Violent Crime II:
Against Women & Children

Violence against Women

- Women as victims
  - Less often for other crimes (though then = intimates)
  - Much higher for sexual assault & battery (DV)
  - Internationally, one third (?) have been victimized
  - Plus: slavery, incest, genital mutilation, sterilization

- Conditions
  - "...because they are women" (not true for men)
  - Power – as cause and effect
  - Econ?
  - Wartime- “over the last two decades” (nay; longer)

Lecture Outline

- Women
  - Definitions
  - General & Specific
  - 2 sidebars (!)
  - Patterns
  - Explanations
- Children
- Theory

Definitions of Crimes

- Rape = Forced sexual intercourse
  - NCVS – inc threat & attempt
  - IV manual – inc foreign object, etc.
- SA = unwanted sexual contact, w/o intercourse
  - Inc attempt, not nec inc force, etc.
- Battering
  - IPV, or PV
  - Aggravated or simple (no weapon or major injury)
  - Does not inc. psych abuse

Rape

- Changes in Legal Codes
  - Almost no attention prior to 1970s
- Social stereotypes: victims, perpetrators, risks
  - But 18–25% (!) report “at least once in their lifetime”
  - And at least 20% are by “Intimates”
- Reporting
  - Spouse vs date vs acquaintance
- Male victims
  - Uncommon (rare?) & underreported
- False reports
  - Accusation as SC, & responses

Battering

- Aka, intimate partner violence (IPV, or just PV)
- Domestic violence
  - History & Patterns
  - Family matter?
  - Danger to victims
  - Battered woman syndrome defense
  - Arrest patterns – secondary victimization?
- Child Abuse
  - Since late 19th C
- Elder Abuse
Sidebars

- Rape & Terror by the Janjaweed (p. 305)
- Rape & Battery in the Military (p. 307)
  - "enemy within"
  - 1,167 in 2006 (> than ambush/snipers)
  - Underreporting
  - And under-prosecution!
  - Emotional trauma
  - Violates trust & training

Reductions/Solutions?

- Arrest: Deterrence or Escalation?

Patterns

- NCVS = combined measure (10% = robbery)
- Age
  - Biggest risk factor
  - But older = less likely to report (1970s/culture)
- Class
  - "transcend social boundaries"
  - esp common @ college ["reinforce this point"]
  - but lowest income bracket = 6x highest!
- Race/Ethnicity
  - Slightly higher for blacks
  - Poverty, high crime areas, lack of legal/soc serv help...

Theoretical Explanations

- Women “have less power than men” (302)
- Econ?
  - "very common in the industrialized world", but rates probably lower (in US) than where women have less

Explanations

- Psychology - "disfunction"
  - But that would be a constant - doesn’t predict occurrence, incidence, frequency, victim, etc.
  - Can’t predict a variable w/ a constant
  - Implies it’s unusual/strange, vs common/everyday
- Economic Inequality
  - Poverty & high crime areas (not here in text)
  - Patriarchy / male dominance
  - Intnl/cross-cultural covariation w power/SES
  - But evidence in US — mixed
  - Backlash hypothesis (underinferiority)
- Cultural Myths
  - Victim precipitation - “they asked for it”
  - Text rejects - normatively offensive - but geometric sense
  - Learned helplessness
- Battered Men?