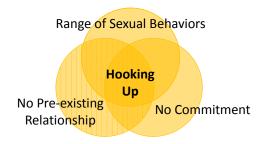
# A Prototype Analysis of Hooking Up

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#### **Defining Hooking Up**

College students no longer go on dates, they "hook up" (Bogle, 2008). Hooking up has been defined as "a sexual encounter, usually lasting only one night, between two people who are strangers or brief acquaintances. Some physical interaction is typical, but may or may not include sexual intercourse" (Paul, McManus, & Hayes, 2000).

Like other published rule-based definitions, this definition includes three elements:



No evidence exists to indicate whether this definition actually matches the way students themselves use the term. The purpose of the present research is to determine college students' prototype of hooking up.

### **Identifying Features**

**Instructions**: Imagine that you are explaining the phrase HOOKING UP to someone who has no experience of hooking up. Include the obvious. Remember that these attributes can be positive or negative. List as many attributes as you can.

92 women and 56 men listed a total of 957 features

Participants listed an average of 6.3 features (SD=3.67).

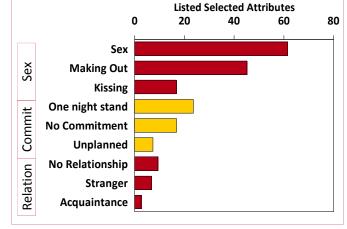
#### **Results: Features**

92 features were mentioned by at least 2 people

The frequency with which each of these 92 attributes was mentioned is indicated by the font size:



Percentage of People Who



#### References

Bogle, K. A. (2008). *Hooking up: Sex, dating, and relationships on campus.* New York: New York University Press.

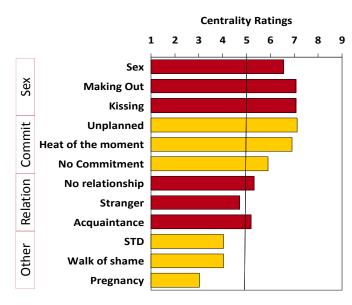
Paul, E. L., McManus, B., & Hayes, A. (2000). "Hookups":

Characteristics and correlates of college students' spontaneous and anonymous sexual experiences. *Journal of Sex Research*, 37, 76-88.

#### **Centrality of Features**

**Instructions**: Think of the concept of HOOKING UP. For each of the features below, please indicate how central (important or essential) you think it is to the concept of HOOKING UP.

**Participants**: 135 women, 60 men, and 2 others were randomly assigned to review a third of the 92 features



#### **Conclusion**

Hooking up refers to

- 1) A broad range of sexual behaviors
- 2) In a pairing with no commitment

But the nature of the pre-existing relationship is less central to college students' prototypes of hooking up.