

OFFENDER/PERPETRATOR CHARACTERISTICS

Objectives

- ◎ To differentiate between offender typologies and methods of operation.

- ◎ Subjects Covered:
 - Childhood manifestations
 - Male versus female offenders
 - Classification of rapist theories/typologies

Offender/Perpetrator Characteristics

◎ Statistics

Just How Many Sex Offenders Are Out There?

- ◎ According to the BJS, only 10-16% of sexual assaults are reported to law enforcement. (Greenfield 1997)
- ◎ Because of this low level of report, a BJS study of sex offenders estimated that the approx. 265,000 convicted sex offenders under control of US correctional agencies were **<10% of all sex offenders** living in the US (Greenfield 1997).

Offender/Perpetrator Characteristics

◎ Statistics

Just How Many Sex Offenders Are Out There?

- ◎ Counting undetected offenders, we may have as many as 2,650,000 sex offenders living in the US, many without detection.
- ◎ This is comparable to:
 - Almost 1% of the US population of 298 million
 - Equivalent to the population of Kansas (2.6 million)
 - Equivalent to the **combined populations of WY, AK, DE, & RI** (Kilpatrick, Saunders & Smith 2000)

Offender/Perpetrator Characteristics

- ◎ Perpetrator Factors
 - History of childhood abuse
 - Neglect
 - Sexual abuse
 - Physical abuse
 - Psychological abuse
 - Exposure to any of the above

Offender/Perpetrator Characteristics

- ◎ Characteristics of the abuser:
 - Inappropriate emotional responses
 - Withdrawal from family, society, etc
 - Antisocial behavior patterns
 - Rebellion
 - Controlling
 - Jealousy
 - Possessiveness
 - Manipulation
 - Alcohol or drug dependancies

Offender/Perpetrator Characteristics

Sexual Violence:

*A crime of sex or violence?

*Rape is a forced sexual encounter
which includes psychological and
physical coercion*

Offender/Perpetrator Characteristics

Sexual Violence:

*A crime of sex or violence?

*Rape is a crime of violence and not an
act of spontaneous or sudden sexual
passion or satisfaction*

Offender/Perpetrator Characteristics

Sexual Violence Myths:

***Stereotypical behavior myths**

- A perpetrator always comes from an underprivileged background
- A perpetrator has a “certain look”
- A sexual crime mostly occurs between strangers
- Rapes are easily solved and easily prosecuted

Offender/Perpetrator Characteristics

Sexual Violence Myths:

***Stereotypical behavior myths**

- **Rape is a crime of sex:**
 - ⊙ Depends on the notion that rape is motivated by sexual desire. The problem is the victim is charged with having aroused him. It becomes easy to blame the victim, who is charged with the responsibility for the perpetrator’s arousal...blame is placed on the victim.

Offender/Perpetrator Characteristics

Sex Offending Cycle:

- Deviant sexual fantasies
- Masturbation
- Steps toward overtly deviant behavior
- Targets the victim
- Fantasy rehearsal
- Plans the act
- Grooms the victim
- **Offends**
- Reinforcement of original fantasy
- Negative feelings (anxiety)

(Kilpatrick, Saunders & Smith 2000)

Offender/Perpetrator Characteristics

Victim Selection:

Cleary's (2002) study of sex offenders showed that **opportunity** and **availability** were the most important factor in victim selection.

- **Opportunity was realized in two ways:**
 - Sex offender's physical proximity created access to victims.
 - Sex offender's knowledge of victim's emotional availability created access, **Availability was equal to opportunity to offend which** determined victim selection.
- These findings were almost identical to those of Hazelwood and Warren who noted that 98% of the serial rapists in their FBI study cited victim availability as their primary requirement for selection

(Cleary, 2002; Hazelwood and Warren, 2004)

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(Cleary, 2002; Hazelwood and Warren, 2004)

Offender/Perpetrator Characteristics

- ◉ **Perpetrator versus Authority/Power**
 - Sexual/Violent perpetrators commit such acts in effort to:
 - Gain or regain a sense of control
 - Satisfaction for perpetrator
 - Sense of fulfillment
 - Sense of power
 - Over victim

Offender/Perpetrator Characteristics

◎ Male Behavior

- Outward aggression
- Increased use of weapons
- Alcohol/drug dependency
- Male dominant ideology

◎ Female Behavior

- Internal aggression
- Self destructive/punishing behavior
- Alcohol/drug dependency
- Suicidal ideations
- Prostitution

Offender/Perpetrator Characteristics

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Offender/Perpetrator Characteristics

- ◉ Perpetrator/Rapist Typologies

4 Levels of Force:

Minimal>> to intimidate and control

Moderate>> slap, hit, painful but not necessarily Injurious

Excessive>> bruises, lacerations, may need medical treatment

Brutal>> sadistic torture, will need hospitalization;

- ◉ these offenders can be categorized as **ritualistic or impulsive**

- (Kilpatrick, Saunders & Smith 2000).

Offender/Perpetrator Characteristics

- ◉ Perpetrator/Rapist Typologies

- Power-Reassurance Rapist
- Power Assertive Rapist
- Exploitive Rapist
- Anger Rapist
- Sadistic Rapist
- Mixed Presentation

- (Kilpatrick, Saunders & Smith 2000).

Offender/Perpetrator Characteristics

◎ Power-Reassurance Rapist

- Ritualistic offender
- Driven by relationship component of fantasy relationship (conceives it to be consensual)
- Generally has no intent to punish or degrade victim
- Least likely to cause physical harm to victim
- Generally comfortable in environment (location)

• (Kilpatrick, Saunders & Smith 2000).

Offender/Perpetrator Characteristics

◎ Power-Reassurance Rapist

- May be self degrading rather than degrading to victim
- May apologize during assault (pseudo-unselfish behavior)
- Gathers ritualistic behavior of victim (voyeurism, routine behaviors of victim)
- Increased likelihood of repeat act if unsuccessful first time (commonly small amount of time frame apart)

- (Kilpatrick, Saunders & Smith 2000).

Offender/Perpetrator Characteristics

◎ Power-Reassurance Rapist

- Statistically most common type of rapist
- If successful over series of attacks may become more violent and advance to alternate typology
- May doubt own masculinity
- Victim of choice:
 - Typically same age, race
 - (Kilpatrick, Saunders & Smith 2000).

Offender/Perpetrator Characteristics

◎ Power-Reassurance Rapist

- *Style of attack*
 - Operates in familiar scene/environment
 - Uses weapon of opportunity (at scene)
 - Does not demean or degrade victim
 - May require victim to participate in fantasies
 - Keeps journal log of victims and routines
 - May take souvenir of assault
 - Will continue until caught or injured
 - May attempt to re-contact victim

Offender/Perpetrator Characteristics

◎ Power-Reassurance Rapist

- *Personal Profile*

- Low self esteem
- Underachiever
- Non athletic
- Usually single
- Low education level
- Nocturnal habits
- If dating – significantly younger
- Generally lives close proximity to first rapes

(Kilpatrick, Saunders & Smith 2000).

Offender/Perpetrator Characteristics

◎ Power-Assertive /Exploitive Rapist

- Impulse driven
- Common typology in date, spousal or acquaintance rapes
- Generally no doubt about own masculinity
- Sense of self entitlement, selfish
- Uses rape to express dominance over victim
- Feels no consequence to injury of victim

Offender/Perpetrator Characteristics

◎ Power-Assertive /Exploitive Rapist

- Attacks are away from home and work
- Often meets victims in bar
- Normally attacks during early evening
- Typically uses “con” approach to victims
- Generally multiple assaults
- Increased assaults = increased aggression

(Kilpatrick, Saunders & Smith 2000).

Offender/Perpetrator Characteristics

◎ Power-Assertive /Exploitive Rapist

- **Style of attack**
 - No empathy toward victim
 - Degrading to victim
 - No consistent pattern
 - Likely to rip or tear clothing from victim
 - Any location or timeframe
 - No research on victims, more impulsive
 - Increased likelihood of injuries to victim
 - Use of threats, dislike criticism
 - Generally no mask/disguise

• (Kilpatrick, Saunders & Smith 2000).

Offender/Perpetrator Characteristics

◎ Power-Assertive /Exploitive Rapist

• **Personal Profile**

- Macho
- Flashy dresser
- Divorced or single
- Vehicle may reflect image
- Self centered
- Male oriented job
- Generally history of arrest background
- More sporadic attacks

Offender/Perpetrator Characteristics

◎ Anger /Retaliatory Rapist

- ◎ Even less common; excessive violence; hard to catch; hates women;
- ◎ Force level: excessive
- ◎ Purpose of assault: he is angry; punishes and degrades women by raping them in order to act out his anger
- ◎ Impulsive
- ◎ Attacks are episodic
- ◎ May use weapon of opportunity
- ◎ Victim of choice: one who represents a person or group that the perpetrator hates or has violent aggression towards

○ (Kilpatrick, Saunders & Smith 2000).

Offender/Perpetrator Characteristics

◎ Anger /Retaliatory Rapist

- Verbally, physically, and sexually abusive—often brutal
- Uses blitz approach
- Spends short time with victim, but victim will be injured
- Victim is his age or older
- May select symbolic victims, but is opportunistic in victim selection
- Episodic pattern of attacks, not very predictable but can occur at any time
- Often drinks prior to assault

(Kilpatrick, Saunders & Smith 2000).

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Offender/Perpetrator Characteristics

◎ Anger/Retaliatory Rapist

• **Personal Profile**

- Explosive temper
- Explosive personality
- Impulsive
- Very self centered
- Con man
- Action oriented job
- Comfortable alone but has friends

• (Kilpatrick, Saunders & Smith 2000).

Offender/Perpetrator Characteristics

◎ Sadistic/Anger Excitation Rapist

- Least frequent, most violent, most dangerous; hard to catch
- force level: brutal
- Most ritualistic**
- Purpose of Assault: Total domination and control
- Intent to cause physical and emotional pain to victim
- True sexual sadist
- Pre-meditates plan – extreme detail
- Plans everything but the victim

Offender/Perpetrator Characteristics

◎ Sadistic/Anger Excitation Rapist

- Selfish and brutal
- “con” man
- Dramatic attitude change.. “like it was two different people”.
- Keeps victim for hours or days
- Meticulously records activities
- Uses commanding and degrading language
- Wants victim to respond to pain
- Wants victim to show fear

(Kilpatrick, Saunders & Smith 2000).

Offender/Perpetrator Characteristics

◎ Sadistic/Anger Excitation Rapist

- Uses instruments and devices
- Various victim ages
- Sexually experimental with victims
- Sexual bondage
- Cuts victims clothing with weapons to show control
- Impulsive attack timeframe but attacks are ritualistic and very well planned
- Most dangerous typology

- (Kilpatrick, Saunders & Smith 2000).

Offender/Perpetrator Characteristics

◎ Sadistic/Anger Excitation Rapist

• **Personal Profile**

- Generally white male “good family man”
- Outdoorsman
- Generally knife/weapon collector
- Generally no arrest record
- Often well educated/college graduate
- Fascinated with detective/investigative aspects
- Age: often late 30's

- (Kilpatrick, Saunders & Smith 2000).

Offender/Perpetrator Characteristics

◎ Sadistic/Anger Excitation Rapist

• **Personal Profile**

- Attacks because he is “bored” with the normal routine of daily living
- Fantasy life and begins to act on fantasies
- Often leads two separate lives
- Tells victim what he wants to do in detail
- Seen as an asset to community
- Time lapse between rapes with no apparent pattern for time frame

• (Kilpatrick, Saunders & Smith 2000).

Offender/Perpetrator Characteristics

◉ Mixed Presentation

- Perpetrator may have small similarities with categories
- Generally presentation predominantly placed perpetrator into specific typology
- Typologies may have some common elements but:
 - Predominantly will remain in one specific category

Offender/Perpetrator Characteristics

Questions?