

Confronting the Reality of Sexual Violence

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1. Only Small Percentage of Men Commit Rape

- Calhoun et al. (1997): 6.0%
- Koss et al. (1987): 4.4%
- Lisak & Roth (1988): 6.4%
- Ryan (1998): 5%
- Merrill et al. (2001): 10.9% *
- Lisak & Miller (2002): 6.4%
- Carr & VanDeusen (2004): 4.0%

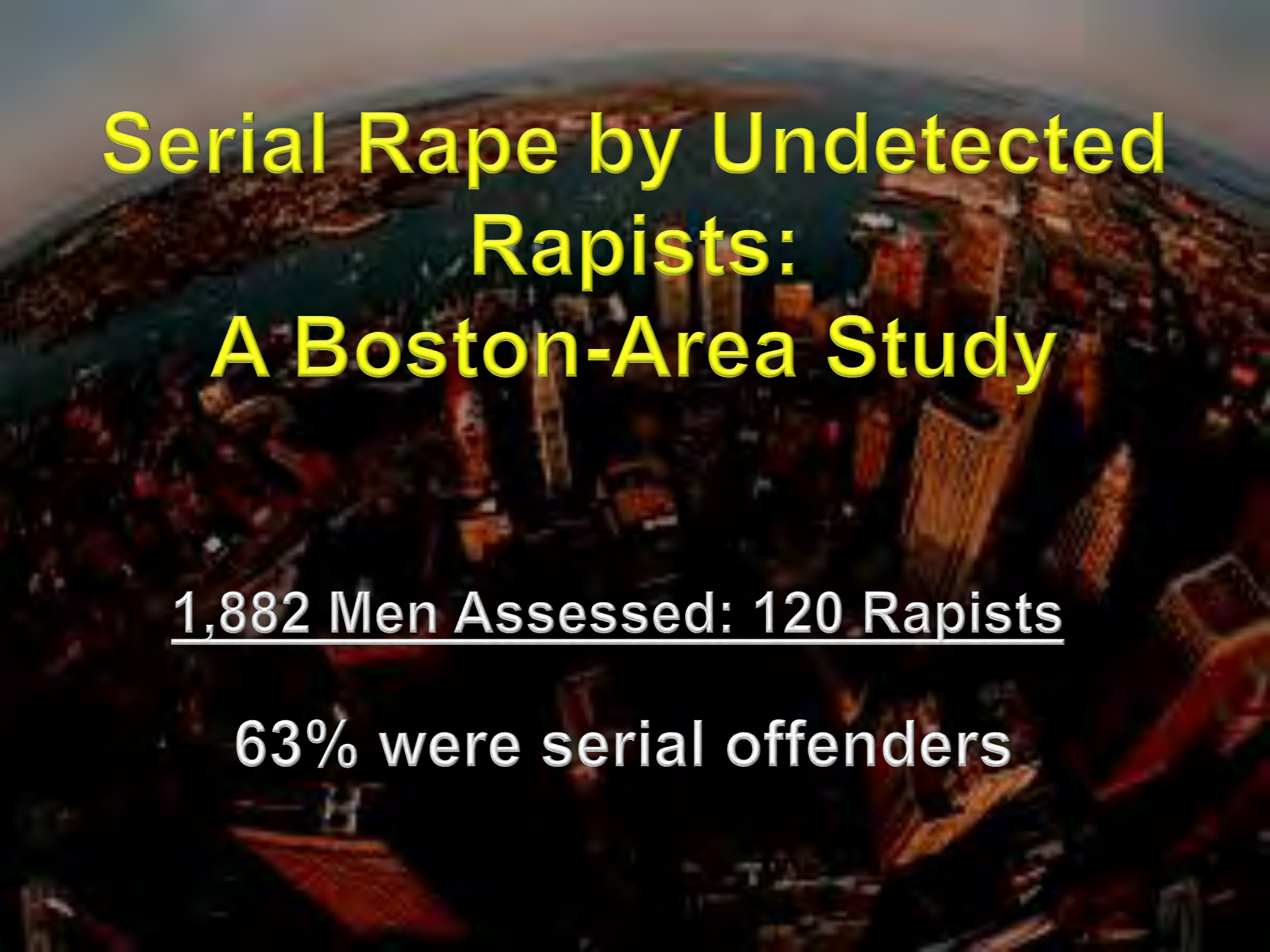
2. Vast Majority of Sexual Assaults are Non-stranger

85% are non-stranger

Typically not “dates”

Offender looks for potential victims at bars/social events

3. Most Rapists are Serial Offenders

An aerial, high-angle photograph of a city skyline at night. The city is densely packed with buildings, many of which are illuminated with warm lights, creating a glowing effect against the dark sky. The perspective is from a high altitude, looking down on the city. The text is overlaid on the upper half of the image.

Serial Rape by Undetected Rapists: A Boston-Area Study

1,882 Men Assessed: 120 Rapists

63% were serial offenders

Serial Rapists

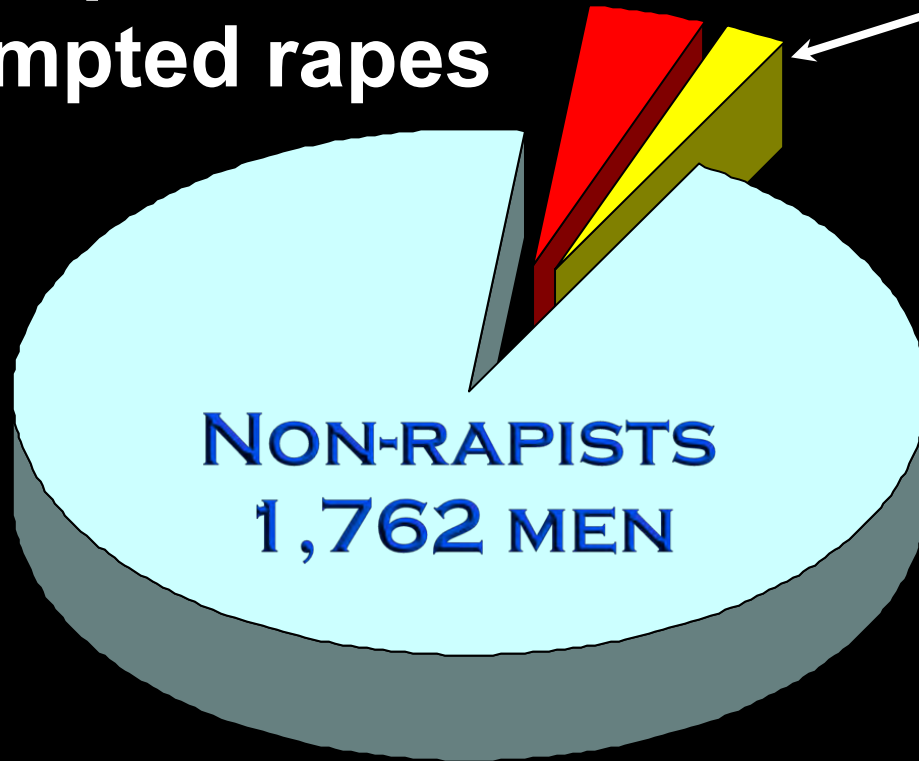
76 men

**439 rapes &
attempted rapes**

Single Act Rapists

44 men

**44 rapes &
attempted
rapes**



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

Serial Rape by Undetected Rapists: 2009 U.S. Navy Study

- 1,146 men assessed: 13% rapists
- 71% of rapists were serial offenders
- Serial offenders averaged 6 rapes

McWhorter, S.K., Stander, V.A., Merrill, L.L., Thomsen, C.J., & Milner, J.S. (2009). Reports of rape perpetration by newly enlisted male navy personnel. *Violence and Victims*, 24, 204-218.

Serial Rape by Undetected Rapists: Comparing Two Studies

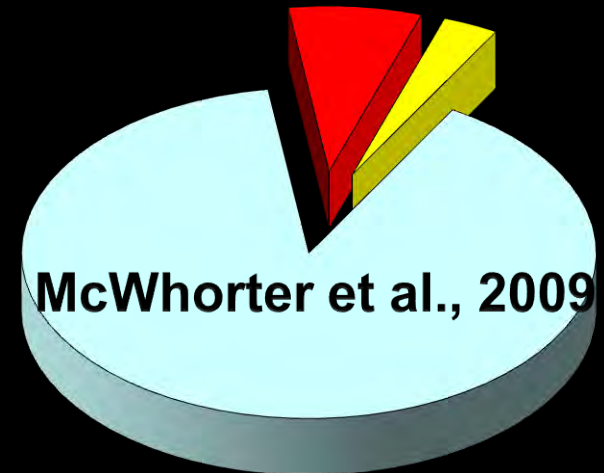
63% Serial Rapists



Lisak & Miller, 2002

91% of all rapes by
serial rapists

71% Serial Rapists



McWhorter et al., 2009

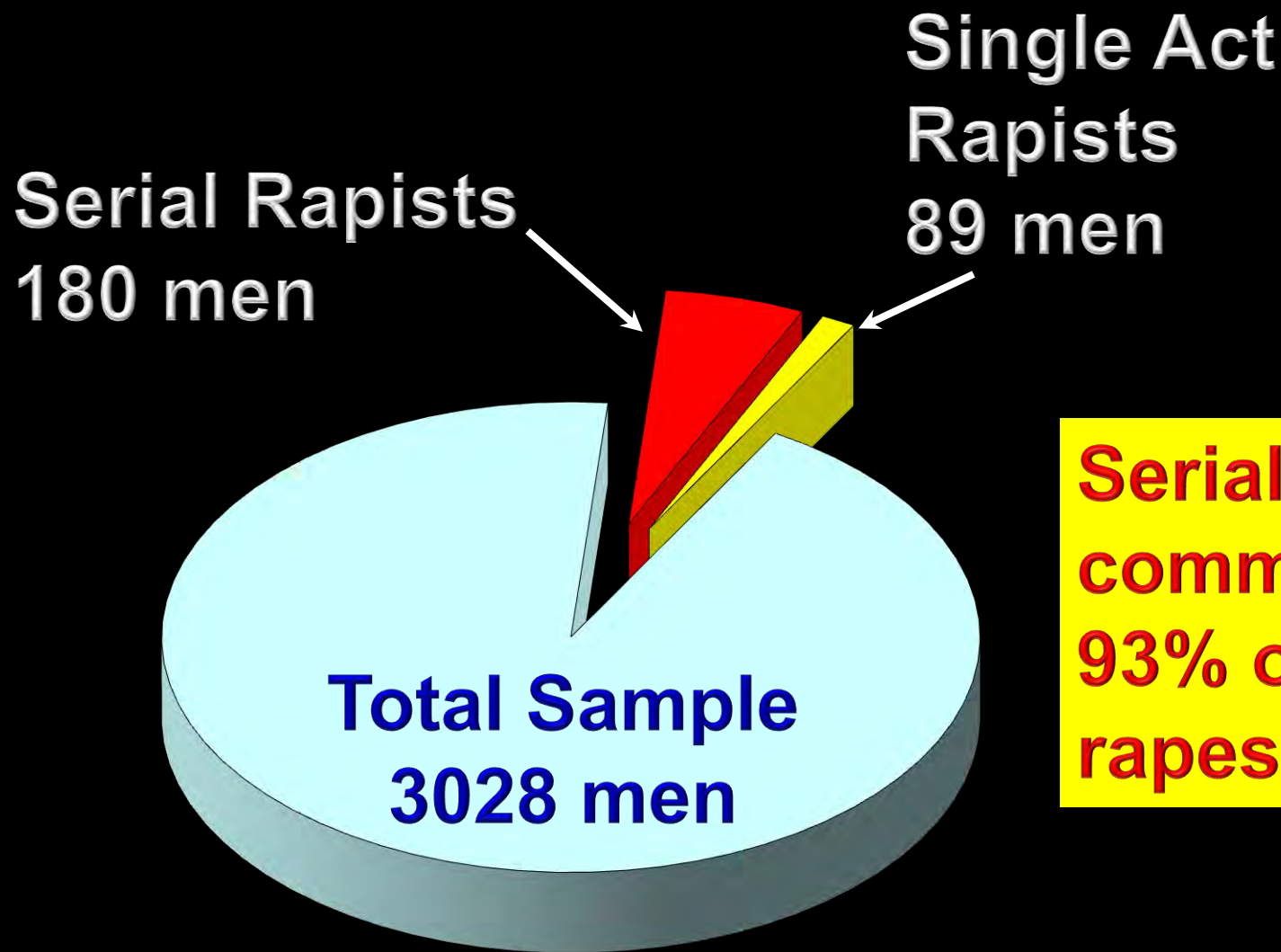
95% of all rapes by
serial rapists

Predicting Sexual Violence

2009 U.S. Navy Study

Men who had committed a rape prior to entering the Navy were **10 times** more likely to commit a rape during their 1st year in the service than men who had never before raped.

McWhorter, S.K., Stander, V.A., Merrill, L.L., Thomsen, C.J., & Milner, J.S. (2009). Reports of rape perpetration by newly enlisted male navy personnel. *Violence and Victims*, 24, 204-218.

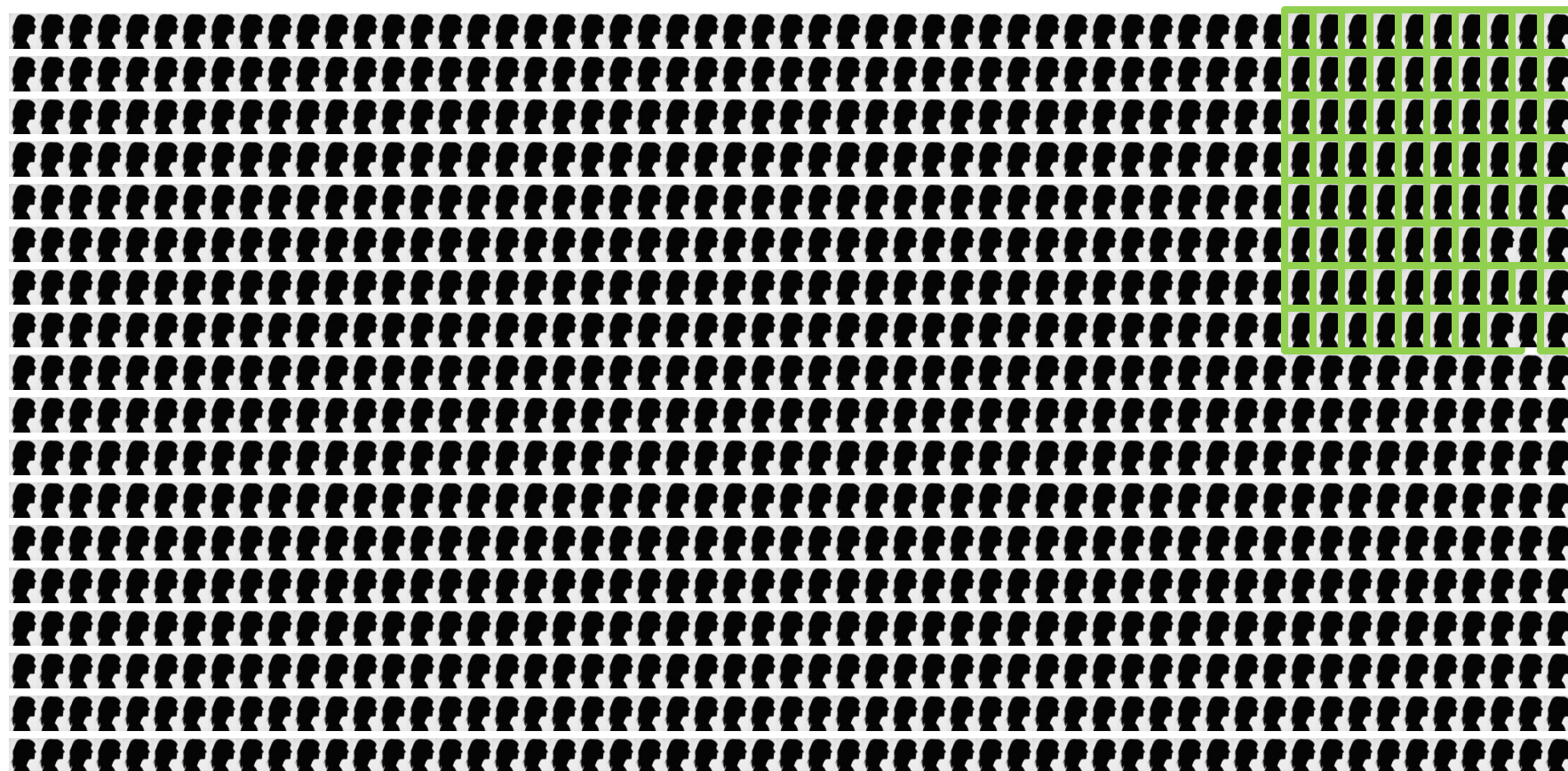
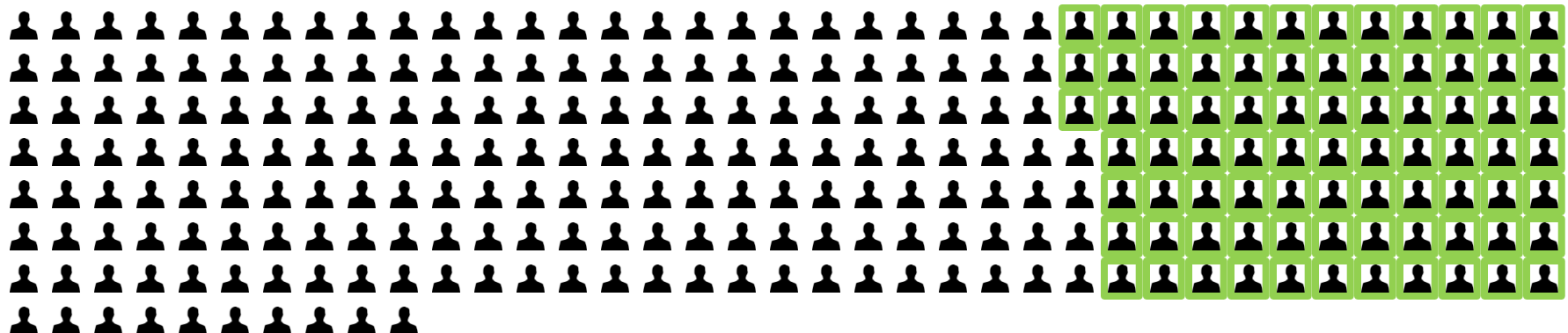


**Serial rapists
committed
93% of all
rapes**

Combining data from Lisak & Miller, 2002, and McWorter et al., 2009.

Serial Rapists

Single-act Rapists



4. Rapists Plan their Assaults

Assaults are not “accidents”

Not caused by “circumstances”

Rapists look for vulnerability and then exploit it

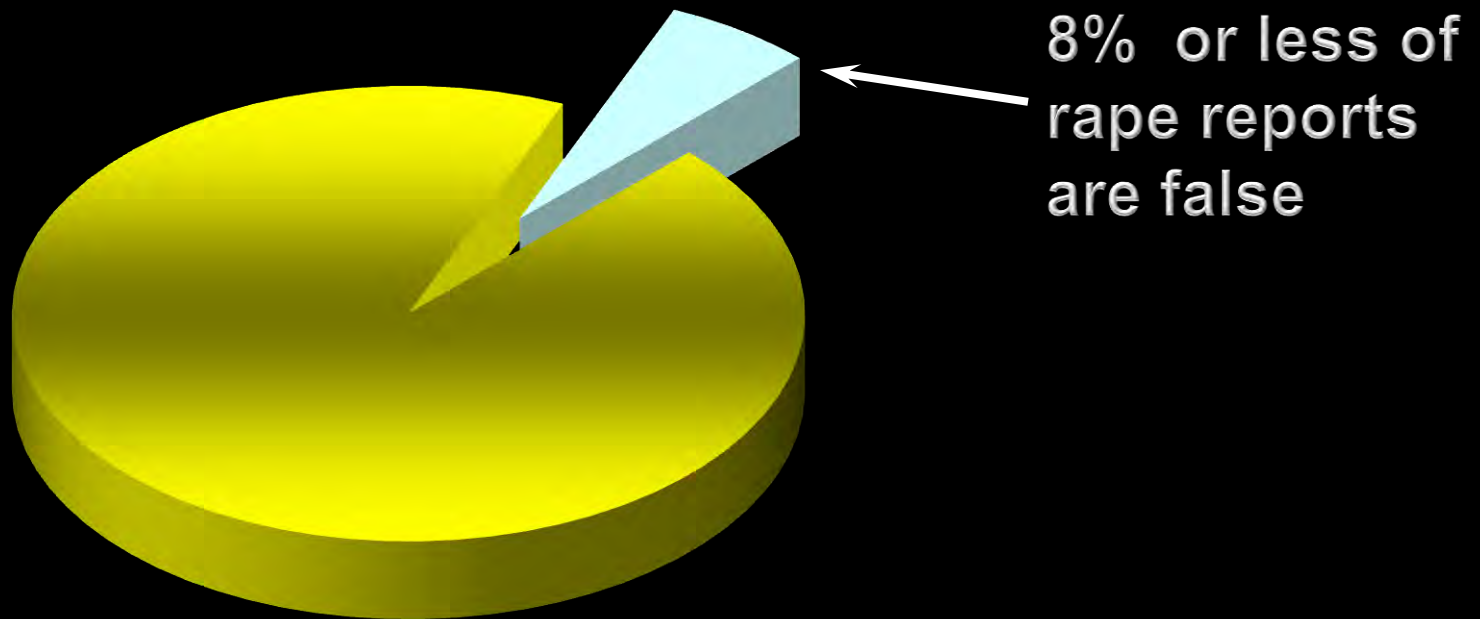
5. Typical Sequence of Attack

1. Identify vulnerability (intoxication, instability, alone)
2. Increase vulnerability (level of intoxication)
3. Isolate

6. Rape Reports are Rarely False

- British Home Office Study (2002) ¹
 - 8% reported by police; 3% after re-definition
- Australian Study (2006) ²
 - 2% classified by police
- EVAW Int. Study (2008) ³
 - 7.1% reported by police
- Lisak et al. (2008) ⁴
 - 5.9% reported by police

Reality: Few Rapes are “False Reports”



7. Victims Typically Act Atypically

No physical resistance

No screaming

{Understanding Tonic Immobility}

7. Victims Typically Act Atypically

Confusion & delayed reporting

Memory gaps

Distrust & lack of cooperation

Self-destructive behavior

Key Lessons

1. Investigation must target the alleged perpetrator, not the victim.

Targeting the Predator



Key Lessons

2. Investigators and prosecutors must be specially trained to handle non-stranger sexual assault cases.

Key Lessons

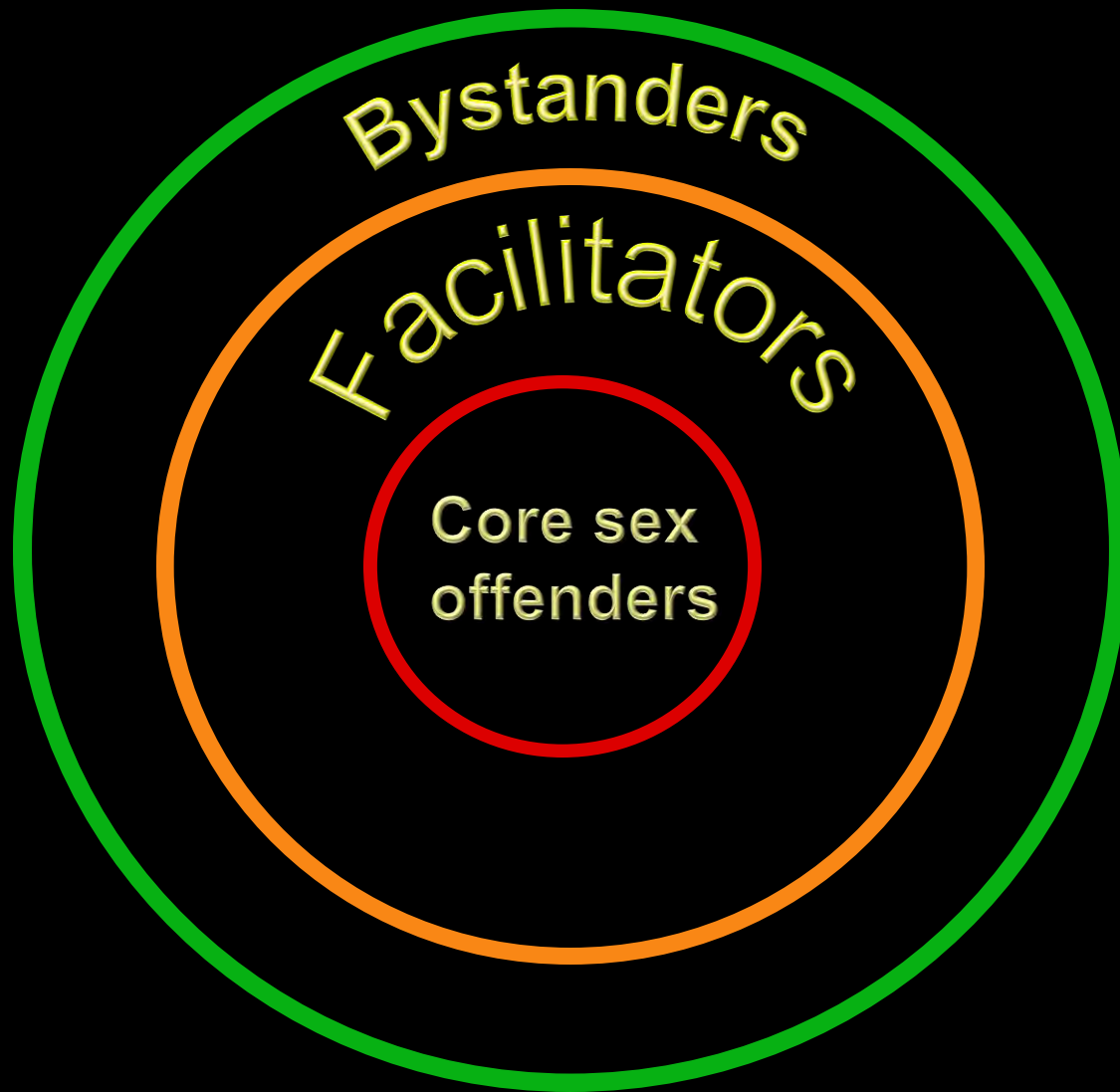
3. Consent defense must be aggressively countered:

- Micro-corroboration
- Post-rape evidence

Key Lessons

4. Prevention efforts must target the whole community

5. Bystander Education



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