



University of  
New Hampshire

# Place Matters: School and Community Factors Related to Dating and Sexual Violence among New Hampshire Youth

Katie M. Edwards, Ph.D.

Department of Psychology and Women's Studies, Prevention  
Innovations, Carsey School of Public Policy  
University of New Hampshire

# Overview

- Overview of dating violence (DV), intimate partner violence (IPV), and sexual violence (SV) in NH
- Highlight findings from research studies conducted on these topics
  - Most on DV and SV among adolescents and young adults
  - Place and community correlates
- Implications for programming and policies

# Rates of DV, IPV, and SV in NH

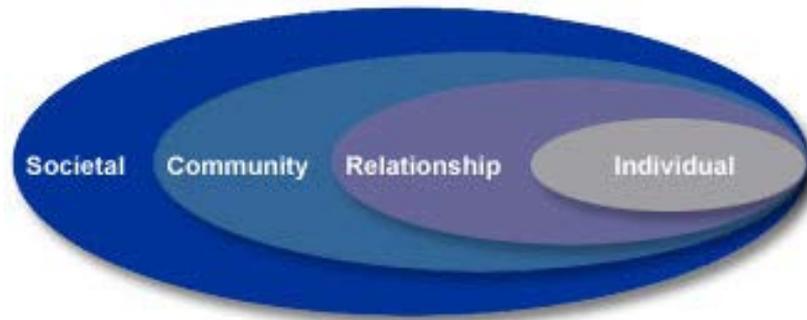
- 40.4% of adult women and 37.8% of adult men in NH have experienced rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by a partner during their lifetime<sup>1</sup>
  - 214,000 NH women and 191,000 NH men have been victims of IPV during their lifetime<sup>1</sup>
- 51.2% of adult women and 28.0% of adult men in NH have experienced SV by any perpetrator (not just specific to a partner)<sup>1</sup>
  - 272,000 NH women and 141,000 NH men have been victims of SA during their lifetime<sup>1</sup>
- 7.4% of high school students in NH reported being physically hurt on purpose by a boyfriend or girlfriend during the past year<sup>2</sup>
- 10.2% of NH high school students reported being forced by someone they were dating to engage in sexual behavior they did not want to do during the past year<sup>2</sup>
- 21.8% of college students in NH reported physical DV victimization during the past six months<sup>3</sup>
- 50.0% of homicides in NH are IPV-related<sup>3</sup>
- 92.0% of murder-suicides in NH are IPV-related<sup>3</sup>

# Impacts of DV, IPV, and SV in NH

- Victims of IPV in NH suffer immediate and negative physical, psychological, and social consequences, including fear, post-traumatic stress disorder, and physical injury<sup>1</sup>
- NH high school students who have experienced DV in the past year report more depression, binge drinking, poor academics, and feelings of non-belonging compared to NH high school students who do not experience DV<sup>2</sup>
- NH college students who have experienced DV in the past six months struggle more with academics than NH college students who have not experienced DV in the past six months<sup>3</sup>
- The average cost of medical treatment, counseling, advocacy, police protection, and other services for IPV victims in NH is \$5,016 per year per victim<sup>4</sup>
- Civil legal services (e.g., provision of free legal services to IPV victims through organizations such as NH Legal Assistance) for IPV in NH saved communities and taxpayers \$2.4 million annually<sup>4</sup>

# Overview of Research

- Prevention and intervention
  - Before, during, and after IPV, DV, and SA
  
- Social ecological model<sup>1</sup>



# Community Correlates of IPV among Rural Young Adults

- Young adults in rural communities across New England, including New Hampshire, and Appalachia completed surveys and this data was combined with U.S. Census/American Community survey data
- Community-level poverty positively predicted IPV perpetration
- Collective efficacy inversely related to IPV perpetration for men, but not women
- IPV bystander intervention was positively related to collective efficacy and unrelated to community-level poverty

*Am J Community Psychol* (2014) 53:198–207  
DOI 10.1007/s10464-014-9633-7

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

## **Community Matters: Intimate Partner Violence Among Rural Young Adults**

Katie M. Edwards · Marybeth J. Mattingly ·  
Kristiana J. Dixon · Victoria L. Banyard

# Perceptions of and Helping in Situations of IPV among Rural Young Adults

- Connection between IPV and other social problems (e.g., poverty)
- Variability in willingness to help across communities
  - Barriers to help-seeking and helping
- Variability in willingness to help across situations

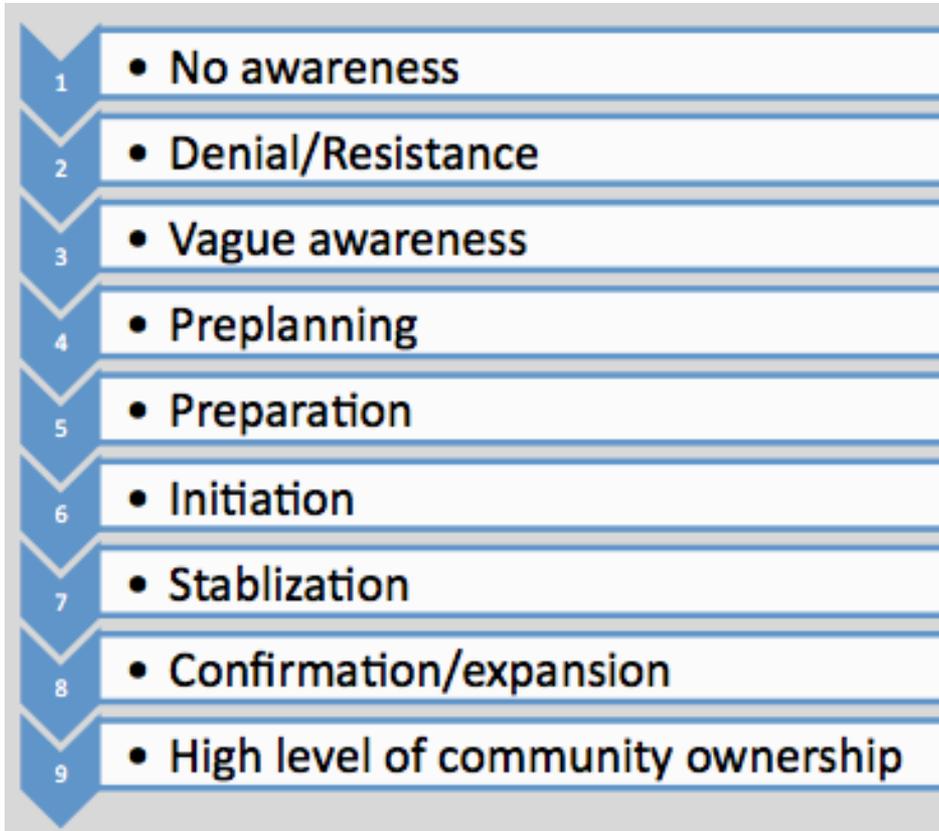
# School and Community Characteristics Related to DV among NH Youth

- $N=25,693$  high school youth from YRBS who dated in the past year
- Physical DV Victimization
  - School-level poverty (+)\*
  - Matter to community (-)\*
  - Age (+)\*
  - Being female\*
  - Being a racial/ethnic minority\*
  - Population density and community group participation unrelated to physical DV victimization
- Sexual DV Victimization
  - Community group participation (+)\*
  - Matter to community (-)\*
  - Age (-)\*
  - Being female\*
  - Being a racial/ethnic minority\*
  - Population density and school-level poverty unrelated to sexual DV victimization

# School and Community Characteristics Related to DV among NH Youth

- **Binge Drinking among DV victims**
  - Frequency of physical and sexual DV victimization (+)\*
  - Age (+)\*
  - Being male\*
  - Being a racial/ethnic minority\*
  - Population density, school-level poverty, matter to community, and community group participation unrelated to binge drinking
- **Depression among DV victims**
  - Frequency of physical and sexual DV victimization (+)\*
  - Matter to community (-)\*
  - Age (-)\*
  - Being female\*
  - Being a racial/ethnic minority\*
  - Population density, school-level poverty, community group participation unrelated to poor academics
- **Poor Academics among DV victims**
  - Frequency of physical and sexual DV victimization (+)\*
  - Community group participation (-)\*
  - Matter to community (-)\*
  - Age (-)\*
  - Being male\*
  - Being a racial/ethnic minority\*
  - Population density and school-level poverty unrelated to poor academics

# School Readiness to Address DV and SV

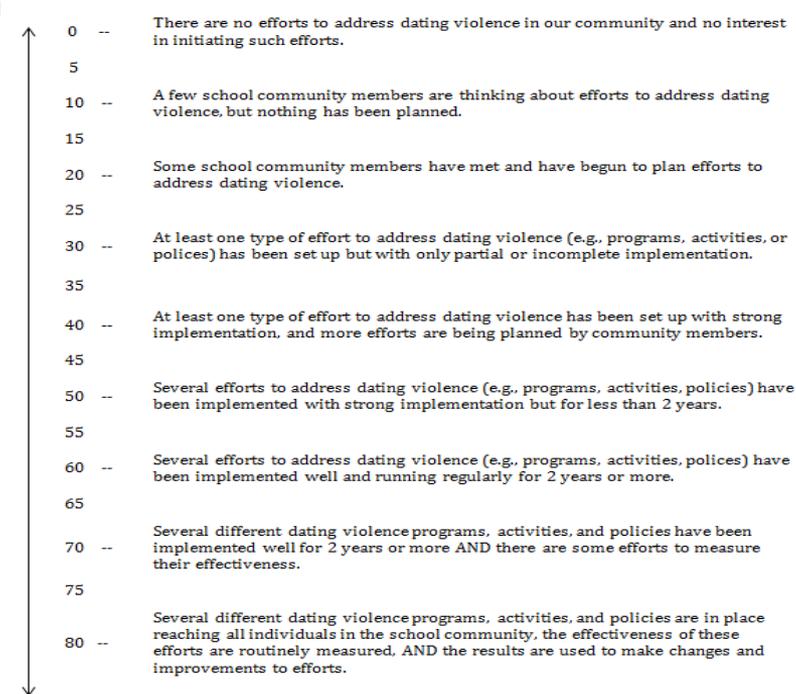


- Community climate
- Community efforts
- Community knowledge
- Community awareness of efforts
- Community leadership concerns
- Resources related to the issue

# Community Readiness Tools

## Part 3C: Community Efforts

Using the scale below (0-80), circle the number that best represents efforts your school community has put in place to address dating violence.



- Efforts to address sexual assault have been running for several years. (S)
- Evaluation is routinely used to test the effectiveness of sexual assault efforts on campus. (S)
- Efforts to address sexual assault are being planned. (I)
- Efforts to address sexual assault have been recently implemented. (I)
- The campus community doesn't think efforts to address sexual assault are needed. (D)
- There are no efforts addressing sexual assault on my campus and no planning efforts or motivation to begin efforts. (D)

Using the descriptions above, select the number on the sliding scale below that represents the school community's knowledge of **child sexual abuse**. You may choose any number between 0 and 80. It is normal for schools to sometimes be between categories; for example, if you felt that your school community is somewhere between and 30 and a 40, but closer to a 30, you might select 33.

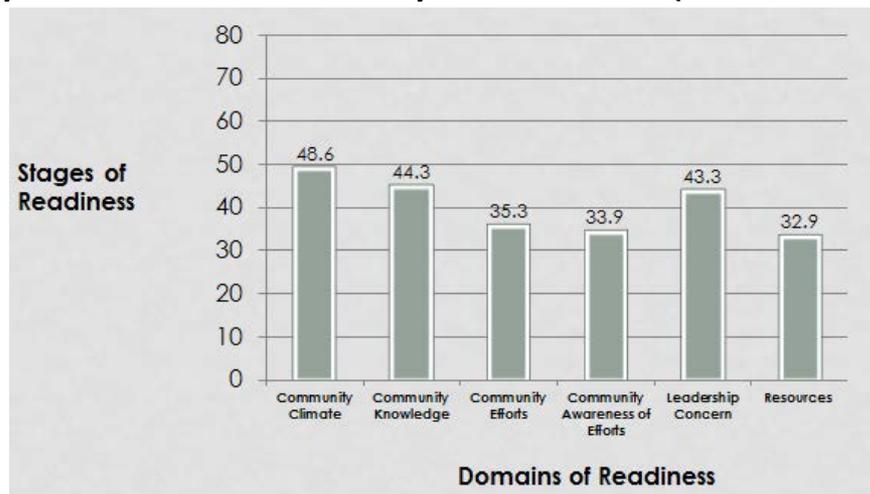


# Community Readiness Preliminary Findings

## College campus community readiness (DV and SV)

	Mean	SD	Range
SA-Sustain	2.85	0.51	1.35 – 3.80
SA-Denial	1.43	0.35	1.00 – 3.19
SA-Initiate	2.89	0.49	1.00 – 3.89
RA-Sustain	2.43	0.58	1.00 – 4.00
RA –Denial	1.49	0.47	1.00 – 3.23
RA-Initiate	2.59	0.59	1.00 – 4.00

## Elementary school community readiness (child sexual abuse)



# NH Legislators' Attitudes, Knowledge, and Progressive Policy Endorsement Related to IPV and SV

- Survey of 76 NH legislators in winter 2014
- Legislators generally disagreed with IPV and SV myths and expressed intended support for the majority of progressive DV and SV policies
  - BUT, most legislators provided inaccurate local estimates of the prevalence of DV and SV
- Higher educational attainment was related to less DV myths; democrats endorsed more progressive policies and less DV myths than republicans; and accurate estimate of DV prevalence for women related to progressive policy endorsement
  - No significant differences between NH legislators in rural locales compared to NH legislators in suburban/urban locales on number of progressive DV and SV policies endorsed or DV and SV myths
- Primary reasons for non-support of progressive IPV and SV policies was the belief the policies would do nothing to improve the issue and the belief that individual freedom should trump government mandates

# Program and Policy Implications

- Problems with one size fits all prevention
  - Community and school variability in NH
    - Readiness
    - Risk and protective factors
- Moving forward in NH
  - Increase school and community readiness
  - Enhance peer and community connections
  - Building connections between various stakeholders
  - Other inter-connected social issues (e.g., poverty) must also be addressed
- Current CDC-funded project

# Contact Information

**Katie M. Edwards, Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor of Psychology and Women's Studies

Research and Evaluation Consultant, Prevention Innovations

Faculty Fellow, Carsey School of Public Policy

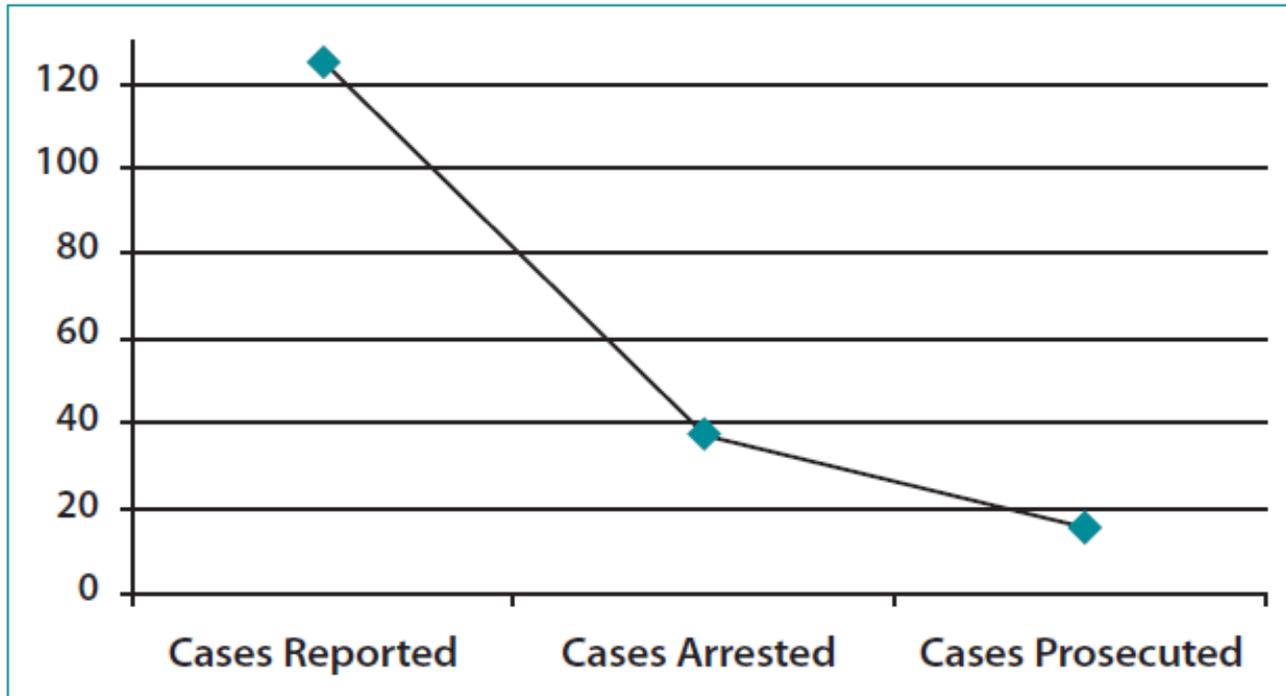
Director, Interpersonal Violence Research Laboratory

**Email:** [Katie.Edwards@unh.edu](mailto:Katie.Edwards@unh.edu)

**Phone:** 603-862-3720

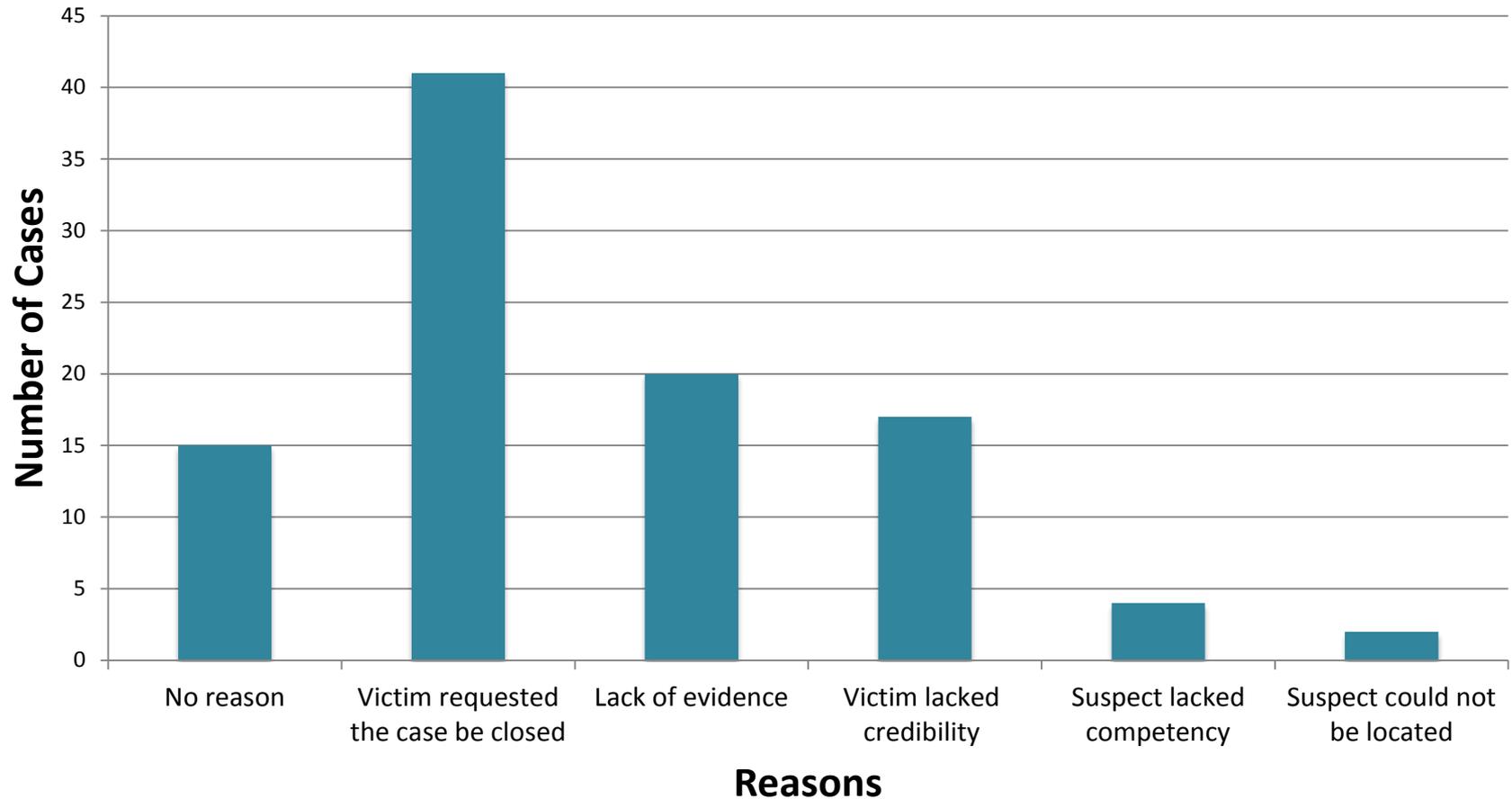
**Website:** [unh.edu/ivrl/](http://unh.edu/ivrl/)

# Sexual Assault Case Attrition

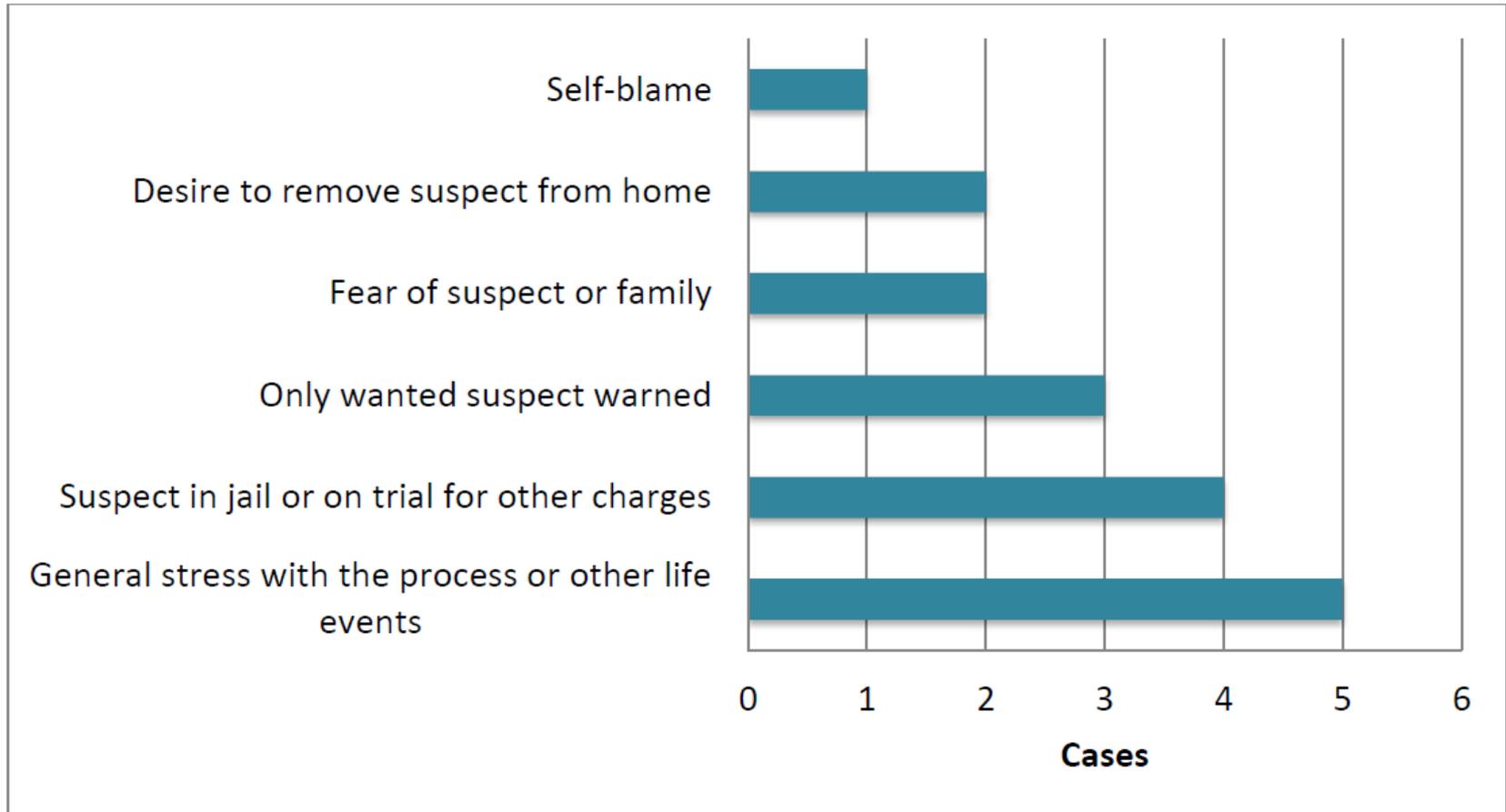


**FIGURE 1. Sexual Assault Case Attrition in New Hampshire, 2008**

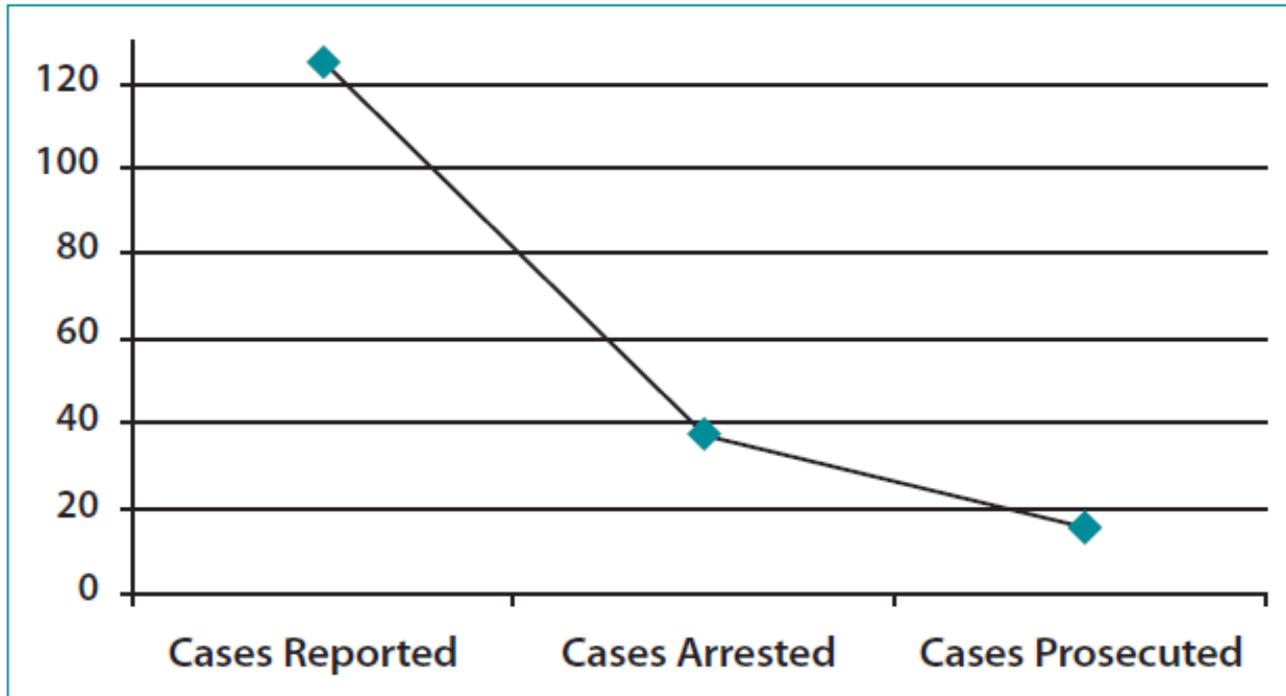
# Reasons for Non-Arrest



# Reasons Documented for Victims' Desire to Drop Charges



# Sexual Assault Case Attrition



**FIGURE 1. Sexual Assault Case Attrition in New Hampshire, 2008**

# Reasons for Non-Prosecution

