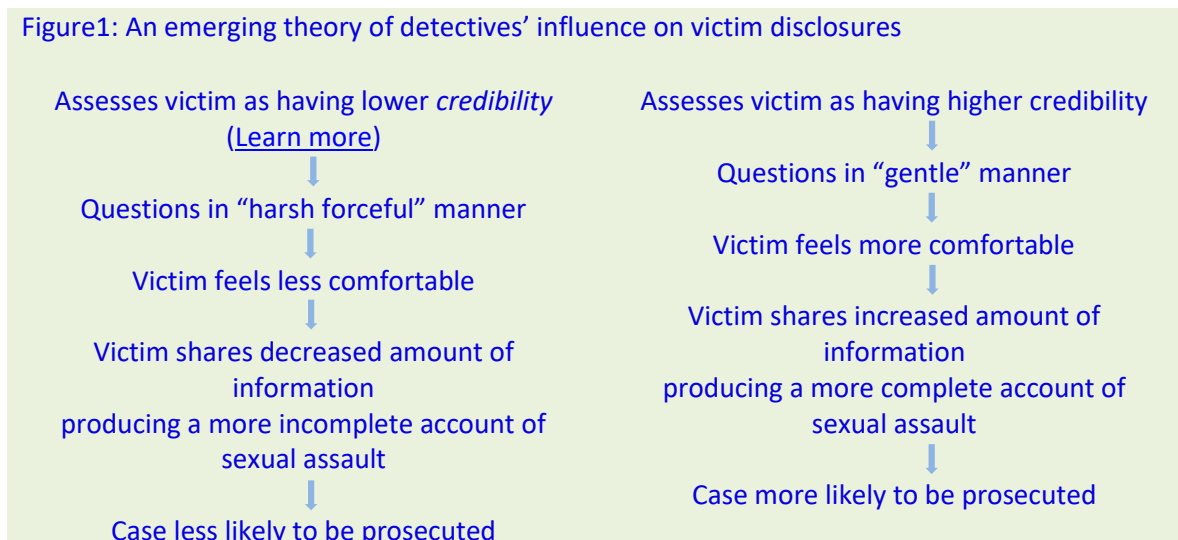


## Interviews by Security, Police and Investigators

Research on survivors’ experiences with reporting furthers our understanding of supportive responses. For instance, Patterson examined the types of interactions between victims and detectives associated with prosecuted and non-prosecuted cases<sup>1</sup>. She found that victims with prosecuted cases described the detectives as building rapport, increasing feelings of safety (e.g., consoling, reassuring, caring), setting a comfortable pace for the interview (e.g., told victims to take their time, gave them space), and using a “gentle” approach to questioning (e.g., careful in questioning).

In contrast, victims with non-prosecuted cases described the detectives’ questioning as rapid and forceful (e.g., long succession of questions, pace set by detective not the victim). In these cases, the detectives did not engage in rapport building which made the women feel uncomfortable and guarded (e.g., questioning focused less on factual information and more on the victim’s character and reaction to the rape). The forceful style of interaction/interviewing was associated with lowered assessments of credibility and the gentle style with higher assessments of credibility. Based on her findings and related findings from other researchers, Patterson proposed an emerging theory of detectives’ influence on victim disclosure (see Figure 1).

Figure1: An emerging theory of detectives’ influence on victim disclosures



From: Overcoming Barriers and Enhancing Supportive Responses: The Research on Sexual Violence Against Women (2012)

<sup>1</sup> Patterson, D. (2011). The impact of detectives’ manner of questioning on rape victims’ disclosure. *Violence Against Women*, 17(11), 1349-1373.