Counting Rape

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Methods

- Criminal Justice Statistics
- Victimization Surveys
- Service Providers
- Perpetrator Surveys
Criminal Justice Statistics

- Uniform Crime Reports
- 102,096 forcible rapes in 1995
- Pro - Established system, Police

Con
  - Definition
  - Rate Calculation
  - Staff
  - Underreporting - Authority, Males, Lag, Police
Definition

- **UCR** - The carnal knowledge of a female forcibly and against her will. Included are rapes by force and attempts or assaults to rape. Statutory offenses (no force used--victim under age of consent) are excluded.

- **AZ** - A person commits sexual assault by intentionally or knowingly engaging in sexual intercourse or oral sexual contact with any person without consent of such person.
Rate Calculation

- Current
  - Rapes of Females/Population

- Accurate
  - Rapes of Females/Females in Population
  - Rapes/Population
Victimization Surveys

- Pro
  - Reliability
  - Validity
  - Detail

- Con
  - Cost
  - Variety/Sensitivity
  - Context - Crime, Bounding
Victimization Surveys

- NCVS - 433,000 rapes
- NWS, NVAWS - 600,000+ rapes
- (4-6X UCR)
NCVS Questions

- (Other than any incident already mentioned,) has anyone attacked or threatened you in any of these ways (Exclude telephone threats) … (e) Any rape, attempted rape or other type of sexual attack. … (Other than any incidents already mentioned,) have you been forced or coerced to engage in unwanted sexual activity by – (a) Someone you didn’t know before - (b) A casual acquaintance – OR (c) Someone you know well?
Women do no always report such experiences to police or discuss them with family or friends. The person making the advances isn't always a stranger, but can be a friend, boyfriend, or even a family member. Such experiences can occur anytime in a woman's life - even as a child. Regardless of how long ago it happened or who made the advances … Has a man or boy ever made you have sex by using force or threatening to harm you or someone close to you? Just so there is no mistake, by sex we mean putting a penis in your vagina. … Has anyone ever made you have oral sex by force or threat of harm? Just so there is no mistake, by oral sex, we mean that a man or boy put his penis in your mouth or somebody penetrated your vagina or anus with his mouth or tongue. … Has anyone ever made you have anal sex by force or threat of harm? … Has anyone ever put fingers or objects in your vagina or anus against your will by using force or threat?
Perpetrator Surveys (4-11%)

- **Pro**
  - Victimization Surveys
  - Pros + Causation

- **Con**
  - Victimization Surveys
  - Cons + Perception, Political Feasibility
Service Providers

- **Pro**
  - Not relying on reporting
  - Levels/Types of contacts
  - (Hotline ~6X UCR)

- **Con**
  - Resources
  - Confidentiality
  - Duplication