 subjects as high permissive in their sexual attitude while 77 were classified as low permissive in their sexual attitude. The high permissive group was made up of 55 males and 80 females with 48 black subjects and 87 white subjects. The high permissive black group consisted of 17 males and 31 females while the white group consisted of 38 males and 49 females. The low permissive group consisted of 17 males and 60 females with 12 of these subjects having been black. The black group consisted of 4 males and 8 females while the white sample consisted of 12 males and 53 females. The average age of the two groups was almost the same with the high permissive group having an average age of 18.7 years while the average age reported for the low permissive group was 18.5 years.

The high permissive freshman group consisted of 41 elementary majors, 61 secondary majors, and 33 subjects who were undecided as to their career goals. The low permissive freshmen group consisted of 26 elementary majors, 28 secondary majors, and 23 subjects who had not yet determined their majors. The percentages for elementary majors was quite close with 30 percent of the low group listing themselves as elementary majors. Of the high group, 45 percent of the high group listed secondary education as their major while 36 percent of the low permissive freshmen were secondary education majors.

For neither the high permissive nor low permissive groups were trends established for the significances of birth order or the number of younger or older siblings. For both the groups the data were so diversified that no detectable significance was determined. In addition, the community size from which the subjects matriculated was not significantly different for either group. However, 16 percent of the high permissive group reported having lived in communities under 1000. This fact became insignificant when the average size of the communities each group came from was considered. For both groups the average community size was almost the same with the median size exactly the same. For both groups 37 percent reported coming from communities larger than 600,000.

The high permissive group did score slightly better on the sexual knowledge portion of the testing package. The mean achieved by the high permissive freshmen was 48.7 while the mean for the low permissive freshmen was 46.6. The standard deviation for the high group was slightly less (12.60) than that of the low group (13.20). This slight difference was also reflected in the range of scores of the two groups. The group range was 58 while the low group's range was 52. The median for the high and low groups was 48. The highest score achieved by a high permissive freshman was 79 while the low score achieved by a member of this group was 21. The score of 79 was most excellent considering 80 was the highest score possible. In addition, the score of 79 represented the highest individual score by either of the freshmen or senior groups. The low permissive freshmen had a high individual score of 70 and a low score of 18. As was the case with the senior groups, the freshmen groups possessed about an equal amount of sexual knowledge as determined by the Sexual Knowledge Inventory.

Analyzing the parental factors that could have influenced permissiveness, the fathers' educational levels were once again considered. The highest level of education attained by the fathers is shown in Table X. The mean educational attainment for both groups was slightly more than a high school education. The median and modal educational

TABLE X

HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION ATTAINED BY THE FATHERS OF HIGH PERMISSIVE AND LOW PERMISSIVE FRESHMEN SUBJECTS

	High Permissive Subjects' Fathers			Low Permissive Subjects' Fathers		
Educational Level	Number	Percentage*	Cumulative Percentage*	Number	Percentage*	Cumulative Percentage*
No Formal Education	-	-	-	1	1	1
Elementary School	5	4	4	3	4	5
Some High School	28	21	24	9	12	17
Graduated High School	32	24	48	28	36	53
Some College	28	21	69	12	16	69
Graduated College	32	24	93	18	23	92
Master's/Ph.D.	5	4	96	3	4	96
Law Degree	3	2	99	2	3	99
Medical/Dental Degree	2	1	100	1	1	100

*Errors in percentages or cumulative percentages were due to rounding errors.

attainment for both the high and low permissive subjects' fathers were exactly the same. Slightly greater than high school attainment was the median level of achievement. The modal attainment was that of a high school graduate for both groups' fathers. The high permission group's fathers were college graduates in 24 percent of the class while 18 percent of the low permissive group's fathers were reported to be college graduates. The remainder of educational attainment categories was extremely equal as to the percentages of reported educational achievement. It is interesting to note that the slight educational advantages reported for high permissive seniors' fathers was not evident in the freshman group.

The equality of educational attainment for the subjects' fathers was also true for the occupations in which the fathers were engaged. The percentages of fathers engaged in the various occupational classifications for both groups were almost identical. For example, the high permissive group's fathers were engaged in managerial or professional occupations in 41 percent of the cases, while the low permissive group's fathers were engaged in similar occupations in 40 percent of the cases. The low permissive group's fathers were engaged in occupations such as public officials, small businesses, sales or semi-professional occupations in 36 percent of the cases while the fathers of the high permissives reported these occupations for

their fathers in 30 percent of the cases. The high permissive freshmen reported their fathers working in semi-skilled jobs in 29 percent of the cases as compared to 23 percent working in semi-skilled jobs reported by the low permissive freshmen. Consequently, there were no decisive differences in occupations for either group of fathers.

The educational attainment level of the mothers reported most often by both freshman groups was that of a high school graduate. Neither freshmen group reported any significant differences for their mothers with the percentages being nearly equal at all levels of educational attainment. The high permissive group's mothers seemed to have been employed more frequently in managerial or professional occupations than did the low permissive freshmen group's mothers. The high group reported their mothers were engaged in managerial or professional occupation in 24 percent of the cases while the lows reported their mothers in these types of occupations in 17 percent of the cases. However, the remainder of the occupational classifications were nearly equal in the percentages of mothers engaged in the various employment categories. Once again the equality of the mothers' educational attainment and occupational endeavors were in contrast to those reported by the seniors, with the seniors' mothers enjoying a slight advantage in both areas.

The average annual income reported for the freshmen groups indicated that the low permissive group's parents enjoyed a better level of income. The income levels for both freshmen groups are shown in Table XI. The average income for both groups was in the $20,000-24,999 range. The median for the low permissive group was also in the $20,000-24,999 range. However, the median for the high permissive group was in the $15,000-19,999 range with the income level most often reported having been in the $10,000-14,999 range. The modal income for the low permissive group was in the $15,000-19,999 range. The high permissive group had a higher percentage (13 percent) in the low income groups and a greater percentage (17 percent) in higher income levels. The low permissive group did have a greater percentage in the middle income ranges between $10,000 to $34,999 than did the high permissive group's parents. Unlike the senior group, the low permissive group's parents seemed to have a slightly better income level than the high permissive group's parents. This statement was made due to the fact that the low permissive group's parents' income seemed to center more in the middle income areas than did the high permissive subjects' parents.

A factor which seemed to differentiate the high permissive and low permissive freshmen was that 82 percent of the low group's parents were living together while 67 percent of the high group's parents were living together.

TABLE XI

REPORTED ANNUAL INCOME OF PARENTS OF THE HIGH PERMISSIVE AND LOW PERMISSIVE FRESHMEN SUBJECTS

	High Permissive Subjects' Parents			Low Permissive Subjects' Parents		
Income Level	Number	Percentage*	Cumulative Percentage*	Number	Percentage*	Cumulative Percentage*
Under $5,000	4	3	3	1	1	1
$5,000-9,999	14	10	13	7	9	10
$10,000-14,999	37	27	41	9	12	22
$15,000-19,999	18	13	54	17	22	44
$20,000-24,999	14	10	64	15	19	64
$25,000-29,999	12	9	73	15	19	83
$30,000-34,999	12	9	82	5	6	90
$35,000-39,999	3	2	84	1	1	91
$40,000-44,999	7	5	90	3	4	95
$45,000-49,999	8	6	96	2	3	97
Over $50,000	6	4	100	2	3	100
	Average Income of Group=$20,000-24,999		Median Income of Group=$15,000-19,999	Average Income of Group=$20,000-24,999		Median Income of Group=$20,000-24,999

*Errors in percentages or cumulative percentages were due to rounding errors.

In 10 percent of the cases one of the low group's parents had died while 8 percent of the low group's parents were divorced. In contrast, 21 percent of the high group's parents were reported divorced while 12 percent reported the death of one parent. It was interesting to note that the trend of a greater percent of low permissive subjects' parents to be living together was also observed for the senior group. This trend for high permissive subjects' parents to have a greater percent of divorces and death for both the senior and freshmen groups also seemed significant.

The religious affiliations of the family were also of interest and are presented in Table XII. As was the case with the seniors groups, the freshmen reported their parents' religion as Baptist and Methodist most often. This pattern was true except in the case of the low permissive group where it was reported that 14 percent of the mothers were of the Catholic faith. Only 5 percent of the high group's fathers and 4 percent of the mothers were reported to have no formal religion. The low permissive freshmen reported their fathers held no formal religion in 6 percent of the cases while their mothers held no formal religion in only 1 percent of the cases. For both the high and low permissive freshmen, Baptist and Methodist were the religious affiliations reported most often. The only characteristic of the subjects' religious affiliation that was of great interest was the fact that 8 percent of high

TABLE XII

REPORTED RELIGIOUS AFFILIATIONS OF PARENTS AND FRESHMEN SUBJECTS

Religious Affiliation	High Permissive Parents and Subjects						Low Permissive Parents and Subjects					
	Fathers	%	Mothers	%	Subjects	%	Fathers	%	Mothers	%	Subjects	%
Baptist	60	44	65	48	62	46	34	44	35	45	36	47
Methodist	27	20	23	17	16	12	12	16	10	13	12	16
Presbyterian	9	7	12	9	8	6	3	4	3	4	3	4
Episcopal	6	4	5	4	9	7	2	3	3	4	2	3
Catholic	13	10	14	10	16	12	10	13	11	14	11	14
Jewish	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Church of Christ	4	3	5	4	5	3	3	4	4	5	5	6
Other Denominations	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	7	8	11	8	10
No Formal Religion	15	11	11	8	19	14	7	9	3	4	-	-

permissive freshmen reported having no formal religion. In contrast, not a single low permissive freshman reported no formal religion.

The church attendance of the high and low permissive freshmen tended to follow a similar pattern reported earlier for the seniors. Once again, if religiosity was considered to have been indicated by church attendance, then the low permissive group was probably a more devout group. Table XIII presents the freshmen church attendances. The low permissive freshmen reported to attend church twice a week or more often in 66 percent of the cases. In fact, 94 percent of the low permissive group reported attending church at least several times a month with 99 percent stating they attended church at least once a month. Conversely, the high permissive group reported attending church twice a week or more in only 4 percent of the cases. Of the high group, 21 percent reported they attended church at least once a month, but 30 percent of the high permissive group reported attending church seldom or never.

Both the high and low permissive freshmen groups reported very little affiliation with a fraternity or sorority. In fact, only 8 percent of the high permissive and 10 percent of the low permissive group reported membership with a fraternal group. For both the high and low groups, those reporting fraternal association were pledges in the organization. Regardless, the membership in such

TABLE XIII

CHURCH ATTENDANCE OF THE HIGH AND LOW PERMISSIVE FRESHMEN

Church Attendance	High Permissive Freshmen			Low Permissive Freshmen		
	Subject's Attendance	Percentage*	Cumulative Percentage*	Subject's Attendance	Percentage*	Cumulative Percentage*
More Than Twice a Week	4	3	3	22	29	29
Twice a Week	2	1	4	29	38	66
Once a Week	15	11	16	20	26	92
Several Times a Month	23	17	33	1	1	94
At Least Once a Month	29	21	54	4	5	99
A Few Times a Year	21	16	70	-	-	-
Seldom or Never	30	30	100	1	1	100

*Errors in percentages or cumulative percentages were due to rounding errors.

fraternal groups was too small and probably too early in the experiences of the subjects to have any great effect upon permissiveness.

An interesting aspect of the research was the question dealing with whether or not the subjects had received formal sex education. For both the high and low permissive groups, 58 percent reported having received formal sex education. For the high permissive group, those who reported having received formal sex education reported the source of that instruction to be the school in 88 percent of the cases. The church was reported as the source of sex education in the remainder of the cases. The high permissive freshmen reported they received their instruction at the high school level in 82 percent of the cases and at the junior high school level in 18 percent of the cases. The quality of instruction was rated excellent by 29 percent of the high permissive freshmen, good by 56 percent, and poor by 15 percent of this group. Of the low group who reported having received formal sex education, 96 percent said the school was the source of that instruction with the church being listed by the other 4 percent of the low permissive freshmen. The low permissive group reported that the instruction was given at the junior high in 28 percent of cases and at the high school level in 72 percent of the cases. The low group rated the quality of the instruction as excellent in 19 percent of the cases, good by 74 percent,

and poor by 9 percent of the subjects.

The dating and sexual behavior of the high and low permissive freshmen was not unlike that of the high and low permissive seniors. Like the dating behavior for the seniors, no significant differences were detected between the high and low permissive freshmen as to dating status, dating frequency, or frequency of double dating. For all three of the above-mentioned variables, the percentage of subjects checking the various categories was approximately equal for both the high and low groups. One variable that differentiated the senior groups and the two freshmen groups was the length of time the high permissive freshmen had been committed to a particular partner in a serious dating situation. Of the high permissive freshmen who reported a serious commitment to another, 35 percent stated this to have been for a year or more. Of the low permissive group who reported a similar commitment, only 17 percent reported a commitment of a year or more.

An extreme difference in those who engaged in sexual intercourse within the past year was noted between the high and low permissive freshmen. The high permissive freshmen reported coitus within the past year on the part of 84 percent of the subjects while only 6 percent of the low permissive freshmen reported having had sexual intercourse within the past year. Table XIV presents the percentages of both freshmen groups as to engaging in or refraining from

TABLE XIV

HIGH AND LOW PERMISSIVE FRESHMEN ENGAGING IN SEXUAL INTERCOURSE WITHIN PAST YEAR

	High Permissive Freshmen (%)	Low Permissive Freshmen (%)
Engaged in Sexual Intercourse	84%	6%
Did Not Engage in Sexual Intercourse	16%	94%
	N = 135	N = 77

sexual intercourse within the past year. The data for the number of sexual partners each permissive group had were also quite different. For example, all five (6 percent) of the low permissive freshmen who had experienced coitus within the past year had done so with only one partner. Conversely, the high permissive freshmen who had coitus reported one partner in the past year in 39 percent of the cases, two partners by 19 percent of the sample, three partners by 11 percent, four partners by 4 percent, five partners by 4 percent, and six or more partners by 4 percent of the subjects. The frequency rate for those who had coitus within the past year was quite different for the high and low permissive groups. The high permissive group reported an average coitus rate of 2-3 times a week while the low

permissive freshmen reported a coitus rate of once a week. The median coital rate was the same as their respective mean rates for both the high and low permissive freshmen groups.

Analyzing the data to determine those subjects who had intercourse at some time in their lives, both the high and low permissive freshmen groups reported increased coital rates. The ages of first sexual intercourse and the percentages reported at each age are presented in Table XV. For the high permissive freshmen 90 percent reported having had sexual intercourse, an increase of 6 percent over those who reported coitus within the past year. For the low permissive freshmen 13 percent reported having had sexual intercourse at some time in their lives. These figures compare with the seniors who reported 93 percent (high permissive) and 20 percent (low permissive) who reported having had sexual intercourse at some time in their lives. The average age of first intercourse for the high permissive freshmen was 16.3 years while the low permissive group's average age at first intercourse was 17.1 years. It was noted that these reported average ages for coitus were 0.9 of a year younger for the high permissive freshmen, and 1.2 years younger for the low permissive freshmen than for the two respective senior groups. Unlike the high permissive seniors, the high permissive freshmen did not begin to date at an earlier age than the low permissive freshmen.

TABLE XV

REPORTED AGES AT FIRST SEXUAL INTERCOURSE OF THE HIGH AND LOW PERMISSIVE FRESHMEN

Age	High Permissive Freshmen			Low Permissive Freshmen		
	Number	Percentage*	Cumulative Percentage*	Number	Percentage*	Cumulative Percentage*
Eleven	3	2	2	-	-	-
Twelve	4	3	5	-	-	-
Thirteen	3	2	7	-	-	-
Fourteen	15	11	19	1	1	1
Fifteen	16	12	31	1	1	2
Sixteen	18	13	44	2	3	5
Seventeen	32	24	68	2	3	8
Eighteen	22	16	84	1	1	9
Nineteen	5	4	88	2	3	12
Twenty	4	3	90	1	1	13
Never Had Intercourse	13	10	100	67	87	100
	$\bar{X}$=16.3 years of age at first intercourse N=122 who reported intercourse			$\bar{X}$=17.0 years of age at first intercourse N=10 who reported intercourse		

*Errors in percentages or cumulative percentages were due to rounding errors.

For both the freshmen groups the mean, median, and modal ages at which dating began were the same. Consequently, the possibility advanced for the seniors that earlier dating age led to earlier sexual experimentation definitely did not hold true for the freshmen groups. The remaining comments concerning the seniors seemed to apply equally well to the freshmen. However, the earlier age for sexual intercourse may very well indicate a trend for earlier sexual experimentation and coitus.

The difference in sexual attitude between the two freshmen groups was reflected in those who reported having oral sex. Although the percentage was not as great as the seniors, 58 percent of the high permissive freshmen reported having had oral sex. This compares to 21 percent of the low permissive freshmen who reported having experienced oral sex. The 21 percent reported by the low freshmen group was 1 percent higher than the low permissive seniors. Of the 16 low permissive freshmen who reported having oral sex, 50 percent reported having one partner, 25 percent reported two partners, 20 percent reported three partners, and 5 percent reported four partners. The high permissive freshmen reported one partner in 45 percent of the cases, two partners for 27 percent of the subjects, three partners for 12 percent of the subjects, four partners for 4 percent of the subjects, and five partners for 12 percent of the subjects. The average age of first oral experience for both the high and

low permissive freshmen was 17.0 years. This represented a decrease in age of first oral sex experience of 1.9 years for the high permissive freshmen group and a decrease of 3.8 years for first oral experience for the low permissive group. Although the percentage is small for the low freshmen group, the average age was surprising for first oral sexual experience. It was also surprising that the high group's age of first oral experience had dropped. At least for this sample of high and low freshmen, it was evident they were having oral sex at an earlier age as well as sexual intercourse. In fact, both freshmen groups appeared to begin to have intercourse and oral sex at about the same age.

The discriminant analysis on the freshman data determined seven factors which statistically discriminated between the high and low permissive freshmen. Table XVI contains those variables which were statistically significant. The variables entered were: (1) whether the subjects had intercourse within the past year, (2) the subjects' church attendance, (3) their age of first intercourse, (4) natural parents living or not living together, (5) the subjects' race, (6) the sex of the subjects, and (7) the economic status of the parents. The first two variables entered as significant discriminators between the high and low freshmen groups were the same as those entered as

TABLE XVI

STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT VARIABLES GENERATED BY THE STEPWISE DISCRIMINANT ANALYSIS FROM THE FRESHMEN SUBJECTS DATA

	Step Variable Entered	F-Value to Enter Predictive Equation
I.	Subjects Experienced Sexual Intercourse within Past Year	279.21
II.	Church Attendance of Freshmen Subjects	50.35
III.	Age of Initial Intercourse	12.51
IV.	Natural Parents Living Together	3.57
V.	Race of Subjects	2.76
VI.	Sex of Subjects	2.65
VII.	Economic Status of Parents	1.53

discriminators between the senior groups. The subjects who had sexual intercourse during the past year and church attendance were excellent discriminators between the high and low permissive freshmen. These two factors were not surprising due to the percentages and means previously discussed. The percentages of high permissives having sexual intercourse (84 percent) within the past year was dramatically different from the low permissive group (6 percent) who had coitus within the past year. The church attendance for the low group was twice a week for 66 percent of this group while only 4 percent of the high group reported attending that often. Table XIII, page 91, presented the church attendance of the two freshmen groups. The age of initial intercourse between the two groups was 0.9 of a year or approximately 10 months younger for the high group. In addition, the low permissive freshmen group's parents were living together in 82 percent of the cases as opposed to 67 percent of the parents of the high permissive group. These percentages gave no indications as to the quality of the parental relationship but did indicate that the family unit was intact 15 percent more often for the low permissive freshmen.

Careful consideration of the race and sex of the freshmen sample indicated that the low permissive group tended to have been white and female. Females made up 78 percent of the low permissive freshmen sample with

88 percent of these being white. The low permissive sample was of 22 percent male with 76 percent of these men having been white. The high permissive freshmen female group consisted of 61 percent white and 39 percent black. The high permissive freshmen male group was 69 percent whites and 31 percent black.

The final variable entered in the stepwise process was the current economic status of the two freshman permissive groups. As was previously discussed, the low permissive group's parents seemed to enjoy a slight advantage in income over the parents of the high permissive group. What was interesting about this variable was the fact that for the senior groups, it was the parents of the high permissive group who had a slightly better income level. However, for the senior group this variable was not a significant discriminator between the high and low group, nor was the sample as large as the freshmen sample. Even for the freshmen group this variable was the last to enter the stepwise process and barely had a sufficient F to do so.

Utilizing the predictive equation generated from the stepwise discriminant analysis, a correct reclassification of 93.87 percent was achieved. This reclassification is presented in Table XVII. This percentage represented a correct reclassification of a 199 out of the 212 freshmen subjects. Of the 77 low permissive freshmen, 73 or 94.8 percent were correctly reclassified. The high

TABLE XVII

CLASSIFICATION OF THE FRESHMEN SUBJECTS BY THE STEPWISE DISCRIMINANT FUNCTIONS

Reiss's Classification	Number of Cases	Low Permissive	High Permissive	% Correctly Classified
Low	77	73	4	95
High	135	9	126	93

Total N = 212
Percent Correctly Classified = 94%
Percent Misclassified = 6%

permissive freshmen were correctly reclassified in 93.3 percent of the cases. This percentage represented a correct reclassification of 126 out of 135 high permissive freshmen.

In summary, low permissive freshmen had several social background factors which set them apart from their high permissive counterparts. The low freshman group came from family backgrounds with slightly higher incomes, lived in intact family settings, and attended church services more often than the high permissive freshmen. The low permissive freshmen were often more white and female than were the high group. The high permissive freshmen scored slightly better on the sexual knowledge test, had a statistically significant percentage of

subjects who had intercourse within the past year, and had coitus at an earlier age than their low permissive counterparts.

The stepwise discriminant analysis found seven factors which were statistically significant discriminators between the high permissive freshmen and the low permissive freshmen. The predictive equation generated by the stepwise process correctly reclassified 94 percent of the freshmen sample into either the high or low permissive groups. The predictive equation was generated using the seven statistically significant variables.

III. THE COMBINED DATA FOR FRESHMEN AND SENIORS

The third section considered the findings from the standpoint of those variables which were statistically significant in discriminating between the high and low permissive groups. The high permissive group consisted of 135 freshmen and 76 seniors. This group was made up of 57 blacks and 154 whites. The blacks were composed of 26 males and 31 females while the white group was composed of 58 males and 96 females. The majors of the high permissive group included 64 elementary majors, 114 secondary majors, and 33 freshmen who were undecided as to their major area of educational endeavor. The average was 19.58 years with a median age of 19.12 years for the high permissive group.

The low permissive group consisted of 77 freshmen and 25 seniors. There were 22 males and 80 females. Racially, there were 4 black males, 8 black females, 18 white males, and 72 white females for a total of 12 blacks and 90 whites. The group consisted of 35 elementary majors, 44 secondary majors, and 23 freshmen who were undecided as to their majors. The average age was 19.25 years with a median age of 18.78 years.

The stepwise discriminant analysis indicated that seven variables were statistically significant in discriminating between the two groups. Those variables are presented in Table XVIII.

In analyzing the data for the two permissive groups for the significant variables, it was determined that there was a very extreme difference between those high and low subjects who had experienced coitus within the past year. The low permissive group reported sexual intercourse for only eight people (8 percent) within the past year while the high permissive group members reported sexual intercourse in 181 (86 percent) of the cases. Conversely, 94 (92 percent) of the low permissive group reported not having had coitus within the past year while only 14 percent of the high group reported not having had intercourse the past year. From the above data it was determined that the higher the incident of sexual intercourse within the past year, the greater the probability

TABLE XVIII

STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT VARIABLES GENERATED BY THE STEPWISE DISCRIMINANT ANALYSIS FROM THE COMBINED DATA

Step	Variable Entered	F-Value to Enter Predictive Equation
I.	Subjects Experienced Sexual Intercourse within Past Year	392.36
II.	Church Attendance	76.83
III.	Age of Initial Intercourse	14.09
IV.	Race	6.54
V.	Natural Parents Living Together	4.41
VI.	Subjects Experienced Oral Sex	3.66
VII.	Economic Status of Parents	2.67

that the subjects were high permissive.

The second variable which was statistically significant for discriminating between the two groups was the church attendance of the subjects. Table XIX presents the high and low groups' church attendance. The low permissive groups had an average church attendance of twice a week while the average attendance for the high group was less than once a month. Of the low group, 68 percent reported attending church twice a week, 92 percent reported attending at least once a week, while only 2 percent of the low group reported attending church seldom or never. In contrast, the high permissive group reported attendance of twice a week for only 3 percent of its group with 38 percent of the high group having reported attending church infrequently or never. Consequently, it was determined that low permissive subjects attended church more often than their high permissive counterparts. Using church attendance as indicative of devoutness as religiosity, the low permissive group was more religious and practiced their religious beliefs to a significantly greater extent than the high permissive group.

The third variable that proved statistically significant was the age of initial intercourse. Table XX presents the ages of initial sexual intercourse. The average age for initial intercourse for the low permissive group was 17.6 years while the first sexual intercourse experience

TABLE XIX

CHURCH ATTENDANCE OF THE COMBINED HIGH AND LOW PERMISSIVE ATTITUDE GROUPS

Church Attendance	High Permissive Group			Low Permissive Group		
	Subject's Attendance	Percentage*	Cumulative Percentage*	Subject's Attendance	Percentage*	Cumulative Percentage*
More Than Twice a Week	5	2	2	32	31	31
Twice a Week	2	1	3	37	36	68
Once a Week	30-	14	17	25	25	92
Several Times a Month	32	15	33	2	2	94
At Least Once a Month	31	15	47	4	4	98
A Few Times a Year	32	15	63	-	-	-
Seldom or Never	79	38	100	2	2	100

*Errors in percentages or cumulative percentages were due to rounding errors.

TABLE XX

REPORTED AGES OF THE COMBINED HIGH AND LOW PERMISSIVE GROUPS AT FIRST SEXUAL INTERCOURSE

Age	High Permissive Group			Low Permissive Group		
	Number	Percentage*	Cumulative Percentage*	Number	Percentage*	Cumulative Percentage*
Eleven	5	2	2	-	-	-
Twelve	6	3	5	-	-	-
Thirteen	4	2	7	-	-	-
Fourteen	16	8	15	1	1	1
Fifteen	21	10	25	1	1	2
Sixteen	28	13	38	3	3	5
Seventeen	45	21	59	2	2	7
Eighteen	38	18	77	3	3	10
Nineteen	16	8	85	2	2	12
Twenty	14	6	91	3	3	15
Never Had Intercourse	18	9	100	87	85	100
	$\overline{X}$=16.6 years of age at first intercourse N=193 who reported intercourse			$\overline{X}$=17.6 years of age at first intercourse N=15 who reported intercourse		

*Errors in percentages or cumulative percentages were due to rounding errors.

for the high group was 16.6 years. This full year of earlier coitus for the high group was also reflected in the high group's earlier beginning dating age. Although it was not statistically significant, the researcher believed the younger age of first coitus was partly accounted for through the younger beginning dating age. The initial dating age for the low permissive group was slightly over 15 years of age while the average age of initial dating experience for the high group was 14.5 years. Certainly, it was plausible to consider the possibility that younger beginning dating led to earlier sexual experimentation. However, the researcher did not desire to purport the only factor influencing the younger age at first intercourse of the high permissive group to a younger beginning dating age of that group.

The subject's race was the fourth variable which was significant. Analyzing this aspect, Reiss (68) has stated that black males were the most permissive in their sexual attitudes. White males were the second most permissive, followed by black females with white females the most conservative. To a degree this research supported the information of Reiss's. However, the sample size of the blacks in this investigation limited the strength of any conclusions concerning blacks. The fact that race was a discriminator between the high and low permissive groups was accounted for by the fact that very few blacks were

classified as low in permissive attitude. In addition, the low permissive group had a coital rate of 15 percent, but 33 percent of the low permissive blacks had experienced intercourse. This represented 2 black males and 2 black females out of 12 blacks classified as low permissive. The low permissive white males had a coital rate of 22 percent while the females had a coital rate of 9 percent. For the high permissive group the black males had experienced coitus in 96 percent of the cases while 87 percent of the high permissive black females reported sexual intercourse. These figures can be compared with a coital rate of 93 percent for high permissive white males and a rate of 91 percent for high permissive white females.

Of significance also was whether or not the natural parents were living together. The low permissive subjects reported their parents were living together 80 percent of the time. The high permissive parents were reported to have been living together 68 percent of the time. The rate of divorce was double (20 percent) that of the low permissive parents who were reported to be divorced in 10 percent of the cases. The percentages reported by both permissive groups were about equal as to death being the reason for having only one parent. For the high group, the death of one parent had taken place in 11 percent of the sample while 10 percent of the low group reported this factor.

The next variable entered into the discriminant function was whether or not the subjects had experienced oral sex. The combined high permissive group reported oral sex by 57 percent of the sample. This represented 120 subjects out of the 211 who were classified as high permissive. Twenty-six of the low permissive group reported having had oral sex. This represented 26 out of the 102 subjects classified as low permissive in their sexual attitude. These 26 subjects were 25 percent of the low permissive sample utilized in this investigation.

The overall economic status of the low permissive group was slightly higher than that of the high permissive group. The high permissive group's parents were reported to have income of less than $15,000 in 37 percent of the cases, while the low group reported their parents' income to have been below $15,000 in only 23 percent of the cases. However, 17 percent of the high group's parents were reported to earn more than $40,000 a year while the low group reported their parents earned more than $40,000 in only 8 percent of the cases. The low permissive group had a greater percentage of parents earning more than $15,000 but less than $30,000 a year. The low group's parents fell in this range for 71 percent of the cases while the high group's parents earned that much money in only 45 percent of the cases. The average income levels for both the high and low groups were in the same $20,000-24,999 range.

The median income for the lows was also in the $20,000-24,999 range, while the high group's median income was in the $15,000-19,999 range. The income reported most often for the low group was in the $15,000-1,999 range while the high group's mode was in the $10,000-14,999 range. This pattern was quite similar to that which was reported for the freshmen groups and led the researcher to conclude that the low permissive subjects tended to come from middle incomes ranging from $15,000-30,000.

Utilizing the seven variables just mentioned, a predictive equation was generated by the stepwise discriminate process. The result of the predictive equations is reported in Table XXI. Of the 102 subjects classified as low

TABLE XXI

CLASSIFICATION OF THE HIGH AND LOW PERMISSIVE SUBJECTS BY THE STEPWISE DISCRIMINANT FUNCTIONS

Reiss's Classification	Number of Cases	Low Permissive	High Permissive	% Correctly Classified
Low	102	96	6	94.1
High	211	14	197	93.4

Total N = 313
Percent Correctly Classified = 94.00%
Percent Misclassified = 6%

permissive in sexual attitude by Reiss's attitude scale, 96 were correctly reclassified by the predictive equation. This represented a 94 percent correct reclassification of the low permissive group. There were 211 subjects that were classified by Reiss's scale as having been high permissive in their sexual attitude. The predictive functions correctly reclassified 197 out of 211 as being high permissive. This represented a correct reclassification of the high permissive group of 93 percent. With an overall correct reclassification of 94 percent, the prediction formula generated represented an excellent method of predicting whether individuals were high or low in their permissive attitudes. Of course, the real test of any predictive instrument would be to utilize it on additional new data. However, for the data gathered in the research, the predictive equation generated by the stepwise process was an excellent indicator of the subject's sexual attitude.

In summary, subjects who were classified as low in their sexual permissive attitude had experienced sexual intercourse within the past year less often than their high permissive counterparts. In addition, they attended church more frequently, and if they had experienced coitus, had done so at an older age than the high permissive group. In addition, the parents of the low permissive subjects were living together more often than the high permissive group's parents. Finally, the economic status of the low

permissive group's parents was slightly better than that of the parents of the high permissive group. The low permissive group also tended to be white and female.

The high permissive group was fairly racially balanced and experienced sexual intercourse within the past year more often than their low permissive counterparts. The high permissive group attended church less often and experienced sexual intercourse at an earlier age than the low permissive group. A lower percentage of the high permissive group's parents were living together, and in fact had a divorce rate twice as high as the low group's parents.

The predictive equation generated by the stepwise analysis correctly reclassified 94 percent of the low permissive subjects and 93 percent of the high permissive subjects. This represented a correct reclassification of 94 percent of the high and low permissive subjects.

IV. THE TESTING OF THE HYPOTHESES

For purposes of this investigation, eight null hypotheses were generated. This final section attempted to look explicitly at each null hypothesis and accept or reject it on the basis of the data generated and discussed in the earlier sections of this chapter.

Hypothesis 1. There were no differences between incoming freshmen and senior education majors in the level of sexual knowledge each group possessed.

To test this particular hypothesis, the mean test scores achieved on the McHugh Knowledge Inventory were divided into freshmen females, senior females, freshmen men, and senior men. An analysis of variance was conducted on the mean scores of the above groups. Table XXII presents the summary table for the analysis of variance. As indicated in the table, a significant F was not achieved. To have been significant, an F-test of greater than 2.62 was needed. An F of 1.69 was achieved from the analysis of variance. The nonsignificance of the various means was not unexpected since the mean scores for the various groups were the following: freshmen males, 46.97; senior males, 46.06; freshmen females, 48.37; and senior females, 50.78. Although the analysis of variance was nonsignificant, it was noted that the males' scores were lower on the knowledge

TABLE XXII

ANOVA TABLE FOR THE SEXUAL KNOWLEDGE SCORES ACHIEVED BY THE SENIOR AND FRESHMEN SUBJECTS

Source	d.f.	SS	M.S.	F
Between	3	703.56	234.52	1.689*
Within	308	42,760.44	138.83	
Total	311	43,464.00		

*Nonsignificant at .05 level.

test than those of the females. The senior males' scores were the lowest of the four means. The t-test used to compare the high permissive group with the low permissive group was also nonsignificant. Table XXIII presents the results of that t-test. The t-value achieved was -1.10. A t-value of 1.65 or greater was needed for significance. Once again the results were not unexpected since the mean for the low permissive group was only 1.58 points below the mean for the high permissive group.

Based upon the above statistical analysis, the null hypothesis was not rejected.

Hypothesis 2. The level of sexual knowledge possessed had no effect on permissive attitude or sexual behavior for

TABLE XXIII

RESULTS OF THE T-TEST ON THE MEAN KNOWLEDGE SCORES OF THE HIGH AND LOW PERMISSIVE GROUPS

Group	Number of Subjects	F	SD	d.f.	t	T Needed for Significance
Low	102	47.16	12.28	311	-1.10*	1.65
High	211	48.74	11.73			

*Nonsignificant at the .05 level.

either the high permissive attitude or low permissive attitude groups.

As reported previously, there were no significant differences among freshmen males, freshmen females, senior males, and senior females. In addition, no significance was determined in the mean knowledge scores achieved by either the high permissive or the low permissive group. Although coital rates for the high group were significantly different from the low permissive group, the sexual knowledge possessed did not appear in the discriminant analysis as a statistically significant discriminator between the two permissive groups. In addition, those who chose to engage or refrain from oral sex did so regardless of the knowledge possessed. This statement was strengthened by the analysis of the correlation matrix generated in the stepwise discriminate analysis. From that process, the knowledge scores correlated with whether or not they had sexual intercourse within the past year at .01 and at age of first sexual experience .20. Knowledge score and having engaged in sex within the past year correlated .17. In light of the above information, it seemed to the researcher that knowledge had very little to do with the current permissive attitude or the sexual behavior of the subjects. Perhaps at some time in the subjects' backgrounds the amount of sexual knowledge or lack thereof influenced the development of their particular attitudes. However, there

was no indication that level of knowledge was important for either determining attitude or behavior of either the high or low permissive group. Consequently, the null hypothesis was not rejected.

Hypothesis 3. There were no socioeconomic factors which differentiated high permissive attitude from low permissive attitude seniors.

There were several socioeconomic factors which tended to set high permissive seniors apart from the low permissive seniors. The high permissive group's fathers tended to have a slight educational advantage which was manifest in higher incomes for the high permissives' parents. Further, the low permissives' parents tended to be living together in the family unit more often than the high permissive group's parents. Another socioeconomic factor which set the two groups apart was their church attendance. For both groups, Baptist and Methodist were the dominant reported religions. However, 19 percent of the high permissive subjects reported they held no formal religious beliefs. The church attendance reported for the low group indicated they attended church at least once a week in 92 percent of the cases, while 65 percent of the high permissive group reported attending from only a few times a year to infrequently or never. Using church attendance as an indication of religiosity, the low permissive

seniors were a more religious group. In addition, church attendance was a statistically significant variable in differentiating between the high and low permissive seniors. Consequently, the information reported above led to the rejection of the null hypothesis. This decision was made even though all the factors reported were not statistically significant; the researcher believed they had contributed significantly to differentiation between the two groups.

Hypothesis 4. There were no differences in sexual activity between high permissive or low permissive attitude seniors.

Several variables differentiated between high and low permissive seniors concerning their sexual activity. For example, high permissive seniors reported having sexual intercourse within the past year by 88 percent of those classified in this category. Only 12 percent of the low permissive seniors reported having had coitus within the past year. For the high permissive seniors, only 5 percent of the sample reported never having engaged in intercourse, while 80 percent of the low permissive seniors reported never having had intercourse. The frequency of coitus and number of partners were greater for the high permissive seniors than for the low permissive seniors. In addition, the high permissive seniors began to date at an earlier age

and had sexual intercourse younger than their low permissive counterparts. The high permissive group also had a much higher incident of oral sex than the low permissive seniors. Further, the low permissive seniors had only one partner while the high permissive seniors tended to have engaged in oral sex with more than one partner. The high permissive group also reported a younger average age of first oral sex experience than did the low permissive seniors. Finally, the discriminant analysis indicated statistical significance between the two groups for those subjects who experienced sexual intercourse within the past year and for the initial age of sexual intercourse. For the above-stated reasons the null hypothesis was rejected.

Hypothesis 5. There were no socioeconomic factors which differentiated high permissive attitude from low permissive attitude freshmen.

Several factors tended to differentiate the high permissive freshmen and the low permissive freshmen. The low permissive group's parents had a slight advantage in economic status. This economic advantage was in the middle income levels. The low permissive group's parents were living as a family unit more often than the parents of the high permissive group. In addition, the divorce rate for the high permissive group's parents was twice as great as

that for the low permissive group's parents. Finally, the church attendance was also significantly different for the two groups. This was reflected by the fact that 94 percent of the low permissive freshmen attended church at least several times a month, while 30 percent of the high permissive freshmen reported seldom or never attending church services. Church attendance and parents living together were statistically significant discriminators at the .05 level between the high and low permissive freshmen groups. For the above reason the null hypothesis was rejected.

Hypothesis 6. There were no differences in sexual activity between high permissive attitude or low permissive attitude freshmen.

An extreme difference existed between the freshmen groups as to those subjects who engaged in sexual intercourse within the past year. Of the high permissive freshmen, 84 percent had experienced intercourse within the past year while only 6 percent of the low permissive freshmen had experienced coitus within the past year. The high permissive group's initial sexual intercourse was at a younger age than those who reported having had sexual intercourse in the low permissive freshmen group. The incidence of oral sex was also greater for the high permissive freshmen than it was for the low group. These three factors were statistically significant at the .05 level. Because the

discriminant analysis determined that the three variables were statistically significant, the null hypothesis was rejected.

Hypothesis 7. There were no socioeconomic differences between the combined groups of high permissive attitude seniors and freshmen and low permissive attitude seniors and freshmen.

The combined data of the freshmen and senior groups indicated there were three socioeconomic variables which were statistically significant at the .05 level. The stepwise discriminant analysis determined that the following variables discriminated between the high permissive group and the low permissive group. The significant variables were the church attendance of the subjects, if the parents were living together, and the economic status of the parents. Once again the church attendance for the combined low permissive group was significantly greater than for the high permissive group. In addition, the parents of the low group were living together a greater percentage of the time than were the high permissive group's parents. Finally, when the groups were combined, the low permissive group's parents were reported to have a higher income level than that of the high permissive group's parents. Because of the statistically significant variables, the null hypothesis was rejected.

Hypothesis 8. There were no differences in sexual activity between the combined high permissive attitude groups and the combined low permissive attitude groups.

The stepwise discriminant analysis utilized for the investigation indicated that three variables were statistically significant at the .05 level. Those variables were whether or not the subjects had experienced sexual intercourse the past year, the age of initial sexual intercourse, and whether the subjects had engaged in oral sex. As was the case for these three variables for the individual freshmen and senior groups, the high permissive group also had experienced sexual intercourse more often within the past year, had sexual intercourse at a younger age, and had more subjects who experienced oral sex than the combined low permissive groups. Consequently, the null hypothesis was rejected.

V. SUMMARY

In summary, two of the eight null hypotheses were accepted based upon the analysis of data. The amount of sexual knowledge possessed was not significantly different between the high and low permissive groups nor among the freshmen men, freshmen women, senior men, or senior women. The sexual knowledge also was not significant in determining either attitude or sexual behavior. The remaining null hypotheses were rejected because factors were determined

which differentiated each of the senior and freshmen groups. Differentiating factors were also determined in the socioeconomic backgrounds and sexual activity of each of the high and low permissive classifications.

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY, FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

I. SUMMARY

This study was designed to ascertain if a difference existed between incoming freshmen and senior education majors as to their permissive attitudes, sexual knowledge, and sexual activity. The socioeconomic factors and sexual variables which differentiated high permissive subjects from low permissive subjects at the freshmen level, the senior level, and through the combined data were of utmost interest. The subjects tested were divided into high and low permissive groups for both the freshmen and seniors.

The freshmen subjects used in this investigation were males and females entering Memphis State in the Fall semester of 1977 at Memphis State University. The original freshmen group consisted of 305 subjects. From this original group of freshmen tested, 135 were classified as having high permissive attitudes, and 77 subjects were classified as low permissive in their attitudes. The low permissive group consisted of 17 males and 60 females. The low permissive group included 4 black males and 8 black females. The low permissive white group was made up of 12 males and 53 females. The high permissive freshmen group

consisted of 55 males and 80 females. This group consisted of 17 black males, 31 black females, 38 white males, and 49 white females. All freshmen were tested in the various sections of a personal health course in the Fall of 1977.

A total of 138 seniors was tested with 76 of the subjects classified as high permissive. The low permissive senior group consisted of 25 subjects. There were 20 females and 5 males in the low permissive senior group, with all subjects being white. The high permissive group was made up of 29 males and 47 females. Nine black males were classified as high permissive. There were no black females in the high permissive senior group. The senior education majors were tested during March 1977.

The testing instrument used to measure sex knowledge was the Sex Knowledge Inventory--Form X which was developed by Gelolo McHugh. The Sex Knowledge Inventory contained multiple-choice questions with five possible responses. The inventory was appropriate for college level use. To measure premarital sexual permissive attitude, a scale developed by Ira Reiss was used. The Premarital Sexual Permissiveness Scale consisted of a series of Guttman scales. The third instrument utilized was a socioeconomic and dating activity questionnaire. This instrument consisted of questions designed to assess various family and personal background factors and the sexual behavioral patterns of the subjects.

A descriptive analysis was used to depict salient information on the socioeconomic questionnaires for comparing and contrasting the groups utilized in this study. Analysis of variance was used to determine if there was a statistically significant difference in the mean scores obtained on the Sexual Knowledge Inventory by the freshmen males, freshmen females, senior males, and the senior females. A t-test was used to test the mean knowledge of all subjects classified as high permissive and all subjects classified as low permissive. The final statistical procedure employed was a stepwise multiple discriminant analysis. This procedure was employed to determine those factors which were statistically significant discriminators between the high permissive and low permissive groups. The regression equation generated by the stepwise process was used for reclassifying high permissive and low permissive subjects as had been determined by Reiss's instrument. The stepwise analysis was carried out until no factor satisfied the F-test of 1.5 or greater, at which time the process was terminated. All other statistical analyses were carried out at the .05 level of significance.

II. FINDINGS

The basis for reporting the findings was the statistical significances achieved for the data gathered from the high and low permissive seniors, the high and low

permissive freshmen, and the combined data for the high permissive seniors and freshmen and the low permissive seniors and freshmen. The findings of this investigation revealed several factors which differentiate the senior, freshmen, and combined permissive groups from one another.

The Senior Permissive Groups

The high permissive seniors' parents had slightly higher educational and income levels. The high permissive senior group's fathers had at least some college experience in 61 percent of the cases while the low permissive group's fathers were reported to have had at least some college in 52 percent of the cases. The high permissive subjects' fathers were engaged in managerial, executive, or professional occupations in 51 percent of the cases. Only 44 percent of the low permissive group's fathers were reported to have been engaged in similar occupations. The fathers of the low group were engaged in semi-professional occupations, small business, sales, or public office in 44 percent of the cases, while 33 percent of the high group's fathers worked at these occupations. The average income of the high permissive seniors' parents was in the $25,000-29,999 range with a median income in the $20,000-24,999 range. The average and median income range for the low permissive seniors' parents was $15,000-19,999.

A difference was noted between the parents of the two groups as to those who were living together in a

family unit. In the case of the low permissive seniors' parents, 77 percent were living together while 70 percent of the high group's parents were living together. For both groups, Baptist and Methodist accounted for the largest percentage of reported religious affiliations. No formal religious beliefs were reported to have been held by 8 percent of the high permissive seniors' parents. In contrast, only 4 percent of the low permissive parents held no formal religious beliefs. The high permissive senior subjects held no formal religion in 19 percent of the cases while the low permissive senior subjects reported no formal religion in only 4 percent of the cases. Using the frequency of church attendance as an indicator of religiosity, the low group was a much more religious group. This was reflected by the fact that 92 percent of the low permissive seniors reported attending church at least once a week while for 65 percent of the high permissive seniors' church attendance varied from a few times a year to infrequent or never attending services.

Within the past year, 88 percent of the high group reported having had intercourse. In contrast, only 12 percent of the low permissive group reported coitus within the past year. For the lows, only one partner was reported, while the highs reported one partner for 37 percent of the subjects who had coitus within the past year, two partners for 14 percent, three for 7 percent, four for 3 percent,

five for 3 percent, and six or more partners in 13 percent of the cases. In addition, the high permissive seniors reported a coital rate of 2-3 times a week while the lows reported an average coital rate of once a week. The high permissive seniors began to date earlier and had their initial sexual coital experience younger than the low permissive seniors. The high group began dating at an average age of 14.5 years while the low group began at 15.3 years. The average age of first intercourse for those who had experienced coitus was 17.2 years for the high permissive group and 18.4 years for the low group. Of the high permissive seniors, 82 percent reported having had oral sex. Conversely, only 20 percent of the low permissive subjects reported having had oral sex. Again, the high group's average age of first experience was younger (18.9 years) than their low counterparts who reported an average age of first oral sex experience of 20.8 years.

Statistically significant discriminators between the two permissive senior groups were whether the subjects had experienced sexual intercourse within the past year, the church attendance of the senior subjects, their race, and their age of initial intercourse. These factors were found to be statistically significant at the .05 level. The predictive equation generated by the stepwise procedure correctly reclassified 90 percent of the high and low permissive seniors. The low permissive group was correctly

reclassified in 88 percent of the cases while the high permissive seniors were correctly reclassified in 92 percent of the cases.

The Freshmen Permissive Groups

In looking at the factors which differentiated the high permissive freshmen, it was determined that the low permissive's parents had a higher average level of income. For both freshmen groups the average income was in the $20,000-24,999 range. However, the median and modal ranges for the high freshmen group's parents were both below those reported for the low permissive group's parents. The high freshmen group reported a higher percentage of parents in the high income range (above $35,000) and a higher percentage in the low income (below $10,000) than did the low permissive freshmen. A greater percentage of the parents of the low permissive freshmen were reported to be in the middle income range between $10,000-34,999.

The parents were reported to be living together by 82 percent of the low permissive freshmen while 67 percent of the highs' parents were reported living together. For the low freshmen group, 8 percent of the parents were divorced, while 10 percent of the group had experienced the death of one of the parents. In contrast, 21 percent of the high permissive freshmen parents were divorced while 12 percent of the group had experienced a death of one of the parents.

For the high permissive parents and the low permissive fathers, Baptist and Methodist were the religious affiliations reported most often. The religious affiliations of the freshmen low permissives' mothers were Baptist and Catholic. Baptist and Methodist religious affiliations were reported most often for the subjects themselves. No formal religion was reported for 9 percent of the highs' parents and 7 percent of the lows' parents. The high permissive freshmen reported no formal religion in 8 percent of the cases while not a single low permissive freshman reported this fact. The low permissive group reported attending church an average of twice a week for 66 percent of the subjects, and at least several times a month for 99 percent of the subjects. Conversely, only 4 percent of the high freshmen group attended church more than twice a week, with 30 percent reporting they seldom or never attended church. Like the senior group, the low permissive freshmen appeared to be a more religious group.

There was an extreme difference between the two freshmen groups in whether or not they had intercourse within the past year. Of the high permissive freshmen, 84 percent reported having had coitus within the past year while only 6 percent of the low permissive freshmen reported accordingly.

The entire low permissive freshman group who had experienced intercourse did so with only one partner.

In contrast, the high permissive freshmen who had coitus reported one partner in 39 percent of the cases, two partners for 19 percent, three partners for 11 percent, four partners for 4 percent, five partners for 4 percent, and six partners for 4 percent. The coital rates reported for the freshmen groups were the same as those reported for the two senior groups.

Occurrence of sexual intercourse at some time during their lives was reported by 90 percent of the high permissive freshmen and by 13 percent of the low permissive freshmen. The average age of first coital experience differed for the two groups with the high permissive freshmen averaging 16.3 years and the low permissive freshmen averaging 17.1 years. When compared with the senior groups, the high permissive freshmen were engaging in sexual intercourse .9 of a year younger than the high senior group. The low permissive freshmen had engaged in intercourse an average of 1.2 years younger than their senior counterparts. Unlike the senior groups, both freshmen groups began to date at the same average age.

The discriminant analysis determined several factors which were statistically significant between the high permissive and low permissive freshmen groups. The variables which were significant were whether or not the subjects had experienced intercourse within the past year, the church attendance of the subjects, the age of initial intercourse,

the incidence of the natural parents living together, the race of the subjects, the sex of the subjects, and the economic status of the parents. The first two variables entered as statistically significant were the same for the freshmen and senior groups. Somewhat surprising was the fact that race and sex of the subjects served as significant discriminators. It was noted, however, that the low permissive group was over-balanced with whites and females. Utilizing the predictive equation generated by the stepwise discriminant analysis on the freshmen data, a correct reclassification of 93.87 percent was achieved for the two freshmen permissive groups. This percentage represented a correct reclassification of 199 out of the 212 freshmen subjects. Of the 77 low permissive freshmen, 73, or 94.8 percent, were correctly reclassified. The high permissive freshmen were correctly reclassified 93.3 percent of the time. This represented 126 out of 135 high permissive freshmen who were correctly reclassified.

The Combined Freshmen and Senior Permissive Groups

Seven variables were generated by the stepwise discriminant analysis as having been statistically significant at the .05 level of significance. The variable which generated the highest F-value (F = 392.36) was whether the subjects had experienced intercourse within the past year. The church attendance of the high and low combined groups

was also significantly different. For the two factors mentioned above, a higher percentage of high permissive subjects had experienced sexual intercourse within the past year (86 percent) and attended church less often than their low permissive counterparts. The rate of coitus within the past year became even more significant when it was determined that only 8 percent of the low permissive group had sexual intercourse within the past year. The church attendance was quite different for the two groups also, with 92 percent of the low permissive group attending church at least once a week. In contrast, 38 percent of the high permissive group reported never or seldom attending church. The remaining variables which discriminated the two groups were discussed in the context of either the senior or freshmen groups, but once again, the combined data indicated that the age of initial sexual intercourse, race, natural parents living together, oral sex, and economic status of the parents were significant factors. In general, the low permissive subjects who had experienced sexual intercourse did so at a later age. Further, the low permissive group tended to be white and female and reported their parents living together in 80 percent of the cases while 68 percent of the high group's parents were living together. In addition, the divorce rate for the high permissive parent was twice (20 percent) that of the low permissive group (10 percent).

The final variable entered into the stepwise analysis was the economic status of the parents. The analysis of the data indicated an overall advantage in economic status for the low permissive group's parents. The economic advantage for the low permissive group's parents was in the middle income range between $15,000 and $30,000 with 71 percent earning in this range. The high permissive group had more parents' income reported below $15,000 and more parents earning more than $40,000 than did the low permissive group.

The regression equation generated by the statistically significant variables for the data of the combined groups correctly reclassified 94 percent of the high and low subjects. Of the low permissive group 94 percent were correctly reclassified. This represented 96 out of 102 low permissive subjects who were placed in the correct category. The high permissive group was correctly reclassified in 93 percent of the cases. This represented 197 out of 211 high permissive freshmen and seniors who were correctly reclassified.

III. CONCLUSIONS

As a result of the findings of this investigation and within the limitations of the study, the following conclusions were drawn:

1. The mean scores achieved on the sexual knowledge

inventory by the freshmen males, freshmen females, senior males or senior females were not significantly different statistically for any of the above groups.

2. The amount of sexual knowledge possessed had no effect upon the present permissive attitudes of either the high or the low permissive groups. In addition, the knowledge possessed had no effect upon whether the high or low subjects engaged in sexual intercourse within the past, the age of their initial sexual coitus, or whether they engaged in or refrained from oral sex.

3. Church attendance was a statistically significant discriminator between the high and low permissive groups. The low permissive groups attended church much more frequently which led to the conclusion that they were more religious as a group than were the high permissive subjects.

4. Low permissive subjects' parents lived in an intact family situation more often than the high permissive subjects' parents.

5. High permissive groups differ from low permissive groups in that they had experienced sexual intercourse and oral sex more often than the low permissive group members. In addition, high permissive subjects who had experienced sexual intercourse had done so at an earlier age than low permissive subjects who experienced coitus.

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS

In any investigation certain aspects could have been improved or certain factors might have required greater insight than that provided by the data generated in the research. In light of the above statement, the following recommendations were made:

1. The socioeconomic questionnaire be redesigned to assess the quality of home environment and the liberal-conservative attitude concerning sexuality, politics, etc., reflected in the home environment by the subjects' parents.

2. The sexual activity questionnaire be designed to assess the amount of guilt associated with sexual intercourse and oral sex.

3. The sexual activity questionnaire be designed to ascertain if participation in oral sex was as a receiver, giver, or mutual partner.

4. An investigation be conducted to determine what weaknesses existed in the area of sexual knowledge. For example, did the subject lack knowledge in the area of anatomy, contraception, etc.

5. A study be conducted to determine if high permissive attitudes toward sex are present before coitus or if they develop after coitus has taken place.

6. Further research be conducted to test the predictive equation generated in the stepwise discriminant

analysis to determine if the equation was reliable in predicting high and low permissive attitudes for data generated from other research.

CHAPTER VI

THE STUDY IN RETROSPECT

The study of human sexuality has been of interest for many years. More explicitly, the factors that affect our attitudes and determine our behavior have been of significant interest. Unfortunately, previous research and the research just completed by the writer have still left important questions unanswered. Our sexuality is an outgrowth of many factors that ultimately lead us to our sexual orientation, the sexual mores we adhere to, and the attitudes we have concerning our sexual behavior. At birth we are asexual other than the genetic determinate of genitalia. However, with the pronouncement of maleness or femaleness comes expectations of being dressed in pink or blue at birth, and to males being aggressive or females being more passive in adolescence and adulthood.

The simplicity of our sexual development is overstated in the foregoing, for it is a complex intertwining of family, institutional, and peer group pressures that ultimately make us what we are sexually. Our attitudes and functioning may change over a period of time, but the influences of our families, the institutions we consider significant, and our peers are going to a greater or lesser degree be determinants of what we feel and do sexually.

The writer believes the family unit is extremely important in the development of what Reiss has called high permissive sexual attitudes or low permissive sexual attitudes. The writer found the socioeconomic variables of the parents' living together and the subject's church attendance as statistically significant when distinguishing subjects classified as either high permissive in sexual attitude or low permissive in sexual attitude. Although the fact was well established that the low permissive subject's parents were living together more often than the high group's parents, additional data are needed. For example, one question that needs answering is, what was the atmosphere within the family unit from the standpoint of the parents' relationship between the spouses and among the family members? The writer believes, although no data support this belief, that not only are the parents living together more often in low permissive subjects' homes, but the home atmosphere is one of conservatism ranging from sexual beliefs, to politics, to the family religion. In addition, the atmosphere would probably be described as one of closeness and warmth, whereas the atmosphere in the high permissive subject's home would be described as more liberal and distant in the family relationship.

To support such speculation is rather difficult from the data generated in this project, but the fact that the family unit is intact may give indication that both parents

influence the development of the child. The lack of both parents might mean that the control and closeness of the two-parent family could not be maintained because of economic or other reasons. When only one parent is responsible for the welfare of children, in all probability it would necessitate working and allow far less closeness and control over the children. If the above is seen feasible as a partial answer, it certainly does not account for the differentiation between high and low permissive subjects whose parents are living together. The writer believes that the church attendance of the low permissive subjects' parents would be very similar to that which the subjects themselves reported. Regardless of denomination, a strong practicing religion is a factor that sets high permissive and low permissive subjects apart. Once again, this frequency of church attendance does not come about unless it has been fostered on the part of the parents. Consequently, the writer believes that the low permissives' parents, like the low permissive subjects, would have more frequent church attendance than the high permissive subjects' parents. The conclusions drawn that the low permissive subjects were more religious as a group than the high permissive subjects would apply equally, the writer believes, to the parents of low permissive subjects. The motivation for church attendance must be fostered in the home, and the importance of such attendance manifested by the parents if

the value system is to be incorporated by the child.

Another question not answered in the writer's research was the motivation for engaging in or refraining from sexual intercourse. The two socioeconomic factors mentioned previously certainly do not seem sufficient to fully explain the subjects' rationale for their particular choices. The motivation for choosing to engage or not to engage in sex is accounted for in part by the permissive attitudes of the subjects. Beyond the attitude lies the feeling of love, fun, sexual attraction, etc., that one has toward another human being. Was love the overriding factor for the low permissive who engaged in coitus, while fun or sexual attraction the motivation for the high permissive group?

Another question that is certainly of concern is whether the high permissive attitude was present before intercourse or resulted as a consequence of behavior or anticipated behavior. The writer certainly doesn't purport to have these answers but believes that for a complete understanding of permissiveness and sexual activity, further research is needed.

If questions are left unanswered, the concern becomes, What has been accomplished by the research? With this in mind, the writer believes certain factors have been established as definitely not affecting one's permissive attitude. For example, the writer feels very strongly that birth order

in no way affects one in the development of high permissive or low permissive sexual attitudes. The basis for this statement rests in the fact that no trends could be established as to birth. High permissive and low permissive subjects were so equally distributed as to birth order that to say it was remotely influential would be ridiculous. Further, it can be said that the number of younger or older siblings had no effect upon permissiveness. Subjects coming from large or small families were not necessarily high permissive or low permissive in their sexual attitude.

Another factor which the writer believes has no effect upon permissiveness is the membership in fraternities or sororities. This particular factor may vary from university to university, but at Memphis State the percentage of students affiliating with these organizations was minimal and consequently would represent a very small influence over the student body. Even if a significant percentage of students were affiliating with fraternal groups, the writer believes that they would come to these situations with their attitudes well established. The writer does believe there is a tendency for a liberalizing of attitudes during the university experience, but this is more a result of the total educational experience than the influence of one factor such as fraternal association.

Sexual knowledge is a factor which is often associated

with sex education and perhaps thought of as the chief component of sex education. However, sex knowledge, in the opinion of the writer, has no effect upon the development of high permissive or low permissive sexual attitude. In addition, the amount of sex knowledge possessed does not affect one's sexual behavior. The value system within which one operates is based on many factors, but what one knows does not greatly affect one's attitude which manifests itself through behavior. There certainly are implications for sex educators in the above statement. Hopefully, any quality sex education program would incorporate activities designed to help students assess and re-evaluate their attitudes which ultimately affect their behavior.

The controversial nature of sex education might be tempered somewhat when both pro and anti sex education groups would look at the facts concerning those who had received formal sex education and those who had not. Of the subjects utilized in this investigation, 57 percent had received formal instruction, while 43 percent had not. Breaking this down into the high and low permissive groups who received sex education, it was determined that 57 percent of the high permissive attitude group and 56 percent of the low permissive attitude group had received formal sex education.

From the above information, it can be seen that the attitude one has is probably not influenced greatly by sex

education. In other words, just because one receives sex education does not ensure that he will be high permissive or low permissive in his sexual attitude. Without sounding contradictory to the above statement, the writer maintains that development of attitudes is an essential part of any sex education, but most important and central to any worthwhile instruction is the ability to make better decisions. Involved in any decision-making process is a weighing of alternatives and viewpoints on both sides of the issue. Through such an approach, attitudes are affected and one may maintain, modify, or change his belief, but hopefully the decision will be well analyzed and a better decision made within the framework of the subject's home and institutional mores. In all probability, if sex education is not taught until high school, initial attitudes already have been established; but if the consequences of various behavior and viewpoints surrounding controversial areas can be better understood, then more intelligent decisions will be made concerning one's sexuality.

The necessity for sex education is much too involved to be adequately dealt with in this brief composition. Nevertheless, a brief discussion seems appropriate. Statistics indicate that more adolescents are beginning to have sexual intercourse and at a younger age. This was reflected in this research by the fact that the freshmen permissive groups experienced initial sexual intercourse

at a younger age than the senior permissive groups. When considering the ramifications of average age of initial intercourse, it seems that young people are making extremely important decisions which could have significant effects upon their lives without ever having an open forum for making intelligent decisions. Without realizing it, the decision to engage in or refrain from coitus could lead to guilt, unwanted pregnancy, abortion, or loss of opportunity in the form of educational endeavors. In addition, insight into what responsibility or obligations are attached to having coitus should be considered.

These are important concerns and to say that young people are poorly equipped to make decisions concerning their sexuality is an understatement. But where is there an opportunity for open, honest, and straightforward discussions? Hopefully the home would serve the needs of the young adult, but unfortunately parents are many times insecure, uninformed or too threatened by the subject of sex to adequately deal with their childrens' needs. The church might also serve as an institution through which sexuality might be discussed. However, Judeo-Christian ethics too often dictate a "thou shalt not" approach to human sexuality. Frequently the results are shadowed by guilt, and no real aid in decision making has been given to the young adult. The school offers perhaps the best opportunity for this non-threatening, open forum which is needed

if an individual is going to make an intelligent decision. Assuming qualified teachers are available, this opportunity for nonjudgmental discussions offered by the school makes sex education a necessity in every curriculum.

An important concern to this researcher is the lack of significant differences in the mean scores between the senior education majors and the incoming freshmen on the Sex Knowledge Inventory. Particularly since the seniors were required to take a health course which contained a unit on human sexuality, it seems that the sex knowledge scores for the senior groups should have been higher than those of the freshmen groups. Several things may have accounted for the lack of significant differences in the mean knowledge scores. First, 58 percent of the high permissive seniors reported having received formal sex education while 48 percent of the low permissive seniors received formal sex education. In contrast, 58 percent of both the high and low permissive freshmen had received sex education. Perhaps this increase in percentage of those who received formal sex education resulted in an increase in the mean scores achieved by the freshmen and represented equality on both groups' parts from the instruction they received. Without being disdainful of the freshmen's experience, the writer feels that more than an increase in knowledge on the part of the freshmen, the equality of mean scores represents a lack of quality instruction for the senior group. Of the

55 percent of the seniors who reported formal sex education, almost all said their instruction was at the college level. Although a requirement exists that a unit be taught, no guidelines are available as to the length or topics covered during the unit. Such factors as time allotment and a strictly anatomy/physiology approach may account for the knowledge level of the seniors. The lack of time devoted to human sexuality is further emphasized by the fact that only half the senior group reported having formal sex education. Since the personal health course is a requirement for graduation from the university, it seems that sufficient, high quality instruction should have been recalled. The writer believes a higher quality course or unit designed to facilitate a variety of issues in human sexuality for the seniors would have reflected a higher mean score on the Sex Knowledge Inventory for the senior group.

For the writer, this endeavor has been an excellent learning experience which helped to support or reject many of the variables which other researchers purport to be important in influencing sexuality. In addition, this investigation has created questions which hopefully will lead to further investigation and answers to additional questions concerning human sexuality. Finally, this research has better equipped the writer to design and implement questionnaires dealing with sexuality. Regardless of

how much course work one engages in, the real test comes when the actual process of gathering information takes place. The writer believes that this "real test" will make for future research of higher quality with more sophisticated research design.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

CONSENT TO TEST LETTERS--MEMPHIS STATE UNIVERSITY



MEMPHIS STATE UNIVERSITY
The College of Education
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE 38152

Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation

January 14, 1977

Dr. David Anspaugh
860 20th Street, Apt. 614
Knoxville, Tennessee 37916

Dear Dr. Anspaugh:

Pursuant to your request for permission to survey all sections of the Health 1102 - Personal Health (3) course offered during the fall term of 1977 for the purpose of assessing sexual knowledge and behavior, permission is hereby granted. This permission in no way shall supersede individual faculty decisions to cooperate with your request.

It is agreed that all information obtained from your survey will be treated with absolute confidentiality.

We extend to you our best wishes for the successful completion of your research.

Sincerely,

(Signed)

Ralph Hatley
Chairman

(Signed)

M. A. Humphreys
Acting Chairman 1977-78

jr
cc: Dr. Mike Hamrick

MEMPHIS STATE UNIVERSITY
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE 38152

The College of Education
Professional Laboratory Experiences

January 25, 1977

Dr. David Anspaugh
Department of Health Education
University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Knoxville, TN 37916

Dear Dave:

In congruence with our conversation in December of 1976, I am sending a letter to you verifying that we will authorize you to conduct certain testing/survey activities with our student teachers during the Fall Semester of 1977.

This agreement is binding only if you provide this office and the subjects of your investigations with assurance that the data collected will be held in the strictest of confidence and that individual identification is in no way possible or desirable. It is also important for all concerned to recognize that participation in the study is 100 percent voluntary and that anyone may elect not to participate.

I trust that your efforts are going as anticipated. We here wish you well. Let me hear from you as the need arises.

Cordially,

(Signed)

A. Bert Webb, Director
Professional Laboratory Experiences

ABW:dw

MEMPHIS STATE UNIVERSITY
The College of Education
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE 38152

Office of the Associate Vice President
for
Research and Graduate Studies

January 26, 1977

Dr. David J. Anspaugh
Associate Professor
School of Health, Physical
Education and Recreation
The University of Tennessee
Knoxville, Tennessee 37916

Dear Dr. Anspaugh:

In response to your request to Dean Robert Saunders for approval to use certain MSU classes for testing purposes, this letter will serve to clarify the position of the University.

A Committee on Human Subjects was convened as evidenced by the signatures of the attending members who acted on your request as follows:

"Given the conditions stated in your letter that (1) anonymity would be maintained consistent with the "Right to Privacy Act" and (2) group data--only will be utilized, it is the opinion of the committee that there will be no significant risks to the rights and welfare of the subjects involved in the testing activity."

This letter may be used to substantiate your requests for approval from The University of Tennessee Human Subjects Committee, or for other similar purposes.

Yours very truly,

(Signed)
E. P. Segner, Jr.
Associate Vice President
for Research and
Graduate Studies

cc: Dean Robert Saunders
Dr. Jerry N. Boone

Committee Membership:

(Signed)
Dr. Victor Feisal

(Signed)
Dr. Alicia Tilley

(Signed)
Dr. Fred K. Bellott

APPENDIX B

BEHAVIOR AND SOCIOECONOMIC QUESTIONNAIRE

Please Read

This questionnaire is fully anonymous. You will not put your name on it. We are interested in overall patterns and not in any particular individual response. Please answer every question as truthfully as possible for it is important that the responses to this questionnaire be as valid as possible. No one will know what your individual responses are to the questionnaire except the researcher. Your help in completing this questionnaire is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your cooperation.

Part I - Permissive Attitude Scale

Part II - General Socio-Economic Questions

Part III - Dating Activity Questions

Part IV - Sexual Knowledge Test

Part I

Permissive Attitude Scale

Instructions: In this section we are interested in obtaining your personal beliefs. After each question decide first whether you agree or disagree; then check the degree of your agreement or disagreement (strong, medium, slight).

Definitions: In order to be sure we are defining terms the same way, three terms are defined for you. They are:

1. Petting - sexually stimulating behavior more intimate than kissing and simple hugging but not including full sexual relations.

2. Strong affection - affection which is stronger than physical attraction or average fondness or "liking" but less strong than the emotional state which you would call love.

3. Love - the emotional state which is more intense than strong affection and which you would define as love.

Remember, we are not interested in what you tolerate in others; we are interested in your personal beliefs. Please answer that way. Please keep in mind the definitions.

PLEASE CHECK HOW STRONGLY YOU FEEL ABOUT EACH OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS:

1. I believe that petting is acceptable before marriage when one is in love.
   Agree: ___strong ___medium ___slight
   Disagree: ___strong ___medium ___slight

2. I believe that full sexual relations are acceptable before marriage when one is not particularly affectionate for their partner.
   Agree: ___strong ___medium ___slight
   Disagree: ___strong ___medium ___slight

3. I believe that kissing is acceptable before marriage when you are engaged to be married.
   Agree: ___strong ___medium ___slight
   Disagree: ___strong ___medium ___slight

4. I believe that petting is acceptable before marriage when you are strongly affectionate for your partner.
   Agree: ___strong ___medium ___slight
   Disagree: ___strong ___medium ___slight

5. I believe that full sexual relations are acceptable before marriage when you are engaged to be married.
   Agree: ___strong ___medium ___slight
   Disagree: ___strong ___medium ___slight

6. I believe that kissing is acceptable before marriage when you are in love.
   Agree: ___strong ___medium ___slight
   Disagree: ___strong ___medium ___slight

7. I believe that petting is acceptable before marriage when you are not particularly affectionate toward your partner.
   Agree: ___strong ___medium ___slight
   Disagree: ___strong ___medium ___slight

8. I believe that full sexual relations are acceptable before marriage when you are in love.
   Agree: ___strong ___medium ___slight
   Disagree: ___strong ___medium ___slight

9. I believe that kissing is acceptable before marriage when you are not particularly affectionate toward your partner.
   Agree: ___strong ___medium ___slight
   Disagree: ___strong ___medium ___slight

10. I believe that petting is acceptable before marriage when you are engaged to be married.
   Agree: ___strong ___medium ___slight
   Disagree: ___strong ___medium ___slight

11. I believe that kissing is acceptable before marriage when you feel strong affection for your partner.
   Agree: ___strong ___medium ___slight
   Disagree: ___strong ___medium ___slight

12. I believe that full sexual relations are acceptable before marriage when you are strongly affectionate toward your partner.
   Agree: ___strong ___medium ___slight
   Disagree: ___strong ___medium ___slight

Part II

Please answer each question by checking the box which applies to your status or your families' status. Check a response to each question.

1. Sex: 1___male 2___female Race: B___ W___

2. Age: ___ Married___ Unmarried___

3. Class in school:
   1___freshman 2___senior 3___elementary major 4___secondary major

4. Were you the ___ child in your family?
   0___only
   1___first
   2___second
   3___third
   4___fourth
   5___fifth
   6___other (please explain) _____

5. How many of your brothers and sisters are older than you?
   1___brothers
   2___sisters

6. How many of your brothers and sisters are younger than you?
   1___brothers
   2___sisters

7. What is the approximate size of the community you have lived in most?
   1___under 1000
   2___5000 to 10,000
   3___10,000 to 29,999
   4___30,000 to 59,999
   5___60,000 to 99,999
   6___1000,000 to 299,999
   7___300,000 to 599,999
   8___600,000 to 1 million
   9___over 1 million

8. What is the highest level of education attained by your father?
   1___None
   2___Elementary school
   3___Some high school
   4___Graduated from high school
   5___Some college
   6___Graduated from college

7___Master's and/or Ph.D. degree
8___Law degree
9___Medical/dental degree
10___Other (please explain)_____

9. What is the highest level of education attained by your mother?
1___None
2___Elementary school
3___Some high school
4___Graduated from high school
5___Some college
6___Graduated from college
7___Master's and/or Ph.D. degree
8___Law degree
9___Medical/dental degree
10___Other (please explain)_____

10. Approximately what is the current economic status (annual income from all sources) of your parents? (mark one)

1___	under $5000	7___	30,000 to 34,999
2___	5000 to 9999	8___	35,000 to 39,999
3___	10,000 to 14,999	9___	40,000 to 44,999
4___	15,000 to 19,999	10___	45,000 to 49,999
5___	20,000 to 24,999	11___	over 50,000
6___	25,000 to 29,999		

11. Please classify your father's major occupation by marking the category that seems to fit best (mark one).
1___Professional 1 (typically requires a doctorate or advanced professional degree--such as lawyer, doctor, professor, minister, etc.)
2___Professional 2 (typically requires a Master's degree or some professional training beyond college--such as teacher engineer, accountant, etc.)
3___Managerial or executive.
4___Semi-professional or technical (lab-technician).
5___Public official or supervisor.
6___Small business proprietor or farm owner.
7___Sales or skilled clerical (such as department store salesman, stock clerk, etc.).
8___Semi-skilled or general labor (such as machine operator, farm, laborer, construction worker).

12. Please classify your mother's major occupation by marking the category that seems to fit best (mark one).
1___Professional 1 (typically requires a doctorate or advanced professional degree--such as lawyer, doctor, professor, minister, etc.)

2___Professional 2 (typically requires a Master's degree or some professional training beyond college--such as teacher engineer, accountant, etc.).
3___Managerial or executive.
4___Semi-professional or technical (lab-technician).
5___Public official or supervisor.
6___Small business proprietor or farm owner.
7___Sales or skilled clerical (such as department store salesman, stock clerk, etc.).
8___Semi-skilled or general labor (such as machine operator, farm, laborer, construction worker).

13. Are both of your natural parents living together?
1___Yes.
2___No.
3___Other (please explain)_____

14. Which of the following best describes the religious affiliation or identification of your father? (Mark one even if your father is not living.)
1___Baptist
2___Methodist
3___Presbyterian
4___Episcopal
5___Catholic
6___Jewish
7___No formal religion
8___No definite religious beliefs
9___Other (please explain)_____

15. Which of the following best describes the religious affiliation or identification of your mother? (Mark one even if your mother is not living.)
1___Baptist
2___Methodist
3___Presbyterian
4___Episcopal
5___Catholic
6___Jewish
7___No formal religion
8___No definite religious beliefs
9___Other (please explain)_____

16. Which of the following best describes your religious affiliation or identification?
1___Baptist
2___Methodist
3___Presbyterian
4___Episcopal
5___Catholic

6___Jewish
7___No formal religion
8___No definite religious beliefs
9___Other (please explain)_____

17. How often do you attend church?
1___More than twice a week
2___Twice a week
3___Once a week
4___Several times a month
5___At least once a month
6___A few times a year
7___Seldom
8___Never

18. Do you belong to a "social" fraternity or sorority on campus?
0___Yes
1___No

19. What is your status in a fraternity or sorority?
0___Pledge
1___Active
2___Not a member

20. Have you ever had formal sex education instruction?
1___Yes
2___No

21. From what source was the formal sex education received?
1___School
2___Church
3___Home
4___Other (please explain)_____

22. If received at school, what level was it taught? Check one or more.
1___Elementary
2___Junior high
3___High school
4___College

23. What was the quality of the formal sex education?
1___Never received formal sex education
2___Excellent
3___Good
4___Poor

Part III

Dating Activity Questions

The following questions pertain to certain types of dating behaviors. Although the questions are personal, we would appreciate very much your candid and honest responses. Please remember that your answers are completely confidential. No one will ever see your answers on this questionnaire. The questionnaire will be coded, recorded on IBM cards and the questionnaires will be destroyed. Thank you for your help.

1. Please indicate which of the following most clearly describes your present dating status.
   1___Unattached and dating many different people.
   2___Unattached and dating a few people regularly.
   3___Dating only one person regularly.
   4___Going steady.
   5___Pinned.
   6___Engaged to be married in the very near future.
   7___Engaged to be married in the distant future.
   8___Other (please explain)_____

2. If you are going steady, pinned, or engaged, how long have you been committed to this person?
   1___A few weeks or less.
   2___A few months.
   3___One-half year.
   4___A year or more.

3. In an average week, about how frequently do you date?
   1___Once
   2___Twice
   3___Three times
   4___Four times
   5___Five times
   6___Six times or more
   7___None

4. About how frequently do you double date?
   1___All the time
   2___Frequently or most of the time
   3___Occasionally
   4___Seldom
   5___Rarely
   6___Never

5. During the past year did you engage in sexual intercourse?
   1___Yes
   2___No

6. With how many different partners did you engage in premarital sexual intercourse during the past year?

1___None
2___One
3___Two
4___Three
5___Four
6___Five
7___Six or more

7. How many times did you have sexual intercourse?

1___None
2___Once a week
3___Two-three times a week
4___Four-five times a week
5___More than six times a week
6___Other (please explain)_____

8. If you engaged in sexual intercourse during the past year, was your partner(s): (mark as many answers as are appropriate).

1___A student at this school.
2___A student at another college.
3___Someone from this area who is not a student at this school.
4___Someone who does not attend this school and who lives in another area.
5___Other (please explain)_____
6___Did not engage in intercourse last year.

9. At what age did you begin dating?

1___Eleven
2___Twelve
3___Thirteen
4___Fourteen
5___Fifteen
6___Sixteen
7___Other (specify age)_____

10. At what age did you first have intercourse?

1___Eleven
2___Twelve
3___Thirteen
4___Fourteen
5___Fifteen
6___Sixteen
7___Seventeen
8___Eighteen
9___Nineteen
10___Twenty
11___Other (specify age)_____

11. Have you ever had oral sex?
    1___Yes
    2___No

12. With how many partners have you had oral sex?
    1___One
    2___Two
    3___Three
    4___Four
    5___Five
    6___None

13. At what age did you first have oral sex?
    1___Eleven
    2___Twelve
    3___Thirteen
    4___Fourteen
    5___Fifteen
    6___Sixteen
    7___Seventeen
    8___Eighteen
    9___Nineteen
    10___Twenty
    11___Other (please explain)_____

14. Have you answered all questions honestly on this questionnaire?
    1___Yes
    2___No

APPENDIX C

CONSENT TO TEST FORM--SUBJECTS

I, the undersigned, understand the following:

1. The purpose of this research is to obtain information concerning sexual knowledge, permissive attitude, and sexual activity.

2. I have volunteered to fill out the testing instruments of my own free will. This project in no way will affect my grade or my graduation from the university.

3. I have the right to withdraw from the research at any point and need not complete the remaining questions.

4. The data collected will be used for group analysis and will not be used for individual analysis.

5. Only the researcher will have access to the data and all data will be treated confidentially--not open to public inspection.

Signed_____

Date _____

VITA

David James Anspaugh was born in Fort Wayne, Indiana on April 12, 1944. He attended elementary and high school in Indiana, graduating in 1961 from Fremont Consolidated Schools. In 1962 he entered Albion College, and in June 1966 received his Bachelor of Arts degree from that institution. In 1967 he was hired as freshman basketball coach at Eastern Michigan University and began study toward a Master's degree. This M.S. degree in health and physical education was awarded in August 1967.

After teaching and coaching two years at Alpena Community College in Alpena, Michigan, he entered Indiana University. He received his doctorate from that institution in 1971 with a major in physical education and a minor in school health. In 1971 he was employed by Memphis State University as an assistant professor. He has been employed by Memphis State since that date and has been granted tenure and promoted to associate professor.

He is married to the former Susan Oswald of Barrington, Illinois. They have two children, Aimee Leigh, age five, and David James, age three.