

Undetected Sex Offenses: Criminal History, Sex Offense Recidivism & Diagnostic Concerns.

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What I recommend to address the ***Dark Figure of Crime*** (undetected sexual offenses/victims):

1. **Obtain the criminal history-** including the
 - a. **national history** (NCIC)
 - b. **local State**
 - c. ***every State the individual has resided.***

This addresses information concerning sexual offenses/sexual offense related behavior that are not always reported or available from the national or even the offender's current State criminal history check. Not all law enforcement agencies report to FBI and therefore the NCIC check is not a complete check. State to State, another State would not likely be aware of crimes committed in any other State.

2. **For everything in any criminal history, obtain the:**
 - a. **Police Reports**
 - b. **Criminal Complaint**

These provide details of the true offense behavior and the context in which the offense occurred. What is found identifies sex offenses and sex related offense behavior that were masked by non-sexual offense convictions. The criminal complaint reveals the context of the offense behavior. Obtaining the criminal complaint identifies what the offender pleads guilty to and is almost always the non-sexual offense behavior component involved in the actual crime. If the criminal complaint involves, assault, burglary, rape, or other charges, the offender may well plead guilty to any of the nonsexual offenses. This means, for example, that a plea to the burglary or assault charge are still sex related offenses. Many criminals are smart enough to know this, and the criminal history check will often not identify the nonsexual convictions as sex related. *Anecdotally*, I found that approximately 50-60% of the offenders had in fact been convicted of sex related crimes that were not appearing sex related in the criminal complaint. If the offender pleads guilty an any of the charges in the criminal complaint, and sexual behavior is involved, then any plea to any of the charges are sex crimes or sex crime related.

3. **Contact the law enforcement agencies where the offender has resided and ask if their department had any contact with the individual, for any reason, regardless of whether an arrest was made.**

Anecdotally, I found approximately 40% of sexual offenders had contact with law enforcement over the years that was sexual offense related. This helps to identify the offender's true history. An example of this is when the law enforcement agency received a call of a man watching children at a playground and the man does not have any children present. Parents call the police because the man is making them feel uncomfortable. Officers arrive and find no crime has been committed and advise the man to leave. This is important information to have especially when investigating the individual for a current sex crime involving a child. © 2026

4. If the sexual offender has a previous conviction for *any* crime, obtain the most recent Presentence Investigation report (PSI).

Presentence Investigation reports (PSI). PSI reports are completed following conviction and before sentencing. Probation does the investigation and writes the report. The reports are thorough and contain a significant amount of information that investigators benefit from prior to interviewing the offender (e.g., relationship history, medications, erectile dysfunction, other concerning areas) and often contain information about allegations or investigations of additional crimes, including sexual offenses, that may not have resulted in an arrest or conviction. The lack of an arrest, charges or conviction may be due to the individual in fact not being guilty of the offense being investigated. However, other reasons may include *statute of limitation* issues or when the victim reports the crime sometime after the fact. 22%-37% of rape victims report the crime or report it in a timely fashion (Tjaden & Thoennes, 2006; Thompson & Tapp, 2022). This means that 60-80% do not report the rape. Child victims often take 5-10 years to report the crime (e.g., Smith et al., 2020).

5. Identify any sex/sex related offense behavior that occurred while incarcerated.

Most of the time these would not have resulted in criminal charges but rather “write-ups” and may have resulted in official disciplinary action. These behaviors demonstrate a continued sex-related and violent behavior pattern while in a controlled environment.

6. SHOE LEATHER INVESTIGATIVE TIME!

When the offender has any teaching, tutoring, sports, or religious material for age groups they are not supposed to be around or which fits the age of victims in a current investigation, it is ***SHOE LEATHER INVESTIGATIVE TIME! If the offender has collected the above material, they either have already or are close to engaging in contact with minors.*** The primary reason to collect such materials is to use them, which involves contact with minors. The material is then used for grooming purposes. Grooming allows the offender to gain access to numerous victims generally in plain view (See work on grooming- e.g., Knoll, 2009; Johnson, 2019b). If the offender has the material, they most likely have already been reoffending. This includes carrying the material in their car, having sex enhancing meds in the car, etc. This is not only my view and finding but also of others (e.g., Hazelwood, R., personal communication, January 1998).

SHOE LEATHER INVESTIGATIVE TIME involves showing the offender’s pictures to any agency where the offender may have interacted with or had contact with minors. This involves asking if the agencies recognize the offender or in some cases, you will find that the offender was seeking teaching, coaching, tutoring, or religious positions or jobs or worse yet- that they did or are actively involved with the agencies. This means a lot of potential undetected victims. Regardless of age of the victim, whether child or adult, the above results in detecting the previously undetected sexual offenses!