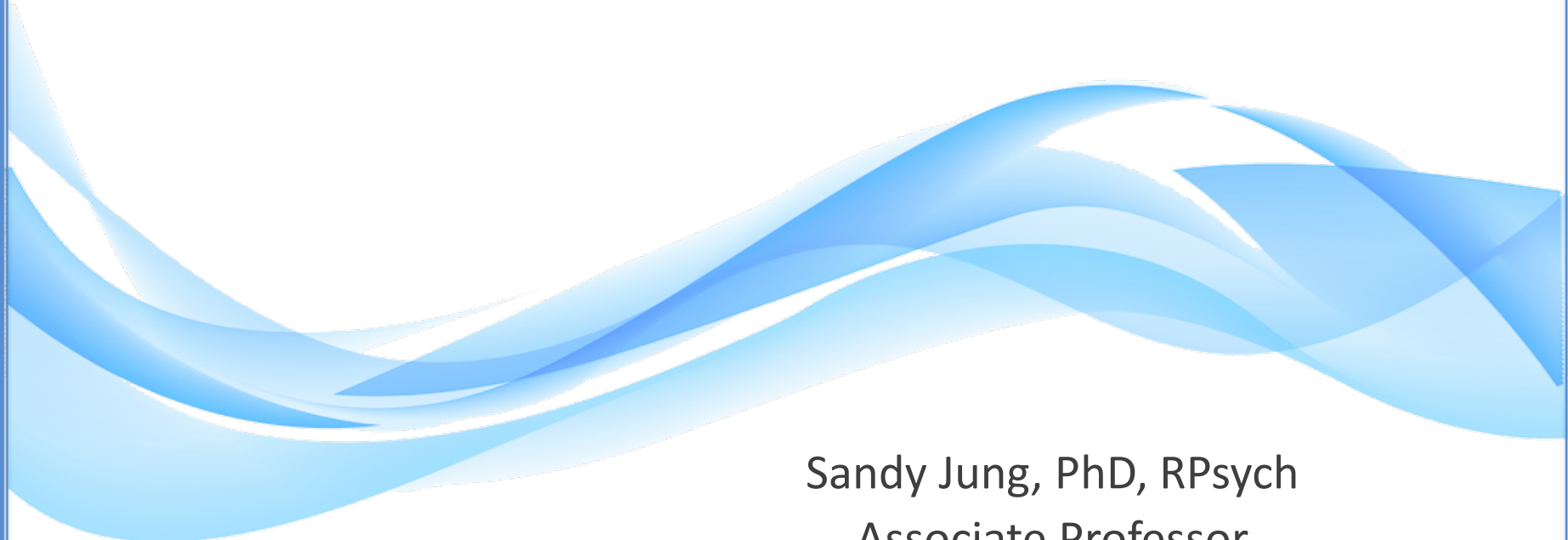


Review of Police-Reported Sexual Assaults Against Persons 16 Years and Older in Edmonton



Sandy Jung, PhD, RPsych
Associate Professor
Department of Psychology

Overview and Goals

Profile

- Examine police-reported sexual assault cases in Edmonton
- Identify areas where reported incidents deviate from the national profile

Prevention

- Rather than re-invent, evaluate the use of existing sexual violence risk measures in a police context
- Validate a method to better allocate resources to higher risk perpetrators

Current Study

- Examines demographic, offender and victim, assault, and criminal justice variables
- Police-reported sexual assaults against 16 years and older
- Data from 2010-2014



Extraction from EPROS
(# of entries / charges)

6324



Reduce to # of
occurrences

4886



Sexual assaults against
persons 16 yrs and older

2569



Further reduce to
identifiable perpetrators

865

Data
Reduction
*5 years from
2010 to 2014*



Extraction from EPROS
(# of entries / charges)

6324



Reduce to # of
occurrences

4886



Sexual assaults against
persons 16 yrs and older

2569



Further reduce to
identifiable perpetrators

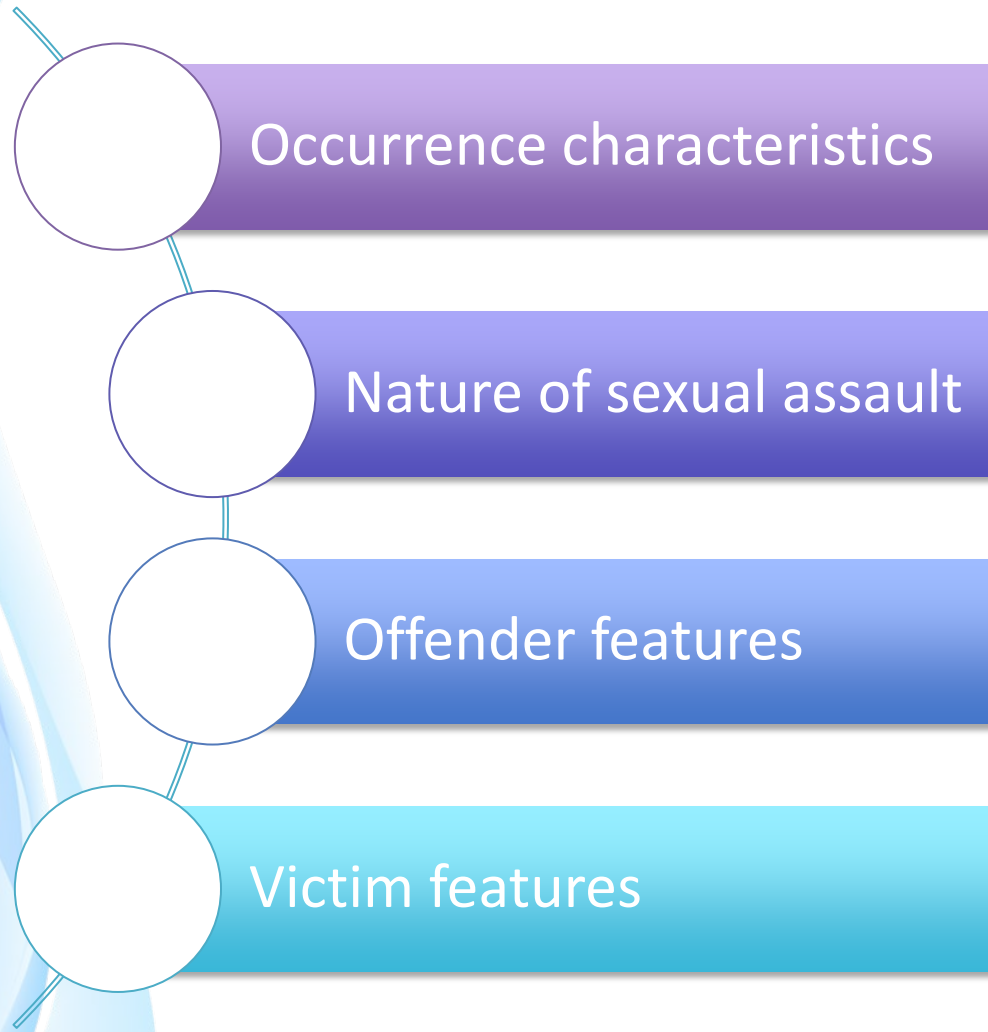
865



Random sample of 300
cases from 2010 to 2013
44% of all cases

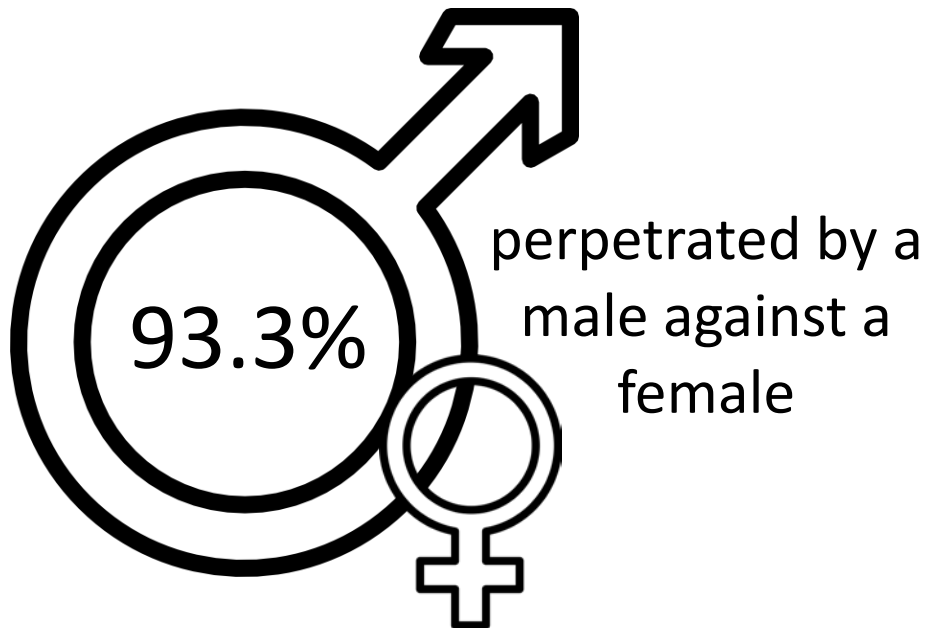
Data
Reduction
*5 years from
2010 to 2014*

Profile of Reported Sexual Assaults

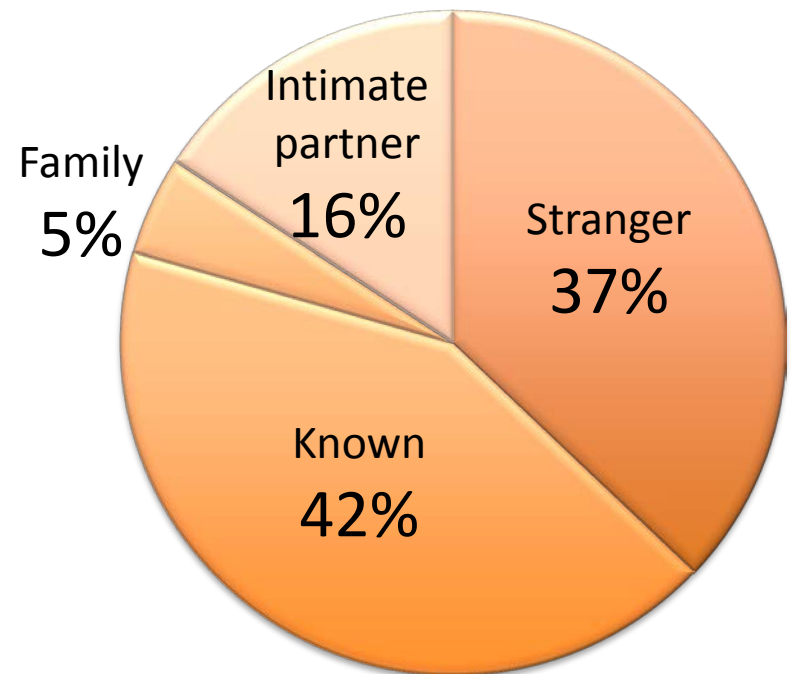


Occurrence characteristics

83.4%
of cases cleared by charge
(where there is an identifiable perpetrator)



Relationship between perpetrator and complainant



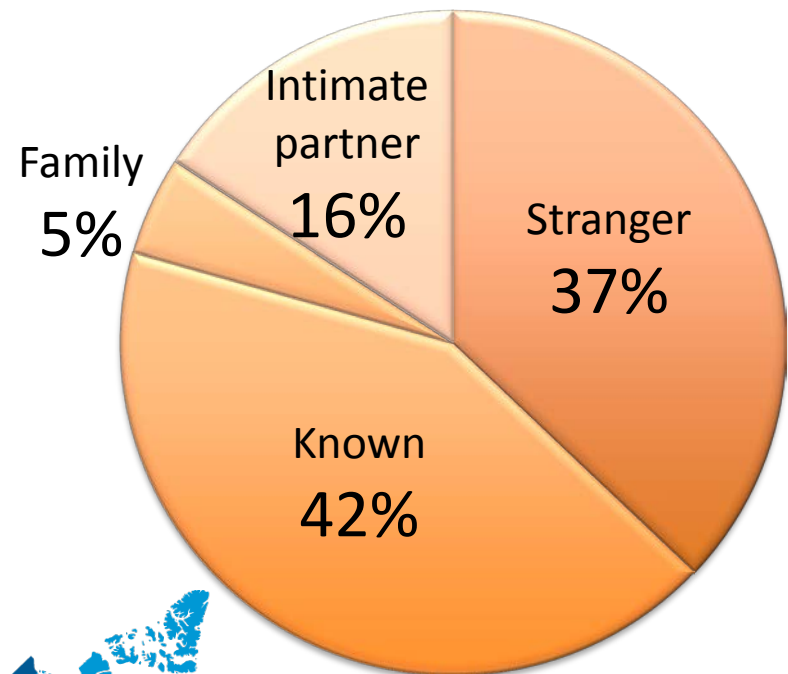
18% where eyewitnesses present
5% had digital evidence of offence



Occurrence characteristics

83.4%
of cases cleared by charge
(where there is an identifiable perpetrator)

Relationship between perpetrator and complainant



42%
cleared by charge
(StatsCan:2007)



Strangers:
18% (StatsCan:2007)
44% (Perreault, 2015)

Nature of sexual assault



89%

were charged with sexual assault (s.271)

Alcohol consumption

45% of victims

55% of perpetrators consumed alcohol



Less than 5%
involved co-perpetrators



94.7%

of cases used physical force
(2.6% used an edged weapon, less than
1% used a firearm)



Nature of sexual assault



21%
committed
by multiple
perpetrators
(Perreault, 2015)

54% of
perpetrators
consumed
alcohol just prior
to assault
(Perreault, 2015)

26% used weapons, very
few with knives/firearms
(Perreault, 2015)

Less than 5%
involved co-
perpetrators



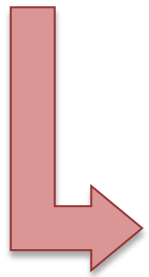
Alcohol consumption
45% of victims
55% of perpetrators
consumed alcohol



94.7%
of cases used physical force
(2.6% used an edged weapon, less than
1% used a firearm)

Nature of sexual assault

53% involved penetrative assaults



47.7% were vaginal

11.3% were anal

14.3% involved digital

1% involved a foreign object

6% involved B&E

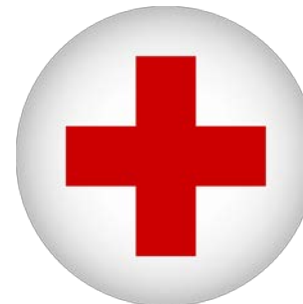
1% had rape kits present

7% may have been
facilitated by drugs

27%

of victims were
passed out or
asleep

involved non-
sexual violence

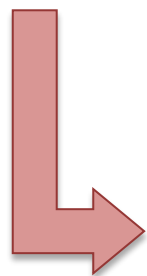


33.7%
visible/reported
injury or hospital



Nature of sexual assault

53% involved penetrative assaults



47.7% were vaginal

11.3% were anal

14.3% involved digital

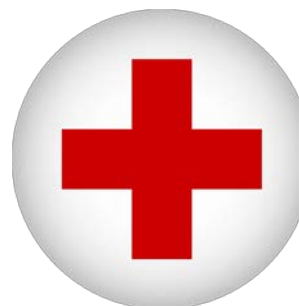
1% involved a foreign object

19% involved penetration (StatsCan:2007)

70-83% reported by victims in trauma centers (U.S.: Larsen et al., 2015; Riggs et al., 2000)

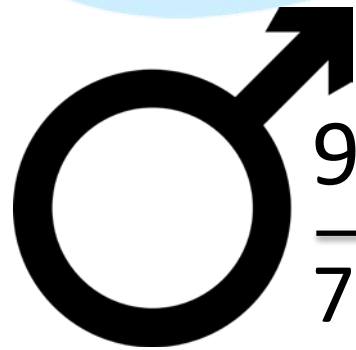


23% physical injury from the assault (StatsCan:2007)



33.7%
visible/reported
injury or hospital

Offender features



98.5% are male

70% were single

$\frac{1}{4}$ had children

$\frac{4}{5}$ had fixed addresses

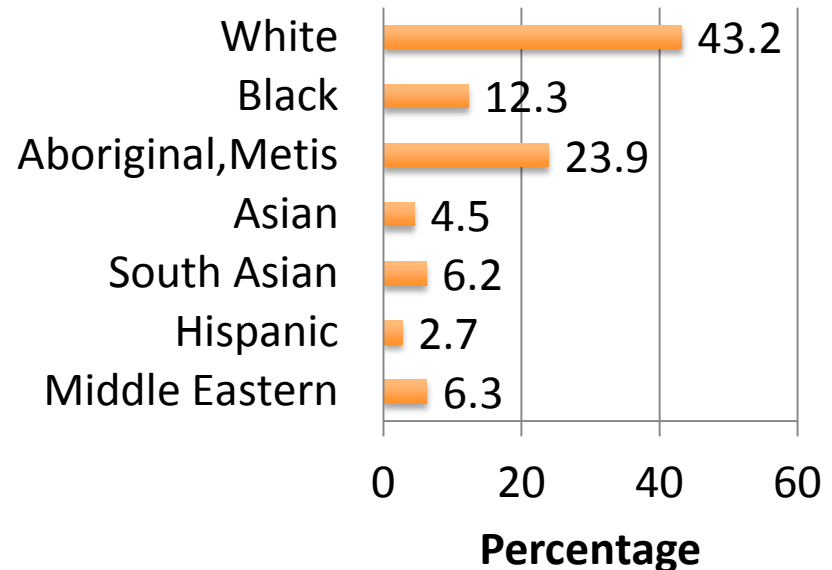


49% had problems
with substances



58% were employed

Ethnicity

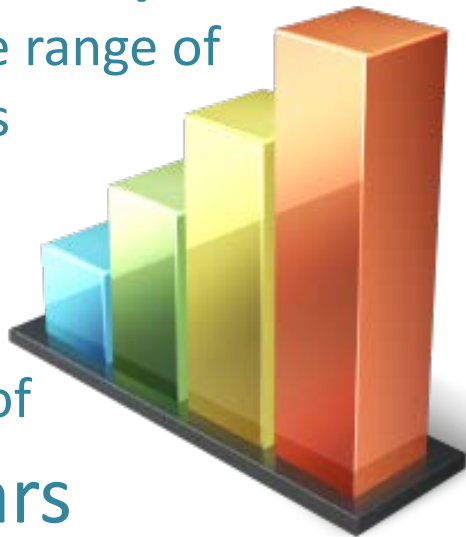


Offender features

12 to 89 years

is the age range of
offenders

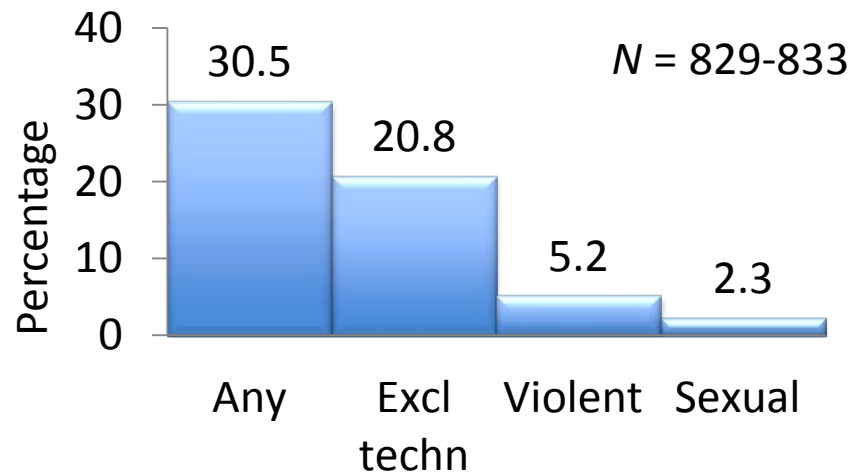
with an
average of
35 years



65% had prior criminal involvement

43% had prior violent arrests and/or
convictions

Criminal history (local police data only):





Offender features



98.5% are male

70% were single

$\frac{1}{4}$ had children

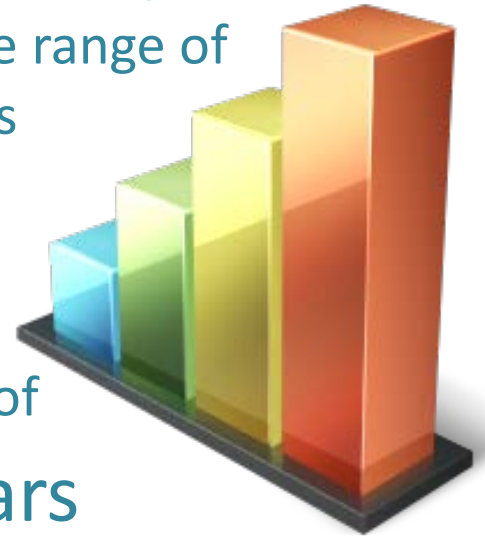
$\frac{4}{5}$ had fixed addresses

12 to 89 years

is the age range of
offenders

with an
average of

35 years



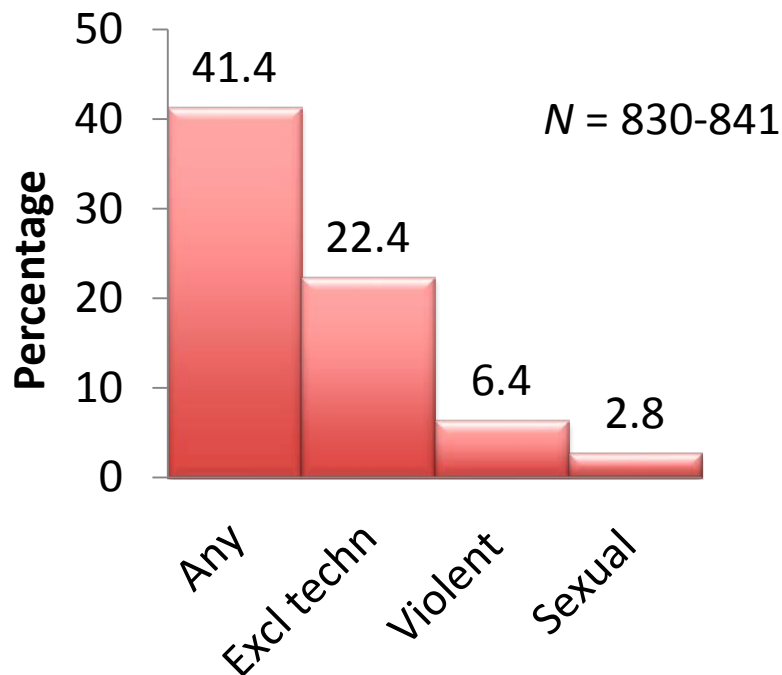
94% committed by
males (Perreault, 2015)



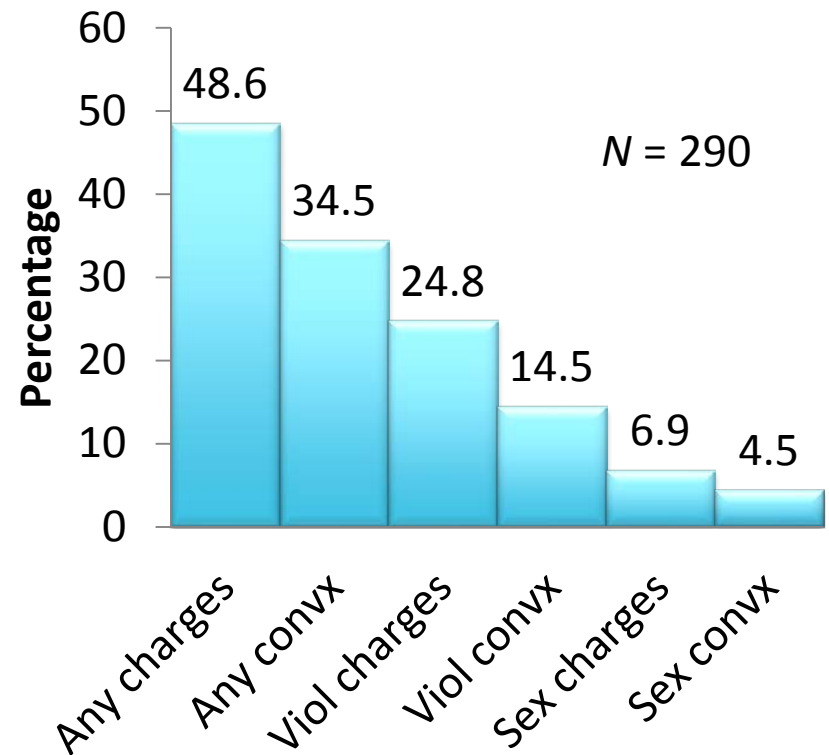
34 years average
age of perpetrators
(Perreault, 2015)

Offender features

Recidivism with an average follow-up of 4.3 years (local police data only): *what EPS would see on EPROS*



Recidivism with an average follow-up of 3.6 years (comprehensive follow-up data): *EPROS, CoMIS, CPIC*



Victim features



94.4%
of victims are female

$\frac{3}{4}$ were single

$\frac{1}{4}$ had children

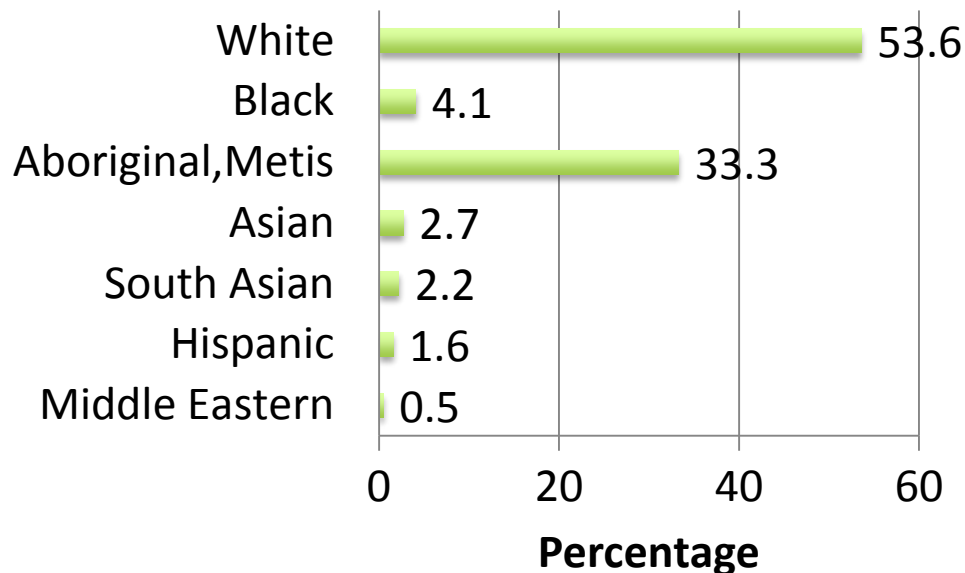
16 to 92 years

is the range of victim age
with an average of

28 years



Ethnicity



Nearly 50%
had a
documented
history of
victimization



Victim features



94.4%

of victims are female

$\frac{3}{4}$ were single

$\frac{1}{4}$ had children

82% of victims
are female
(Perreault, 2015)



Sexual Violence Risk Prediction



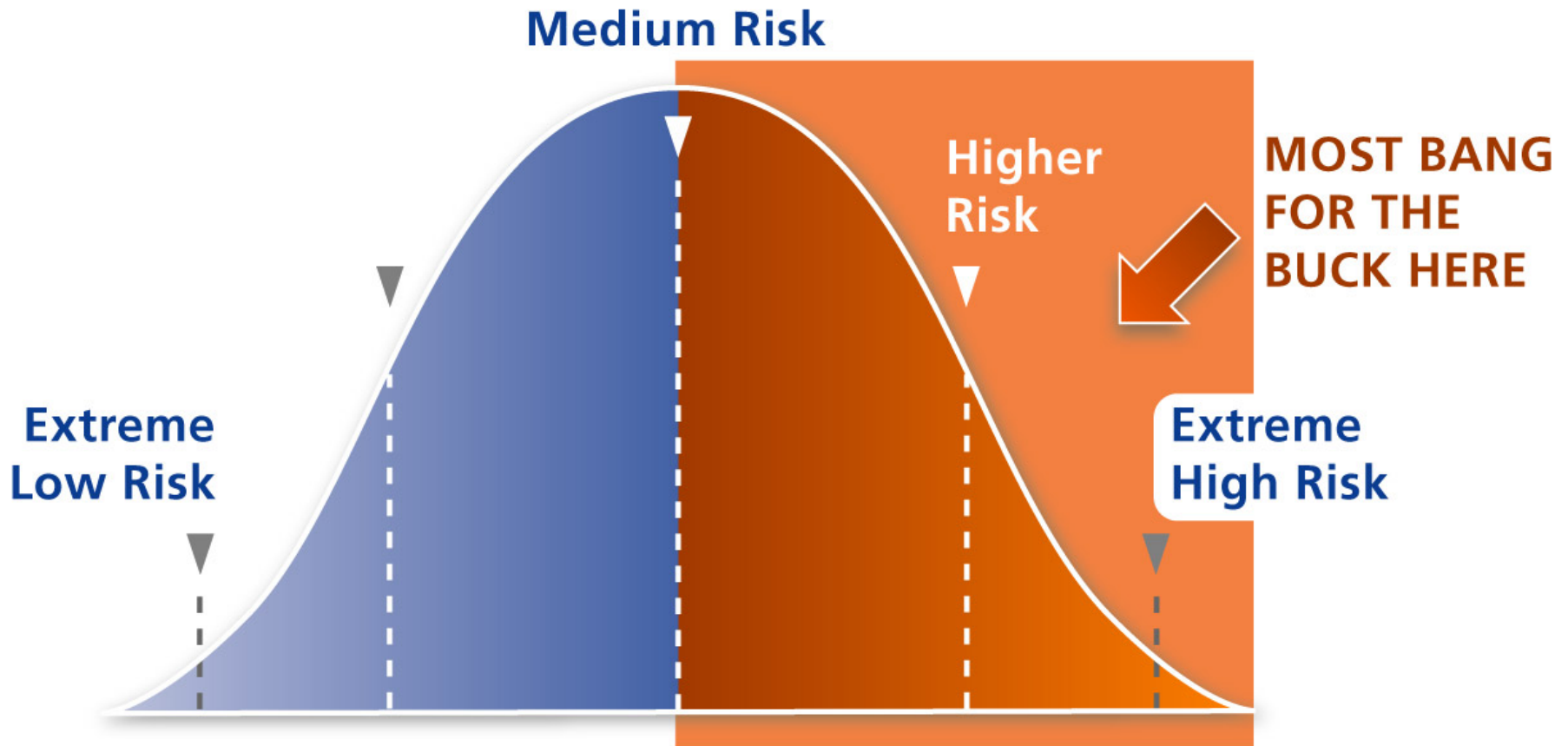
The risk principle

Statistical findings

Offender risk assessment in policing



Why is this important?



Two Assessments Examined

Static-99R

(Harris, Phenix, Hanson, & Thornton, 2003)

- Age at arrest*
- Live-in relationship
- Index non-sexual violence*
- Prior non-sexual violence
- Prior sex offences
- Prior sentencing
- Non-contact sex offence
- Unrelated victims
- Stranger victims
- Male victims

Static-2002R

(Phenix, Doren, Helmus, Hanson, & Thornton, 2008)

- Age at arrest*
- Persistence of sexual offending (3 items)
- Deviant sexual interests (3 items)
- Relationship to victims (2 items)
- General criminality (5 items)

Primer on Recidivism Statistics

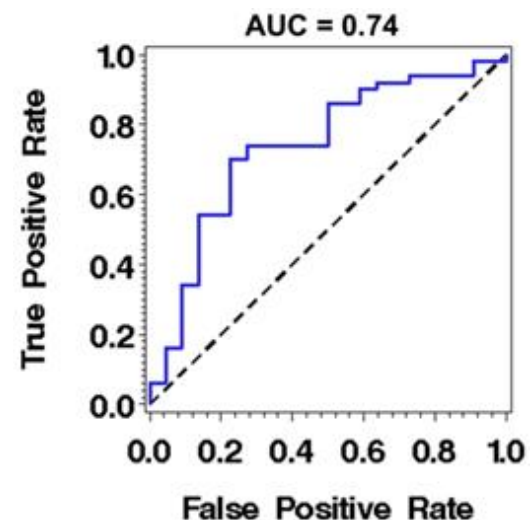
- $AUC = .50$ is predicting at chance

- Effect sizes:

.56 – small

.64 – moderate

.71 – large



- Confidence interval = range of values (interval) that act as good estimates
 - e.g., $AUC = .59-.76 \rightarrow \text{ok}$
 - $AUC = .48-.62 \rightarrow \text{not predict better than chance}$

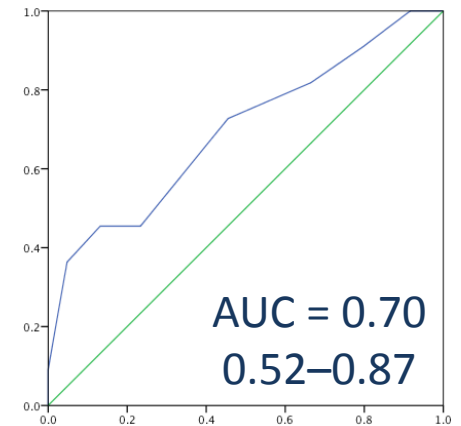
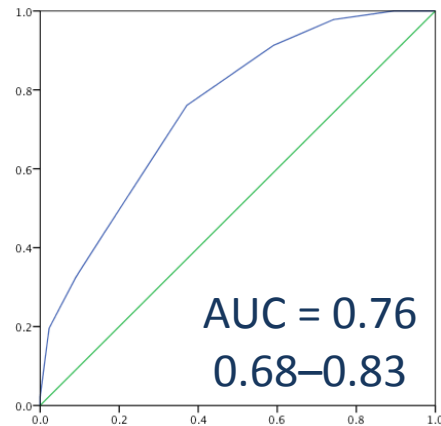
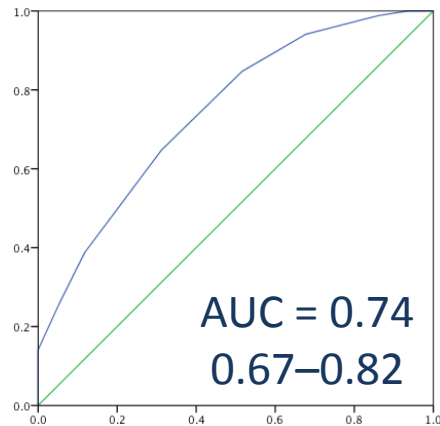
Static-99R

Any offending

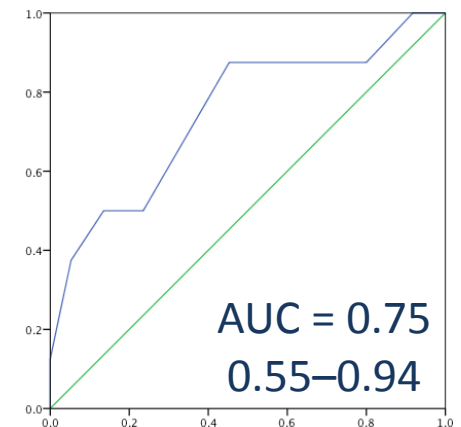
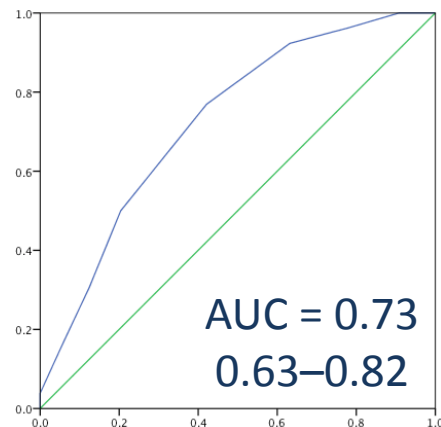
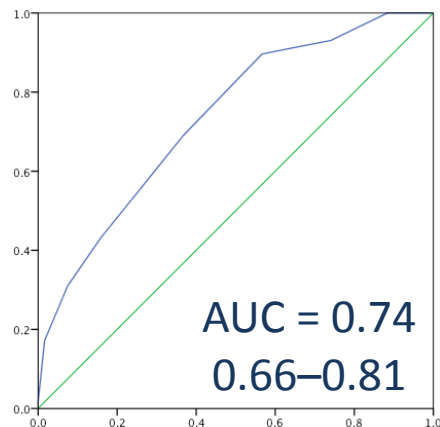
Any violent offending

Any sexual offending

CHARGES



CONVICTIONS



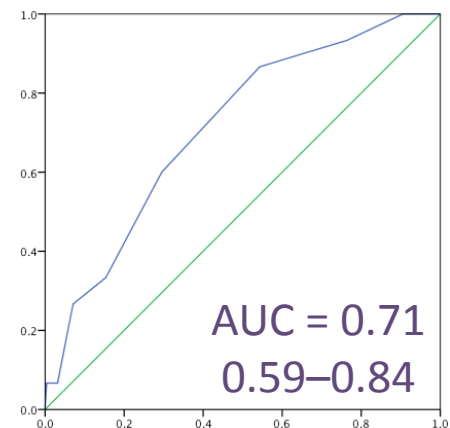
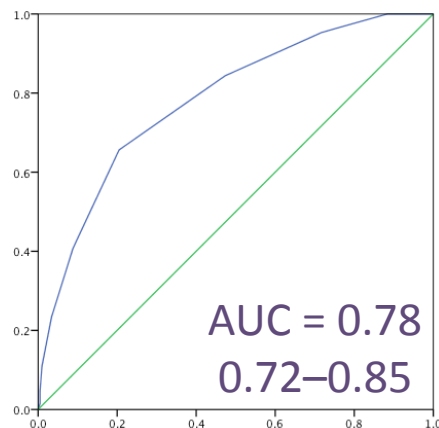
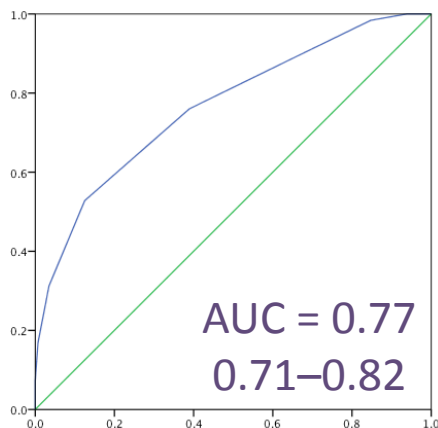
Static-2002R

Any offending

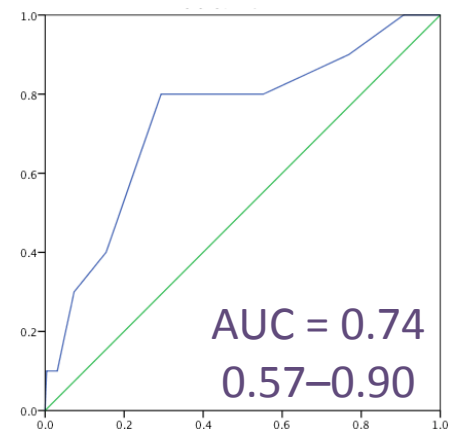
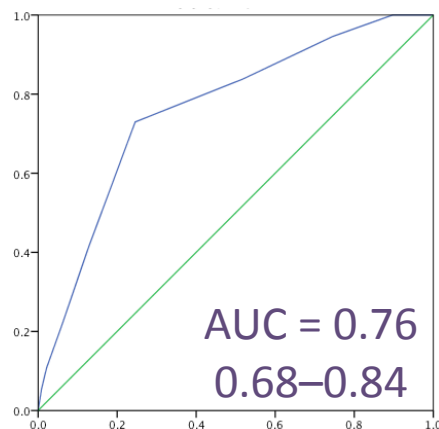
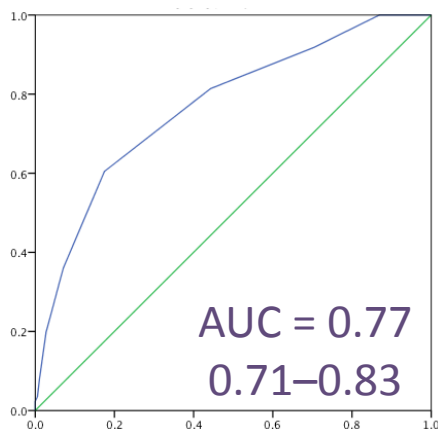
Any violent offending

Any sexual offending

CHARGES



CONVICTIONS



Conclusions

- Occurrences of reported sexual assault increasing
- Large proportion of occurrences with identifiable perpetrators cleared by charge
- Most perpetrators were single, had criminal histories, and knew the victims
- Existing sexual violence risk measures were able to validly predict recidivism in a police context



Next research steps

- Examine intimate partner sexual assault
 - Preliminary analyses show IPs were more likely to have prior violent offences, used threats, engaged in nonsexual violence during sexual assault, penetrated their victims, and showed the highest violence risk.



Next research steps



- Identify risk factors that, when combined, provide the most effective predictors for future violence among sexual assault perpetrators
- Examine the predictive validity of the BARR-2002R (6 items from Static-2002R), which will be examined by honours student, Farron Wielinga

CONTACT:

Sandy Jung, PhD, RPsych, Department of Psychology
MacEwan University, Edmonton, AB, Canada
sandy.jung@macewan.ca | 780.497.4597

sites.google.com/a/macewan.ca/psychology-crime-lab-macewan-university/



Acknowledgments: Edmonton Police Service – specifically, Office of Strategy Management, Sexual Assault Section, and Business Performance Unit