
Contents

List of Illustrations	vii
Preface	ix
1 Introduction	1
<i>A different kind of monitoring</i>	6
<i>Research method</i>	8
2 The Reality of assault	18
<i>Sex</i>	18
<i>Age</i>	19
<i>Race</i>	20
<i>Lifestyle</i>	21
<i>Predictors</i>	23
<i>Assault archetypes</i>	38
3 Harm and reporting	44
<i>Tolerance of violence</i>	48
<i>Assaults in a 'domestic' context</i>	49
<i>Reporting</i>	52
4 The victim and the police	73
<i>The significance of the 'complaint'</i>	75
<i>Seriousness and the limits of police discretion</i>	92
5 The police and the demands of the legal process	95
<i>The demands of the prosecution process</i>	101
<i>The mechanics of detecting assault</i>	105
<i>Witnesses</i>	107
<i>The police, the prosecution and the public</i>	111
6 Police case construction	118
<i>Police perception of the assailant</i>	126

<i>The significance of the assailant's race</i>	127
<i>The imposition of police views in statement-taking</i>	128
<i>Determining the charge</i>	132
7 Victims in court	136
<i>Difficulties faced by the prosecution in proving assault charges</i>	143
<i>The 'story' and the court</i>	146
<i>The victim in court</i>	149
8 Assault, prosecution and the victim	159
<i>Criminalisation</i>	161
<i>Assault, prosecution and the victim</i>	165
Appendix A – Research method	179
Appendix B – The cases	182
Notes	210
Bibliography	216
Index	223