

Sex differences in rape reporting

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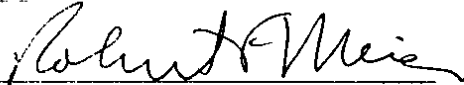
by

Nathan Willett Pino


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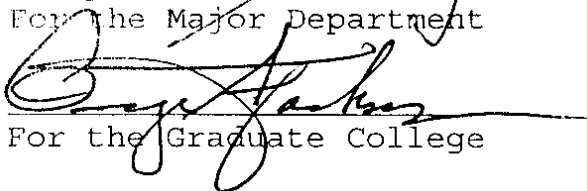
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ABSTRACT

The analysis reported here compares male and female rape reporting behavior. Results from an analysis of National Crime Survey data indicate that the characteristics of rape, and factors that influence a rape reporting decision, differ by sex, and that sex role socialization may largely influence the rape reporting decision for both males and females. Both men and women were more likely to report victimization when there was physical evidence, but only women were affected by such variables as the victim/offender relationship, the age of the offender, and whether or not the victimization was perceived to be completed. The analysis also found that women reported victimization more frequently than men, and that there were differences between male and female victims with respect to the characteristics of the rape itself.

GENDER AND RAPE REPORTING

Rape is a violent crime which is vastly under-reported. There are legal and social definitions of rape, with legal definitions of rape being similar and specific from state to state. Legally, rape is forced sex, and is treated as a violent index crime in all jurisdictions. Social definitions, on the other hand, are diverse, and regardless of what the legal definition of rape is, one's personal conception of rape can inhibit reporting. Reporting can also be hindered by complex sex role socialization, which supplies men and women with restrictive and stereotypical social definitions of rape. Unless a victim experiences the stereotypical rape situation, the victim may not see his or herself as a victim, and fail to report the crime to the police.

While there is still more to know about rape reporting in general, there have been no scientific inquiries into male rape reporting behavior. Nor have there been any comparisons between the reporting behaviors of men and women. This paper intends to explore both of those neglected areas. To approach this topic, rape reporting literature will be examined in order to develop a general theoretical framework which attempts to explain how gender role socialization affects both male and female reporting behavior. Using data from the National Crime Victimization Survey, hypotheses derived from

the theoretical framework will be tested, and results from the data analysis will be discussed.

FEMALE RAPE REPORTING BEHAVIOR

The abundant literature on rape reporting has concentrated on female victims. That literature indicates that there are numerous factors that might influence a woman's decision to report rape, including the perceived outcomes of dealing with the police and criminal justice system, characteristics of the rape and the victim, and the victim/offender relationship. These factors will now be discussed in turn.

The Criminal Justice System and the Law

One factor in rape reporting is the extent to which victims have confidence in the criminal justice system in dealing with these cases. Victims are more likely to report rape when they believe the system will respond effectively. Women believe that the police are ineffective in handling rape cases and that the outcomes of reporting are generally negative (Ashworth and Feldman-Summers 1978). A brief historical look at rape and the criminal justice system can help explain female attitudes toward it. Traditionally, rape has been treated as a sexual and non-violent crime in the United States (Brownmiller 1975). During the women's movement of the 1960s and 70s, feminist researchers noted that rape victims were subjected to harsh treatment by the police and a male-dominated criminal justice system that practiced

institutionalized sexism (Robin 1977; Rose 1977). Some feminists claimed that rape was considered a serious crime to men only because women were seen as the property of men under the law and in the larger society (Brownmiller 1975; Rose 1977; Robin 1977).

For a number of reasons, including the political actions of the women's movement, however, the criminal justice system has become increasingly sensitive to the needs of rape victims (LaFree 1989; Schwendinger and Schwendinger 1982; Rose 1977). Some of these improvements include the establishment of rape crisis centers, the current use of female police officers for questioning victims, the formation of rape-investigation units and special rape prosecution teams, and the enactment of the shield law (Spohn and Horney 1992). Even so, the ability of rape reform to produce change has been limited because the changes have not produced intended changes in case outcomes in some jurisdictions. The defendant is legally given priority in criminal cases to ensure his rights, and prosecutors work for the needs of the state rather than those of the victim (Spohn and Horney 1992).

Rape cases are prosecuted on both the held stereotypes and justifiable considerations of processing agents (LaFree 1989). Even so, some observers have claimed that police officers, prosecutors, and judges blame the victim, hold

stereotypical notions about rapists and rape victims, and treat victims unsympathetically (Feldman-Summers and Palmer 1980). There have been other problems including the use of stereotypes by jurors and criminal justice officials to decide rape cases. LaFree (1989) reports that black men charged with raping white women appear to be punished more harshly, and women who have allegedly engaged in "non-traditional" behavior are less likely to see their rape complaints result in a conviction.

Even though the criminal justice system in most jurisdictions have changed the procedures for handling rape cases, it is possible that women are still apprehensive about reporting a crime to the police. Victims may still perceive the criminal justice system negatively by either being unaware of rape law reform or remaining generally skeptical of the system. This is especially important because evidence and victim-credibility are needed in order to bring about a trial and possible conviction. More corroborative evidence is needed for a rape complaint to be brought to trial than cases involving other violent and property crimes (Myers and LaFree 1982). Since many rapes are difficult to prove, and since the rights of the defendant must be ensured, authorities ignore rape reports when they cannot verify the incident due to a lack of evidence (Katz and Mazur 1979; LaFree 1980a, 1980b).

There are a number of factors that increase the likelihood of prosecution. Criminal justice personnel are more apt to believe a rape victim when she displays physical injuries, is willing to take a lie detector test, reports within 48 hours after the rape, does not engage in premarital or extramarital relations, does not reach the location of the rape voluntarily, and if the rapist is a stranger, uses a weapon, or brutalizes the victim (Feldman Summers and Palmer 1980; LaFree 1980a).

Characteristics of the Victim

Circumstances surrounding the rape victim's life can also reduce the chances of the victim reporting a rape to the police. As with other crime victims, rape victims tend to blame themselves or feel they will be blamed by the police or family and friends for being raped (Feldman-Summers and Palmer 1980; Weis and Borges 1973). Some women do not report because they feel embarrassed and ashamed (Macdonald 1971), or fear rejection by their husband and family (Katz and Mazur 1979). Other victims choose to avoid the notoriety and stigma attached to a rape prosecution (Amir 1971) or fear retaliation from their rapist (Williams 1984).

Research that has examined the effects of race and marital status on rape reporting show conflicting results (Williams 1984). It has been found that minority rape victims

reported more often than whites when the rapist was a stranger, and women raped by strangers were equally likely to report whether or not they were injured (McDermott 1979). Reporting also increases with age, and married or previously married victims are more likely to report rape by a stranger (McDermott 1979). Contrary to those findings, however, African American, Asian American, and Hispanic women indicate they would be less likely to report a hypothetical rape than white women (Feldman-Summers and Ashworth 1981). Reporting also decreases with age (Amir 1971). Because of methodology and data availability, these findings may never be reconcilable, but the search for consistency should not stop here for policy and theoretical reasons.

The Victim/Offender Relationship and Characteristics of the Rape

The victim's relationship with the rapist is an important influence on a reporting decision (Amir 1971). Female victims are less likely to report victimization if the rapist is an acquaintance (Oros et al 1980; Amir 1971; Williams 1984). If the victim does see herself as a victim, she may fear that others will not believe her (Brownmiller 1975). Race and age differentials between victim and rapist can also help determine the reporting decision. Black victims are less likely than whites to report if the rapist is white (Katz and

Mazur 1979), and white victims are more likely to report if the rapist is non-white (Amir 1971). A woman will also be more likely to report if she perceives a large age difference between herself and the offender (Amir 1971).

In order to report a rape to the police, a woman needs to define the forced sex as a crime and herself as a victim of that crime. Women are more likely to see themselves as victims if they were subjected to a high level of violence and bodily injuries (Oros et al 1980; Amir 1971).

Characteristics of the rape are also related to the degree of psychological harm experienced by the victim (Norris and Feldman-Summers 1981). Women who have been raped often suffer negative psychological reactions such as psychosomatic symptoms, decreased sexual frequency and satisfaction, and reclusiveness (Norris and Feldman Summers 1981). These reactions may cause a woman to hesitate in reporting the rape.

MALE RAPE REPORTING BEHAVIOR

There is not a body of research literature on the conditions under which males report rape. Male rape is one of the least discussed crimes in our society (Groth and Burgess 1980). It is commonly seen as an aberration confined to the artificiality of prison life or a violent aspect of the homosexual subculture (Kaufman et al 1980).

There are a number of reasons why men may not report rape to the police. One is the societal belief that a man is expected to defend himself against victimization, and the implicit belief rape is synonymous with the loss of masculinity (Groth and Burgess 1980; Adler 1992). Another is that the victim fears he will be labeled a homosexual (Groth and Burgess 1980; Adler 1992). Reporting a rape to the police is as stressful for men as women (Groth and Burgess 1980), and to the extent that victims subscribe to the male ethic of self reliance, reporting may be inhibited (Finklehor 1984: 156-7).

The law also contributes to the under-reporting of male rape. In some places, male rape does not legally exist. In England, for example, there is no legal recognition of males as victims of rape, and rape of men between 16 and 21 years of age is considered a crime against the state instead of a crime against the person (Hickson et al 1994). Over the age of 21, forced anal penetration of men is categorized with other non-

consensual sexual acts as indecent assault. For a rape to occur at all, the victim must be female, the assailant must be male, and penile-vaginal penetration must occur.

Homosexual men may be reluctant to report rape victimizations because they may have little faith in the police and judicial system in dealing with a homosexual sexual partner who rapes them (Hickson et al 1994). Gay men may perceive that the law governing sexual crimes against males is designed to control homosexual behavior, while the law on sexual crimes against females is intended with regulating non-consensual heterosexual behavior (Adler 1992). The term "homosexual rape" confuses sex with sexual orientation, because it implies that *all* male sexual assault assailants are homosexually oriented (Hickson et al 1994). In fact, it seems that only a small proportion of male assailants against men are indeed homosexual (Rossman 1979).

The impact of rape on men is similar to that on women (Adler 1992; Groth and Burgess 1980). As with female victims, the emotional trauma experienced by raped males can generate confusion and inhibit reporting. Reports of male rape are statistically rare, and male victims therefore experience the hidden trauma of making it hard to identify with other male victims (Kaufman et al 1980). Male victims are more likely to be victims of multiple assailants, to sustain more physical

trauma, and to be held captive longer than female victims (Kaufman et al 1980). If a male victim is forced to ejaculate by his assailant, he may equate ejaculation with orgasm and become confused as to whether or not he is a true victim (Groth and Burgess 1980). If males seek medical attention after a rape, they are more likely than women to seek help for secondary physical and emotional trauma (Kaufman et al 1980). Unlike females, a majority of males control their emotional reactions, reflecting a gender role expectation that it is unmanly for men to express emotion, even when the man is under a great deal of physical or emotional distress (Kaufman et al 1980).

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The most promising context in which to explain both male and female rape reporting behavior is based on sex-role socialization processes and their relationship to the idea of a "classic rape stereotype" originally outlined by Weis and Borges (1973).

The rape literature has identified several factors that influence a victim's reporting decision, and these represent good starting points for viewing rape reporting theoretically. Criminological theories of rape which focus on the offender claim that rape rates are highest in urban areas (Amir 1971; Baron and Straus 1989; Baron and Straus 1987). Both offenders and victims are often from the same neighborhood and are apt to know each other (Amir 1971). In feminist and conflict theories, rape functions as a method of patriarchal social control which perpetuates gender stratification (Brownmiller 1975). Furthermore, rape is claimed to be not primarily motivated by a desire for sex, but for a desire for power and dominance (Ellis 1989). As two observers put it, male sexuality "is infused with the traditional masculine traits of dominance and aggression" (Baron and Straus 1987:468). Women who adhere to traditional sex roles should be inhibited from reporting rape (Orcutt and Faison 1988; Weis and Borges 1973) and increased equality for women and the abolishment of the

concept of women as property should increase reporting rates and reduce instances of rape (Deming and Eppy 1981; Rose 1977), because changes in power among the sexes would also change sex roles and make the interests of women more involved in law making and practice.

All rape theorists down-play male rape, but combining ideas from these different perspectives, as well as the literature review from this paper and the classic rape stereotype outlined by Weis and Borges (1973), can help set the foundation for a theoretical framework that will attempt to explain both male and female rape reporting.

Rape is a violent sexual crime that is similar in many ways to other violent crimes. Rape is largely an urban phenomenon, and the victims and offenders of rape are often acquainted. Rapists and victims are disproportionately young, inner-city residents and members of minority groups. This demographic profile also applies to murder and aggravated assault.

The United States is a patriarchal society, and rape is conceived by many to be mainly a crime where men victimize men and women to assert their dominance and to gain arousal from sexual violence. The functional effects of rape in feminist theory include the continued social control of women and the

existing sexist stereotypes that surround both male and female rape.

Sex roles define how one is supposed to behave according to gender norms in a given society. Because of the importance of gender roles in forming one's identity, people learn to enact certain behaviors after being victimized, including reporting rape. Rape reporting is hindered by gender roles. If a rape does not fit the classic rape stereotype, its chances of being reported are diminished. In a classic rape, a woman is suddenly and violently raped by a stranger in a public, deserted place, and the victim is expected to provide the police with physical evidence of the attack and her resistance to it (Weis and Borges 1973). Since there is no rape stereotype counterpart for men, and since men are taught that they should be able to protect themselves against rape, male rapes should be reported even less frequently than female rapes, other factors being equal. These problems are compounded by the assumption that the police and other criminal justice officials hold the same stereotypical notions about rape as the larger society.

Weis and Borges (1973) outline how women are socialized to see themselves as legitimate victims of rape when a rape does not fit the classic rape stereotype.

...women are brought up to think of themselves as sexual objects...to be acted upon by men. The relations between

the sexes are seen as an instrumental exchange, whereby female servility is the price of male protection. The socialization process is such that women are educated to internalize the psychological characteristics of defenseless victims who... must rely upon the protection of others...she learns a mythology about rape that ensures a male advantage and provides the rationale for perceiving of her as a legitimate victim for rape. She is taught the cultural stereotype that the typical rape situation involves a stranger in a dark alley and that it is up to her to avoid both dangerous and compromising situations. In general, "nice" girls do not get into trouble or get raped. When raped, she is easily seen as having been too provocative...or having given the wrong impression about her sexual availability; she took unnecessary chances and thus deserved the sexual exploitation. In addition to her belief that it is impossible to rape a woman against her will, other factors add to her conception of rape that leave her unprepared to accurately perceive the potential rape situation. While the man is expected to initiate sexual relations, women are supposed to accept the responsibility for how far these relations will proceed. The many factors discussed above add up to the fact that she learns that a raped woman is considered a responsible, not an innocent, victim (pp. 84-85).

The learning of contemporary sex-roles implies males will be offenders and females will be victims; any sexual victimization which does not fit the classic stereotypical rape may not be defined as a true rape (Weis and Borges 1973). A woman may not report a rape victimization if she does see herself as a victim and knows that others, including the police and criminal justice system, will not see her as a victim. She may also feel that there is no use in reporting it to the police, since the assailant "will not be punished anyway," and a negative stigma may, in fact, be applied on her.

Adherence to learned traditional gender roles also prevents males from reporting rape. Our culture stresses the fact that men need to not only protect females and themselves, but also need to show their dominance over other men. Some men, for example, compete in the areas of economic status and physical strength. Other men, however, may choose to rape men as their method of domination over others. Since men are socialized to be the dominant role in a sexual encounter, being raped by another man can possibly cause psychological trauma and a sense of lost masculinity to the victim. If a man admits he was raped by another man, he may fear he will be seen as a homosexual or a weakling. If a man is a homosexual, and he reports a rape to the police, he may fear the police will discount it. For these reasons, men may feel more psychological trauma than women after a rape (Kaufman et al 1980). Both men and women may experience trauma if they are forced to have sex against their will, but while women are socialized to be legitimate victims, men are not.

These considerations lead to a series of hypotheses concerning male and female rape reporting. Since sex differences in rape reporting have not been addressed adequately, the hypotheses must be stated broadly.

H1. The circumstances surrounding the rape act will not differ according to the sex of the victim.

H2. *Males will report victimization equally often as females.*

H3. *Factors which influence a rape reporting decision will not differ according to the sex of the victim.*

ANALYSIS PLAN

The Data

The data used in this study is the National Crime Survey (NCS) National Sample Rape Subset for the years 1979-1987. The National Crime Survey was designed to develop detailed information about the victims and consequences of crime, provide uniform measures of selected types of crimes, estimate the numbers and types of crimes which are not reported to the police, and to permit comparisons over time and types of areas (US Department of Justice 1989). The FBI admits that its reported rape figures are inaccurate (Williams 1984) because official statistics such as the UCR represent only a fraction of the events in society labeled as criminal (US Department of Justice 1989). It has been found that "the NCS is a better approximation of the true rate of rape over time than the UCR rate" (Jensen and Kapros 1993: 382). Victim surveys have their problems, such as a respondent recalling an event differently than what really happened, but victim surveys are the best data source available to study actual crime in the community. Victim surveys are also able to identify non-reporters and the reasons for not reporting.

The NCS collects data on personal and household victimization through an ongoing national survey of citizens. Prior to June of 1984, the survey was based upon a sample of

around 72,000 housing units, and interviews were conducted at six month intervals with each household member, with about 10,000 interviews conducted each month. After June of 1984, the sample was cut to 59,000 households with 9,000 monthly interviews. A two-stage sampling procedure is used to sample housing units within a Primary Sampling Unit (PSU). First, Enumeration Districts (ED) are systematically selected with a probability proportionate to population size (according to the Census year) from a geographically arranged listing. Then, each previously selected ED is subdivided into segments of four housing units from which a sample of segments is selected. The sample of housing units is divided into six rotation groups with each group being interviewed every six months for a period of 3.5 years in order to avoid interviewing the same household indefinitely. All persons age 12 and over are interviewed, usually in person or by telephone, but proxy interviewees can be used if the original person is unable to interview. Each respondent is asked questions to determine if he or she was victimized during the six month period before the first day of the month the interview is conducted.

Descriptive statistics on male and female rape and attempted rape victims are shown in Table 1 so that the characteristics of the sample may be examined.

Table 1: Descriptive statistics on the characteristics of victims

Variable	Percent Male (n=81)	Percent Female (n=809)
Employed during rape		
yes	60.3	51.4
no	39.7	48.6
Marital status		
married	24.7	15.5
not married	75.3	84.5
Race of victim		
white	77.8	74.8
minority	22.2	25.2
Continuous Variables	Average Male	Average Female
Median age	23	23
Avg. highest grade attended (years)	15.38	14.827
Median family income	15,000-17,449	10,000-12,000

Overall, there appears to be nothing unique about rape victims when compared to victims of other violent crimes. Most rape victims in the sample are white, young, and unmarried. Male rape victims are more likely than women to be employed and married at the time of the incident, but the racial composition of men and women are roughly the same. Male and female victims are the same age, and have about the same level of education, but men expectedly have higher median incomes. Rape appears to affect young men and women from all

walks of life, but unmarried men and women are more susceptible to sexual victimization.

Variables

The dependent variable is *reporting behavior*. The interview item asked: "Were the police informed or did they find out about this incident in any way?" If someone other than the victim reported the crime to the police, it is assumed that the victim gave consent to the person that did report.

The independent variables believed to influence a person's reporting decision are described below, and Table 5 in the Appendix displays how all of the variables were coded.

Marital status differentiates between those who are married and those who are not.

Victim race refers to the victim's racial background.

Time of occurrence refers to the time of day the rape or attempted rape occurred. The interview item asked: "About what time did this incident happen?"

Place of occurrence refers to the place that the rape or attempted rape occurred, and *Place two* is a dichotomous collapsed version of the previously described variable. The interview item asked: "Where did this incident take place?"

Number of offenders refers to the number of offenders that raped or attempted to rape the victim. The interview item

asked: "Was the crime committed by only one or more than one person?"

Age of single offender refers to the age of the offender when the incident had a single assailant.

Offender known? differentiates between an assailant known or unknown by the victim. The interview item asked: "Was this person someone you knew or a stranger you had never seen before?"

Offender relationship refers to how a known offender is related to the victim. The interview item asked: "What was the person's relationship to you? For example, a friend, cousin, etc."

Race of offender refers to the assailant's racial background.

Multiple offenders known? refers to the number of assailants the victim knows in a multiple offender incident. The interview item asked: "Were any of the persons known to you or were they all strangers you had never seen before?"

Something stolen? refers to whether or not the assailant(s) stole something belonging to the victim during the incident. The interview item asked: "Was something stolen or taken without permission that belonged to you or others in the household?"

Victim age, victim gender, victim educational attainment, and victim family income refer to the victim's age (age since last birthday), gender, educational attainment (in years), and yearly family income, respectively.

Incident in city limits? refers to whether or not the incident occurred in or out of a city limit area. The interview item asked: "Did this incident happen inside the limits of a city, town, village, etc.?"

Offender had weapon? refers to whether or not the assailant had a weapon on his or her person during the incident. The interview item asked: "Did the person(s) have a weapon such as a gun or knife, or something he was using as a weapon, such as a bottle or wrench?"

Injuries suffered? refers to whether or not the victim suffered any injuries. The interview item asked: "What were the injuries you suffered, if any?"

Medical care required refers to whether or not the victim needed medical attention as a result of victimization. The interview item asked: "Were you injured to the extent that you received any medical care after the attack, including self treatment?"

Protected self refers to whether or not the victim attempted to protect his or herself. The interview item asked: "Did you do anything to protect yourself or your property

during the incident? Include getting away from the offender, yelling for help, resisting in any way?"

How well know offender refers to how well the offender is known by the victim when the offender is known. The interview item asked: "How well did you know the person - by sight only, casual acquaintance, or well known?"

Employed at time of incident refers to whether or not the victim was employed at the time the incident occurred. The interview item asked: "Did you have a job at the time this incident happened?"

Type of crime refers to whether or not the incident was a rape or attempted rape. The victim defines the crime.

Analysis Plan

Men and women will be compared as to which independent variables have significant effects on reporting behavior. Comparisons by gender related to the situational characteristics of the rape itself will also be examined. Given the nature of the sample and the variables involved, the research questions will be tested using a small variety of simple statistical techniques. Each independent variable will be tested for its effect on the dependent variable individually. Chi-square and t-tests will be the statistics used for both males and females to test for significant differences between reporters and non-reporters. Victim

family income, age, and educational attainment are the only continuous independent variables, and t-tests will be performed on those variables, with reporting behavior acting as the grouping variable. Since the dependent variable and the rest of the independent variables are categorical, Chi-square will be the statistic used to test for significant differences in observed and expected frequencies on those variables.

"Place of occurrence" did not have enough male respondents to perform a chi-square test, so the dichotomous "sister" variable was created in order to collapse the categories so that fisher's exact test could be used to test for significant differences between observed and expected frequencies. Fisher's exact test will also be used where the independent variables are dichotomous, and where the two by two tables created by the dichotomous independent and dependent variables include cells where the number of respondents is less than five and greater than zero.

RESULTS

Differences in Rape Circumstances

The first hypotheses speculated that the circumstances surrounding the rape would not differ depending on the sex of the victim. This null hypothesis was rejected. The data identify a number of situational factors that describe the circumstances surrounding the crime. Indeed, the rape of male and female victims appears to be different in numerous ways. Descriptive statistics on the characteristics of the rape by gender of victim are presented in Table 2.

Like all violent crimes, rape occurs more often in urban areas. More people are concentrated in urban areas, and there are more opportunities for rape to occur. But men are more likely than women to be raped in a town other than the one in which they reside. Men are apt to travel more often than women, and this may account for an increase in out-of-home town urban rape.

Rape occurs more often during the evening and early morning hours, but men are raped more often than women during the day. Men might be raped at work more often than women, which could result in more day-time rapes, but the data do not provide information on this possibility. Men are more likely than women to be raped in a public place, and women are more likely than men to be raped at home. Men are also more likely

than women to be raped by strangers, and women are more likely to be raped by someone they know. These two sets of findings are related, because if one is raped in his or her home the assailant is more likely to be known to the victim. Since men are raped more than women out of town, one could assume men are raped more often by strangers.

Table 2: Descriptive statistics on characteristics of the rape situation

Variable	Percent Male	Percent Female
Incident in city limits		
no	06.5	06.4
yes (same city)	59.7	68.7
yes (diff. city)	33.8	24.8
Time of occurrence		
6am-6pm	44.4	33.7
6pm-6am	55.6	66.3
Place of occurrence		
own place	08.9	33.7
near place	03.8	08.0
neighbor place	17.7	14.7
public place	69.6	43.6
Number of offenders		
single	73.4	86.1
multiple	26.6	13.9
Age of single offender		
17 and under	08.8	07.3
18-29	56.1	56.1
30+	35.1	36.6
Offender known		
yes	45.6	54.9
no	54.4	45.1
Race of offender		
white	69.0	63.5
minority	31.0	36.5

Table 2: (continued)

Offender had weapon		
no	64.4	76.2
yes	35.6	23.8
Protected self		
yes	69.1	83.9
no	30.9	16.1
Injuries suffered		
no	18.2	20.3
yes	81.8	79.7
Med. care required		
yes	48.1	49.8
no	51.9	50.2
Type of crime		
rape	22.2	34.6
atmpt. rape	77.8	65.4

Most rapes involve one assailant, but more men than women are raped by multiple assailants. One man can often be "picked on" by a group of other men, and gang rape is one method to do that. A group of men may gang up on one man to ensure that their efforts will be successful against the victim. It is a form of domination and control of one man by many.

The majority of offenders and victims of rape are young adults. Young people are more likely to be victims of date rape, and more likely to be around other young people.

The proportion of minority group assailants exceeds that of minority group victims. Amir (1971) reported that rape was disproportionately committed by members of minority

groups, as with other violent crimes, and this finding using victim data supports that claim.

Weapons are not used in most of the rapes. Rape seems to be more an act of verbal and physical coercion, intimidation, and brute force. However, men are raped more often with weapons than women. Assailants of male rape victims may think it will take more to force a male to have sex, and since men are raped more often than strangers, it may be harder to coerce a stranger without the use of a weapon.

In general, most rape victims make an attempt to protect themselves, but women attempt to protect themselves more often than men. Women are taught to fight back against unwanted sexual advances, and showing proof of resistance is a component of the classic rape stereotype. Men are raped by strangers, multiple assailants, and those with weapons more often, and may not fight back as often, perhaps fearing violent retaliation.

Injuries are sustained equally by male and female victims, and medical care is needed in about half of all rapes where injuries are suffered. This finding is in agreement with the notion that rape is a violent crime, and demonstrates that evidence of victimization will be hard to come by for half of all rapes committed, since half of the victims did not seek medical attention.