

PERPETRATOR BEHAVIOR

research



Perpetrator Data

There is a growing body of research that gives insight into the behaviors and patterns of perpetrators. Research on batterers demonstrates the mechanisms most often used to exert power and control over a target – from the earliest warning signs to the most extreme forms of violence (Johnson et al., 2006). Literature examining the behaviors of sexual offenders, particularly offenders known to the victim, give profound and clear insight into their patterns – including how they target, assess, and isolate a victim. (Lisak & Roth, 1988; Lisak & Miller, 2002).

There is also significant research delineating the characteristics, risk factors, psychosocial and psychological attributes of physical, sexual and emotional child abusers (i.e., Finkelhor & Ormond, 2001; Milner & Dopke, 1997; Rodriguez & Price, 2004; Quinsey & Lalumiere, 2001).

Application to Violence Prevention:

If Social Diffusion Theory speaks to “who” and Bystander Theory speaks to “what”, then understanding how perpetrators operate in targeting, assessing and victimizing speaks to “how.” While the proposed model wants to engage bystanders in active intervention when they see a high-risk situation, the perpetrator literature is valuable in clearly delineating what constitutes a high-risk situation. By knowing what a perpetrator is likely to do, a bystander can be alerted to behaviors that require intervention.

**The research listed below was utilized to develop the Green Dot strategy.
Links are provided (when available), just click and you will be redirected to the
document!**

Burkhart, Karen Rapaport and Barry R. "Personality and Attitudinal Characteristics of Sexually Coercive College Males." Journal of Abnormal Psychology 93.2 (1984): 216-221.

PDF Link to research article: [Personality and Attitudinal Characteristics...](#)

David Lisak, Ph.D., and Susan Roth, Ph.D. "Motives and Psychodynamics of Self-Reported, Unincarcerated Rapists." American Orthopsychiatric Association, Inc. 60.2 (1990): 268-280.

Lisak, David. "Subjective Assessment of Relationships With Parents by Sexually Aggressive and Nonaggressive Men." Journal of Interpersonal Violence 9.3 (1994): 399-411.

Miller, David Lisak and Paul M. "Repeat Rape and Multiple Offending Among Undetected Rapists." Violence and Victims 17.1 (2002): 73-84.

Roth, David Lisak and Susan. "Motivational Factors in Nonincarcerated Sexually Aggressive Men." Journal of Personality and Social Psychology 55.5 (1988): 795-802.

PDF Link to research article: [Motivational Factors in Nonincarcerated...](#)

Thornhill, Neil M. Malamuth and Nancy Wilmsen. "Hostile Masculinity, Sexual Aggression, and Gender-Biased Domineeringness in Conversations." Aggressive Behavior 20 (1994): 185-193.

PDF Link to research article: [Hostile Masculinity, Sexual Aggression...](#)

VanDeusen, Joetta L. Carr and Karen M. "Risk Factors for Male Sexual Aggression on College Campuses." Journal of Family Violence 19.5 (2004): 279-289.

PDF Link to research article: [Risk Factors for Male Sexual Aggression...](#)

For more information about WOU Green Dot, the research used to develop the Green Dot Strategy, or how you can make a difference in our campus community, please contact:

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