

**Welcome,  
This Web Conference  
Will Begin Soon**



A Project of



**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.

Call iLinc Technical Support at 800.799.4510.

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?**
- August 13: Closing the Loop: Increasing Investment and Sustainability for Sexual and domestic violence prevention.
- **September 21: Going beyond the individual: The evidence supporting multilevel adolescent dating abuse prevention**





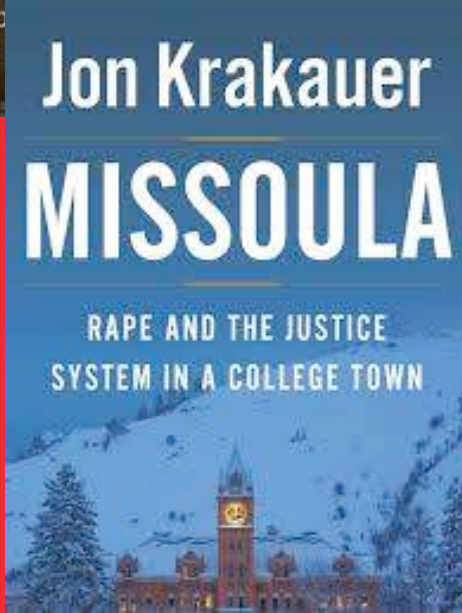
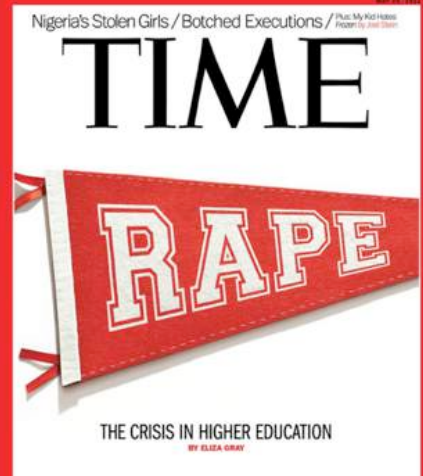
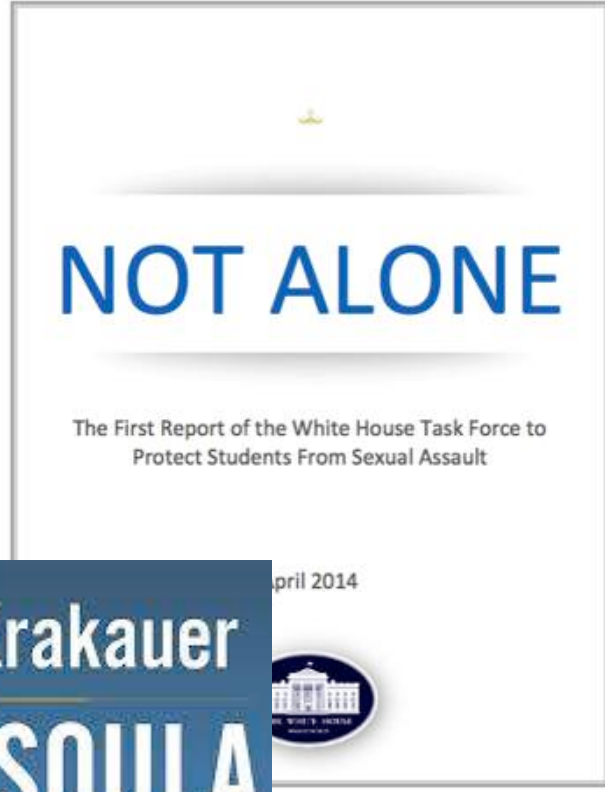
# Rethinking Serial Perpetration of Sexual Violence: Implications for Prevention

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

Answer on  
the left



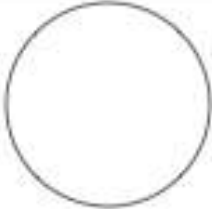
Have you seen  
The Undetected  
Rapist?

Feedback

Yes

No

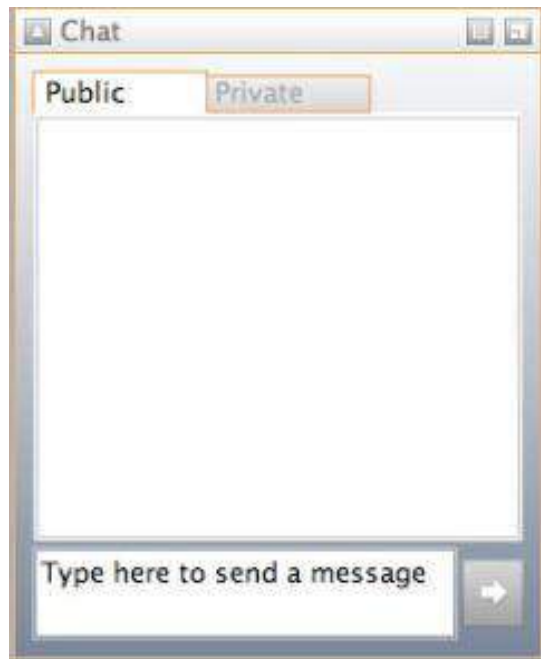
No Answer



# Undetected Rapist



# Text Chat



What are the prevention practices that have resulted from this work?

# JAMA Pediatrics

Formerly *Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine*

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Research

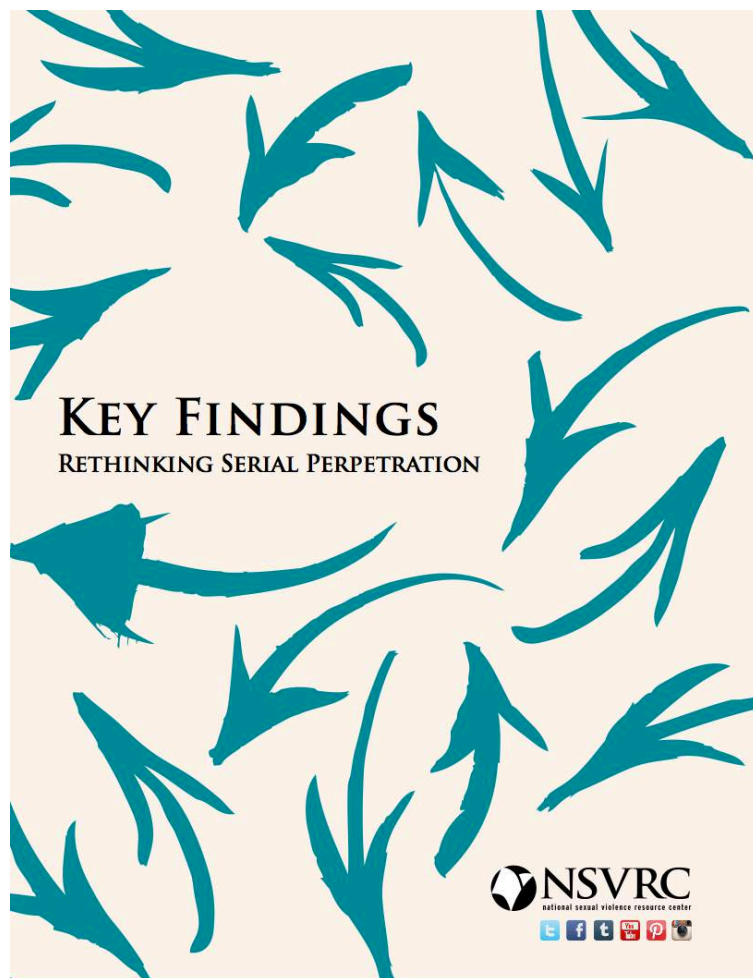
Original Investigation

## Trajectory Analysis of the Campus Serial Rapist Assumption

Kevin M. Swartout, PhD; Mary P. Koss, PhD; Jacquelyn W. White, PhD; Martie P. Thompson, PhD;  
Antonia Abbey, PhD; Alexandra L. Bellis, BS



# Rethinking Serial Perpetration



<http://nsvrc.org/publications/nsvrc-publications-research-briefs/key-findings-rethinking-serial-perpetration>



# About Our Guests



**Kevin Swartout, Ph.D.**  
Assistant Professor of Psychology,  
Georgia State University



**Andra Teten Tharp, Ph.D.**  
Division of Violence Prevention,  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



# 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

# Definitions

**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



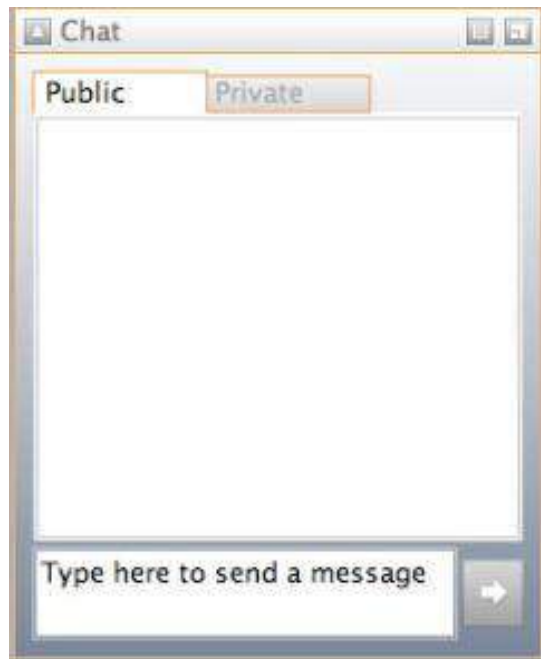
**VERY FEW MEN PERPETRATE RAPE?**

**APPROXIMATELY 1 IN 10 MEN REPORT  
PERPETRATING RAPE**

# Implications for Prevention

- 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

# Text Chat



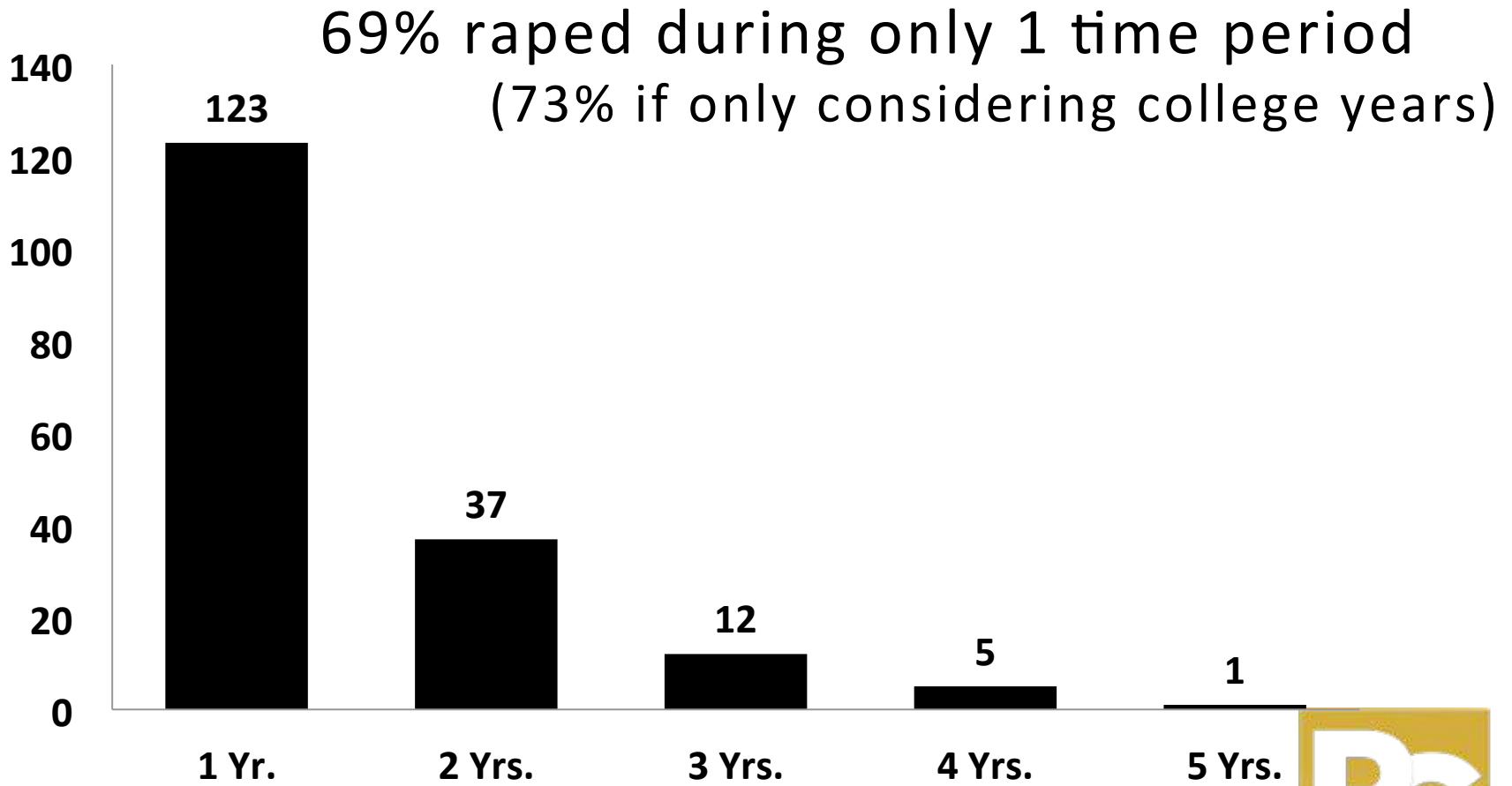
What prevention approaches can be used to address potential perpetrators?



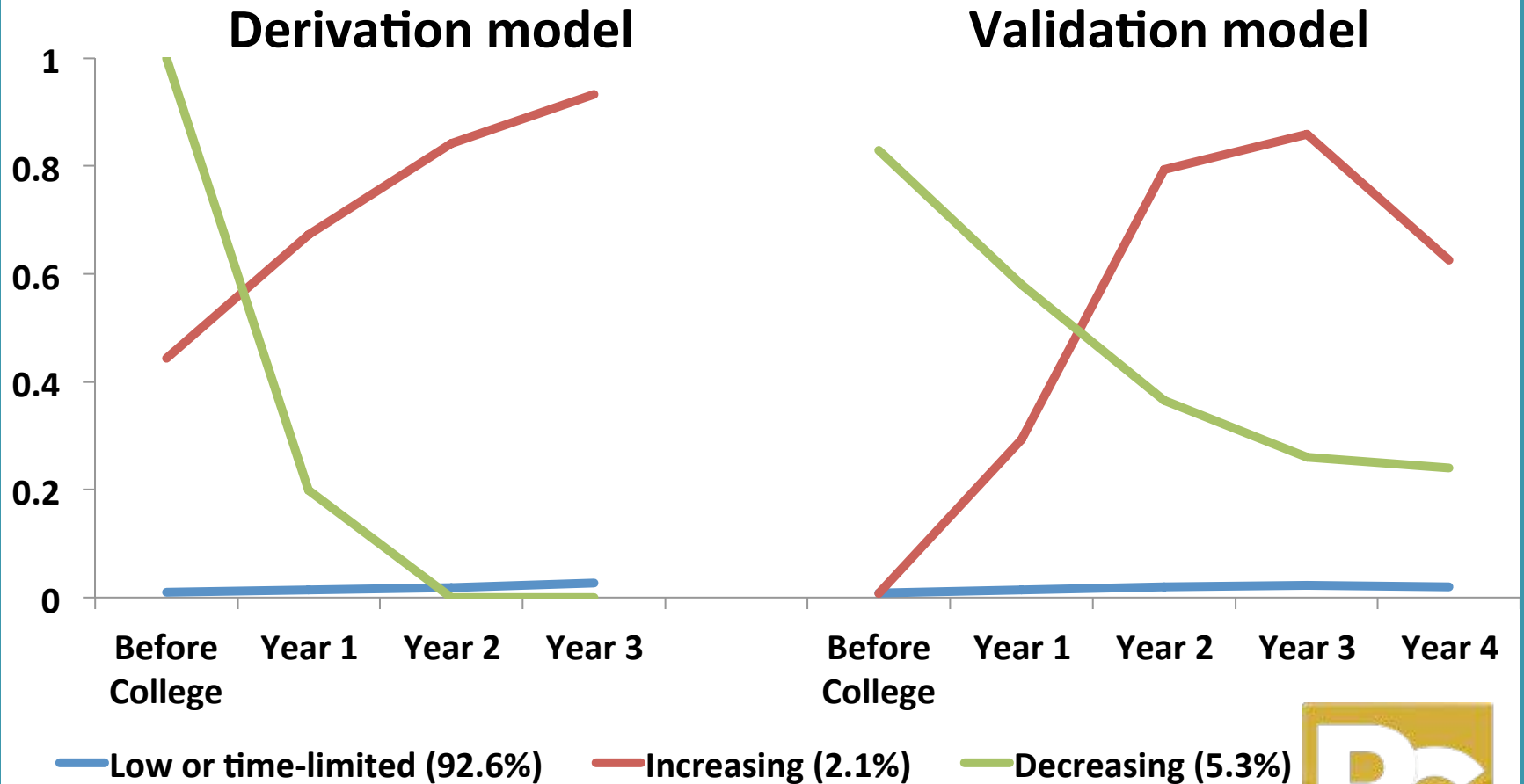


**MOST RAPISTS CHRONICALLY  
PERPETRATE OVER TIME?**

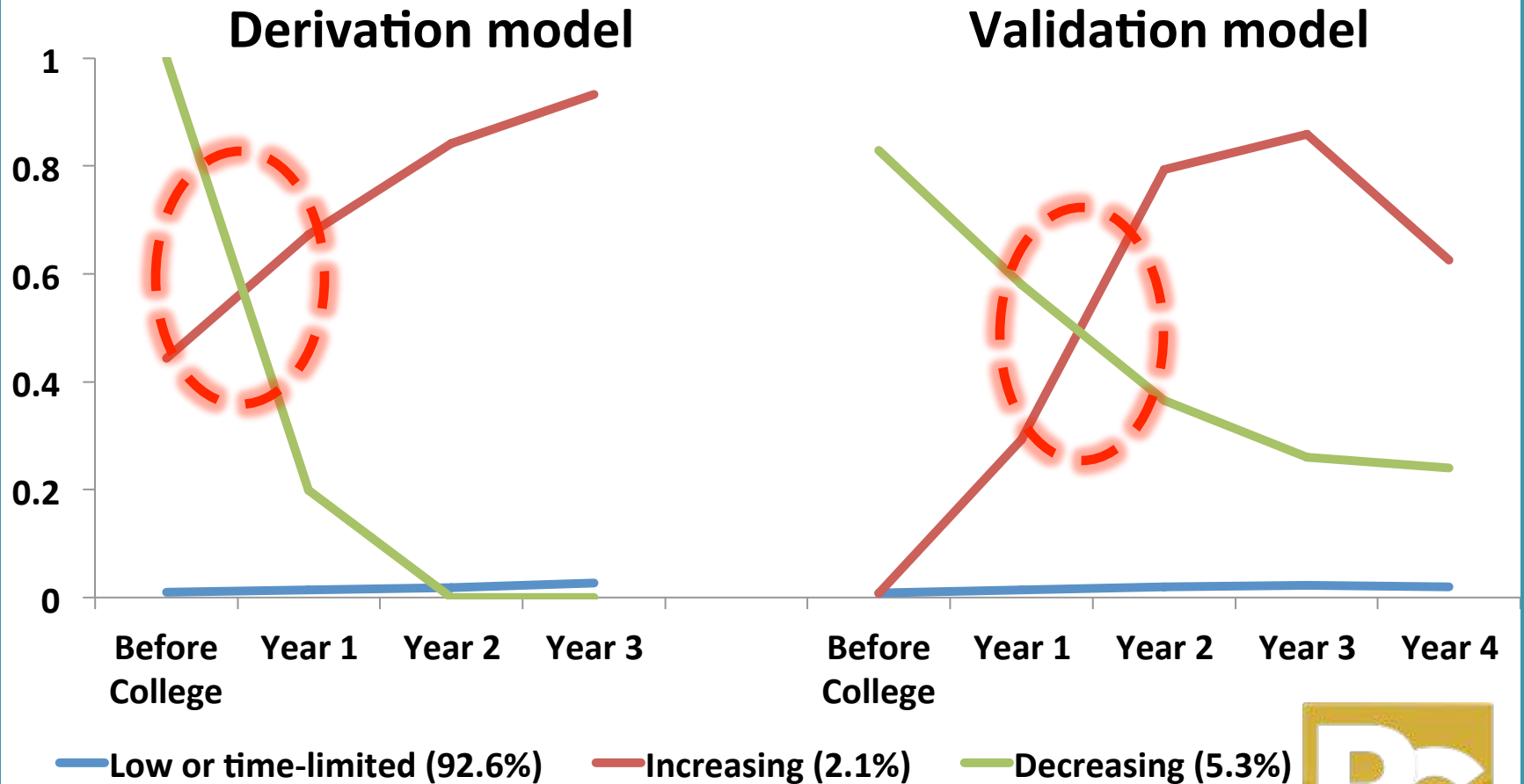
# Number of men who committed rape during single or multiple pre-college/college years



# Trajectories of Rape Likelihood



# Trajectories of Rape Likelihood





**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

# Text Chat



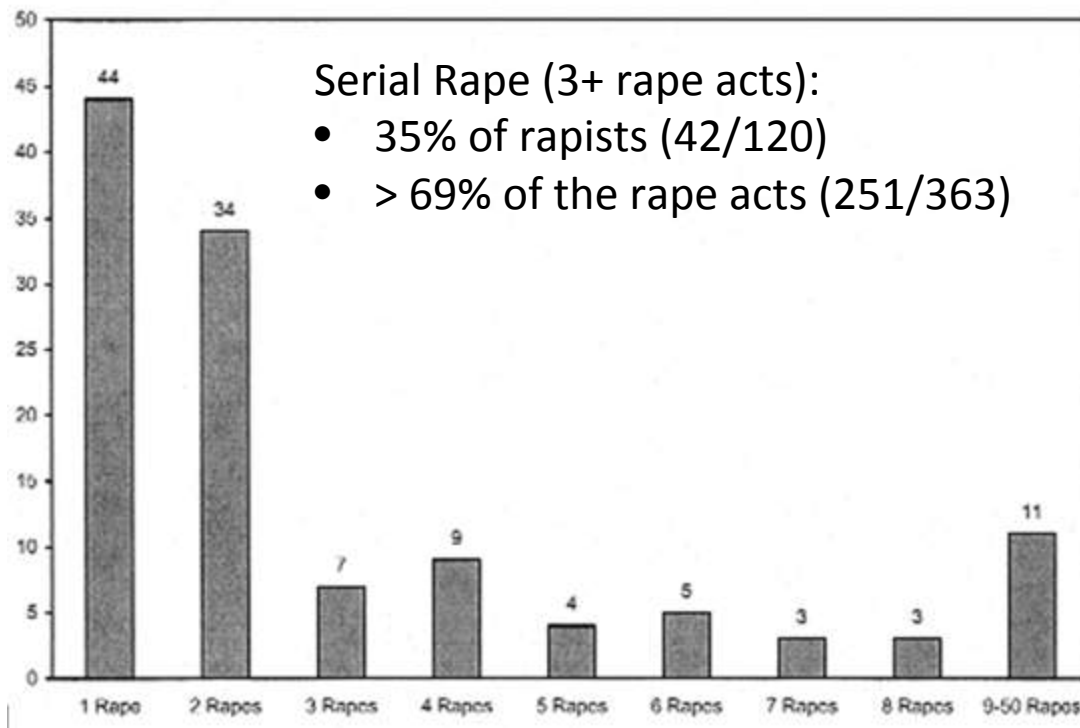
What are some developmental differences for prevention in reaching adolescents and college-aged?



**MOST RAPISTS HAVE MULTIPLE  
VICTIMS?**

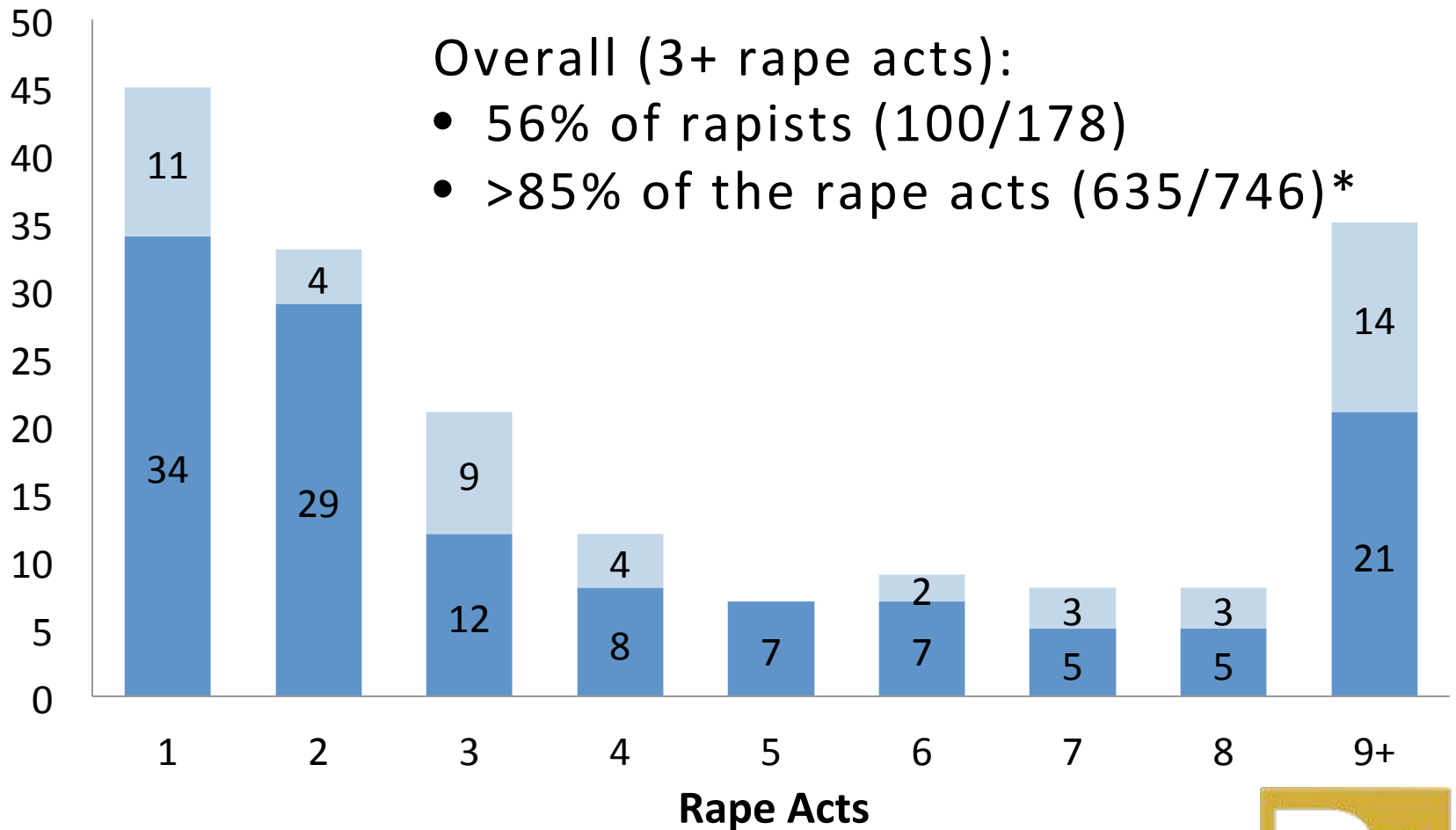
# Why the focus on serial rape?

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



Lisak & Miller (2002)

# Number of men who committed single or multiple acts of rape



**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**

# # of Victims Per Un-adjudicated Rapist: Unanswered Question

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



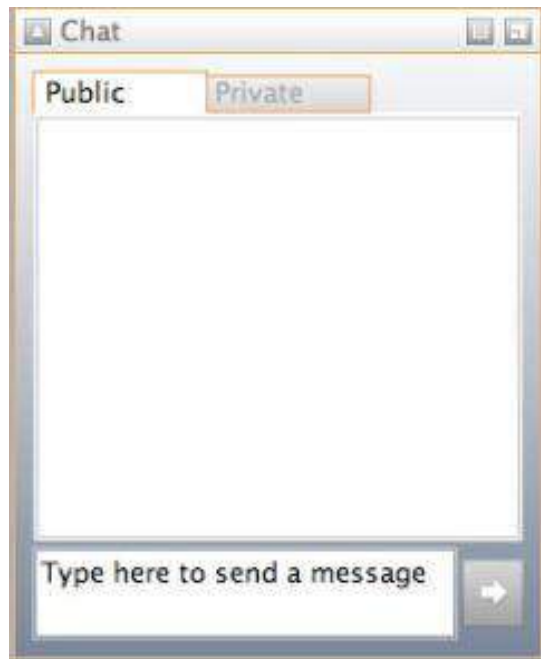
# Summary and Implications

- 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 necessary have these qualities
- **Stereotypical perpetrator scenarios: Frank**
- **Field has changed substantially, use recent research and primary sources**

# Text Chat



How does the questions raised in this study potentially impact how you conduct sexual violence prevention work?

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