

Women Versus Men

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In the podcast, the podcast, *Beyond Fear* episode 11: Do Women Do Those Things?! By Dr. Alissa Ackerman with guest Dr. Alexa Sardina they gave us many facts on women offenders including, women make up 3% of the offenders arrested for rape and that about 10% of the sex offending population (taking into account the dark figure of crime or the unreported cases). The two emphasizes just how hard it can be to nail down a number for women sexual offenders and not only because of the cases that go unreported. Dr. Sardinia goes on to explain that many of these cases are not chosen to be prosecuted, mainly due to the belief that women sexually abusing men is not seen as severe as the other way around. That getting a jury to convict a woman is harder to prove. Simply put it is not viewed as that harmful if a woman were to sexually abuse a victim. (Ackerman, 2020, 6:30) The podcast goes on to explore that women are often seen as more maternal figures and not so much as sexual abusers. So whereas a woman changing a diaper or helping children in the bathroom looks innocent, it may raise suspicion if a man were to do the same thing.

It continued on with Ackerman's interview, explaining that while there are similarities in the base demographics with female and male offenders, it tends to widely vary after those base distinctions. Women more often stem from dysfunctional homes, suffer from serious mental health issues, and a history of sexual victimization. Typically, they target male victims. Another fact on women sexual offenders is that half of them are co-offending with a male romantic partner. (Ackerman, 2020, 9:45) Therefore, the same typologies cannot be applied to both male and female offenders because there is too much variation and the underlying causes are different. Even in the powerpoint by Dr. Niebuhr, *Types and Typologies of Sexual Offenders*, emphasizes that women and men typologies are very different, even with very little research there is

knowledge of them being significantly different. (Niebuhr, 2025, 12) So, they should not be applied in the same manner.

References

Ackerman, A. (2020, October 7). *Episode 11 – Do women do those things?! Beyond Fear.*

<https://beyondfearpodcast.wordpress.com/2020/10/07/do-women-do-those-things/>

Niebuhr, N. (2025, January). *Types and Typologies of Sexual Offenders*. [Slide show; Microsoft Powerpoint].