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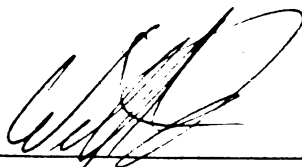
BEYOND THE LEGAL DEFINITION:  
UNDERSTANDING AND PREDICTING POLICE OFFICERS'  
PERCEPTIONS OF DATE RAPE

presented by

Rebecca Moira Campbell

has been accepted towards fulfillment  
of the requirements for

M.A. degree in Psychology



Major professor

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BEYOND THE LEGAL DEFINITION:  
UNDERSTANDING AND PREDICTING POLICE OFFICERS'  
PERCEPTIONS OF DATE RAPE

By

Rebecca Moira Campbell

A THESIS

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## **ABSTRACT**

### **BEYOND THE LEGAL DEFINITION: UNDERSTANDING AND PREDICTING POLICE OFFICERS' PERCEPTIONS OF DATE RAPE**

**By**

**Rebecca Moira Campbell**

This study examined police officers' perceptions of date rape. Whereas most officers indicated that they felt date rape and stranger rape were equally serious and deserved equally severe punishment, a common theme emerged in their answers of blaming the date rape victim and questioning her credibility. This research also examined a multi-level model predicting police perceptions of date rape. This model was evaluated using LISREL VII and suggested that officers with more experience held more sympathetic beliefs about date rape. Moreover, officers who found their training on rape to be very helpful and officers who believed that sexual harassment was a problem in the workplace also had more progressive attitudes toward date rape. In addition to this direct impact of experience, training, and sexual harassment on perceptions of date rape, an indirect impact was also supported. More experience, perceiving training as very helpful, and believing that sexual harassment was a problem in the workplace were related to positive attitudes toward women. These positive perceptions of women, in turn, predicted more progressive perceptions of date rape. Implications for legal policy and training interventions are discussed.

**To my "parnets," JoAnn Venable Campbell and David Campbell**

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## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

Rape has deep historical roots in culture and law. The word "rape" comes from the Latin *rapere*, meaning to steal (Bohmer, 1991). Throughout history, rape has been viewed as an insult to the woman's family honor rather than an act of trauma to the woman and an invasion of her body (Brownmiller, 1975).<sup>1</sup> This devaluation of women is reflected in our laws as well. As stated by British jurist Lord Hale (1680), "it is true, rape is a most detestable crime, and therefore ought severely and impartially to be punished with death; but it must be remembered that it is an accusation easily to be made and hard to be proved; and harder to be defended by the part accused, tho never so innocent" (p.635). This attitude was firmly ingrained in British law and carried over into American common law. Until the late 1970s, most state laws were replete with checks and balances to protect men from the unjust, false accusations of rape that women were accused of leveling against them (Balos & Fellows, 1991; Berger, Searles, & Neuman, 1988; Bohmer, 1991; Bumiller, 1990; Pineau, 1989). Until recently, many statutes required judges to issue instructions to juries modeled after Lord Hale's statement, prior to deliberation (Berger, Searles, & Neuman, 1988).

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<sup>1</sup>Throughout this paper, women will be the focus and female pronouns will be used to refer to the rape victim. This does not imply sexism, but rather reflects the fact that the overwhelming majority of rape victims are female (Kanin, 1957; Koss, 1989; Koss et al., 1987; Parrot, 1985).

Although rape is now viewed more as an assault against women, vestiges of this type of thinking still exist. We live in a "rape culture" (Pineau, 1989). Rape is deeply embedded in our lives because we live in a society where violence against women is accepted and pervasive (Brownmiller, 1975; Koss, 1990; Russell, 1975; Schechter, 1982). Feminists have argued that sex in our society is seen as something to be taken, something that men have an inherent right to (Russell, 1984; Sanday, 1990; Schechter, 1982). Consent is not an issue: being female is consent enough. Consistent with this notion are the words of the rapists themselves. Two convicted rapists in one study called rape "assault with a friendly weapon" (Feild, 1978). Some rapists have reported that although they might admit they had done something wrong, their error was along the magnitude of "disorderly conduct," "simple assault," or "driving under the influence," with fines serving as the appropriate penalties (Kanin, 1984).

Our current perceptions of rape are also plagued by myths and stereotypes: women deserve it, women ask for it, women enjoy it (Bograd, 1982; Brownmiller, 1975; Koss et al., 1985; Mazelan, 1980; Muehlenhard, 1988; Pineau, 1989). Rape is commonly conceptualized as the stranger jumping out from the bushes at night, with a weapon, forcing sexual intercourse on a woman. This type of scenario (stranger rape) accounts for only 15% of all rapes (Kanin, 1957; Koss et al., 1987; Parrot, 1985; Russell, 1982). A form of rape less talked about and less understood, but far more prevalent, is rape between those who know each other--husbands/wives, dates, friends, acquaintances (Kanin, 1957; Katz, 1991; Katz & Mazur, 1979; Koss et al., 1987; Koss et al., 1988; Parrot, 1985; Russell, 1982). The boundaries of rape are already clouded in cases of stranger rape, thus it is

not surprising that our culture and law have an even more mixed response to acquaintance rape.

### Purpose of the Literature Review and Current Research

This literature review and research project explored a subcategory of acquaintance rape, date rape (sexual violence among dating partners). The focus was limited to date rape for two reasons. First, some forms of acquaintance rape (e.g., rape among true acquaintances--people who have just met or know each other only by sight) are quite difficult to study as they are less common than date rape. Second, other forms of acquaintance rape, such as incest or marital rape, are separate fields of inquiry.

The primary purpose of this literature review is to provide a context for the current research that examined police officers' perceptions of date rape. More specifically, this literature review covers five substantive areas.<sup>2</sup> First, a general overview of the problem of date rape is provided by defining date rape, its prevalence, and psychological impact on victims. Second, the legal issues of date rape are explained with an overview of rape law and a discussion of how date rape may be conceptualized, if not statutorily, then in practice, differently under the law. Third, a brief review of the research on rape victims' decisions to report rape and the impact

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<sup>2</sup> The literature reviewed in this paper spans a variety of disciplines: psychology, sociology, criminal justice, law, and women's studies. Data base searches on PsychLit, SocioFile, and Legal InfoTrac were conducted for the years 1974-present. In addition, other journals that traditionally published articles related to this topic, such as Criminal Justice and Behavior and Journal of Police Science and Administration, were searched manually from 1980 to the present. A search of book titles was also conducted. Most of the work reviewed in this paper was published between 1974 and the present, but there are a few exceptions as it became apparent that some older, "classic" works may prove helpful. Selected articles and books were then included for the review.

police officers can have on victims is presented. Fourth, previous studies that examined police officers' perceptions of rape are evaluated. Finally, research that explored what factors predict police perceptions of rape is discussed.

This literature review indicated that two primary issues needed further exploration. Thus, the purpose of this research project was to examine police officers' perceptions of date rape, and, from an ecological perspective, to consider a wide variety of factors that might predict police perceptions of date rape.

### Characteristics of Date Rape

#### Defining Date Rape

Dating brings to mind images of happiness, enjoyment, friendship, sexual exploration, and sharing. Rape evokes images of force, power, hurt, violence, and pain (Bechhofer & Parrot, 1991). The very term "date rape" is an oxymoron. Date rape diverges from the common perception of rape (the crazed stranger in the bushes), yet, the act is the same; the differences lie in the relationships between the victim and assailant and the context in which the rape occurs.

The legal definition of rape (the act), varies from state to state, but generally for an incident to be considered rape or sexual assault two conditions must be present: 1) some degree of force or the threat of force must be applied; and 2) penile/vaginal penetration must occur (Bechhofer & Parrot, 1991; Berger, Searles, & Neuman, 1988; Estrich, 1987).<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Recently, many states have included anal and/or oral penetration as well as penetration by an object in their rape/criminal sexual conduct statutes (Berger, Searles, & Neuman, 1988). For example, Michigan's Criminal Sexual Conduct Law (1974) has served as a

The differences between stranger and nonstranger rape begin with the relationship between the victim and assailant. Unlike stranger rape victims who are harmed by someone unknown to them, date rape victims are assaulted by someone they know and implicitly trust (Gidycz & Koss, 1991). The relationship between the victim and assailant is often categorized as stranger versus nonstranger (Katz, 1991; Katz & Burt, 1986; Koss et al., 1988; Russell, 1984). Others have refined the relationship delineating the categories "well-known," "acquaintance," and "total stranger" (Belknap, 1989). The relationship between the victim and assailant influences not only how and when a victim will define her experience as rape, but also her psychological reactions to rape (Koss et al., 1988; Parrot, 1991).

Two other key features distinguish date rape. First, date rapes are often less physically violent than stranger rapes. Most do not involve a weapon or injury beyond minor bruises and scratches (Amir, 1971; Burgess & Holmstrom, 1979; Burt, 1991; Macdonald, 1979; Russell, 1984; Warshaw, 1988). Although stranger rapes, on the average, are more violent than date rapes (Koss et al., 1988), date rapes can at times be physically violent. For example, Koss et al. (1988) found that stranger rapes were more likely to involve threats of bodily harm, hitting, slapping, and use of or threat of the use of a weapon than date rapes. But, stranger and date rapes were equally likely to involve the offenders twisting the victim's arm or holding her down, choking, and beating. Other injuries that may result include

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model for many states and it includes all forms of penetration, no matter how slight (Berger, Searles, & Neuman, 1988). It is also important to note that many state's criminal sexual conduct statutes have several "degrees" of sexual assault. Such laws define fondling and other non-penetration coerced sexual activity as criminal offenses.

vaginal bleeding and soreness because of lack of lubrication and/or the assailant's roughness.

Second, alcohol is more likely to be involved in date rapes than in stranger rapes. A number of studies indicate that one-third to two-thirds of date rapists and many date rape victims were drinking alcohol prior to the assault (Koss et al., 1987; Lott, Reilly, & Howard, 1982; Polonko, Parcell, & Teachman, 1986; Richardson & Hammock, 1991; Wilson & Durrenberger, 1982). In a large, national study, Koss et al. (1987) found that most offenders were thought to be drinking or using drugs at the time of the assault (73%) and the victim was using intoxicants 55% of the time. In addition to rendering women less able to defend themselves, alcohol can reduce men's inhibitions about violence, and sexual violence in particular (Lundberg-Love & Geffner, 1989; Richardson, 1981).

### Prevalence of Date Rape

Early work on the prevalence of date rape indicated that between 15% to 25% of college women had been date raped. Kanin and his associates (Kanin, 1957; Kirkpatrick & Kanin, 1957; Kanin & Parcell, 1977) found that 20%-25% of college women reported forceful attempts by their dates at sexual intercourse where the women ended up screaming, fighting, crying, or pleading, and that 26% of college men reported making forceful attempts at sexual intercourse that caused observable distress and offense in the women. Rapaport and Burkhart (1984) reported that 15% of a sample of college men acknowledged that they had obtained sexual intercourse against their date's will.

A more recent and widely publicized study that assessed prevalence of date rape and other kinds of rape was conducted by Koss and her

colleagues, surveying students at 32 representative institutions of higher learning (N= 6,159 college students--3,187 females, 2,972 males) (Koss, 1989; Koss et al., 1987; Koss et al., 1988). Data on the prevalence of sexual aggression were obtained with the ten-item Sexual Experiences Survey (Koss & Oros, 1982; Koss & Gidycz, 1985). This survey is a self-report instrument designed to reflect various degrees of sexual aggression and victimization including rape, attempted rape (no penetration occurred), sexual coercion (use of pressure, coercion, or power to obtain sex), and sexual contact (unwanted sexual touching). The results indicated that 46% of the women experienced no sexual aggression/victimization; 14% sexual contact; 11% sexual coercion; 12% attempted rape; 15% rape. These numbers reflect attacks by both nonstrangers and strangers. With respect to date rape, Koss found that in 84% of the rapes the offender and victim knew each other, and specifically 57% of them involved "dates."

Since date rape is not a problem exclusive to college campuses, other studies have assessed prevalence in the general population. Russell (1982, 1984) reported that 24% of a probability sample of 930 adult women residents of San Francisco described experiences that involved forced intercourse or intercourse completed when the woman was drugged, unconscious, asleep, or otherwise totally helpless and unable to consent. Another 31% reported at least one attempted rape. Approximately 72% of the rape/attempted rape victims in her sample were victimized by an acquaintance, 58% of which were dating partners (Russell, 1984).

Overall, numerous studies that have used a variety of methodologies and samples suggest that approximately one-out-of-four to one-out-of-five women have been raped by someone they know (Belknap, 1989; Koss et al.,

1987; Kanin, 1957; Miller & Marshall, 1987; Rapaport & Burkhart, 1984; Russell, 1982, 1984).

### Psychological Reactions to Date Rape

The psychological impact of rape is devastating (Katz, 1991; Katz & Mazur, 1979). Most women experience rape as a violation. It comes as a shock, destroying an individual's ability to maintain the important illusion of personal safety and invulnerability, and threatens many assumptions and beliefs that a woman may have about herself and the world around her (Katz, 1991).

Burgess and Holmstrom (1974, 1979, 1988) identified a pattern in victims' emotional responses to rape--Rape Trauma Syndrome (RTS). RTS is a cluster of somatic, cognitive, psychological, and behavioral symptoms exhibited in varying degrees by most rape victims (Burgess & Holmstrom, 1988). RTS occurs in both stranger rapes and acquaintance rapes and has two stages: acute or disorganization phase and the reorganization phase.

In the acute phase, the victim experiences guilt and shame. Some women experience an "expressive" reaction in which anger, fear, anxiety, tension, and crying are common. Other victims exhibit a "controlled" reaction and may appear controlled, calm, and subdued. Physiological reactions include difficulty sleeping, digestive system disorders, fatigue, headaches, vaginal discharge, and an exaggerated startle response. This initial phase may last for weeks.

In the reorganization phase, the victim may become depressed, show anger toward men, avoid others in social situations, experience impaired memory or concentration, or have rapid mood swings. The phase may last for months or years. With therapy or the counsel of an understanding and

informed support person, the victim may be able to put the rape in perspective and move on with her life. It is unlikely that she will be able to forget the rape or regain the level of trust she had before the rape (Burgess & Holmstrom, 1988).

Rape by someone familiar can be an even more personal attack than rape by a stranger (Katz, 1991; Katz & Mazur, 1979). It is a traumatic victimization, but it occurred within a context that was otherwise associated with safety and privacy. And, the woman specifically chose to be with the rapist. Rape by a total stranger is traumatic and is certainly a violation of personal safety and body integrity, but, by definition, it involves no prior interaction with the rapist and therefore does not necessarily call into question the woman's own behavior and judgement.

Burkhart (1983) identified three typical behavior patterns date rape victims may exhibit after the rape. Following her initial emotional response, a victim may withdraw from social interactions. She may feel she can no longer trust her judgment: when she had trusted her judgment, she had chosen to interact with the rapist. Consequently, she stops making decisions that rely on her judgment. Second, she may repress the rape memory in the hope that she will be able to forget it and return to "normal." She may exhibit occasional emotional explosions when under stress or when reminded of the rape. Seeing the rapist in social situations may also trigger emotional upheavals. Later recollections of the rape often precipitate recurring crises in other relationships. Finally, a date rape victim may exhibit changes in her sexual behavior patterns (Orlando & Koss, 1983; Warshaw, 1988). Some may choose not to have sex for a while, but others, especially those who felt particularly devalued after the assault,

may have sex more often than before, with more partners than would have been customary for the victim (Warshaw, 1988).

Some authors have argued that the overall trauma is worse for victims of nonstranger rapes (Katz, 1991; Katz & Mazur, 1979; Shore, Baum, & Sales, 1980). Katz (1991) interviewed 87 rape victims, classified into two groups: nonstranger (N=39) and stranger (N=48). These two groups differed significantly in their responses to several measures of the effects of rape. The women raped by strangers blamed themselves less for the rape, saw themselves in a more positive light, and felt more completely recovered from the rape than those raped by nonstrangers.

Date victims overall have many of the same psychological reactions to rape as stranger rape victims. Yet, the violation of trust inherent in date rape creates additional psychological trauma for these women. Date rape victims blame themselves more and take longer to recover from the effects of the assault.

### The Legal Issues of Date Rape

#### Overview of Rape Law

In the last ten to fifteen years most states have dramatically reformed their rape laws. The traditional legal definition of rape--unlawful sexual intercourse with a female without her consent--focuses the attention and burden of the trial on the victim (Fischer, 1989). Consequently, it is the victim's behavior, rather than the defendant's that is subject to intense scrutiny by the police, the prosecutors, the defense lawyer, the jury, and the community as a whole. Under common law, courts required that the prosecution show, in addition to the statutory elements of the crime, that the victim resisted "to the utmost" or failed to resist because of extreme

fear, that the victim made a prompt complaint, and that the victim was "chaste" (DuBois, 1988; Fischer, 1989). Rape laws also included evidentiary requirements not imposed in other criminal offenses. Until recently, the state could only prove rape where some piece of independent evidence corroborated the victim's story (Estrich, 1987; Fischer, 1989). The implied elements of the crime of rape, together with the special evidentiary requirements, made effective rape prosecution extremely difficult.

In response to growing criticisms, many state legislatures in the late 1970s reformed rape statutes by redefining the crime of rape itself. Responding to feminists' and rape victim advocates' arguments that rape is a crime of violence, not sexuality, some states replaced the offense of rape with the offense "criminal sexual assault." For example in Michigan, criminal sexual conduct is defined as an act of sexual penetration by the use of force or the threat of force (Michigan Criminal Sexual Conduct Law, 1974). More than a semantic change, the new sexual assault laws represented a shift in the crime's focus from the behavior of the victim to the behavior of the rapist (Fischer, 1989). Theoretically, under these reforms it also did not matter who the assailant was (stranger, husband, date) because the crime was defined by the act (Berger, Searles, & Neuman, 1988; Searles & Berger, 1987). <sup>4</sup>

In addition to redefining the crime, sexual assault laws have altered the meaning of "consent" and its role in the crime. In some jurisdictions consent can only be raised as an affirmative defense, otherwise it is not an

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<sup>4</sup> Some states (8), however, still have marital exemptions in their statutes preventing wives from charging their husbands with rape (Berger, Searles, & Neuman, 1988; National Clearinghouse on Marital and Date Rape, 1990; Russell, 1990).

issue at trial. In addition to removing consent from the definition of the offense, evidentiary requirements of consent were changed. Consent cannot be established by showing that the defendant believed that the victim consented. Lack of verbal or physical resistance by the victim also is not consent. This evidentiary shift was intended to change the treatment of victims in the courtroom by eliminating questions about her behavior and state of mind. Moreover, most states passed victim shield laws, which limit or prevent the defense from cross-examining victims about their sexual history (Berger, Searles, & Neuman, 1988; Fischer, 1989; Searles & Berger, 1987). Overall, these reforms were intended to focus attention on the behavior of the rapist rather than on the victim.

#### But It Does Matter Who the Assailant Is: The Legal Problems of Date Rape

Traditionally, and under these recent reforms, the law has not treated all forms of nonstranger rape as rape (Berger, Searles, & Neuman, 1988; MacKinnon, 1987; Russell, 1990). Nonstranger rape, as most crimes between intimates (e.g., domestic violence), is often viewed as a lesser crime (if a crime at all) in eyes of the courts (MacKinnon, 1987; Russell, 1990). Feminist theorists and activists have long noted that violence between intimates is protected under the law, or at the very least, is not pursued (MacKinnon, 1987; Martin, 1983; Russell, 1990; Sanday, 1990; Smart, 1989). Sexual violence between intimates poses a further problem. Smart (1989) argued that violence is not seen as violence if it is sexualized and that violence is exonerated if pleasure could be achieved. If there has been previous contact between the victim and assailant, then sexual pleasure for both parties from the assault is an even more likely conclusion (Smart, 1989).

MacKinnon's and Smart's theoretical arguments become more concrete (and devastating) upon an examination of the actual laws in most states. Whereas most states (42) make no statutory distinctions between stranger and nonstranger rape, all 42 of these states have evidentiary guidelines that limit victim shield laws and allow testimony on previous sexual contact between the victim and assailant (Berger, Searles, & Neuman, 1988; Searles & Berger, 1987).<sup>5</sup> In other words, when defining the act of sexual assault most states make no distinction between stranger rape and nonstranger rape. The crime is defined by the act, not by who committed it. In following sections of their laws, however, most states add evidentiary guidelines that allow the issue of who the assailant is and what prior sexual contact there was between the victim and assailant to surface (and quite possibly to become the focus) in court cases.

The admissibility of this evidence is crucial. These guidelines can create difficulties for date rape victims because if a woman previously consented to any connection with a man, a presumption arises that she subsequently consented to sexual contact during the incident in question (Balos & Fellows, 1991; MacKinnon, 1987; Smart 1989). MacKinnon (1983, 1987) and Smart (1989) have observed that when indices of closeness (e.g., dating) are taken as evidence of the victim's behavior during the offense, many common types of coercive sexual encounters go unregulated by the law--"rape, from women's point of view, is not prohibited, it is regulated"

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<sup>5</sup> The remaining eight states have marital rape and/or "cohabitant" rape exemptions (Berger, Searles, & Neuman, 1988). In these states, a wife or a woman living with her partner cannot charge her husbands/partners with rape. The issue of limiting victim shield laws, then, becomes irrelevant.

(MacKinnon, 1983, p.652). Consequently, rapes are not reported, prosecuted, or sanctioned based on the force that was used, nor is the criterion how coercive the rape was and how violated the woman feels. Instead, rape prosecution is based on how intimate the woman is with the assailant; "this is why most women think we won't be believed in reporting the most common rapes, that is rapes by people we know" (MacKinnon, 1987, p.83). Thus, despite the promise of rape legislative reform to place the act itself on trial, the behaviors of the victim remain an issue, especially in cases of date rape.

#### Victims' Decisions to Report Rape and The Impact of the Police —

Before a rape case can even begin this process of prosecution, it must be reported. FBI statistics reveal that rape is the most underreported crime against the person (Federal Bureau of Investigations, 1990). Researchers estimate that as few as one in one hundred date rapes are reported to law enforcement officials or school authorities (Burkhart, 1983). Across studies reporting rates for rape are approximately 2% to 8% (Golding et al, 1989; Kilpatrick et al., 1987; Pirog-Good & Stets, 1989; Russell, 1982, 1984). Date rape victims are far less likely than stranger rape victims to report the assault to the police (Skelton & Burkhart, 1980). In Golding et al.'s study, 28% of the women raped by strangers told the police, but only 6% of the nonstranger rape victims told the police.

Whereas these low reporting rates are undoubtedly influenced by individual victim's personal circumstances and decisions, police officers appear to have an important role in the process of reporting and prosecuting a rape. Police are the first contact victims have with the system and they can be highly influential. Kerstetter and Van Winkle

(1990) conducted interviews with detectives and victim's advocates addressing this issue and found that the police-victim interaction can mediate the victimization experience. One victim advocate stated that, "she [the victim] reads police attitudes very carefully to try to discern cues as to how she should react to what has happened to her" (p.277). Other researchers have argued that insensitive treatment by members of the criminal justice system can magnify feelings of powerlessness, shame, and guilt for rape victims (Feldman-Summers & Palmer, 1980; Flynn, 1974; Madigan & Gamble, 1991; Medea & Thompson, 1974; Peters, 1973; Russell, 1974; Steketee & Austin, 1989). If police officers blame the victim for the incident or doubt her story, these beliefs could be explicitly or implicitly communicated to the victim, lowering the victim's self esteem (Feldman-Summers & Palmer, 1980). Date rape may present additional problems for victims as it is often seen as a less legitimate social problem than assault by a stranger and victims may be blamed more for the assault (Smith, Marcus, & Brainerd, 1984). Police officers' responses could severely damage the psychological well-being of date rape victims.

The impact of police can go beyond influencing how victims feel about themselves, and can also impact victims' decisions to prosecute a rape. Goldstein (1960) argued that the willingness of the victim to prosecute is influenced by police attitudes and what they communicate to the victim. Some research suggested that police are more inclined than the general public to blame the victim (Rosenbaum, 1977) and this blame may be communicated to the woman, deterring her from pursuing the complaint. In cases of date rape, where the victim may be blamed even more for the

assault, such communications could further discourage date rape victims from prosecuting (MacKinnon, 1987).

In addition to these more subtle messages, some police try more overtly to influence victim's decisions to pursue their complaints (Kerstetter & Van Winkle, 1990). Detectives in one study reported that if they wanted a case dropped they would graphically describe the personal costs involved in pursuing a rape case, such as multiple and lengthy court appearances and humiliating cross-examinations (Kerstetter & Van Winkle, 1990). The detectives' reasons for deterring victims ranged from personal gain (e.g., not wanting an unsolved case on their record) to genuine concern for the well-being of the woman (e.g., trying to spare victim the ordeal of trial) (Kerstetter & Van Winkle, 1990). It is important to note that the detectives' reasons also varied based on the type of rape. Only in acquaintance rape cases did the "fairness" of punishment become an issue: many detectives reported that they wondered, "did this guy [the acquaintance rapist] really deserve to go to jail for what he did?" (Kerstetter & Van Winkle, 1990). Detectives reported that this "moral dimension" was a factor in their decisions whether to encourage the acquaintance rape victim to prosecute. Due to the fact that it is extremely difficult, if not impossible, to prosecute a case without the willingness and cooperation of the victim, police impact on victims and their decisions is critical. In cases of date rape, this influence may be paramount.

Police officers' beliefs impact not only the victims, but may also influence what actions individual officers take (Galton, 1975-1976; Wood, 1973). Early work in this area suggested that police may have primary, if not sole, power in deciding whether a case would proceed through the

system (Galton, 1975-1976; Goldstein, 1960; Wood, 1973). Goldstein (1960) argued that the values of individual officers shaped their professional decisions, decisions which were traditionally of low visibility and therefore seldom the subject of review. This gave police extreme power in deciding when and how to invoke the criminal process (Goldstein, 1960).

More recent research in this area has suggested that although police do have considerable influence in how a case might proceed, their impact is more complex than previously thought. Police action is precipitated by a interrelated web of factors: victim's willingness to prosecute, police officers' own feelings about rape and their own determination if a rape has indeed occurred, and the strength of the case (Feldman-Summers & Palmer, 1980; Kerstetter & Van Winkle, 1990; LaFree, 1989). Thus, police officers' perceptions of rape may have a double impact: a victim's willingness to prosecute is influenced by officers' beliefs, and officers' own ideas about whether a rape has occurred are influential. It is, therefore, extremely important to know how police think about rape and rape victims in both stranger rape and date rape cases.

### Police Officers' Attitudes Toward Rape

#### A Review of Previous Research

Very little systematic information has been collected on police officers' attitudes and beliefs about rape as only a handful of studies have directly addressed this issue. In one of the first studies in this area, Feild (1978) compared police, rapists, rape crisis workers, and regular citizens on several dimensions. First, he created the Attitudes Toward Rape questionnaire that assessed the degree to which respondents agreed with statements such as "most women secretly desire to be raped" and "during a

rape, a woman should do everything she can do to resist." Second, he constructed the Rape Knowledge Test, which consisted of 33 multiple choice items that covered topics such as percentage of rape victims that knew their rapists, percentage of rapes that were reported to the police, and percentage of rapists found innocent or have cases dismissed. Third, he administered the Attitudes Toward Women Scale (Spence & Helmreich, 1972). Finally, he collected background information on the respondents (age, gender, years of education, marital status, and experience working with rape victims). His results were striking. The police and rapists could not be differentiated on half of the rape attitude dimensions. The attitudes of the rape crisis workers differed significantly from all other groups. Feild did not report the police officers' scores on the Attitudes Toward Women Scale. Similarly, he did not report their exact scores on the Rape Knowledge Test, but, overall, respondents appeared to know very little about rape: Feild reported that their scores were only slightly better than what would be expected by chance. For the police, contact with rapists, contact with rape victims, and other experiences working with rape victims were not related to their attitudes towards rape. Training programs on rape appeared to have a negative impact: officers who had had special training on rape felt that the victims' resistance during an assault should be of key importance to the police and criminal justice system.

A second major study on this issue, conducted by Feldman-Summers and Palmer (1980), found equally distressing results. They surveyed judges, prosecutors, police officers, and rape crisis center staff workers on four issues. First, the beliefs these four groups held about the causes of rape were assessed. Second, respondents were asked what they thought

would be effective rape prevention strategies. Third, the participants were asked to make likelihood judgements on the number and types of rape complaints that were brought to the attention of the criminal justice system. Finally, the groups made likelihood judgements about the circumstances associated with different types of rape complaints. The three groups of criminal justice system workers held similar beliefs about the causes of rape and differed significantly from the rape crisis workers. They saw rape as a result of the behavior of some men (sexually frustrated men), influenced by the woman's behavior. Rape crisis workers viewed the causes of rape as resting in the socialization of men. The criminal justice workers also reported that they thought that only half of the rapes reported to them were "real" rapes. Specifically, police thought that three out of five complaints were either untruthful or mistaken. Factors associated with "real" rapes in their minds were the presence of injuries, absolute consistency in the victim's story, willingness of the victim to take a lie detector test, and chaste behavior of the victim (i.e., she did not engage in premarital or extra-marital affairs and she did not have any previous social contact with the assailant). It is important to note that the factors they found most "suspicious" are characteristics common in date rapes.

More recent research has presented somewhat contradictory results. LeDoux and Hazelwood (1985) revised Feild's Attitudes Toward Rape scale and administered it to 2,170 police officers. They concluded that police were more sympathetic to rape victims than previous research and popular belief suggested. Specifically, they reported that police were not "insensitive to the plight of rape victims" because, as a group, the officers tended to disagree with statements that suggested the raped woman is not truly a

victim. Officers were, however, suspicious of victims who had had prior sex with a man or who "provoked" rape through appearance and behavior. This aspect of their findings is quite consistent with Feldman-Summers and Palmer's results that indicated that police have difficulty believing date rape victims.

Another study by Krahe (1991) found similar results. She asked East German police officers to define a "typical" rape and a "dubious" or hard-to-believe rape. The definition of the "typical" rape was an assault by a stranger (often "crazy") that occurred at night, outdoors, and resulted in some minor physical injuries to the woman. The "dubious" rape occurred between two people who knew each other (the man was "normal"), happened at either the man's or woman's house when the woman was drunk, and resulted in no physical injuries to the woman. Krahe also administered a revised form of Ward's (1988) Attitudes Toward Rape Victims Scale and concluded, similar to LeDoux and Hazelwood, that police acknowledge the severe effects rape has on victims. Krahe's and LeDoux and Hazelwood's findings suggest that police officers' opinions toward stranger rape may have improved over time, but they still may not perceive date rape as a serious crime.

#### Limitations of Previous Research on Attitudes Toward Rape

There are three primary limitations in the existing research that limit the usefulness of these studies in delineating and explaining criminal justice system workers' opinions toward date rape. First, it could be argued that the authors of these studies, like the people they were surveying, conceptualize rape as a crime primarily between strangers, not dates or acquaintances. Krahe's results support this argument: police officers

defined the "typical rape" as stranger rape. Given that rape is a crime that occurs between strangers as well as between those who know each other, this is a serious flaw in their conceptualization of rape. The measures used in all of these studies (Feild, Feldman-Summers & Palmer, LeDoux & Hazelwood, Krahe) did not fully explore attitudes and beliefs towards date rape.<sup>6</sup> For instance, only one of the 32 items on Feild's measure addressed attitudes about sexual violence between nonstrangers: "rape of a woman by a man she knows can be defined as a 'woman who changed her mind afterward.'" Similarly, only two of the 33 items on the Rape Knowledge Test examined knowledge of issues related to date rape: percentage of raped women who know their rapist and the relationship between degree of physical violence in a rape and knowledge of the rapist by the victim. Feldman-Summers and Palmer's measure specifically cued respondents to a stranger rape scenario. Sample causes of rape included: "women who are raped use poor judgement; for example, about when and where to go out alone, accepting rides from strangers, etc" and "[rape occurs because] of inadequate lighting in downtown areas, inadequate transportation systems, etc." Methods of prevention likewise evoked the "stranger" scenario: improve lighting and instruct women on the dangers of going out alone at night.

This conceptual exclusion of date rape from these studies is important to understand the results of Feild/Feldman-Summers and Palmer and LeDoux and Hazelwood/Krahe studies. Given that the officers

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<sup>6</sup> Ward's measure (used in Krahe's work) was designed to assess attitudes toward rape victims, but her measure concentrates on attitudes toward stranger rape victims.

most likely viewed rape as stranger rape, these studies can only address opinions toward stranger rape. Therefore, it appears that officers' opinions toward stranger rape have changed over time and they are more sympathetic. None of these studies can address opinions toward date rape, although they do suggest, indirectly, that police are suspicious of these cases. Other work has suggested that the characteristics of date rapes (a prior relationship between the victim and assailant, lack of physical violence, lack of a weapon) are the very characteristics officers see as reducing the credibility of the victim and the case. Sebba and Cahan (1975) and William (1976) both reported that victims receive "less official" reactions to cases when they were acquainted with the offender prior to the incident. McNickle and Randall (1982) examined archival data to determine what investigators perceived as "legitimate" rape cases. Three factors were key: the credibility of the victim, the "clear" absence of victim consent, and the offense seriousness (e.g., weapon). LaFree (1981) reported that rape cases that involved a weapon often receive the most serious attention. These studies can provide only an indirect assessment of police officers' opinions toward date rape.

A second problem with existing research is the methodological limitations of many of these studies. The officers' response rates in some studies were quite low. Feild (1978) did not report his response rate, but Feldman-Summers and Palmer (1980) obtained only 24% response rate from the police and all other groups were below 50%. LeDoux and Hazelwood (1985) and Krahe (1991) reported better return rates (72%).

Due to the possibility that only the most motivated officers would complete a survey on such a controversial topic as rape, increasing response rates might add to the credibility of the data and their interpretation.

All of these studies have been extremely limited in their methods of assessment as the sole measurement techniques have been questionnaires that contained attitude statements and rating scales or other closed-ended questions. The complex and controversial nature of this topic may call for alternative, more intensive methods than those used to date. Other researchers have noted the difficulty of using traditional techniques for sensitive subjects such as rape and domestic violence (e.g., Herzog, 1963; Kidder & Judd, 1986; Weis, 1989 ). Respondents may have given "socially desirable" answers rather than their true opinions. If this were the case, then respondents' attitudes and beliefs about rape may be more stereotypical and biased than originally thought.

A final limitation is that these studies have not fully addressed the origins of these conceptions, identifying factors that may contribute to and bolster these beliefs. Demographic characteristics have been the primary variables studied to date, but these traits, being relatively stable, do not suggest methods of intervention. It is possible that both intra-individual and environmental factors may influence police officers' attitudes toward rape. These studies did not explore this possibility.

#### Factors That Predict Police Officers' Attitudes Toward Rape

As mentioned previously, the underlying factors that contribute to police officers' beliefs about date rape have not been studied very intensely, but research on other samples can provide some insight. A framework in which to view these studies is to examine potential factors at different levels

of analysis (Rappaport, 1977). Although the existing research has focused almost entirely at an individual level, moving to other levels (e.g., group and community levels) and integrating information from other sources may provide suggestions for ecologically-based interventions.

### Individual-Level Variables

Most research examining predictors of police officers' opinions toward rape has concentrated on demographic variables. Feild (1978) reported that gender, race, marital status, and education level were the best demographic predictors of officers' attitudes toward rape. Similarly, Burt (1980) found that education level correlated with rape myth acceptance. In her study of a random sample of adults, participants who had more formal education were less accepting of rape myths and stereotypes.

Attitudes toward rape may be influenced by sex role stereotypes. Males, especially those who hold traditional attitudes, believe rape is more justifiable than do women (Muehlenhard, 1988). Muehlenhard and Linton (1987) reported that men who initiate a date, pay all the expenses, and drive are more likely to be sexually aggressive. But, if a woman assumes the role of date initiator she is judged by both sexes to want sex (Muehlenhard, Friedman, & Thomas, 1985). If sex occurs against her will, it is judged as a likely consequence and viewed as justifiable.

Burt (1980) hypothesized that adversarial sexual beliefs (the belief that sexual relationships are fundamentally exploitative and that each party is manipulative, sly, and cheating) and acceptance of interpersonal violence also contribute to blaming victims for their own victimization. Her results indicated that sex role stereotyping and adversarial sexual beliefs were correlated with rape myth acceptance, but that the best predictor was

acceptance of interpersonal violence. Respondents who believed that force and coercion are legitimate ways to gain compliance in intimate relationships strongly believed that rape victims were to blame for the rape.<sup>7</sup>

### Contextual-Level Variables

Very few studies have moved beyond intra-individual variables and examined how the culture, contexts, and experiences of police officers and their work environment may impact rape beliefs. These "contextual-level" variables explored individuals' perceptions of their environments. The term "contextual-level" variables is introduced here in place of the more traditional terminology "environmental-level" variables. These variables, as operationalized, often assess individual's perceptions of their environment and are not true measures of the environment *per se*. This research explored the work experiences of police officers and the context in which they work and interact on a daily basis.

Feild (1978) examined two contextual-level factors and their impact on rape attitudes. As mentioned previously, officers' experience with rape cases had no influence on their perceptions of rape. Officers who had had special training on rape tended to place more emphasis on victims' resistance. Apart from this one study, existing research has not moved beyond the individual level of analysis in examining factors related to rape beliefs. Macrosocial constructs, such as socialization and sexism in our society, although being environmentally-based variables that may bolster

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<sup>7</sup> This finding may have direct implications for work with police officers as they are trained and paid to use force to bring about compliance.

rape myths, are difficult to operationalize. A more tangible contextual variable to examine is the work environment of police officers.

Moos (1986) has argued that work, as many microsocial environments in our culture, are social constructions. Work and the work environment impact people and a large body of research has emerged examining the interrelationships between work and employee satisfaction, health, and psychological well-being. The process of entering a workplace and becoming acculturated to the climate has also been demonstrated to effect employees. The acculturation of police officers begins very early in their training while they are still in the police academy (Bennett, 1984; Fielding, 1986; Van Maanen, 1973, 1975). Later field experience produces "reality shock" and may alter officers' beliefs and expectations, but also serves to strengthen their bond to the police subculture (Bennett, 1984). The climate and experiences of the police work environment are major determinants of officers' beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors (Van Maanen, 1972, 1973).

More specifically, one feature of the police work environment that might have implications for rape perceptions is sexual harassment in the workplace. Building from the notion that the milieu of a workplace can be measured, Gutek and her colleagues developed an instrument to assess the degree to which flirting occurs and sexual innuendo and sexist comments are tolerated, condoned, or encouraged (Gutek, Cohen, & Konrad, 1990). They argued that a sexualized work environment will engage people to make direct and indirect sexual overtures. Testing this hypothesis, they randomly surveyed Los Angeles county residents who worked outside of the home more than 20 hours per week. The authors found that perceived work

environment sexualization was correlated with both perceived sexual harassment and perceived non-harassing sexual behavior. Other research has suggested that sexual harassment in the workplace causes distress for employees (especially females, the more common targets of sexual harassment) and can cause other negative psychological consequences (Farley, 1978; Gutek, 1985).

A question that has not yet been asked is if and how this sexualization of the work environment can affect non-employees. For example, the work environments of doctors, social workers, or police (traditionally public service oriented jobs) may "spill over" and affect how they perceive and interact with their clients. Focusing on rape, the work environment of police may affect how they perceive and treat rape victims. For example, a highly sexualized work environment where women are subjected to harassing and sexist comments may influence how officers think about women. Viewing women as sexual objects may alter their perceptions of responsibility in rape cases and victims' credibility. Implications of such a finding are that sexual harassment can be harmful not only to those employees working there, but also to the people they are trying to serve. Thus, it is possible that environmental influences, such as sexual harassment in the workplace, could influence police perceptions of date rape.

### Conclusions

The problem of date rape is extensive. One popular press writer concluded that date rape is reaching epidemic proportions (Pooley, 1992). Unfortunately, research findings support this conclusion: one-out-of-four to one-out-of-five women have been raped by someone they know, often a date.

This is a social problem that affects nearly 25% of adult women and has serious mental health consequences. Rape victims experience severe anxiety and/or depression which can last for months, even years after the rape. For date rape victims, knowing and implicitly trusting their assailants can compound these reactions, making recovery more lengthy and difficult.

Yet, the date rape victim herself is not the only one who has difficulty defining her experience as rape. Most state laws are contradictory as to what the legal standard is for date rape. Few state laws make a statutory distinction between stranger and nonstranger rape, but most provide evidentiary "loopholes" that allow the issue of previous sexual contact between the victim and assailant to be raised at trial. The admission of the evidence can make it very difficult for date rapes to be prosecuted. Some police officers' appear to agree with this subtle legal distinction between stranger and nonstranger rape. For the detectives in Kerstetter and Van Winkle's study, a primary question was, did the acquaintance rapist really deserve to go to jail for what he did?

How the legal system may respond to women may influence whether they come forward to report the rape. Judging from available reporting rates, women may not trust the response of the criminal justice system. Research on the attitudes and beliefs of police officers suggests these doubts may be justified. In one study, police and rapists' attitudes toward rape could not be distinguished on half of the rape attitude dimensions. Moreover, some police have reported that they often do not believe women when they report having been raped. Existing research in this area, however, is limited in that it has not conceptually separated stranger and

nonstranger rape, measuring only attitudes and beliefs about stranger rape. Consequently, the opinions of police officers toward date rape is unknown.

Intervening with police will require knowledge of what they believe and what underlying factors contribute to those beliefs. For example, if police have misconceptions about the role of alcohol in date rape, then their training programs need to communicate correct information. If their stereotypical attitudes are affected by traditional sex role stereotypes, then their schooling and training procedures must address this sexism. Yet, the sources of these beliefs may not all rest within the individual; the job environment in which they train and work nearly every day may influence what they believe. An environment in which women are devalued and treated as sexual objects may feed into ideas that "all women deserve to be raped," or "if a woman flirts with a man she knows, then she deserves to have sex forced on her." Environmental, as well as individual, changes may be necessary.

This literature review indicated that two primary issues needed further exploration. First, although some studies have suggested indirectly that police have negative and stereotypical perceptions of date rape, this issue has not been specifically examined. Police officers are the enforcers of the law and have direct and influential contact with date rape victims, and they may hold a different standard for date rape, much like the laws themselves do. An assessment of officers' perceptions of date rape specifically would be a contribution to the field. Second, the factors that might predict police perceptions of rape have not been studied very extensively. To date, individual-level predictors have been the primary

focus. Examining both individual and environmental influences could be helpful in developing a clearer understanding of police officers' perceptions of date rape and how to change those perceptions.

### The Current Research

Research to date has over-emphasized stranger rape, largely ignoring opinions toward date rape and date rape victims. Additionally, there has been a near exclusive focus on individual-level variables that may influence these beliefs. The purpose of this research was to expand previous inquiry in these two domains: 1) to focus on police officers' perceptions of date rape; and 2) to explore factors that might predict their perceptions of date rape and to explore the interrelationships among these variables. These two issues were addressed in two studies. Whereas the participants and the methods were identical in both studies, each study examined a different research question and used different measures and analyses. Study One examined two groups of police officers' perceptions of date rape using both quantitative and qualitative measures. In Study Two, a model predicting police perceptions of date rape using both individual-level and contextual-level variable as predictors was proposed and evaluated.

## CHAPTER 2

### STUDY ONE

#### Purpose of the Study and Hypotheses

This study examined how police officers perceive date rape. To understand how officers think about date rape, it might be helpful to compare their attitudes toward date rape with their attitudes toward stranger rape. Consequently, officers were asked about their attitudes and beliefs about both date rape and stranger rape. Thus, this study provided descriptive information on how police officers view date rape itself, and how they view date rape in comparison to stranger rape. Consistent with the arguments of feminist legal theorists and the implicit message of most state laws, this study predicted that police officers would perceive date rape and stranger rape differently.

More specifically, the officers were expected to differ in how they perceived the seriousness, psychological impact, and appropriate punishment for date rape and stranger rape. These officers were also hypothesized to differentiate between date rape and stranger rape on more specific issues such as the causes of date rape and stranger rape, the victim's blame and responsibility in date rape and stranger rape, and why date rape victims and stranger rape victims may choose to report the assault. This differential ideology was also expected to be reflected in how the officers defined "rape" and "date rape" as differing definitions were expected.

It has been suggested by feminist legal theorists that if indeed these "different" beliefs about date rape and stranger rape do exist, the differences will tip to the disadvantage of date rape victims. Thus, it was expected that the officers' beliefs on these numerous dimensions would not be favorable toward date rape victims.

## Method

### Research Participants

Two groups of police officers were included in this study. These samples were selected based on their availability. Therefore, there is no way of determining the generalizability of these results. The police officers were from two departments in the Midwest: Champaign, Illinois Police Department (CPD) (N=53) and Michigan State University Department of Public Safety (DPS) (N=38). Total sample size was N=91. CPD employs 72 sworn officers. Eleven officers were not approached to participate in this study as they were either command officers directly involved with this project (2) or were on special assignments (9). A total of 61 questionnaires were distributed to CPD officers. Three officers refused to participate. Five officers' data were dropped from the sample because more than half of the questions were not answered. Missing data were not a problem overall as the remaining 53 CPD questionnaires had between 95% and 100% of the questions answered. The response rate at this department was extremely high at 87%.

DPS has 45 sworn officers and 44 were approached to participate (one officer was not asked due to his direct involvement with the project). Five officers refused to participate. One officer's data were dropped from the sample because more than half of the questions were not answered. The

remaining 38 questionnaires had between 95% and 100% of the questions answered. The DPS response rate was also extremely high at 86%.

Planned sample sizes were determined through a power analysis for bivariate correlations, using an estimated population correlation of .30 and a power criterion of .80 with alpha set at .05, two-tail. At least 85 police officers were needed for this level of power. Previous work with police officers suggested that participation rates could be quite low (e.g., Feldman-Summers & Palmer, 1980), therefore every available officer at CPD and DPS was asked to participate to try to reach the designated sample size. The participation rates for this study were quite high, so the overall sample was higher than 85 (N=91). Estimated power for this final sample size, assuming a population correlation of .30 (alpha=.05, two-tail), was .94 (Cohen & Cohen, 1975).

Relevant demographic information regarding the research participants is presented in Table 1. The majority of the police participants were male (88%) and only 12% were female. There was limited racial diversity as 91% of the police sample was white and 9% was black.<sup>8</sup> Ages of the police officers ranged from 24 to 57, with a mean age of 39 years and modes of 43 and 45 years. Most of the police officers were married (60%) and had children (79%). Almost three-quarters of the police officers (74%) had obtained a college degree.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> The two police departments did not differ significantly with respect to race and many other demographic characteristics. As a result, the overall, combined police percentages are reported.

<sup>9</sup> Due to ambiguity in the question, it is was not clear if the respondents had a degree from a two-year institution or four-year institution.

Table 1

Demographics of Research Participants


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|                           | <u>Total</u>  | <u>CPD</u>    | <u>DPS</u>    |
|---------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>SAMPLE SIZE</b>        | <b>91</b>     | <b>53</b>     | <b>38</b>     |
| <b>GENDER</b>             |               |               |               |
| % Male                    | 88%           | 98%           | 74%           |
| % Female                  | 12%           | 1%            | 26%           |
| <b>RACE</b>               |               |               |               |
| % White                   | 91%           | 90%           | 91%           |
| % Black                   | 9%            | 10%           | 9%            |
| % Latino                  | 0%            | 0%            | 0%            |
| % Asian                   | 0%            | 0%            | 0%            |
| <b>AGE (mean)</b>         | <b>39 yrs</b> | <b>40 yrs</b> | <b>39 yrs</b> |
| <b>FAMILY</b>             |               |               |               |
| % Married                 | 60%           | 62%           | 58%           |
| % Children                | 79%           | 87%           | 68%           |
| <b>EDUCATION</b>          |               |               |               |
| % College Graduate        | 74%           | 57%           | 91%           |
| <b>WORK HISTORY</b>       |               |               |               |
| Mean Years Police Officer | 15.95 yrs     | 15.76 yrs     | 16.27 yrs     |
| Mean Years at Department  | 14.17 yrs     | 14.47 yrs     | 13.66 yrs     |
| % Patrol                  | 56%           | 58%           | 52%           |
| % Command                 | 30%           | 27%           | 33%           |
| % Investigations          | 11%           | 15%           | 5%            |

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The police had been officers for an average of 15.95 years, with a range of 1.8 years to 30 years. They had been with their current department for an average of 14.17 years, with a range of 7 months to 29.6 years. Over half (56%) of the participating officers were street patrol officers, 30% were command officers, and 11% were investigators.

### Design

A cross-sectional design was used in this study: data were collected from the police only once.

### Procedure

The investigator attended briefing meetings at the police departments to describe the project to the officers and then distribute the questionnaires. Every available sworn officer at both departments was given a questionnaire. The officers were given time on duty, in private offices to complete the questionnaires. The officers spent approximately one hour completing the survey. The investigator returned one week later to pick up returned questionnaires.

### Measures

A written questionnaire that included both quantitative and qualitative measures of the variables of interest was the method of data collection (see Appendix A). The measure was pilot tested with a small group of college students (N=5), which suggested that it would take approximately 30 to 45 minutes to complete the survey.

Three groups of measures were used to explore how police officers perceive date rape.

**1. General questions on seriousness, impact, and punishment.**

Three closed-ended questions were asked that compared date rape and stranger rape on three general issues. The questions were:

1. How does date rape compare to stranger rape in its overall seriousness as a crime?
2. How does date rape compare to stranger rape in its psychological impact on victims?
3. How does date rape compare to stranger rape in the severity of punishment appropriate?

These questions were rated on a seven-point scale: 1=stranger rape is more serious/harmful/deserves most severe punishment; 3=stranger rape is equal to date rape in seriousness/impact/severity of punishment; 7=date rape is more serious/harmful/deserves most severe punishment.

**2. Specific questions on causes, blame, and reporting.** Six questions examined officers' beliefs about the causes, blame, and victims' reasons for reporting in date rape and stranger rape cases. These six questions were first asked about stranger rape. Then, these same six questions were asked about date rape (i.e., there were twelve questions total). Thus, six pairs of statements contrasted stranger rape and date rape on a number of issues.

The item pairs were:

- |         |                                                                  |
|---------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Pair 1: | SR caused by need for sex.<br>DR caused by need for sex.         |
| Pair 2: | SR caused by need for power.<br>DR caused by need for power.     |
| Pair 3: | The victim is to blame for SR.<br>The victim is to blame for DR. |

- Pair 4:       The assailant is to blame for SR.  
              The assailant is to blame for DR.
- Pair 5:       Women report SR to seek revenge.  
              Women report DR to seek revenge.
- Pair 6:       Women report SR to protect their reputation.  
              Women report DR to protect their reputation.

The officers rated their agreement with statement on a five-point Likert scale (1=strongly disagree; 5=strongly agree).

3. Defining "rape" and "date rape". The police officers were asked to write, in their own words, how they define "rape." In a second question, they were asked to define "date rape." In both questions, it was stressed that the researchers were not asking for the legal definition of rape and that we wanted their own personal definitions.

A content analysis was conducted on their definitions. The Qualitative Coding Scheme (see Appendix B) was developed following the four basic steps of content analysis as outlined by Weber (1990). First, the recording units, or the basic unit of text to be classified, were defined. Four commonly used options are: 1) code each word; 2) code each word sense (phrases); 3) code each sentence; and 4) code each theme expressed in the text. The open-ended items in this survey were coded for the themes expressed in the participants' answers. It is important to note that several themes can be expressed in one definition. For example, in one definition the themes of consent, resistance, type and level of force used, and behavior of the victim may all be mentioned.

The second step was the creation of the coding categories (i.e., what themes would be coded in each answer). The categories were derived through several approaches. Previous research findings were used to

create some categories, but many were created by the researcher based on experience riding with police officers. Additional categories were created after reading all of the answers to ensure that most answers could be coded. Each open-ended question had numerous possible codes. The coders read the text and decided which themes were expressed. The themes were dichotomously coded "yes" (theme was mentioned in the answer) or "no" (theme was not mentioned in the answer).

Third, test codings were conducted on a sample of text. Two coders reviewed the questionnaire and learned the coding rules (see Appendix C for coding rules). Ten questionnaires were randomly selected and coded. Of 4,420 codings, the two raters agreed on 3,315, thus initial inter-coder agreement was only 75%. This percent agreement index must be corrected for chance agreement with the kappa statistic (Cohen, 1960). Initial kappa was only .50. Confusing coding rules were revised and both coders were re-trained. Another ten questionnaires were then randomly selected and coded. Of 4,420 codings, the raters agreed on 3,978, improving inter-coder agreement to 90% ( $\text{kappa}=.80$ ).

Finally, once acceptable inter-coder reliability had been established, all of the text was coded and a final assessment of inter-coder agreement was calculated. Inter-coder reliability was assessed after every 30 questionnaires coded (i.e., reliability was assessed four times). On the first set of 30, the raters agreed on 13,132 of 13,680 codings (96% agreement,  $\text{kappa}=.92$ ). On the second set of 30, the raters agreed on 13,269 of 13,680 codings (97% agreement,  $\text{kappa}=.94$ ). On the third set of 30, the raters agreed on 13,406 of 13,680 codings (98% agreement,  $\text{kappa}=.96$ ). On the remaining 28 questionnaires, the raters agreed on 12,384 of 12,768 codings

(97% agreement, kappa=.87). The average inter-coder agreement was 96% with a range of 90% to 98%. Average kappa was .89.

## Results

### General Descriptive Findings

Overall, most police officers (55%) reported that they felt date rape and stranger rape are equally serious crimes. Yet, a sizeable group of officers (43%) stated that they thought stranger rape was more serious than date rape. Only 2% of the officers felt that date rape was more serious than stranger rape. Although most officers felt that date rape and stranger rape were equally serious crimes, only one-third believed that date rape and stranger rape have an equally psychologically devastating impact on victims. The majority of the officers (59%) believed that stranger rape has a more serious and damaging psychological impact on victims than does date rape. Nearly 7% believed date rape has more serious and damaging impact on victims. Most officers (57%) felt that date rape and stranger rape should have equally severe punishment. The remaining 43% reported that they thought stranger rape should have more severe punishment than date rape. No officers stated that they felt date rape should have more severe punishment than stranger rape.

### Contrasting Perceptions of Stranger Rape and Date Rape

These general descriptive findings suggested that police officers perceived stranger rape and date rape differently. This possibility was further explored by conducting paired sample t-tests on the six stranger rape/date rape item pairs. As mentioned previously, these item pairs were identical questions, except for the type of rape mentioned. For example, in Pair 1, officers reported the degree to which they felt stranger rape was

caused by a need for sex and the degree to which they felt date rape was caused by a need for sex. The mean rating for the first item in the pair (stranger rape caused by a need for sex) (1.39) was compared to the mean rating for the second item in the pair (date rape caused by a need for sex) (2.52). Due to the fact that six paired sample t-tests were conducted, the overall probability of a Type I error for these analyses was controlled with a modified Bonferroni test (Keppel, 1982). To maintain an overall alpha level of .05 for these six tests, each t-test must have a p of .033 to be considered significant (Keppel, 1982). Table 2 presents the results of these paired sample t-tests. Significant differences were found on all six item pairs ( $p < .001$ ).

The police reported that date rape was more due to a need for sex and that stranger rape was more due to a need for power. These officers felt that victims were more to blame for date rape, but that assailants more to blame for stranger rape. The officers believed that date rape victims report the rape for revenge and to protect their reputations more often than stranger rape victims do.

#### Defining Rape and Date Rape: Qualitative Findings

Given the variety of themes mentioned by the participants when asked to define "rape," principle components analysis was conducted to try to summarize these variables into underlying themes. Principle components analysis was performed only on the participants' definitions of "rape." This was due to the fact that 88% of the participants provided the same definition for both "rape" and "date rape" (i.e., 88% of the officers defined "rape," and then wrote "same" or "see previous answer" when asked to define "date rape").

Table 2

Contrasting Police Officers' Perceptions of Stranger Rape and Date Rape

| Item Pairs                                                                                            | Means        | Paired t | p     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|----------|-------|
| 1. SR caused by need for sex<br>DR caused by need for sex                                             | 1.39<br>2.52 | 8.51     | .0001 |
| 2. SR caused by need for power<br>DR caused by need for power                                         | 3.13<br>2.03 | -9.37    | .0001 |
| 3. Victim to blame for SR<br>Victim to blame for DR                                                   | 1.19<br>1.82 | 10.20    | .0001 |
| 4. Assailant to blame for SR<br>Assailant to blame for DR                                             | 3.94<br>3.42 | -8.97    | .0001 |
| 5. Women report SR to seek<br>revenge<br>Women report DR to seek<br>revenge                           | 2.08<br>2.51 | 4.98     | .0001 |
| 6. Women report SR to protect<br>their reputations<br>Women report DR to protect<br>their reputations | 2.24<br>2.65 | 5.57     | .0001 |

Note. SR=Stranger rape; DR=Date rape  
Items were rated on a 1-5 scale (1=strongly disagree; 5=strongly agree)

Weber (1991) noted that when factor analysis is used in content analytic research, the observed variables (the coded text) are thought of as categories and the resulting components are assumed to be underlying themes in the texts. The factor loading of each category is the extent to which it correlates with the latent variable/theme. Thus, in this study, principle components analysis was used to examine the ways in which the coded themes came together to suggest larger, over-arching themes in the participants' responses.

The twenty most common themes mentioned by the participants were factor analyzed using a principle components solution with varimax rotation to orthogonality. Based on a plot of the eigen values, nine components were extracted from the item intercorrelation matrix. These nine factors accounted for 76% of the total common variance in the matrix. All nine factors were found to be interpretable as well as to possess an adequate number of variables with loadings of sufficient magnitude to warrant interpretation (Comrey, 1973). Table 3 presents the varimax rotated loadings for the nine factors extracted. Table 4 presents the nine factors, their eigen values, and the percent variance accounted for by the component.

The factors were given a name that reflected the items grouped together in that factor. The participants' definitions of rape expressed: 1) alcohol and drug use; 2) emotional harm caused by rape; 3) level and type of force used; 4) behavior of the victim that might "encourage" rape; 5) other factual elements of the assault (e.g., the gender of the victim); 6) penetration and type of penetration; 7) power needs of the assailant; 8) sexual needs of the assailant; and 9) consent of the victim issues.

Table 3

Varimax Rotated Matrix of Police Officers' Definitions of Rape

| Item                              | COMPONENT  |            |            |            |            |      |      |      |      | h <sup>2</sup> |
|-----------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------|------|------|------|----------------|
|                                   | 1          | 2          | 3          | 4          | 5          | 6    | 7    | 8    | 9    |                |
| 1. Alcohol is involved in rapes   | <u>.99</u> | -.01       | .06        | -.01       | -.02       | .02  | -.02 | -.01 | -.01 | .98            |
| 2. Drugs are involved in rapes    | <u>.99</u> | -.01       | .06        | -.01       | -.02       | .02  | -.02 | -.01 | -.01 | .98            |
| 3. Rape is emotionally harmful    | -.01       | <u>.99</u> | -.03       | -.02       | -.01       | -.03 | -.02 | -.01 | -.01 | .99            |
| 4. Rape is an extreme violent act | -.01       | <u>.99</u> | -.03       | -.02       | -.01       | -.03 | -.02 | -.01 | -.01 | .99            |
| 5. Threat of force                | -.15       | -.02       | <u>.87</u> | -.02       | -.01       | -.06 | -.12 | -.05 | -.04 | .80            |
| 6. Physical force                 | .18        | -.05       | <u>.75</u> | -.10       | .06        | .28  | .21  | -.05 | -.01 | .73            |
| 7. Psych. force                   | .21        | -.02       | <u>.64</u> | -.03       | .30        | -.16 | -.16 | -.06 | .04  | .61            |
| 8. Rapist can expect sex          | .01        | -.01       | .01        | <u>.90</u> | .08        | -.09 | .02  | -.01 | -.01 | .68            |
| 9. No means yes                   | -.02       | -.02       | -.12       | <u>.83</u> | .04        | .12  | -.10 | -.02 | -.01 | .73            |
| 10. Gender of victim              | -.03       | -.01       | .10        | .34        | <u>.80</u> | .10  | .13  | -.04 | .01  | .79            |
| 11. Number of rapists             | -.03       | .01        | .10        | -.09       | <u>.84</u> | -.09 | -.05 | -.01 | -.03 | .74            |

Table 3 (cont'd)

| Item                                                         | COMPONENT |      |      |      |      |            |            |            |            | h <sup>2</sup> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|------|------|------|------|------------|------------|------------|------------|----------------|
|                                                              | 1         | 2    | 3    | 4    | 5    | 6          | 7          | 8          | 9          |                |
| 12. Penetration                                              | .13       | -.08 | .27  | -.10 | -.18 | <u>.80</u> | -.08       | -.07       | .10        | .80            |
| 13. Oral/ anal/ or vaginal penetration                       | -.07      | -.01 | -.17 | -.09 | .15  | <u>.69</u> | -.08       | -.06       | -.05       | .55            |
| 14. Some rapists rape for power                              | -.02      | -.03 | -.03 | -.05 | .09  | .03        | <u>.80</u> | -.02       | -.01       | .66            |
| 15. Rape is an invasion                                      | -.01      | -.03 | -.05 | -.04 | -.03 | -.10       | <u>.71</u> | .01        | -.04       | .52            |
| 16. Some rapists rape for sex                                | -.04      | -.01 | .09  | -.01 | -.01 | -.01       | -.01       | <u>.84</u> | .01        | .72            |
| 17. Non-penetration is still sexually stimulating to rapists | .01       | -.01 | -.11 | -.01 | .02  | -.09       | -.01       | <u>.81</u> | -.04       | .67            |
| 18. Consent of victim                                        | .01       | -.18 | -.26 | -.21 | .26  | .21        | -.35       | .23        | <u>.39</u> | .65            |
| 19. Victim clearly show contact is unwanted                  | -.07      | -.09 | -.01 | -.13 | .24  | -.46       | -.15       | -.17       | <u>.57</u> | .68            |
| 20. Women change their minds                                 | -.01      | .04  | .01  | .06  | -.13 | .07        | .07        | .01        | <u>.86</u> | .77            |

Table 4

Components of Police Officers' Definitions of Rape

| Component                           | Eigen Value | % Variance<br>Accounted For | Cummu-<br>lative % |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Alcohol and Drug Use<br>Drug Use | 2.47        | 12.3                        | 12.3               |
| 2. Emotional Harm of Rape           | 2.08        | 10.4                        | 22.8               |
| 3. Level and Type of Force          | 1.95        | 9.7                         | 32.5               |
| 4. Behavior of Victims              | 1.83        | 9.1                         | 41.7               |
| 5. Factual Elements<br>of Assault   | 1.66        | 8.3                         | 49.9               |
| 6. Penetration and Type             | 1.55        | 7.8                         | 57.7               |
| 7. Power Needs of Assailant         | 1.43        | 7.2                         | 64.9               |
| 8. Sexual Needs of Assailant        | 1.18        | 5.9                         | 70.8               |
| 9. Consent of the Victim            | 1.04        | 5.2                         | 76.0               |

Although there appears to be richness and diversity in the participants' definitions of rape (nine factors were extracted from their definitions of rape), most officers (62%) provided very brief answers, such as "unwanted sex," or "unwanted sex through the use of force or threat of force." Many of the other variables (e.g., mentioned rape is an invasion of another person's being) were mentioned by very few participants.

The police officers' definitions of "rape" and "date rape" suggested that they defined them as the same thing, which most often was "unwanted sex." Yet, it is important to remember that 12% of the officers did not give the same definition for "rape" and "date rape." All of these officers gave rather negative and stereotypical definitions of "date rape." For example, some of these officers wrote:

"Date rape" is when men take what women really want at the moment, but decide they didn't the next day when they sober up (quotation marks in original).

I have trouble with a rape charge made by a wife on her husband. She gave her consent when she married.

I don't think date rape is the same thing [as stranger rape]. I want my daughter protected, but I don't want my son convicted on the word of a woman. She points her finger and your ass is grass.

Similarly, it is important to recall that 38% of the officers did not write brief answers for their definitions of "rape." When officers wrote longer answers to define "rape," most often (75%) they referred to or specifically mentioned date rape, expressing rather negative and stereotypical views. For example, some of the officers wrote:

What if someone has had sex 20 or 30 times over a 3 month period. Then one night they say "no," should this be rape? I don't think so.

I've seen a few "date rape" cases where the alleged victim used it as a tool to try to get back at someone. I've also seen it used a lot by prostitutes for non-payment (quotation marks in original).

If a young lady dates a man and they go home together--she allows the young man to get into bed with her and just before he has an orgasm she shouts "NO," how then could you prosecute a young man for rape? I believe the definition of rape should apply to any circumstances as long as the evidence and testimony can prove it beyond a reasonable doubt.

These qualitative results provide some insight into how the participants viewed date rape. Some officers were quite explicit that they do not believe date rape really exists.

### Summary of Results and Evaluation of Hypotheses

The focus of this study was to explore how officers perceive date rape. Other research has suggested that these perceptions could be negative and stereotypical. This study explicitly examined this issue and found that, overall, many of the officers' beliefs were indeed quite unfavorable.

These police officers, however, did see some similarities between date rape and stranger rape. It was hypothesized that there would be consistent differences on all of these issues studied (seriousness, impact, punishment, causes, blame, reasons for reporting), but this cannot be confirmed. The officers reported that they felt date rape and stranger rape were equally serious and deserved equally severe punishment.

Yet, there was strong support for the arguments of feminist legal theorists because on most of the issues surveyed, the officers did perceive differences between date rape and stranger rape. Similar to the laws of most states, the officers made no distinction between stranger and nonstranger rape in some answers, but in most others, clearly saw differences. For example, officers believed that stranger rape is more

psychologically devastating than date rape. Officers also felt that date rape was caused more by a need for sex and that stranger rape was caused more by a need for power. Feminists and rape victim advocates have long argued that rape, all forms of rape, is caused by a need for power, not sex (Brownmiller, 1975; Russell, 1984; Sanday, 1990; Schechter, 1982). Believing that rape is committed for sex trivializes the event and the trauma it causes women as well as ignores the political implications of male violence against women (Brownmiller, 1975; Koss, 1990; MacKinnon, 1987; Russell, 1990). A common theme emerged in the officers' answers of blaming the victim and questioning her credibility. Thus, overall, the officers appeared to see many more differences between date rape and stranger rape than similarities.

## CHAPTER 3

### STUDY TWO

#### Purpose of the Study and Hypotheses

The focus of this study was to explore factors that might predict police officers' perceptions of date rape and to examine the interrelationships among these variables. To achieve this goal, a model predicting officers' attitudes toward date rape was proposed and evaluated. The results of Study One indicated that the officers' perceptions of date rape were rather victim blaming. In order to address these biases, we need to understand what factors shape and influence their beliefs. The variables that predict police perceptions of rape have not been studied very extensively and individual-level predictors, such as sex role stereotypes, have been the primary focus. This study expanded previous work by also examining the impact of ecologically-based factors. This model used both individual-level and contextual-level variables as predictors of perceptions of date rape.

#### Variables Examined in the Model

##### 1. Contextual-level predictor variables.

a) *Experience with rape.* Field experience in policing is thought to be one factor that affects officers' beliefs and attitudes toward crime and the public (Van Maanen, 1973). As a result, field experience with rape may be related to perceptions of date rape. Feild (1978) reported, however, that experience with rape cases did not affect officers' attitudes toward rape. Due to the fact that more women have come forward to report

rape since Feild's study was conducted, these results may have changed. Working with victims and witnessing their devastation may challenge officers' rape stereotypes. In their experiences, officers may see behaviors that might be supportive of common rape myths (e.g., alcohol use by the victim, poor judgment by the victim), but, overall, experience could have a positive impact, challenging stereotypical beliefs. Through experience officers may see, for example, that although date rape victims may not have exercised good judgment, they are not to blame for the assault.

b) *Training on rape.* Training on rape may teach officers about rape and its impact, providing them with information that may contradict their own beliefs. Most officers have had special training on rape (93% of this sample had had training), so instead this model examined how helpful the officers perceived this training to be. Officers who found training to be very helpful may have more progressive attitudes toward date rape.

c) *Sexual harassment in the workplace.* The potential positive influence of experience with rape cases and training on rape could be undercut by a sexist work environment. Since the vast majority of rape victims are female, officers' interactions with women in their work environment and the degree to which sexual harassment is a problem may affect their beliefs. It has been argued that the impact of a sexualized work environment may move outside the realm of the workplace--i.e., a sexualized work environment may affect not only one's co-workers and how they are treated, but also how one thinks about and treats the people one serves as a part of one's job. If the environment in which police work and spend the vast majority of their time reinforces the idea women want to be

flirted with and want to harassed, and like it, then the credibility of a date rape victim when she reports the assault may be severely questioned.

The measurement and testing of these ideas becomes somewhat problematic because existing research and measures on sexual harassment have concentrated primarily on perceptions of sexual harassment--i.e., the degree to which sexual harassment is perceived as a problem. This is not the same as an objective measure of the degree to which sexual harassment actually occurs. Although it would be very informative to examine the impact of the occurrence of sexual harassment on officers' beliefs, this model explored only a first step and investigated the impact of perceived sexual harassment in the workplace. To label actions as harassing requires a certain awareness--awareness that women are people, not objects or sexual objects. Thus, officers who believe that sexual harassment is a problem in their workplace may have more progressive attitudes toward date rape.

## 2. Individual-level predictor variable.

a) *Sex role stereotypes.* General attitudes toward women have been reported to be strong predictors of opinions toward rape (Burt, 1980; Feild, 1978). Officers who have liberal, progressive ideas about women may be less victim blaming on the issue of rape. People who believe that women should have many choices and have control over their lives and bodies are at a very different place than those who believe that women should service men and children. Favorable attitudes toward women in general may be related to more progressive attitudes toward date rape in particular.

3. Outcome variable. The outcome variable was perceptions of date rape. Attitudes and beliefs about rape are quite complex and multi-faceted

(Burt, 1980; Feild, 1978; Ward, 1988). This project defined perceptions of date rape more broadly than previous research by construing attitudes toward dating violence, attitudes toward why women report rape, general attitudes toward date rape, and beliefs about the similarities and differences between stranger rape and date rape as indicators of perceptions of date rape.<sup>10</sup> The primary difference between this study and other research is that previous work has used attitudes toward dating violence as predictors of rape beliefs (Burt, 1980). But, date rape is dating violence, consequently, this project conceptualized attitudes toward dating violence as a component of perceptions of date rape. Thus, this study used a more inclusive definition and assessment of perceptions of date rape.

### Structure of the Model and Hypotheses

These five latent variables (three contextual-level variables, one individual-level variable, and the outcome variable) were used to create the model, forming three levels. The first level included contextual variables: experience with rape cases, perceived helpfulness of training on rape, and perceived sexual harassment in the workplace. The second level was sex role stereotypes. The third level was perceptions of date rape. See Figure 1 for the conceptual schematic of the model.

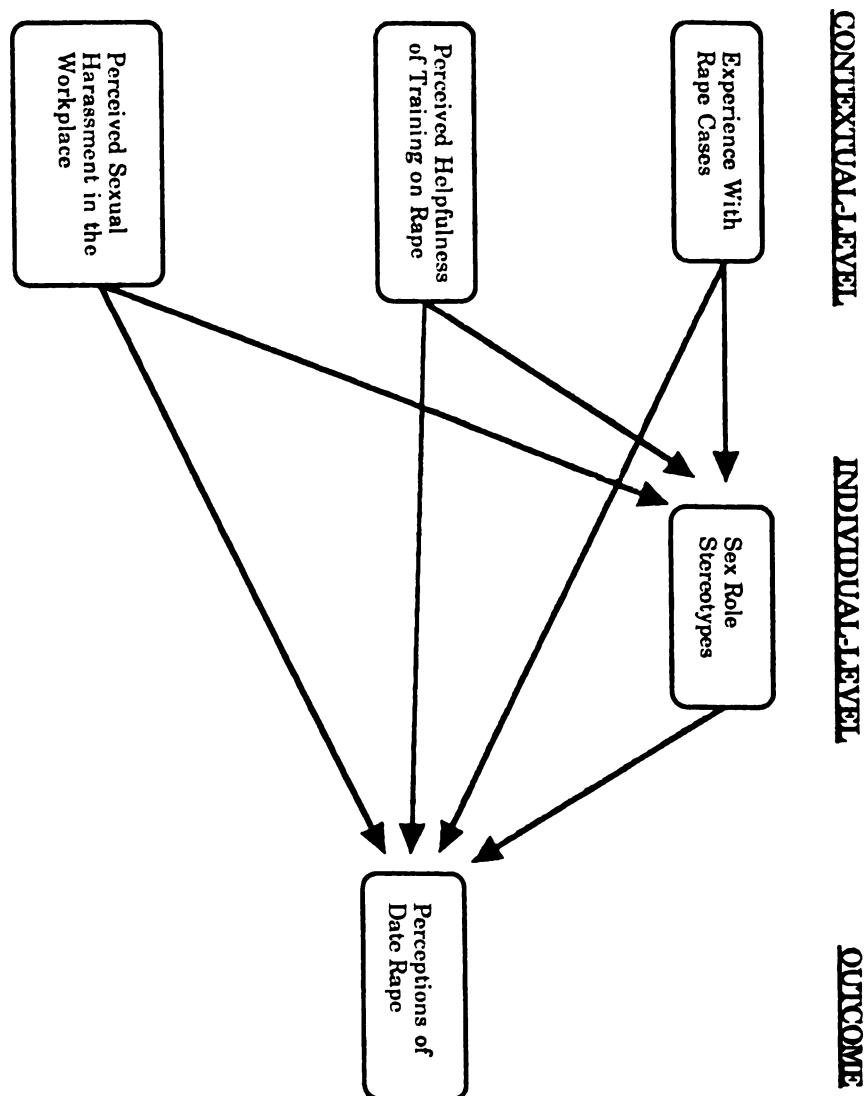
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<sup>10</sup> It is important to note the distinction between indicators of latent constructs and the latent constructs themselves. In this instance, the latent construct, perceptions of date rape, has multiple indicators (four). The other latent constructs in this model (experience, perceived helpfulness of training, perceived sexual harassment, and sex role stereotypes) have only a single indicator. The measurement difficulties of having only a single indicator for a latent construct will be discussed and resolved in following sections.

Figure 1

Conceptual Schematic of the Model Predicting Police Perceptions of Date Rape

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Research from social psychology was instrumental in creating the structure of the model. Social psychological literature has suggested that attitudes are best predicted by other, very related, attitudes (Ajzen, 1982). Adapting this idea to the current model, opinions toward date rape may be affected by attitudes toward women. Other variables, although having some impact on rape beliefs, would be more distant and less predictive influences. As a result, experience, perceived helpfulness of training, and perceived sexual harassment in the workplace were modeled as first-level variables--those most distant to the outcome variable. Direct links between all three of these contextual-level variables and perceptions of date rape were hypothesized.

These contextual-level variables, though, may have a more general impact on police. Experience with rape cases and training on rape may impact how officers think about women in general. Similarly, believing that sexual harassment is a problem in the police work climate may be related to officers' attitudes toward women. Consequently, links between experience, perceived helpfulness of training, and perceived sexual harassment in the workplace and sex role stereotypes were hypothesized.

The final links in the model were between sex role stereotypes and perceptions of date rape. Beliefs about women in general may have a strong impact on beliefs about date rape in particular.

Thus, two pathways to perceptions of date rape are modeled: 1) an indirect pathway--experience, perceived helpfulness of training, and perceived sexual harassment in the workplace to sex role stereotypes to perceptions of date rape; and 2) a direct pathway--experience, perceived

helpfulness of training, and perceived sexual harassment in the workplace to perceptions of date rape.

This model must be evaluated at three levels: 1) Did the overall model work? (i.e., Did the data fit the proposed model?); 2) Were the signs on the path coefficients consistent with the predictions about how these variables are related to officers' perceptions of date rape? and 3) Was the size of the path coefficients sufficient (i.e., Were the path coefficients significant?). It was hypothesized that more experience, perceiving training on rape as very helpful, and believing that sexual harassment is a problem in the workplace would be related to more progressive attitudes toward date rape. Positive attitudes toward women in general were also hypothesized to be related to progressive attitudes toward date rape. Thus, all of the path coefficients should be positive and significant.

### Method

#### Research Participants

The research participants for this study were the same as in Study One. Police officers from the Champaign, Illinois Police Department (CPD) (N=53) and the Michigan State University Department of Public Safety (DPS) (N=38) were surveyed (total N=91).

#### Design and Procedure

The design and procedure for Study Two were identical to Study One.

#### Measures

Eight quantitative scales from the written questionnaire were used for the analyses in Study Two. While detailed information regarding scale development is presented below as appropriate, a brief summary of the quantitative scaling rules is warranted. For items within a scale, item

standard deviations were examined and reliability analyses were conducted to generate corrected item-total correlations. The decision rules employed required that items with standard deviations of less than .50 and items whose corrected item-total correlations were less than .30 were dropped. The remaining item-total correlations were also examined to ensure the difference between the largest and smallest remaining correlations was not greater than .30. Items not meeting this criterion were dropped.

### 1. Contextual-level predictor measures.

a) *Experience with rape--The Experience With Rape Scale (EWR)*. Police officers' experience with rape cases was assessed by eight questions developed by the researcher that asked if they have ever known a stranger/date rape victim, if they had ever interviewed a stranger/date rape victim, if they had ever been stranger/date raped, and if they had ever testified at a stranger/date rape trial. These items were dichotomously coded and then summed to create a scale where higher scores reflect more experience with rape cases. Four items were dropped from this scale due to lack of variability or low corrected item-total correlations (personally raped and testifying at trial questions). Table 5 presents the final EWR scale items, means, standard deviations, and corrected item-total correlations. Alpha for this scale was .60.

b) *Training on rape--The Helpfulness of Training Scale (HTS)*. Only two items comprised the Helpfulness of Training Scale. Officers were asked how helpful their first training on rape was and how helpful their most recent training on rape was. Officers answered on a five-point scale (1=not helpful at all; 5=very helpful). Due to the fact that this scale had so

few items, the internal consistency was somewhat low ( $\alpha=.40$ ). Table 6 presents the HTS scale and its psychometric properties.

Table 5

Psychometric Properties of Experience With Rape Scale (EWR)

| Scale Items                               | Item Means      | Item SDs      | Corrected Item -Total Correlation |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Knows a stranger rape victim           | .32             | .47           | .37                               |
| 2. Knows a date rape victim               | .42             | .50           | .42                               |
| 3. Has interviewed a stranger rape victim | .86             | .35           | .40                               |
| 4. Has interviewed a date rape victim     | .75             | .44           | .37                               |
| Alpha=.60                                 | Scale Mean=2.35 | Scale SD=1.20 |                                   |

Table 6

Psychometric Properties of Helpfulness of Training Scale (HTS)

| Scale Items                                       | Item Means | Item SDs | Corrected Item-Total Correlation |
|---------------------------------------------------|------------|----------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Helpfulness of first training                  | 3.31       | .97      | .36                              |
| 2. Helpfulness of most recent training            | 3.97       | .36      | .35                              |
| Alpha=.40      Scale Mean=7.27      Scale SD=1.15 |            |          |                                  |

c) *Sexual harassment in the workplace--The Sexualized Work Environment Scale (SWES)*. Sexual harassment in the workplace was measured with Gutek et al.'s (1990) Sexualized Work Environment Scale. The scale consisted of eight items that asked how frequently various events (e.g., flirting) occur in the workplace. Respondents answered on a four-point scale that ranged from "very frequently" to "not frequently at all." These ratings were then summed to create a scale. Higher scores indicate that the participants' saw sexual harassment as a problem in their workplace. One item in the original scale was dropped due to a low item-total correlation. The psychometric properties of the final scale are presented in Table 7. The SWES had an alpha of .83, which was higher than in Gutek's original work (.73).

Table 7

Psychometric Properties of Sexualized Work Environment Scale (SWES)

| Scale Items                                     | Item Means       | Item SDs      | Corrected Item-Total Correlation |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. There is social pressure to flirt with men   | 2.77             | .51           | .56                              |
| 2. There is social pressure to flirt with women | 2.75             | .49           | .51                              |
| 3. Sexual harassment is a problem               | 2.59             | .54           | .39                              |
| 4. Women dress to appear sexually attractive    | 2.89             | .81           | .58                              |
| 5. Men dress to appear sexually attractive      | 3.05             | .79           | .57                              |
| 6. Women act sexually seductive                 | 3.36             | .66           | .74                              |
| 7. Men act sexually seductive                   | 3.28             | .73           | .73                              |
| Alpha=.83                                       | Scale Mean=20.69 | Scale SD=3.23 |                                  |

## 2. Individual-level predictor measure.

a) *Sex role stereotypes--The Attitudes Toward Women Scale (ATW)*. A modified version of Spence, Helmreich, and Stapp's (1973) Revised Attitudes Toward Women Scale was used to assess sex role stereotyping. The Revised ATW consisted of 25 items that assessed opinions toward the rights and roles of women in society. Respondents rated their agreement with each item on a five-point Likert scale (1=strongly disagree; 5=strongly agree). Five items were dropped *a priori* due to ambiguous wording (i.e., the attitude statement could be interpreted several ways) and an additional ten were dropped because of very low factor loading values reported by Spence et al.. The remaining ten items were administered to the participants in this study. Subjects' ratings for each item were summed to create the final scale: some items were reverse scored so that higher scores reflect more favorable attitudes toward women. Five items were dropped due to low item-total correlations. These five items did not form a separate scale. Table 8 presents the final five-item scale and its psychometric properties. This version of the ATW had acceptable internal consistency ( $\alpha=.82$ ).

3. Outcome measures. Given that perceptions of date rape are likely quite complex, this latent variable was "unpacked" and measured with four indicators.

a) *Perceptions of date rape--The Attitudes Toward Dating and Violence Scale (ATDV)*. Two established measures were used to create the ATDV scale. Burt's (1980) scale of Adversarial Sexual Beliefs (ABS) and her scale of Acceptance of Interpersonal Violence (AIV) were included to assess opinions toward dating and violence in intimate relationships. The

Table 8

Psychometric Properties of Attitudes Toward Women Scale (ATW)

| Scale Items                                                  | Item Means       | Item SDs      | Corrected Item-Total Correlation |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Women should worry about being good wives and mothers (R) | 4.21             | .83           | .61                              |
| 2. Women should not expect the same freedom as men (R)       | 4.21             | .91           | .63                              |
| 3. Fathers should have more authority (R)                    | 4.19             | .85           | .64                              |
| 4. Women should concentrate more on raising children (R)     | 4.29             | .80           | .67                              |
| 5. Men should be given hiring preference (R)                 | 4.02             | .99           | .56                              |
| Alpha=.82                                                    | Scale Mean=20.92 | Scale SD=3.37 |                                  |

Note. R=item was reverse scored.

ABS consisted of nine statements about the adversarialness of male-female intimate relationships. Subjects rate their agreement with each item on a five-point Likert scale (1=strongly disagree; 5=strongly agree). Based on the item-total correlations reported by Burt, four items were dropped *a priori* and a five-item version was used in this study. The AIV has an identical format and consisted of six attitude statements about violence in intimate relationships. Again, based on the published psychometric properties, two items were dropped *a priori* and a four item scale was administered to the participants. The modified ASB and AIV were very highly correlated ( $r=.80$ ,  $p < .01$ ), so the items were combined into one scale. Reliability analysis was conducted on the combined nine-item scale. Subjects' ratings for each item were summed for the final scale and higher scores indicated more progressive attitudes toward dating and the acceptability of violence in intimate relationships (i.e., ideas that dating is not fundamentally exploitive and that violence is not acceptable in dating situations). One item was dropped due to lack of variability. The psychometric properties of the final eight-item scale are presented in Table 9. The ATDV had acceptable internal consistency with a final alpha of .89.

b) *Perceptions of date rape--The Attitudes Toward Rape Reporting Scale (ATRR)*. Eight items written by the investigator examined perceptions of why women report rape. Four reasons, asked first about stranger rape, then date rape, were presented. All of these reasons have been cited in the literature as reasons given by victims for reporting (e.g., education/counseling for the rapist) or are stereotypical reasons often thought of as motivating reporting (e.g., revenge). For each statement, respondents rated their agreement on a five-point Likert scale (1=strongly

Table 9

Psychometric Properties of Attitudes Toward Dating and Violence Scale (ATDV)

| Scale Items                                                         | Item Means       | Item SDs      | Corrected Item-Total Correlation |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. A woman will only respect a man who will lay down the law to her | 1.55             | .65           | .59                              |
| 2. A man must show who is boss                                      | 1.46             | .62           | .74                              |
| 3. Women are sweet until they get the man                           | 1.90             | .83           | .74                              |
| 4. Women take advantage of men                                      | 1.76             | .68           | .79                              |
| 5. Women are sly and manipulating                                   | 2.19             | 1.00          | .61                              |
| 6. Being roughed up is sexually stimulating to women                | 1.81             | .75           | .58                              |
| 7. Women want to have sex forced on them                            | 1.79             | .67           | .68                              |
| 8. Sometimes the only way to turn on a cold woman is to use force   | 1.48             | .55           | .64                              |
| Alpha=.89                                                           | Scale Mean=13.93 | Scale SD=4.35 |                                  |

disagree; 5=strongly agree). With respect to the final scale, four items were dropped due to low item-total correlations. Although these items did not create an internally consistent separate scale, they appeared to all be "positive" reasons why women may report (education/counseling for rapist and feelings by victims that rape is a crime and should be punished). The ratings from the four remaining items were summed to create a final score. Higher scores reflect a more positive evaluation of why women report rape (i.e., do not believe women report to seek revenge or to protect their reputations). Table 10 presents the psychometric properties of this scale. The ATRR had a final alpha of .73.

c) *Perceptions of date rape--The Attitudes Toward Date Rape Scale (ATDR)*. The Attitudes Toward Date Rape Scale was developed by the investigator and consisted of 20 statements that respondents rated their agreement with on a five-point Likert scale (1=strongly disagree; 5=strongly agree). The majority of the items in the ATDR were drawn from existing measures (16 of 20 questions, 80%). Six items came from Ward's (1988) Attitudes Toward Rape Victim Scale; six items from Feild's (1978) Attitudes Toward Rape Scale; and four items from Larsen and Long's (1988) General Attitudes Toward Rape Scale. In addition, four new items were created. Since no measure has yet been developed that specifically assesses attitudes towards date rape and date rape victims, most of the items from the other questionnaires were modified to make them applicable.

The subjects' ratings of each item were summed to create the scale. Some items were reverse scored so that higher scores indicate more progressive and less stereotypical attitudes toward date rape. Examining the corrected item-total correlations indicated that five items must be

Table 10

Psychometric Properties of Attitudes Toward Rape Reporting Scale (ATTR)

| Scale Items                                                | Item Means       | Item SDs      | Corrected Item-Total Correlation |
|------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Women report stranger rape to seek revenge              | 2.93             | .64           | .39                              |
| 2. Women report stranger rape to protect their reputations | 2.72             | .60           | .55                              |
| 3. Women report date rape to seek revenge                  | 2.49             | .64           | .62                              |
| 4. Women report date rape to protect their reputations     | 2.32             | .67           | .55                              |
| Alpha=.73                                                  | Scale Mean=10.46 | Scale SD=1.90 |                                  |

dropped due to low correlations. Table 11 presents the final 15-item scale and its measurement properties. Alpha for this scale was .81.

d) *Perceptions of date rape--The Stranger Rape/Date Rape Comparison Scale (SRDR)*. In contrast to the previous scale, which measured attitudes toward date rape, the SRDR scale asked respondents to compare stranger rape and date rape on a number of dimensions. Thus, the difference between these two outcome measures is that the ATDR considers date rape in itself and the SRDR considers date rape in comparison to stranger rape. The SRDR consisted of three items written by the investigator that asked participants to compare stranger rape and date rape on a number of dimensions, such as perceived seriousness as a crime, psychological impact on victims, and seriousness of punishment. Subjects rated each item on a one to seven scale (1=stranger rape is more of the quality being questioned; 3=stranger rape and date rape are equal on the quality being questioned; 7=date rape is more of the quality being questioned). Subjects' ratings of each item were summed to create a final score. Lower scores reflect beliefs that stranger rape is more serious, more psychologically harmful to victims, deserving more severe punishment than date rape; higher scores reflect beliefs that date rape is more serious, more psychologically harmful, deserving more severe punishment than stranger rape. Table 12 presents the SRDR scale and its measurement properties. This scale had acceptable internal consistency ( $\alpha=.77$ ).

Table 11

Psychometric Properties of Attitudes Toward Date Rape Scale (ATDR)

| Scale Items                                                               | Item Means | Item SDs | Corrected Item -Total Correlation |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|----------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Most date rapes are true (R)                                           | 2.37       | .81      | .41                               |
| 2. Resistance should be an important factor determining a rape            | 2.17       | .99      | .50                               |
| 3. Date rape is a woman changing her mind afterwards                      | 1.77       | .82      | .54                               |
| 4. It is OK to have sex with a drunk woman                                | 2.35       | 1.11     | .24                               |
| 5. It should be difficult to prove date rape                              | 2.31       | .95      | .39                               |
| 6. Women claim date rape to protect their reputations                     | 2.41       | .76      | .53                               |
| 7. Women put themselves in risky situations because they want to be raped | 1.69       | .83      | .31                               |
| 8. Drunk women want sex                                                   | 2.48       | .90      | .30                               |
| 9. A woman should only report rape if she was beaten                      | 1.44       | .83      | .38                               |
| 10. Even sexually experienced women are hurt by date rape (R)             | 1.65       | .64      | .20                               |
| 11. Date raped women lack good judgement                                  | 1.82       | .72      | .59                               |

Table 11 (cont'd)

| Scale Items                                                           | Item Means | Item SDs | Corrected Item-Total Correlation |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|----------|----------------------------------|
| 12. A woman should feel guilty following a date rape                  | 2.30       | .80      | .52                              |
| 13. Date rape happens because women lead men on                       | 2.20       | .76      | .65                              |
| 14. Date rape is a misinterpretation of sexual cues                   | 2.51       | .95      | .53                              |
| 15. A woman cannot claim rape if she had prior sex with the assailant | 1.48       | .52      | .39                              |
| Alpha=.81      Scale Mean=30.97      Scale SD=6.53                    |            |          |                                  |

Note. R=item was reverse scored.

Table 12

Psychometric Properties of Stranger Rape/Date Rape Comparison Scale (SRDR)

| Scale Items                                                             | Item Means      | Item SDs      | Corrected Item-Total Correlation |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Comparing psychological trauma of stranger rape and date rape        | 2.98            | 1.53          | .52                              |
| 2. Comparing the seriousness of stranger rape and date rape             | 3.20            | 1.21          | .72                              |
| 3. Comparing the severity of punishment for stranger rape and date rape | 3.27            | 1.17          | .64                              |
| Alpha=.77                                                               | Scale Mean=9.45 | Scale SD=3.00 |                                  |

### Data Analyses

This model was tested via estimation with analysis of covariance structures in LISREL VII (Joreskog & Sorbom, 1989). Table 13 presents the correlation matrix analyzed.<sup>11</sup> The LISREL approach to path modeling has two parts. The measurement model refers to the relationship of the latent variables to the indicators (e.g., the relationship of perceptions of date rape to the four scales used to assess it). The structural equation model contains the structural relationships among the latent variables (e.g., the relationships among experience, sex role stereotypes, and perceptions of date rape). LISREL VII assesses the measurement model and structural model simultaneously.

When assessing both models simultaneously, it is preferable that all latent variables have at least two indicators (Bollen, 1989; Hayduk, 1987; Schmitt & Bedeian, 1982). Due to the fact that not all of the latent variables in this model had multiple indicators, adjustments for data analysis had to be made. Following a procedure recommended by Schmitt and Bedeian (1982), the single indicators were randomly divided into two, making two indicators for each of these latent variables. For example, the items in the Experience With Rape Scale were randomly divided into two scales. Thus, the latent variable "experience with rape" then had two indicators. This procedure was used on the Experience With Rape Scale, the Helpfulness of Training Scale, the Sexualized Work Environment Scale, and the Attitudes Toward Women Scale (see Table 13 for correlations of the divided scales).

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<sup>11</sup> A correlation matrix is presented in this table for ease in interpretation, but for the analyses it was converted to a covariance matrix. See Hayduk (1987) for a discussion on why covariances must be used in LISREL instead of correlations.

Table 13

**Correlation Matrix for Model Predicting Police Perceptions of Date Rape**

|                                               | EWR <sup>1</sup> | EWR <sup>2</sup> | HTS <sup>1</sup> | HTS <sup>2</sup> |
|-----------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1. Experience With Rape Scale (pt. 1)         | 1.0              | -----            | -----            | -----            |
| 2. Experience With Rape Scale (pt. 2)         | .90 *            | 1.0              | -----            | -----            |
| 3. Helpfulness of Training Scale (pt. 1)      | .07              | .09              | 1.0              | -----            |
| 4. Helpfulness of Training Scale (pt. 2)      | .09              | .11              | .80 *            | 1.0              |
| 5. Sexualized Work Environment Scale (pt. 1)  | .21 *            | .17              | .15              | .14              |
| 6. Sexualized Work Environment Scale (pt. 2)  | .17              | .18              | .16              | .15              |
| 7. Attitudes Toward Women Scale (pt. 1)       | .49 *            | .48 *            | .36 *            | .34 *            |
| 8. Attitudes Toward Women Scale (pt. 2)       | .48 *            | .51 *            | .32 *            | .35 *            |
| 9. Attitudes Toward Dating and Violence Scale | .29 *            | .32 *            | .39 *            | .38 *            |
| 10. Attitudes Toward Rape Reporting Scale     | .48 *            | .52 *            | .12              | .16              |
| 11. Attitudes Toward Date Rape Scale          | .38 *            | .41 *            | .38 *            | .40 *            |
| 12. Stranger Rape/ Date Rape Comparison Scale | .28 *            | .25 *            | .27 *            | .29 *            |

Table 13 (cont'd)

|                                               | SWES <sup>1</sup> | SWES <sup>2</sup> | ATW <sup>1</sup> | ATW <sup>2</sup> |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1. Experience With Rape Scale (pt. 1)         | -----             | -----             | -----            | -----            |
| 2. Experience With Rape Scale (pt. 2)         | -----             | -----             | -----            | -----            |
| 3. Helpfulness of Training Scale (pt. 1)      | -----             | -----             | -----            | -----            |
| 4. Helpfulness of Training Scale (pt. 2)      | -----             | -----             | -----            | -----            |
| 5. Sexualized Work Environment Scale (pt. 1)  | 1.0               | -----             | -----            | -----            |
| 6. Sexualized Work Environment Scale (pt. 2)  | .86 *             | 1.0               | -----            | -----            |
| 7. Attitudes Toward Women Scale (pt. 1)       | .13               | .15               | 1.0              | -----            |
| 8. Attitudes Toward Women Scale (pt. 2)       | .12               | .17               | .90 *            | 1.0              |
| 9. Attitudes Toward Dating and Violence Scale | .16               | .20 *             | .75 *            | .70 *            |
| 10. Attitudes Toward Rape Reporting Scale     | .19               | .20 *             | .49 *            | .52 *            |
| 11. Attitudes Toward Date Rape Scale          | .31 *             | .34 *             | .76 *            | .77 *            |
| 12. Stranger Rape/ Date Rape Comparison Scale | .13               | .20 *             | .49              | .47 *            |

Table 13 (cont'd)

|                                               | ATDV  | ATRR  | ATDR  | SRDR  |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. Experience With Rape Scale (pt. 1)         | ----- | ----- | ----- | ----- |
| 2. Experience With Rape Scale (pt. 2)         | ----- | ----- | ----- | ----- |
| 3. Helpfulness of Training Scale (pt. 1)      | ----- | ----- | ----- | ----- |
| 4. Helpfulness of Training Scale (pt. 2)      | ----- | ----- | ----- | ----- |
| 5. Sexualized Work Environment Scale (pt. 1)  | ----- | ----- | ----- | ----- |
| 6. Sexualized Work Environment Scale (pt. 2)  | ----- | ----- | ----- | ----- |
| 7. Attitudes Toward Women Scale (pt. 1)       | ----- | ----- | ----- | ----- |
| 8. Attitudes Toward Women Scale (pt. 2)       | ----- | ----- | ----- | ----- |
| 9. Attitudes Toward Dating and Violence Scale | 1.0   | ----- | ----- | ----- |
| 10. Attitudes Toward Rape Reporting Scale     | .48 * | 1.0   | ----- | ----- |
| 11. Attitudes Toward Date Rape Scale          | .80 * | .52 * | 1.0   | ----- |
| 12. Stranger Rape/ Date Rape Comparison Scale | .35 * | .29 * | .61 * | 1.0   |

Note. N=91\*  $p < .05$

## Results

### Evaluation of the Model

As mentioned previously, there are three issues to consider in evaluating the results of this model. First, the overall fit of the model was considered. Three criteria are used to determine if the data fit the proposed model:

1. A Chi Square Goodness of Fit Test: This should be non-significant, which indicates that there is no difference between the data and the model. In other words, a non-significant chi square means that the data fit the proposed model. But, with a large number of parameters estimated (as is in this model) it is too powerful a test and the two other criteria are used (Hayduk, 1987; Joreskog, 1978).
2. Goodness of Fit Index/Adjusted Goodness of Fit Index: These indices should be above .90 and .80, respectively. These measures are used because the chi square test is often too powerful (Hayduk, 1987).
3. Root Mean Square Residual: This measure should be close to zero (Hayduk, 1987).

The three goodness of fit measures were within their appropriate range of values, indicating that the data fit the proposed model. The chi square test was significant ( $\chi^2 = 72.08$ ,  $df=48$ ,  $p = .01$ ), but the Goodness of Fit Index was .90, the Adjusted Goodness of Fit Index was .83, and the Root Mean Square Residual was .06. The three contextual-level variables (experience with rape cases, perceived helpfulness of training on rape, perceived sexual harassment in the workplace) were significant predictors of the outcome variable (perceptions of date rape). In addition to this direct path, the contextual-level variables predicted the individual-level variable (sex role

stereotypes), which, in turn, predicted the outcome variable (perceptions of date rape). Figure 2 presents the empirical evaluation of the model.

Second, the sign of the path coefficients was examined. It was predicted that more experience, perceiving training on rape as very helpful, and believing that sexual harassment is a problem in the workplace would be related to more progressive attitudes toward date rape. Positive attitudes toward women in general were also hypothesized to be related to progressive attitudes toward date rape. All of the path coefficients were hypothesized to be positive. As can be seen in Figure 2 all coefficients were indeed positive.

Third, the size of the path coefficients was considered. It was hypothesized that all of the relationships modeled would be significant (i.e., all path coefficients would be significant). Since the coefficients in the measurement model are almost always significant,<sup>12</sup> the key issue is whether the indicators of a given underlying construct correlate more highly with each other than with the other indicators. For example, the two parts of the Experience With Rape Scale should correlate more highly with each other than with any other indicators. This criteria was satisfied fairly well in this model. As can be seen in Table 13, the two parts of the Experience With Rape Scale did indeed correlate more highly with each other than other indicators. This pattern was also found for the Helpfulness of Training Scale and the Sexualized Work Environment Scale. Similarly, the four indicators of the latent construct "perceptions of date

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<sup>12</sup> It is for this reason that asterisks do not appear on the path coefficients in the measurement model) (Hayduk, 1987).



rape" were highly intercorrelated. The path coefficients for the structural model were all statistically significant with one exception. The pathway from perceived sexual harassment in the workplace to sex role stereotypes only approached significance ( $p = .11$ ). Given that most participants in this project were male and that the police work environment is predominantly male, this results is not surprising.

### Summary of Results and Evaluation of Hypotheses

The purpose of this study was to propose and evaluate a model predicting police officers' perceptions of date rape. The goal of this model was to help understand what factors influence officers' beliefs so that we might have some idea how to address and change negative perceptions of date rape. The results of this study suggest that a complex web of factors influence officers' ideas about date rape.

It was hypothesized that the data would fit the proposed model and there was empirical support for this prediction. This model suggested that officers with more experience held more sympathetic beliefs about date rape and date rape victims. Officers who found their training on rape to be very helpful and officers who believed that sexual harassment was a problem in the workplace also had more progressive attitudes toward date rape. These contextual-level variables also predicted officers' general attitudes toward women. Officers with more experience and those who perceived that training was very helpful and believed sexual harassment was a problem had less negative and stereotypical attitudes toward women. Thus, this model suggested that both contextual-level and individual-level variables were significant predictors of perceptions of date rape. Practically, these results suggest that addressing the work experiences and work climate, as

well officers' sex role stereotypes, may be effective starting points for changing negative perceptions of date rape.

## CHAPTER 4

### DISCUSSION

This research project had two goals. First, police officers' perceptions of date rape were examined. Previous studies had concentrated on attitudes toward stranger rape, almost to the exclusion of date rape or other forms of nonstranger rape. Second, this research considered a wide variety of factors that predict officers' perceptions of date rape. Existing work had focused almost exclusively on individual-level predictors. This study examined both individually-based and ecologically-based predictors. Understanding what factors predict perceptions of date rape could be helpful in understanding how to change those perceptions.

#### Major Findings

These two goals were examined in two studies. The results of Study One suggested that the police officers' perceptions of date rape were rather negative. The officers believed that stranger rape is more psychologically devastating than date rape. They also felt that date rape was caused more by a need for sex and that stranger rape was caused more by a need for power. The police were rather victim blaming in that they felt victims were more to blame for date rapes, but assailants were more to blame for stranger rapes. The victims' creditability was also questioned in that many officers believed that date rape victims report the assault for revenge or to protect their reputations; these police did not believe that stranger rape victims report for these vindictive reasons as often. Thus, the officers saw many differences between date rape and stranger rape.

Yet, most officers reported that they felt date rape and stranger rape were equally serious and deserved equally severe punishment. These results appear somewhat contradictory in light of the other findings. However, the police officers' answers are no more contradictory than the laws of most states. Most state laws make no statutory distinction between stranger and nonstranger rape and define rape by the act committed, not by who committed it. In other words, most laws state that stranger rape and date rape are equally serious and deserve equally severe punishment. But, these laws also have evidentiary guidelines that allow testimony on previous sexual contact between the victim and the assailant. In essence, these laws indicate that there are circumstances associated with nonstranger rape that go beyond the simple issue of an act of penetration by the use of force or the threat of force. These guidelines do not state that victims are to blame or that they report for vindictive reasons, but they do set a standard of questioning the circumstances of date rape cases. This standard of questioning was evident in the officers' perceptions of date rape.

Given that these officers appeared to have rather negative and stereotypical perceptions of date rape, it would be helpful to know what factors predict (and ultimately could help change) these beliefs. Study Two examined a model predicting officers' perceptions of date rape and found that both individual-level and contextual-level variables were good predictors. Officers with more experience with rape cases had more progressive attitudes toward date rape. Previous work had found that experience had no impact on rape attitudes. This model also suggested that police officers who found their training on rape to be very helpful and officers who believed that sexual harassment was a problem in the

workplace had more sympathetic attitudes toward date rape. In addition to this direct impact of the contextual-level variables on perceptions of date rape, an indirect impact was also supported. Experience, perceived helpfulness of training, and perceived sexual harassment predicted officers' general attitudes toward women. Officers with more experience and those who perceived that training was very helpful and believed sexual harassment was a problem had less negative and stereotypical attitudes toward women. These positive perceptions of women, in turn, predicted more progressive perceptions of date rape. In this model, both contextual-level and individual-level variables were significant predictors of perceptions of date rape.

#### Implications and Future Directions

These findings have several implications for legal policy and interventions. One of the key issues raised in this project was the explicit and implicit messages of sexual assault laws. Most laws have a differential standard for nonstranger rape, and the police officers in study also perceived date rape differently. The results of this research suggest that the goals of the rape reform legislation to shift the focus from the victim to the assailant may not have been satisfied yet in the case of date rape. If the focus of rape laws and rape trials is to be on the assailant's behavior and the act in question, then the laws need to further clarify that it is the act in question on the incident in question that is to be considered. Other incidents are irrelevant. With this explicit modification, rape laws would send the implicit message that it does not matter how many times the victim consented before this incident--on this incident, if she said "no"

and the assailant used force or the threat of force to have intercourse anyway, then the assailant committed a punishable crime.

The results of this study hi-light the present inconsistencies in the law by demonstrating how the enforcers of the law perceive this crime. Working from the feminist perspective that all rape is rape, further reforms of the law are necessary as is educating the police to these reforms. Changing the laws is no guarantee that officers' own beliefs will change as well.

Notwithstanding this issue of legal reform, the findings from this project suggest that police officers still need education on date rape. As mentioned previously, the law does not state, for example, that victims are more to blame for date rape, which is what most of the police in this study indicated. Even within the current legal framework, officers' perceptions of date rape are still rather biased and stereotypical. Although this project did not link these attitudes with actual behavioral responses, other research has suggested that officers' negative and stereotypical attitudes are sometimes communicated to the victim (Kerstetter & Van Winkle, 1990). The police are very important to the victim: they can influence how she feels about herself and what decisions she may make (Feldman-Summers & Palmer, 1980; Kerstetter & Van Winkle, 1990; Madigan & Gamble, 1991). The model evaluated in this research can suggest several approaches for addressing officers' beliefs about date rape.

First, encouraging rape victims to report the assaults will increase police officers' contact with victims. Through experience officers may be able to better understand the impact of rape and may change their perceptions and treatment of rape victims. Increasing reporting rates

could benefit police officers, and, assuming sensitive treatment by the officers, the victims as well. Reporting date rape is a necessary (although not sufficient) step for prosecution and public recognition of date rape as a crime.

Yet, concentrating on increasing reporting rates may not be the sole answer to the present institutional bias against date rape. Ensuring sensitive treatment by the police is critical. This model suggested that officers who found training on rape to be very helpful had less negative and stereotypical perceptions of date rape. It is, however, possible that these officers already had progressive attitudes toward women and rape, and hence, they learned more in training. This implies that training interventions on rape may not be able to start with the issue of rape. Instead, they may need to first concentrate on more general issues, such as attitudes toward women and their rights and roles in society. Training programs that address both general perceptions of women as well specific information on rape may be effective in changing biased attitudes toward date rape.

Field work and training programs are only part of the experiences of police officers. The climate of their work environment may also impact how they think about their job and how they actually perform their job. In this study, officers who thought they were working in a sexually harassing environment had more progressive perceptions of date rape. As noted previously, this model did not examine the impact of the actual occurrence of sexual harassment on attitudes toward date rape, but this relationship should be explored in future research. Given that even perceived sexual harassment was predictive of officers' attitudes, addressing sexual

harassment in the police work environment could be another beneficial intervention strategy. Creating supportive work environments that do not contribute to the degradation of women may help create a climate of respect for women. Such a climate may impact officers' beliefs about women in general and rape victims in particular.

Implicit in all of these interpretations and intervention suggestions is the importance of attitudes toward women as determinants of rape beliefs. Addressing women's rights and roles in society and sexist beliefs may be an important place to start when educating or re-educating police officers on rape. Within a feminist framework, this approach makes intuitive and practical sense because rape is not just about an act of penetration, it is about power, male power over women, and women's place in society. Examining and challenging the larger social framework addresses the deeper causes of rape.

#### Methodological Limitations

There are several methodological problems that limit the usefulness of this study in explaining how police officers perceive date rape. First, the total sample size did not permit the testing of bi-directional relationships in the path model. For example, it would have been informative to test if the path between perceived sexual harassment in the workplace and sex role stereotypes was bi-directional. Conceptually, this is quite plausible since awareness of sexual harassment is likely related to general attitudes toward women, and vice versa. Adding this parameter in LISREL, and other plausible bi-directional relationships, would have required nearly 30 more participants for an identifiable model (Hayduk, 1987). Practically, this would have required surveying another research site.

Second, all of the data collected in this study were self report. Rape is a very controversial and sensitive topic and officers have reason to bias their answers to appear more aware and sensitive to the problem of rape. The officers' answers may have been strongly influenced by social desirability bias. Given that this possibility was not specifically tested for, it remains a major threat to the validity of these results.

Third, a related problem is that the officers have been surveyed many times, and as a result, may have a good idea how researchers seek information. Out of simple practice learning how to give socially desirable responses, their answers may be very biased. The quality of their data is somewhat questionable. It is important to note, however, that many officers were quite direct in expressing stereotypical perceptions of date rape, and, overall, officers' answers on many items did not necessarily reflect great sensitivity to rape. But, since social desirability was not directly assessed, it cannot be determined how biased officers' answers were.

Fourth, common method bias may have affected the results. Only one type of data were collected (self report) and no independent sources of information were surveyed. For example, it might have been useful to collect archival data from the police departments to verify how many rape cases the officers had actually worked on. Similarly, an observational technique to assess sexualization of the work environment and sexual harassment may have been beneficial to provide another, convergent source of data.

Finally, both samples were selected based on their availability, and, therefore, the generalizability of these findings are unknown. The

demographic characteristics reported suggested that the officers' education level was higher than national averages: 74% of the officers in this sample were college graduates compared to 37% on the national level (Carter & Sapp, 1991; U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, 1992). Thus, these results may be generalizable only to other officers with similar education levels.

### Conclusions

An exploratory examination of police officers' perceptions of date rape was presented in this study. The findings suggested that officers' attitudes were rather victim blaming and stereotypical. This research also examined a multi-level model predicting police perceptions of date rape. There was some evidence that both contextual-level and individual-level variables, such as experience with rape, perceived helpfulness of training, and perceived sexual harassment in the workplace, may affect officers' perceptions of rape. These variables, and others, should be examined more closely in future work to further articulate the impact of multi-level factors on police perceptions. The fact that these contextual-level factors did affect police perceptions of date rape lends support to the argument that changing how the criminal justice system perceives and responds to rape cases will require both individual and structural changes.

## APPENDICES

## APPENDIX A

### Survey of Police Perceptions of Rape

#### INSTRUCTIONS:

Below are a few questions that ask for some background information about you. Please remember that this questionnaire is anonymous and all information is confidential.

Please circle the appropriate response category or fill in the requested information.

1. What is your gender?

1. MALE

2. FEMALE

2. What is your age? \_\_\_\_\_

3. What is your relationship status?

1. NO SERIOUS RELATIONSHIP AT THIS TIME
2. SERIOUS RELATIONSHIP, NOT LIVING TOGETHER
3. SERIOUS RELATIONSHIP, LIVING TOGETHER AND NOT MARRIED
4. SERIOUS RELATIONSHIP, MARRIED
5. SEPARATED (EITHER LEGALLY OR NON-LEGALLY)
6. DIVORCED, NOT IN A NEW RELATIONSHIP
7. DIVORCED, IN A NEW RELATIONSHIP
8. REMARRIED
9. WIDOWED

4. How do you describe your sexual orientation?

1. PRIMARILY OR EXCLUSIVELY HETEROSEXUAL
2. BISEXUAL
3. PRIMARILY OR EXCLUSIVELY LESBIAN OR GAY

5. How do you describe your racial/ethnic background?

1. ASIAN/ASIAN AMERICAN
2. BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN
3. CAUCASIAN/WHITE
4. HISPANIC
5. NATIVE AMERICAN
6. OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

6. Do you have children?

1. YES                      2. NO

6a. If yes, how many . . .

\_\_\_\_\_ BOYS    \_\_\_\_\_ GIRLS

7. What is your highest education level attained?

1. HS DIPLOMA/GED
2. SOME COLLEGE
3. COLLEGE DEGREE
4. SOME GRADUATE SCHOOL
5. MASTERS OR OTHER ADVANCED DEGREE

8. How long have you been a police officer?                      \_\_\_\_\_ YEARS    \_\_\_\_\_ MONTHS

9. How long have you been at this police department? \_\_\_\_\_ YEARS    \_\_\_\_\_ MONTHS

10. What is your current position/job title?                      \_\_\_\_\_

11. How long have you held this position?                      \_\_\_\_\_ YEARS    \_\_\_\_\_ MONTHS

12. What is your current shift?                      \_\_\_\_\_

## INSTRUCTIONS:

Below are a few general questions about crime and the way crime can impact victims. Please circle your answer to each question, choosing from the response categories listed after each question.

The response categories are a little different for some questions, so please read them carefully.

Please circle the number that corresponds to your answer.

Please circle only one number for each statement.

1. Would you say that being a victim of a property crime would cause a person to be . . .

|                                                    |       |   |
|----------------------------------------------------|-------|---|
| MUCH MORE AFRAID OF PROPERTY CRIME                 | _____ | 1 |
| SOMEWHAT MORE AFRAID OF PROPERTY CRIME             | _____ | 2 |
| A LITTLE MORE AFRAID OF PROPERTY CRIME             | _____ | 3 |
| NO CHANGE IN HOW AFRAID THEY ARE OF PROPERTY CRIME | _____ | 4 |

2. Would you say that being a victim of a property crime would cause a person to be . . .

MUCH MORE CAUTIOUS OR CAREFUL WITH THEIR PROPERTY\_\_\_\_\_1  
 SOMEWHAT MORE CAUTIOUS OR CAREFUL WITH THEIR PROPERTY\_\_\_\_\_2  
 A LITTLE MORE CAUTIOUS OR CAREFUL WITH THEIR PROPERTY\_\_\_\_\_3  
 NO CHANGE IN HOW CAUTIOUS OR CAREFUL WITH THEIR PROPERTY\_\_\_\_\_4

3. Would you say that being a victim of a violent crime, such as assault or battery, would cause a person to be . . .

MUCH MORE AFRAID OF VIOLENT CRIME\_\_\_\_\_1  
 SOMEWHAT MORE AFRAID OF VIOLENT CRIME\_\_\_\_\_2  
 A LITTLE MORE AFRAID OF VIOLENT CRIME\_\_\_\_\_3  
 NO CHANGE IN HOW AFRAID THEY ARE OF VIOLENT CRIME\_\_\_\_\_4

4. Would you say that being a victim of a violent crime would cause a person to be . . .

MUCH MORE CAUTIOUS WITH THEIR SAFETY\_\_\_\_\_1  
 SOMEWHAT MORE CAUTIOUS OR CAREFUL WITH THEIR SAFETY\_\_\_\_\_2  
 A LITTLE MORE CAUTIOUS OR CAREFUL WITH THEIR SAFETY\_\_\_\_\_3  
 NO CHANGE IN HOW CAUTIOUS OR CAREFUL WITH THEIR SAFETY\_\_\_\_\_4

## INSTRUCTIONS:

Below are a few questions about rape and how to define it. For most of these questions you will be asked to write a brief answer in your own words.

For a few questions you will be asked to choose your answer from the response categories listed after the question.

Please circle the number that corresponds to your answer.

Please circle only one number for each statement.

5. As you know, it's the legislators that make the laws and decide how to define crimes and what the punishments will be. But, you are actually out in the communities dealing with victims, dealing with criminals, which likely gives you a very different perspective.

Given this perspective, how do you define rape? Not what the law says, but rather what is your definition of rape?

6. Similarly, how do you define date rape/acquaintance rape?

7. When thinking about the psychological impact on victims, how does being a victim of stranger rape compare to being a victim of date rape?

STRANGER RAPE MUCH MORE SERIOUS IMPACT ..... 1  
 STRANGER RAPE SOMEWHAT MORE SERIOUS IMPACT ..... 2  
 STRANGER RAPE LITTLE MORE SERIOUS IMPACT ..... 3  
 EQUAL IMPACT ..... 4  
 DATE RAPE A LITTLE MORE SERIOUS IMPACT ..... 5  
 DATE RAPE SOMEWHAT MORE SERIOUS IMPACT ..... 6  
 DATE RAPE MUCH MORE SERIOUS IMPACT ..... 7

8. Now thinking about the actual legal definition, what is the definition of Criminal Sexual Conduct?

9. Do you see rape and Criminal Sexual Conduct as the same thing?

1. YES
2. NO

10. As you know, the issue of consent (whether consent to have sex was given) is sometimes important in rape cases. What do you think should be the legal criteria for lack of consent? Please check all that you think should be used in the law. Then, please rank order the criteria you selected. Assign a "1" to the factor you think should be most important in defining consent in the law, a "2" for the second most important factor, and so on.

| USED  | RANK                                                                                          |
|-------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| _____ | _____ A VERBAL "NO" FROM THE POTENTIAL VICTIM                                                 |
| _____ | _____ REPEATED VERBAL "NO" FROM THE POTENTIAL VICTIM                                          |
| _____ | _____ NON-VERBAL "NO" (E.G., BODY LANGUAGE THAT SAYS "NO") FROM THE POTENTIAL VICTIM          |
| _____ | _____ REPEATED NON-VERBAL "NO" (E.G., BODY LANGUAGE THAT SAYS "NO") FROM THE POTENTIAL VICTIM |
| _____ | _____ AN ACT OF PHYSICAL RESISTANCE FROM THE POTENTIAL VICTIM                                 |
| _____ | _____ REPEATED ACTS OF PHYSICAL RESISTANCE FROM THE POTENTIAL VICTIM                          |

11. Now thinking about conditions under which a victim could give consent, do you think the law should include the following stipulations? Please check all of the categories that you think the law should include.

\_\_\_\_\_ A VICTIM CANNOT GIVE CONSENT IF LEGALLY DRUNK  
 \_\_\_\_\_ A VICTIM CANNOT GIVE CONSENT IF UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL (NOT LEGALLY DRUNK)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ A VICTIM CANNOT GIVE CONSENT IF HIGH ON DRUG(S)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ A VICTIM CANNOT GIVE CONSENT IF UNDER 18  
 \_\_\_\_\_ A VICTIM CANNOT GIVE CONSENT IF SHE/HE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED  
 \_\_\_\_\_ A VICTIM CANNOT GIVE CONSENT IF SHE/HE IS A VIRGIN

## INSTRUCTIONS:

Below are some questions about several different issues concerning rape (e.g., reporting rapes, prosecuting rapes). Please circle your answer to

each question, choosing from the response categories listed after each question. For one question you are asked to write in a brief answer in your own words.

The response categories are a little different for some questions, so please read them carefully.

Please circle the number that corresponds to your answer.

Please circle only one number for each statement.

**These questions are about the causes of stranger rape or date/acquaintance rape.**

12. How much do you see an assailant's desire for sex as a cause of stranger rape? As a . . .

|                                                  |   |
|--------------------------------------------------|---|
| THE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR (I.E., THE SOLE CAUSE) | 1 |
| A VERY IMPORTANT FACTOR (BUT NOT THE SOLE CAUSE) | 2 |
| SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT FACTOR                        | 3 |
| A LITTLE IMPORTANT                               | 4 |
| NOT A CAUSE AT ALL                               | 5 |

13. How much do you see an assailant's need for control and power as a cause of stranger rape? As a . . .

|                                                  |   |
|--------------------------------------------------|---|
| THE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR (I.E., THE SOLE CAUSE) | 1 |
| A VERY IMPORTANT FACTOR (BUT NOT THE SOLE CAUSE) | 2 |
| SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT FACTOR                        | 3 |
| A LITTLE IMPORTANT                               | 4 |
| NOT A CAUSE AT ALL                               | 5 |

14. How much do you see alcohol use by an assailant as a cause of stranger rape? As a . . .

|                                                  |   |
|--------------------------------------------------|---|
| THE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR (I.E., THE SOLE CAUSE) | 1 |
| A VERY IMPORTANT FACTOR (BUT NOT THE SOLE CAUSE) | 2 |
| SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT FACTOR                        | 3 |
| A LITTLE IMPORTANT                               | 4 |
| NOT A CAUSE AT ALL                               | 5 |

15. How much do you see "craziness" of an assailant as a cause of stranger rape? As a . . .

|                                                  |   |
|--------------------------------------------------|---|
| THE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR (I.E., THE SOLE CAUSE) | 1 |
| A VERY IMPORTANT FACTOR (BUT NOT THE SOLE CAUSE) | 2 |
| SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT FACTOR                        | 3 |
| A LITTLE IMPORTANT                               | 4 |
| NOT A CAUSE AT ALL                               | 5 |

16. How much do you see the behavior of women (dress, their actions) as a cause of stranger rape? As a . . .

|                                                  |   |
|--------------------------------------------------|---|
| THE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR (I.E., THE SOLE CAUSE) | 1 |
| A VERY IMPORTANT FACTOR (BUT NOT THE SOLE CAUSE) | 2 |
| SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT FACTOR                        | 3 |
| A LITTLE IMPORTANT                               | 4 |
| NOT A CAUSE AT ALL                               | 5 |

17. How much do you see an assailant's desire for sex as a cause of date rape? As a . . .

THE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR (I.E., THE SOLE CAUSE)\_\_\_\_\_1  
 A VERY IMPORTANT FACTOR (BUT NOT THE SOLE CAUSE)\_\_\_\_\_2  
 SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT FACTOR\_\_\_\_\_3  
 A LITTLE IMPORTANT\_\_\_\_\_4  
 NOT A CAUSE AT ALL\_\_\_\_\_5

18. How much do you see an assailant's need for control and power as a cause of date rape?  
 As a . . .

THE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR (I.E., THE SOLE CAUSE)\_\_\_\_\_1  
 A VERY IMPORTANT FACTOR (BUT NOT THE SOLE CAUSE)\_\_\_\_\_2  
 SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT FACTOR\_\_\_\_\_3  
 A LITTLE IMPORTANT\_\_\_\_\_4  
 NOT A CAUSE AT ALL\_\_\_\_\_5

19. How much do you see alcohol use by an assailant as a cause of date rape? As a . . .

THE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR (I.E., THE SOLE CAUSE)\_\_\_\_\_1  
 A VERY IMPORTANT FACTOR (BUT NOT THE SOLE CAUSE)\_\_\_\_\_2  
 SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT FACTOR\_\_\_\_\_3  
 A LITTLE IMPORTANT\_\_\_\_\_4  
 NOT A CAUSE AT ALL\_\_\_\_\_5

20. How much do you see "craziness" of an assailant as a cause of date rape? As a . . .

THE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR (I.E., THE SOLE CAUSE)\_\_\_\_\_1  
 A VERY IMPORTANT FACTOR (BUT NOT THE SOLE CAUSE)\_\_\_\_\_2  
 SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT FACTOR\_\_\_\_\_3  
 A LITTLE IMPORTANT\_\_\_\_\_4  
 NOT A CAUSE AT ALL\_\_\_\_\_5

21. How much do you see the behavior of women (dress, their actions) as a cause of date rape? As a . . .

THE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR (I.E., THE SOLE CAUSE)\_\_\_\_\_1  
 A VERY IMPORTANT FACTOR (BUT NOT THE SOLE CAUSE)\_\_\_\_\_2  
 SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT FACTOR\_\_\_\_\_3  
 A LITTLE IMPORTANT\_\_\_\_\_4  
 NOT A CAUSE AT ALL\_\_\_\_\_5

**Now thinking about the responsibility for stranger rape or date/acquaintance rape . . .**

22. In most cases, how much is the victim to blame in a stranger rape?

TOTAL BLAME\_\_\_\_\_1  
 A LOT TO BLAME\_\_\_\_\_2  
 A LITTLE TO BLAME\_\_\_\_\_3  
 NO BLAME\_\_\_\_\_4

23. In most cases, how much is the assailant to blame in a stranger rape?

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| TOTAL BLAME       | 1 |
| A LOT TO BLAME    | 2 |
| A LITTLE TO BLAME | 3 |
| NO BLAME          | 4 |

24. In most cases, how much is the victim to blame in a date rape?

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| TOTAL BLAME       | 1 |
| A LOT TO BLAME    | 2 |
| A LITTLE TO BLAME | 3 |
| NO BLAME          | 4 |

25. In most cases, how much is the assailant to blame in a date rape?

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| TOTAL BLAME       | 1 |
| A LOT TO BLAME    | 2 |
| A LITTLE TO BLAME | 3 |
| NO BLAME          | 4 |

**These next questions are about why women report stranger rape or date/acquaintance rape to the police.**

26. How often do you think women make up or lie about stranger rape to seek revenge against the alleged assailant?

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| VERY FREQUENTLY | 1 |
| OCCASIONALLY    | 2 |
| SELDOM          | 3 |
| NEVER           | 4 |

27. How often do you think women make up or lie about stranger rape to protect their reputations?

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| VERY FREQUENTLY | 1 |
| OCCASIONALLY    | 2 |
| SELDOM          | 3 |
| NEVER           | 4 |

28. How often do you think women report stranger rape because they want education/treatment for the alleged assailant?

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| VERY FREQUENTLY | 1 |
| OCCASIONALLY    | 2 |
| SELDOM          | 3 |
| NEVER           | 4 |

29. How often do you think women report stranger rape because they felt it was a crime and should be punished?

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| VERY FREQUENTLY | 1 |
| OCCASIONALLY    | 2 |
| SELDOM          | 3 |
| NEVER           | 4 |

30. How often do you think women make up or lie about date rape to seek revenge against the alleged assailant?

VERY FREQUENTLY \_\_\_\_\_ 1  
 OCCASIONALLY \_\_\_\_\_ 2  
 SELDOM \_\_\_\_\_ 3  
 NEVER \_\_\_\_\_ 4

31. How often do you think women make up or lie about date rape to protect their reputations?

VERY FREQUENTLY \_\_\_\_\_ 1  
 OCCASIONALLY \_\_\_\_\_ 2  
 SELDOM \_\_\_\_\_ 3  
 NEVER \_\_\_\_\_ 4

32. How often do you think women report date rape because they want education/treatment for the alleged assailant?

VERY FREQUENTLY \_\_\_\_\_ 1  
 OCCASIONALLY \_\_\_\_\_ 2  
 SELDOM \_\_\_\_\_ 3  
 NEVER \_\_\_\_\_ 4

33. How often do you think women report date rape because they felt it was a crime and should be punished?

VERY FREQUENTLY \_\_\_\_\_ 1  
 OCCASIONALLY \_\_\_\_\_ 2  
 SELDOM \_\_\_\_\_ 3  
 NEVER \_\_\_\_\_ 4

**Some women choose not to report to the police; these next questions are about why women don't report stranger or date/acquaintance rape.**

34. How often do you think women DON'T report a stranger rape because they were afraid of some form of retaliation from the assailant?

VERY FREQUENTLY \_\_\_\_\_ 1  
 OCCASIONALLY \_\_\_\_\_ 2  
 SELDOM \_\_\_\_\_ 3  
 NEVER \_\_\_\_\_ 4

35. How often do you think women DON'T report a stranger rape because they were afraid no one would believe them?

VERY FREQUENTLY \_\_\_\_\_ 1  
 OCCASIONALLY \_\_\_\_\_ 2  
 SELDOM \_\_\_\_\_ 3  
 NEVER \_\_\_\_\_ 4

36. How often do you think women DON'T report a stranger rape because they have no physical injuries or physical evidence?

VERY FREQUENTLY \_\_\_\_\_ 1  
 OCCASIONALLY \_\_\_\_\_ 2  
 SELDOM \_\_\_\_\_ 3  
 NEVER \_\_\_\_\_ 4

37. How often do you think women DON'T report a stranger rape because they were afraid their family or friends might find out about the incident?

VERY FREQUENTLY \_\_\_\_\_ 1  
 OCCASIONALLY \_\_\_\_\_ 2  
 SELDOM \_\_\_\_\_ 3  
 NEVER \_\_\_\_\_ 4

38. How often do you think women DON'T report a stranger rape because they were afraid of how the police might respond/treat them?

VERY FREQUENTLY \_\_\_\_\_ 1  
 OCCASIONALLY \_\_\_\_\_ 2  
 SELDOM \_\_\_\_\_ 3  
 NEVER \_\_\_\_\_ 4

39. How often do you think women DON'T report a stranger rape because they don't want to go through the lengthy process of reporting and prosecuting a rape?

VERY FREQUENTLY \_\_\_\_\_ 1  
 OCCASIONALLY \_\_\_\_\_ 2  
 SELDOM \_\_\_\_\_ 3  
 NEVER \_\_\_\_\_ 4

40. How often do you think women DON'T report a date rape because they were afraid of some form of retaliation from the assailant?

VERY FREQUENTLY \_\_\_\_\_ 1  
 OCCASIONALLY \_\_\_\_\_ 2  
 SELDOM \_\_\_\_\_ 3  
 NEVER \_\_\_\_\_ 4

41. How often do you think women DON'T report a date rape because they were afraid no one would believe them?

VERY FREQUENTLY \_\_\_\_\_ 1  
 OCCASIONALLY \_\_\_\_\_ 2  
 SELDOM \_\_\_\_\_ 3  
 NEVER \_\_\_\_\_ 4

42. How often do you think women DON'T report a date rape because they have no physical injuries or physical evidence?

VERY FREQUENTLY \_\_\_\_\_ 1  
 OCCASIONALLY \_\_\_\_\_ 2  
 SELDOM \_\_\_\_\_ 3  
 NEVER \_\_\_\_\_ 4

43. How often do you think women DON'T report a date rape because they had had sex with the assailant before?

VERY FREQUENTLY ..... 1  
 OCCASIONALLY ..... 2  
 SELDOM ..... 3  
 NEVER ..... 4

44. How often do you think women DON'T report a date rape because they were drunk at the time of the assault?

VERY FREQUENTLY ..... 1  
 OCCASIONALLY ..... 2  
 SELDOM ..... 3  
 NEVER ..... 4

45. How often do you think women DON'T report a date rape because they were afraid their family or friends might find out about the incident?

VERY FREQUENTLY ..... 1  
 OCCASIONALLY ..... 2  
 SELDOM ..... 3  
 NEVER ..... 4

46. How often do you think women DON'T report a date rape because they were afraid of how the police might respond/treat them?

VERY FREQUENTLY ..... 1  
 OCCASIONALLY ..... 2  
 SELDOM ..... 3  
 NEVER ..... 4

47. How often do you think women DON'T report a date rape because they don't want to go through the lengthy process of reporting and prosecuting a rape?

VERY FREQUENTLY ..... 1  
 OCCASIONALLY ..... 2  
 SELDOM ..... 3  
 NEVER ..... 4

**Now, thinking now about how seriousness a crime stranger rape or date/acquaintance rape is ...**

48. How serious a crime is stranger rape?

NOT AT ALL SERIOUS ..... 1  
 A LITTLE SERIOUS ..... 2  
 SOMEWHAT SERIOUS ..... 3  
 VERY SERIOUS ..... 4  
 THE MOST SERIOUS OF ALL CRIMES ..... 5

49. How serious a crime is date rape?

NOT AT ALL SERIOUS ..... 1  
 A LITTLE SERIOUS ..... 2  
 SOMEWHAT SERIOUS ..... 3  
 VERY SERIOUS ..... 4  
 THE MOST SERIOUS OF ALL CRIMES ..... 5

50. How serious a crime is stranger rape compared to date rape?

|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| STRANGER RAPE MUCH MORE SERIOUS     | 1 |
| STRANGER RAPE SOMEWHAT MORE SERIOUS | 2 |
| STRANGER RAPE A LITTLE MORE SERIOUS | 3 |
| EQUALLY SERIOUS                     | 4 |
| DATE RAPE A LITTLE MORE SERIOUS     | 5 |
| DATE RAPE SOMEWHAT MORE SERIOUS     | 6 |
| DATE RAPE MUCH MORE SERIOUS         | 7 |

51. How do you think the punishment for date rape should compare to the punishment for stranger rape?

|                                               |   |
|-----------------------------------------------|---|
| STRANGER RAPE MUCH MORE SEVERE PUNISHMENT     | 1 |
| STRANGER RAPE SOMEWHAT MORE SEVERE PUNISHMENT | 2 |
| STRANGER RAPE A LITTLE MORE SEVERE PUNISHMENT | 3 |
| SAME PUNISHMENT                               | 4 |
| DATE RAPE A LITTLE MORE SEVERE PUNISHMENT     | 5 |
| DATE RAPE SOMEWHAT MORE SEVERE PUNISHMENT     | 6 |
| DATE RAPE MUCH MORE SEVERE PUNISHMENT         | 7 |

52. Do you think there should be a separate statute/ separate law for date rape (different CSC)?

1. YES
2. NO

52a. Why or why not?

## INSTRUCTIONS:

Below are a few questions that ask about rape, rapists, and rape victims. For each question, please select your answer from the response categories listed after each question. Please place a check mark on the line by your answer.

Please choose one category for each question.

53. What percentage of women are victims of rape?

- \_\_\_\_\_ LESS THAN 5%
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5%-25%
- \_\_\_\_\_ 26%-50%
- \_\_\_\_\_ 51%-75%
- \_\_\_\_\_ 76%-95%
- \_\_\_\_\_ MORE THAN 95%

54. What percentage of raped women knew their attacker?

- ☐ LESS THAN 5%
- ☐ 5%-25%
- ☐ 26%-50%
- ☐ 51%-75%
- ☐ 76%-95%
- ☐ MORE THAN 95%

55. What percentage of rapes are reported to the police?

- ☐ LESS THAN 5%
- ☐ 5%-25%
- ☐ 26%-50%
- ☐ 51%-75%
- ☐ 76%-95%
- ☐ MORE THAN 95%

56. What percentage of rapes reported to police result in arrests?

- ☐ LESS THAN 5%
- ☐ 5%-25%
- ☐ 26%-50%
- ☐ 51%-75%
- ☐ 76%-95%
- ☐ MORE THAN 95%

57. What percentage of accused rapists are found innocent or have their case dismissed?

- ☐ LESS THAN 5%
- ☐ 5%-25%
- ☐ 26%-50%
- ☐ 51%-75%
- ☐ 76%-95%
- ☐ MORE THAN 95%

58. What percentage of rapes involve physical violence?

- ☐ LESS THAN 5%
- ☐ 5%-25%
- ☐ 26%-50%
- ☐ 51%-75%
- ☐ 76%-95%
- ☐ MORE THAN 95%

59. What percentage of rapes involve alcohol by one or both parties?

- ☐ LESS THAN 5%
- ☐ 5%-25%
- ☐ 26%-50%
- ☐ 51%-75%
- ☐ 76%-95%
- ☐ MORE THAN 95%

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

Below are some questions about your job as a police officer. Some of these items are statements about the place in which you work (this police department). For each statement, please decide whether you think the item is true or false. If you think the statement is true, or mostly true, please circle true. If you think the statement is false, or mostly false, please circle false.

For the other questions please circle your answer to each question, choosing from the response categories listed after each question. The response

categories are a little different for some questions, so please read them carefully.

Please circle the number that corresponds to your answer.

Please circle one answer for each statement.

- |     |                                                                              |      |       |
|-----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|-------|
| 60. | The work of a police officer is really challenging.                          | TRUE | FALSE |
| 61. | There's not much group spirit here at this department.                       | TRUE | FALSE |
| 62. | A lot of people seem to be just putting in time here, but don't really care. | TRUE | FALSE |
| 63. | People seem to take pride in the department.                                 | TRUE | FALSE |
| 64. | People put quite a lot of effort into what they do.                          | TRUE | FALSE |
| 65. | Few people ever volunteer.                                                   | TRUE | FALSE |
| 66. | It is quite a lively place to work.                                          | TRUE | FALSE |
| 67. | It's hard to get people to do any extra work.                                | TRUE | FALSE |
| 68. | The work in this job is usually very interesting.                            | TRUE | FALSE |

69. Would you say that joking or talking about sexual matters at your work place happens .

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| FREQUENTLY | 1 |
| SOMETIMES  | 2 |
| NOT AT ALL | 3 |

70. Where you work, how much social pressure is there for women to flirt with men?

|       |   |
|-------|---|
| A LOT | 1 |
| SOME  | 2 |
| NONE  | 3 |

71. Where you work, how much social pressure is there for men to flirt with women?

A LOT ..... 1  
 SOME ..... 2  
 NONE ..... 3

72. How much of a problem at your place of work do you consider sexual harassment to be?

MAJOR PROBLEM ..... 1  
 MINOR PROBLEM ..... 2  
 NO PROBLEM ..... 3

73. How many women (any women at work, including secretaries, support staff, etc.) dress to appear sexually attractive to men at work?

MOST ..... 1  
 SOME ..... 2  
 HARDLY ANY ..... 3  
 NONE ..... 4

74. How many men dress to appear sexually attractive to women at work?

MOST ..... 1  
 SOME ..... 2  
 HARDLY ANY ..... 3  
 NONE ..... 4

75. How many women present themselves in sexually seductive ways to men at work?

MOST ..... 1  
 SOME ..... 2  
 HARDLY ANY ..... 3  
 NONE ..... 4

76. How many men present themselves in sexually seductive ways to women at work?

MOST ..... 1  
 SOME ..... 2  
 HARDLY ANY ..... 3  
 NONE ..... 4

## INSTRUCTIONS:

Below are several questions about your personal and professional experience with rape and rape victims. Please circle your answer to each question, choosing from the response categories listed after each question. For some questions, you will be asked to write a brief answer in your own words.

The response categories are a little different for some questions, so please read them carefully.

Please circle the number that corresponds to your answer.

Please circle one number for each statement.

77. As part of your job, have you ever received any special training dealing with rape?

1. YES (GO TO QUESTION 78 THROUGH 81, THEN ANSWER 82)
2. NO (GO TO QUESTION 82.)

78. How many times have you had training?

ONCE.....1  
 TWICE.....2  
 THREE TIMES.....3  
 FOUR OR MORE TIMES.....4

79. When did you first receive this training?

IN POLICE TRAINING SCHOOL.....1  
 WHEN YOU FIRST CAME TO THE DEPARTMENT.....2  
 AFTER YOU HAD BEEN AT THE DEPARTMENT FOR A WHILE.....3

80. What was covered in the training? Please check all that apply. (If you have had training more than once, please check the topics that were covered in any/all of the trainings.)

\_\_\_\_\_THE CRIMINAL SEXUAL CONDUCT LAW  
 \_\_\_\_\_EVIDENCE COLLECTION PROCEDURES  
 \_\_\_\_\_INFORMATION ON RAPISTS  
 \_\_\_\_\_PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT ON VICTIMS  
 \_\_\_\_\_HOW TO DEAL WITH VICTIMS  
 \_\_\_\_\_OTHER\_\_\_\_\_

81. How helpful was this training?

NOT VERY HELPFUL AT ALL.....1  
 SOMEWHAT HELPFUL.....2  
 A LITTLE HELPFUL.....3  
 VERY HELPFUL.....4

82. Would you like to have (more/any) training on the topic of rape?

1. YES (IF YES GO TO QUESTION 83 THROUGH 86, THEN ANSWER 87)
2. NO (IF NO GO TO QUESTION 87)

83. What topics would you like to have covered in training? Please check all that apply.

\_\_\_\_\_THE CRIMINAL SEXUAL CONDUCT LAW  
 \_\_\_\_\_EVIDENCE COLLECTION PROCEDURES  
 \_\_\_\_\_INFORMATION ON RAPISTS  
 \_\_\_\_\_PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT ON VICTIMS

\_\_\_\_ HOW TO DEAL WITH VICTIMS  
 \_\_\_\_ OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

84. How helpful would victim's accounts/stories from victims be in a training program?

NOT VERY HELPFUL AT ALL \_\_\_\_\_ 1  
 SOMEWHAT HELPFUL \_\_\_\_\_ 2  
 A LITTLE HELPFUL \_\_\_\_\_ 3  
 VERY HELPFUL \_\_\_\_\_ 4

85. How helpful would rape counselor's stories/expertise be in a training program?

NOT VERY HELPFUL AT ALL \_\_\_\_\_ 1  
 SOMEWHAT HELPFUL \_\_\_\_\_ 2  
 A LITTLE HELPFUL \_\_\_\_\_ 3  
 VERY HELPFUL \_\_\_\_\_ 4

86. How helpful would lawyers be in a training program?

NOT VERY HELPFUL AT ALL \_\_\_\_\_ 1  
 SOMEWHAT HELPFUL \_\_\_\_\_ 2  
 A LITTLE HELPFUL \_\_\_\_\_ 3  
 VERY HELPFUL \_\_\_\_\_ 4

(EVERYBODY ANSWER REMAINING QUESTIONS)

87. Have you personally known a woman who was raped by a stranger?

1. YES (IF YES, HOW MANY \_\_ \_\_)
2. NO

88. Have you personally known a woman who was raped by someone she knew ?

1. YES (IF YES, HOW MANY \_\_ \_\_)
2. NO

89. Have you personally ever been raped by a stranger?

1. YES
2. NO

90. Have you personally ever been raped by someone you knew?

1. YES
2. NO

91. Have you ever testified in court during a rape trial?

1. YES (IF YES, HOW MANY TOTAL \_\_ \_\_;  
 HOW MANY STRANGER \_\_ \_\_;  
 HOW MANY DATE \_\_ \_\_ )
2. NO

92. How many times have you interviewed stranger rape victims about their rape? \_\_ \_\_

93. How many times have you interviewed date rape victims about their rape? \_\_ \_\_

**These next few questions ask you to respond in your own words about how you handle (i.e., respond to) rape cases in your job.**

**94. BRIEFLY** walk me through how you have responded (or would respond if you have never worked on a rape case) to a stranger rape case. Please start at the point where you have received the call and have gone to see the victim (or the victim was brought in). Please write about how you try to decide if a rape occurred and the factors that influence your decision (e.g., the victim did/did not have injuries and this is a very important/somewhat important/a little important to me in trying to sort out the case). Also, please write a little on the types of questions you ask victims. Finally, please write a little on the procedures you follow.

**Decision Making Process & Important Factors:**

**Questions for Victims:**

**Procedures:**

**95. BRIEFLY** walk me through how you have responded (or would respond if you have never worked on a rape case) to a date rape case. Please start at the point where you have received the call and have gone to see the victim (or the victim was brought in). Please write about how you try to decide if a rape occurred and the factors that influence your decision (e.g., the victim did/did not have injuries and this is a very important/somewhat important/a little important to me in trying to sort out the case). Also, please write a little on the types of questions you ask victims. Finally, please write a little on the procedures you follow.

**Decision Making Process & Important Factors:**

**Questions for Victims:**

**Procedures:**

**96. How** have your opinions and perceptions of rape changed as a result of your experience working on rape cases?

**97. How** have you changed the way in which you respond to rape cases and rape victims since you first became a police officer? In other words, how has your treatment of these cases changed from earlier in your career to later in your career?

**98. What** in your experiences (either professional or personal) has been most helpful to you in responding to rape cases?

**99. How** has your department and colleagues influenced how you respond to rape cases?

**100. How** has your department and colleagues influenced how you think about rape in general?

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

Below are a number of statements. Please rate the degree to which you agree with each statement using the following scale:

1-----2-----3-----4-----5  
 STRONGLY DISAGREE    DISAGREE    NEUTRAL    AGREE    STRONGLY AGREE

Many of the following statements may offend you. Again, please be patient and answer the questions as best you can.

Please circle the number that corresponds to your answer.

Do not place a mark between two numbers, please pick one number for your answer.

Please circle only one number for each statement.

1. Most charges of date rape are true.

1-----2-----3-----4-----5  
 STRONGLY DISAGREE    DISAGREE    NEUTRAL    AGREE    STRONGLY AGREE

2. The degree of a woman's resistance should be the major factor in determining if a date rape has occurred.

1-----2-----3-----4-----5  
 STRONGLY DISAGREE    DISAGREE    NEUTRAL    AGREE    STRONGLY AGREE

3. A woman should not feel guilty following a date rape.

1-----2-----3-----4-----5  
 STRONGLY DISAGREE    DISAGREE    NEUTRAL    AGREE    STRONGLY AGREE

4. Rape of a woman by a man she knows can be defined as "a woman who changed her mind afterward."

1-----2-----3-----4-----5  
 STRONGLY DISAGREE    DISAGREE    NEUTRAL    AGREE    STRONGLY AGREE

5. **Women who "give in" to psychological pressure from men to have sex are really raped.**

1-----2-----3-----4-----5

STRONGLY DISAGREE      DISAGREE      NEUTRAL      AGREE      STRONGLY AGREE

6. **There is nothing wrong with a man having sex with a woman when she is drunk or stoned on drugs.**

1-----2-----3-----4-----5

STRONGLY DISAGREE      DISAGREE      NEUTRAL      AGREE      STRONGLY AGREE

7. **In order to protect the male, it should be difficult to prove that a date rape has occurred.**

1-----2-----3-----4-----5

STRONGLY DISAGREE      DISAGREE      NEUTRAL      AGREE      STRONGLY AGREE

8. **Women often claim rape to protect their reputations.**

1-----2-----3-----4-----5

STRONGLY DISAGREE      DISAGREE      NEUTRAL      AGREE      STRONGLY AGREE

9. **Date rape is the expression of an uncontrollable desire for sex.**

1-----2-----3-----4-----5

STRONGLY DISAGREE      DISAGREE      NEUTRAL      AGREE      STRONGLY AGREE

10. **Women who have sex with a man because they are afraid he might hurt them should feel justified believing they were raped.**

1-----2-----3-----4-----5

STRONGLY DISAGREE      DISAGREE      NEUTRAL      AGREE      STRONGLY AGREE

11. **Women put themselves in situations in which they are likely to be sexually assaulted because they have an unconscious desire to be raped.**

1-----2-----3-----4-----5

STRONGLY DISAGREE      DISAGREE      NEUTRAL      AGREE      STRONGLY AGREE

12. **Intoxicated women are usually willing to have sex.**
- 1-----2-----3-----4-----5
- STRONGLY DISAGREE    DISAGREE    NEUTRAL    AGREE    STRONGLY AGREE
13. **Rape by a date or boyfriend is more psychologically painful to women than rape by a total stranger.**
- 1-----2-----3-----4-----5
- STRONGLY DISAGREE    DISAGREE    NEUTRAL    AGREE    STRONGLY AGREE
14. **Only women who are physically beaten should feel justified in reporting a rape.**
- 1-----2-----3-----4-----5
- STRONGLY DISAGREE    DISAGREE    NEUTRAL    AGREE    STRONGLY AGREE
15. **Even sexually experienced women can really be emotionally hurt by date rape.**
- 1-----2-----3-----4-----5
- STRONGLY DISAGREE    DISAGREE    NEUTRAL    AGREE    STRONGLY AGREE
16. **Women who have been raped by someone they know lack good judgement.**
- 1-----2-----3-----4-----5
- STRONGLY DISAGREE    DISAGREE    NEUTRAL    AGREE    STRONGLY AGREE
17. **Women who feel guilty about engaging in premarital sex are likely to falsely claim rape.**
- 1-----2-----3-----4-----5
- STRONGLY DISAGREE    DISAGREE    NEUTRAL    AGREE    STRONGLY AGREE
18. **Most date rapes happen because women lead men on.**
- 1-----2-----3-----4-----5
- STRONGLY DISAGREE    DISAGREE    NEUTRAL    AGREE    STRONGLY AGREE
19. **Date rape is generally a misinterpretation of sexual cues.**
- 1-----2-----3-----4-----5
- STRONGLY DISAGREE    DISAGREE    NEUTRAL    AGREE    STRONGLY AGREE

20. **Women who have had prior sex with a man can't claim rape.**

1-----2-----3-----4-----5

STRONGLY DISAGREE    DISAGREE    NEUTRAL    AGREE    STRONGLY AGREE

21. **A woman will only respect a man who will lay down the law to her.**

1-----2-----3-----4-----5

STRONGLY DISAGREE    DISAGREE    NEUTRAL    AGREE    STRONGLY AGREE

22. **A man's got to show the woman who's boss right from the start or he'll end up henpecked.**

1-----2-----3-----4-----5

STRONGLY DISAGREE    DISAGREE    NEUTRAL    AGREE    STRONGLY AGREE

23. **Women are usually sweet until they've caught a man, but then they let their true selves show.**

1-----2-----3-----4-----5

STRONGLY DISAGREE    DISAGREE    NEUTRAL    AGREE    STRONGLY AGREE

24. **In a dating relationship a woman is largely out to take advantage of a man.**

1-----2-----3-----4-----5

STRONGLY DISAGREE    DISAGREE    NEUTRAL    AGREE    STRONGLY AGREE

25. **Most women are sly and manipulating when they are out to attract a man.**

1-----2-----3-----4-----5

STRONGLY DISAGREE    DISAGREE    NEUTRAL    AGREE    STRONGLY AGREE

26. **Being roughed up is sexually stimulating to many women.**

1-----2-----3-----4-----5

STRONGLY DISAGREE    DISAGREE    NEUTRAL    AGREE    STRONGLY AGREE

27. **Many times a woman will pretend she doesn't want to have intercourse because she doesn't want to seem loose, but she's really hoping the man will force her.**
- 1-----2-----3-----4-----5
- STRONGLY DISAGREE    DISAGREE    NEUTRAL    AGREE    STRONGLY AGREE
28. **Sometimes the only way a man can get a cold woman turned on is to use force.**
- 1-----2-----3-----4-----5
- STRONGLY DISAGREE    DISAGREE    NEUTRAL    AGREE    STRONGLY AGREE
29. **A man is never justified in hitting his wife.**
- 1-----2-----3-----4-----5
- STRONGLY DISAGREE    DISAGREE    NEUTRAL    AGREE    STRONGLY AGREE
30. **Women should take increasing responsibility for leadership in solving the intellectual and social problems of today.**
- 1-----2-----3-----4-----5
- STRONGLY DISAGREE    DISAGREE    NEUTRAL    AGREE    STRONGLY AGREE
31. **Both husband and wife should be allowed the same grounds for divorce.**
- 1-----2-----3-----4-----5
- STRONGLY DISAGREE    DISAGREE    NEUTRAL    AGREE    STRONGLY AGREE
32. **Under modern economic conditions with women being active outside the home, men should share in household tasks such as washing dishes and doing the laundry.**
- 1-----2-----3-----4-----5
- STRONGLY DISAGREE    DISAGREE    NEUTRAL    AGREE    STRONGLY AGREE
33. **There should be a strict merit system in job appointments and promotions without regard to sex.**
- 1-----2-----3-----4-----5
- STRONGLY DISAGREE    DISAGREE    NEUTRAL    AGREE    STRONGLY AGREE

34. **Women should worry less about their rights and more about becoming good wives and mothers.**

1-----2-----3-----4-----5

STRONGLY DISAGREE      DISAGREE      NEUTRAL      AGREE      STRONGLY AGREE

35. **Women earning as much as their dates should bear equally the expense when they go out together.**

1-----2-----3-----4-----5

STRONGLY DISAGREE      DISAGREE      NEUTRAL      AGREE      STRONGLY AGREE

36. **A woman should not expect to go to exactly the same places or to have quite the same freedom of action as a man.**

1-----2-----3-----4-----5

STRONGLY DISAGREE      DISAGREE      NEUTRAL      AGREE      STRONGLY AGREE

37. **In general, the father should have greater authority than the mother in the bringing up of children.**

1-----2-----3-----4-----5

STRONGLY DISAGREE      DISAGREE      NEUTRAL      AGREE      STRONGLY AGREE

38. **Women should be concerned with their duties of childbearing and house tending, rather than with desires for professional and business careers.**

1-----2-----3-----4-----5

STRONGLY DISAGREE      DISAGREE      NEUTRAL      AGREE      STRONGLY AGREE

39. **There are many jobs in which men should be given preference over women in being hired or promoted.**

1-----2-----3-----4-----5

STRONGLY DISAGREE      DISAGREE      NEUTRAL      AGREE      STRONGLY AGREE

## APPENDIX B

### Qualitative Coding Sheet

**5. As you know, it's the legislators that make the laws and decide how to define crimes and what the punishments will be. But, you are actually out in the communities dealing with victims, dealing with criminals, which likely gives you a very different perspective. Given this perspective, how do you define rape? Not what the law says, but rather what is your definition of rape?**

**CODES:**

Was mentioned:

|                                                          |        |       |
|----------------------------------------------------------|--------|-------|
| 1. penetration.....                                      | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 2. threat of force.....                                  | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 3. use of force.....                                     | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 4. psychological pressure/psychological force.....       | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 5. lack of consent/"unwanted"/against will .....         | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 6. CSC mentioned.....                                    | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 7. gender neutral.....                                   | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 8. "known" neutral.....                                  | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 9. emotionally harmful to victims.....                   | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 10. date rape/stranger rape distinction made .....       | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 11. stranger rape more violent than date rape.....       | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 12. stranger rape less violent than date rape.....       | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 13. rape is most violent/one of most violent acts.....   | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 14. intent of assailant--sex.....                        | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 15. intent of assailant--power, control.....             | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 16. intent of assailant--"I didn't realize it".....      | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 17. general statement on crime of passion/sex.....       | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 18. general statement on crime of violence/coercion..... | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 19. was sexual activity that got out of hand.....        | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 20. is woman's fault.....                                | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 21. is man's fault.....                                  | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 22. alcohol often involved.....                          | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 23. drugs often involved.....                            | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 24. mental illness of perpetrator.....                   | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 25. mental state of victim.....                          | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 26. time of assault.....                                 | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 27. place of assault--familiar to victim.....            | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 28. place of assault--not familiar to victim.....        | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 29. assailant had expectations to think sex was OK.....  | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 30. injuries sustained by woman.....                     | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 31. OTHER .....                                          | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 32. NO ANSWER.....                                       | 1. YES | 2. NO |

**6. Similarly, how do you define date rape/acquaintance rape?****CODES:**

Was mentioned:

- |                                                          |        |       |
|----------------------------------------------------------|--------|-------|
| 42. SAME (circle codes from above too)_____              | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 43. SAME, but DR more violent (above codes too)_____     | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 44. SAME, but DR less violent (above codes too)_____     | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 45. SAME, but know rapist (above codes too)_____         | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 46. SAME, but trusted rapist (above codes too)_____      | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 47. penetration_____                                     | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 48. threat of force_____                                 | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 49. use of force_____                                    | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 50. psychological pressure/psychological force_____      | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 51. lack of consent/"unwanted"/against will_____         | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 52. CSC mentioned_____                                   | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 53. gender neutral_____                                  | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 54. "known" neutral_____                                 | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 55. emotionally harmful to victims_____                  | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 56. date rape/stranger rape distinction made_____        | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 57. stranger rape more violent than date rape_____       | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 58. stranger rape less violent than date rape_____       | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 59. rape is most violent/one of most violent acts_____   | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 60. intent of assailant--sex_____                        | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 61. intent of assailant--power, control_____             | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 62. intent of assailant--"I didn't realize it"_____      | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 63. general statement on crime of passion/sex_____       | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 64. general statement on crime of violence/coercion_____ | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 65. was sexual activity that got out of hand_____        | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 66. is woman's fault_____                                | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 67. is man's fault_____                                  | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 68. alcohol often involved_____                          | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 69. drugs often involved_____                            | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 70. mental illness of perpetrator_____                   | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 71. mental state of victim_____                          | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 72. time of assault_____                                 | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 73. place of assault--familiar to victim_____            | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 74. place of assault--not familiar to victim_____        | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 75. assailant had expectations to think sex was OK_____  | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 76. injuries sustained by woman_____                     | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 77. OTHER _____                                          | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 78. NO ANSWER_____                                       | 1. YES | 2. NO |

**8. Now thinking about the actual legal definition, what is the definition of Criminal Sexual Conduct?****CODES:**

Was mentioned:

- |                                                        |        |       |
|--------------------------------------------------------|--------|-------|
| 88. mentioned that are 4 degrees of CSC_____           | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 89. provided brief definition of 4 degrees of CSC_____ | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 90. look it up/no time to answer/too detailed_____     | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 91. mentioned unwanted sexual touching_____            | 1. YES | 2. NO |

- |                                                              |        |       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------|-------|
| 92. gave an answer, but is incorrect (total or partial)_____ | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 93. I don't know_____                                        | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 94. OTHER _____                                              | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 95. NO ANSWER_____                                           | 1. YES | 2. NO |

**52a. Do you think there should be a separate statute/ separate law for date rape (different CSC)? Why or why not?**

- |                                      |        |       |
|--------------------------------------|--------|-------|
| 97. answer given for this item _____ | 1. YES | 2. NO |
|--------------------------------------|--------|-------|

**CODES:**

- |                                                                   |        |       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|-------|
| 98. because date rape is a less serious crime_____                | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 99. because date rape should have lesser punishment_____          | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 100. because 2 cases differ in type of evidence available_____    | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 101. because issue of consent is different_____                   | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 102. because 2 cases should have diff procedural guidelines_____  | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 103. b/c 2 causes should have different evidence guidelines_____  | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 104. because more women may report date rapes_____                | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 105. because is different crime if 2 people know each other_____  | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 106. because alcohol often involved in DR cases_____              | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 107. because drug use often involved in DR cases_____             | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 108. because DR is harder to prove_____                           | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 109. because more assailants will be charged, arrested, etc._____ | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 110. because crime of DR would get more public recognition_____   | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 111. because public would take crime of DR more seriously_____    | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 112. because would be too hard on the CJS_____                    | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 113. because DR is not a crime_____                               | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 114. because it would be dif. to define stranger/nonstranger_____ | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 115. because both are rapes (=in seriousness)_____                | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 116. because both should have same punishment_____                | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 117. because use same procedures in both_____                     | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 118. because fewer women may come forward to report_____          | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 119. because law can prosecute either/law is OK as is_____        | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 120. OTHER _____                                                  | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 121. NO ANSWER_____                                               | 1. YES | 2. NO |

**98. How have your opinions and perceptions of rape changed as a result of your experience working on rape cases?**

**CODES:**

- |                                                       |        |       |
|-------------------------------------------------------|--------|-------|
| 122. more sympathy for victims_____                   | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 123. less sympathy for victims_____                   | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 124. more sympathy for assailant_____                 | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 125. less sympathy for assailant_____                 | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 126. see as more common_____                          | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 127. see as less common_____                          | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 128. see as more serious_____                         | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 129. see as less serious_____                         | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 130. changes in how see causes_____                   | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 131. see reporting as "bigger deal" for victims _____ | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 132. do not see why victims don't report_____         | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 133. more favorable attitudes toward women_____       | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 134. less favorable attitudes toward women_____       | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 135. more aware of impact on victims_____             | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 136. less aware of impact on victims_____             | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 137. think woman to blame more now_____               | 1. YES | 2. NO |

- |                                                          |        |       |
|----------------------------------------------------------|--------|-------|
| 138. think woman to blame less now                       | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 139. think man to blame more now                         | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 140. think man to blame less now                         | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 141. see alcohol to blame more now                       | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 142. have become more "numb" to this crime               | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 143. have become less "numb" to this crime               | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 144. more aware of how to respond to victims             | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 145. more aware of false reports/mentioned false reports | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 146. no change in opinions                               | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 147. OTHER                                               | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 148. NO ANSWER                                           | 1. YES | 2. NO |

**97. How have you changed the way in which you respond to rape cases and rape victims since you first became a police officer? In other words, how has your treatment of these cases changed from earlier in your career to later in your career?**

**CODES:**

- |                                                        |        |       |
|--------------------------------------------------------|--------|-------|
| 149. more sympathy for victims                         | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 150. less sympathy for victims                         | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 151. more sympathy for assailant                       | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 152. less sympathy for assailant                       | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 153. see as more serious                               | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 154. see as less serious                               | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 155. more aware of impact on victims                   | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 156. less aware of impact on victims                   | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 157. think woman to blame more now                     | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 158. think woman to blame less now                     | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 159. think man to blame more now                       | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 160. think man to blame less now                       | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 161. see alcohol to blame more now                     | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 162. have become more "numb" to this crime             | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 163. have become less "numb" to this crime             | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 164. feel more comfortable with these cases now        | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 165. feel less comfortable with these cases now        | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 166. change in how question parties                    | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 167. change in procedures used                         | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 168. more aware of false reports/mention false reports | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 169. change in how handle cases, no elaboration        | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 170. no change in how handle cases                     | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 171. OTHER                                             | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 172. NO ANSWER                                         | 1. YES | 2. NO |

**98. What in your experiences (either professional or personal) has been most helpful to you in responding to rape cases?**

**CODES:**

- |                                                |        |       |
|------------------------------------------------|--------|-------|
| 173. training in police academy                | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 174. training at work                          | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 175. having a friend raped                     | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 176. being raped (self)                        | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 177. feedback from superiors                   | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 178. feedback from colleagues                  | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 179. feedback/information from rape counselors | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 180. having more contact with rape victims     | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 181. having more contact with rapists          | 1. YES | 2. NO |

|                                                 |        |       |
|-------------------------------------------------|--------|-------|
| 182. other training/presentations.....          | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 183. media.....                                 | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 184. experience with these cases/practice.....  | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 185. experience with false reports.....         | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 186. becoming more aware of rape.....           | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 187. seeing impact on victims.....              | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 188. showing/expressing compassion/empathy..... | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 189. not blaming victim.....                    | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 190. nothing.....                               | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 191. OTHER .....                                | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 192. NO ANSWER.....                             | 1. YES | 2. NO |

**99. How has your department and colleagues influenced how you respond to rape cases?**

**CODES:**

|                                                                  |        |       |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|-------|
| 193. made them see rape more seriously.....                      | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 194. made them see rape less seriously.....                      | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 195. influenced the professionalism with which they respond..... | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 196. education/training.....                                     | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 197. thoroughness of procedures.....                             | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 198. more compassion/empathy for victims.....                    | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 199. dept. made it more difficult/more bureaucratic.....         | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 200. dept. is now catching up to the officer.....                | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 201. no influence on how handle cases.....                       | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 202. OTHER .....                                                 | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 203. NO ANSWER.....                                              | 1. YES | 2. NO |

**100. How has your department and colleagues influenced how you think about rape in general?**

**CODES:**

|                                                       |        |       |
|-------------------------------------------------------|--------|-------|
| 204. more sympathy for victims.....                   | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 205. less sympathy for victims.....                   | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 206. more sympathy for assailant.....                 | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 207. less sympathy for assailant.....                 | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 208. see as more common.....                          | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 209. see as less common.....                          | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 210. see as more serious.....                         | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 211. see as less serious.....                         | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 212. changes in how see causes.....                   | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 213. changes in how view reporting.....               | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 214. changes in how think should be prosecuted.....   | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 215. changes in opinions toward women in general..... | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 216. dept. now catching up to the officer.....        | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 217. more aware of impact or welfare of victims.....  | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 218. training/education/experience.....               | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 219. no influence on how think about rape.....        | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 220. OTHER .....                                      | 1. YES | 2. NO |
| 221. NO ANSWER.....                                   | 1. YES | 2. NO |

## APPENDIX C

### Qualitative Coding Sheet Instructions

- 1./47. PENETRATION      have sex--yes  
                                 violation--no  
                                 unwanted sexual activity/contact/gratification--no  
                                 intercourse--yes
- 2./48. THREAT OF FORCE      coercion--yes  
                                 threat of force--yes  
                                 psychological pressure, talking, etc--no
- 3./49. FORCE                  use of force/used force--yes  
                                 "forced"--yes  
                                 "making . . . "--no
- 4./50. PSYCH. FORCE        begging, talking--yes  
                                 mental force--yes  
                                 till gives in--yes  
                                 psychological pressure--yes  
                                 mental violation--no
- 5./51. LACK OF CONSENT    "unwanted"--yes  
                                 "unwelcomed"--yes  
                                 "unwanted"--yes  
                                 "no"/"no means no"--yes  
                                 against her will--yes  
                                 force/forcibly--no  
                                 without consent/no consent--yes
- 7./53. GENDER NEUTRAL    someone, anyone, person--no  
                                 she/he; her/him--yes  
                                 regardless of gender--yes  
                                 either sex--yes
- 8./54. KNOWN NEUTRAL    (analogous to gender neutral question)  
                                 must be explicit that can happen to someone known to victim  
                                 or unknown
- 9./55. EMOTION. HARM.    implies or states that there is some emotional harm to  
                                 victims  
                                 degrading, humiliating--yes
- 10./56. DR/SR DISTINCTION    mentions "classic" DR things--yes  
                                 mentions DR exists--yes

|                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 14./60. INTENT SEX       | for sexual gratification--yes<br>for sex--yes                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 15./61. INTENT POWER     | for power or control--yes<br>for humiliation--yes<br>this is different than a general statement about power and control                                                                                                            |
| 16./62. INTENT DIDN'T R. | intent wasn't to hurt, just got carried away--yes                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 17./63. GEN. STATE. SEX  | must be a general statement/idea that is done for sex                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 18./64. GEN. ST. POWER   | rape is crime of power/coercion/control--yes                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 25./71. MENTAL ST. VIC.  | shaken up--yes<br>blacked out--yes<br>really wanted it--yes<br>drunk--no                                                                                                                                                           |
| 88. MENTION 4 DEGREES    | this is an either/or with 89.<br>this is for people who say are 4 degrees or list CSC I-CSC IV,<br>but give no def                                                                                                                 |
| 89. DEFINE 4 DEGREES     | explained the 4 degrees<br>does not have to be "correct"                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 91. SEXUAL TOUCHING      | mentioned outside context of 4 CSCs<br>must be mentioned by itself                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 92. INCORRECT            | partial or totally incorrect<br>(but if are off on one tiny detail, then DO NOT mark as incorrect)<br>2 ways to get this:<br>1. for people who define CSC (89.), but are wrong<br>2. people who don't define CSC, and get it wrong |

## LIST OF REFERENCES

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