



# EXPLORING COMFORT LEVELS AND THE ROLE OF COMPENSATION IN SEXUAL PSYCHOPHYSIOLOGY STUDY PARTICIPATION.



## WHAT IS THIS PUBLICATION ABOUT?

We investigated individuals' levels of comfort with participating in hypothetical sexual psychophysiology studies and examined how compensation may impact willingness to participate.

## WHAT IS PSYCHOPHYSIOLOGY RESEARCH?

Psychophysiology is the study of how mental processes impact the body. An example of this is genital response corresponding to viewing erotic stimuli. Sexuality research that assesses physiological response can vary in invasiveness. Some research devices capture images of the genitals remotely (e.g., thermal imaging [TI], laser Doppler imaging [LDI]), whereas others come into direct contact with the genitals (e.g., vaginal/clitoral/penile plethysmography [VPP/PPG], labial thermistors [LT]).



Participants reported their comfort level with the idea of participating in different studies involving measures that varied in invasiveness, the amount of compensation that would be reasonable for their participation, and factors influencing their decision not to participate if they were unwilling.



## WHAT WERE THE RESULTS?

PARTICIPANTS WERE SIMILARLY COMFORTABLE WITH SOME STUDIES INVOLVING GENITAL CONTACT (VPP) OR REMOTE IMAGING (TI), AND SOMEWHAT LESS COMFORTABLE WITH OTHERS (LDI, LT, PPG).

DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE GENITALS IS ONE ASPECT OF STUDY INVASIVENESS, BUT IT IS NOT NECESSARILY THE MOST IMPORTANT ONE INFLUENCING COMFORT WITH PARTICIPATION.

OUR RESULTS SUGGEST THAT PROVIDING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING PROTOCOLS AT SCREENING AND OFFERING \$50 COMPENSATION MIGHT ATTRACT WIDER SAMPLES OF PARTICIPANTS.



## WHAT ARE THE CLINICAL APPLICATIONS OF THIS PUBLICATION?

The field of sexual psychophysiology research is rapidly expanding. This study provides important information regarding factors that researchers can modify to increase comfort of participants, with the potential to improve generalizability of study findings.