




Legal Applications



The Crime



Lineups



Typical Police Lineup



- Six people
 - One _____
 - Five _____
- **Photo- vs. Live Lineup**
- Purpose: See if eyewitness will identify the **suspect** as the **culprit**

Problems with Lineups



- People tend to pick the one who looks the most like the offender
- What if suspect is not in the lineup? Pick the closest one
- Eyewitnesses have difficulty saying he isn't there



- Correlation between confidence and accuracy is about +.40 (positive, but only moderate)
- Determinant of going to trial and conviction
- Made worse with **confirmatory feedback** from investigators (Wells & Bradfield, 1998, 1999) (e.g., “Yep! You got him!”; applauding decision)



Solutions for Relative Judgments

- Suspect should not “stand out”
- _____ **procedure**
 - Decision is made one person at a time
 - Reduces relative judgment problems



Solutions for False Confidence

- One suspect per lineup
- Caution that suspect may not be in the lineup
- _____
 - Investigators not told if suspect is present or not
 - Reduces false confidence
- Collect a confidence statement at the time of the identification

Difficulties



- Communication gap between science and public
- Police tradition
- Lack of direction from prosecutors and courts
- Local control

Other (Familiar) Problems in Eyewitness Testimony



- _____
 - People can receive a LOT of misleading information between the incident and the trial
 - This is amplified the more often that misleading bit of information is retold by the witness
- _____
 - People tend to boost their confidence AFTER they've identified the suspect as the culprit
