THE PRIESTS AND DEACONS ACCUSED OF SEXUAL ABUSE

3.1 INTRODUCTION TO THE PROBLEM OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE BY ADULT MEN

For many years, scholars and practitioners have attempted to describe and categorize adult men who engage in sexually abusive behavior with children under the age of 18. One clear finding is that child sexual abusers are a heterogeneous population of individuals. There are sexual offenders in all racial, ethnic, age, and socioeconomic categories. In describing child sexual abuse, researchers in this area have focused on the characteristics of the abusers themselves (e.g., static personal variables, such as sexual attraction preferences, and personality) and variables related to the context in which the abuse occurs (e.g., access to victims, isolation of the offender, and presence of substance abuse) as well as personal and situational characteristics of their victims in an effort to create typologies of abusers for assessment and treatment purposes.[1]

One way of categorizing offenders, for example, is by the type of victim they choose. Some child sexual abusers are diagnosed as pedophiles, meaning that they exhibit recurrent, intense, sexually arousing fantasies, urges or behaviors related to sexual contact with a prepubescent child over a period of at least six months duration.[2] However, not all sexual abuse occurs with young children, and not all child sexual abusers fit this clinical diagnosis. Some researchers have identified a similar condition, ephebophilia, which refers to individuals who exhibit these same fantasies, urges or behaviors towards post-pubescent youths.[3] While some offenders evidence a clear preference for particular types of victims with regard to age and gender, many do not. Individuals who molest children may be heterosexual, homosexual, or bisexual with regard to victim selection. Child sexual abusers who prefer female victims are more likely to be diagnosed as pedophiles than those who prefer male children while child sexual abusers who prefer male victims tend to target boys who are slightly older.[4]

A second way of categorizing offenders is based on the factors believed to produce the offending behavior. The most widely accepted classification of child molesters follows a dichotomous model consisting of fixated offenders and regressed offenders.[5] A fixated offender is characterized as having a persistent, continual, and compulsive attraction to children. In contrast, regressed offenders are individuals who are primarily attracted to adults, but who are perceived to engage in sexual activity with children in response to particular stressors (e.g., marital problems and unemployment) or contextual variables (e.g., stress or loneliness).[6] Subsequent research has demonstrated that while these two concepts are still important in terms of describing sexual abusing types, this classification alone is not sufficiently nuanced to describe the complexities of child sexual abusers.[7] Instead, fixation can be understood to exist on a continuum, meaning that all offending behavior is likely to result from some varying degrees of a combination of stable personal characteristics (e.g., substance abuse) with contextual variables (e.g., depression).[8] It is clear that multiple subtypes of offenders exist within the population of sex offenders; however, there is no single classification system that has strong empirical support.

Empirical studies on child sexual abuse in the Catholic Church are limited. However, a number of descriptive studies have been reported which have examined small, often clinical samples of clergy. These studies suffer from a number of methodological weaknesses, such as small, non-representative samples, which limit their findings and make it impossible to draw any type of meaningful generalization about child sexual abuse in the Church. This literature, however, has focused attention on a number of important topics to be considered in studying the issues within the Church, including the difference between sexually offending and non-offending priests,[9] the difference between sexually offending priests and sexual offenders in the general population,[10] personality characteristics or backgrounds of sexually offending priests,[11] the link between child sexual abuse and substance abuse,[12] and the emotional or psychological development of abusive priests.[13] The survey instrument completed for each priest against whom allegations of abuse had been made incorporated questions associated with these topics.

The followings sections of the report present information about the priests and deacons alleged to have committed child sexual abuse.

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[1] Robert A. Knight & Raymond A. Prentky, "Classifying Sexual Offenders: The Development and Corroboration of Taxonomic Models." in *Handbook of Sexual Assault: Issues, Theories, and Treatment of the Offender*, 3rd ed., ed. William L. Marshall (New York: Plenum Press, 1990), 23-52; and Barbara K. Schwartz, "Characteristics and Typologies of Sex Offenders." in *The Sex Offender: Corrections, Treatment and Legal Practice*, 2nd ed., ed. Barbara K. Schwartz and Henry R. Cellini (New Jersey: Civic Research Institute, Inc, 1995)

[2] American Psychiatric Association, *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders: DSM-IV* (Washington, DC: American Psychiatric Association, 1999).

[3] Martin P. Kafka, "Sexual Molesters of Adolescents, Ephebophilia, and Catholic Clergy: A Review and Synthesis," in *Sexual Abuse in the Catholic Church: Scientific and Legal Perspectives*, ed. R. Karl Hanson, Friedemann Pfäfflin, and Manfred Lütz (Vatican: Libreria Editrico Vaticana, 2004).

[4] American Psychiatric Association, *DSM-IV*.

[5] A. Nicholas Groth, William F. Hobson, and Thomas G. Gary, "The Child Molester: Clinical Observations," in *Social Work and Child Sexual Abuse*, ed. Jon R. Conte and David A. Shore (New York: Haworth, 1982).

[6] Groth, Hobson, and Gary; David Finkelhor, *Child Sexual Abuse: New Theory and Research*, (New York: The Free Press, 1984).

[7] Lenore M. Simon, Bruce Sales, Alfred Kaszniak, and Marvin Kahn, "Characteristics of Child Molesters: Implications for the Fixated-Regressed Dichotomy," *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* 7 (2, 1992): 211-225.

[8] Simon, Sales, and Kahn.

[9] Robert J. Camargo, "Factor, Cluster, and Discriminant Analyses of Data on Sexually Active Clergy: The Molesters of Youth Identified," *American Journal of Forensic Psychology* 15 (2, 1997): 5-24.

[10] Thomas W. Haywood et al., "Psychological Aspects of Sexual Functioning Among Cleric and Non-cleric Alleged Sex Offenders," *Child Abuse & Neglect* 20 (6, 1996): 527-536; and R. Langevin, S. Curnoe, and J. Bain, "A Study of Clerics Who Commit Sexual Offenses: Are They Different From Other Sex Offenders?" *Child Abuse & Neglect* 24 (4, 2000): 535-545.

[11] Calvin S.L. Fones et al., "The Sexual Struggles of 23 Clergymen: A Follow-up study. *Journal of Sex & Marital Therapy* 25 (1999): 183-195; Richard Irons and Mark Laaser, "The Abduction of Fidelity: Sexual Exploitation by Clergy- Experience with Inpatient Assessment." *Sexual Addiction & Compulsivity* 1 (2, 1994): 119-129; and Thomas G. Plante, "Catholic Priests Who Sexually Abuse Minors: Why Do We Hear So Much Yet Know So Little?" *Pastoral Psychology* 44 (5, 1996): 305-310.

[12] Mary F. Ruzicka, "Predictor Variables of Clergy Pedophiles," *Psychological Reports* 80 (1997): 589-590.

[13] Eugene C. Kennedy, Victor J. Heckler, and Frank J. Kobler, "Clinical Assessment of a Profession: Roman Catholic Clergymen," *Journal of Clinical Psychology* 33 (1, 1977): 120-128; and Thomas P. Doyle, "Roman Catholic Clericalism, Religious Duress, and Clergy Sexual Abuse," Pastoral Psychology 51(3, 2003): 189-231.

3.2 SUMMARY RESULTS: PRIESTS WHO HAVE ALLEGATIONS OF SEXUAL ABUSE

Like those in the general population, priests who have allegations of sexual abuse are a heterogeneous group of individuals. The purpose of this chapter is to explain the characteristics of these priests, including their demographic characteristics (e.g., age at time of ordination and offense), their status in the Church, any behavioral and psychological problems they have experienced and any criminal penalties resulting from the allegations of abuse.

The study produced a number of interesting findings:

- The majority of priests with allegations of abuse from 1950-2002 were ordained between the 1950s and 1970s.

- The majority of priests with allegations of abuse are diocesan. Religious priests have slightly more than half as many allegations as diocesan priests. Additionally, religious priests have fewer multiple allegations and fewer allegations of "severe" offenses (e.g., those with penetration).

- Surveys indicated that some priests with allegations of sexual abuse also showed a variety of behavioral problems, the most common of which were personality problems.

- Few incidents were reported to the police. It is possible to speculate that one reason for this is because of the delay in reporting of abuse; consequently, the abuse was alleged beyond the statutes of limitation in many instances.

- When allegations were made to the police, they were almost always investigated, and about one in three priests were charged with a crime. Overall, few priests with allegations served criminal sentences; only 3% of all priests with allegations served prison sentences. The priests with many allegations of abuse were not more likely than other priests to be charged and serve prison sentences.

3.3 DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF PRIESTS AND DEACONS ACCUSED OF SEXUAL ABUSE OF MINOR CHILDREN

This chapter is based on survey data that describes 4,392 individual men ordained as Catholic priests or deacons. The following steps were taken to achieve that number:

- 4,627 surveys were submitted based on files of individual priests and deacons.
- 68 surveys were removed as ineligible for the study.
- 143 priests were accused of sexual abuse of minors in more than one diocese or religious community. These individuals were identified as having identically encrypted initials and birth dates. All were also confirmed by ordination year and seminary. The information about these men from multiple surveys has been collected into a single entry, and the duplicate entries deleted.
- There were 41 permanent deacons, 20 transitional deacons and 22 seminarians (who were later ordained) among the group of men accused of sexual abuse of minor children. Since there were few deacons, it should be understood that they are included when priests are mentioned.
- Not all questions were answered on each survey*; as a result, each table shows the available responses, and the total will change from table to table.*

Birth dates of the clerics accused of sexual abuse of minors during the study period span more than a century–from 1867 to 1973 (Table 3.3.1). The ordination dates show a similar range, from 1890 to 2000 (Table 3.3.2). However, the majority of men in this study were born between 1920 and 1950, and were ordained in their mid- to late-twenties. Almost 50% of these men were ordained at ages 26 or 27, and 75% were ordained between the ages of 26 and 30. The majority were ordained after 1950.

Table 3.3.1 DECADE OF BIRTH

Decade	Count	Percent	Cumulative
1860 - 1899	88	2.2%	2.2%
1900 - 1909	189	4.7%	6.9%
1910 - 1919	430	10.7%	17.6%
1920 - 1929	839	20.9%	38.5%
1930 - 1939	1049	26.1%	64.6%
1940 - 1949	1003	25.0%	89.5%
1950 - 1959	336	8.4%	97.9%
1960 - 1969	80	2.0%	99.9%
1970 - 1979	5	.1%	100.0%
Total	4019	100.0%	

The year of a priest or deacon's birth was provided for 4,019 individuals, or 91.5% of those reported in the surveys.

Table 3.3.2 DECADE OF ORDINATION

Decade	Count	Percent	Cumulative
1890 - 1919	33	.8%	.8%
1920 - 1929	79	2.0%	2.8%
1930 - 1939	245	6.1%	8.8%
1940 - 1949	501	12.4%	21.3%
1950 - 1959	931	23.1%	44.3%
1960 - 1969	1021	25.3%	69.7%
1970 - 1979	791	19.6%	89.3%
1980 - 1989	339	8.4%	97.7%
1990 - 2002	94	2.3%	100.0%
Total	4034	100.0%	

The year of ordination was provided for 4,034 priests and deacons, or 91.6% of those reported in the surveys.

Canon law establishes the age for ordination.
In 1983, Canon Law established the minimum age for ordination as 24. In earlier years, it would have been possible to be ordained to minor orders at a younger age. With respect to those ordained before the mid-1950s, we cannot be sure how those who completed the surveys understood ordination date and whether the date reported is ordination to a a minor order or ordination to the priesthood.

The average age at the time of ordination of those included in this study did not change between 1880 and 1979, but has risen significantly in the last 20 years to 35 in the period between 1990 and 2002. This change in age at time of ordination, observed in this subset of all men ordained to the Catholic priesthood, is consistent with an overall trend in the Catholic Church. If all are considered, the average age at the time of ordination for a diocesan priest in this study is 28 and for a religious priest, 29.

Table 3.3.3 AGE AT TIME OF ORDINATION

Age	Count	% of Total
18 - 24	169	4.5%
25 - 29	2726	71.9%
30 -34	616	16.3%
35 - 39	168	4.4%
40 - 49	76	2.0%
50 - 59	27	.7%
60 +	7	.2%
Total	3789	100.0%

The age at ordination was calculated by subtracting the year of birth from the year of ordination. Information on both ages was available for 4,089 priests and deacons.

Only 1% of the men in this study were married at the time an allegation of sexual abuse was made against them.

Table 3.3.4 CLERIC'S MARITAL STATUS

Status	Count	% of Total
Married	51	1.2%
Not Married	4218	98.8%
Total	4269	100.0%

The deaconate is the first stage of ordained ministry. Both married and unmarried men may be ordained as permanent deacons.

Their clerical status at the time the allegation was made is shown below in Table 3.3.5. For 42 individuals, the clerical status changed during the period covered by the accusation.
Overall, 68 % of the accused priests were diocesan priests and 23.2% were religious priests. Twelve men held the status of bishop while accused of an incident of abuse.

Table 3.3.5 CLERICAL STATUS AT TIME OF ALLEGATION

Clerical status	Count	% of Total
Diocesan Priest	2921	69.4%
Religious Priest	929	22.1%
Extern Priest	208	4.9%
Eparchian Priest	14	.3%
Transitional Deacon	19	.5%
Permanent Deacon	42	1.0%
Bishop	4	.1%
Seminarian	21	.5%
Other	51	1.2%
Totals	4210	100.0%

A small number of priests held more than one clerical position during the period of alleged abuse.

Seminarians or brothers who had been the subject of allegations before they were ordained were included in the study as long as they proceeded to ordination.

The total of 4210 shown in Table 3.3.5 is less than the overall total of 4,392 because not all survey forms provided clerical status.

As a whole, the known population of sexual offenders is older than the population of other types of offenders. However, those who have a higher number of victims and are more serious offenders tend to have an earlier age of onset. Paraphilias often develop prior to adulthood, and adult sex offenders who had sexual convictions as adolescents generally commit more offenses as adults as well as offenses that are more serious than those who were not juvenile-onset offenders

Table 3.3.6 AGE OF PRIEST AT FIRST INSTANCE OF ALLEGED ABUSE

Age in Years	Count	% of Total
18 – 24	105	3.3%
25 – 29	541	17.0%
30 – 34	718	22.6%
35 – 39	570	17.9%
40 – 44	406	12.8%
45 – 49	316	9.9%
50 – 59	345	10.9%
60 – 69	125	3.9%
70 – 90	50	1.6%
Totals	3176	100.0%

Table 3.3.7 AGE OF PRIEST AT FIRST INSTANCE OF ALLEGED ABUSE, DIOCESAN & RELIGIOUS

Age in Years	Diocesan Count	Diocesan Percent	Religious Count	Religious Percent
18 - 24	86	3.4%	18	3.1%
25 – 29	488	19.3%	45	7.7%
30 – 34	587	23.3%	112	19.2%
35 – 39	438	17.4%	123	21.1%
40 – 44	308	12.2%	89	15.3%
45 – 49	229	9.1%	77	13.2%
50 – 59	259	10.3%	75	12.9%
60 – 69	95	3.8%	28	4.8%
70 - 90	32	1.3%	15	2.6%
Total	2522	100.0%	582	100.0%

The average age of a priest at the first incident or allegation of child sexual abuse is 39 if all surveys are considered, and the median is 35. The average and median both rise gradually from late 30s to late 40s between 1950 and 2002.

Table 3.3.8 CHANGE IN AGE AT FIRST INSTANCE OF ALLEGED ABUSE, 1950 – 2002 BY DECADE

Time Period	Average Age	Median Age
1950 - 1959s	38	36
1960 - 1960s	37	35
1970 - 1970s	37	35
1980 - 1980s	42.5	39
1990 - 1990s	47	45
2000 - 2002	48	48
Overall	39	35

3.4 PRIESTS WITH BEHAVIORAL PROBLEMS

Mental health and treatment professionals have found that it is not uncommon for those who engage in child sexual abuse to demonstrate other behavioral and psychological problems as well. Studies on co-occurrence of sexual offending and other problems have consistently found high rates of personality dysfunction[1] as well as major mental disorders such as anxiety or depression.[2] Similarly, alcohol or substance abuse problems are frequently present among those who engage in child sexual abuse.[3] Studies which have examined clergy who sexually abuse minors with co-occurring problems have found them to exhibit fewer psychological problems than other sex offenders.[4] However, methodological limitations preclude firm conclusions about groups of clergy who offend.

To examine the co-existence of child sexual abuse and other problems, the study instruments inquired about other types of problems that were evident from a priest's files. The question asked specifically about whether the priest had a history of abuse that was either indicated in the record or known to the diocese; whether he had a history of substance abuse; whether there had been questions raised about his fitness for ministry and whether he had manifested other behavioral problems. Records of 1,400 priests and deacons, nearly one in three of those against whom allegations of sexual abuse of a youth under 18 were made, showed a history of substance abuse, questions about his "fitness for ministry" or behavioral problems.

According to information contained in Church records, very few priests accused of sexual abuse had themselves been victims of abuse. It should be kept in mind, however, that unless a priest self-disclosed his own prior abuse or it had been specifically raised as an issue, there might not have been an indication of abuse in Church files. Of the 4, 392 priests and deacons, 279, or 6.8% of the total number, were reported to have been abused (see Table 3.4.1 for breakdown of this number by type of abuse). Of these, a smaller number, 67 reported multiple forms of abuse. Almost half of the priests whose records indicated prior sexual or physical abuse also suffered verbal and emotional abuse.

Table 3.4.1 PRIESTS WITH A HISTORY OF VICTIMIZATION, BY TYPE OF ABUSE

Type of Abuse	*Count*	*% of Total*
Physical abuse	40	14.60%
Sexual abuse	178	64.96%
Physical & Sexual	20	7.3%
Emotional abuse	32	11.68%
Other	4	1.46%
Total	274	100%

The files for 68 priests included information indicating that they had experienced more than one form of abuse during childhood.

When there was a history of childhood abuse, the most frequent abuser was an adult man. As shown in Table 3.4.2, of the 274 priests reported to have been abused themselves, nearly half of them were abused by someone in their family. Thirty-five percent were abused by a parent and 25 percent by their father.

Table 3.4.2 PRIESTS WITH A HISTORY OF VICTIMIZATION, BY TYPE OF ABUSE

Decade	*Count*	*% of Total*
Mother	25	9.36%
Father	67	25.09%
Sibling	14	5.24%
Other family	24	9%
Teacher	5	1.87%
Peer/acquaintance	31	11.61%
Authority figure	23	8.61%
Priest	47	17.60%
Deacon	1	.38%
Other	30	11.24%
Total	267	100%

A total of 48 priests were reported to have been abused by a priest or deacon. This illustrates that 18 percent of priests with allegations of abuse had themselves been abused by a priest or deacon.

Man of A history of substance abuse was reflected in the files of slightly fewer than one in five of the priests and deacons accused of sexual abuse. Alcohol abuse was reported much more frequently than drug abuse, implicated in 96% of the 753 priests with substance abuse information in their records.

Table 3.4.3 SUBSTANCE ABUSE HISTORY

Substance	***Count***	***% of Total***
Alcohol only	669	16.6%
Drugs only	23	.6%
Alcohol & drugs	61	1.5%
No SA problem	3274	81.3%
Total		

The survey did not ask for a formal diagnosis of substance abuse or dependence. It was deemed sufficient that the personnel file included an indication that the problem of substance abuse had been observed.

Table 3.4.4 COMPARISON OF PRIEST VICTIMS

	Abuse History		***No Abuse History***	
Substance Abuse	*93*	*34.4%*	*646*	*17.4%*
No Substance Abuse	*177*	*65.6%*	*3024*	*82.6%*
	270	*100%*	*3660*	*100%*

Priests who had themselves been victims of abuse were twice as likely to have a history of difficulties with alcohol, illegal drugs or both.

For those priests with information about substance abuse problems in their files, nearly 72% were referred for evaluation or treatment, with no action reported for nearly 16% (see Table 3.4.5). However, it should be noted that evaluation and treatment referrals are likely to have been documented in the files whereas less formal handling of substance abuse issues might not have been included in the files, so these numbers need to be interpreted cautiously in terms of efficacy. Of those who were referred for treatment, Table 3.4.6 shows that more than 85% were sent for treatment outside of the diocese (76% of which were referred for inpatient treatment).

problems. Table 3.4.7 provides a classification of the types of problems that were described in the survey.

Table 3.4.5 CHURCH RESPONSE TO SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Action by Church	***Count***	***% of Total***
Referred for evaluation	317	45.7%
Referred for treatment	180	25.9%
Provided spiritual counseling	12	1.7%
Recommended spiritual counseling	9	1.3%
Provided intervention	10	1.4%
No action taken	109	15.7%
Other	457	8.2%

Table 3.4.6 SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT

Type of treatment	***Count***	***% of instances of SA treatment***
Inpatient / in diocese	46	9.8%
Inpatient / outside the diocese	357	76%
Outpatient / in diocese	71	15.1%
Outpatient / outside diocese	44	9.4%

This is a Multiple Response Table. The categories are not mutually exclusive, since an individual may have participated in substance abuse treatment more than once.

Table 3.4.6 includes all instances of treatment and may include a priest more than once if he was treated more than once.

Forty six priests were treated twice for substance abuse problems and four were treated three times.

Church records for 478 priests, or 10.9% of the total in the study, raised questions about those priests' fitness for ministry or other behavioral problems. These notes documenting problems indicated they were largely psychological in nature (82.2% of those with noted behavioral or fitness for ministry problems were described as having psychological problems). If fitness and behavioral problems were considered together, then 23% of priests and deacons (1,400) who were later the subject of an allegation of sexual abuse had been recognized as having behavioral

Table 3.4.7 CLASSIFICATION OF FITNESS AND/OR BEHAVIORAL PROBLEMS

Type of Problem	***Count***	***% of all responses***
Social Inhibition, immaturity	78	3.5%
Boundary problems	479	21.3%
Narcissism	38	1.7%
Sex with adult women	131	5.8%
Sex with adult men	164	7.3%
Coercive sex with males	18	.8%
Coercive sex with females	10	.4%
Other sexual behavior	53	2.4%
Hostility	170	7.5%
Financial problems, gambling	45	2%
Medical problems	90	4%
Civil or Criminal	275	12.2%
Depression	75	3.5%
Alcohol/Substance abuse	149	6.6%
Anxiety / stress	36	1.6%
Bipolar symptoms	16	.7%
Other Axis 1	75	3.3%
Suicide	12	.5%

Table 3.4.7 includes information about 1,400 priests.

[1] Lisa J. Cohen et al. "Personality Impairment in Male Pedophiles," *Journal of Clinical Psychiatry* 63 (10, 2002): 912-919
[2] Peter J. Fagan, Thomas N. Wise, Chester W. Schmidt Jr., and Fred S. Berlin. "Pedophilia," *Journal of the American Medical Association* 288 (19, 2002): 2458-2465; and Nancy C. Raymond, Eli Coleman, Fred Ohlerking, Gary A. Christenson, and Michael Miner. "Psychiatric Comorbidity in Pedophilic Sex Offenders," *American Journal of Psychiatry* 156 (5, 1999): 786-788.
[3] Stephen H. Allnutt, John M.W. Bradford, David M. Greenberg, and Susan Curry. "Co-morbidity of Alcoholism and the Paraphilias," *Journal of Forensic Sciences* 41 (2, 1996): 234-239.
[4] Martin P. Kafka, "Sexual Molesters of Adolescents, Ephebophilia, and Catholic Clergy: A Review and Synthesis," in *Sexual Abuse in the Catholic Church: Scientific and Legal Perspectives*, ed. R. Karl Hanson, Friedemann Pfäfflin, and Manfred Lütz (Vatican: Libreria Editrico Vaticana, 2004).

3.5 PRIESTS AND DEACONS AND THE ALLEGATIONS

Statistics from recent United States Justice Department studies of the prevalence of youth victimization confirm what other surveys have found: a startling proportion of young people experience sexual victimization[1] In a sample of 4,023 adolescents ages 12 to 17 across racial and ethnic groups, the lifetime prevalence for sexual assault is 8.1%[2]

Of all female victims of forcible rape whose ages were reported to enforcement agencies in 1992 (from 15 states), girls under the age of 18 represented approximately half of the victims.[3] The younger the victim, the more likely that she knew the person who assaulted her.[4]

When similar research was done with data on all victims of sexual assault known to law enforcement between 1991 and 1996, juveniles represented the large majority of all victims of forcible fondling (84%), forcible sodomy (79%), and sexual assault with an object (75%)[5] One in seven victims of a reported sexual assault was under the age of six.[6] The single age with the greatest proportion of sexual assault victims among all victims reported to law enforcement was age 14.[7]

Table 3.5.1 ALLEGATIONS AGAINST PRIEST / DEACONS, GROUPED BY NUMBER OF ALLEGATIONS

Number of Allegations	Count	Percent
1	2,411	55.7%
2-3	1160	26.9%
4-9	600	13.9%
10+	149	3.5%
Total	4,311	100.0%

The Cleric Survey asked for the total number of allegations in the reporting diocese and for the total number of potential allegations that might be made about a particular priest or deacon. Respondents were also asked to complete a Victim Survey for each person making an allegation.

Table 3.5.1 is based on the data from the Cleric Survey.

If accused diocesan and religious priests are compared using the above classification into four groups, the results do not differ greatly

- 54% of diocesan priests had a single allegation compared to 61% of accused religious priests;
- 14.7 of diocesan priests have 4-9 allegations, compared to 10.9% of the accused religious priests;
- 4.2% of diocesan priests have ten or more allegations, compared to 1.5% of the religious priests.

Table 3.5.2 FORMAL AND POTENTIAL ALLEGATIONS AGAINST PRIESTS, IN FOUR GROUPS

Number of Allegations	Count	Percent of all
1	2154	50%
2-3	1138	26.4%
4-9	767	17.8%
10+	252	5.8%
Total	4311	100%

If the formal allegations made against an individual priest or deacon are added to the potential allegations known to the diocese or religious community, the result is shown in Table 3.5.2.

Table 3.5.3 GENDER OF ALLEGED VICTIMS, BY NUMBER OF ALLEGED ABUSERS

Gender	***Count***	***Percent of all***
Male and Female	157	3.6%
Female only	991	22.6%
Male only	2,805	64%
Gender unknown	429	9.8%
Total	4,230	100%

Table 3.5.3 shows the percentage of all priests with allegations, grouped by the gender of the person who made the allegation.

In 429 surveys, the gender of the alleged victim was not identified.

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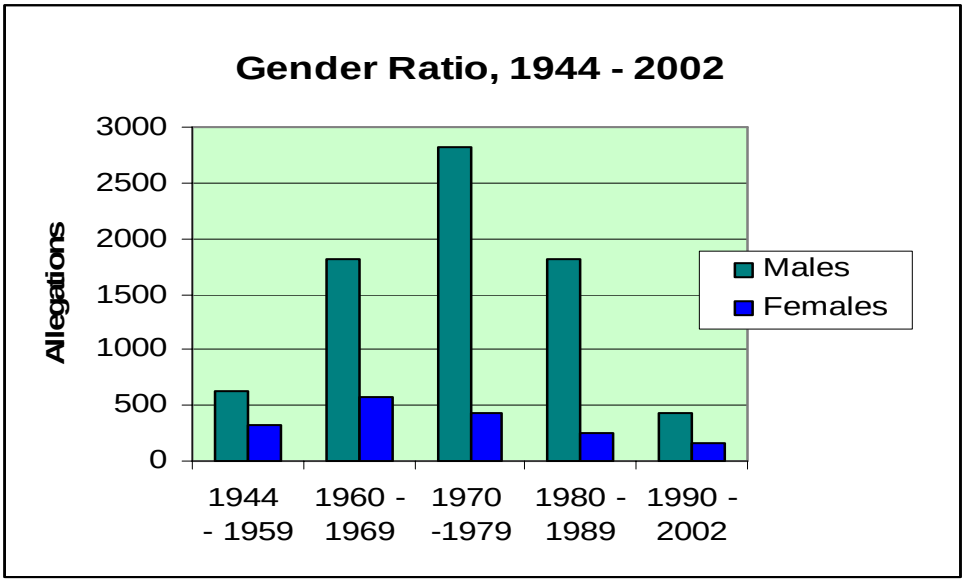
Table 3.5.4 ALLEGED VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ABUSE INCIDENTS, GROUPED BY GENDER AND AGE

Gender	1 – 7 years	8 – 10 years	11 - 14 years	15 – 17 years
Male	203	992	4282	2892
	41.7%	71.4%	85.4%	85.2%
Female	284	398	734	502
	58.3%	28.6%	14.6%	14.8%
Total per group	487	1390	5016	3394
% of all incidents	5.8%	16%	50.9%	27.3%

The data for Table 3.5.4 are drawn from the Cleric Surveys. The question on that survey that asked for a listing of alleged victims' ages and gender was not completed for all surveys. Therefore the totals in Table 3.5.4, when summed, are not the same as the total number of alleged incidents. s

Figure 3.5.1 GENDER RATIO OF ALLEGED VICTIMS, BY DECADE OF ACCUSATION



The year 1944 appears in this figure because one incident of abuse began in 1944, along with others that began in the late 1940s, but continued after 1950. The years of abuse before 1950 are not counted when the total by year are derived, but are included here.

Table 3.5.5 ALLEGED MALE VICTIMS, AGE AT FIRST INSTANCE OF ABUSE BY DECADE

Decade	Ages 1 - 7	Ages 8 - 10	Ages 11 - 14	Ages 15 - 17	Decade Total
1950 - 1959	20	115	266	87	488
	4.1%	23.6%	54.5%	17.8%	100%
1960 - 1969	74	298	950	314	1636
	4.5%	18.2%	58.1%	19.2%	100%
1970 - 1979	80	354	1461	668	2563
	3.1%	13.8%	57%	26.1%	100%
1980 - 1989	48	170	818	585	1621
	3%	10.5%	50.5%	36.1%	100%
1990 - 2002	10	29	141	222	402
	2.5%	7.2%	35.1%	55.2%	100%

Table 3.5.6 ALLEGED FEMALE VICTIMS, AGE AT FIRST INSTANCE OF ABUSE, BY DECADE

Decade	Ages 1 - 7	Ages 8 - 10	Ages 11 - 14	Ages 15 - 17	Decade Total
1950 - 1959	79	87	89	24	279
	28.3%	31.2%	31.9%	8.6%	100%
1960 - 1969	92	129	207	98	526
	17.5%	24.5%	39.4%	18.6%	100%
1970 - 1979	46	97	164	119	426
	10.8%	22.8%	38.5%	27.9%	100%
1980 - 1989	28	48	110	75	261
	10.8%	18.5%	41.7%	29%	100%
1990 - 2002	11	16	75	43	145
	7.5%	11%	51.7%	29.7%	100%

The information in Tables 3.5.5 and 3.5.6 is taken from the Victim Surveys and available only for those surveys that included answers to the three questions about gender, date of incident and age at the time of the incident. Complete responses were received for 82%, or slightly more than four out of five, incident-level surveys.

Table 3.5.7 SUMMARY OF ALLEGED ACTS OF SEXUAL ABUSE

	Number of priests accused	Number of incidents reported	% of all priests accused of each act
Verbal Abuse	610	1049	19.43%
Victim Disrobed	862	1394	27.46%
Priests Disrobed	676	1084	21.54%
Touching over Victim's Clothes	1783	3432	56.80%
Touching over Priest's Clothes	479	844	15.26%
Touching under Victim's Clothes	1797	3792	57.25%
Touching under Priest's Clothes	544	936	17.33%
Shown Pornographic Video	105	143	3.35%
Shown Pornographic Magazine/Photo	144	229	4.59%
Photos of Victim	121	193	3.85%
Masturbation	458	708	14.59%
Mutual Masturbation	571	1036	18.19%
Manual Penetration	275	370	8.76%
Penetration with Object	61	81	1.94%
Cleric Performed Oral Sex	857	1450	27.30%
Victim Performed Oral Sex	577	906	18.38%
Penile Penetration/Attempt	787	1189	25.07%
Hugs and Kissing	324	481	10.32%
Other	358	565	11.40%
No Record	572	949	18.22%
Unspecified Sexual Abuse	713	1112	22.71%
Sexual Games (Strip Poker, Skinny Dipping)	8	9	0.25%
Group Sex or Coerced Sex w/ Others	2	2	0.06%

This table is a Multiple Response Table. The categories are not mutually exclusive, as an individual may have participated in more than one act during the course of an incident.

[1] Dean G. Kilpatrick, Benjamin E. Saunders, and Daniel W. Smith. *Youth Victimization: Prevalence and Implications. NIJ Research in Brief.* (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, 2003), 1.

[2] Dean, 7.

[3] Patrick A. Langan and Caroline Wolf Harlow, C. W., *Child Rape Victims, 1992*, (U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics, 1992, Washington, D.C.), 1,

[4] Langan., 2

[5] Howard N. Snyder, *Sexual Assault of Young Children as Reported to Law Enforcement: Victim, Incident, and Offender Characteristics, NIBRS Statistical Report*, (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2000), 2.

[6] Snyder, 2.

[7] Langan. 2.

3.6 SERIAL ABUSERS: PRIESTS WITH MULTIPLE ALLEGATIONS

Many individuals who commit a sexual offense, such as child sexual abuse, do so as a result of situational or impulsive factors. These are often single-victim offenders who may never repeat their crime or may repeat the act only if the same or similar circumstances recur. For example, such individuals may only act out when their controls are reduced due to intoxication, when experiencing significant situational stress, or when an opportunity is present. Thus, their behavior is often unplanned and considered a "regression," triggered largely—but not entirely-—by external conditions.

However, there is a much smaller number of serial sex offenders who act out not as a result of the effects of external stress or a weakening of inhibitory controls; instead, they behave in a more methodical fashion using a high degree of planning. In these cases, there is a strong compulsion to act-—a compulsion derived from a fixation on the type of victim desired and the type of acts performed. These offenses are often preceded by years of intense fantasy in which the act is rehearsed and strategies are developed. Offenders of this type have a very high potential to repeat their crimes. Such individuals can be quite manipulative in the way they approach victims and in the methods they employ to avoid apprehension. Because their crimes are highly planned and often target particular types of victims, they may abuse large numbers of children before they are apprehended.

Those priests who have been accused of abusing a large number of young people have attracted significant, often sensationalized, nationwide attention. These cases are frequently discussed along with the cases of those priests who have been transferred from diocese to diocese and who have continued to be accused of sexual abuse of youth under 18. Data from this study has found these two groups to be different in many aspects. Those priests who have ten or more allegations differ in many respects from the average for all priests in the study, but this is not as for the group who have allegations in more than one diocese or religious community. The study received 149 surveys for priests who had ten or more allegations of child sexual abuse—although if potential allegations (from potential victims known to the diocese) are included, the number of priests is 252. After careful analysis, 143 priests out of the total number of 4,392, were identified as having been the subject of allegations in more than one diocese. Of that group, nine had allegation made in three dioceses and one priest was accused of sexual abuse in four dioceses.

- The group of 149 priests, the “10+ group,” account for 26% of all incidents reported in the study. The 143 priests who were accused in more than one diocese, the “Transfers,” had a lower rate of accusation, but account for 8.7% of all incidents reported in the study (see Table 3.6.1).

- The group of 143 priests who received accusations in at least two dioceses or religious communities were more likely to be identified with substance abuse and behavioral problems and more likely to be reported to the police. Overall, 64% of the “Transfer” group saw their ministry restricted.

Table 3.6.1 PRIESTS WITH SERIAL SEX ABUSE PROBLEMS, COMPARED TO ALL PRIESTS

	Transfers (N=143)	10+ Group (N=149)	All Priests (N=4,392)
Total Allegations	992	2960	11,404
	8.7%	26%	100%
Median for Allegations, per Priest	4	14	1
Allegation and Potential Allegations	1078	3248	14840
	9.5%	28%	100%
Substance Abuse	30%	22%	18.7%
Behavioral Problems	36%	33%	23%
Ministry Restricted	64.5%	53.7%	27%
Police Contact	7,6%	4%	14%
Charged with a Crime	4.6%	3%	3%

These data are taken from the Cleric Surveys. The total number of allegations reported there exceeds the number of Victim Surveys received.

The Cleric Survey asked for the total number of allegations that had been made against a priest or deacon in the responding diocese or religious community. It also asked for the number of other incidents not yet reported that were associated with or suspected of a particular priest.

The distribution of the number of allegations per priests is similar for diocesan and religious priests except with respect to 10+ group. There are only 14 religious priests in the 10+ group of 149.

Table 3.6.2 SERIAL ABUSERS BY CLERICAL STATUS

No. of Allegations	Diocesan Priests		Religious Priests	
1	1752	54%	558	61%
2 - 3	883	27.2%	244	26.7%
4 - 9	476	14.6%	99	10.8%
10+	135	4.2%	14	1.5%
Total	3246		915	

3.7 CRIMINAL PROSECUTIONS AND PENALTIES

Despite the gravity of the crime of child sexual abuse and the public policy interest in dealing effectively with it, very little systematic data has been collected that would provide a clear profile of those who are prosecuted, convicted or incarcerated for child sexual abuse.[1] As a U.S. Department of Justice publication explains, despite a few highly publicized cases of sexual assaults of young children, "there is little empirically-based information on these crimes."[2] The National Crime Victimization Survey, for example, collects data on victims over the age of 12. There is reason to believe, however, that sexual assault crimes against juvenile victims comprise a large proportion of sexual assaults handled by law enforcement agencies.[3]

In the last ten years or so, a new reporting system has been in place, the National Incident-Based Reporting Systems (NIBRS), which has the potential to provide much more detailed information about those who are arrested for sexual assaults against children and the methods of arrest clearance.[4] However, it is limited in representativeness because law enforcement agencies are not mandated to participate; for example, data from a July 2000 report draws from only 12 states.[5] Nevertheless, it does provide relevant contextual information. It reports that, in general, sexual assaults of juvenile victims were more likely to result in an arrest (29%) than were adult victimizations (22%) although rates were lower for victims under 6 (19%) versus approximately 32.5% for victims ages 6 to 17.[6] Overall, these results indicate that juvenile victims of sexual assault who were reported to law enforcement agencies were more likely to be male (18%) than were adult victims (4%); nearly one-fourth of the victims under 12 were male. Sexual assaults of children under the age of 6 were "the least likely of all such crimes to result in arrest or be otherwise cleared."[7] Law enforcement was able to identify the offender in just a third of the sexual assaults of children under age 6 and 45% of those for victims between 6 and 11.[8]

The following tables summarize whether each particular incident or allegation of abuse against a priest led to follow-up in the criminal justice system. Of course, the range of behaviors described in the allegations varied substantially (see Table 4.4.1), which might have affected whether law enforcement contact was initiated or resulted in any follow-up. Overall, fifteen percent of priests were reported to the police by a victim. A much smaller number were reported by a diocese or religious community.

A report to the police resulted in an investigation in almost all cases (see *Tables 3.7.1 and 3.7.2*). Only 217 of the more than 4,000 priests and deacons were criminally charged (see *Table 3.6.3*). The comparative percentages for diocesan, religious and extern priests investigated by the police and subsequently charged are equivalent.

Table 3.7.1 ABUSE REPORTED TO THE POLICE, BY CLERICAL STATUS

	Diocesan	Religious	Extern	Total
Police Report	427	138	48	613
	13.8%	13.8%	20.8%	14.1%
No police report	2676	865	183	3724
	86.2%	86.2%	79.2%	85.9%

According to the information in the Church's files, approximately 14% of priests accused of abuse were reported to the police, and some were independently detected.

Table 3.7.2 ABUSE INVESTIGATED BY POLICE

	Diocesan	Religious	Extern	Total
Police investigation	435	129	51	615
	14%	12.9%	22.1%	14.2%
No police Investigation	2668	874	180	3722
	86%	87.1%	77.9%	85.8%

Table 3.7.3 PRIEST CHARGED WITH A CRIME

	Diocesan	Religious	Extern	Total
Priest charged	141	51	25	217
	4.5%	5.1%	10.8%	5.4%
Priest not charged	2962	954	206	4020
	95.5%	94.9%	89.2%	94.6%

Overall, 5.4% percent of priests were charged with a criminal offense (see Table 3.7.3). Although this is 35% of those cases in which a police investigation was carried out, it also means that only 3.1% of all priests were convicted of some type of criminal offense (Table 3.7.4).

Of the 217 priests who were charged with a crime, a majority (138) were convicted.

Table 3.7.4 PRIESTS CONVICTED OF A CRIME

	Diocesan	Religious	Extern	Total
Priests convicted	95	33	10	138
	2.5%	.9%	.26%	3.6%
Not convicted	56	18	15	3724
	1.5%	.47%	.39%	2.3%

Table 3.7.4 is based on a total number of 3,862 priests.

Of those who were convicted (128 priests), the following table summarizes the type of sentence the priest was given for the offense. Criminal penalties are specific to localities or jurisdictions, and the charges against the priests varied widely.

Table 3.7.5 CRIMINAL PENALTIES

Penalty	**Number of Priests**	**Percent**
Prison	100	73%
Jail	61	44%
House arrest or electronic monitoring	7	5%
Probation	122	88%
Fine	25	18%
Community service	18	13%
Other	28	20.5%

This is a multiple response table. The categories are not mutually exclusive, since an individual may have been sentenced to several different penalties by the court.

Three men were sentenced to spend the rest of their lives in prison, and two others were required to register as sex offenders.

Table 3.7.6 PRIESTS, BY NUMBER OF INCIDENTS CHARGED

Incidents	Counts	Percent	Cum. Percent
1	157	69.5%	69.5%
2	33	14.6%	84.1%
3	13	5.8%	89.8%
4	9	4.0%	93.8%
5	4	1.8%	95.6%
6	1	.4%	96.0%
8	2	.9%	96.9%
9	2	.9%	97.8%
11	1	.4%	98.2%
13	1	.4%	98.7%
26	1	.4%	99.1%
55	1	.4%	99.6%
131	1	.4%	100.0%
Total	226	100%	

In trying to better understand the types of incidents that led to criminal justice system involvement, the allegations made against priests have been divided into two categories: those involving direct sexual contact either by mouth or genitals (e.g., oral sex or penetration) and those without such direct sexual contact (e.g., fondling or sex talk). The type of incident did not seem to influence whether the alleged victim contacted the police or whether the priest was ultimately charged or convicted (see Tables 3.7.7, 3.7.8 and 3.7.9).

Table 3.7.7 POLICE REPORT BY SEVERITY OF ALLEGATION

	Severity of Offense		
	Acts Involving Sexual Contact	***Acts Not Involving Sex***	***Row Total***
Police Contacted	188	451	639
	13.7%	14.3%	14.1%
Police Not Contacted	1185	2695	3880
	86.3%	85.7%	85.9%
Total	**1373 100.0%**	**3146 100.0%**	**4519 100.0%**

Table 3.7.8 CRIMINAL CHARGE BY SEVERITY OF ALLEGATION

	Severity of Offense		
	Acts Involving Sex	***Acts Not Involving Sex***	***Row Total***
Priest Charged	70	155	225
	5.1%	4.9%	5.0%
Priest Not Charged	*1303*	*2991*	*4294*
	94.9%	*95.1%*	*95.0%*
Total	**1373 100.0%**	**3146 100.0%**	**4519 100.0%**

Table 3.7.9 CRIMINAL CONVICTION BY SEVERITY OF ALLEGATION

	Severity of Offense		
	Acts Involving Sex	***Acts Not Involving Sex***	***Row Total***
Priest Convicted	44	97	141
	3.2%	3.1%	3.1%
Priest Not Convicted	1329	3049	4378
	96.8%	96.9%	96.9%
Total	**1373 100.0%**	**3146 100.0%**	**4519 100.0%**

If the accused priests are grouped not just by the number of formal allegations, but by the number of actual and potential allegations, i.e., to include potential victims, the results are very similar.

are Table 3.7.10 POLICE INVESTIGATION–ALLEGATIONS PLUS POTENTIAL VICTIMS

	Allegations and Potential Victims per Priest			
	1	***2-3***	***4-9***	***10+***
Police Investigation	362	173	81	22
	16.1	14.6%	10.4%	8.9%
No Police Investigation	1881	1010	701	226
	83.9%	85.4%	89.6%	91.1%
Total	**2243 100.0%**	**1183 100.0%**	**782 100.0%**	**248 100.0%**

The term "potential victims" refers to question 24 on the Cleric Survey, which asks for any third-party allegations noted in the records. Tables 3.7.10 and 3.7.11 include both actual and "potential" allegations.

Table 3.7.11 PRIEST CHARGED - ALLEGATIONS AND POTENTIAL VICTIMS

	Allegations and Potential Victims per Priest			
	1	***2-3***	***4-9***	***10+***
Priest Charged	123	64	29	8
	5.5%	5.4%	3.7%	3.2%
Priest Not Charged	2120	1119	753	240
	94.5%	94.6%	96.3%	96.8%
Total	**2243 100.0%**	**1183 100.0%**	**782 100.0%**	**248 100.0%**

Table 3.7.12 PRIEST CONVICTED—ALLEGATIONS PLUS POTENTIAL VICTIMS

	Allegations and Potential Victims per Priest			
	1	***2-3***	***4-9***	***10+***
Priest Convicted	76	38	21	5
	3.4%	3.2%	2.7%	2.0%
Priest Not Convicted	2167	1145	761	243
	96.6%	96.8%	97.3%	98.0%
Total	**2243 100.0%**	**1183 100.0%**	**782 100.0%**	**248 100.0%**

[1] David Finkelhor and Lisa M. Jones. "Explanations For The Decline In Child Sexual Abuse Cases," *Juvenile Justice Bulletin*, (Washington, DC: OJJDP, 2004): 11.
[2] Howard N. Snyder. *Sexual Assault of Young Children As Reported To Law Enforcement: Victim, Incident, and Offender Characteristics* (Washington, DC: U.S Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, 2000), 1.
[3] Snyder, 12.
[4] Snyder, 1.
[5] Snyder, 1.
[6] Snyder, 11.
[7] Snyder, 13.
[8] Snyder.