

**Confronting the Reality
of
Sexual Violence
on the
College Campus**

David Lisak, Ph.D.



**Is sexual violence a product of
cultural forces?
Or is it caused by sexually violent
individuals?**



**Do we work to change the culture?
Or do we work to catch the offender?**

- A. It's the culture
- B. It's the offender
- C. It's neither
- D. All of the above

How do you change campus culture?



How do you catch offenders?



With great difficulty.

Is there a profile of an offender?



NO

**No Profile of a Sex Offender
Lessons from a Foiled Rape**

'He Took Out a Little Black Viol' Then 3 Women Foiled Man's Attempt to Drag Date, Police Say



By David H. Sherman, published online at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, August 28, 2017. Updated at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, August 28, 2017.

1. You can foil a rape
2. If you see something, do something
3. The intended victim thought the intended rapist was one of her "best friends"

No Profile of a Sex Offender

Colleagues Express Disbelief Over Arrest of Doctor With Picture-Perfect Life



By David H. Sherman, published online at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, August 28, 2017. Updated at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, August 28, 2017.

Dr. David H. Sherman arrived in June 2016 at his temporary post as emergency medicine at Mount Sinai Hospital, a prominent and growing medical presence as an expert in health care reform, a role that in a doctor, nurse, young wife, and a graduate father in the New Jersey suburbs.

As when he was arrested on Tuesday and charged with sexually assaulting one patient under his name in the emergency room, the reaction from his wide circle of colleagues was disbelief.

"It's gotten a whole bunch of people really from around the world," said Dr. James Hoffman, a professor emeritus of medicine at the University of California, Los Angeles, who has known Dr. Sherman for more than a decade. "It's someone in a field? 'David? This doctor's name was great.'"

No Profile of a Sex Offender



So how do we identify an offender?



By his/her behavior.

How do we find out about an offender's behavior?



A victim reports it.



And a victim only reports it if she/he trusts the system (i.e., culture).

What does a college do when it receives a report?



It investigates. Which creates a problem.



How do you conduct what amounts to a complex criminal investigation in the context of a college campus?

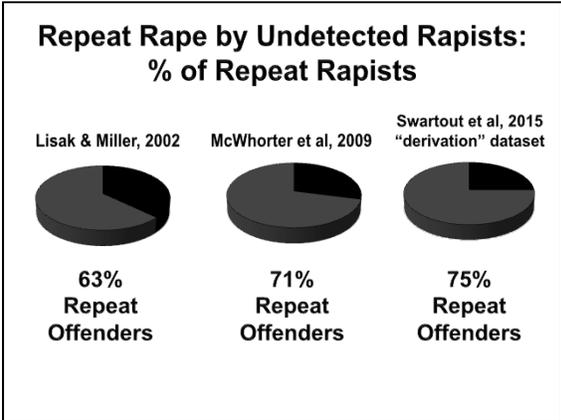
And to make matters worse...

Most sex offenders are serial offenders.

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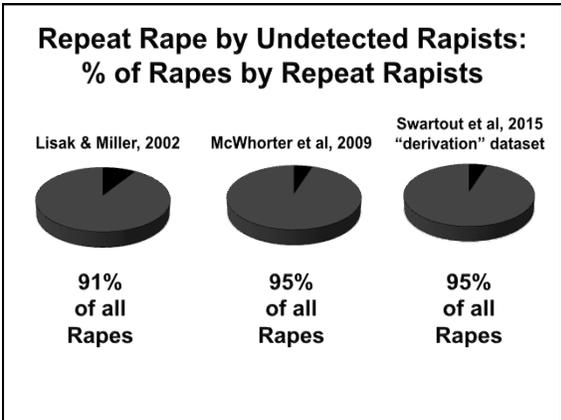
What percentage of sex offenders are serial offenders?

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What percentage of rapes are committed by serial offenders?

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Violence and Victims, Vol. 17, No. 1, 2002

**Repeat Rape and Multiple Offending
Among Undetected Rapists**

David Lisak
*University of Massachusetts, Boston
Boston, MA*

Paul M. Miller
*Brown University School of Medicine
Providence, RI*

Peer-reviewed data from four samples in which 1,882 men were assessed for acts of interpersonal violence, we report on 120 men whose self-reported acts met legal definitions of rape or attempted rape, but who were never prosecuted by criminal justice authorities. A majority of these undetected rapists were repeat rapists, and a majority also committed other acts of interpersonal violence. The repeat rapists averaged 3.8 rapes each. The 120 rapists were responsible for 1,225 separate acts of interpersonal violence, including rape, battery, and child physical and sexual abuse. These findings extend those from studies of incarcerated sex offenders (O'Leary, Becker, Matthews, Cunningham-Burley, Beckman, & Murphy, 1987; Watson and Taylor, 1991), indicating high rates of both repeat rape and multiple types of offending. Implications for the investigation and prosecution of this so-called "hidden" rape are discussed.

Why has this study been so controversial?

The Phenomenon of Serial Offending

- Research on sex offenders spanning decades
- General criminology research
- "If 1,000 burglaries last year, how many burglars?"

**The Unspoken Belief:
Higher Ed Exceptionalism**



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The Unspoken Belief: Higher Ed Exceptionalism The Stanford Rape Case



The Judge:
"A prison sentence would have a severe impact on him. I think he will not be a danger to others."

The Misplaced Belief: Serial Offending Undermines Prevention



February 26, 2014

White House Task Force on
Early Childhood Abuse, Neglect,
and Exploitation
United States Department of Justice
Office of Inspector General
1600 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Members of the Task Force:

On behalf of RAINN, I write to offer comments and recommendations to the White House Task Force on Early Childhood Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation.

RAINN is the nation's largest and oldest address organization. RAINN operates the National Sexual Assault Hotline (NSAHL) and other services. RAINN has been a partner in many of the nation's largest programs to reduce sexual violence, including the 100,000 Hours of Service program, the National Sexual Assault Resource Center, and the National Sexual Assault Resource Center. RAINN works to prevent sexual assault, help victims, and ensure that perpetrators are held accountable. We are pleased to be a part of this important effort.



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March 6, 2014

White House Task Force to
Protect Students from Sexual Assault
United States Department of Justice
Office of Inspector General
1600 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Task Force Members:

I am writing to clarify a potential misunderstanding that might arise from the letter submitted to you by RAINN on February 26, 2014, and signed by David Berkowitz and Rebecca O'Connor. In that letter, my research on serial offending on college campuses is cited (p. 2 & 3 of the letter), and a written statement of mine is paraphrased (p. 3 of the letter).

I want to clarify that I did not participate in the writing of this letter, nor was I consulted about it.

2015: "New" Research on Serial Offending

Original Investigation
Trajectory Analysis of the Campus Serial Rapist Assumption

Journal of Interpersonal Violence 30(12) 2015, pp. 2015-2030
© 2015 Sage Publications

Serial rapists have been identified as a potential public health concern because of their high rates of recidivism and the potential for severe and lasting harm to victims. The present study examined the trajectory of serial rapists from initial offense to subsequent offenses. Data from 100 serial rapists were analyzed using a trajectory analysis approach. Results indicated that serial rapists tend to have a high rate of recidivism, with many committing multiple offenses over a long period of time. The study also found that serial rapists tend to have a high rate of violence against their victims, with many committing severe and lasting harm. These findings have important implications for the development of prevention and intervention programs for serial rapists.

Author Biographies
David Lisak, Ph.D., is a forensic consultant and training specialist. He has worked with law enforcement agencies and the justice system for over 20 years. He is the author of several books on serial offending, including "The Serial Rapist: A Trajectory Analysis of the Campus Serial Rapist Assumption." He is also a frequent speaker at national and international conferences on serial offending.

2015: “New” Research on Serial Offending



2015: “New” Research on Serial Offending

Trajectory Analysis of the Campus Serial Rapist Assumption

Researchers have long argued that the campus serial rapist assumption is a flawed premise. This trajectory analysis of campus serial rapists shows that most campus serial rapists are not serial rapists. The authors conclude that the campus serial rapist assumption is flawed and that the percentage of serial rapists on campus is significantly lower than previously assumed.

How do you get the percentage of serial rapists down to 22%?

2015: “New” Research on Serial Offending

Serial Rapists Re-defined

- Arbitrarily exclude attempted rape from analyses
- Arbitrarily define “rape by force” and “rape by incapacitation” as only 1 rape
- Ignore subjects who admit multiple rapes in a single year



U. of Wisconsin Case – The Timeline

Oct 2016: UW student reported sex assault to Madison police

Oct 2016: Same week, after word gets out, 2nd student reports assault

“I saw the news story and was empowered by another girl being able to tell what happened to her, and I thought I could now finally tell,” the woman told the police.

Oct 2016: Madison police affidavit: “dozens” of women had contacted them about alleged acts, back to March, 2015

Oct 27, 2016: Dane Co. charges Cook with 14 felonies & 1 misdemeanor



Suspect:
Alec Cook

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**One part of our culture
that we must address...**

To Be a Man Means...



Resolute



Mentor



Community Protector



Vulnerable



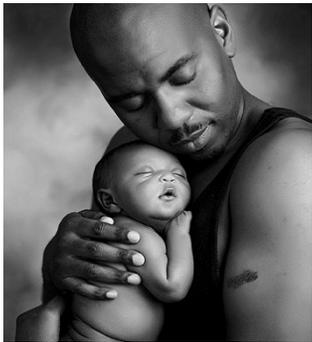
Loyal



Parental Instinct



Stalwart



Tender
