

My Capstone Question:

**Can I predict if an arrest will be made when
sexual assault is reported in Chicago?**

Why Should We Care?

The city of Chicago has gotten a lot of criticism for how it has handled sexual assault cases. According to sexual assault advocates, sexual assault investigations are not seen as a priority.

Looking at up-to-date data, only about 15% of reported sexual assault cases result in arrest.

Meanwhile, research estimates that the percentage of false reports are around 2-8%.
(The National Center for the Prosecution of Violence Against Women, 2009)

Something is amiss - I'd like to look at what factors may or may not be contributing to this disconnect.

Who Else Would Care?

- Women and other vulnerable populations
- Higher Ranking Law Enforcement Officials
- The Education and Training Division
- Law/Policy Makers
- Department of Justice
- Humans who care about other humans

Preliminary Data:

The City of Chicago Data Portal

- Provides data on reported sexual assault cases from 2001 through present
- Includes 24,160 cases

Preliminary Features to Consider:

- Time of day
- Day of week
- Year/Time of Year
- Location Description (residence, alley, CTA platform, vehicle, etc)
- Assault Description (aggravated or non-aggravated)
- Domestic - if the incident was related to domestic violence
- Police District - the district in which the incident occurred
- Beat - the smallest unit of policing
- Ward
- Community Area

Ideal Additions:

- Police training history
- Police salaries by station or precinct
- General demographics of the officers who arrive at the scene (age, race, sex)
- General demographics of perpetrators and victims (age, race, sex) by case number.
 - I don't yet know if this data is made publicly available, but it could add interesting insights

Next Steps:

- EDA on the data I already have
- To try to get additional data, contact:
 - Rape Victim Advocates (<http://www.rapevictimadvocates.org/>)
 - Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault
(<http://www.icasa.org/crisisCenters.aspx?CenterId=1&PageID=501>)
 - Tom Schenk - The City of Chicago Data Officer