

Suspect , 21 , held as serial rapist : The Detroit man is accused of 6 attacks victims ages 16-24

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DETROIT -- A suspected **serial rapist** was expected to be arraigned today for attacks on six young women during the past month.

Investigators charged that between March 27 and April 22 the **21** -year-old Detroit man abducted and sexually assaulted five women, ages 16-18, and abducted and tried to rape a 24-year-old woman.

The oldest victim escaped by jumping from the attacker's vehicle while he was driving. The others said their assailant took them to another location, assaulted them and then released them.

Prosecutors were to charge the man with four counts of first-degree criminal sexual conduct, one count of second-degree criminal sexual conduct and one abduction count in 36th District Court.

The victims identified the man in a line-up, said Insp. Dennis Richardson, head of the Violent Crime Task Force.

"This man, who is married, would basically befriend his victims," Richardson said. "He would not make any advances. At a later date, he would come back, grab them, take them to a secluded area and rape them."

One of his victims was a 16-year-old Pershing student who told police the **suspect** attacked her Thursday as she walked home from school. That attack was spontaneous and not set up like the others, Richardson said.

Richardson said task force officers arrested the man Friday night near a Detroit auto plant. They found a BB gun, which looks like a pistol, under a seat in his truck.

Sandi Kanakis, of northwest Detroit, was relieved to hear the **suspect** had been arrested and added that girls need to be walk in pairs and stay away from strangers.

"More preventative measures need to be pounded into these kids' heads," said Kanakis, president of NoW Detroit (NorthWest Detroit community group). "Bad things can happen."

Detroit News Staff Writer Katie Merx contributed to this report.

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