

Military

# Challenges

Civilian

Investigate

Prosecute

Building on knowledge, research  
& promising best practices

Achieving Cultural Change to Eliminate  
Sexual Assault

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Insider Threat  
insider threats

95%

5%

There's more than we don't know  
than what we do know...

- We are experts in a few things and ignorant about most things (Me, 2013)

**"We're all ignorant,  
just about different stuff."**

*- Will Rogers*

There is only so much blame to go around...



Victim

Suspect

• **Behavior**

• **Responsibility**

• **Character**

• **Social expectations/morals/bias'**

# Sex offender prevalence



- The chances of being caught for a sexual offense is 3 percent (Abel et al, 1988)
- One study showed 44 percent of woman had either been victims of rape or attempted rape (Russell, 1984,2000)
- **561** sex offenders admitted to more than 291,000 sexual offenses with more than 195,000 victims – could fill two and a half Superdomes (Abel et al, 1987)
- 23 offenders in an incarcerated treatment program admitted to about 3 victims each – following polygraph they admitted to an average of 175 victims each (Van Wyk)
- Only about 5 percent of all rapists ever spend a day in jail (Saulter, 2003)
- Adult sexual assault prevalence – **Women 22%**, **Men 3.8%** (Elliot, Mok, Briere, 2004)

# Forcible Rape in the United States – Women over 18 Years of Age

**97,000 Men**

**683,000**

Tjaden & Thoennes, 1998



**1871 A DAY**



**78**  
**hour.ly**

National Victim Center

*Estimating the Incidence of Rape & Sexual Assault –  
National Research Council – Released Nov 2013*

- **“Rape has been widely underreported  
in America”**



**FBI – 85,593**

**NVCS – 188,380**

**CDC – 1.3 mil**

Actual Incidence of Sexual Assault Unknown

Report Victim Survey 143,900 100%

Reported to police (27,197) 18.9%

Recorded by Police (18,172)  
12.6%

Adjudicated  
defendants (1,816)  
1.3%

Proven guilty  
(1,383) 0.9%

Prison  
(1,024)  
0.7%



Gelb, 2007

Of 100 rapes committed

an estimated 5-20 are reported to police

0.4-5.4 are prosecuted

0.2-5.2 result in a conviction

incarceration

0.2-2.8

**Registered  
Sex Offender**



**UNREGISTERED  
SEX OFFENDER**



*The "Justice Gap" for Sexual Assault Cases: Future Directions for Research and Reform, Lonsway and Archambault, Violence Against Women, 2012 18(2) 145-168, 2012*



**If we do not  
change our direction,  
we are likely to end up  
where we are headed**

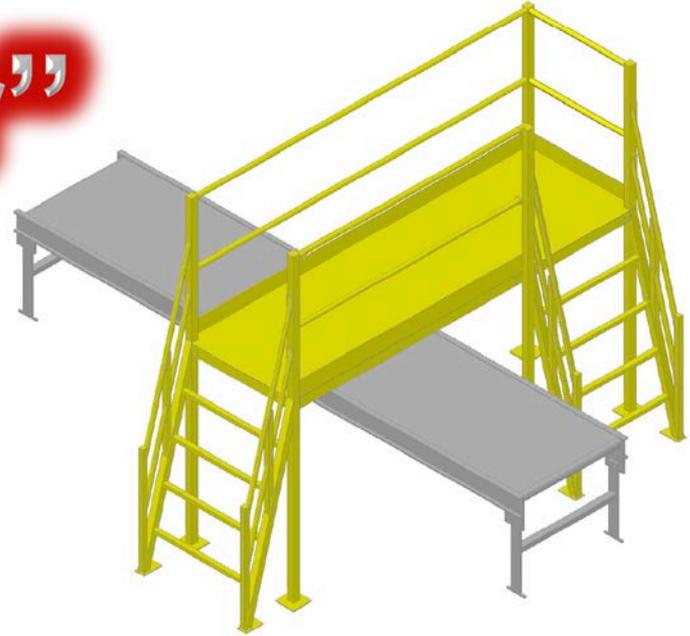
## Number and Types of Sexually Deviant Acts \*\* Diagnosis

| Diagnosis                        | Female<br>Noninc<br>Ped | Male<br>Noninc<br>Ped | Female<br>Inces<br>Ped | Male<br>Inces<br>Ped | Rape | Exhibi-<br>tion | Voyeur | Frottage | Other<br>Ds* |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|------|-----------------|--------|----------|--------------|
| Female<br>Nonincest<br>Pedophile |                         |                       |                        |                      |      |                 |        |          |              |
| Number                           | 224                     | 78                    | 78                     | 27                   | 55   | 65              | 32     | 24       | 44           |
| % of                             | 100%                    | 35%                   | 35%                    | 12%                  | 25%  | 29%             | 14%    | 11%      | 24%          |
| Male<br>Nonincest<br>Pedophile   |                         |                       |                        |                      |      |                 |        |          |              |
| Number                           | 78                      | 153                   | 19                     | 30                   | 17   | 31              | 16     | 12       | 26           |
| % of                             | 51%                     | 100%                  | 12%                    | 20%                  | 11%  | 20%             | 11%    | 8%       | 17%          |
| Female<br>Incest Pedophile       |                         |                       |                        |                      |      |                 |        |          |              |
| Number *                         | 78                      | 19                    | 159                    | 19                   | 30   | 31              | 11     | 10       | 32           |
| % of                             | 49%                     | 12%                   | 100%                   | 12%                  | 19%  | 20%             | 7%     | 6%       | 20%          |
| Male<br>Incest Pedophile         |                         |                       |                        |                      |      |                 |        |          |              |
| Number                           | 27                      | 30                    | 19                     | 44                   | 7    | 7               | 6      | 4        | 20           |
| % of                             | 61%                     | 68%                   | 43%                    | 100%                 | 16%  | 16%             | 14%    | 9%       | 23%          |
| Rape                             |                         |                       |                        |                      |      |                 |        |          |              |
| Number                           | 55                      | 17                    | 30                     | 7                    | 126  | 35              | 23     | 14       | 33           |
| % of                             | 44%                     | 14%                   | 24%                    | 6%                   | 100% | 28%             | 18%    | 11%      | 26%          |
| Exhibitionist                    |                         |                       |                        |                      |      |                 |        |          |              |
| Number                           | 65                      | 31                    | 31                     | 7                    | 35   | 142             | 39     | 23       | 42           |
| % of                             | 46%                     | 22%                   | 22%                    | 5%                   | 25%  | 100%            | 28%    | 16%      | 30%          |
| Voyeurism                        |                         |                       |                        |                      |      |                 |        |          |              |
| Number                           | 32                      | 16                    | 11                     | 6                    | 23   | 39              | 62     | 14       | 28           |
| % of                             | 52%                     | 26%                   | 18%                    | 10%                  | 37%  | 63%             | 100%   | 23%      | 45%          |
| Frottage                         |                         |                       |                        |                      |      |                 |        |          |              |
| Number                           | 24                      | 12                    | 10                     | 4                    | 14   | 23              | 14     | 62       | 14           |
| % of                             | 39%                     | 19%                   | 16%                    | 7%                   | 23%  | 37%             | 23%    | 100%     | 23%          |
| Other<br>Diagnosis*              |                         |                       |                        |                      |      |                 |        |          |              |
| Number                           | 44                      | 26                    | 32                     | 10                   | 33   | 42              | 28     | 14       | 150          |
| % of                             | 28%                     | 16%                   | 20%                    | 6%                   | 21%  | 26%             | 18%    | 9%       | 100%         |

\*Other diagnoses include: sadism; masochism; obscene phone calls; obscene mail; transvestism; transsexuality; fetishism; bestiality; urolagnia; odors; coprophilia; and necrophilia.

\*\* Abel, G. et al. (1988). Multiple paraphiliac diagnosis among sex offenders. *Bulletin of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law*. 16, 153-168.

# “Crossover”



- Multiple studies have demonstrated that between **33% and 66% of rapists have also sexually attacked children**; that up to **82% of child molesters have also sexually attacked adults**; and that **between 50% and 66% of incest offenders have also sexually attacked children outside their families.** (Weinrott, Saylor, 1991)(Nisbett, Wilson, Smallbone, 2004)(Heil, Ahlmeyer, Simons, 2003)(Wilcox, Sosnowski, 2005)

# Previous research on sex offenders

- Most of the historical research on sex offenders was gained from research known/incarcerated offenders...**the ones that were caught**
- If we want to continue on the path we are on (**majority of sex offenders are never identified/believed/caught**) we should stick with what we think we know
- If we want to prevent sexual assault we must look beyond the bias and beyond the known/incarcerated offenders
- So how do we do that? We already are...



# Big Five Personality Traits

Neuroticism

Extraversion

Openness

Agreeableness

Conscientiousness

38 Men (7.29%) reported rape  
31 Men (5.95%) reported sexual assault  
424 Men reported no perpetration at all

Voller, Long (2010)

# Surprise!

- Sexual assault perpetrators were more similar to non-perpetrators than to rapists
- Rape perpetrators endorsed significantly lower levels of excitement seeking when compared to both sexual assault perpetrators and non-perpetrators - say what?
- Perpetrators of sexual aggression DID NOT reveal higher scores for hostility or impulsivity
- The only difference found between sexual assault perpetrators and non-perpetrators was the facet of depression with sexual assault perpetrators endorsing higher levels of depression

# Additional Differences

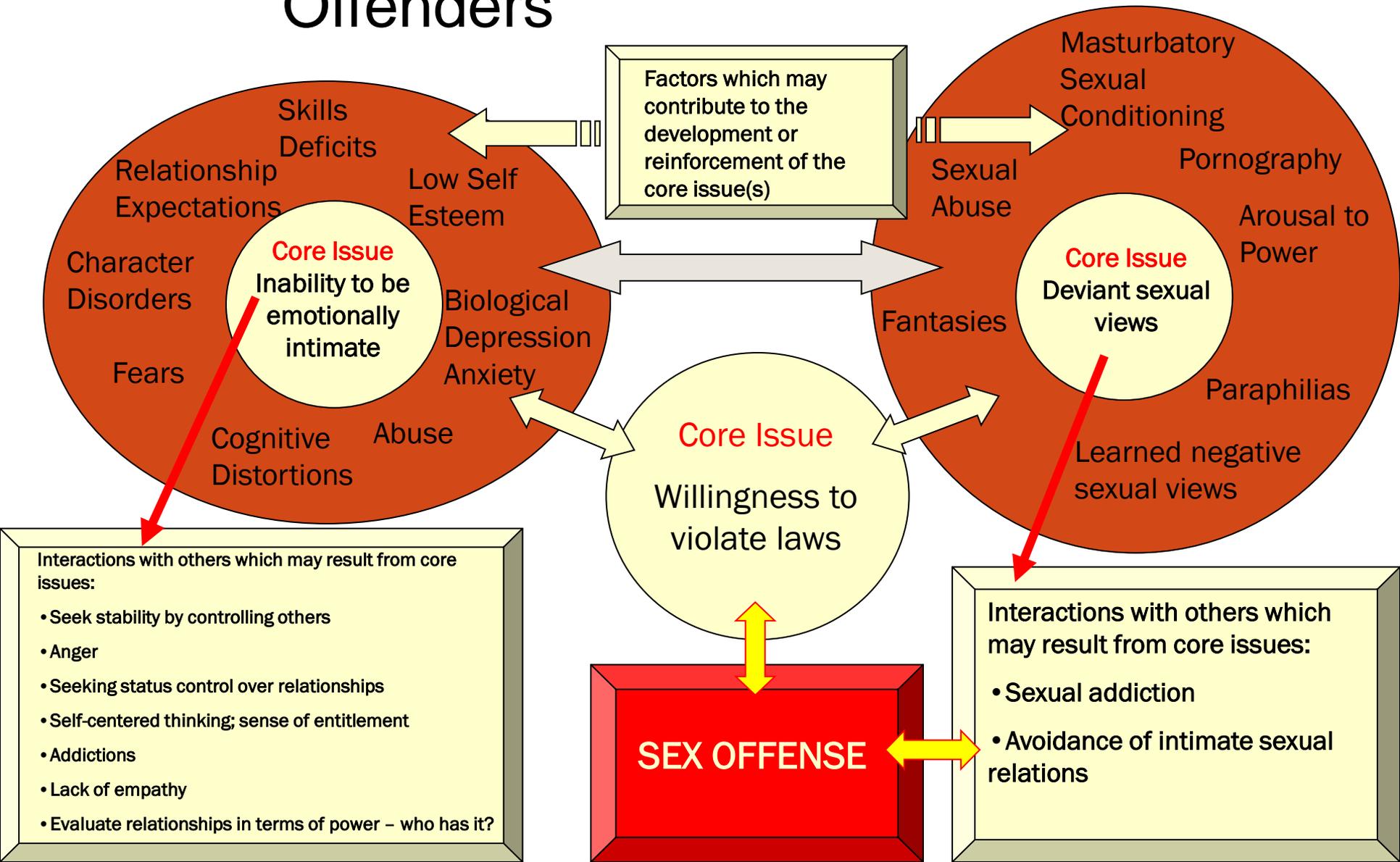
- Sex offenders presented **significantly less** hostility, depression, tension, psychopathy, impulsivity, and aggression than [nonsexual] violent offenders (Craig, Browne, Beech, & Stringer, 2006)
- Individuals convicted for rape and child sexual abuse presented **significantly more** neuroticism than nonconvicted sexual offenders (Carvalho, Nombro, 2013)

# Sex offenders are as individual as they are individual

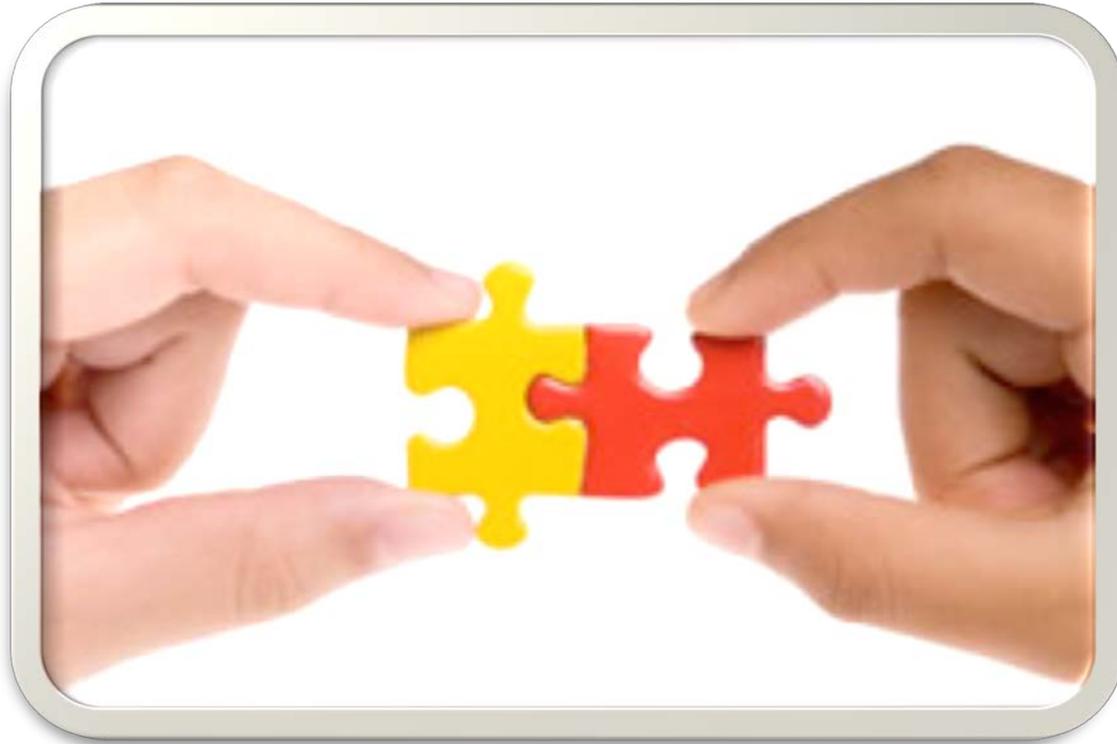
Sexual assault is a complex interaction of many individual factors, including personality and experiences



# Model for Understanding Sex Offenders



# ALL behavior is functional



# How much do we lie?

- "Human beings--who, according to psychologist Gerald Jellison of the University of South California, are lied to about 200 times a day, roughly one untruth every five minutes--**often deceive for exactly the same reasons: to save their own skins or to get something they can't get by other means.**"



# The **Science** of Human Deception Detection

**Contrary to VERY popular  
belief...**

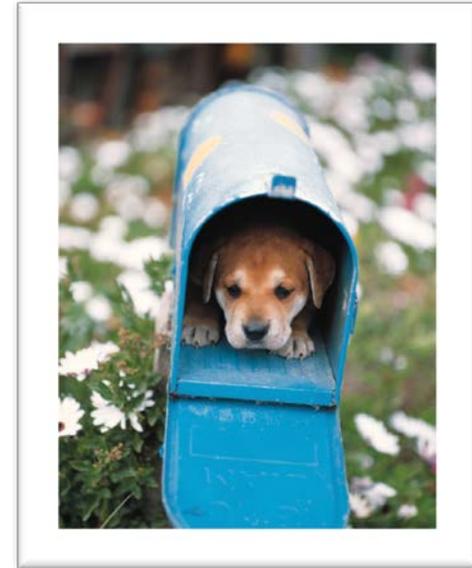


**There is little!**

# The **Third** Persona

- First Persona
- Second Persona

## Third Persona



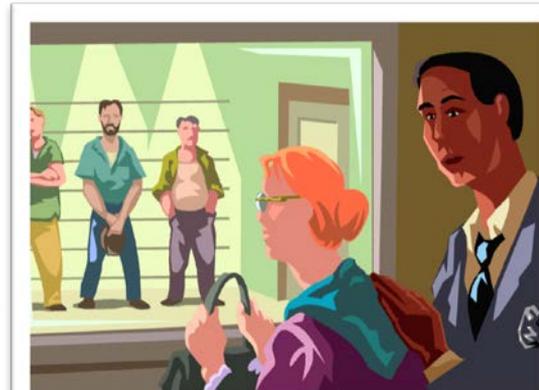
**P**  
**U**  
**P**

# Sex Offenders

- Come from all walks of life, all ages, all cultures & religions, and both genders
- Often commit many types of sex offenses and other crimes
- Most are serial sex offenders
- Offend for numerous reasons
- Most are nice, kind, empathetic, and caring (on the outside)
- Most are masters of deceit
- Most are not caught
- Most will re-offend again

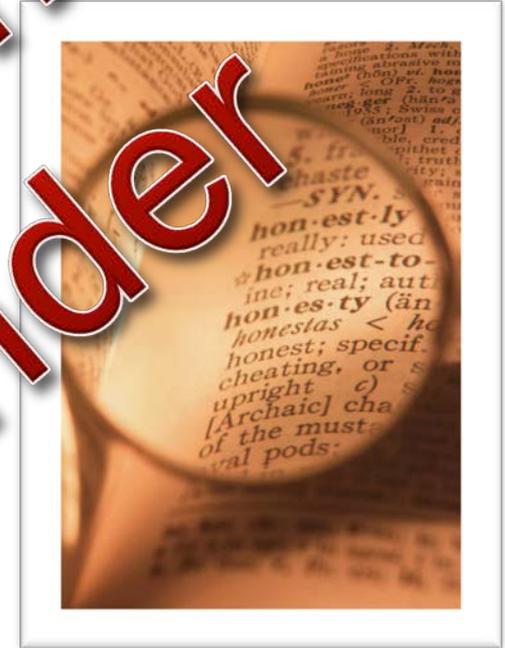


**99% like you and I** <sup>25</sup>

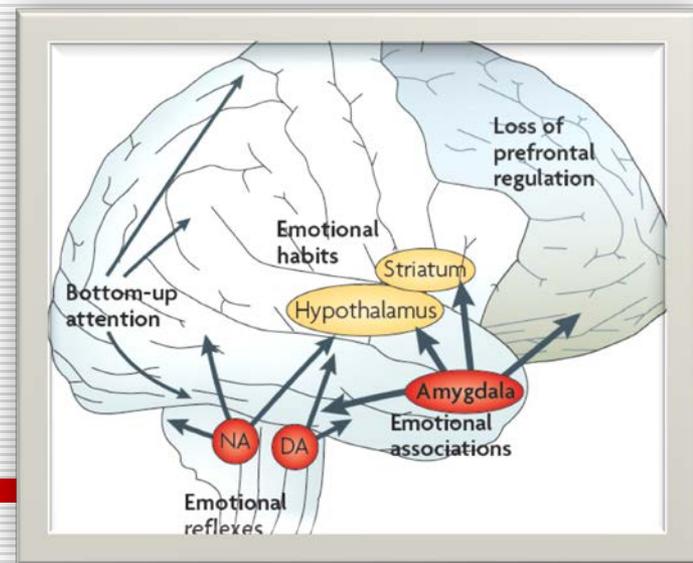
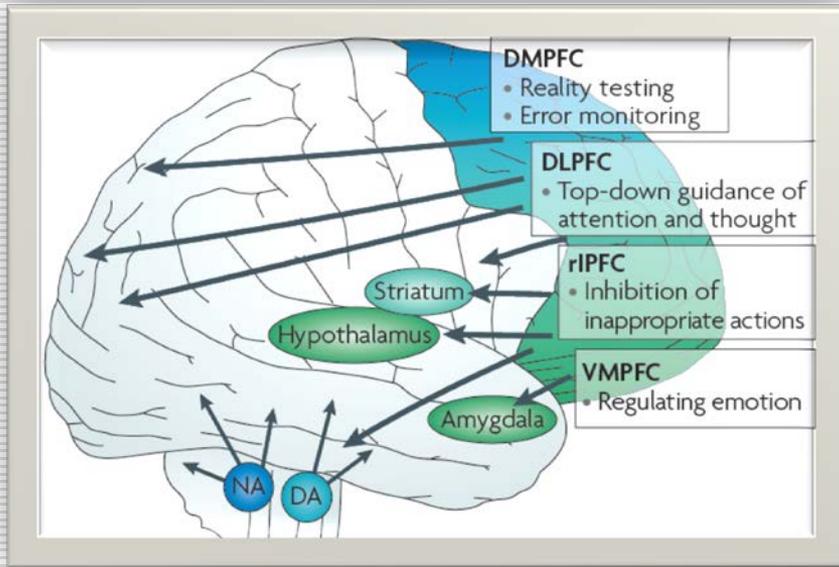


# Common Challenges

- Lack of physical resistance
- Tonic Immobility
- Delayed reporting
- Inconsistent or unclear statements
- Lack of victim cooperation
- Recantations
- Feelings/fears of doubt or blame
- Temporary Reduction Behaviors
- Past and/or present conduct (sexual or otherwise)
- "He said, she said"



**Isolated Crime**

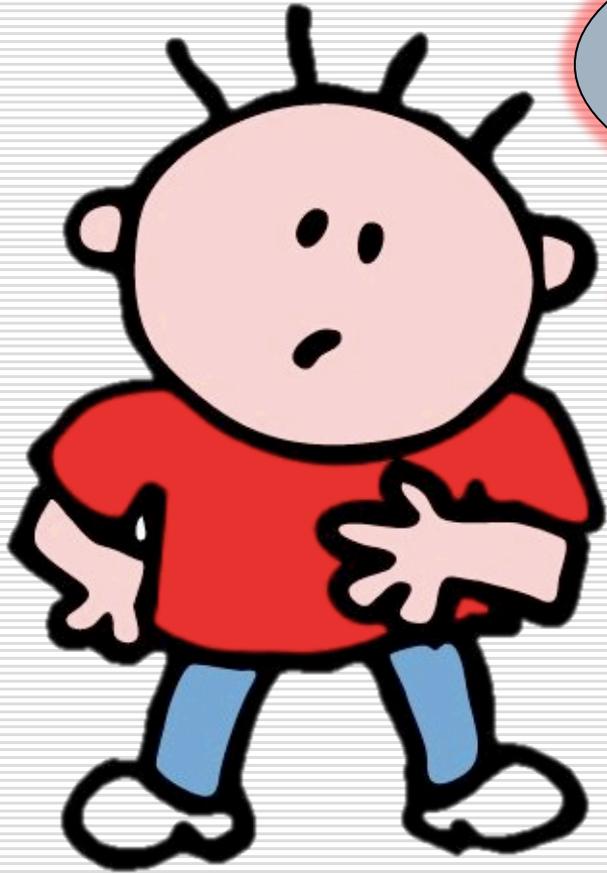


# Perpetrator Victim

- Not stressed
- Prefrontal cortex in control
- Thinking and behavior:
  - Planned
  - Practiced
  - Habitual

- Terrified, overwhelmed
- **Amygdala in control**
- Attention and thoughts driven by perpetrator actions
- Behavior controlled by emotional reflexes and habits from childhood (incl. abuse)

# Who Will Have Memories of the Assault that makes more sense?



**Inconsistent statements  
do not always = a lie**

# No one thing = memory.

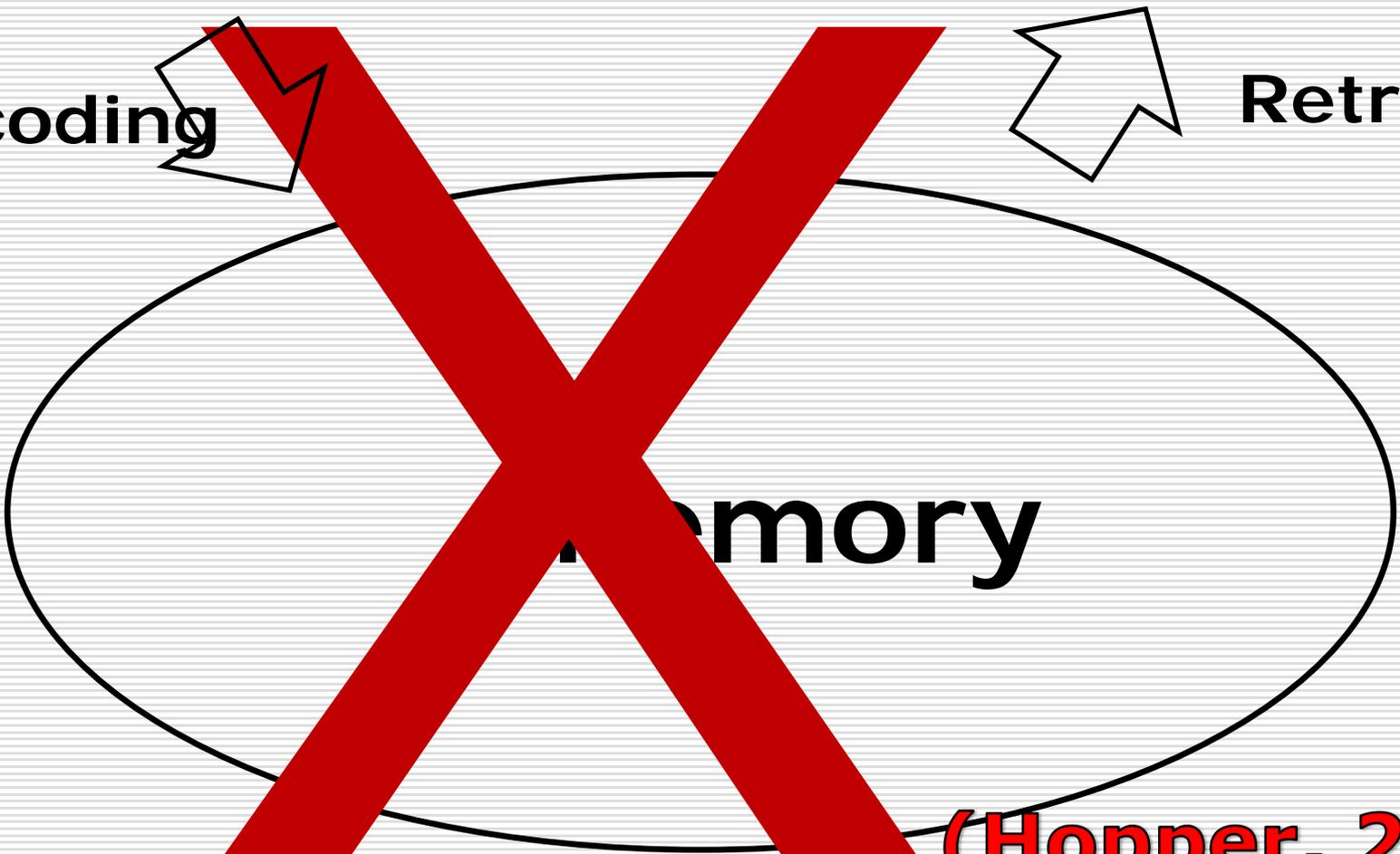
Original

Event/Experience

Particular  
Remembrance

Encoding

Retrieval



(Hopper, 2012)

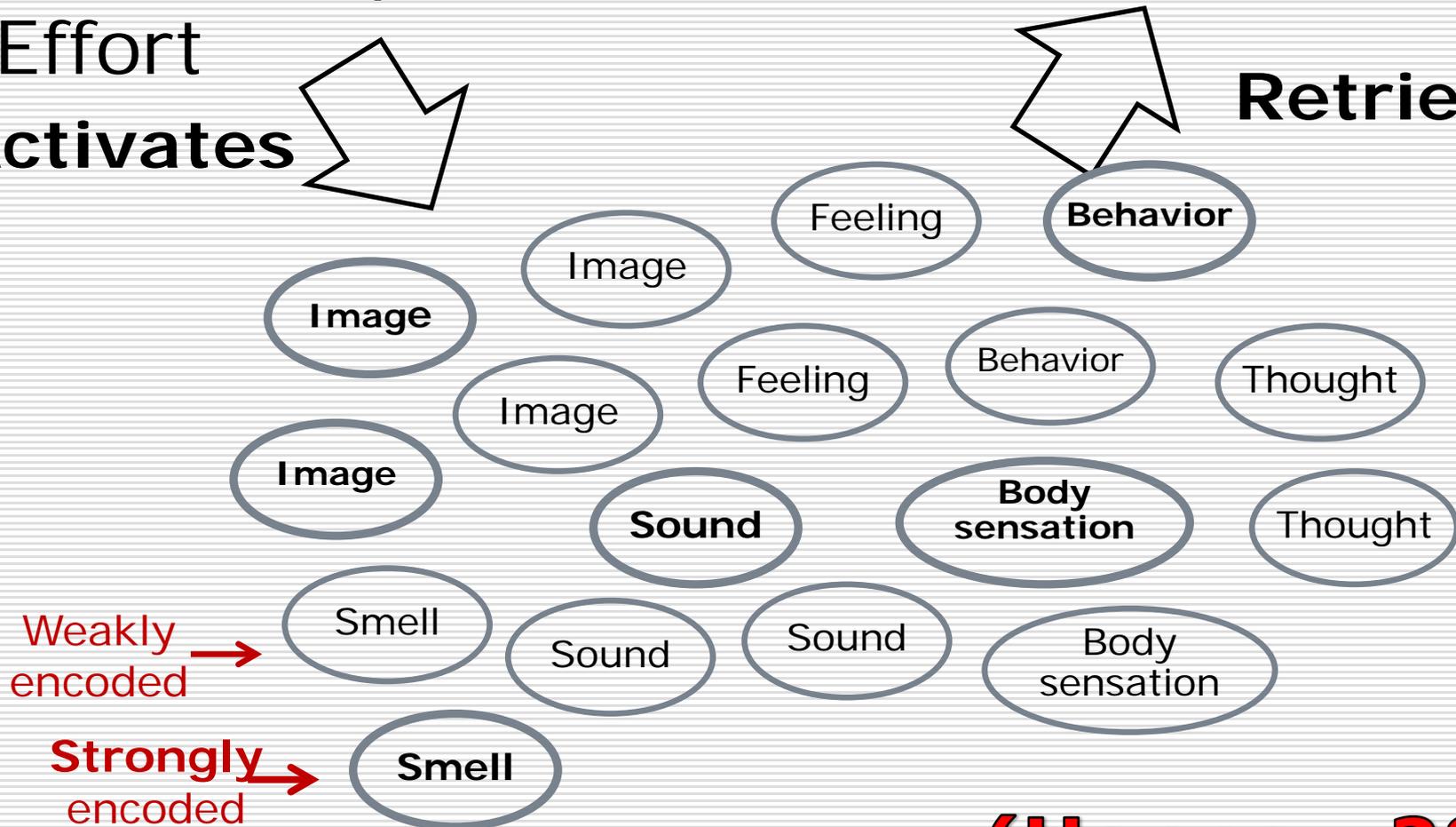
# No one thing = memory.

Bottom-Up Trigger  
and/or Top-Down  
Effort

Particular  
Remembrance

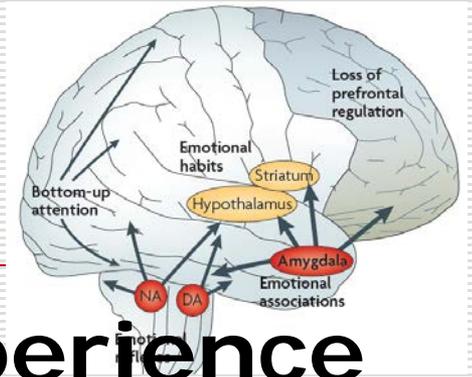
Activates

Retrieval



(Hopper, 2012)

# What Gets **Encoded** **During Trauma**



- Parts or fragments of experience deeply 'burned into' memory
  - Traumatic **emotions**
  - **Sensations** processed as 'central details'
- Not sequence of events
- Minimal or no words or narrative

**(Hopper, 2012)**

# Attention and Memory

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During assault, attention is focused on **what seems most important** to survival and coping in the moment

## • **Central Details**

- 'Weapon focus'
- Can vary greatly depending on nature of assault, victim's brain's interpretation of situation, etc.
- **Consequences:** Central (vs. **peripheral**) details are
  - Deeply encoded
  - More likely to be remembered (a) accurately and (b) consistently over time

# Tonic Immobility

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- Tonic immobility is characterized by **pronounced verbal immobility**, **trembling**, **muscular rigidity**, **sensations of cold**, and **numbness** or insensitivity to intense or painful stimulation (Marks, 1991)
- Tonic Immobility is **induced** by conditions of **fear and physical restriction**, although it can also occur in the absence of the latter, so the important aspect may be the **perceived** inability to escape (Heidt, Marx, & Forsythe, 2005)

**Up to 44 % of  
Sexual Assaults**

# Collecting Psychophysiological Evidence in **Trauma** Cases

**Smells**

**Trembling**

**Sights**

**Sounds**

**Flashbacks**

**Experience**

**Terror**

**Tonic Immobility**

**Nausea**

**Incapacitation**

**Memory Gaps**

**Feelings**



# “Forensic Experiential Trauma Interview” (FETI)

Victims should not  
be treated as  
witnesses to their  
own crime

- This unique advanced interview technique, developed by USAMPS, combines the best of **child forensic interview techniques** along with the principles of **critical incident stress debriefings** and new **neurobiology research** to obtain not just the who, what, why, when, where, and how of the incident, but also **the three dimensional experiential aspect of the crime**. This process solicits and documents critical forensic physiological evidence. Based on feedback from the field this new technique has already shown to be substantially more effective in obtaining information and substantially more beneficial evidence which results in more successful prosecutions of sexual assault cases. The FETI technique is also being trained by our Army trainers to Federal, State, and local civilian agencies and has been embraced as a promising best practice.

**Creating a culture of helping victims  
come forward**

# “Responsive & Responsible” Recommendations

- Take **ALL** reports of sexist & sexual assault behaviors seriously **regardless** of the perceived reputation or credibility of either the reported victim or suspect.
- Investigate reports of sexual assault as potential serial crimes.
- All professionals must recognize their own **limitations** on detecting deceit and judging character.
- Understand and apply the principles of the neuroscience of sexual trauma
- Require the training and utilization of trauma informed interview and cross-examination techniques
- Take a close look at what we are doing to prevent and respond to violence...**not pet rocks**...identify what's working and **what's not**...explore new ideas...then summon some strength and **CHANGE**...yourself, the system, the...**world**

**Culture change must  
be...personal...to  
everyone...all the time**

**Assist, Protect,  
Defend**



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