Unfounded and False Allegations
What do we mean by “false allegation?”

• How false does an allegation have to be?

• How to address inconsistent or untrue statements.
UCR Guidelines for Unfounding

• Complaints can be unfounded if they are found to be false or baseless.
  – Investigation determines that no offense was completed or attempted.
  – Offenses are still recorded but scored as unfounded.
Factors commonly used to improperly unfound cases

- Victim gives inconsistent or untrue facts
- Delayed reporting
- Lack of visible physical injury
- Relationship between victim or suspect
- Recall of additional facts
- Victim is vague about details of the assault
- Victim fails a polygraph
- Case is difficult to investigate
Consequences of improperly unfounding cases

- For police agencies, can lead to public scrutiny and pressure
- For victims, can produce feelings of betrayal and negative effects on recovery
- For public, creates a false sense of reality and deters future victims from reporting
- For society, fuels the myth of false allegations