



# Journal Club

## 26 June 02

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### Gender Differences in Victim and Crime Characteristics of Sexual Assaults

Kimerling, et al. (2002). Journal of Interpersonal Violence,  
17(5), 526-532.

# Background

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- Majority of studies focus on women as victims
- Increased vulnerability of men of specific populations
  - Minority
  - Ethnicity
  - Minority of sexual orientation
  - Low socioeconomic status

# Methods

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- Data obtained through SF Rape Treatment Center
  - Compared with SF hospital where all Code R exams are performed
- Years 1992-1996

# Similarities/No Differences

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- Age
- Language
- Substance abuse
- Childhood physical/sexual abuse
- Stranger as assailant
- Assault Location

# Differences for Women

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- More likely to represent ethnic diversity
- More likely to have a history of sexual violence
- More likely to be assaulted by a current/former intimate partner
- Assault is more likely to contain vaginal/anal penetration
- More likely to report to police
- More likely to have sustained injury

# Differences for Men

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- More likely to identify as gay/bisexual
- More likely to be homeless/institutionally housed
- Much more likely to have some acute psychiatric diagnosis
- Higher rates of psychiatric history of a disorder or hospitalization
- More likely to have multiple assailants
- More likely to have been restrained
- Less likely to report to police

# Conclusions

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- Data is uncontrolled
- Few studies back up the validity and reliability of the study
- The Goal:
  - Further understand gender as a factor in posttraumatic sequelae