Welcome,

This Web Conference Will Begin Soon

Rethinking Serial Perpetration of Sexual Violence: Implications for Prevention
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How to Use This Technology

- Raise hand
- Text chat & private chat
- PowerPoint slides
- Polling questions
- Phone
- Closed captioning
- Web conference guidelines

Please send a private chat message for help.

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PreventConnect is a national project of the California Coalition Against Sexual Assault sponsored by U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The views and information provided in this web conferences do not necessarily represent the official views of the U.S. government, CDC or CALCASA.
PreventConnect

- Domestic violence/intimate partner violence
- Sexual violence
- Violence across the lifespan
- Prevent before violence starts
- Connect to other forms of violence & oppression
- Connect to other prevention practitioners
Making Connections, Honoring Communities

- February 26: Using Popular Education to Engage Communities in Sexual Violence Prevention
- March 12: Supporting Community Culture as Norms Change Strategy for Preventing Sexual and Domestic Violence
- March 26: The Role of Alcohol Policies to Prevent Intimate Partner Violence and Sexual Violence Perpetration
- April 9: Men of Color and Community Trauma Prevention: What Do Sexual And Domestic Violence Efforts Offer to Support Well-Being?
- May 7 & June 2: From Foundations to the Future: A Prevention Approach to Sexual and Domestic Violence
- June 11: Linking with Child Focused Approaches when Preventing Sexual and Domestic Violence
- July 9: Joint Strategies: How Does Sexual and Domestic Violence Better Leverage Local Health, Justice, Education, and Community Sectors?

- **September 21:** Going beyond the individual: The evidence supporting multilevel adolescent dating abuse prevention
Rethinking Serial Perpetration of Sexual Violence: Implications for Prevention

September 15, 2015
11am-12:30pm PT; 2pm-3:30pm ET

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Rape on Campus
Objectives

• Describe the serial perpetration hypothesis

• Identify two implications of the serial perpetration hypothesis on sexual violence prevention programs

• Describe at least one action step to take to support sexual violence prevention efforts based on the information and issues raised in this web conference
Please Answer the Polling Question

Have you seen The Undetected Rapist?

Answer on the left
Undetected Rapist
What are the prevention practices that have resulted from this work?
Original Investigation

Trajectory Analysis of the Campus Serial Rapist Assumption

Kevin M. Swartout, PhD; Mary P. Kiss, PhD; Jacquelyn W. White, PhD; Marta P. Thompson, PhD; Antonia Abney, PhD; Alexandra L. Bollis, BS
Rethinking Serial Perpetration

http://nsvrc.org/publications/nsvrc-publications-research-briefs/key-findings-rethinking-serial-perpetration
About Our Guests

Kevin Swartout, Ph.D.
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RETHINKING SERIAL PERPETRATION
Serial Perpetration Assumption

- Serial perpetration has been dominant narrative of perpetration
  - Played a critical role in the field
- Over time, the assumption had some unintended consequences for sexual assault prevention
  - Extreme portrayals of perpetrators
  - Emphasis on law enforcement response as prevention
  - Focus on rape vs. range of sexually violent acts
Serial Perpetration Assumption

• Research and the assumption
  – Research basis of the assumption is surprisingly limited
  – Research has evolved providing additional insights into the issue

• Assumption has three elements, two of which have been challenged by recent research:
  – Very few men perpetrate rape
  – Rapists chronically perpetrate over time
  – The majority of rapists have multiple victims
**Rape:** Penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim. (FBI, 2012)

**Rape Act:** A specific behavior that meets the definition of rape, which occurs within the context of an assault that may include additional behaviors that meet that definition.

**Serial Rape:** Three or more incidents with a “cooling off” period between. (Burgess, Burgess, & Ressler, 2013)
New Research

Two largest existing longitudinal datasets with yearly measurements of sexual violence across adolescence and college

- Derivation Data ($N=847$) 4 time-points
- Validation Data ($N=795$) 5 time-points

• **Measure:** The Sexual Experiences Survey

• **Operationalization:** Only completed rapes

• **Analysis:** Advanced analytic techniques that identified patterns of offending over time
VERY FEW MEN PERPETRATE RAPE?
Prevalence of Rape Perpetration

• Lisak & Miller (2002): Using cross-sectional design
  – 6% of sample reported perpetrating rape

• Swartout et al. (2015): Using longitudinal design, across two samples
  – 10.8% reported perpetrating rape
VERY FEW MEN PERPETRATE RAPE?

APPROXIMATELY 1 IN 10 MEN REPORT PERPETRATING RAPE
• Underscores need for universal primary prevention

• Suggests comprehensive approaches are needed to address social and cultural factors that create environments in which rape seems accepted, condoned, or tolerated
What prevention approaches can be used to address potential perpetrators?
MOST RAPISTS CHRONICALLY PERPETRATE OVER TIME?
Number of men who committed rape during single or multiple pre-college/college years

69% raped during only 1 time period
(73% if only considering college years)
Trajectories of Rape Likelihood

Derivation model

Validation model

Low or time-limited (92.6%)
Increasing (2.1%)
Decreasing (5.3%)
Trajectories of Rape Likelihood

Derivation model

Validation model

Before College  Year 1  Year 2  Year 3  Before College  Year 1  Year 2  Year 3  Year 4

Low or time-limited (92.6%)  Increasing (2.1%)  Decreasing (5.3%)
MOST RAPISTS CHRONICALLY PERPETRATE OVER TIME?
MOST RAPISTS PERPETRATE DURING A DISCRETE DEVELOPMENTAL TIME
Implications for Prevention

• Much perpetration may be developmentally limited
  – Very few perpetrators (2%) perpetrated in adolescence and college

• 1 in 10 men report perpetrating rape, but only 1 in 4 of these rapists consistently perpetrate across time
  – Focusing on chronic perpetrators would miss 3 of 4 rapists
  – Developmentally limited perpetrators more difficult to detect
  – Many perpetrators desist over time without adjudication

• Across studies, 1 in 3 men report using sexual coercion
  – 68% of perpetrators use coercive sexual tactics multiple times
Implications for Prevention

• Need to stop first act
  – But even past perpetrators can stop perpetrating

• Need to provide effective prevention to everyone

• Need to focus on broad range of sexual violence

• Given varying trajectories, there is always an opportunity for primary prevention
  – Risk factors addressed may vary by development
Developmental Differences

• Consider adolescent and collegiate offenders as different groups
  – Adolescent rapists are unlikely to continue offending in college
    • Among those who offend in college, most likely to do so in first year and then desist
  – A small group show an increased likelihood of rape across time
Developmentally Informed Prevention

- Offending patterns influenced by proximal risk factors, which may be targets for prevention
  - Low or Time-Limited
    - Opportunistic, influenced by substance use
    - Prevention can address substance use and impulsivity, monitor high risk situations, mitigate peer pressure
  - Decreasing
    - Learned maladaptive attitudes and behaviors from family and peers
    - Prevention can foster healthy relationships, teach social-emotional skills
  - Increasing
    - Influenced by unhealthy attitudes and peer norms
    - Prevention can increase social controls, foster healthy norms
What are some developmental differences for prevention in reaching adolescents and college-aged?
MOST RAPISTS HAVE MULTIPLE VICTIMS?
Why the focus on serial rape?

Number of rapists who committed single and multiple rape (acts)

Serial Rape (3+ rape acts):
- 35% of rapists (42/120)
- > 69% of the rape acts (251/363)

Lisak & Miller (2002)
Number of men who committed single or multiple acts of rape

Overall (3+ rape acts):
- 56% of rapists (100/178)
- >85% of the rape acts (635/746)*

**Light Blue:** Rape acts perpetrated before college

**Dark Blue:** Rape acts perpetrated during college

*Calculated from Table data to correspond with previous slide
MOST RAPISTS HAVE MULTIPLE VICTIMS?

THIS REMAINS UNRESOLVED
Due to measurement issues, **neither study** provides a clear answer about how many rapes each perpetrator committed

- **Swartout Study**
  - Finding – Most rapists don’t perpetrate chronically over time
  - Possibility – Rapists who perpetrated in 1 year only, had multiple assaults in that year but not before or after
  - Likely underestimated repeat perpetration

- **Lisak Study**
  - Finding – Most rapist are serial offenders
  - Possibility - Perpetrators use multiple rape acts within a single assault
  - Likely overestimated repeat perpetration
SUMMARY AND OVERALL IMPLICATIONS
Summary and Implications

- Repeat perpetrators do exist, but likely constitute a smaller proportion of rapists than originally thought
  - Must recognize the heterogeneity of rapists
  - Avoid one-size-fits-all institutional responses to misconduct resolution or sexual violence prevention
  - Prioritize procedures to identify sexually-violent men who persist across time
Other Takeaways

• Primary prevention is critical across development

• Language: Sexual predator vs. perpetrator
  – Predators are repeat perpetrators that have specific behaviors, style of victimization, and personality characteristics
  – Other perpetrators do not necessarily have these qualities

• Stereotypical perpetrator scenarios: Frank

• Field has changed substantially, use recent research and primary sources
How does the questions raised in this study potentially impact how you conduct sexual violence prevention work?
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