D57 Revisiting the Groth/FBI Rapist Typologies: What Do Empirical Studies Have to Add?

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After attending this presentation, attendees will gain understanding of additional factors to consider in relation to rapist motivation and behavior.

This presentation will impact the forensic community and/or humanity by increasing appreciation for contribution of "academic" research to practical problems in forensic investigation.

Investigators of violent sexual crime have long been interested in a method of classifying rapists that could identify possible directions for the investigation. In the 1970s Nicholas Groth (1979) developed what could be called a behavior/motivation-based typology, based on his work with incarcerated offenders. This was further refined by Hazelwood & Burgess (1987) and is currently one of the more frequently used rapist typology systems in the United States. The system includes four categories: 1) power reassurance 2) power assertive, 3) anger retaliatory and 4) anger excitation. Corroboration of this typology has been based on case studies of incarcerated offenders and investigators' professional experience. From a research methodology viewpoint, this would be described as "qualitative" research.

Recently, there have been a number of studies in the US, Australia and England, which have used "quantitative" approaches insofar as they have applied multivariate statistical techniques to large data sets without using *a priori* conceptual frameworks. A variety of questions are posed in these studies such as whether or not there is behavioral consistency by a single offender across offenses, to what extent a particular rapist group correlates with demographic characteristics such as age and race, and which crime scene characteristics cluster together.

The purpose of this paper was to conduct a "meta-analysis" by comparing the quantitative research findings to the "Groth/FBI typology" to determine the extent to which the case study and large scale data analyses supported one another. At the time of this abstract submission, the full analysis has not been completed. However, preliminary results indicate that there is some behavioral consistency across offenses, some support for the four rapist groupings, particularly for the anger retaliatory and anger excitation categories. There is also some evidence of overlap between categories and the importance of "dynamic" factors such as victim behavior, environment, and drug/alcohol use in determining the characteristics of the rape process is likely to have been underestimated.

Rapist, Typology, Research