

Sexual Assault Fact Sheet

- Nearly 9 out of 10 rapes or sexual assaults involved a single offender who had a prior relationship with the victim as a family member, intimate or acquaintance.¹
- The approximately 265,000 convicted sex offenders under the authority of corrections agencies in the U.S. represent less than 10% of all sex offenders living in communities nationwide.²
- Among adult sex offenders approximately 30% have been sexually abused. While this rate of abuse is higher than that of the general population, it still does not constitute a majority of sex offenders.³
- In one study 63% of identified sex offenders each committed an average of 5.7 offenses.⁴
- According to one FBI study, 75-85% of serial sex offenders used minimal or no physical force to commit rape.⁵
- Sexual history polygraph evaluation of detected sex offenders has shown that the majority of sex offenders are willing to commit rape and sexual assault against both children and adults.⁶
- In one study 122 identified sex offenders admitted to committing 386 completed rapes AND 365 acts of child sexual abuse.⁷

¹ Greenfeld, L., "Sex Offenses and Offenders: An Analysis of Data on Rape and Sexual Assault," U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics (Washington, DC, 1997).

² Ibid

³ Becker, J. and Murphy, W., "What We Know and Don't Know about Assessing and Treating Sex Offenders," *Psychology, Public Policy and Law* 4 (1998): 116-137

⁴ D. Lisak, and P. Miller, "Repeat Rape and Multiple Offending Among Undetected Rapists." *Violence and Victims*, Vol. 17, No. 1 2002.

⁵ J. Warren and R. Hazelwood, FBI, *The Criminal Behavior of the Serial Rapist*, February 2002.

⁶ O'Connell, M.A. (1998). Using polygraph testing to assess deviant sexual history of sex offenders. *Dissertation Abstracts International Section A: Humanities and Social Sciences*, 58(8-A), 3023

⁷ Lisak and Miller, 2002