

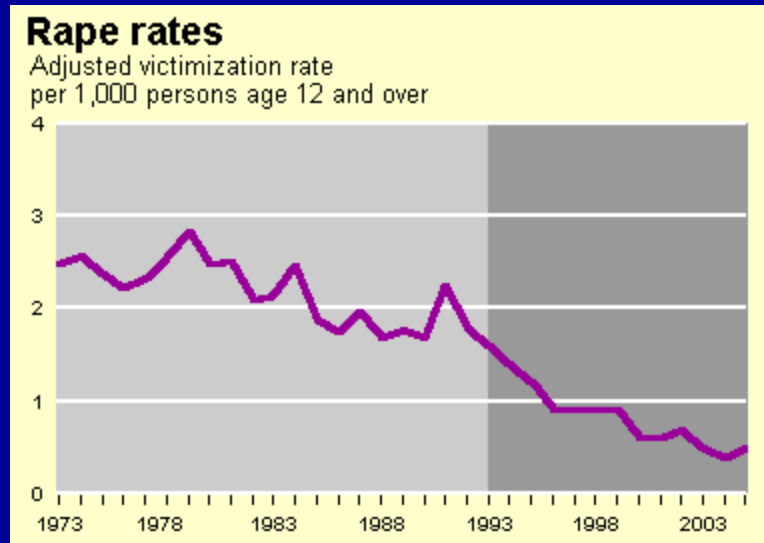
Sex Offenders:

Understanding a Diverse  
Population

# What We Know

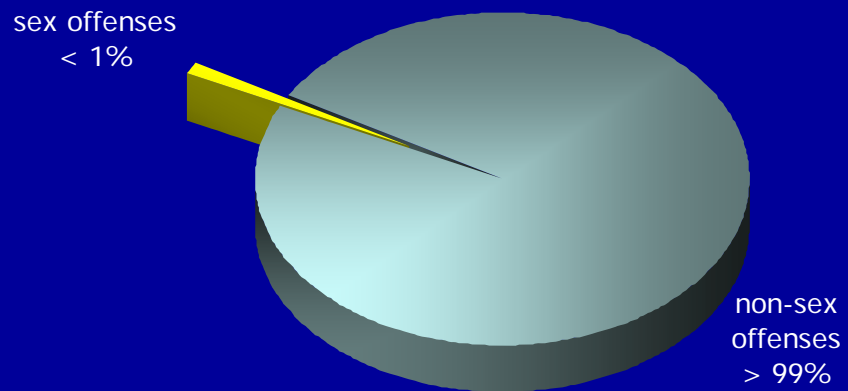
General Information About Sex  
Crimes that Come to the Attention  
of Authorities

# *Reports of Rape Have Declined over the Last Decade*

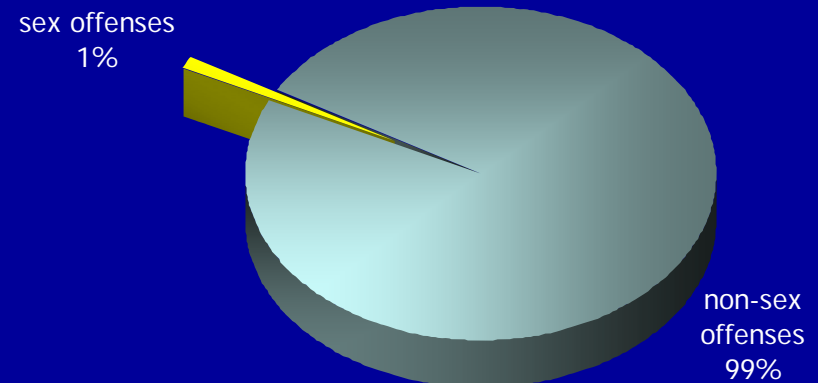


U.S Department of Justice  
Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2006

## Adult Arrests: Sex Crimes vs. Other Criminal Conduct

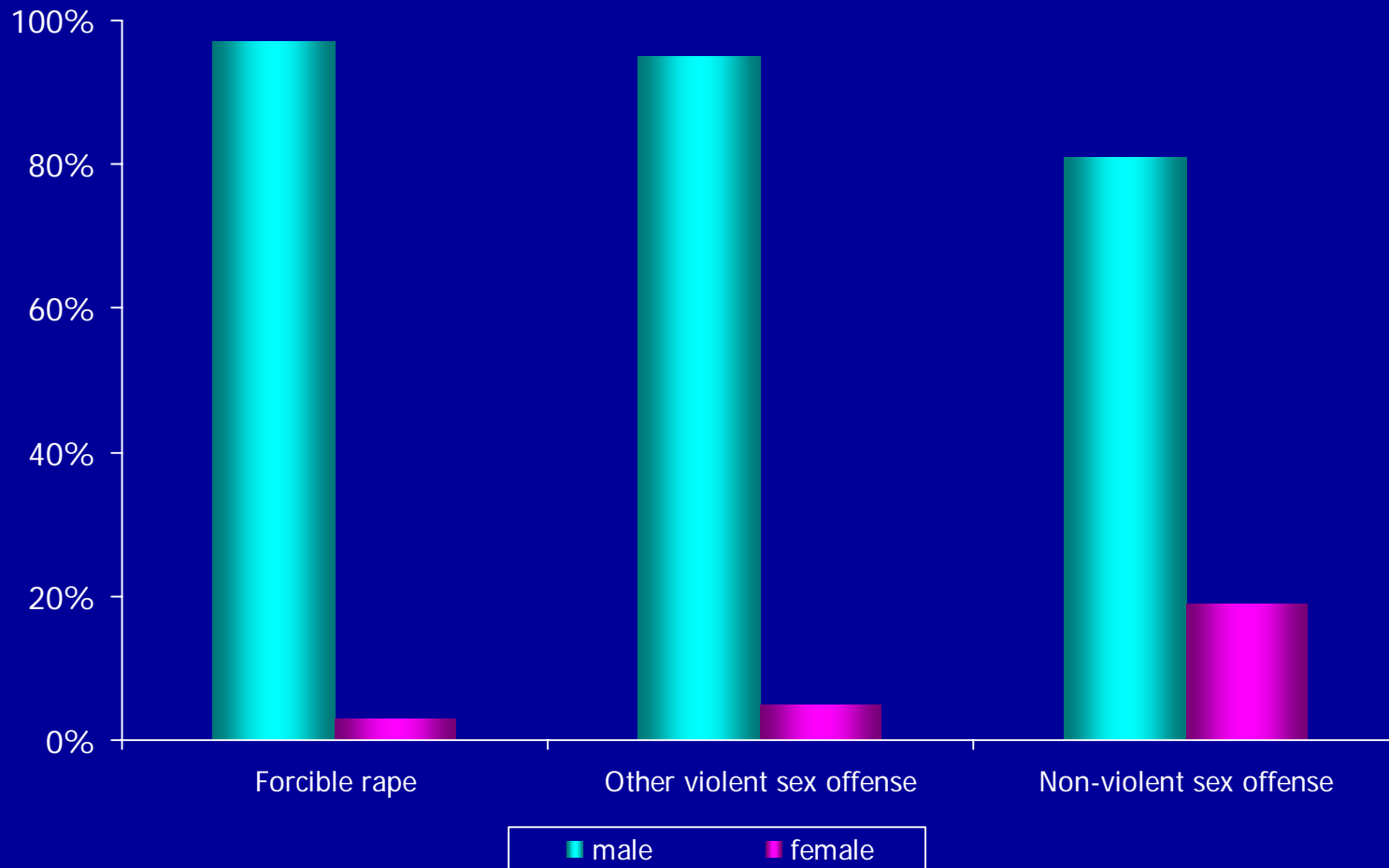


## Juvenile Arrests: Sex Crimes vs. Other Delinquency



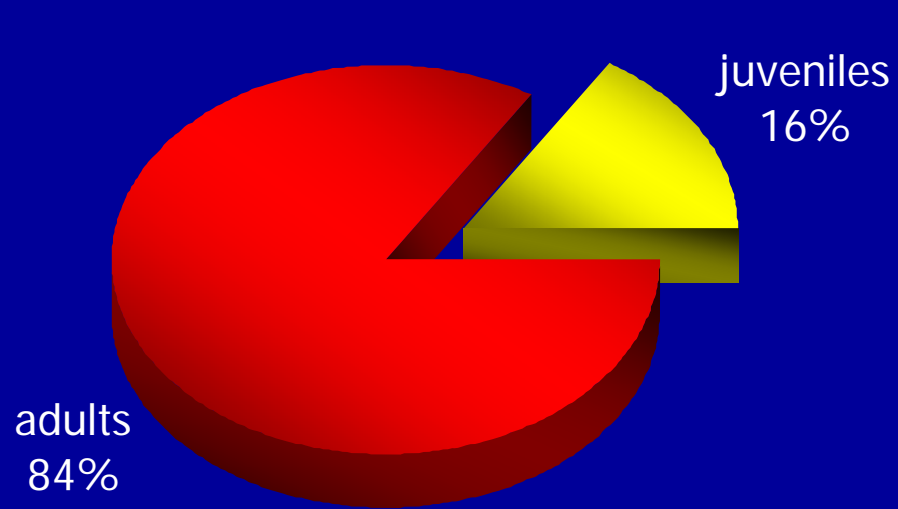
(FBI, 2005; Snyder, 2004)

# Sex Offense Cases in the Juvenile Courts: Male vs. Female

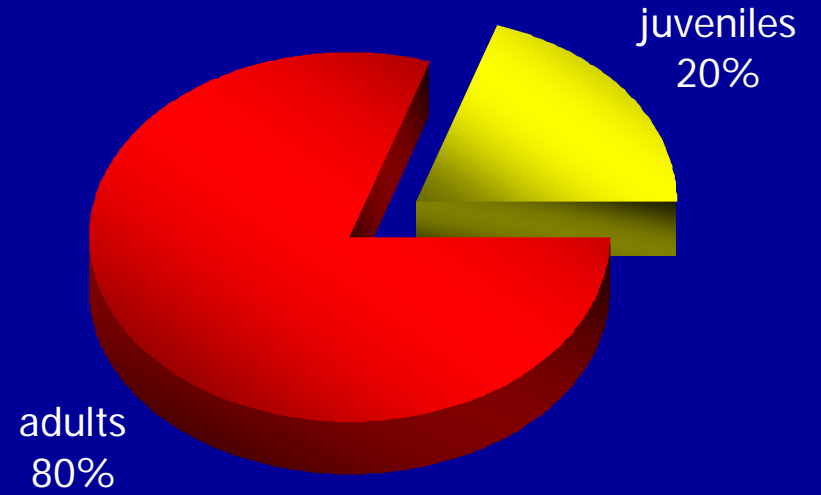


(Snyder & Sickmund, 2006)

Arrests For Forcible Rape



Arrests For Other Sex Offenses



(FBI, 2005)

But We Don't Know What We  
Don't Know

# *Rape Reporting Rates*

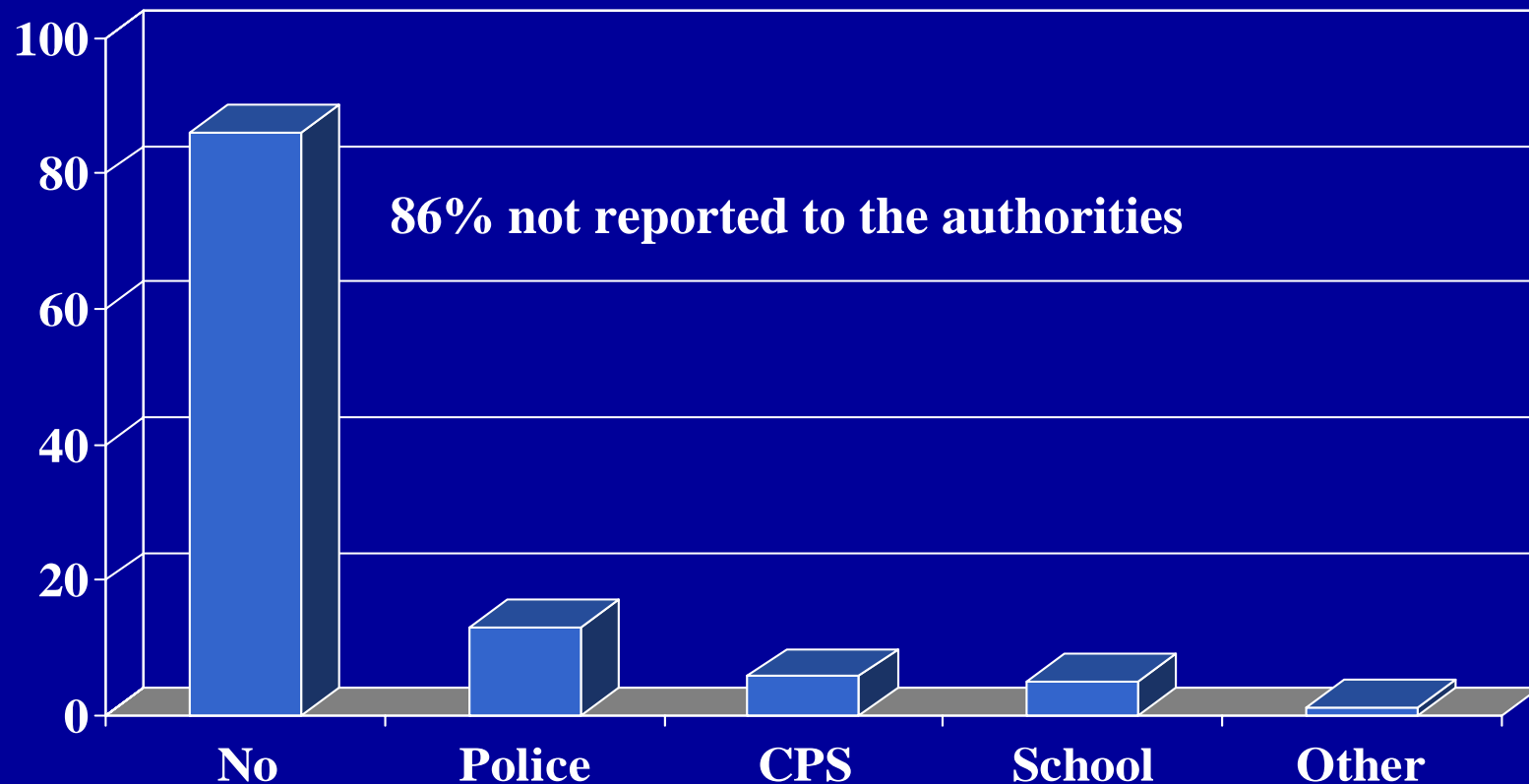
Research indicates that 84% of rapes of adult women are not reported to authorities.

Kilpatrick, D., Edmunds, C., and Seymour, A., "Rape in America: A Report to the Nation," National Victim Center (Arlington, VA, 1992)



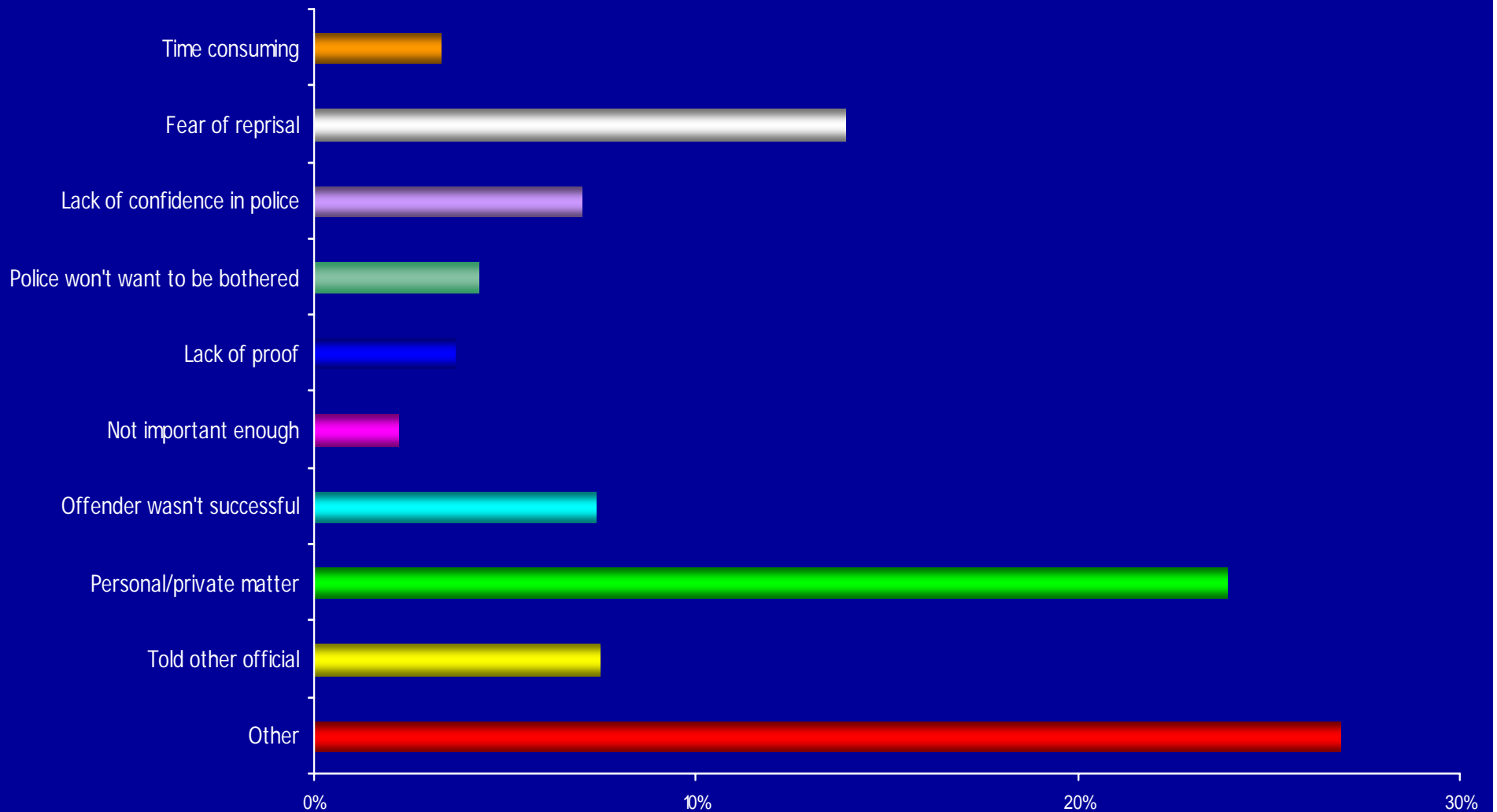
# Reporting of Sexual Abuse

Kilpatrick et al. (2003). *National Survey of Adolescents.*



\*some cases reported to more than one authority

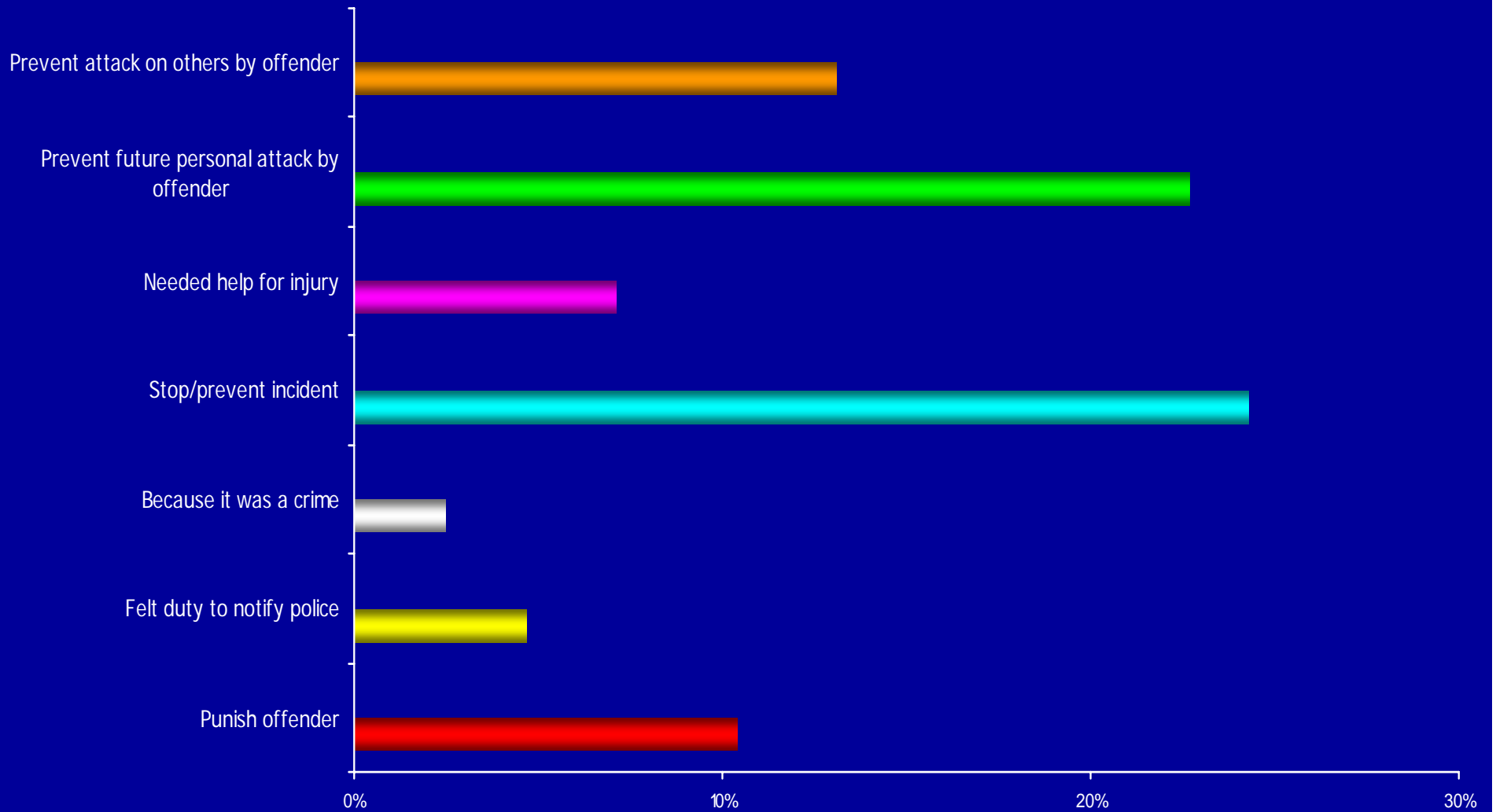
# Reasons Cited for Not Reporting to Police



# Other Reasons for Non-Reporting, Delayed Reporting, and Recanting

- May not recognize act(s) as abuse
- Shame and/or guilt
- Self-doubt and self-blame
- Fear of not being believed
- Fear of being blamed
- Fear of retaliation
- Threats by offender or family/friends
- Emotional attachment to offender
- Concerned about family disruption
- Fear that nothing can/will be done

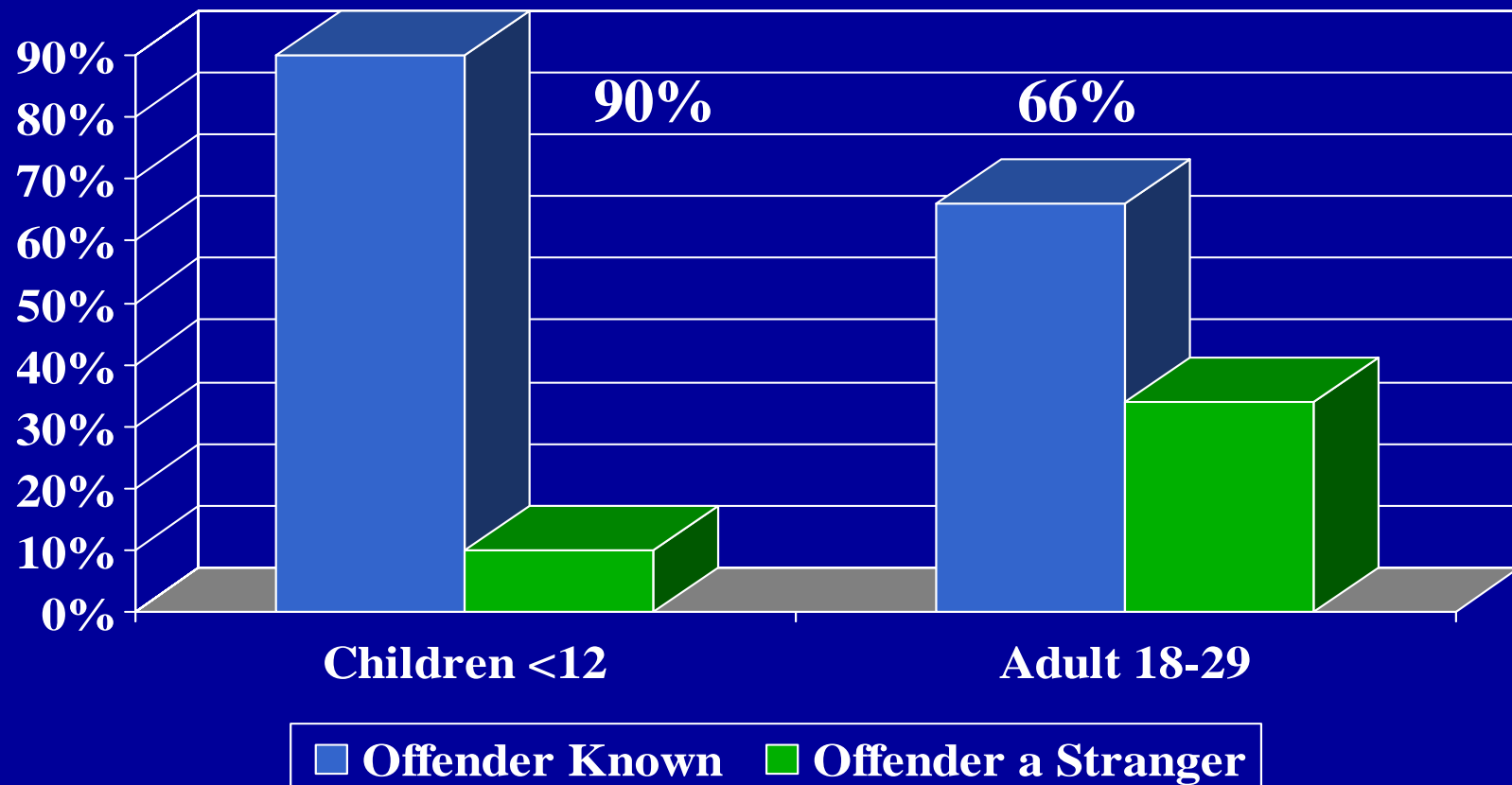
# Reasons Cited *For* Reporting to Police



(NCVS, 2000)

# Relationship Between Victims and Offenders

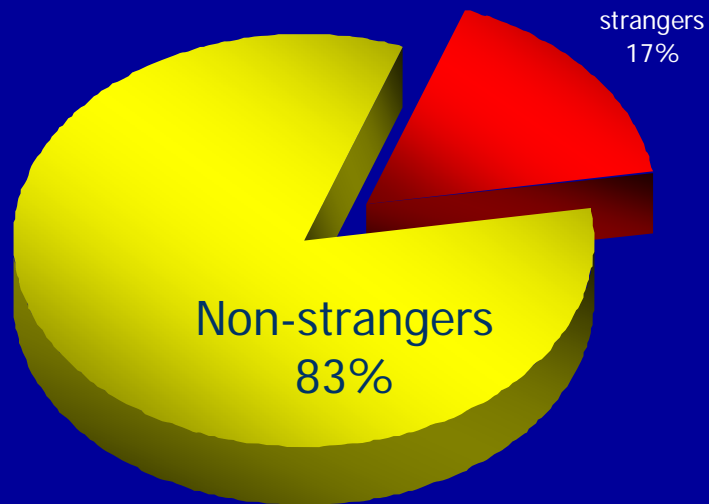
## Tjaden & Thoennes (2000)



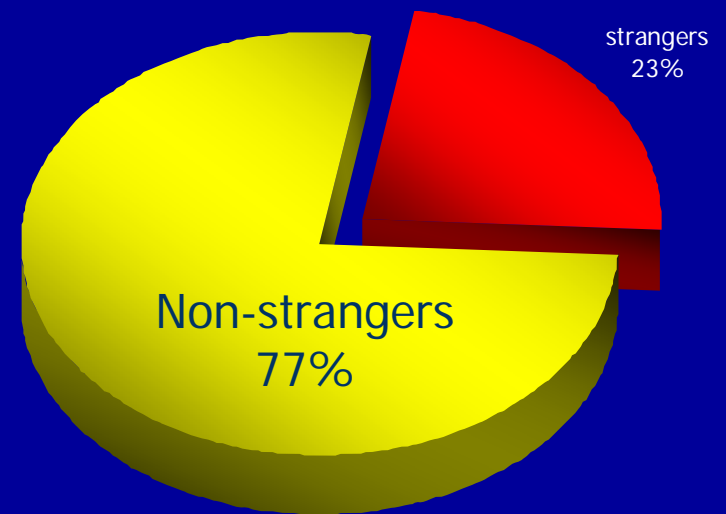
# A Closer Look

# Rape: Victim-Offender Relationship

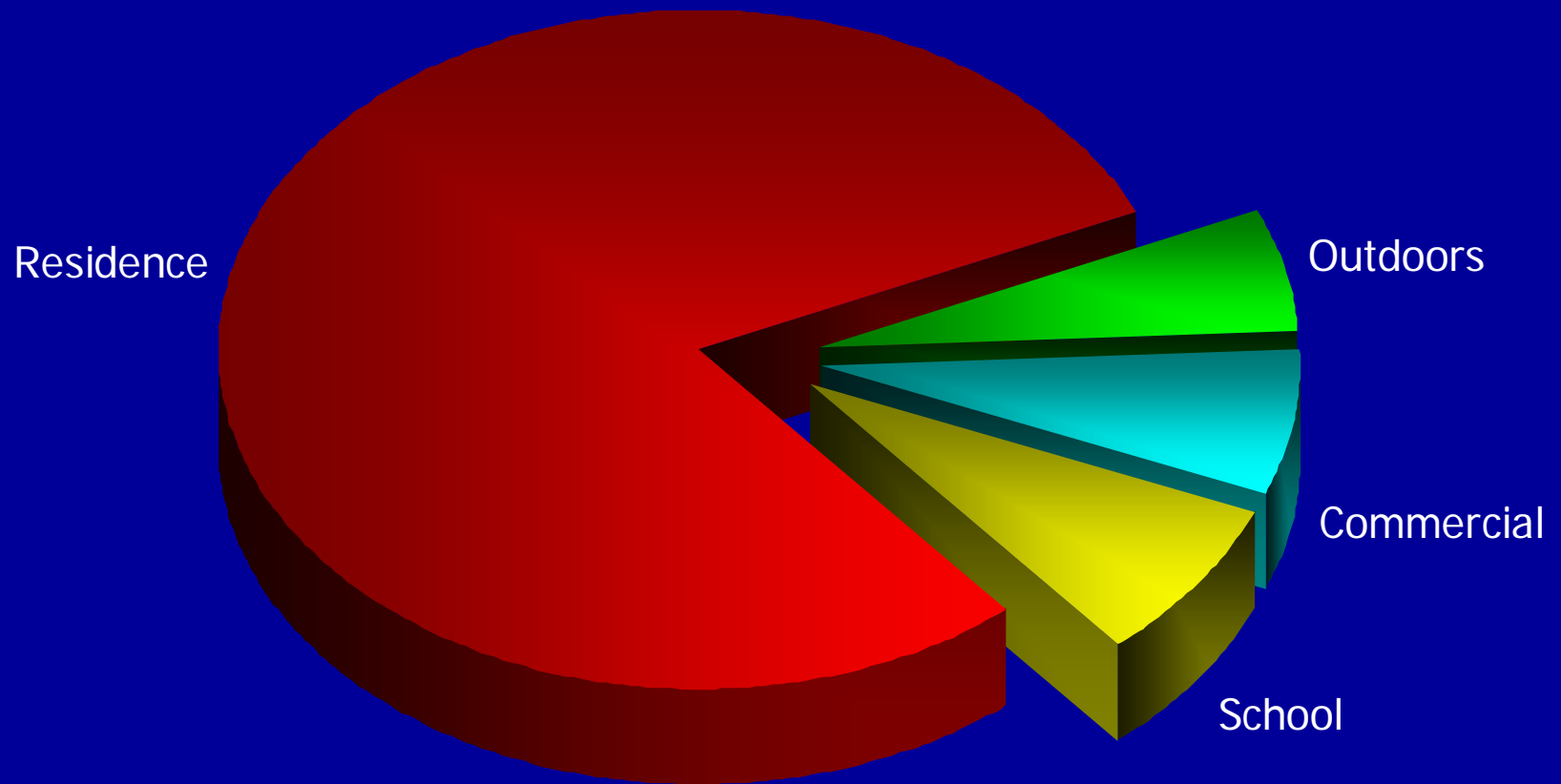
*Victims who  
are Women*



*Victims who  
are Men*



# WHAT WE KNOW: Location of Sex Offenses Against Victims Under 18



(NIBRS data from Snyder & Sickmund, 2006)





# **What Do We Know About the Individuals Who Commit Sex Offenses?**

Who Are They, What Do They "Look Like," and  
Why Do They Do What They Do?

# Who Commits Sex Crimes?

- Legal label implies they are all the same
- Reality = heterogeneous population
- Sex offending crosses all lines
  - Age
  - Gender
  - Race
  - Socio-economic status
  - Intelligence level
  - Mental health status

**PRISON GUARD FORCED FEMALE  
INMATES TO HAVE SEX FOR YEARS**

**Dentist convicted of  
sexual assaults against  
female patients**

**Mayor jailed on child  
pornography charges**

**Two women  
arrested in  
daycare sex  
abuse scandal**

**FRATERNITY  
MEMBER DRUGGED,  
RAPED VICTIMS**

**Juvenile  
named as  
Westside  
serial rapist**

**Parents prostituted daughter  
in exchange for drugs**



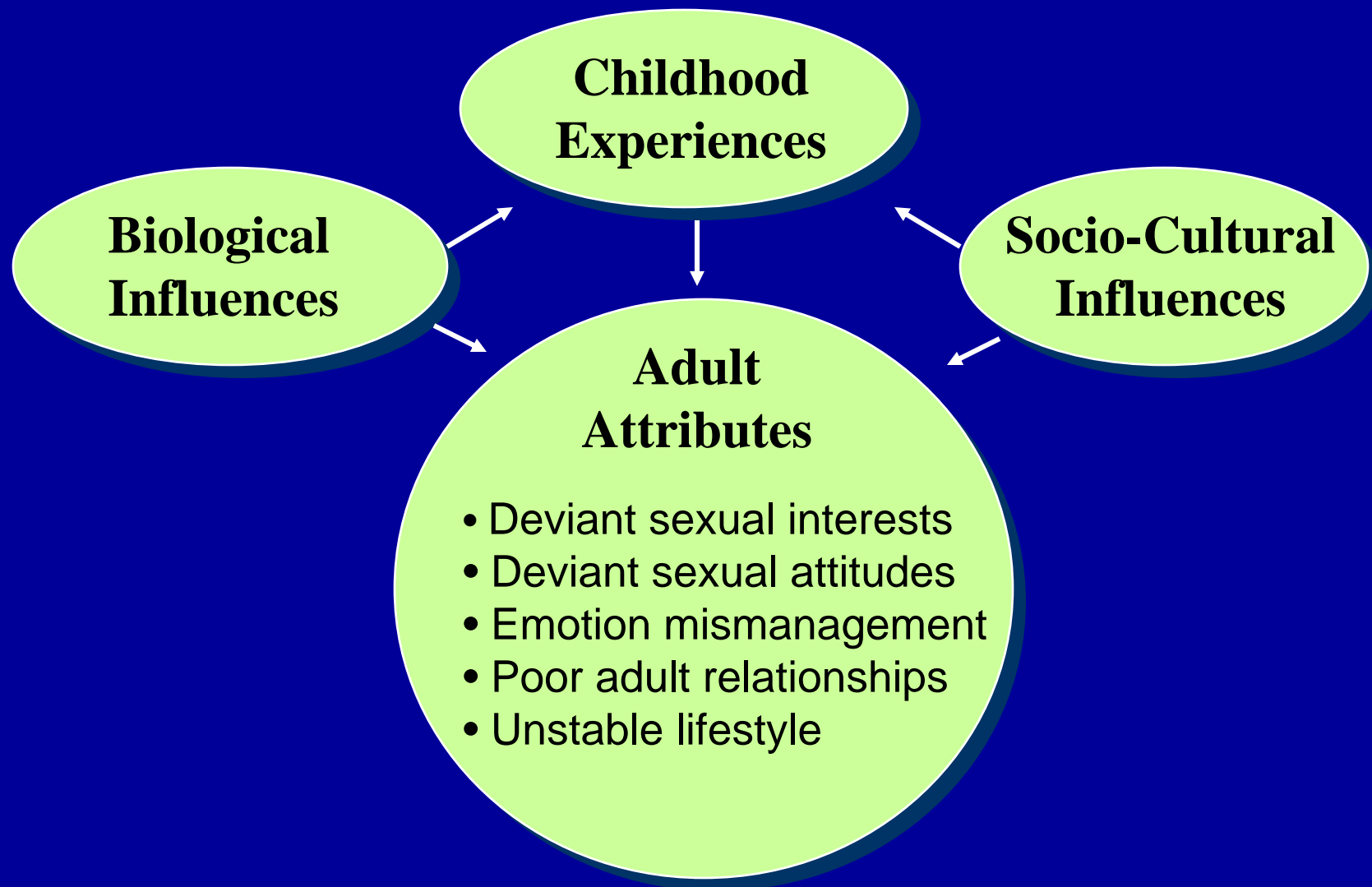
THERE IS NO  
"TYPICAL SEX  
OFFENDER" OR  
"PROFILE"

# Common Characteristics

- Early onset
- Detection lag time
- Multiple victims and offenses
- Crossover offending
- Denial and minimization
- Distorted thinking patterns
- Poor coping skills

Why Do They Do  
What They Do?

# Theories Explaining Sexual Offending



# Offender Dynamics

“Not All Sex Offenders Are The Same”

1



## Motives

- **Sexual Interest**
  - age, gender, behavior
- **Emotional Closeness**
- **Power and Control**
- **Anger/Grievance**

2



## Willingness

- **Criminality**
- **Substance Abuse**
- **Distorted Thinking**
- **Intelligence**
- **Stress**
- **Other**

3



## Opportunity

- **Planned vs. Opportunistic**
- **Manipulation vs. Force**



# Offender Types

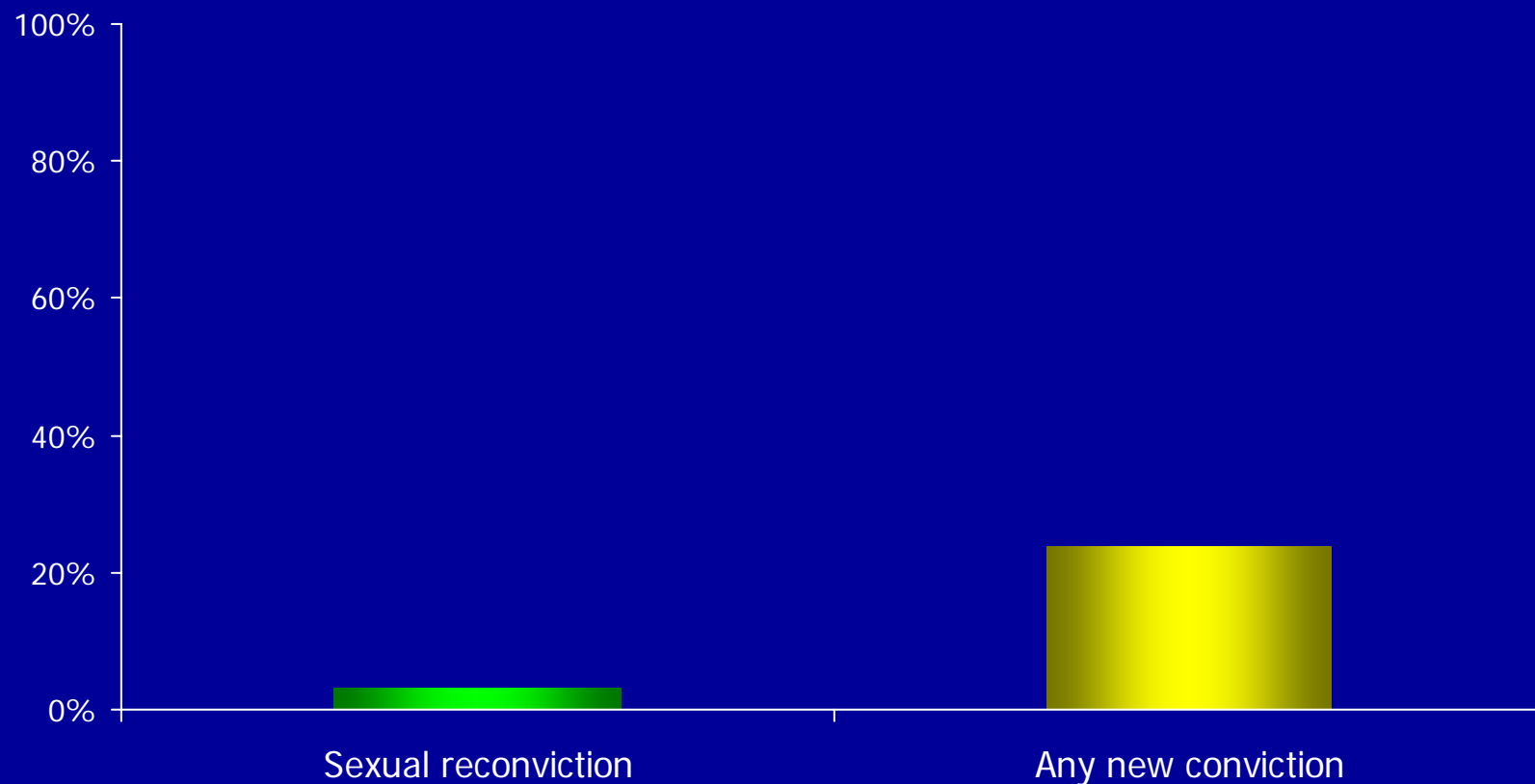
- **Incest offenders**
  - Few victims and multiple offenses
  - Have lowest recidivism rates
- **Extrafamilial child sexual abusers**
  - More likely to have deviant sexual preferences
  - Molesters of boys have the highest recidivism
- **Rapists**
  - Often more similar to “general” criminals
  - More prone toward an antisocial lifestyle
- **Non-contact offenders**
  - Tend to be compulsive and have multiple victims

# WHAT WE KNOW:

All Sex Offenders Do Not  
Inevitably Recidivate

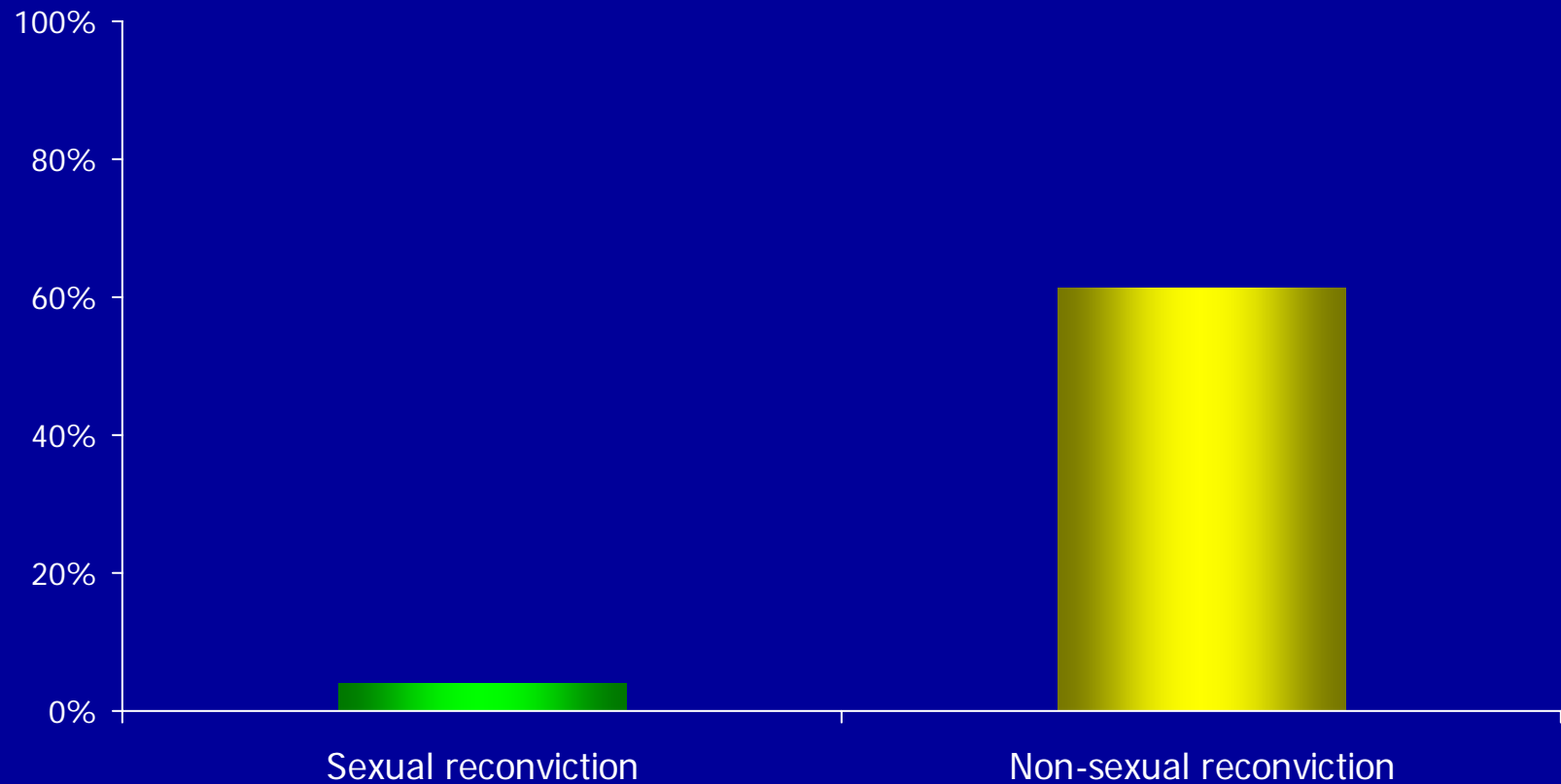
*But Some Are More Likely Than Others*

# Adult Sex Offenders: Sexual vs. Non-Sexual 3-year Recidivism



(Langan et al., 2003)

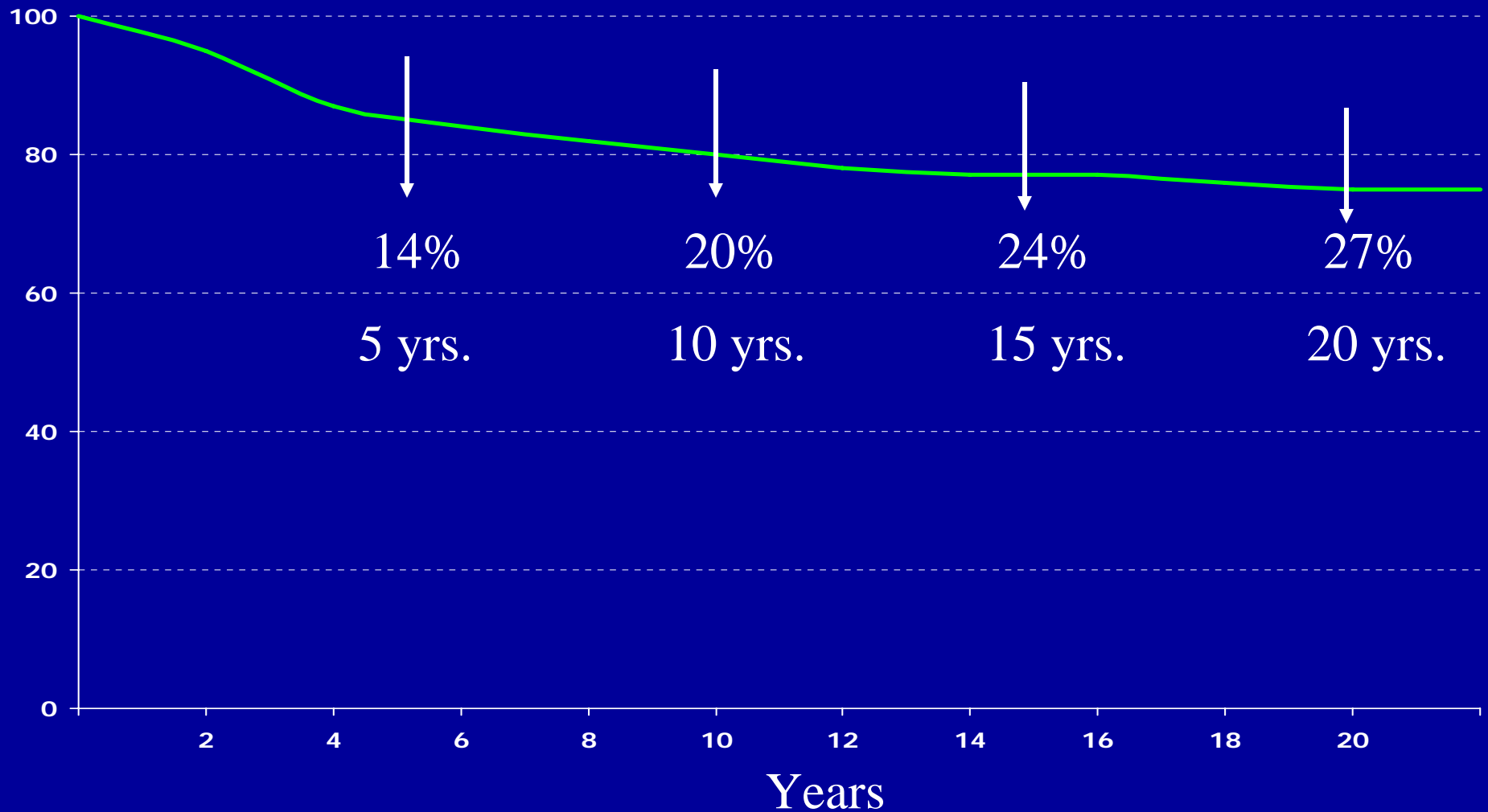
# Juvenile Sex Offenders: Sexual vs. Non-Sexual Recidivism



(Nisbet et al., 2004)

# Sexual Recidivism Rates

Hanson & Harris (2004); 10 samples; N = 4,724



*“Predicting things is  
difficult, especially when  
they’re in the future.”*

*Yogi Berra*

# Risk Instruments: Weighing Risk Factors to Assess Risk for Sexual Reoffense

## Unchangeable Risk Factors

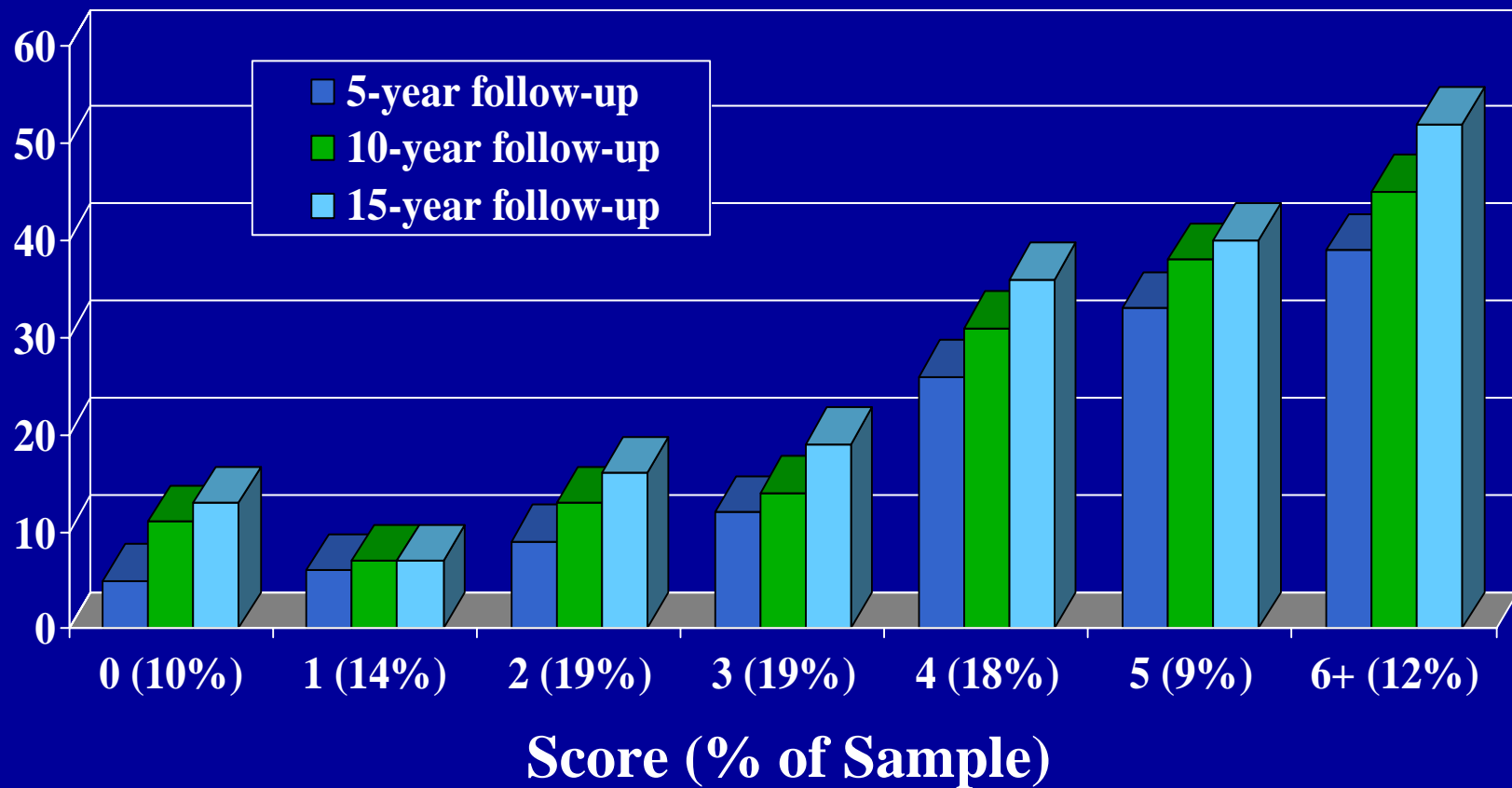
- Prior sex offenses
- Prior non-sex offenses
- Prior non-contact sex offenses
- Unrelated victims
- Stranger victims
- Male victims
- Never lived as married

## Changeable Risk Factors

- Victim Access
- Deviant sexual interests
- Attitudes supportive of offending
- Impulsive
- Substance abuse
- Cooperative with supervision
- Collapse of social supports
  - Family
  - Residence
  - Work

# An Example of a Risk Instrument: Static-99

## Percent Sexual Recidivism





# Differences in Sex Offenders have Implications for:

- Sentencing
- Institutional vs. community placement
- Release decisions
- Level of supervision
- Intensity of treatment
- Approaches to treatment

**ONE SIZE DOES NOT FIT ALL!**

# WHAT WE KNOW

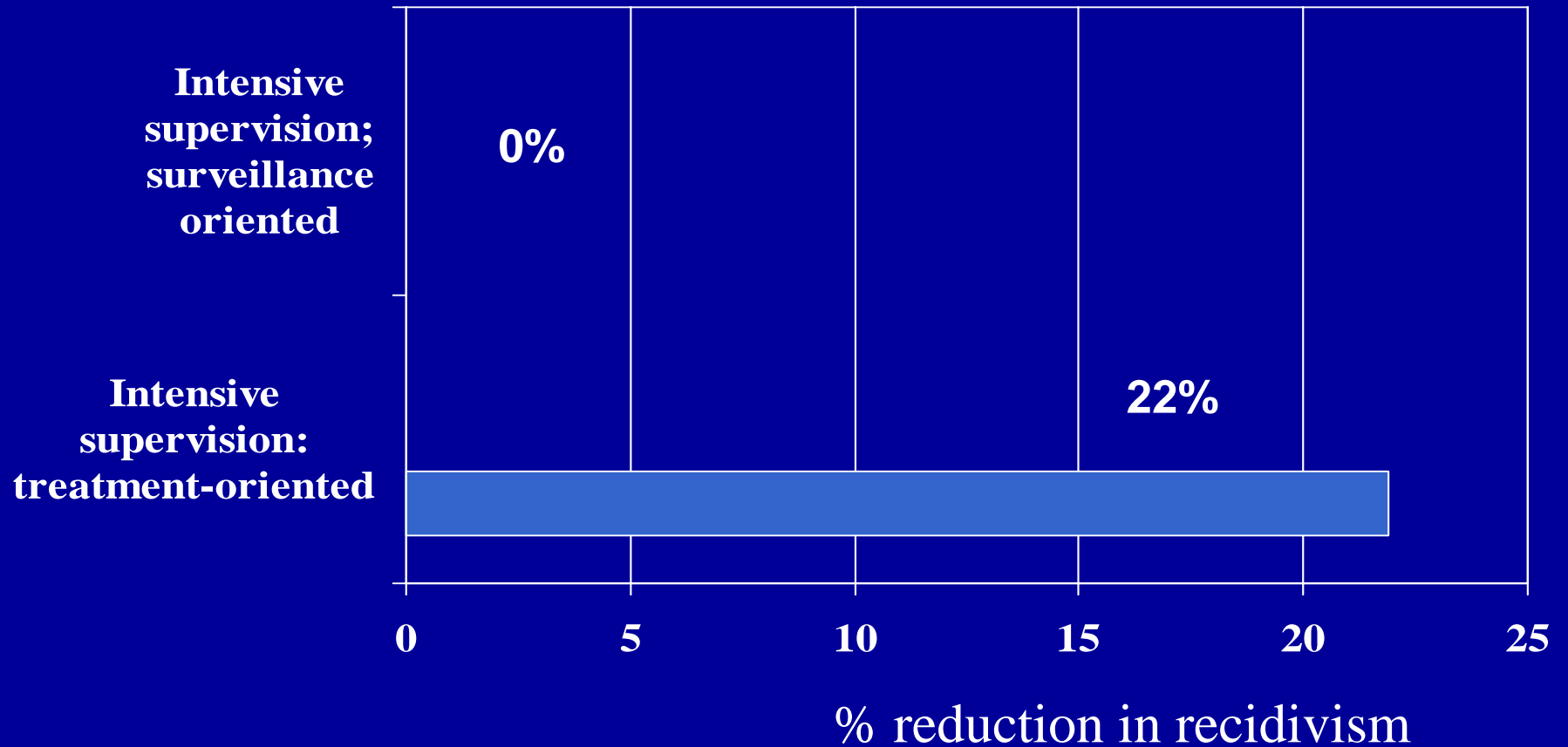
Our efforts to reduce  
sexual victimization must be multi-faceted  
to be successful

We need to focus on “what works”  
and “what doesn’t”

# Intermediate Sanctions

## “What Works and What Does Not”

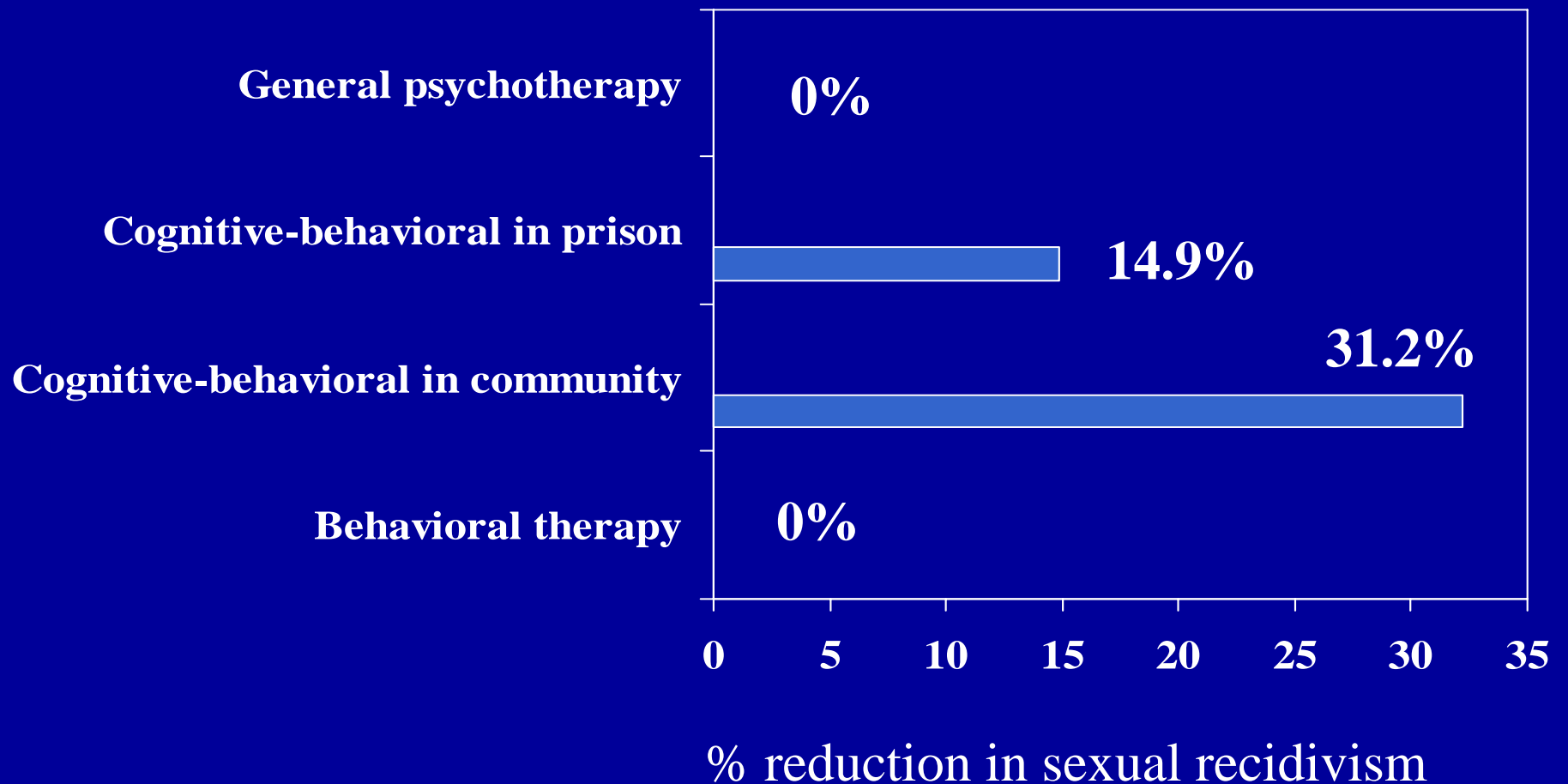
Aos, Miller, & Drake, 2006; [www.wsipp.wa.gov](http://www.wsipp.wa.gov)



# Adult Sex Offender Treatment

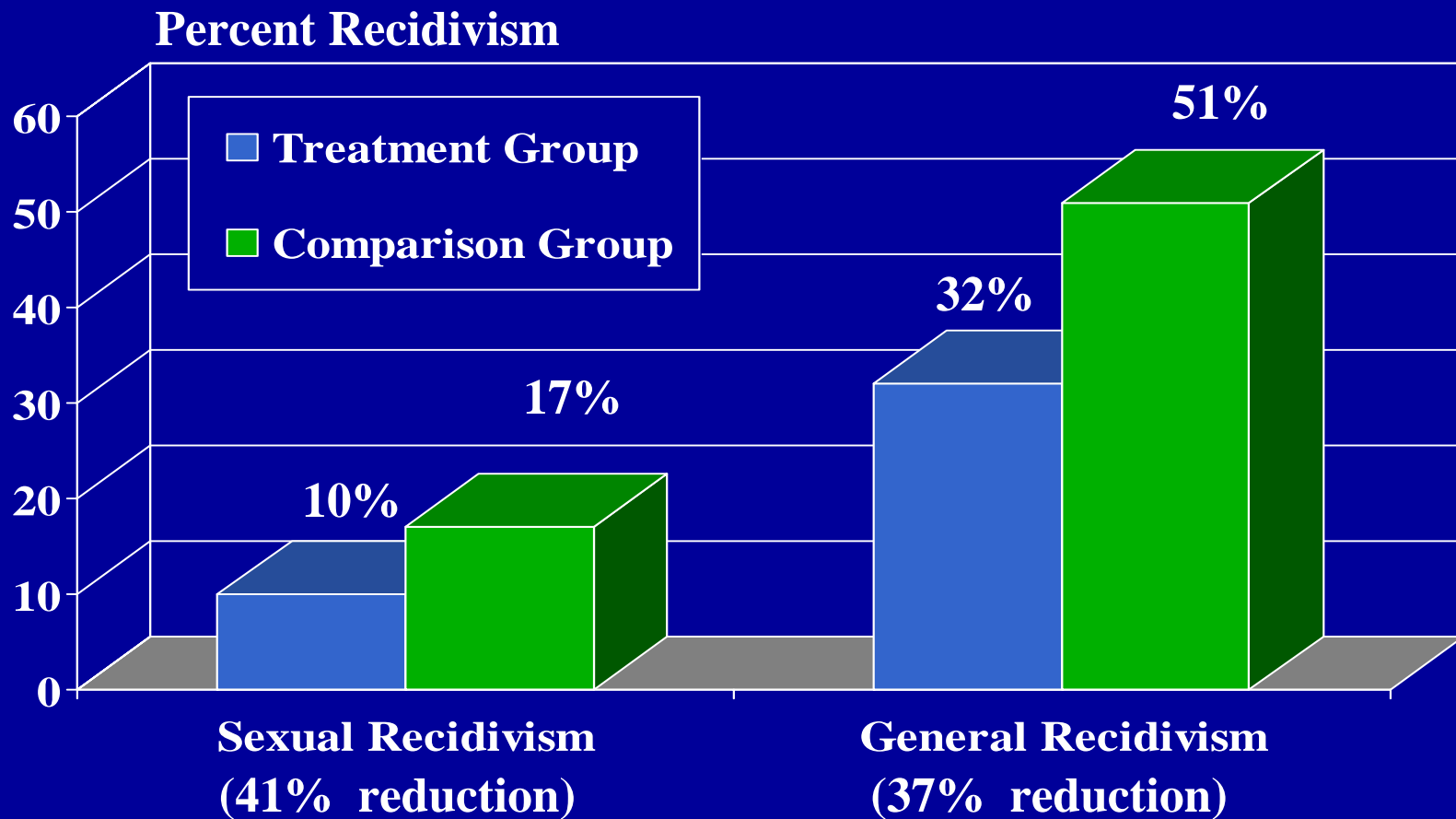
## “What Works and What Does Not”

Aos, Miller, & Drake, 2006



# Hanson et al., Meta-Analysis (2002)

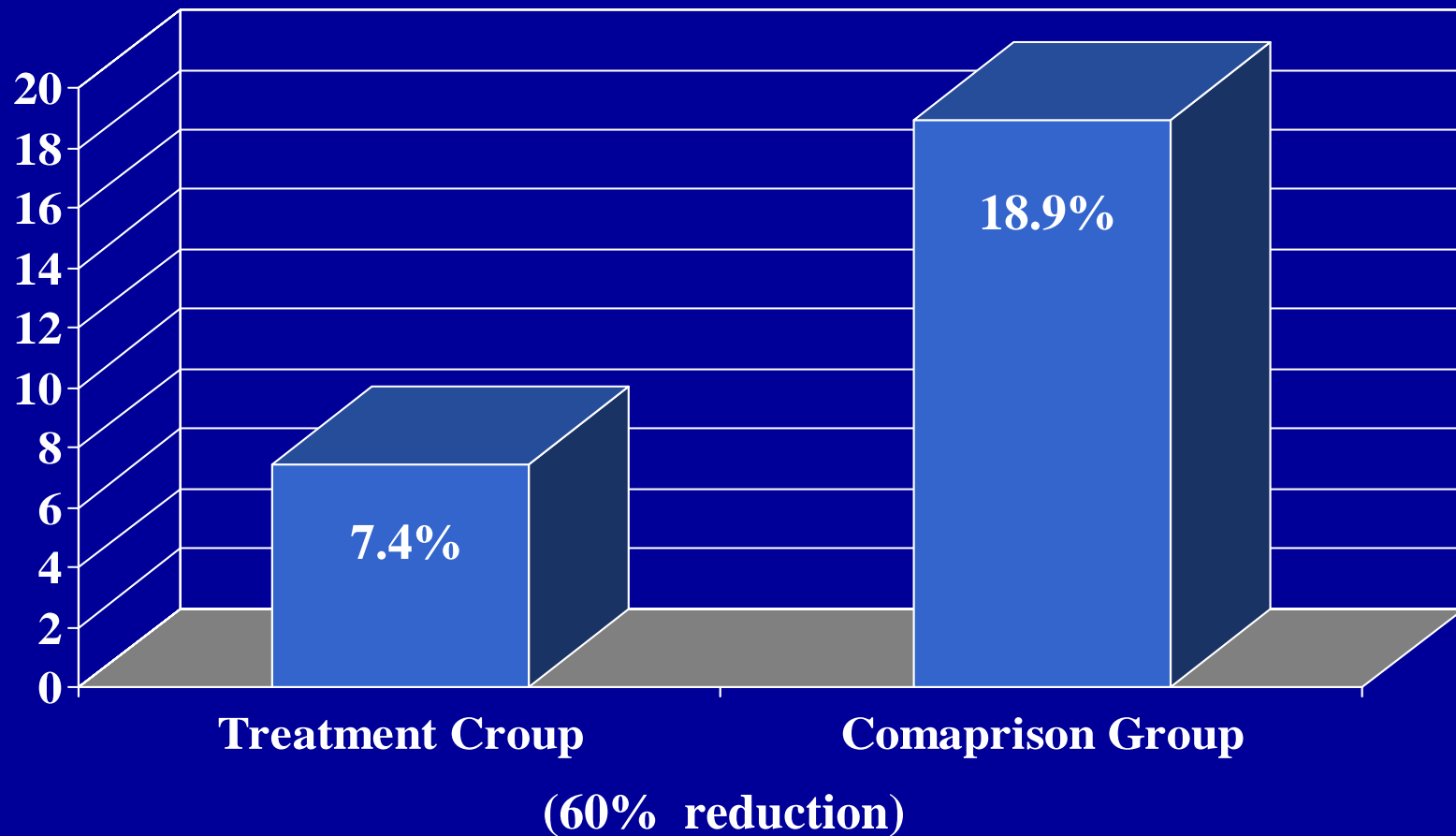
15 studies of primarily adults, using current treatments  
and a follow-up of 4-5 years



# Reitzel & Carbonell Meta-Analysis (2006)

9 studies of juvenile sex offenders at an average follow-up of 5-years

**Percent Sexual Recidivism**



# Implications: Sex Offender Management Efforts Must Address a Variety of Issues

- Comprehensive assessments
  - To determine the level of risk posed and the most effective methods to reduce recidivism
- Sentencing/release decisions
  - Judges and release authorities must be knowledgeable and have the tools available to provide those services that will decrease the likelihood of recidivism
- Treatment
  - To deliver services demonstrated effective in reducing recidivism
- Supervision
  - By well trained staff with reasonably sized caseloads, working collaboratively with treatment professionals
- Victims
  - Victims' needs must be addressed through information, input, support and services at all stages of the criminal justice process
- Collaboration
  - For our public safety efforts to be successful, it is critical that all stakeholders work collaboratively to assure that information is exchanged, intervention strategies are appropriate, effective service delivery is provided

# The Comprehensive Approach To Managing Adult and Juvenile Sex Offenders

(Carter, Bumby, & Talbot, 2004)



## Key Questions Considered in the Comprehensive Approach

- What should be done to manage sex offenders effectively?
- Who should be involved in sex offender management?
- How should we approach this work?
- Why should it be done this way?

# Implementation Requires Attention to Four Primary Areas

- Policies that drive practices
- Actual practices that are occurring
- The empirical basis for existing policies and practices
- Philosophies that drive policies and practices

# The Comprehensive Approach



# Take Away Points

- Effective sex offender management = victim and community safety
- There is a **growing body of knowledge** to guide sex offender management efforts
- The rate of sexual recidivism is lower than one might expect
- A “one size fits all” approach has proven ineffective; good assessment and case planning is key to addressing the risks individual offenders pose

- Research demonstrates that a combination of **appropriately administered treatment in combination with supervision** nets positive recidivism reduction results
- Experience across the country demonstrates that **collaboration** in terms of information and resource sharing, and **coordination** in terms of policy development and management efforts among the individuals and agencies responsible for sex offender management, holds the greatest promise for public safety
- **Local “experts”** (members of state and local sex offender management policy teams) can be a tremendous resource in advancing effective policy