

# Women's Self-Reports of Sexual Violence Outside of Survey Time Periods: Implications for Measurement

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## Background: Measuring Women's Victimization through Self- Report Surveys

### **SELF REPORTS SURVEYS**

Behaviorally-specific measures like the SES (Koss et al., 2007) are considered best practice.

### **REFERENCE PERIOD**

“Over the past 12 months”

“Since Age 14”

“Since the last survey”

## Reports Outside the Reference Period



## Telescoping

### **MISPLACING EVENTS IN TIME**

(Gaskell et al., 2000; Prohaska et al., 1998)

### **DESIRE TO HAVE EXPERIENCES HEARD**

(Cook et al., 2011)

### **MISREADING INSTRUCTIONS**

(Abbey et al., 2005)

# Current Study

- Background: Efficacy of a Sexual Assault Resistance Program for University Women (Senn et al., 2015, NEJM).
  - Longitudinal Randomized Controlled Trial.
  - Found evidence of telescoping.
- Current Study:
  - Using secondary data to examine the extent, nature, and impact of telescoping

# Data From Two Sources

	<b>Study 1: Random Sample Survey (Jeffrey et al., 2022)</b>	<b>Study 2: Longitudinal Evaluation Data (Senn et al., in press)</b>
<b>Sample</b>	977 Randomly sampled students of all genders	519 women from 5 universities who participated in EAAA
<b>Measures</b>	Sexual Experiences Survey + follow up questions	Sexual Experiences Survey + follow up questions
<b>Timepoints</b>	Last 12 months	Since age 14; since last survey; last 6 months
<b>Rape/Attempted Rape Victimization</b>	80 respondents	288 women

Enter a date:

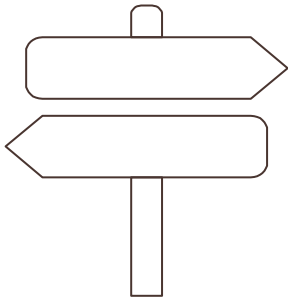
← May 2022 →						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11

05-01-2022

## When did this happen? Please use the calendar below to select the date.

If you are having trouble remembering, it sometimes helps to think back to other important events (e.g., birthdays, exams, holidays), ask yourself if it was before or after those, and then proceed to narrow it down. If you cannot remember exactly, please use the calendar to provide your best estimate of when it happened.

# Secondary Data Analysis



## Victimization Reports

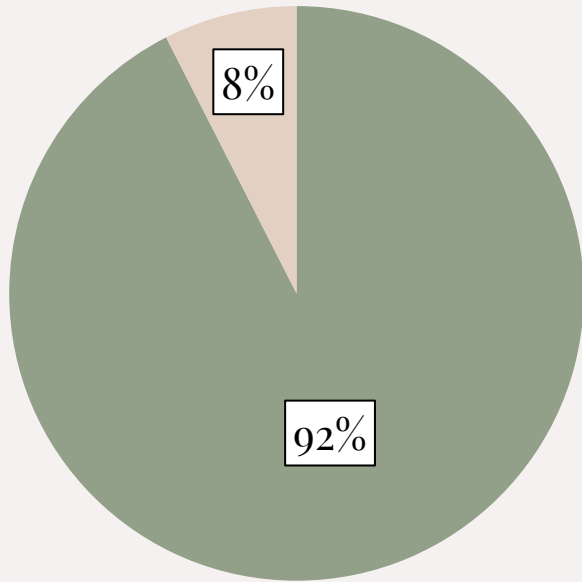
- Located participants who reported attempted or completed rapes.
- Manually compared their reported dates to the reference period.

## Telescoping

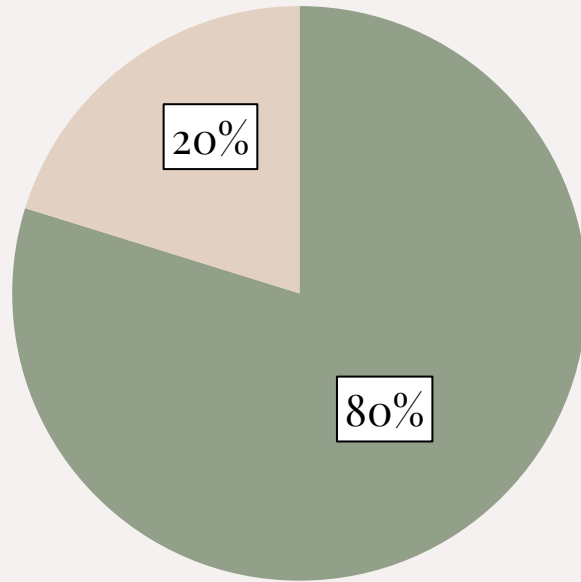
- Identified participants who made telescoping errors.
- Analyzed the prevalence and nature of different kinds of telescoping errors.

# Results: Prevalence of Telescoping Errors

## Random Sample Survey



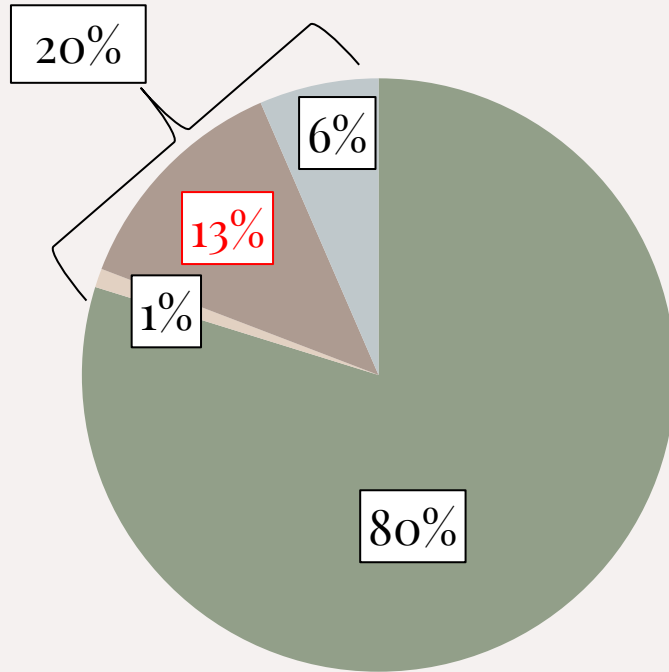
## Longitudinal Evaluation



- No Telescoping
- Telescoping



# Results: Nature of Telescoping

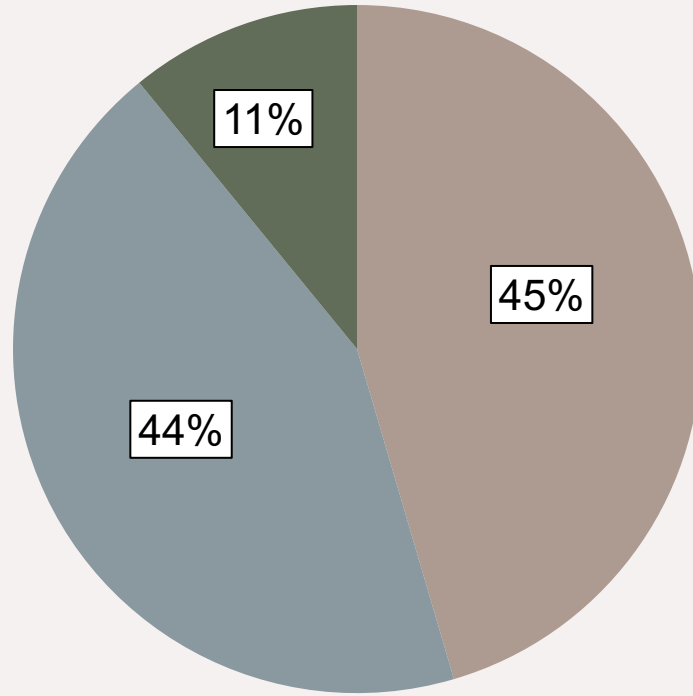


## Longitudinal Evaluation

- No Errors
- Errors at both timepoints
- **Post Test Errors**
- 6 Month Errors

## Results: Nature of Telescoping

How far  
off are the  
errors?  
(N = 54)



- <1 Year Outside the Reference Period
- >1 Year Outside the Reference Period
- Mixture of Both

# Results: Nature of Telescoping

## Double Reports

Reported specific experiences at baseline, and again on follow up.

## Missed at Last Survey

Reported events with dates that indicate they should have been reported in past surveys.

## Future Dates

Reported experiences on days that were in the future.

## Accidental Clicking

E.g., “I clicked yes by mistake, this never happened.”

## Date Unsure

Reported experiences but indicated they weren't sure when they happened

# Results: Open Ended Data

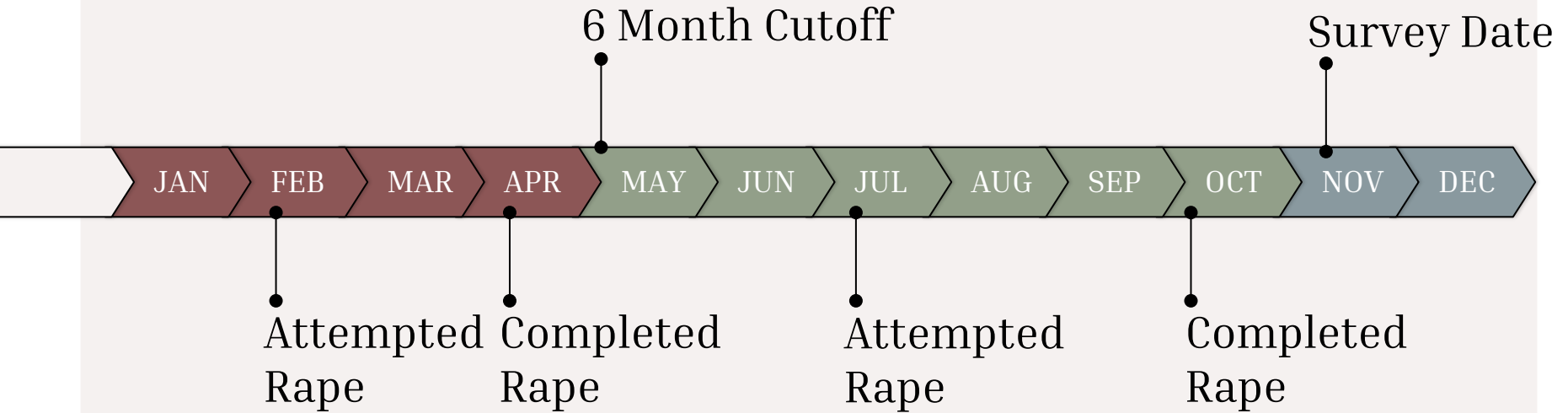
“November 17<sup>th</sup> ish?”

“This happened repeatedly from March to May.”

“Valentines Day.”

“This happened a long time ago, not within 6 months.”

# The Date Question & Multiple Reports: An Example



# Including a Date Question: Implications for Researchers

- Relevance depends on the scope of the study (e.g., evaluation vs single timepoint)
- Assess the extent of telescoping and adjust estimates accordingly
- Fits within existing recommendations for “best practices” in sexual violence victimization measurement, like the Two-Stage Approach (Krebs et al., 2021)



# Including a Date Question: Implications for Respondents

Prompts deeper thinking  
about the questions

Relatively low demand

Helps respondents with  
multiple reports organize  
the timeline of events





## Final Considerations

- Increased demand on researchers and participants
- Participants might not respond at all or accurately to the date questions



# Thank You!

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