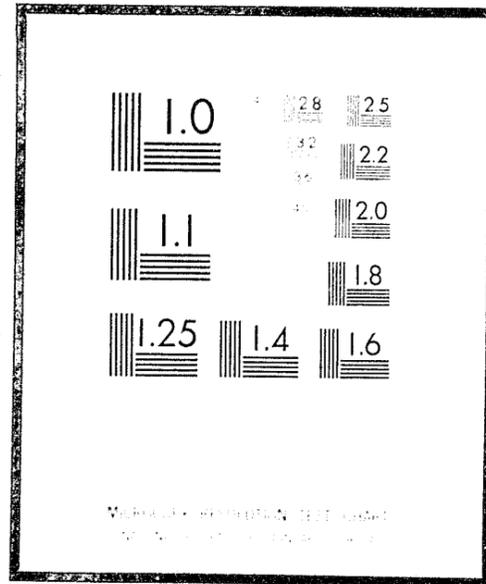


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MCJC

BASE LINE DATA RELATING TO RAPE IN POLK COUNTY

Tom Isaac

Des Moines/Polk County Metropolitan Criminal Justice Center
Drake University
Des Moines, Iowa 50311

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BASE LINE DATA RELATING TO RAPE IN POLK COUNTY

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DES MOINES/POLK COUNTY METROPOLITAN CRIMINAL JUSTICE CENTER
DRAKE UNIVERSITY, DES MOINES, IOWA 50311
(515) 271-3861

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I. INTRODUCTION

In early 1974, a number of factors persuaded the staff of the Metropolitan Criminal Justice Center to undertake the following study. During this period the local community experienced an increased awareness and concern not only over a rising rate of sexual assaults and rape, but also the problems encountered by victims of these crimes. This increased public awareness led to a series of discussions aimed toward problem solution. These discussions took formal form on May 6th and 7th, 1974 when the "Mayor's Citizen's Council on Rape" was held in Des Moines. The data which follows was generated in part to supply a factual basis for discussion at this conference.

A second reason for the collection of this data was in an effort to fulfill the Criminal Justice Center's obligation to develop programs of an innovative nature geared toward improving the quality of local criminal justice. Unfortunately, before a viable project seeking federal funding could be developed, the pilot cities program, of which the Criminal Justice Center was a part, was ended.

Perhaps the most significant conclusions which could be drawn from the project is an assessment of the degree of difficulty in gaining data pertaining to the topic of rape. With the only logical possibilities of gaining baseline data bearing on the topic being the police reports, the victim, in some instances hospital or medical reports and possibly the offender, the study was necessarily limited from the beginning.

Because of the very nature of the crime and the resulting humiliation, embarrassment and shock experienced by the victim, the possibility of contacting the victims was ruled out. The confidential hospital-doctor-patient relation-

ship prevented any use of medical records. The local hospitals were, however, extremely cooperative and helpful in providing general information concerning policies, procedures and the number of patients treated. As the offenders were either unknown or unavailable, we were forced to rely exclusively on police reports for baseline data.

We were very fortunate in gaining the cooperation of the Des Moines Police Department and the Polk County Sheriff's Office. After adequate procedures for the protection of victim privacy and the prevention of any possible interference with an ongoing investigation effort, we were allowed access to the department case files and arrest records.

The Criminal Justice Center wishes to extend its sincere appreciation to Chief Wendell Nichols and Sheriff Sam Wise without whose cooperation the following data could not have been collected.

II. METHODOLOGY

Upon deciding to undertake some type of project concerning the rape situation in Polk County and assessing the potential information resources, it was determined to compose some type of data collection instrument which would hopefully extract as much information as possible from police reports. An attempt was made to gather information concerning the victim, the offender, the attack itself, the police procedures involved and the cases' final disposition.

Research assistants from the Criminal Justice Center and officers from the Sheriff's Office and Police Department read through each police report depicting rape from the period beginning January 1, 1973, and ending April 30, 1974, completing the data collection instrument which is reproduced in this volume. Only forcible or "common law" rape reports were utilized. Statutory rape situations

were not recorded.

Unfortunately some of the information concerning the victim was not available from these reports. A number of cases were also still under investigation and it was impossible to record a final disposition of the case.

Early in the data collection effort it became apparent that there were a number of instances which were reported as and filed under the category of forcible rape, but were later labeled "unfounded" by the police. In an effort to isolate any factors which might be unique to either the founded or unfounded situations, data was collected from both types of reports.

After the data was collected it was codified. Computers were utilized to reduce the data to meaningful numbers and appropriate percentages.

With a few exceptions noted in the body of this work, it was felt that the data should be offered to the reader without an attempt on the Criminal Justice Center's part to draw hard conclusions. A few general conclusions or at least possibilities for future research, however, are incorporated within the body of the report.

It is hoped that the data and comments provided in this work will provide areas of interest for future research in the area of criminal sexual assaults and aid in validating any conclusions drawn from such future study.

III. SAMPLE DATA COLLECTION INSTRUMENT

FORM I

I. VICTIM PROFILE

1. Police Department Case Number _____
2. Date of Birth _____
3. Race of Victim _____
4. Height/Weight of Victim _____
5. Marital Stacus of Victim:
 Single Married Separated Divorced
6. Education:
 Eighth Grade or Less High School College Graduate School
7. Socio-Economic Status:
 0-\$6,000 \$6,000-\$15,000 Above \$15,000
 Is victim receiving public assistance? _____
8. Husband's Occupation: _____
9. Does victim have children? _____
 If yes, how many? _____
10. Was victim pregnant at time of rape? _____
11. As indicated by these records, does victim have history of reporting rape in the past? _____
 If so, how many previous complaints? _____
12. Who made the decision to call the police?
 Spouse Victim Hospital Other _____
13. Is there any indication in the police file that victim told anyone else but police?
14. Does victim have arrest record? _____
 If so, what type of arrest?

- 15. Was victim under influence of drugs or alcohol at the time of the incident?
- 16. Was victim alone at time of incident (excluding attacker)? _____
If answer to above question is no, who accompanied victim?
- Is this a multiple victim report? _____
- 17. What activity was victim engaged in just prior to being attacked?
- 18. What was victim wearing at time of incident?

II. DETAILS OF EVENT

A. The Attacker

- 1. What was the relationship of the attacker to the victim?
 Friend Husband Living Companion Acquaintance
 Boy Friend X-Husband Neighbor Stranger
 Relative
- 2. Race of Attacker _____
- 3. Age (Approximate) of attacker _____
- 4. Did attacker appear under the influence of drugs or alcohol? _____
- 5. Did attacker threaten victim either verbally or non-verbally?
- 6. Did the attacker tell the victim that if she cooperated, she would escape injury?

- 7. Did attacker specifically warn victim not to report the incident to the police?
- 8. Where attacker unknown to victim, did he insist that he knew the victim's identity, address, etc.?
- 9. Was the victim shown a weapon? _____
If so, what type? _____
- 10. How was the attacker dressed?
- 11. Was this a solo attack, partners, gang?
- 12. How did the attacker make his initial approach? (posing as an imposter, by ruse, etc.)

B. Place and Circumstances of Attack

- 1. Describe the physical surroundings of the attack.

Location:

- in victim's house
- in victim's car
- in house (other)
- in public place
- in private place
- on street

Conditions:

- indoors/outdoors
- well lighted/poorly lighted
- crowded/deserted
- other - explain

- 2. Date and Time of Incident _____
Date and Time of Report _____
- 3. Did the victim scream for help? _____
If answer to above is yes, is it likely that people were within earshot?
- 4a. Did the victim have a weapon or any self-defense capability at her disposal?
- b. Did she attempt to use a weapon against her attacker?
- c. Did she report struggling against her attacker?
- 5. Does the police report indicate that the victim showed physical signs of having been assaulted?
- 6. Does the police report indicate that attacker made sexual demands in addition to forced intercourse? Explain.

III. THE POLICE INTERVIEW

- 1. Where was the initial interview conducted?
- 2. How much time elapsed between the incident and this interview?
- 3. How many police officers were present at the interview?
- 4. How many different persons did the questioning?

- 5. Is there any indication in the police file that the complaint was labeled as bogus?
- 6. How long did the interview take?
- 7. Was a formal complaint filed?
- 8. Was victim accompanied by a friend or spouse during the interview?
- 9. Was a female police officer present?
- 10. Was victim recontacted at any time after the initial interview?
- 11. How extensive was the follow-up?
- 12. Are there any words in the police report that describe the emotional state of the victim? Example: hysterical, calm, etc.
- 13. Did the police personally examine the scene of the crime to search for evidence?
- 14. Did the police recommend, instigate, or approve a hospital examination of the victim?

IV. DISPOSITION OF THE CASE

- 1. Opening Date _____
- 2. Closing Date _____
- 3. Was official complaint made? _____

4. Was the case labeled "Unfounded"? _____
5. How many people were assigned to the case? _____
6. Name the officer or officers assigned to the case.
7. Was a suspect ever identified?
8. Did the victim ever witness a line-up?
9. Did the victim ever collaborate with police artists to draw up a composite?
10. Was an arrest made?
11. Did the victim refuse to prosecute?
12. Was there a trial?
13. Did the trial result in a conviction?
14. If answer to previous question is yes, what sentenced was imposed?
15. Did the law enforcement agency ever request the assistance of the State Police or F.B.I.?

IV. DATA AND DISCUSSION

During the period of study the Des Moines Police Department and the Polk County Sheriff's Office received a total of seventy-one reports of forcible rapes. Twenty-four of those cases were at some point during the investigation labeled as unfounded or bogus. The forty-seven reports considered to be genuine were carried in the police filing system as cleared by arrest, open, or suspended for lack of investigative leads to follow or on request of the victim.

When a case is labeled as unfounded the police have become convinced that nothing legally defined as rape has occurred, i.e., the victim was lying, an incident did occur but one or more of the elements of rape was not present, the victim did not know what may be legally prosecuted as rape and was attempting to report another type of assault.

Several factors were considered by the police in making the decision to label a case as unfounded. Among these factors are:

1. The time lapse between the alleged incident and the first report to the police;
2. Accuracy of facts reported to the police and any conflicting reports or evidence;
3. Relationship between the victim and her alleged attacker;
4. Presence or absence of physical evidence of the crime;
5. Previous contacts the victim has had with the police;
6. Sufficiency of evidence in prosecuting the accused under the rape statute;
7. The amount of cooperation anticipated by the police from the victim; and
8. The desires and wishes of the victim pertaining to carrying out a prosecution effort.

TABLE I
RACE OF VICTIM

	FOUNDED		UNFOUNDED	
White	38	81%	17	71%
Black	2	4%	4	17%
Span. American	1	2%	1	4%
Unknown	5	13%*	2	8%

*Unknown implies that the race of the victim was not given in the police report.

When considering the relatively small size of the sample, it appears that there is a slight trend toward increased victimization of white females. This trend could be explained by positing that white victims are more willing to report the incident than are black victims.

TABLE II
MARITAL STATUS

	FOUNDED		UNFOUNDED	
Single	33	70%	16	67%
Married	5	11%	5	21%
Divorced	2	4%	0	-
Unknown	7	15%*	3	12%

*Unknown means that in the police report no information relating to the marital status could be made or no inference could be made. A number of the single people above are inferences.

The data depicting the marital status of the victim is consistent with that contained in Table III, Age of Victim, in that a larger proportion of unmarried females are found in the lower age groups.

TABLE III
AGE OF VICTIM

	FOUNDED		UNFOUNDED	
12-14	3	6%	1	4%
15-17	10	21%	3	12%
18-21	12	26%	8	33%
22-25	77	15%	4	17%
26-30	6	13%	3	12%
31-35	2	4%	2	8%
36-40	3	6%	1	4%
41-50	0	-	0	-
51-65	1	2%	0	-
65 over	1	2%	0	-
Not given	2	4%	1	4%

There are a number of postulates which could be considered in determining why younger females account for a high percentage of victimization. Of course one may at first conclude that younger females, being more attractive, are more rape prone. This may be true, however, one should also consider that the young female is more apt to be single and thus unescorted or escorted by a recent acquaintance. The young unmarried female is also more likely to live alone, and socialize in public places.

TABLE IV
HAS VICTIM REPORTED RAPE IN THE PAST?

	FOUNDED		UNFOUNDED	
Yes	5	11%	3	12%
No	40	85%	19	79%
Unknown*	1	2%	2	8%

*Unknown implies that there was some question as to the identity of this victim being the same as a previous victim. This question usually was brought about through a change in marital status and the resulting name change in address.

Only the records of the Des Moines Police Department and the Polk County Sheriff's Office were researched. Conceivably a victim carried as "no" above could have reported rape to a different law enforcement agency in the past with the report not appearing during our efforts.

TABLE V

WHO MADE THE DECISION TO NOTIFY THE POLICE

	FOUNDED		UNFOUNDED	
Victim	30	64%	15	62%
Spouse	2	4%	1	4%
Hospital	2	4%	2	8%
Mother	5	11%	1	4%
Father	3	6%	1	4%
Other relation	2	4%	2	8%
Citizen victim went to for help	2	4%	-	-
DNA	1	2%	2	8%

Although the above table reflects that in two cases a hospital made the decision to notify the police this is probably not an accurate finding. In another study performed concurrently with this research it was learned that each hospital in Des Moines has the policy of not reporting rape incidents to the police without the approval of the victim. This of course is an ethical question and involves the patients right to privacy and a confidential relationship with her physician.

Hospitals are, however, required by statute to report to the police or sheriff any "injury of violence which appears to have been received in connection with a criminal offense".¹ It is conceivable that a rape victim may have suffered a serious bodily injury which the hospital was required to report and the police learned of the rape while investigating the wound.

¹1973 Code of Iowa Chapter 147.111

There is also a question of whether a hospital must report the forcible rape of a juvenile under the child abuse statute.²

TABLE VI

IS THERE ANY INDICATION THAT VICTIM TOLD ANYONE BESIDES THE POLICE OF THE ATTACK BEFORE POLICE SUMMONED?

	FOUNDED		UNFOUNDED	
Yes	30	64%	19	79%
No	16	34%	3	12%
DNA	1	2%	2	8%

In recording the information for this category we utilized anyone who gained knowledge of the incident before a police report was made. This at times included people who found the victim after the attack, hospital personnel and people whom the victim requested assistance from.

TABLE VII

DOES VICTIM HAVE AN ARREST RECORD?

	FOUNDED		UNFOUNDED	
Yes	7	15%	7	29%
No	40	85%	17	71%

Again only records of local jurisdictions were searched and again problems of identity arose in several cases. Unless positive identification was made, we recorded the victim as having no arrest records. Only one victim had been arrested for a felony while the remainder of arrests were for simple misdemeanors, primarily intoxication and shoplifting.

²1973 Code of Iowa Chapter 235A

TABLE VIII

WAS VICTIM UNDER INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL OR DRUGS?

	FOUNDED		UNFOUNDED	
Sober	21	45%	9	38%
Been drinking	9	19%	6	25%
Drunk	13	28%	5	21%
Under drugs	0	0%	3	12%
Unknown	4	9%	1	4%

The police report bears a category marked "sobriety" which the reporting officer is required to complete. It is not certain, however, whether this pertains to the time of the report or the time of the crime. In a number of cases there was a substantial time lag between the two times and sobriety could have changed greatly either way. When there was such a time lag, an attempt was made to learn the victims state at the time of the crime from the body of the report.

TABLE IX

WAS VICTIM ALONE?

	FOUNDED		UNFOUNDED	
Yes	35	75%	16	67%
No	11	23%	7	29%
Unknown	1	2%	1	4%

TABLE X

WHO ACCOMPANIED VICTIM
IF NOT ALONE?

	FOUNDED		UNFOUNDED	
Friends	3	6%	2	8%
Children	4	8%	3	12%
Brother or sister	1	2%	-	-
Roomate	2	4%	2	8%
Other people in general vicinity	1	2%	-	-
DNA	36	77%	17	71%

TABLE XI

WHAT ACTIVITY WAS VICTIM ENGAGED
IN PRIOR TO BEING ATTACKED?

	FOUNDED		UNFOUNDED	
Sleeping at home	8	17%	5	21%
Hitch hiking	4	8%	2	8%
Walking on street*	13	28%	7	29%
At a tavern	3	6%	3	12%
Awake at home	15	32%	3	12%
Visiting friends house	4	8%	3	12%
Unknown	-	-	1	4%

*Walking on street includes all pedestrian travel in a public place.

The fact that no reports were made where the victim was traveling in an automobile when assaulted is possibly of significance in planning any rape prevention program.

TABLE XII

RELATIONSHIP OF ASSAILANT TO VICTIM

	FOUNDED		UNFOUNDED	
Friend or acquaintance	12	25%	12	50%
Boyfriend	1	2%	1	4%
Relative	1	2%	1	4%
Stranger	33	70%	9	38%
Husband	0	-	1	4%
Ex-husband	0	-	0	-

The finding that in 29% of the founded and 62% of the unfounded cases, the victim knew the identity of her assailant is worthy of comment. Certainly this factor weighs very heavily when the police are assessing the veracity of the victim. It may also play a significant role in the rather high number of victim decisions not to assist in the prosecution of her assailant.

TABLE XIII
RACE OF ATTACKER

	FOUNDED		UNFOUNDED	
White	26	55%	12	50%
Black	16	34%	9	38%
Spanish American	0	-	0	-
Unknown	5	11%	3	12%

In five cases the victim was unable to give the police a basic description of her attacker. In some cases this was due to the method by which the crime was perpetrated, i.e., in a very dark place or by blindfolding the victim. In other cases, however, the victim was so traumatized by the incident that she could not recall details of the assault.

It would appear that blacks are more prone to commit rape than their population would suggest (blacks comprise about 6% of the population of Polk County). However, from other studies it appears that blacks are over represented in arrests for all types of criminal activity. When viewed in this light the rather high percentage of blacks that are accused in rape cases loses some of its significance. Victim reporting tendencies could also have a strong influence on this figure in that it is generally accepted that a significant percentage of rapes are not reported to the police.

TABLE XIV
AGE OF ATTACKER

	FOUNDED		UNFOUNDED	
Under 20	6	13%	3	12%
20-25	25	53%	8	33%
26-30	7	15%	6	25%
31-35	2	4%	1	4%
36-40	2	4%	2	8%
41-45	0	-	0	-
46-50	1	2%	0	-
51 & over	0	-	1	4%
Unknown	4	8%	3	12%

The age given by the victim to the police in her description of the attacker

was utilized when no arrest was made. When an arrest was made or the identity of the attacker was known his actual age was recorded.

TABLE XV
DID THE ATTACKER THREATEN HIS VICTIM EITHER
VERBALLY OR NON-VERBALLY?

	FOUNDED		UNFOUNDED	
Yes	35	74%	13	54%
No	8	17%	5	21%
DNA*	4	8%	6	25%

*DNA implies that the rape situation was one which made the use of any type of threat inappropriate or unnecessary.

Any forceful touching or effort to quiet the victims resistance was recorded as a non-verbal threat.

TABLE XVI
DID THE ATTACKER TELL VICTIM THAT IF SHE
COOPERATED SHE WOULD ESCAPE INJURY?

	FOUNDED		UNFOUNDED	
Yes	12	26%	4	17%
No	23	49%	9	38%
DNA*	12	26%	11	46%

*In the DNA category are cases where the rape situation would have made this remark inappropriate.

TABLE XVII
DID THE ATTACKER SPECIFICALLY WARN HIS VICTIM
NOT TO REPORT INCIDENT TO THE POLICE?

	FOUNDED		UNFOUNDED	
Yes	8	17%	5	21%
No	27	57%	12	50%
DNA*	12	26%	7	29%

*Again, there were situations where this remark would have been inappropriate if made by attacker.

TABLE XVIII

WHERE THE ATTACKER WAS UNKNOWN TO HIS VICTIM, DID HE INSIST HE KNEW VICTIM'S IDENTITY, ADDRESS, ETC.?

	FOUNDED		UNFOUNDED	
Yes	7	15%	1	4%
No	26	59%	8	33%
DNA	14	30%	15	62%

There were several instances where the attacker displayed that he possessed knowledge of the victim but did not specifically state so. This was most often accomplished through calling the victim by name or mentioning the name of an acquaintance of the victim. These instances were recorded as "yes" in the above table.

TABLE XIX

WAS A WEAPON SHOWN TO THE VICTIM?

	FOUNDED		UNFOUNDED	
Yes	19	40%	6	25%
No	27	57%	18	75%
Unknown	1	2%	0	-

In one instance the victim was not certain as to whether a weapon was shown.

TABLE XX

IF A WEAPON WAS SHOWN WHAT TYPE WAS IT?

	FOUNDED		UNFOUNDED	
Handgun	6	13%	4	17%
Knife	12	26%	2	8%
Mace	1	2%	0	-
DNA	28	60%	18	75%

TABLE XXI

HOW DID ATTACKER APPROACH VICTIM INITIALLY?

	FOUNDED		UNFOUNDED	
Broke or walked into victims house while victim was present	14	30%	2	8%
Attacker already in house (for any reason) and attacked victim	6	13%	5	21%
Attacked victim while she was asleep	1	2%	1	4%
Forced victim into a car	6	13%	7	29%
Ruse	10	21%	4	17%
Met victim at bar or tavern	3	6%	2	8%
Guest at party attended by victim	3	6%	2	8%
Victim picked up hitch hiking	3	6%	0	-
Unknown	1	2%	1	4%

TABLE XXII

LOCATION OF THE ATTACK

	FOUNDED		UNFOUNDED	
Victims residence	19	40%	8	33%
Victims car	1	2%	1	4%
Other house	5	11%	7	29%
Public place	8	17%	4	17%
On street	10	21%	1	4%
Other	4	8%	3	12%
Unknown	0	-	0	-

In cases where the victim was accosted in one location and transported to another location where the attack took place the actual place of the attack was recorded.

TABLE XXIII

TIME OF DAY WHEN ATTACK OCCURRED

	FOUNDED		UNFOUNDED	
12-6 a.m.	20	80%	15	62%
6-12 p.m.	7	47%	1	4%
12-6 p.m.	5	63%	1	4%
6-8 p.m.	1	2%	0	-
8-12 a.m.	11	23%	6	25%
DNA	2	4%	1	4%

TABLE XXIV

TIME ELAPSED BETWEEN THE OCCURANCE AND ITS REPORT TO THE POLICE

	FOUNDED		UNFOUNDED	
1 hr - 30 minutes or less	18	32%	6	25%
2 hr - 1 hour	8	17%	4	17%
3 hr - 2 hours	9	19%	4	17%
3 - 6 hours	5	11%	4	17%
1 - 6 days	9	19%	5	21%
1 week or more	1	2%	1	4%

TABLE XXV

DID THE VICTIM SCREAM FOR HELP?

	FOUNDED		UNFOUNDED	
Yes	10	21%	2	8%
No	34	72%	21	83%
DNA*	3	6%	1	4%

*DNA arises in situations where the victim was either unconscious or so far under the influence of alcohol or drugs that she was incapable of screaming.

TABLE XXVI

DID VICTIM HAVE A WEAPON OR POSSESS SOME CAPABILITY OF SELF DEFENSE?

	FOUNDED		UNFOUNDED	
Yes	1	2%	1	4%
No	31	66%	16	67%
Unknown	15	32%	7	29%

The unknown category was utilized when the attack took place in a location

where there are usually a number of items which could be utilized as weapons. This situation was most often encountered when the attack took place in the victims residence or a residence with which the victim was familiar.

TABLE XXVII

DID VICTIM ATTEMPT TO UTILIZE A WEAPON AGAINST HER ATTACKER?

	FOUNDED		UNFOUNDED	
Yes	0	-	0	-
No	47	100%	24	100%
Unknown	0	-	-	-

TABLE XXVIII

DID THE VICTIM REPORT STRUGGLING WITH HER ATTACKER?

	FOUNDED		UNFOUNDED	
Yes	23	49%	11	46%
No	23	49%	13	54%
Unknown	1	2%	0	-

TABLE XXIX

DOES THE POLICE REPORT INDICATE THAT THE VICTIM WAS INJURED OR THAT SHE APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN ASSAULTED

	FOUNDED		UNFOUNDED	
Yes	15	32%	5	21%
No	30	69%	18	75%
Unknown	2	4%	1	4%

TABLE XXX

WERE SEXUAL DEMANDS MADE UPON THE VICTIM OTHER THAN INTERCOURSE?

	FOUNDED		UNFOUNDED	
Yes	7	15%	5	21%
No	40	85%	19	77%

TABLE XXXI
WHERE WAS THE INITIAL POLICE INTERVIEW CONDUCTED?

	FOUNDED		UNFOUNDED	
Victims house	22	47%	6	25%
Hospital	10	21%	9	38%
In police car	3	6%	3	12%
In public place	1	2%	1	4%
Scene of rape	5	11%	1	4%
Family or relatives residence	1	2%	-	-
Police Department	1	2%	3	12%
Unknown	4	8%	1	4%

The first sworn police officer to speak to the victim in detail about the crime was utilized. Depending upon the availability of manpower, etc., the first officer to reach the victim may not have conducted the interview but transported her to a location where the detective assigned to the case conducted the interview. If no detective was available the first officer may have conducted the interview at a place of his or the victims choosing.

TABLE XXXII

WAS THE VICTIM ACCOMPANIED BY A FRIEND, RELATIVE, OR HUSBAND DURING THE INTERVIEW?

	FOUNDED		UNFOUNDED	
Yes	28	60%	13	54%
No	11	23%	8	33%
Unknown	8	17%	3	12%

TABLE XXXIII

WAS A FEMALE OFFICER PRESENT DURING THE INTERVIEW?

	FOUNDED		UNFOUNDED	
Yes	3	6%	1	4%
No	44	94%	22	92%
Unknown	-	-	1	4%

TABLE XXXIV

WAS THE VICTIM RECONTACTED AT ANY TIME AFTER THE INITIAL INTERVIEW?

	FOUNDED		UNFOUNDED	
Yes	39	83%	21	12%
No	6	13%	3	88%
DNA*	2	4%	-	-

*DNA indicates that an unsuccessful attempt was made to recontact the victim. There were two instances where the victim moved or left town before the recontact effort was accomplished.

Only recontact efforts which were recorded in the report were utilized. It is possible that some of the cases in the "no" category above were recontacted but the contact was not recorded in the police report.

TABLE XXXV

HOW EXTENSIVE WAS THE FOLLOW-UP?

	FOUNDED		UNFOUNDED	
Not followed up	0	-	0	-
1 follow up attempt	1	2%	1	4%
2-4 follow up attempts	10	21%	6	25%
3-5 follow up attempts	7	15%	5	21%
5 or more follow up attempts	12	26%	5	21%
DNA*	17	36%	7	29%

*DNA implies that a suspect was identified and apprehended early in the investigation and no follow up was necessary or the victim requested that the investigation cease.

All attempts to locate the assailant, contact the victim and witness and attempts to locate physical evidence were recorded as follow-up attempts.

TABLE XXVI

WERE ANY WORDS FOUND IN THE POLICE REPORT WHICH INDICATE THE EMOTIONAL STATE OF THE VICTIM?

	FOUNDED		UNFOUNDED	
Hysterical	4	3%	3	12%
Calm	5	13%	2	8%
Scared	11	29%	6	25%
Crying	3	8%	2	8%
Excited	1	2%	-	-
Unconscious	1	2%	-	-
None	22	47%	13	46%

TABLE XXVII

WAS A CRIME SCENE SEARCH MADE FOR PHYSICAL EVIDENCE OF THE CRIME?

	FOUNDED		UNFOUNDED	
Yes	23	60%	10	42%
No	13	28%	10	42%
DNA*	6	13%	4	17%

*DNA implies that it was impossible to make such a search or that the victim did not know where the rape occurred. In several instances the victim was abducted and driven to an isolated rural area where the attack was completed and later released at a third location.

TABLE XXVIII

DID THE POLICE RECOMMEND INSTIGATE OR APPROVE MEDICAL CARE FOR THE VICTIM?

	FOUNDED		UNFOUNDED	
Medical care	18	38%	8	33%
Rape examination	8	17%	2	8%
Both rape and medical examination	14	30%	5	21%
Refused treatment after police recommended care	1	2%	3	12%
DNA*	6	12%	6	24%

*DNA indicates a substantial time lag between the incident and its report to the police.

Generally, the presence or absence of physical injury and the amount of time between the incident and its report to the police govern the appropriateness of a police recommendation of medical care or rape examination for the victim. In a

number of instances the victim had already sought and received care before reporting the crime to the police.

TABLE XXXIX

HOW MANY POLICE OFFICERS WERE ASSIGNED TO THE CASE?

	FOUNDED		UNFOUNDED	
1 people	6	13%	5	20%
2 people	5	11%	6	25%
3 people	7	15%	2	8%
4 people	5	11%	4	17%
5 people	8	17%	6	25%
6 people	4	8%	1	4%
7 people	5	11%	-	-
8 people or more	7	15%	-	-

The number of different names appearing in the reports were utilized. These included crime laboratory specialists, identification specialists, supervisors, investigators, etc. This is at best a poor indication of the police investigative effort. In several cases where only 1 or 2 officers were assigned to the case the culprit was identified immediately by the victim and an early apprehension made. We did not include patrolmen who answered the original call and merely awaited the arrival of an investigator or superior.

TABLE XL

DID THE VICTIM EVER WITNESS A LINE-UP?

	FOUNDED		UNFOUNDED	
Yes	9	19%	1	4%
No	38	81%	23	96%

TABLE XLI

WAS THE VICTIM EVER SHOWN PHOTOGRAPHS OF POSSIBLE SUSPECTS

	FOUNDED		UNFOUNDED	
Yes	19	40%	1	4%
No	20	43%	15	62%
Unknown	8	17%	8	33%

TABLE XLII

DID VICTIM COLLABORATE WITH POLICE ARTISTS IN AN ATTEMPT TO DRAW A COMPOSITE PICTURE OF THE SUSPECT?

	FOUNDED		UNFOUNDED	
Yes	5	11%	-	-
No	42	89%	24	100%

TABLE XLIII

WAS A SUSPECT EVER IDENTIFIED?

	FOUNDED		UNFOUNDED	
Yes	24	51%	13	54%
No	23	49%	11	46%

TABLE XLIV

WAS AN ARREST MADE?

	FOUNDED		UNFOUNDED	
Yes	10	21%	2	8%
No	37	78%	22	92%

TABLE XLV

DID THE VICTIM REFUSE TO PROSECUTE?

	FOUNDED		UNFOUNDED	
Yes	8	17%	16	67%
No	34	72%	7	29%
DNA	5	11%	1	4%

This data reflects heavily upon Table LXIII and LXIV. In the event that a suspect was identified but the victim refused to assist in the prosecution. The police generally did not make the arrest.

TABLE XLVI

WERE OFFICIAL CHARGES FILED FOR ANY CRIME AS THE RESULT OF THE ATTACK?

	FOUNDED		UNFOUNDED	
Yes (not necessarily rape)	14	30%	3	12%
No	33	70%	21	88%

TABLE XLVII

WAS THERE A TRIAL OR ACCEPTANCE OF A PLEA OF GUILTY FOR ANY CHARGE?

	FOUNDED		UNFOUNDED	
Yes	9	19%	1	4%
No	28	60%	19	79%
DNA*	10	21%	4	17%

*DNA reflects a refusal by the victim to prosecute or the impossibility of such a trial due to the unavailability of the victim or death of the offender.

V. SUMMARY OF RESULTS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE STUDY

Perhaps one of the more obvious results which can be drawn from this study is the conclusion that we know very little about the rape victim in this area. The nature of the crime severely limits the ability of research teams to gather information concerning the victim's socio-economic condition, her personal life style, activities, etc. Police reports do not, at least in this area, record such information. Police reports are incident-offender oriented and are geared toward apprehension and conviction of offenders rather than compiling statistical data concerning victims. This is not to say the the police department does not possess such information. They are "there" and may observe the victim, her home, her acquaintances and at least draw inferences which unfortunately are not usually recorded and thus unavailable to research efforts.

The charges that rape investigations are futile, unreliable and nonproductive, which have long been made by police officers, is somewhat substantiated by the results of this study. With 35% of the total number of rapes reported during the study period determined by the police to be unfounded, it is probable that a substantial amount of investigative effort is wasted. A collateral finding that in 17% of the "founded" cases the victim refused to assist in the prosecution lends further merit to these charges by police officers.

The questions still remain, however, why do victims make false or unreliable police reports? Why do they refuse to prosecute? And, ultimately are the police themselves, rather than the victim, the cause of this situation?

Typically the rape victim in this area is young, white, single and had been drinking. She has a 1/3 chance of knowing her assailant and has the greatest chance of being attacked while alone in her home. This seems to depict a life style which is not unusual in the City of Des Moines where a number of businesses,

hospitals, and governmental agencies employ a high percentage of women.

It is not inconceivable that a control group of non-rape victims who have received training in rape prevention or take precautions against being attacked could be isolated. It may be fruitful to attempt to study not only the precautions which are utilized by this group as compared to victims, but also whether there is a significant difference in their respective modes of living.

It is also significant that not a single victim reported attempting to utilize any sort of weapon against her attacker. Only 1/2 of them reported that they struggled with their attacker and almost 75% of the victims did not scream. Certainly a number of these incidents can be explained through the total rape situation in that such efforts may have been futile or even dangerous. However, it seems plausible that in a number of attacks, some sort of self defense measure would have thwarted the attack.

A study analyzing the details of attempted or unsuccessful rapes could be performed. This study might, when compared to our findings, provide insight into what tactics prove viable as self defense measures and when they should be attempted.

It has long been asserted that the victims of rape are all too often reluctant to testify or assist in prosecution efforts because of shame, fear and humiliation. This is undoubtedly true in a number of cases. Considering the rather high percentage of victims who are acquainted with their assailants, another theory may be postulated. This theory would emphasize the social pressure applied to the victim by members of a group to which she and the attacker belong not to prosecute the crime.

Finally, it is suggested that the possibility of assigning certain trained police officers to a specialized rape investigation unit be explored. The data

we have collected demonstrates that there is not a standardized procedure for dealing with rape reports and rape victims. Certainly a good deal of flexibility is necessary for successful completion of any criminal investigation. However, it may be possible to isolate certain features unique to the rape situation and victim where specialized effort would be beneficial. A procedure designed to identify the reports which are unfounded early in the investigation with a minimum of potential conflict with the victim could also prove rewarding. It might also be possible to identify those victims who are likely to refuse to assist in a prosecution for the offense and design a procedure which would assist these women in effectively making this decision.

END