The present study, we used the MSES (Messman et al., 2010) to assess the degree to which victims received negative reactions upon initial disclosure. In light of research suggesting that victims of alcohol-involved versus non-alcohol-involved assaults may also receive different types of negative reactions (e.g., blaming versus controlling), future studies should consider using a measure that assesses the various dimensions of social reactions (e.g., the Social Reactions Questionnaire; Ullman, 2000).

Clinical Implications

Researchers have recently recommended that sexual assault prevention programs implement efforts to increase effective responding to disclosure (McMahan & Banyard, 2012). The present study suggests that victims of IR receive especially negative reactions upon disclosure. Negative perceptions of victims who were intoxicated at the time of assault as well as misconceptions about responsibility and consent within IR situations may fuel these negative reactions. Thus, in order to promote more supportive responding to disclosure, prevention programs may need to explicitly combat these commonly held beliefs.