

**Answering the
Hard Questions About
Sexual Violence**

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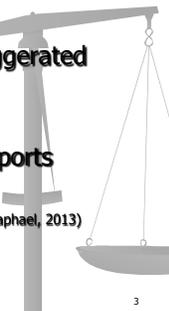
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Rape Deniers' Strategies

- Criticize rape statistics as exaggerated reports
- Claim rape victims lie: false reports

(Raphael, 2013)

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Topics Covered

- "It's just a miscommunication"
- "Most of them are lying"
- "What if they are both drunk?"



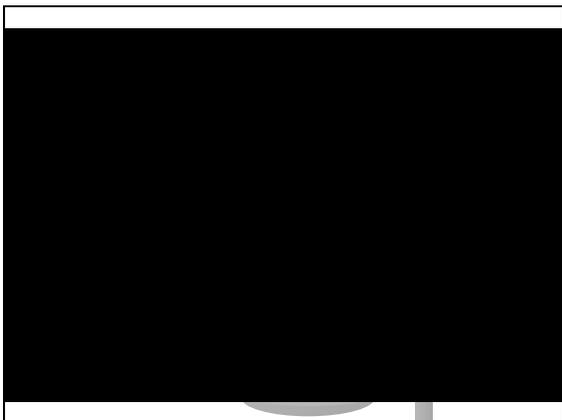
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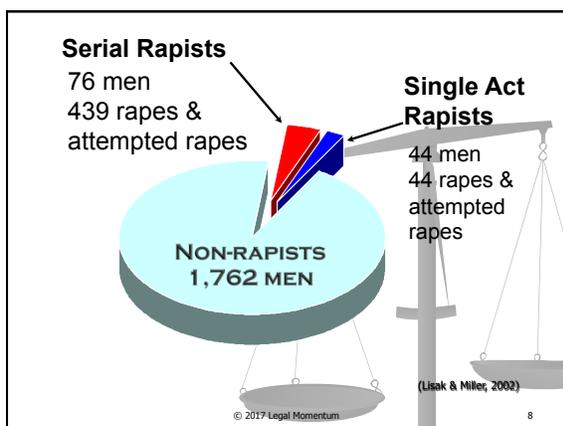
"It's Just a Miscommunication"

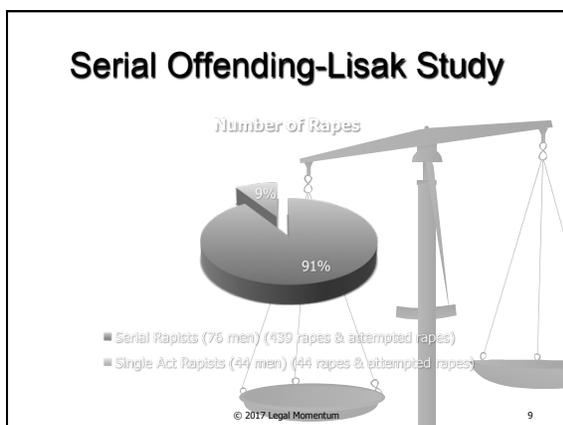


The Undetected Rapist









Violence Committed by Serial Rapists

The 76 Serial Rapists Committed:

- 49 sexual assaults
- 439 rapes & attempted rapes
- 66 acts physical abuse of children
- 277 acts sexual abuse of children
- 214 acts of battery

Total: 1,045 offenses

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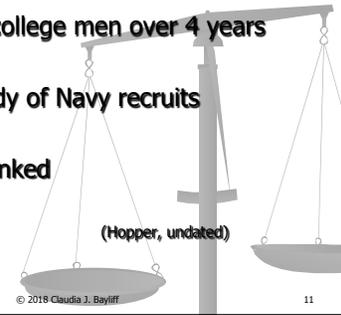


Similar Findings

- Study of 950 college men over 4 years
- Multi-year study of Navy recruits
- Criticism debunked

(Hopper, undated)

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www.jimhopper.com/repeat-rape



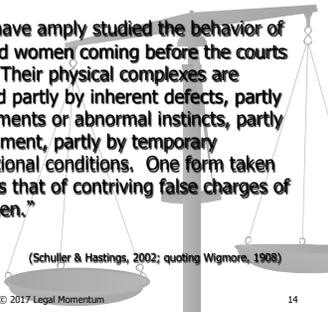
Repeat Rape by College Men

Research suggests that about two-thirds of college rapists are repeat offenders, who account for the great majority of rapes (over 90%) and that about one-fourth of college rapists admit to committing rapes over multiple years of college.

IMMEDIATE HELP & SUPPORT



False Reporting

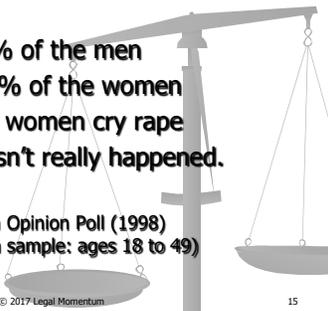


False Reporting: Wigmore's View

“Modern psychiatrists have amply studied the behavior of errant young girls and women coming before the courts in all sorts of cases. Their physical complexes are multifarious, distorted partly by inherent defects, partly by diseased derangements or abnormal instincts, partly by bad social environment, partly by temporary physiological or emotional conditions. One form taken by these complexes is that of contriving false charges of sexual offences by men.”

(Schuller & Hastings, 2002; quoting Wigmore, 1908)

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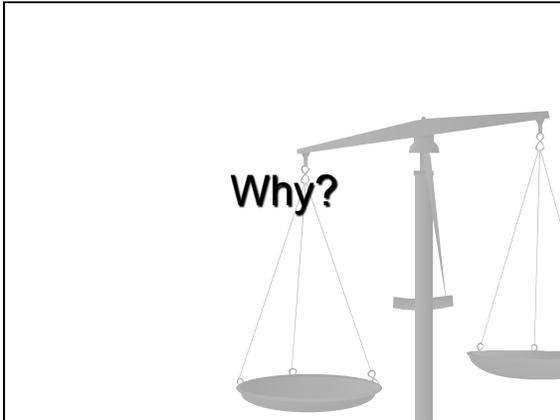


False Reporting: The More Modern View

49% of the men
and 42% of the women
believe women cry rape
when it hasn't really happened.

Georgia Opinion Poll (1998)
(Random sample: ages 18 to 49)

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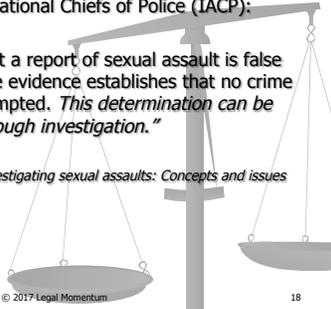


Definition

According to the International Chiefs of Police (IACP):

"The determination that a report of sexual assault is false can be made only if the evidence establishes that no crime was committed or attempted. *This determination can be made only after a thorough investigation.*"

(Lisak, 2010) (citing IACP, *Investigating sexual assaults: Concepts and issues paper* (2005)).



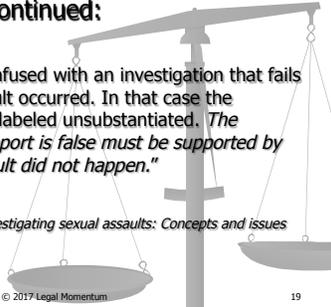
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Definition

IACP definition, continued:

"This should not be confused with an investigation that fails to prove a sexual assault occurred. In that case the investigation would be labeled unsubstantiated. *The determination that a report is false must be supported by evidence that the assault did not happen.*"

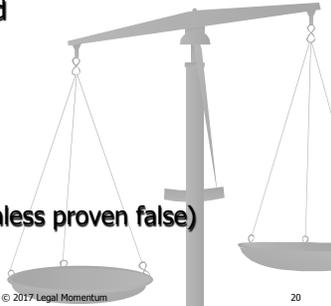
(Lisak, 2010) (citing IACP, *Investigating sexual assaults: Concepts and issues paper* (2005)).



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What Isn't Included?

- Unsubstantiated
- Unfounded
 - False
 - Baseless
- Recantation (unless proven false)

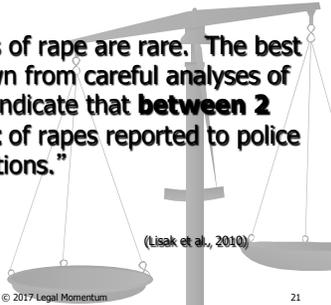


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False Reporting: The Reality

"False allegations of rape are rare. The best estimates, drawn from careful analyses of police reports, indicate that **between 2 and 8 percent** of rapes reported to police are false allegations."

(Lisak et al., 2010)



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False Reporting - IPSA

Decision	Rape	Domestic Violence	Rape & Domestic Violence
Total # of cases prosecuted	5,651	111,891	
Total suspects referred for charge	121	27	11
Charge PCJ	25	5	3
Charge WPT	10	1	0
No further action	75	21	8
Out of court disposal	11	0	0

(Levitt, 2013)

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- ### False Reporting – IPSA
- **Lessons learned**
 - Proving the falsity of the original complaint
 - Need for care in relying on admissions
 - Need for care in examining terms of complaint
 - Previous reports of rape
 - Intention
 - Young suspects who are themselves victims
 - Public interest factors
- (Levitt, 2013)
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- ### Answering the Question
- How many have been asked about false reporting?
 - How many had trouble answering?
 - What are the key components to an answer?
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Key Components

- Acknowledge false reports
- Acknowledge harm caused
- Explain definition
- Explain recent analysis of studies
- Explain statistics
- Don't say it is the same as for other crimes

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Time to Practice



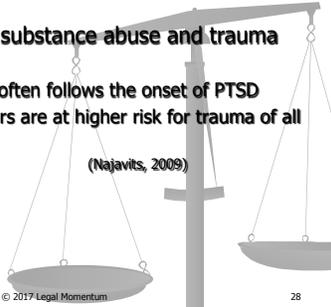
“What if They Are Both Drunk?”



Link Between Substance Abuse & Trauma

- The link between substance abuse and trauma goes both ways:
 - Substance abuse often follows the onset of PTSD
 - "Substance abusers are at higher risk for trauma of all kinds"

(Najavits, 2009)

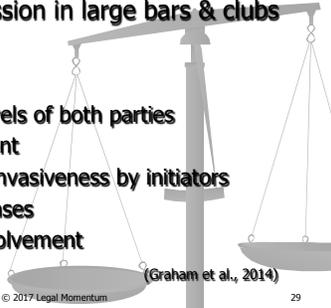


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Important New Study

- Study of aggression in large bars & clubs
- Looked at:
 - Intoxication levels of both parties
 - Aggressive intent
 - Persistence & invasiveness by initiators
 - Targets' responses
 - Third party involvement

(Graham et al., 2014)



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Findings

- 89.9% of aggressive sexual incidents involved male initiators & female targets
- Initiators were more invasive & persistent when targets were intoxicated
- Intoxicated women may be targeted for sexual aggression:
 - Less able to resist
 - More available

(Graham et al., 2014)

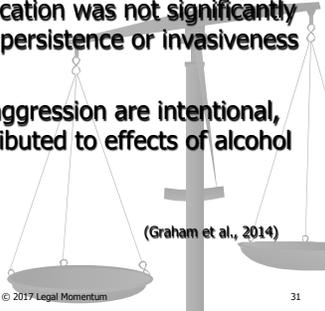


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Findings

- Initiators' intoxication was not significantly related to their persistence or invasiveness
- Acts of sexual aggression are intentional, rather than attributed to effects of alcohol on initiator

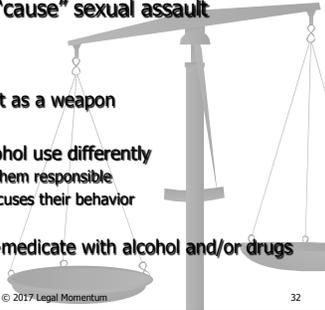
(Graham et al., 2014)



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The Role of Alcohol in Sexual Assault

- Alcohol does not "cause" sexual assault
- Role of alcohol:
 - Perpetrators use it as a weapon
 - Society views alcohol use differently
 - Victims – makes them responsible
 - Perpetrators – excuses their behavior
 - Victims often self-medicate with alcohol and/or drugs



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"Both Drunk"

- Voluntary intoxication not a defense to an intentional act
- Analogies
- Remember "Frank": perpetrators use alcohol deliberately as a weapon

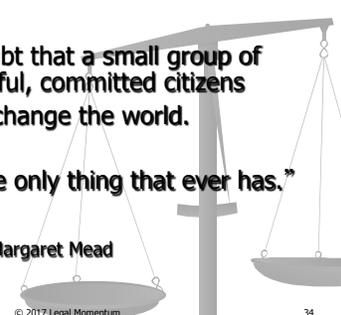


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Closing Thoughts

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has.”

Margaret Mead



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Thank you for what you do for all of us.



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