CHILD SEX CRIMES:
REPORTING THE UN-REPORTED

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California State University, Sacramento, 2005

PROJECT

Submitted in partial satisfaction of
the requirements for the degree of

MASTER OF SCIENCE

in

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

at

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SACRAMENTO

SPRING
2010
Student: Shannon Barbara Ekwall

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Division of Criminal Justice
Abstract

of

CHILD SEX CRIMES: REPORTING THE UN-REPORTED

by

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Sex crimes are an increasing phenomena that are changing society on many levels. Research exploring the statistics of reported sexual abuse has often led to a misconception of what an abuser is and what types of victims are susceptible to the abuse. This project focuses on details that have been unexplored, and examines what child sex crimes are, who commits them, effects on the victims, and how state level reporting systems collect, document, and categorizes sex crimes. Data were collected through available official documents from all of the fifty states’ Departments of Justice, or equivalent agencies, crime reporting documentation as well as the Federal Bureau of Investigation Uniform Crime Report. Through these primary sources, the nationwide data are used to reach a national average for sex crimes. This study found that of all fifty states in the United States, Virginia, Tennessee, and Wisconsin reported the most detailed crimes with regard to children, which allowed the researcher to create a profile of a susceptible child molestation victim. The remaining states provide little to no information on sex crimes against children.

_____________________, Committee Chair
David H. Swim, D.P.A.

_____________________
Date
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

TO DR. DAVID SWIM: For encouraging me to pursue such a sensitive and controversial subject, knowing that this information should be surfaced. Your sense of humor and positive attitude throughout graduate school has made it tolerable, and sometimes—even fun.

TO DR. TIM CROISDALE: For your incredible guidance. Without your assistance, I would not have been able to complete this project.

TO MY MOM, Debbie: For your support in everything that I have wanted, believed in, and worked for. Thank you so much for being such a strong role model and empowering woman in my life.

TO MY DAD, Larry: For the countless hours of history facts and stories throughout my childhood and adulthood. Your knowledge and passion for learning has been the very reason why I have strived to continue my education.

TO MY BROTHERS, Derek and Kristopher: For an ear to vent to, a shoulder to lay my head on, and a sense of humor to make me laugh. And, for the movie nights… I may not have stayed awake, but you never complained! Thank you.

TO MY HUSBAND, Danny: For the hundreds of hours you sacrificed while I was in class, studying, or writing this project. Even when I would fall behind, you would encourage me to focus and complete what I started.

TO MY GRAMMY, Barbara: For your strength. Through your own example, you have shown me exactly what courage is. Thank you for being so strong during your most trying moments.

TO MY BEST FRIEND, Corinna: For being such a caring and trusting friend. You have continuously pushed me to go to class every time I complained about it. You are truly my best and closest friend.
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Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

Sex crimes are demoralizing and mortifying acts that hurt many adults and children in the United States. Whether it is rape, molestation, incest, or any other another sex crime, these are all life-changing and destructive acts that have grave effects on the victims and their families.

Sex crimes are one of the most fearful crimes, and are commonly committed by a knowing person to the victims. Sex crimes happen in almost every imaginable situation, including relationships between husband and wife, boyfriend and girlfriend, parent and child, babysitter and child, uncle and niece/nephew, grandparent and grandchild, and other trusting relationships. Although sex crimes, such as forcible rape, are horrible crimes to be a victim of, child molestation affects victims more severely than other sex crimes. Unlike most other crimes, child sexual abuse victims are likely to evolve into abusers later in life (Blume, 2002). One study conducted by the Colorado Department of Corrections concluded that approximately 73% of abusers were victims of childhood sexual abuse (Simons, 2008). Similarly, a study of male survivors of child sexual abuse reported that 31% had violently victimized others (Lisak, 1994). Despite studies like these that strongly support the position that sexual abuse maintains a cycle; child molestation is still one of the most underreported crimes in the United States.
Statement of the Problem

When one thinks of a sex crime, the crime that often comes to mind is rape. Rape is one of the most media hyped crimes, which ingrains into members of society through the news and movies. Through these sources of information, the idea of a woman being raped by a stranger when left in a vulnerable situation has become a general concern and common fear. In actuality, rape is much less common than one might think. In fact, forcible rape makes up 6.4% of all reported violent crimes nationwide according to the Uniform Crime Report (UCR). The UCR is the annual compilation of national crime statistics, and reports eight major crimes: murder, forcible rape, aggravated assault, robbery, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, arson, and burglary (Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2008). When examining child molestation occurrences, it is a very different situation than rape.

Sex crimes—specifically child molestation—are severely underreported crimes in this country. Only recently has child molestation become more visible in the media, through television shows such as “20/20: To Catch a Predator” for example, where potential predators are lured into a situation involving minors (Dateline MSNBC, 2008). Additionally, recent legislation including laws such as California Penal Code (PC) section 290 have required most sex offenders to register on a statewide database, the contents of which is then made available to the public through Megan’s Law by California Assembly Bill 488 (California Department of Justice, 2004). While this is arguably an effective form of bringing public awareness to sex crimes by maintaining a
log of convicted offenders, it does not take the place of reporting the criminal act itself. These “record-keeping” laws may make the public aware of convicted sex offenders, but do not record the actual crime statistic. Research has indicated that the average child molester has victimized anywhere from one to nine children, while serial child molesters have violated up to 700 victims in their lifetime (Escaping Hades; 2008). The names of many incest-related offenders are not even published on Megan’s Law at all, despite the fact that up to thirty percent of child sex crimes occur within family relationships (California Department of Justice, 2004). This underreporting makes it difficult to detect many molestation cases that happen between people of loving and trusting relationships, such as incest. The worst part is, unlike other sex crimes, molestation creates and often maintains a cycle of abuse.

A study is needed to show how the United States, as a whole and individually by state, categorize and report sex crimes—specifically child molestation. Although all sex crimes are heinous crimes to commit, child molestation is a crime that separates itself from most other offenses due to the frequent creation of abuse cycles. Perhaps if parents, grandparents, teachers, and others were aware of the actual numbers and profiles of children affected by molestation, victims and possibly even lives could be saved.

Research Questions

In order for state agencies to receive funding to combat child sex crimes, data are required to show that it is a significant problem. If sufficient data are not available,
then policy makers will not have the resources required to implement the policies and funding needed to reduce child sex crimes.

The researcher requires the following questions to be answered: 1) What states collect data on child sexual abuse? 2) For states that do collect data on child sex abuse, what level of detail do the states report for these crimes? 3) What state(s) collects the most data on child sexual abuse?

Methodology

This project is a comparative, descriptive study of state level data. The data were compiled by collecting official records published by each state. Examination of the data will focus on information collected by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in the UCR and on the information collected by the multiple state Departments of Justice, or equivalent agencies. Specifically, the data are collected from the population of crime reports from all fifty states to determine what information is actually gathered by the reporting agencies pertaining to child molestation. The reports are published in each state's annual report, which reflects the state's entire crime statistics. Most are published in form of a chart, graph, and short narrative describing its crime trends for the prior calendar year.

Each state’s data were examined in order to determine classifications of sex crimes. States that did not publish statistics were contacted by the researcher. If statistics were not obtainable, the UCR data were utilized.
Scope and Limitations

The scope of this study encompasses all fifty states in the United States through secondary research. However, there are several limitations to secondary research. The research may be outdated, and data on crime changes every year. In rare cases that there are not obtainable data, the UCR is used through the FBI. The scope of the secondary research is also limited to the original researcher's requirements, which limits this study to the data published on each state agencies’ crime reports.

Definitions of terms

To ensure clarity and understanding of this study, terms used throughout the study are hereby defined.

Incest: Any use of a minor child to meet the sexual or sexual/emotional needs of one or more persons whose authority is derived through ongoing bonding with that child (Blume, 2002); or sexual relations between family members prohibited by law from marrying (Blanchard, 1998).

Masturbation: Erotic stimulation especially of one’s own genital organs commonly resulting in orgasm and achieved by manual or other bodily contact exclusive of sexual intercourse, by instrumental manipulation, occasionally by sexual fantasies, or by various combinations of these agencies (Merriam Webster Online, 2009).
**Molestation:** To annoy, disturb, or persecute especially with hostile intent or injurious effect; or to make annoying sexual advances to force physical and usually sexual contact on (California Department of Justice, 2004).

**Rape:** Unlawful sexual activity and usually sexual intercourse carried out forcibly or under threat of injury against the will usually of a female or with a person who is beneath a certain age or incapable of valid consent (Merriam Webster Online, 2009).

**Registered Sex Offender:** Any convicted sex offender who is required to register his/her information to the local and/or state law-enforcement agencies on a regular basis because of their conviction (California Department of Justice, 2004).

**Sexual Assault:** The unlawful oral, anal, or vaginal penetration by union with the sexual organ of another (Merriam Webster Online, 2009).

**Sexual intercourse:** Heterosexual intercourse involving penetration of the vagina by the penis (Merriam Webster Online, 2009).

**Sodomy:** Intercourse involving penetration of the anus by the penis, however slightly, that causes the sexual penetration to be rape (FindLaw for Legal Professionals, 2009).

The definition of child molestation and child sexual abuse will be defined as any sexual act, whether it is committed through observation, sound, touch, or intercourse, put onto any child under the age of eighteen by an authoritative adult.
Organization of the Study

The remainder of this study is presented in four additional chapters. Chapter 2 is a relevant review of the existing literature on child molestation, effects on the victim, history of laws, stereotypes, and characteristics of the crime. In addition case studies of child sexual abuse victimizations will be presented. Chapter 3 outlines the design and methods of the study. Chapter 4 presents the findings of the states' data. Chapter 5 summarizes the study and provides recommendation for policy makers.
Chapter 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

When did it all begin?

Child molestation has been committed over hundreds of years in the United States. However, until the late 1800s, it simply was not acknowledged. It was not until the 1970s that the documented reporting of this crime exploded (Pratt, 2005). Child sexual abuse has been documented throughout history, with Biblical references, and more extensive references of abuse in the Roman and Greek civilizations (DeMause, 2001). Colonial America records suggest that child sexual abuse was widespread in the new America. *The History of Childhood* (DeMause, 1974), a classic analysis of childhoods in previous historical eras, describes the history of childcare as physically and sexually abusive. In addition, David Finkelhor (1974) indicates that children were susceptible to sexual abuse on a regular basis in the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries in Europe. A diary kept by the physician of Louix XIII of France described the young boy as being the subject to the sexual whims of almost every adult in his environment, including relatives, courtiers, servants, and nurses. This diary also indicates that this was the rule rather than the exception, as his parents found this activity usual (as cited in Finkelhor, 1974).

Since the acknowledgement of these acts, even with its horrendous repercussions and effects on its victims, the details and effects on child victims have yet to be reported. There may be several reasons for underreporting. Bolen (2001) and
Cunningham (2004) suggest that early physicians who researched child molestation may be to blame. Jean Martin Charcot, often viewed as 'France’s most illustrious neurologist' was an avid defender of the offender. He often viewed offenders as mentally ill rather than 'vicious' and claimed that up to 80% of accusations against them were false. French author Fournier believed that offenders were honorable men, and that children’s assaults were imaginary. Another French author Brouardel also believed that children lied about sexual assaults. Both men highlighted their views that not only were victims lying, but that they also took pleasure in their lies because of 'evil instincts' and 'evil passions' (Bolen, 2001; Cunningham, 2004).

Finkelhor (2008) reported Sigmund Freud’s theories of neurosis, who utilized a sample of female Viennese patients who were sexually abused by their brothers and fathers. Initially Freud labeled child sexual abuse as 'the root of adult psychological problems', he later changed his mind and concluded that sexual abuse accusations from children were nothing more than fantasies formulated by the Oedipus complex. This complex, according to Freud, was the basis for strong impulses within children for sexual union with their parents, which result in fantasies and overt acts by the children (Finkelhor, 2008).

In 1937 psychoanalytic writing (as cited in Neff, 1986), Bender and Blau, two of the first Americans to report on cases on child-adult sexual activities, wrote that the child victims of sexual abuse by adults shared in the responsibility of the molestation. They concluded that the child victims could not be viewed as innocent because they
likely acted in a seductive manner or may have even initiated the sexual activities
(Conte, 1991; Neff, 1986).

Child sexual abuse cases are still underreported to this day. Finkelhor (1984)
reports the possible explanations that this problem is underreported include: The
stigmatization of the victim; the offender is often a family member; the rules of
evidence are different for sexual crimes since it often comes down to the victim’s word
against the offender’s; and the criminal justice system frequently accepts plea bargains
that reduce the charges to lesser offenses, and no statistics are kept on the original
charges—thus affecting the accuracy of the numbers (Finkelhor, 1984).

Stereotypes:  Stranger Danger

Only in recent history has child molestation and child sexual abuse become a
focal point in society. This fact has led to several changes to our criminal justice
system. It was not until the Women’s Rights Movement when women and children’s
human rights against physical and sexual abuse were even acknowledged (Finkelhor,
2008). In 1937, awareness to child sexual abuse exploded in the United States. This
public outcry began with two cases: One, when four girls were murdered as a result of
sexually motivated attacks in New York City; and another in 1949 where a gruesome
sexually motivated murder in California occurred. These two events single-handedly
drew the attention of legislators, which resulted in commissions established in thirty-
five states—most notably in New York, California, New Jersey, and Massachusetts. In
these commissions, members studied the problems relating to these cases and created
legislative recommendations, which resulted in “sexual psychopath” laws. These laws enforced the policy that, if any person was suspected of a sex crime, he could be held in jail for an indefinite amount of time pending investigation. While this law was directed to all sex crimes, it was meant for and was most exercised by, cases related to child sexual abuse (Sandberg, 1987). The “sexual psychopath” laws were the beginning of the “stranger danger” stigma that is often still perceived today.

What is Child Sexual Abuse? Definitions and Laws

Child sexual abuse and child molestation are difficult terms to define. The many facets of child sex abuse allow the definition to cross over onto other boundaries, thereby making it a difficult crime to detect. David Finkelhor, author of Sexually Victimized Children (1979) stated that views of child sexual abuse as a subject has a “naming problem” (p.2). Whether one utilizes the word ‘child sexual abuse’ or ‘rape’, each name falls near to a certain type of abuse. For example, the word ‘abuse’ implies that there is force, fear, trauma, or intimidation in the commission of the crime. Rape, on the other hand, is an action requiring penetration. Neither one of these is the case when examining child sex crimes. Unlike rape, child molestation is more often committed by a family member or trusted individual. Consequently, rather than force or fear, oftentimes the offender charms his way to the victim or coerces them by giving approval and praising the child. Furthermore, most molestation cases involve touching and fondling—a less conspicuous style of sexual gratification (Finkelhor, 2008).
When studying the child sexual abuse reports, one must include another facet, incest—an interfamilial form of sexual abuse—since it accounts for 29% of all molestation cases (Bolen, 2001; Lisak, 1994). Blume (2002), concludes that incest does not necessarily have to be intercourse, does not have to include touch, and does not have to be overtly genital—so long as the relationship between the aggressor and victim maintain an interfamilial relationship. Incest can occur through sounds, words, and visual exposure of the child to sights or acts that do not include him or her.

Another predicament with defining child molestation is that child sexual abuse is a crime that happens in such different scenarios and situations. When examining the identified penal codes and definitions, one may immediately revert to the “stranger danger” concept employed by the sexual psychopath laws (Bagley, 1999). Times really have not changed since 1937 in that perspective, as these are rarely the instances. A study concluded that a family member conducted 58% percent of reported sexual assault cases that occurred on girls under the age of 15; and 30% of those the father was the assailant (Grossin, 2003). Similarly, another study indicated that an adult who knew the child and obtained the child’s trust prior to the abuse conducted 90% of child sexual abuse cases (Landau, 2008). Obviously, strangers are often not the target that should concern parents.

Due to the vague terminology used to generalize sexual crimes against children, several penal codes and definitions encompass the different facets of child molestation and child sexual abuse. When looking to the criminal justice system, a
disappointing definition is provided that makes this crime an extremely difficult one to pin point. The California Attorney General’s Office vaguely defines child molestation as “to annoy or molest children” and “to annoy or molest children under 18”. Other California Penal Codes that define children and illegal sexual acts include: PC 288: Lewd or lascivious crimes against children under 14 years; PC 269(a): Aggravated sexual assault with child under 14 or 10 years younger than perpetrator; PC 288.7(a): Sodomy w/child under 10 years old; PC 288.7(b): Oral copulation w/child under 10 years old; PC 288.5: Continuous sexual abuse of child; PC 647(a): Annoy or molest children; PC 647.6: Annoy or molest child under 18; PC 288(c)(1): Lewd or lascivious acts with child 14 or 15 years old; PC 286(b)(1): Sodomy with person under 18 years; PC 286(b)(2): Sodomy with person under 16 years; and, PC 286(c): Sodomy with person under 14 years or with force (California Department of Justice, 2004).

In addition to the listed crimes above, three states offer definitions specifically on child molestation. In California’s Penal Code, child molestation is defined as: Any person who willfully and lewdly commits any lewd or lascivious act, upon or with the body, or any part or member thereof, of a child who is under the age of 14 years, with the intent of arousing, appealing to, or gratifying the lust, passions, or sexual desires of that person or the child (California Department of Justice, 2004).

In Texas, an equivalent definition of child molestation includes indecency with a child. Also in Texas, a person commits child molestation if the victim is a child
younger than 17 years and not the person's spouse; the person: (1) engages in sexual contact with the child or causes the child to engage in sexual contact; or (2) with intent to arouse or gratify the sexual desire of any person (Breston, 2009).

In Pennsylvania, child molestation falls under a child abuse section specific to child sexual abuse, Pennsylvania Code section 21.501. This section defines a form of child abuse as a recent act, failure to act or series of acts or failures to act by a perpetrator, which creates an imminent risk of serious physical injury to or sexual abuse or sexual exploitation of a child under 18 years of age (Fry Communications, Inc., 2010).

With the above-listed definitions of sex crimes, one can generally gather that child molestation is a sexually motivated crime against a child. However, various definitions of molestation include any indecent or sexual activity on, involving, or surrounding a child, usually under the age of 14 (Garner, 2000).

Characteristics of Child Molestation, Who is Susceptible, and the Effects

Child molestation is not a singular crime identified in legal terms. Rather, it encompasses several crimes, including fondling, unlawful sex, sodomy, oral copulation, and rape. These different acts do not necessarily require force, and can often be undetectable. As noted previously, rape is one of the most advertised and well-known sex crimes. While rape is a crime that can happen to children, it is not always the case. As such, there are many similarities and differences between sexual
abuse and rape, which should clarify the different characteristics in the crimes (Finkelhor, 1979).

Similarities include the following: 1) Sexual abuse involves the genitals and sexual regions of either the victim or the offender; 2) offenders are usually men; 3) victims experience trauma unique to sexual offenses, such as humiliation, stigmatization, shame, and doubt; and 4) society has treated both crimes similarly—denying the victim that they were important and blaming the victim.

Differences include the following: 1) Victims include both males and females. While rape happens to women, male victims are most notably known for inmate rape while incarcerated; 2) offenders of sexual abuse are often friends and family. While 50% of rapes occur from strangers, 75% of child sexual abuse crimes occur from relatives and/or acquaintances; 3) child sexual abuse occurs more often than rape because the offender is usually a known individual, and has abused the victim more than once. The exception to this is marital rape; 4) rape victims are usually assaulted by threat, force, or fear. Child sexual abuse requires less physical force; victims are usually persuaded to commit to the acts that the offender desires; 5) rape has usually one offender. Child sexual abuse often involves family members—usually one or more offender, and up to several others being implicated; 6) child sexual abuse usually does not include intercourse. Most offenses include fondling, masturbation, and exhibition, but can include: oral-genital or anal penetration, genital touching, sexual kissing, hugging, sexual glaring at the victim, disguised touching, verbal invitations for sexual
play, verbal insults about body parts, reading or making the child view pornographic material, and exposure to inappropriate sexual activity (Caruso, 1987); and, 7) child sexual abuse engages a different set of social agencies. While police departments respond to rape, child sexual abuse cases involve child protective services and the state Department of Public Health. In Massachusetts, as with most other states, the law requires that all cases of suspected child sexual abuse be reported to the Public Welfare department, or equivalent state agency (Finkelhor, 1979).

Finkelhor (1984) developed a four-factor theory of child sexual abuse, which incorporates not only characteristics of the offender but also the characteristics of the environment and the victim. For example, the offender may find that relating to a child is emotionally congruent, and gives him a sense of power and control; relating to adults produces feelings of inferiority and inadequacy. Alternatively, the offender who has been sexually molested as a child – which research has shown that most have been victimized at one point—may engage in a reenactment of the trauma, identifying with the aggressor in an attempt to master the shock and feel in control.

Saunders, Lipovsky, and Hanson (1995) list the following indicators of a family in a sexual crisis that likely results in incest. 1) The family is socially isolated; the male caretaker has a high level of control within the family; 2) the family has a high emphasis on moral and religious issues; 3) the family has a highly distressed relationship between the parents or the caretakers; and 4) the parents report substantial discord between them.
Prosecution rates for child molestation cases are much different from the individual crime categories itself. Perhaps this is because there are so many different crimes that fall under the umbrella crime of 'child molestation'; or because victims and/or their parents are concerned about the 'believability' factor. As previously noted, most offenders are related to the victims and family members are less likely to report the offender to the police.

Burgess and Holmstrom (1979) conducted a study at the Boston City Hospital Pediatric Walk-In Clinic. Over a period of six years, they supervised 44 cases involving suspected victims of sexual abuse. Of the 44 cases, 48 offenders were identified, including: 27 who were considered a father role, eight were cousins, eight were uncles, and five were siblings. Two cases specifically illustrate the quandary of judgment that is common amongst families who experience incestuous abuse.

Case 21: This family included the mother, 27; father, 28; daughters, ages 12, 10, 9, 8. 1969 mother brought oldest daughter, then at age 4 to the hospital clinic and said “My child has been sexually assaulted and I want her examined.” Several months later child was brought back to the clinic. Father reported she fell on her bicycle seat and hurt herself. The father noticed a vaginal discharge and brought the child in for examination. The discharge cultured positive for gonorrhea. The father was also diagnosed with gonorrhea at that time.

One year later the child was referred to the ear, nose, and throat clinic because school officials said she failed a hearing test. Additional medical history included frequent sore throats and difficulty swallowing. School reports showed she was doing poorly at school.

In 1974, mother called the Boston City Hospital Pediatric Walk-In Clinic in the middle of the night and said, “I’m at the end of my rope. It is on and off all the time. I wake up and my husband is not in bed. He kept promising not to do it…I’m going to treat it like he is a stranger
who did it…not think of it as my husband.” Child Protective Services was called and evaluation was made.

In 1975, a notation was entered on the girl’s chart that she was seen in the outpatient department for stomach pains.

In 1976, child complained to mother of burning in her vagina. The mother gave her daughter a bath and saw a vaginal discharge and scar on her perineal area. She brought her daughter to the emergency department and she was admitted for protective hospitalization after mother and daughter revealed the long history of molestation by the father.

Daughter’s comments: “I need to solve this problem. If I said no to him maybe this wouldn’t have happened. I said no a few times but he begged me. Mommy says he is sick. He used to carry me from my bed. He would touch me and ask if it was hurting me. He put his thing in my mouth many times. When I was real small I used to pretend I was sleeping. I thought it would stop but he didn’t. Sometimes I wondered why it was happening to me. I wanted it to stop. Mommy said we could go to the police. I didn’t want to do that.”

Case 22: A 9-year old was going to the neighborhood store at 6:00p.m. Her 16-year old cousin was with her and said, “If I had a girl, I’d rape her.” The child said, “If you do that to me, I’ll scream.” The cousin grabbed her and took her to an alley and had forced vaginal intercourse. He threatened to physically harm her if she screamed or told anyone.

Following the assault, both children returned to the girl’s home. The nephew had blood on his hands and blood was on the girl’s pants. When questioned by the victim’s parents, the nephew said he cut himself and wiped his hands on her pants. The mother took the victim into the bathroom thinking the girl started her menstrual period. After an hour of questioning, the girl broke down and told the mother what had happened.

The parents brought the victim to the emergency department for an examination. Mother did not tell the hospital administrator what had happened but told the nurse, “My child’s been attacked.” At this time, the parents stated they were not going to press charges. The nephew begged the family not to tell his father (Burgess, 1979).
The above cases demonstrate a characteristic that detached members of society might view as dysfunctional. As illustrated in Case 21, the mother was passive while her husband continued to abuse their daughters, and she admittedly had hopes that he would stop molesting them over several years. Similarly, Case 22 illustrates how the assailant was protected by his family because he was the victim's cousin. This trait is common amongst families who have experienced sexual abuse. This term, commonly referred to as divided loyalty, separates those who take the child’s side, and those who make the exception for the offender. The child’s side—termed the universalistic approach—occurs when the family turns their back on the offender and seeks immediate help to the victim. The offender’s side—termed the particularistic approach—occurs when the family feels that the incident will only be a one-time occurrence, or they think, 'he didn’t mean anything by it' and disregard the matter. Either way, the particularistic approach allows the offender be held unaccountable for his actions, thereby showing the child that she is not really a victim. This can have grave effects on the child, as it does not acknowledge that the incident was inappropriate. Such mindsets can produce feelings that manifest into deviant behavior. Results of untreated child sexual abuse can include: Premature to adult sexual activity, learning to use sex in service of non-sexual needs for approval, pre-pubertal sexual activity not experienced as an adult activity, poor school attendance, excessive use of alcohol, and drug abuse (Burgess, 1979).
Children experience sexual trauma differently than adults. Children recall the situations more vividly. They get embarrassed, and they recall that the incident as one being frightening to them. Adults, on the other hand, remember the actual events: what the offender forced them to do, what the offender looked like, what the offender was wearing, what he smelled like, where the incident occurred, etc. Children are less likely to keep the trauma and hold onto it if they are accepted as a victim, and are treated for the trauma (Burgess, 1979).

Long-term molestation cases have different effects. Victimization that occurs over several years often results in the victim becoming un-defiant or un-resistant to his/her abuser. Referred to as the Accommodation Syndrome, the victim is so emotionally broken down by the early-uncharged abuse that he/she appears to be an uncomplaining recipient of the charged abuse. Juries often perceive this behavior as the child being dishonest, promiscuous, or deviant, resulting in the dismissal of his/her abuser (Flint, 1995). The following are case studies that illustrate this syndrome by the victims.

**Case Studies**

**People v. Harris:** Defendant Joachim Harris was charged in 1986 with multiple counts of statutory rape and sodomy committed against his stepdaughter, Anna. The Harris case graphically demonstrates how context, or the lack of it, can affect the perception of the credibility of the young complaining witness. Anna was seventeen years old by the time she testified at trial. She testified that one night between the first of October and Thanksgiving of 1984, when she was fifteen years old, her mother woke her up saying that "dad wants you." She testified that she went downstairs after her mother went into her mother and defendant's bedroom. She said that when she entered the room, her
mother was naked, and her stepfather told her to take her own clothes off which she did so unquestioningly. He told her to get in bed with them, and she complied. Anna then testified that defendant got on top of her mother, then got off her and got on top of Anna. At that point, Anna said, defendant touched her body and had sexual intercourse with her. Anna testified that defendant went back and forth between herself and her mother "until he was finished." Throughout the incident, neither Anna nor her mother protested, nor did defendant say anything. When it was over, Anna said that she returned to her own room and bed.

Before judging Anna's de-contextualized story as flatly unbelievable, consider how one's view of Anna's description of the charged acts might change if she were permitted to put those events into the context of an escalating pattern of abuse that was initiated when Anna was five years old, which by age fifteen rendered her passive and incapable of protest. In fact, the defendant began by fondling Anna when she was five, by removing her clothing and touching her on her buttocks and in her vaginal area. By the time she was eight, the defendant was getting on top of her and trying to have intercourse, but Anna's cries kept him from actually penetrating her. By age eleven, defendant succeeded in penetrating her vaginally and began placing his penis into her mouth and vagina on a regular basis. By this time, Anna did not testify to any physical resistance on her part. During this uncharged time, Anna did try to get help and failed. Defendant had told her never to tell anyone or he 'was going to do something' to her. Despite the threat, she told her mother, whose response was to tell Anna that it was up to her to get defendant to stop. She was eight years old at the time. Over the subsequent years, Anna's mother also told her that disclosure would mean the breakup of the family. After her mother failed to help her, Anna's stepfather dominated her
completely. She kept the secret and became incapable of resisting defendant, physically or emotionally (Myers, 2004).

**Burke v. State:** M.B., a fifteen-year-old girl, states that one night, after living with her stepfather for over six years, she engaged in an act of sexual intercourse with him. Although she claims to have submitted to him out of fear, she concedes that he neither forced nor threatened her that night. A short time after making her allegation, she runs away from home, refusing to speak to police for over two weeks.

Her stepfather denies her accusation, despite being found passed out in her bed. He states that he had gotten very drunk in a bar, come home and stumbled into the wrong room. Indeed, by the time the case comes to trial, the State stipulates that he had been to the bar in question, gotten drunk, and even had sex with a woman he met at the bar. Why, he asks, would he then have sex with his stepdaughter? (Myers, 2004)

Although an inquiry might naturally focus on the question of which story to believe, the criminal justice system asks a much narrower one at trial: Is the complainant’s story believable beyond a reasonable doubt? To answer that question, jurors would strictly scrutinize M.B.’s narrative of events in light of their own ideas of what is credible. Such scrutiny would likely center on the incongruity of M.B.’s passive acceptance of her stepfather’s unprecedented solicitation. Even though statutory rape and incest cases do not require force on the part of the defendant or lack of consent on the part of the victim, a fact-finder is likely to believe that the 'normal' fifteen year old in M.B.’s position would show some signs of shock, surprise, or resistance. M.B.’s failure to do so, coupled with her subsequent avoidance of the police, would likely undermine her credibility with a jury.
The following encounters were extracted from a sexual abuse prevention organization, Escaping Hades. The victims are identified only by their first name.

**Sabrina's Story:** When I was about 7 or 8 my mom had a boyfriend. One night, about a year after they got married, he came into my room. He ordered me to get undressed, and to lie with my legs apart. I thought he was doing something good, like checking up on me, but then I felt a pinch. One other night and woke up to a rocking feeling, and looked down and that bastard was having sex with me. I look back now and think; I was so young and didn’t know what was happening. This happened until I was 12. Eight years ago, I got pregnant when I was 11, and he beat me so my baby would die.

My mom worked a night shift at a bar, and that’s where she met him. He would have sex with me every time my mom was away. He would invite his friends over and they would rape me. Then my mom was sick one time and she told me to tell her husband that she was home then she went to sleep. He came into my room ‘cause I didn’t tell him about she was there and started to have sex with me; I screamed for my mom and he said “no point of calling her, she’s not home”. Then to our surprise, she came rushing in and screamed. He exclaimed it was all my idea, but my mom kicked him out.

**Dionne’s Story:** I don’t remember when my grandfather started touching me. There are a couple of incidents that stick out in my mind. The first one (I was about 8) was when I was sitting on his lap and he was cupping my breast asking me if it felt good. I didn’t think it was wrong since he was doing it while the whole family was there. They weren’t looking and when I think back to that day I realized that he was whispering in my ear and I was wearing an oversized sweater. I guess it wasn’t obvious what he was doing.

The next episode that I remember was when we were taking a nap and he asked me if I knew how to make love! I blocked a lot of things out of my mind and I can’t even tell you exactly what he did to me. I think I was 10 and I didn’t understand what he was doing or if it was really wrong. My family and I drove home later that week and I told a lady who was swimming the hotel pool that we stayed at what my grandfather had did to me. She told me I should tell my parents but I didn’t think they would believe me.
When my grandfather died I refused to go to the funeral and nobody even asked why! I think my grandmother knew what he had done and maybe my mom as well. I am 27 now and my grandmother passed away this year. I went to her funeral and found out that my sister, who is 5 years older, went through the same thing. I don’t know if to be mad at her or sympathize with her.

It has affected me with regards to my children. I don’t trust my dad with my children—my daughter or son! My brother died in a car wreck a few years ago and the only good I see in that is maybe he would have been a pervert as well and God stopped that from happening.

**Jamie’s Story:** I have had enough of the shadows. I was three years old when I was raped by my own father, who denied me ever since. My mother knew because she ignored me no matter what problems I had. The problems I had, I believe, were my attempts to bring out that truth. This betrayal has affected every part of my life—relationships with other people, men, my jobs, and God.

I was diagnosed with childhood schizophrenia when I was eight years old because I was so seriously withdrawn. My parents were told I would never graduate from high school, hold a job, or marry. But I graduated in June, 1964, and I recently celebrated my twenty-first anniversary this past December 13, to a man who loves and accepts me as I love and accept him. But even though we’re close, I still feel alone. But now I know I am not alone, because I have found many other women who have undergone the same hell. But no matter what I do or accomplish, my father doesn’t acknowledge me, but now I understand why. I offered him the opportunity to sit down with me and talk with me and he prefers denial. Okay. I have asked God to allow me to listen when He asks him, What have you done? He’ll roast in hell for eternity, but I’ve done what I can. I’m detaching.

**Rachel’s Story:** My story starts when I was about eight. I was alone with my babysitter, a man—he was 20 at the time. Well, my parents left for a party with some friends so they called him (I won’t use his real name.) He came and we watched TV for about two hours then he asked if I would like to watch a movie. He popped the movie in and sat in the chair he asked if I would like to sit with him and of course, I ran and jumped in his lap. About ten or twenty minutes in to the movie he started to touch my inner thigh I wiggled away a little but he pulled me back he told me it was ok it was his way of showing that he liked me.
Well he would do that from time to time then he stopped the movie and took off my clothes. Well as you could already tell he raped me this went on till I was 15 ‘because my parents would drop me off at his house so they could go on trips alone. They dropped me off and he did his routine and the took me home as well. Two days before a trip I asked if I could stay home alone—it was only for three days—they said ok. Well I’m 16 now with a year old daughter. My rapist was convicted and will be out in 20 and he gave up all parental rights to my daughter. By the time he’s out we’ll be far far away (Escaping Hades; 2008).

Conclusion

Child sex crimes are very destructive crimes. Only recently have researchers began to truly look into the effects and characteristics of the crimes, merely to find that many of these victims are acknowledged and treated after they have been incarcerated for victimizing somebody else. If crime reports were mandated throughout the nation for child sexual abuse, it is quite possible that the crime awareness needed would be fully visualized—thereby providing the funding needed to treat victims before they victimize somebody else.
Chapter Three

METHODOLOGY

Chapter Two identified that independent statistics and case studies have indicated different situations that put children at risk of molestation during their childhood, and that most children at risk of being victimized in most cases, will be victimized by a family member. This project utilizes a secondary research approach to compile data, and the researcher then uses the information to form research questions. Secondary research is useful because the information and data are compiled on a broad spectrum, narrowed down to a particular focus, and applied to a specific topic. The downfall to secondary research is that some of the information may be outdated, thus requiring the researcher to adjust his or her focus, or conduct surveys to narrow the results down to a specific item.

The data were compiled by searching for each state's annual crime report, through the state's crime statistics center, state police department, or state Department of Justice web site. Appropriate statistics were examined through violent crime data, family law data, or sex crime data. If suitable data were available, the information was collected from charts, graphs, or statistics compiled and published by the state's reporting entity.

If data were unavailable on a state's web site, the agency was contacted by the researcher via telephone. For states that did not have publicized crime statistics, a verbal request was made to obtain written child sexual abuse crime statistics. If the
researcher did not receive a reply within one week, a second telephone request was made for the information. In instances when the agency representative provided confirmation that it did not publicize child sexual abuse crime statistics, then the researcher utilized the data found in the UCR.

The UCR is available on the FBI's web site, on its Crime Statistics web page. The UCR provides annual crime statistics from years 1995 to 2008. The researcher utilized data from the most recent completed year to complete this study.

The data were collected, organized by state, and combined into a formulated spreadsheet. The spreadsheet listed each state alphabetically, and listed six different types of sex crimes and ten characteristics relating to the sex crimes. If data were available for certain sex crimes, then each state was given one point for each type of sex crime statistic provided. For each characteristic of a sex crime, each state was given one point. The spreadsheet was formulated to provide a sum at the end of the spreadsheet so that each state was given a total. This point system provided the researcher with the data required to illustrate which states provide the most data for child sex crimes.

The spreadsheet enabled the researcher to understand which states report child sexual abuse, which states provide detailed information on child sexual abuse, and which state(s) provide the most data on child sexual abuse.

There are specific limitations when using the UCR. As reported previously, the UCR reports only murder, forcible rape, robbery, burglary, aggravated assault, larceny-
theft, arson, and motor vehicle theft (FBI, 2008). Only one of the crimes reported by the UCR is a sexual abuse crime. Of the crimes listed above, the property crimes are meticulously categorized, yet crimes against the person, such as rape, are not. Even worse, child molestation is not even mentioned. Below is an example of the UCR offense analysis of robbery:

Robbery is defragmented to include the following specific types of robbery (FBI, 2008):

- Street/highway
- Commercial/house
- Gas or service station
- Convenience store
- Residence
- Bank
- Miscellaneous

Robbery is given seven descriptors. Rape is given two. Child Molestation is missing completely from UCR which in itself, reveals a need for more data collection and reporting on the crime.
Chapter 4

FINDINGS

The data retrieved from the fifty-state reporting agencies provide an idea of the low priority child sex offenses really have when it comes to data reporting. Of the fifty states, only six states reported data on victims of sex crimes under the age of 18. Only seven states reported data on relationships between victim and offender. Only ten states expanded the categories beyond those required by the UCR. Only seven states provided the ethnicity and gender of the victim and offender. Only four states provided the date, time, or location of the sex crime. These datum characteristics are essential to understanding and protecting children who are at risk of victimization.

Of the fifty states, only nine provided sufficient information and statistics to profile victims and offenders of reported child sex crimes. From the information collected, statistics were compiled and rough profiles of susceptible victims were created.

Highlights of State Statistics

In Pennsylvania, 22.6% of sex crimes took place on victims under the age of ten, most of which (79.9%) were female (Fry Communications, Inc., 2010). In Alabama, 40% of domestic rapes were committed against juveniles (Alabama Criminal Justice Information Center, 2008). In Connecticut, detailed reporting allows a person to conclude that most victims of sex crimes were abused on Sundays between 6pm to Midnight (Coppolo, 2008). In Illinois, approximately 16.2% of child sex crimes
occurred on children between the ages of one to five; 33% of crimes occurred on children ages six to twelve. Fifty-percent were female, and 60% were white (Illinois State Police, 2008). In Michigan, 33.3% of offenders are white males between the ages of 20-29 (Michigan State Police, 2008). In Tennessee, approximately 1% of all domestic violence incidents resulted in sexual assault (Crime in Tennessee, 2008). In Virginia, 76% of all sex crime offenses occurred while the victim was at home, and performed by an acquaintance (Crime in Virginia, 2008).

Texas breaks down the relationship of victim to offender, including parental/child, marital, and other family—which are then broken down into specific relationships, such as husband, wife, ex-husband, ex-wife, father, mother, son, daughter, stepfather, stepmother, stepson, stepdaughter, foster parent, foster child, and more. It reports that 46.2% of sexual abuse cases occur within marital relationships, 15.7% within parental/child relationships, and 38.1% with “other” family member relationships. White victims make up 74% of child sexual abuse cases, while 25% are black. Up to 77% of offenders reported are male; 23% are female (Texas Department of Public Safety, 2008).

Illinois reports datum under an umbrella category, ‘Crimes against Children’. Within this category, the data illustrate that both males and females are equally reported as being victimized in a crime. Black children constitute 60.3% of all victimizations, white children constitute 23.9%, and Hispanic children constitute
14.4%. The data are further broken down into three categories: ages under 1 to 5 years old, ages 6 to 12 years, and ages 13 to 16 years.

With these categories, Illinois supplies the following information: In 2006, 623 children between the ages 13 and 16 were reported to have been victims of criminal sexual assault, which makes up 50.8% of all criminal sexual assault on minors. Under the category of sex offenses, the data indicate that 862 children between the ages 13 and 16 were reported to have been victims of this crime, which makes up 49.5% of all sex offenses onto minors. Both of these categories make up 8.2% of all crimes on children under age 17. While this is useful information to establish the profile of a child susceptible to sex crimes, it does not show what type of sex crime was imposed on the victim (Illinois State Police, 2008).

Oregon provided a clear breakdown of the sex crimes reported. It is the only state in the U.S. to provide a separate category for physical molestation. It reports that sex crimes make up 15% of all crimes against persons. Within that category, physical molestation makes up 38% of all sex crimes. Additionally, it provides that 25% of physical molestation crimes are committed on juvenile females, 5% are committed on juvenile males (State of Oregon, 2006).

Lastly, Wisconsin—the state reporting the most detail, reports that 70.1% of sexual abuse occurred onto children under the age of fifteen; among this age group, 55% were under the age of twelve, and 57% of those victims reported forcible sodomy as the type of sexual assault. Thirty-three percent of sexual abuse cases occurred inside
the victim’s residence; 84.7% of victims were female; 80.2% of victims were white; 19.4% of victims related to the offender; and 4.5% of victims reported other injuries in addition to sexual assault. Of the sexual assault cases reported, 48% characterized as forcible fondling; 20.2% were forcible rape; 18.4% were statutory rape; and 10.5% were forcible sodomy. Wisconsin even reported the month of the offense.

Wisconsin also took an extra step at identifying the offender’s characteristics. That state reported that 24.9% of offenders were ages 30 and up; were male, and were single offenders—meaning they did not have any other criminal offenses on their record. In forcible sodomy cases, 56.9% of offenders were acquaintances with their victims and 27.6% were related to their victims (Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance, 2008)

Research Questions

Each of the states' published crime reports were collected, compiled and analyzed, allowing the researcher to conclude the following.

Of the fifty states, only five states collect data on child sexual abuse victims, including Alabama, Illinois, Tennessee, Virginia, and Wisconsin. The remaining forty-five states do not collect data on child sexual abuse victims whatsoever.

Each state's level of detail provided on their crime reports for sex crimes vary significantly from state to state. Wisconsin, Virginia, and Tennessee provide at least eleven additional categories of detail on sex crimes than what is required by the UCR. Most other states provide less than five additional sex crime characteristics, including
Arizona, Florida, and Ohio. Twenty seven states provide no additional information on sexual abuse crimes.

The level of detail varies significantly between each state's reporting structure. Six states, including Arkansas and Texas, provide data on at least four types of sexual offenses. Kansas and Rhode Island provide three additional types of sexual offenses than what is required by the UCR. The remaining thirty-nine states do not provide data on any sex crimes other than rape.

The most commonly reported crime categories are forcible fondling and forcible sodomy. The least reported crime is statutory rape, sexual assault with an object, and incest. The most reported characteristics are the use of a weapon, offender traits, and juvenile offenders. The least reported characteristics are victim traits, drug/alcohol use, month of the offense, date/time of the offense, and location of the incident.

Of all fifty states, Wisconsin provided the most information regarding both victims and offenders of sex crimes. With the available data, one can conclude that children are more at risk of being a victim of sexual assault when under the age of twelve, during the summer months, and by a family member or family acquaintance. These are key characteristics, which could describe potential threats such as babysitters, out-of-town family members and friends, and neighboring house sitters.

The remaining states studied did not provide adequate information to illustrate and profile the relationships between victims and offenders in child sexual abuse cases.
The following is a summary of each state’s reporting structure for the crime of child sexual abuse.

State Crime Reports

As illustrated on Table 1, every state provides data on rape, as this is a requirement of the UCR. Table 1 indicates the following results for each state.
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Table 1
Sexual Abuse Crime Data Collected by Each State

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<th>State</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Forcible rape</th>
<th>Forcible sodomy</th>
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<th>Weapon use</th>
<th>Victim traits</th>
<th>Location of incident</th>
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**Total** | 50 | 9 | 6 | 9 | 7 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 7 | 5 | 5 | 16 | 1 | 5 | 5

Note: The UCR requires each state to collect data on forcible rape.
As Table 1 shows, the data illustrate the inconsistencies in reporting child sex crimes. The following information summarizes each state's data.

Alabama’s crime statistics page on the State’s Department of Justice web site illustrates all required reporting reflected on the UCR. It adds information including, victim race, weapon use and type, relationship to offender, location of rape, offender race, and whether or not the victim was a juvenile (Crime in Alabama, 2008).

Alaska does not provide crime statistics on its web site. Instead, it reports directly to the UCR annually.

Arizona does not provide crime statistics on its web site. Instead, it reports directly to the UCR annually.

Arkansas provides detail on arrests made within the State, including forcible rape, sodomy, sexual assault with an object, forcible fondling, incest, and statutory rape. It provides minimal information on children, except that it provides offender’s race, age group (adult/juvenile), and gender (Arkansas Crime Information Center, 2008).

California limits its reports to those crimes required by the UCR (Statistics by City and County, 2008).

Colorado limits its reports to those crimes required by the UCR (Colorado Department of Public Safety, 2007).

Connecticut provides sexual assault statistics to include the use of weapon, type of weapon, injury, drugs and/or alcohol involved, date/time of offense, relationship of
victim/offender, gender, and age, in addition to its crime numbers (McCarthy, 2008; Uniform Crime Reports, 2007).

Delaware does not provide supplemental crime statistics. It only provides its required statistics to the UCR.

Florida expanded its Forcible Rape category to include Forcible Sodomy, and Forcible Fondling, but did not include statistics on any other items to include child sex crimes (Uniform Crime Reports, 2008).

Georgia limits its crime statistics to those required on the UCR (Crime Statistics, 2008).

Hawaii limits its crime statistics to those crimes required by the UCR (Crime in Hawaii, 2008).

Idaho expands its crime reports to include sex crimes such as, forcible rape, forcible sodomy, sexual assault with an object, and forcible fondling. It does not provide information on the victim or the offender (Crime in Idaho, 2007).

Illinois expands its list of reported crimes to include other offenses such as violations of orders of protection, use of deadly weapons, and offenses involving children. While it does not expand its sex crime category, it does break down the victims’ age group, and day of the week the crime occurred (Illinois Crime Report, 2008).

Indiana provides crime statistics limited to those required on the UCR (Crime Trends, 2008).
Iowa expands its crime report to include detailed drug violations and property crimes, but fails to break down sex crime reports other than sexual assault/abuse (2007 Annual Report, 2007).

Kansas provides statistics for sex crimes, including rape, forcible sodomy, forcible fondling, incest, pornography/obscene material, prostitution, and “other sex offenses”; in addition to those crimes mandated by the UCR. In addition, Kansas reports the counties in which these crimes were committed (2008 Crime Statistics, 2008).

Kentucky provides crime statistics only those crimes mandated by the UCR. In addition, it breaks down whether or not the offender was a juvenile (Kentucky Police Crime Reports, 2008).

Louisiana only provides crime statistics on its annual report to the UCR.

Maine provides statistics on those crimes required by the UCR. However, it does not elaborate on different sex crimes other than forcible rape and prostitution (Crime in Maine, 2008).

Maryland limits its crime statistics to those required on the UCR.

Massachusetts only provides the crime statistics required by the UCR (Research and Statistics, 2008).

Michigan reports those categories required of the UCR. In addition, it offers data on domestic violence, which encompasses child sex crimes (Uniform Crime Report, 2008).
Minnesota provides statistics for crimes required by the UCR. Surprisingly, it provides the relationships of the victim to the offender(s) for homicides and property crimes—but not for sex crimes or child molestation (Minnesota Crime Reports, 2008).

Mississippi only provides crime statistics on its annual report to the UCR.

Missouri only provides crime statistics on its annual report to the UCR (Missouri State Highway Patrol, 2008).

Montana provides statistics on sex crimes, including commercial sex, incest with a minor, indecent exposure (to minors and adults), obscene material, sex offense (which includes deviate sexual conduct, incest, sexual abuse of children), and sexual assault (Crime Results for 2008; Montana Department of Justice, 2008).

Nebraska limits its crime statistics to those required on the UCR (Arrest and Offense Data, 2008; Nebraska Commission of Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice, 2008).

Nevada limits its crime statistics to those required on the UCR (Nevada Department of Public Safety, 2008).

New Hampshire only provides crime statistics on its annual report to the UCR.

New Jersey limits its crime statistics to those required on the UCR (Crime Statistics and Reports, 2008).

New Mexico limits its crime statistics to those required on the UCR (New Mexico Crime Reports, 2008).
New York limits its crime statistics to those crimes required by the UCR (Criminal Justice Statistics, 2008).

North Carolina limits its statistics to those crimes mandated by the UCR. It expands on the details of rape crimes, such as the use of a handgun, rifle, shotgun, knife, and other weapons; and provides information on the ages of the offenders (2008 Annual Summary Report, 2008).

North Dakota limits its crime statistics to those required on the UCR (Crime and Homicide Reports, 2008).

Ohio does not expand its annual crime report to include child sex crimes specifically. However, it does note that family members commit most physical and sexual crimes imposed on children. It also expands its crime reports on property crimes (Crime Statistics and Crime Reports, 2008).


Oregon expands its annual crime report to include non-forcible rape, contributing to sexual delinquency, physical molestation, obscene phone call, incest, exposure, forcible sodomy, non-forcible sodomy, and other sex crimes. It further reports the characteristics of the offenders and victims including: adult/juvenile, male or female (Oregon, 2006).
Pennsylvania provides crime reports only for crimes required by the UCR. It provides general statistics to include the characteristics of sex offenses (Crime in Pennsylvania, 2008).

Rhode Island expands its reports on sex crimes to include forcible rape, forcible sodomy, forcible sex with an object, and forcible fondling, but does not include the age demographics of the victims (Crime Statistics, 2008).

South Carolina provides statistics only for crimes required by the UCR (SC Crime and Criminal Justice Statistics, 2008).

South Dakota provides statistics only for crimes required by the UCR. It did provide additional information on the race of the offender, however, only for the category of rape (Crime in South Dakota, 2007).

Tennessee provided much more detail on its annual crime reports than other states. It provided sex crimes under both categories “Domestic Violence” and “Crimes Against Persons”. Under both categories, it provided the number of reported cases and cleared cases, rather than just reporting arrests. It included crimes such as, forcible rape, forcible sodomy, sexual assault with an object, forcible fondling, incest, and statutory rape. In addition to the reported cases, Tennessee also included arrestee demographics including gender and race. It also gave times of the offenses, alcohol usage, and stated whether the crime was committed at the victim/offender’s residence (Statistical Analysis, 2008).
Texas conforms to the guidelines of the UCR, it also breaks down its crimes one further step. Forcible rape is broken down to forcible rape, forcible sodomy, sexual assault with object, and forcible fondling. Non-forcible rape included reports of incest and statutory rape (Texas Department of Public Safety, 2008).

Utah limits its crime statistics to those required on the UCR (Crime Statistics in Utah, 2008).

Vermont limits its crime statistics to those required on the UCR (Crime Statistics, 2008).

Virginia provides detail on victims, offenders, relationships, times, locations, departure avenues, and number of offenses with regard to forcible sex offenses. It provides statistics on crimes including forcible rape, forcible sodomy, sexual assault with an object, forcible fondling, incest, and statutory rape. It provides that white females between the ages of thirteen and fourteen are at the highest risk of being victimized of rape. Additionally, it provides that the month of July has the most complaints of sexual assault (Crime in Virginia, 2008).


West Virginia breaks down its sex crimes to include forcible fondling, forcible rape, oral or anal sexual assault, and sexual assault with an object. It also includes whether or not a weapon was involved in the commission of the crime (Crime in West Virginia, 35th Ed., 2006).
Wisconsin provides detail on victims and offenders, including ages, location of assault, month of assault, gender, and victim/offender relationship (Office of Justice Assistance, 2008).

Wyoming provides its crime statistics on a quarterly basis. While it does expand on its crime reporting efforts, it does not expand on any information relating to sex crimes (2008 Annual Crime Report, 2008).

The data, in conjunction with the case studies provided in Chapter 2, paint a clear picture that child molestation and child sex crimes are serious crimes that are often hidden from the public eye. This information is imperative to society, as we have a responsibility to protect children from both predatory and situational crimes that occur. Without this knowledge, many parents may continue to allow their children to be watched and cared for by people with little-to-no background information, and may put their children in harm’s way by simply not knowing any better.
Chapter 5

CONCLUSION

The UCR requires eight major crimes be reported annually by each state. Of the fifty states mandated to report to the UCR, only seventeen provided at least one additional piece of information to sex crimes. Nine of which offered some detail on the victim’s traits, offender’s traits, and/or the relationship between the two parties. For the information collected, statistics were compiled enabling the creation of a profile of characteristics that may produce a child sex crime. Chapter 4 outlined that the statistics on child sex crimes varied from state to state, and are not reported well enough to establish a connection between potential victims and offenders.

Research Question 1

Child sexual abuse reporting is limited to the following states: Alabama, Illinois, Tennessee, Virginia, and Wisconsin. There could be several reasons for this. Most of these states are smaller relative to other states in the country, which perhaps increases manageability of the state's crime reports and statistics. The overall crime rates may be lower than other states, enabling policy makers and law enforcement to collect this data on a state level. Similarly, there may be fewer law enforcement agencies in these states, which would enable them to collect data more efficiently than a larger state with hundreds of law enforcement agencies.
Research Question 2

Twenty-two states provide at least one additional characteristic of crime than what is required from the UCR. Six of which provide additional categories of crimes than what is required from the UCR. Sixteen states provide data on juvenile offenders, yet only five states provide data on juvenile victims. Four states provide at least 10 additional data on characteristics of sex crimes; four states provide between 6 and 8 additional data on characteristics of sex crimes; and 27 states provide no additional data on characteristics of sex crimes.

Research Question 3

Of the fifty states measured, Wisconsin was the only one to provide enough data to produce a profile for a potential victim of child sexual abuse. Wisconsin is able to report data on four types of sexual abuse, and nine characteristics of the crimes, including: weapon use, victim traits, offender traits, victim-offender relationships, location of the incident, juvenile victims, juvenile offenders, and month of the offense. While Wisconsin's data collection is comprehensive, it's population makes up only 1.9% of the total United States population. In comparison, California makes up 12.1% of the country's population, has international borders, has a diverse population, and maintains a coastal border length of 840 miles. Based on the data collected and analyzed, California only reports data required by the UCR. California does not report any additional categories for child sexual abuse.
This is unfortunate as there are children who are being abused by their family members and other trusted individuals, yet these acts are not being researched or investigated in any way. As reported in Chapter 2, we know that family members hide most of these acts, making child sexual abuse difficult to identify. Due to underreporting, the number of offenders is likely underestimated, as is the number of victims. This immeasurability strengthens any argument as to why it is so important to invest our time and funding into protecting children.

Suggestions for Policy Makers

One seemingly simple solution for providing awareness and education would be to add additional data for child sexual abuse to the UCR. The second step would be to add several descriptors that would be useful to law enforcement in conducting investigations, and improve the education needed for preventing this crime. Table 2 provides suggested categories that could be collected and would provide a more accurate description of child molestation in the United States.
Table 2

*Suggested Categories for Collection of Child Sexual Abuse Crime Data*

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The nationwide reporting structure of child molestation is severely inconsistent. While child sex crimes laws in the United States have been a concern, the reporting and documentation requirements have not been up to sufficient enough to comprehend the severity of the problem.

If policy makers would increase funding to collecting data on child sex crime victims, the data would not only unveil many other victims; but also crimes on a much larger scale. Such crimes would include child slavery rings, pedophile rings, human trafficking violations, and child pornography. Just in 2005, child pornography was a $3 billion industry--with more than 20,000 new images displayed on the Internet every week (Tech Mission, 2005). This type of data would enable researchers to examine the relationships between the victims and offenders and discover that child sexual abuse is a large problem in the United States.

If laws were in place to require more detail in each state’s UCR, researchers would be able to compile statistics that would provide a steady profile on victims and offenders. As with any other crime, the victim and offender profiles will change in time and by location. Perhaps more proactive reporting will lead to proactive identification and enforcement of child sexual abuse, leading to reductions and prevention of child sexual abuse.
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