Reproductive coercion can be exerted in many ways:

- Monitoring your menstrual cycles.
- Refusing to use a condom or other type of birth control.
- Breaking or removing a condom during intercourse.
- Lying about their methods of birth control (for example, lying about having a vasectomy, lying about being on the pill).
- Refusing to "pull out" if that is the agreed upon method of birth control.
- Forcing you to not use any birth control (for example, the pill, condom, shot, ring, etc.).
- Sabotaging birth control methods (for example, poking holes in condoms, tampering with pills or flushing them down the toilet).
- Withholding finances needed to purchase birth control.
- Forcing pregnancy and not supporting your decision about when or if you want to have a child.
- Threatening you or acting violent if you don't comply with their wishes to either end or continue a pregnancy.
- Continually keeping you pregnant (getting you pregnant again shortly after you give birth).

The Key to Prevention

Perpetration of sexual misconduct and violence is a choice. Choose not to abuse.

The key to preventing sexual violence and misconduct is to obtain valid consent for all sexual conduct. If consent has not been given or has been withdrawn, do not initiate sexual activity or immediately stop the activity. Remember, nonconsensual sexual conduct is a crime as well as a violation of campus policy.

Consent and the Law

Got AFFIRMATIVE Consent?

So, what does California Law say about consent?

**California Penal Code**

California Penal Code §261.6 states consent is “...positive cooperation in act or attitude pursuant to an exercise of free will. The person must act freely and voluntarily and have knowledge of the nature of the act or transaction involved. A current or previous dating or marital relationship shall not be sufficient to constitute consent where consent is at issue in a prosecution.” Per California Penal Code §261.7, a request by a victim for a sexual misconduct or violence perpetrator to “use a condom or other birth control device, without additional evidence of consent, is not sufficient to constitute consent...”

**California Education Code**

California Education Code §67386 establishes an affirmative consent standard for colleges and universities and the students and employee who attend and work at California institutions of higher education.

"Affirmative consent" means affirmative, conscious, and voluntary agreement to engage in sexual activity. It is the responsibility of each person involved in the sexual activity to ensure that he or she has the affirmative consent of the other or others to engage in the sexual activity. Lack of protest or resistance does not mean consent, nor does silence mean consent. Affirmative consent must be ongoing throughout a sexual activity and can be revoked at any time. The existence of a dating relationship between the persons involved, or the fact of past sexual relations between them, should never by itself be assumed to be an indicator of consent...

The bottom line: What you need to know about consent

- It is your responsibility to obtain clear and ongoing affirmative consent before initiating any sexual activity — even when you are intoxicated.
- Minors (under 18) cannot give legal consent.

- Consent can be withdrawn at any time—including after penetration.
- Consent must be based on an affirmative, conscious, informed and voluntary agreement; and given by everyone involved in a sexual encounter.
- Consent is not valid if given as a result of fear, coercion, force, violence, threat of violence or retribution.
- Silence or lack of protest or resistance do not mean consent.
- The absence of a “yes” means “no.”
- A request for condom or birth control use does not, in and of itself, constitute consent.
- Consent for one act (e.g., intimate touching, oral sex) does not establish consent for other acts (e.g., vaginal sex, anal sex).
- Relationship status, being "in love," previous sexual intimacy, spending money on someone, helping a fellow student with a project, or other circumstances do not obligate anyone to be sexually intimate with someone else if they do not want to be; nor do these or any other factors entitle anyone to sex.
- An incapacitated person cannot give consent.
- Incapacitation includes lacking the ability (mental or physical) to make informed, rational decisions; and being unable to understand the nature, extent or consequences of the sexual activity.
- Examples of incapacitation include an individual:
  - Is asleep or unconscious.
  - Is under the influence of alcohol, drugs, medications, or other substances to the point of incapacitation.
  - Has a mental or physical condition or disability that prevents giving consent.

Quick Facts on Consent, Sexual Coercion and Sexual Violence

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Sexual violence is an umbrella term for non-consensual sexual conduct. Sexual violence includes:

- Attempted or completed unwanted anal, oral and vaginal penetration.
- Being made to penetrate someone else without consent.
- Sexual coercion—unwanted anal, oral or vaginal penetration after being pressured in a non-physical way.
- Unwanted non-contact sexual experiences, such as being made to show genitalia.
- Unwanted sexual contact that doesn’t involve penetration, such as being kissed, fondled or grabbed.

Criminal Sexual Conduct

Criminal sexual conduct is defined by the California Penal Code.

Criminal Sexual Conduct includes:

- Oral copulation: Oral-genital or oral-anal contact.
- Rape: Sexual intercourse with someone who is not the spouse of the perpetrator. Any sexual penetration, however slight, is sufficient to complete the crime of rape.
- Sexual battery: Touching an intimate part (e.g., genitals, anus, groin, or buttocks of anyone; breast of a female).
- Sexual penetration: Penetration, however slight, of the genital or anal opening of any person or causing someone else to penetrate the perpetrator or another person with any foreign object (including body parts other than a penis), substance, instrument, device, or unknown object.
- Sodomy: Contact between the penis of one person and the anus of another person. Any sexual penetration, however slight, is sufficient to complete the crime of sodomy.
- Spousal rape: Sexual intercourse with the spouse of the perpetrator. Any sexual penetration, however slight, is sufficient to complete the crime.
- Unlawful sexual intercourse: Sexual intercourse with someone who is a minor (less than 18 years of age) and not the perpetrator's spouse.
- Attempts to commit any of the above acts.
- Other illegal sexual conduct.

Without Consent

- When a person is incapable of giving legal consent.
- Against a person’s will with the use of force, violence, coercion, threats, or fear of immediate injury on the victim or another person.
- With someone who is younger than 18 years of age.

According to California Law, consent for sex can be withdrawn at any time—including after penetration!

Sexual coercion

Sexual coercion can vary from being egged on and persuaded, to being forced to have contact. It can be verbal and emotional, in the form of statements that make you feel pressure, guilt, or shame. You can also be made to feel forced through more subtle actions. Sexual coercion can include someone:

- Making you feel like you owe them.
- Giving you drugs and alcohol to "loosen up" your inhibitions.
- Throwing a fit if you say no or don't immediately agree to something.
- Continuing to pressure you after you say no.
- Making you feel threatened or afraid of what might happen if you say no.
- Trying to normalize their sexual expectations, for example "I need it, I'm a man."

Reproductive coercion

Reproductive coercion is a form of power and control where one partner strips the other of the ability to control their own reproductive system. It is sometimes difficult to identify this coercion because other forms of abuse are often occurring simultaneously.

Help is Available on Campus

Call 911 in an Emergency

Student Health Center: 323.343.3302
www.calstatela.edu/studenthealthcenter/safe

Title IX Coordinator: 323.343.3040
http://www.calstatela.edu/hrm/oedi-title-ix
Mariel Mulet
University Police: 323.343.3700
www.calstatela.edu/police

Almost 20% of women and 1.5% of men have been raped.

Nearly 50% of women and 20% of men have been the victim of sexual violence other than rape.