

Talking to Killers and Non-killers: What can they tell us about sexual coercion, jealousy and infidelity as key elements of abusive behavior?

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3/1/2024



Sexual Violence in Fatal and Non-fatal IPV Relationships

Jacquelyn Campbell Study:

Femicides 46% (N = 220)

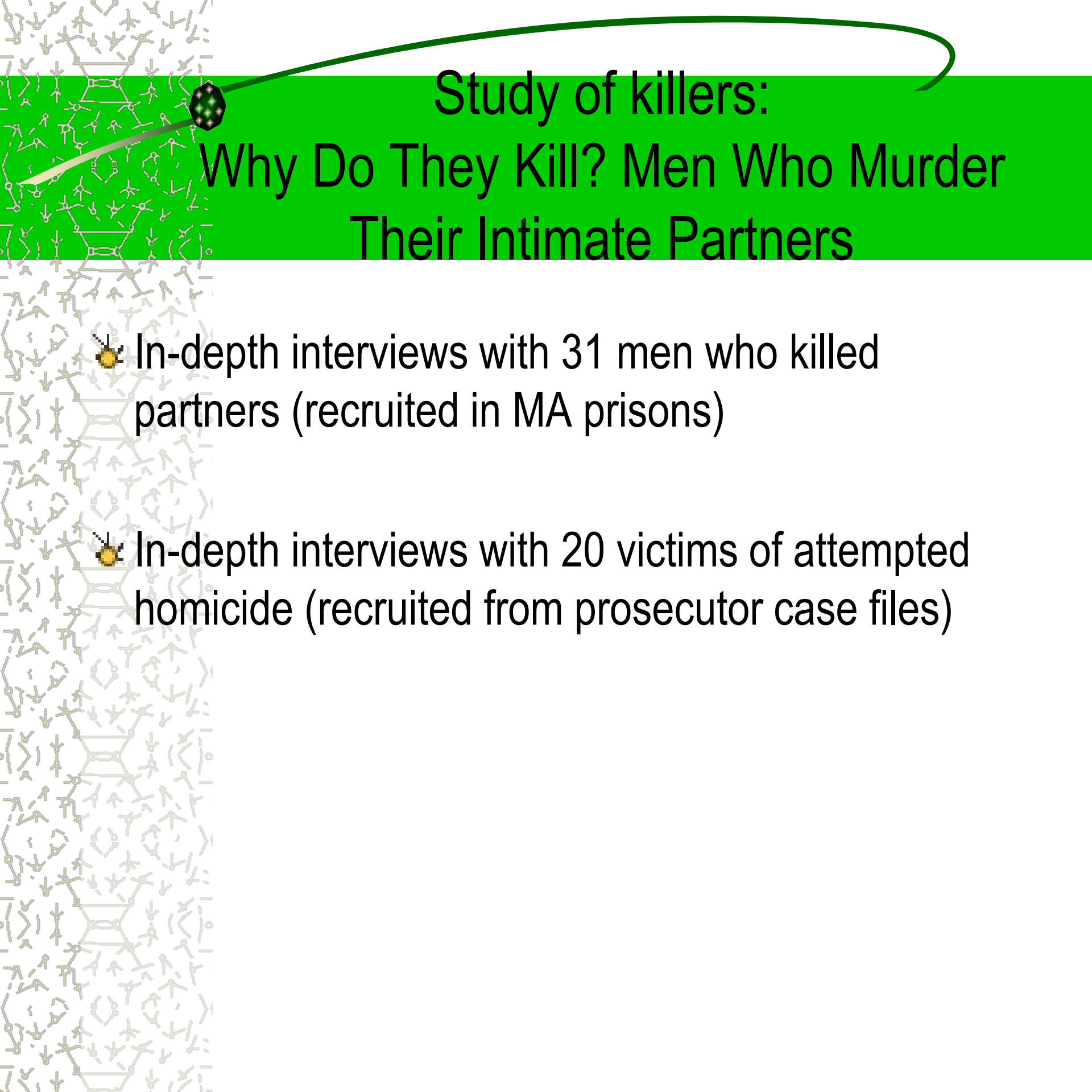
Abused Controls 15% (N = 365)

Source: J. Campbell, NIJ VAWA R01 DA/AA156

Donna McFarlane & Ann Malacha Study, 2005:

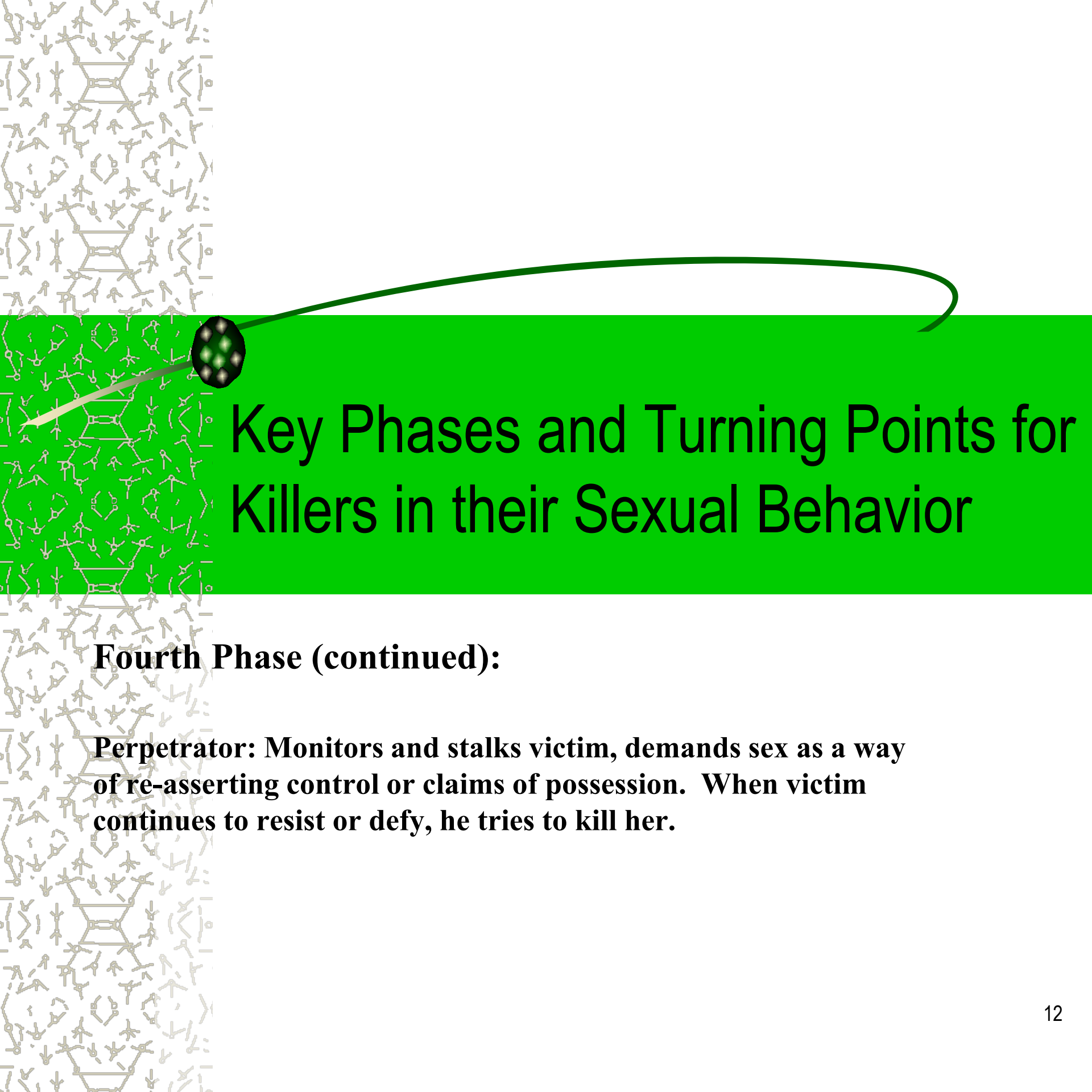
Abused Women in General: 68% (N=68)

Source: US Department of Justice, NCJRS Document 211678



Study of killers: Why Do They Kill? Men Who Murder Their Intimate Partners

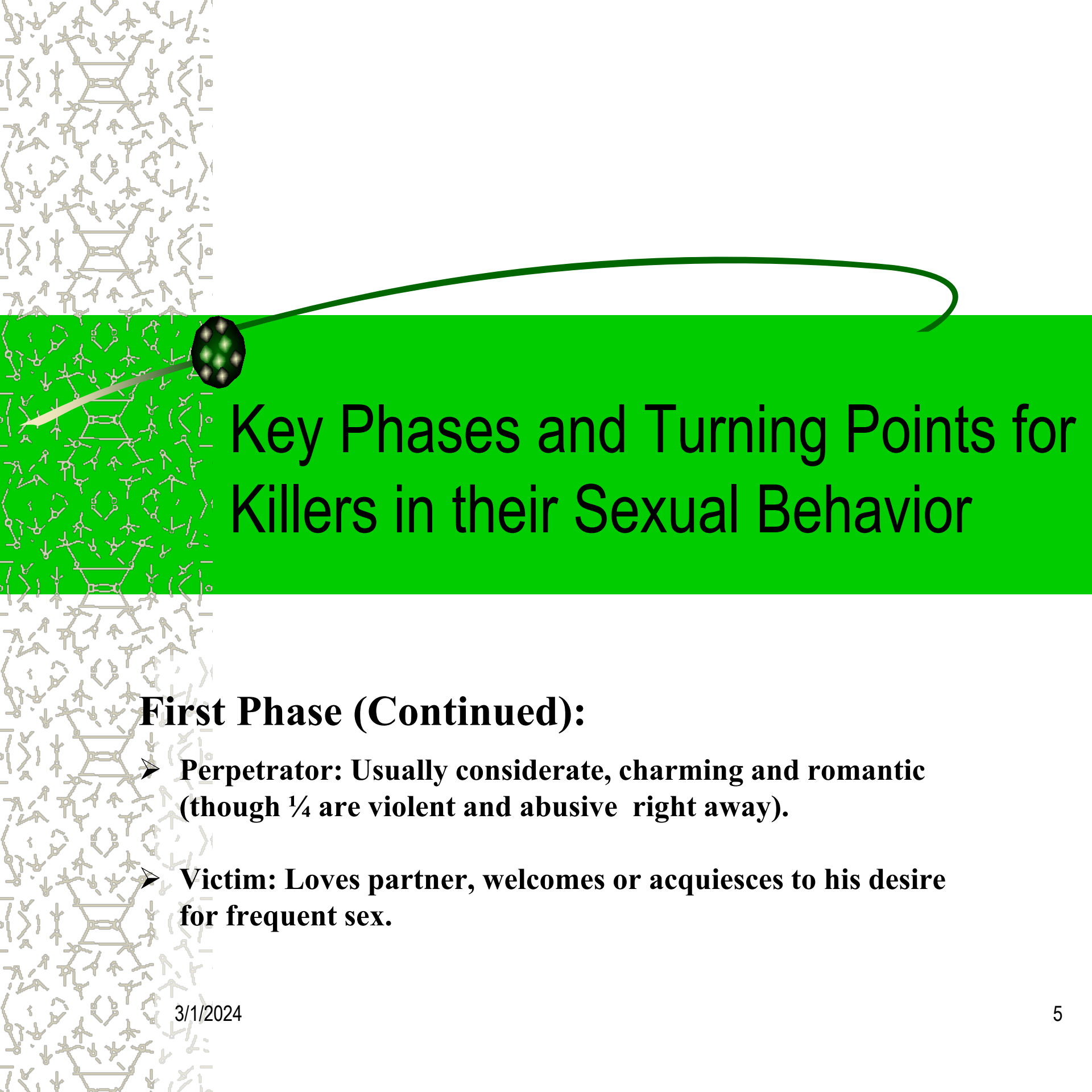
- In-depth interviews with 31 men who killed partners (recruited in MA prisons)
- In-depth interviews with 20 victims of attempted homicide (recruited from prosecutor case files)



Key Phases and Turning Points for Killers in their Sexual Behavior

First Phase:

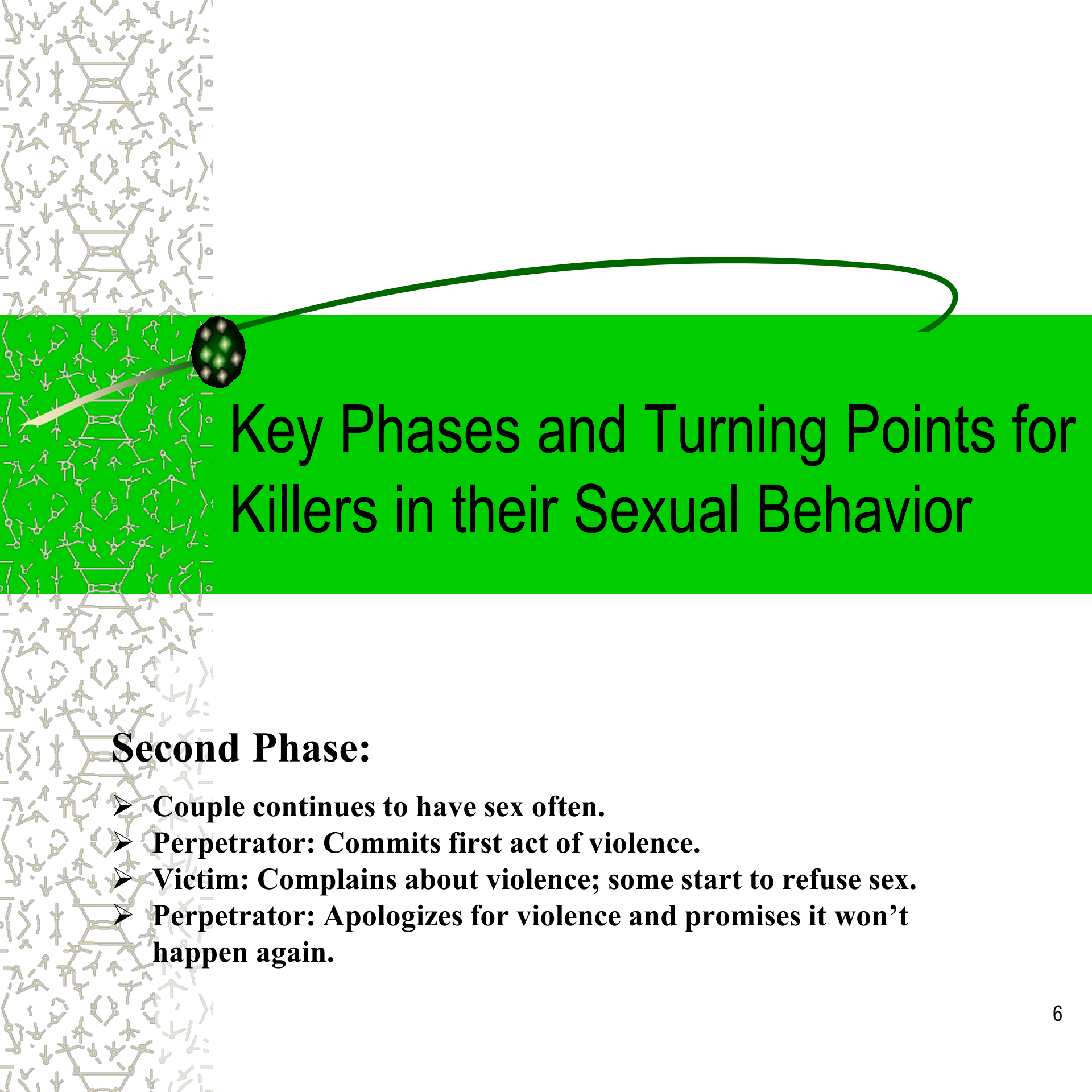
- **“Courtship” period ranges from one day to six months.**
- **Couple begins to live together within three months on average.**
- **Sex is usually daily or multiple times per day.**
- **Perpetrator: Usually considerate, charming and romantic (though ¼ are violent and abusive right away).**
- **Victim: Loves partner, welcomes or acquiesces to his desire for frequent sex.**



Key Phases and Turning Points for Killers in their Sexual Behavior

First Phase (Continued):

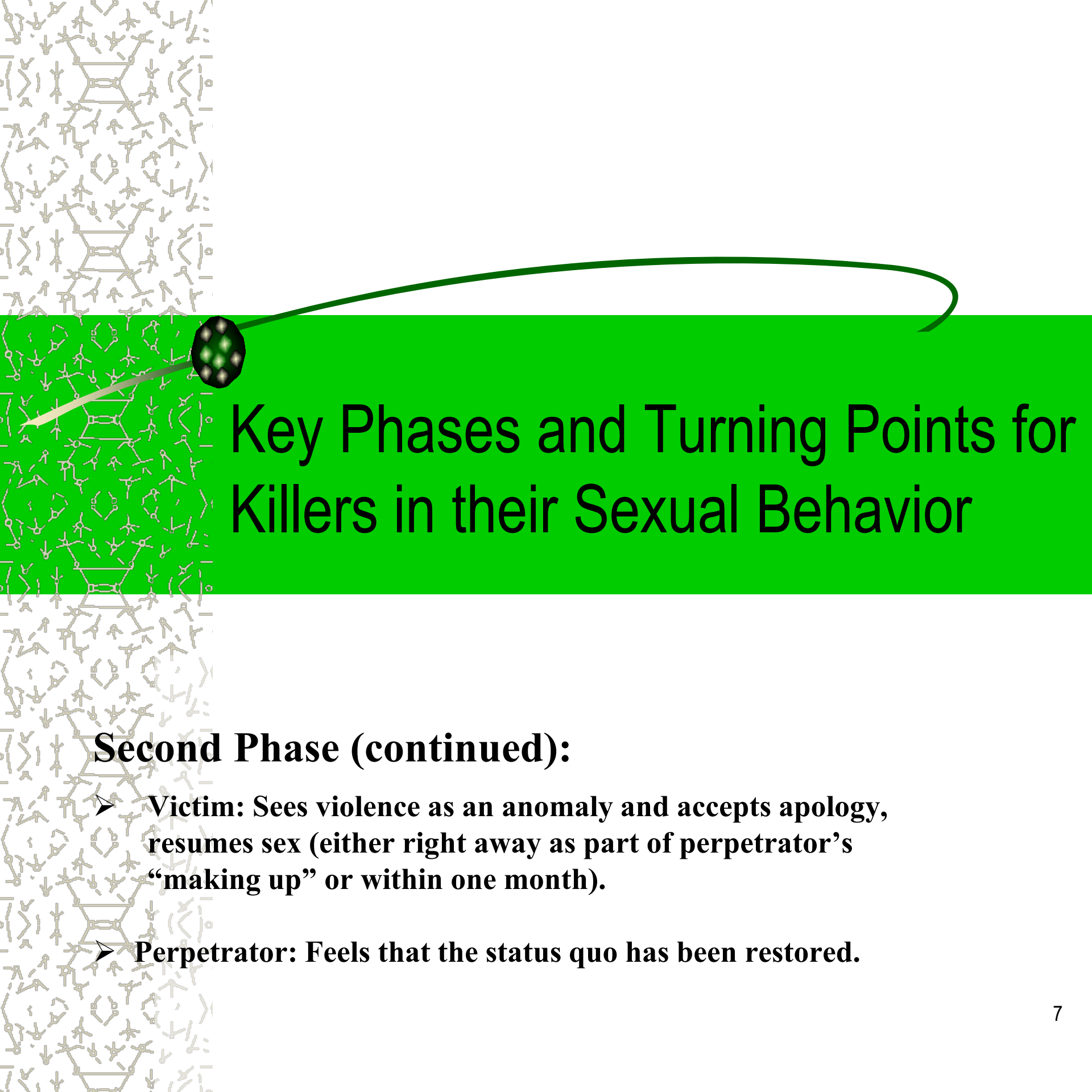
- **Perpetrator: Usually considerate, charming and romantic (though $\frac{1}{4}$ are violent and abusive right away).**
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Key Phases and Turning Points for Killers in their Sexual Behavior

Second Phase:

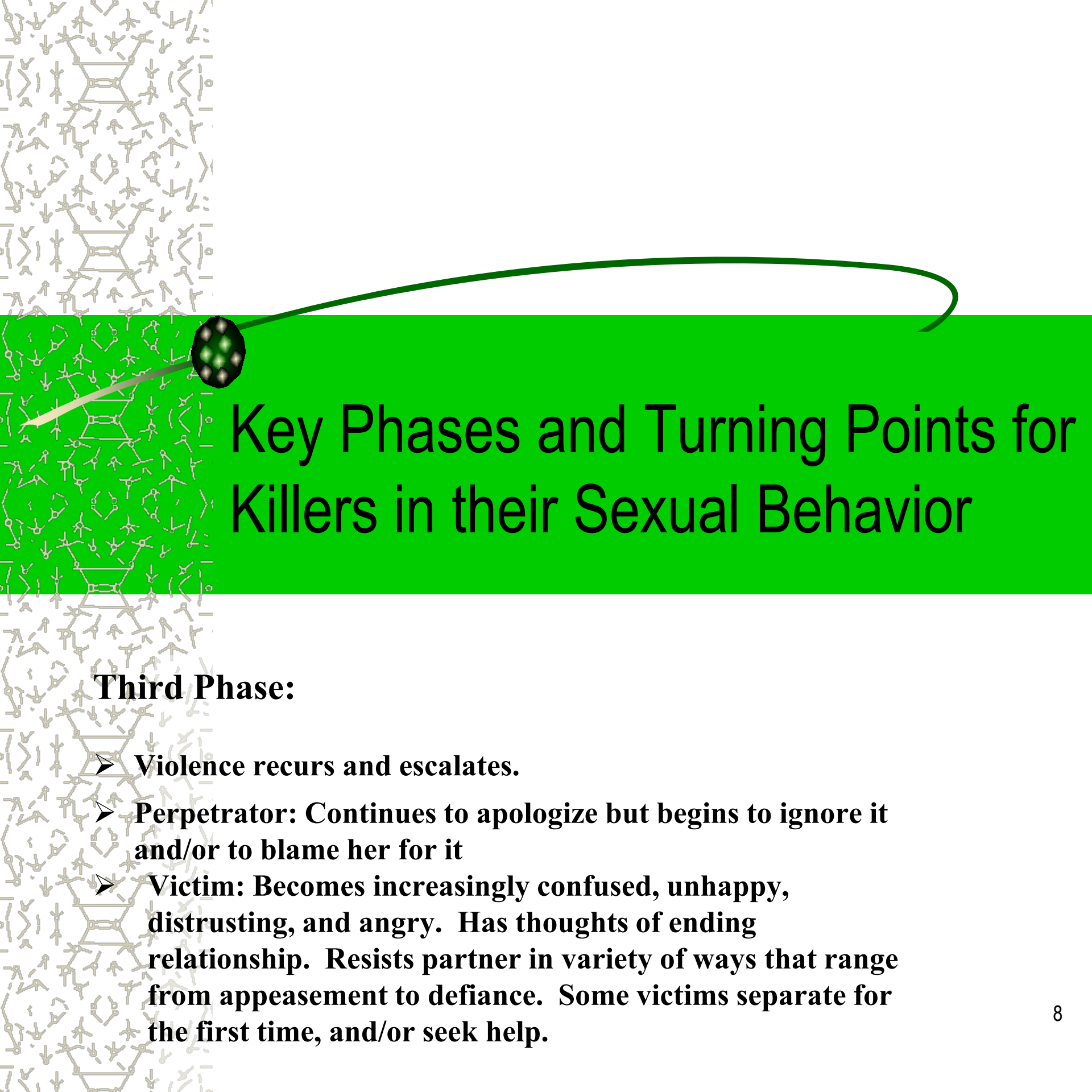
- **Couple continues to have sex often.**
- **Perpetrator: Commits first act of violence.**
- **Victim: Complains about violence; some start to refuse sex.**
- **Perpetrator: Apologizes for violence and promises it won't happen again.**



Key Phases and Turning Points for Killers in their Sexual Behavior

Second Phase (continued):

- **Victim:** Sees violence as an anomaly and accepts apology, resumes sex (either right away as part of perpetrator's "making up" or within one month).
- **Perpetrator:** Feels that the status quo has been restored.



Key Phases and Turning Points for Killers in their Sexual Behavior

Third Phase:

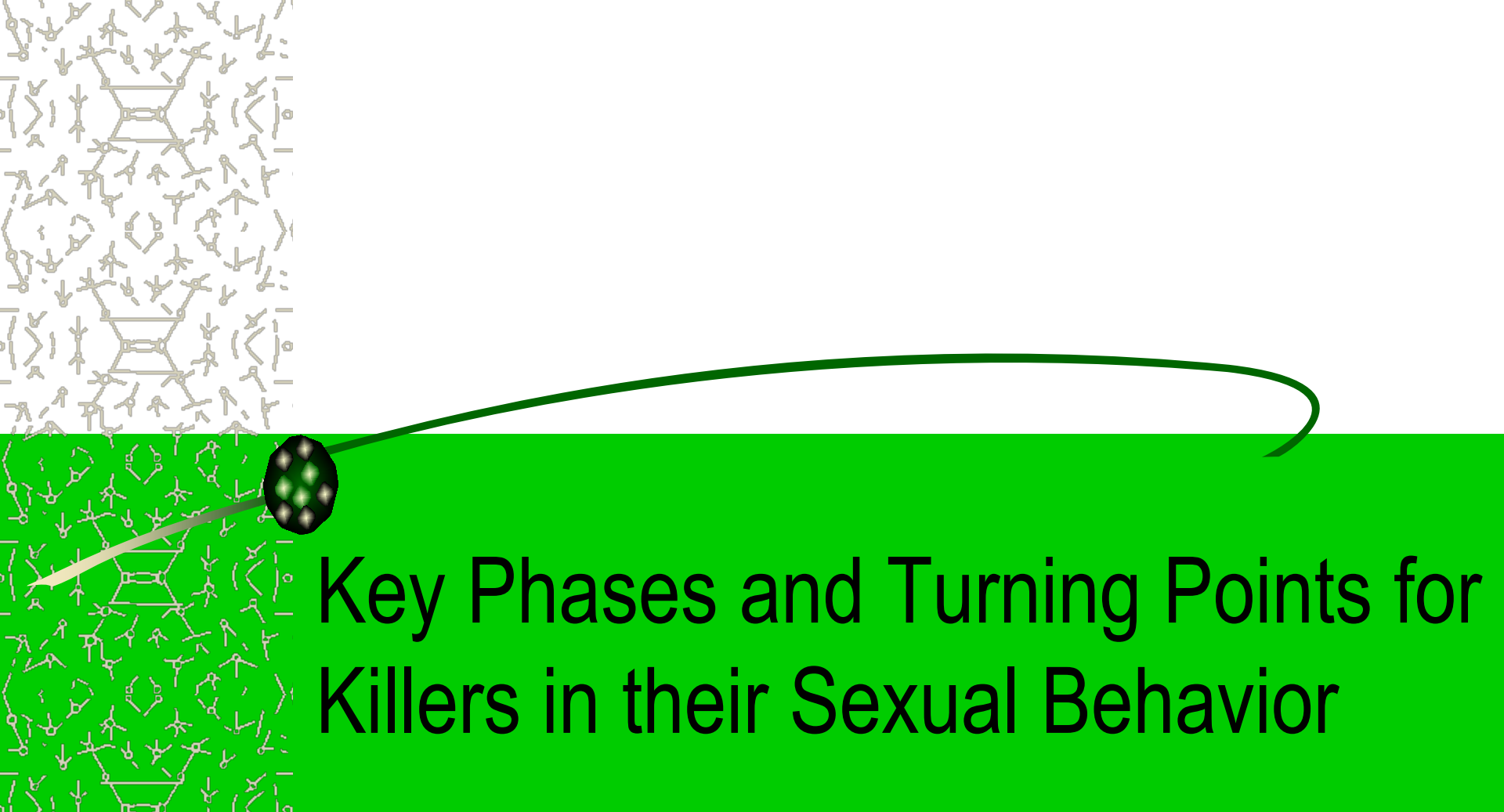
- **Violence recurs and escalates.**
- **Perpetrator: Continues to apologize but begins to ignore it and/or to blame her for it**
- **Victim: Becomes increasingly confused, unhappy, distrusting, and angry. Has thoughts of ending relationship. Resists partner in variety of ways that range from appeasement to defiance. Some victims separate for the first time, and/or seek help.**



Key Phases and Turning Points for Killers in their Sexual Behavior

Third Phase (continued):

- **Victim:** Becomes increasingly confused, unhappy, distrusting, and angry. Has thoughts of ending relationship. Resists partner in variety of ways that range from appeasement to defiance. Some victims separate for the first time, and/or seek help.
- **Perpetrator:** Sensing victim unhappiness and resistance, further escalates his violence and seeks new ways to control her. If victim has separated this often includes monitoring, stalking, threats, rape, financial manipulation, and abuse or neglect of children.



Key Phases and Turning Points for Killers in their Sexual Behavior

Third Phase (continued):

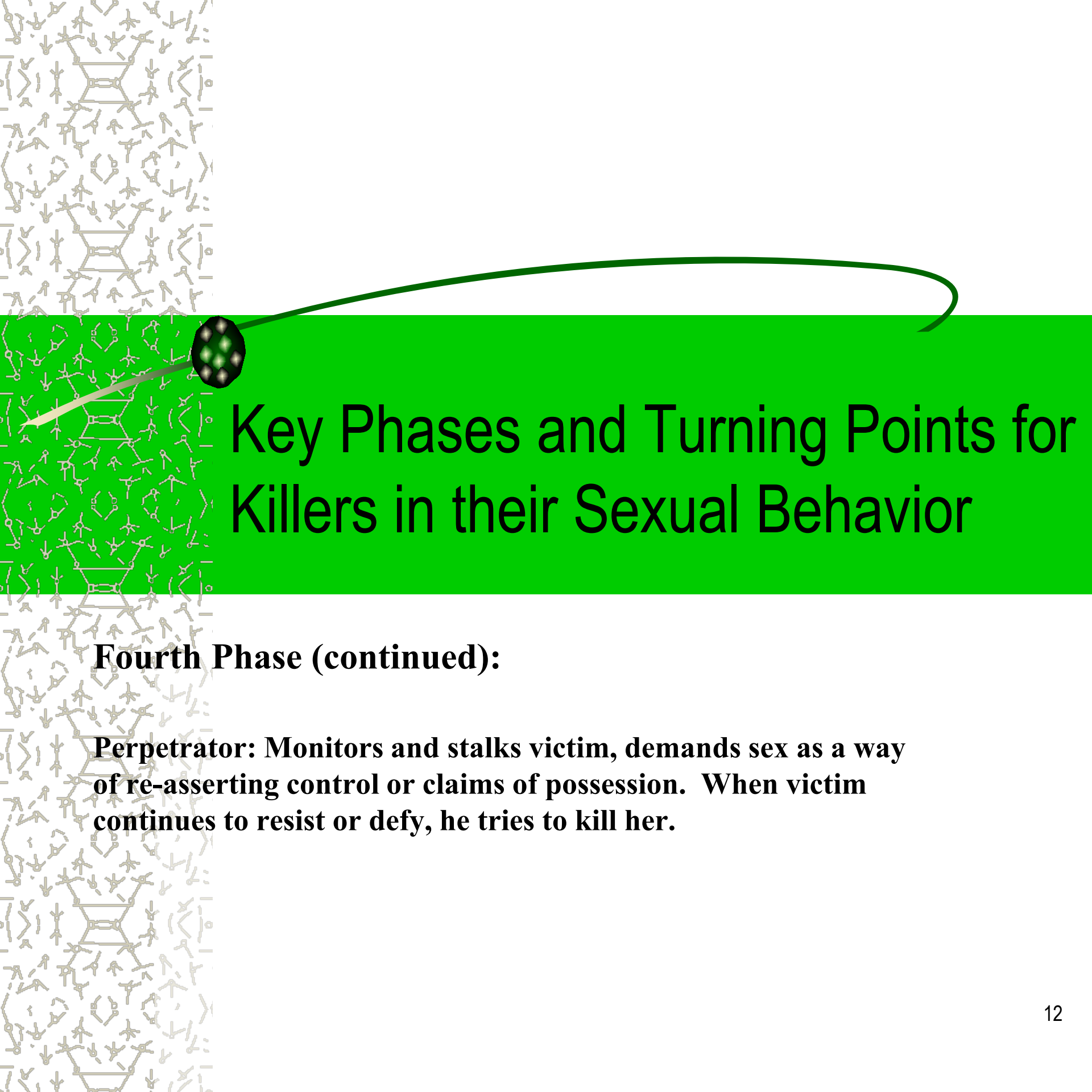
- **Victim:** Becomes more fearful, desperate, depressed and angry. Usually has turned to others for help and made one or more attempts to separate.
- **Perpetrator:** Engages in forced, humiliating or rough sex. Begins to have affairs, and begins to compare victim to other women.
- **Victim:** Most no longer refuse sex due to fear of consequences of refusal.
- **Perpetrator:** Increasingly monitors victim, and during separations, stalks and threatens her.
- **Victim:** Most who have left return to perpetrator due to



Key Phases and Turning Points for Killers in their Sexual Behavior

Fourth Phase:

- **Victim:** Most are chronically unhappy, depressed, anxious and/or angry. Most make plans to leave or attempt to end relationship again.
- **Perpetrator:** Further escalates his violence, threats and monitoring. Sex becomes increasingly violent and humiliating. He consistently blames victim for the violence and demands sex after violence.
- **Victim:** Most no longer blame themselves or feel responsible for perpetrator's violence. Over half have ended the relationship.



Key Phases and Turning Points for Killers in their Sexual Behavior

Fourth Phase (continued):

Perpetrator: Monitors and stalks victim, demands sex as a way of re-asserting control or claims of possession. When victim continues to resist or defy, he tries to kill her.



First Date Sex in Dating Relationships

Study by Willoughby, Carroll and Busby
(2014)

Journal of Sex Research (51) (1) p. 52-61

Based on interviews of 10,932 unmarried individuals ((63% females)



Sex in Dating Relationships in General

Sample included 4 groups:

- 1) *Those who had sex before dating (friends with benefits)***
- 2) *Those who had first date sex or sex within first week***
- 3) *Those who had first sex after a few weeks***
- 4) *Those who didn't have sex until marriage***

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Sex in Dating Relationships in General

Percentages:

- 48%** *First sex was after a few weeks*
- 35.5%** *First sex was on first date or first week*
- 10%** *First sex was prior to dating*
- 6.6%** *First sex was after marriage*



Relationship Satisfaction Based on When First Sex Happened

Satisfaction about relationship:

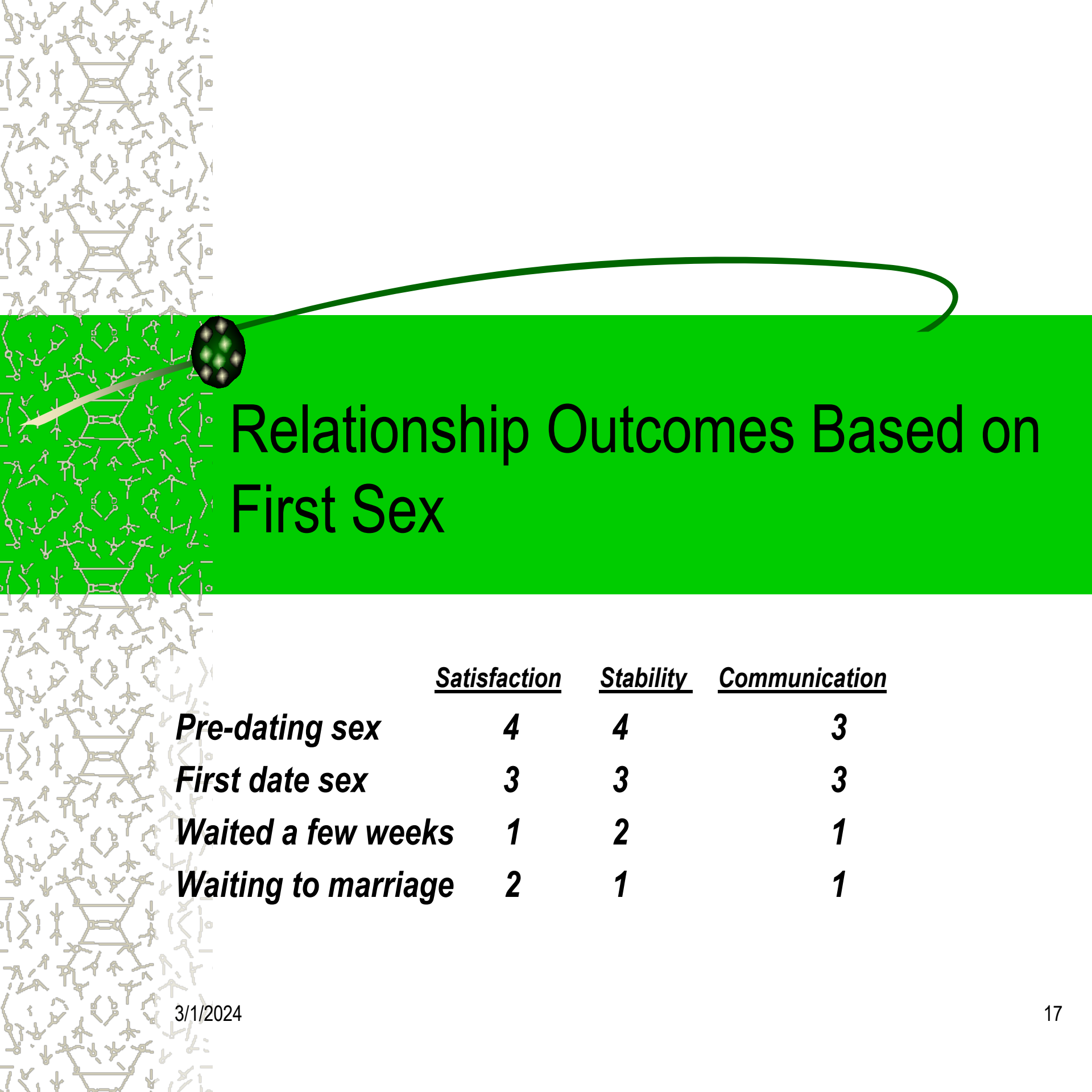
Highest was for those who waited a few weeks

Second highest was for those who waited to get married

Third highest was for those who had first date or first week sex

Fourth highest was for those who had sex before dating

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Relationship Outcomes Based on First Sex

	<u>Satisfaction</u>	<u>Stability</u>	<u>Communication</u>
<i>Pre-dating sex</i>	4	4	3
<i>First date sex</i>	3	3	3
<i>Waited a few weeks</i>	1	2	1
<i>Waiting to marriage</i>	2	1	1



Conclusions about early sex

“Early sex increases risk for asymmetrical commitments to relationship”

“Early sex creates more constraints to ending relationships”

Questions:

Are underlying differences masked by early sex?

Is abusive behavior foreboded by early sex?

Looking at Relationship Histories of abusive men

Relationship History Exercise:

15 questions about each intimate relationship

Includes:

How did you meet?

How long did relationship last?

What was your attraction to her?

How soon did you have sex? Was it pressured?

Did you have affairs, how many?

What were her biggest complaints?

What was your abusive or controlling behavior

Findings from Relationship Histories of 21 men

- 44 relationships were reviewed
- Frequency of first or second date sex: 41%
- 4 of the men only had first/second date sex in all their relationships
- 17 men had first/second date sex in at least one, but not all their relationships



Findings, con't

Common trends for men who had first/second date sex

- **More likely to meet partner online**
- **Attractions were mostly physical characteristics**
- **“Love bombing”**
- **More likely to have short courtships (average was 3.5 months)**
- **Sexual coercion is more likely**
- **More likely to be unfaithful**
- **More likely to be extremely jealous**
- **More likely to use sexually degrading names**

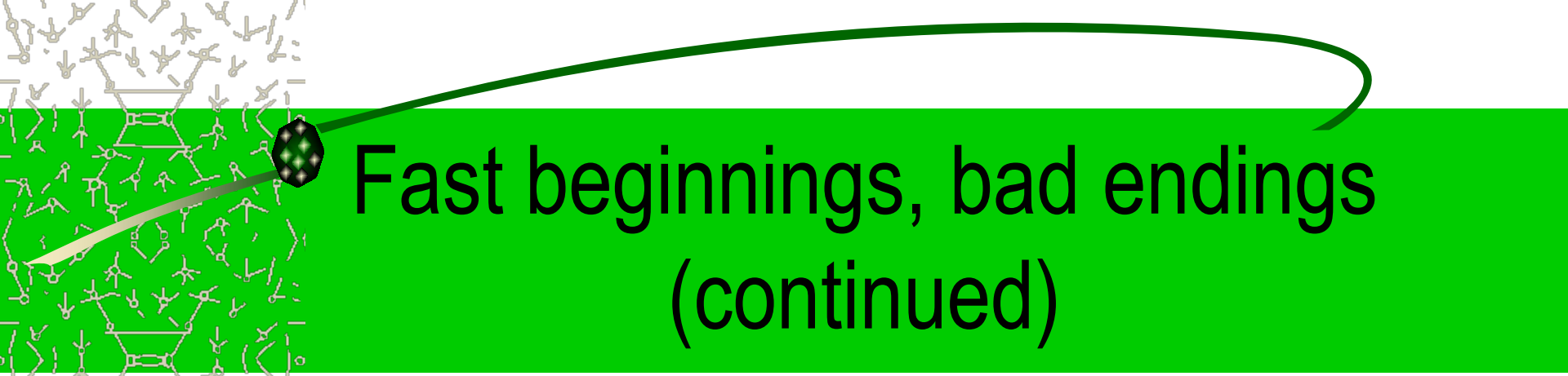


Common Themes

- ✦ “Rescuing the woman”
- ✦ Opportunistic ways of meeting women
- ✦ “Soul mates”
- ✦ Love bombing
- ✦ Lack of boundaries
- ✦ Magical thinking
- ✦ Selfish sex
- ✦ Madonna/whore attitudes toward women

Examples of 1st “Rescuing” a woman (and first date sex)

- Luis helped Sylvia pump her gas at a gas station. He did not work at the station; just saw her from across street and offered his “help”.
- Robert met Jane at an AA meeting. She was on the rebound from a bad relationship with a partner who was still using drugs. Robert offered a sensitive ear.
- Jesse met Becky on the street and helped helped her start her car. They started making out in the car.
- Ronald struck up a conversation with Darlene on a city bus. She revealed that her parents had kicked her out of their house because she was pregnant. He offered to let her move in with him. She moved into his parents house two days later. Ronald killed Darlene two months later.
- Nate met Erika on Tinder. She lived in NYC and he in Boston. After 1 month of texting each other multiple times a day, he invited her for a weekend in Boston. She spent the weekend and essentially never left, later moving her belongings into his place.




Fast beginnings, bad endings (continued)

- Reggie met Virginia on a dating site. They met up at a restaurant and later had sex at his apartment. They started texting and facetimeing multiple times a day, referring to each other as “soul mates”. Two weeks later, she asked him to babysit her 5 children, aged 7 months to 7 years. Reggie had been abusive to his ex-wife and had only supervised visits with his 4 year-old son. He told Virginia he was a victim of “parental alienation”



Love bombing

 **Justine met Mia at work. He was a caseworker and she was an intern. One night after work, they had a long walk and bonded over each other's dysfunctional upbringings and 'abusive' ex-partners. Justine falsely stated that his ex had been abusive to him. Later that evening, they had sex. On his second date, Justine yelled at Mia during an argument. Later that evening, she went to her car and found that Justine had filled it with stuffed animals, flowers, heart-shaped cookies and a puppy. Two weeks later, he raped her while she was sleeping after she revealed to him that she still had feelings for her ex-partner.**