A DESCRIPTIVE STUDY OF SEXUAL CHILD ABUSE IN TEXAS

THESIS

Presented to the Graduate Council of the North Texas State University in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements

For the Degree of

MASTER OF SCIENCE

By

Josephine G. Mitchell, B.S.

Denton, Texas

August, 1979

Validated reports of sexually abused children from 1975 through 1977 were examined. Considered were the victim's age, sex, ethnic group, type of abuse, living arrangement, and relationship to perpetrator. Basic sources of data were the Texas Department of Human Resources' CANRIS reports and the U.S. Bureau of the Census population estimates.

Validated sexual abuse consistently ranked third in physical abuse type and more than doubled between 1975 and 1977. Victims' mean age decreased each year and most were eleven years or over. Most sexual child abuse victims in Texas were of the Anglo ethnic group, living in their own home, and victimized by a parent. More than 85 per cent were female. Further research was recommended.
TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF TABLES ........................................ iv
LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS. ................................. v

Chapter

I. INTRODUCTION. ........................................ 1
   Review of Literature
   Statement of the Problem
   Purpose of the Study
   Definition of Terms
   Limitations of the Study

II. PROCEDURE ........................................... 27

III. ANALYSIS OF DATA. ................................. 30
    Age of Victims
    Sex of Victims
    Ethnic Group of Victims
    Types of Abuse
    Relationship to Perpetrator
    Living Arrangement of Victims

IV. CONCLUSIONS ......................................... 52
    Age of Victims
    Sex of Victims
    Ethnic Group of Victims
    Types of Abuse
    Relationship to Perpetrator
    Living Arrangement of Victims
    Summary

BIBLIOGRAPHY ........................................... 63
## LIST OF TABLES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I. Responses to the Question: &quot;Which of the Following Do You Consider to be Sexual Abuse of a Child?&quot;</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II. Validated Sexual Abuse Victims Reported by the Texas Department of Human Resources by Age for the Years 1975, 1976, 1977</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III. Validated Sexual Abuse Victims Reported by the Texas Department of Human Resources by Sex for the Years 1975, 1976, 1977</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV. Validated Sexual Abuse Victims Reported by the Texas Department of Human Resources by Ethnic Groups in the Years 1975-1977</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VI. Frequency, Incidence in Population, and Relative Change for Physical Abuse, Neglect, Total Abuse and Neglect, and Sexual Abuse of Validated Sexual Abuse Victims and Those Under Eighteen Years of Age in Texas for 1975, 1976, 1977</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VII. Reported Incidents of Child Abuse of All Children in Texas by Physical Abuse Type for 1975, 1976, 1977</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIII. Relationship of Validated Sexual Child Abuse Victims to Perpetrators in Texas for the Years 1975, 1976, 1977</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IX. Living Arrangements of Validated Sexual Child Abuse Victims in Texas at Time of Abuse for Years 1975, 1976, 1977</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Figure</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Relative change in per cent of incidents of physical abuse, neglect, total abuse and neglect, and sexual abuse of all validated reports of abuse and neglect in Texas for 1976 and 1977, with 1975 representing the base year.</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Percentage of validated child abuse victims in Texas by the five most common abuse types for the years 1975, 1976, and 1977.</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A descriptive study of sexual abuse of children in Texas is necessary because information on the subject is not readily available. Data dealing with sexual abuse of children in Texas can be beneficial to legal, medical, and social services and provide useful information pertinent to future programs concerned with sexual abuse. The study is needed so that the problem of sexual child abuse can be better defined and more readily recognized. Valuable findings may narrow concentration of efforts in future programs to a particular sex, age group, relationship between victim and perpetrator, or living arrangement of a victim. Results may help pinpoint which children are more likely to be abused. Current efforts are limited as individuals dealing with programs in effect in Texas do not routinely compile reports concerned specifically with sexual abuse. Instead, sexual abuse is classified with other types of child abuse by the Texas Department of Human Resources (20).

"No national statistics on child sexual assault exist" (2, p. ix). There are no published statistics pertaining strictly to sexual abuse of children in Texas. In order to expand the present knowledge of sexual child abuse in Texas,
it would be of value to study the victim's age, sex, ethnic
group, living arrangement, and relationship to perpetrator.
Further understanding of the problems of sexual abuse may be
brought about by the study of the incidence of sexual abuse
as compared with other abuse types. By covering a three-
year period, 1975 through 1977, it would be possible to note
tendencies and trends in the state.

Texas laws have been modified in recent years, making
failure to report suspected child abuse a misdemeanor (21),
but authorities estimate that cases are severely under
reported (2, 3, 4, 7, 10). In order for sexual abuse to
be evaluated, a child is entirely dependent on the concerned
individual's inherent willingness to entertain the possi-
bility that the sexual abuse has actually taken place (1,
17). It is the physician in most cases who must diagnose
and recognize that sexual abuse has occurred (11); however,
medical professionals have been accused by some of not rec-
ognizing symptoms (1).

Recent Texas legislation enacted in 1975 gave a physi-
cian the legal authority to examine a suspected case of
abuse without consent of child or parent. Previous legis-
lation in 1973 made failure to report abuse a misdemeanor
punishable by a fine of not less than $100 nor more than
$500 and/or a penalty of ten days to six months in jail.
It was in 1971 that the 62nd Legislature gave immunity from
civil and criminal liability to persons reporting child
abuse in good faith (21). Any citizen may make a report of suspected child abuse by calling the toll free hot line number, 1-800-292-5400, where trained personnel receive and refer reports to the appropriate social services office for investigation.

Review of Literature

Reports of Sexual Abuse

The reporting of suspected sexual abuse of children is encompassed in the child abuse reporting statutes of Texas. At the federal level, the Child Abuse Protection and Treatment Act of 1974, Public Law 93-247, called for a full and complete study on the incidence of child abuse and neglect (16). Until that time there was a lack of legislation on the subject of child abuse and neglect in the United States.

In Texas law, both penal and family codes have sections pertaining to the protection of children. The Texas Penal Code deals with the methods of punishment, the correction of criminals, and the prevention of crime. The Texas Family Code was established as a result of a substantive revision of the statutes relating to husbands and wives. Title II, effective January 1, 1974, was adopted by Acts 1973 of the 63rd Legislature, Ch. 543, and is related to parents and children with a separate section on child abuse (21). Texas Penal Code provisions covering child abuse may be found under such titles as injury to a child, sexual
abuse of a child, rape of a child, indecency with a child, public indecency, incest, and obscenity (22). Laws regarding children and the reporting of sexual abuse may be found under different statutes (2).

Sexual abuse of children has been receiving more attention in recent years. The prevention of such abuse has become a national priority in just the last five years. Both public awareness of and knowledge about sexual assault and its victims have grown tremendously (2). In a recent survey consisting of a scientifically selected random sample of 2,000 Texas residents, respondents were asked to define sexual abuse. Table I shows these opinions (19, p. 13). As is evidenced by the high percentages, there is general agreement among Texas residents concerning what constitutes sexual abuse of children.

Many states have recognized the problem and responded through legislation. Some states have initiated reporting systems and programs. In Knoxville, Tennessee, the Child and Family Services agency has instituted a system whereby a caller may listen to a recorded two-and-a-half-minute message. The message gives a definition of sexual abuse and encourages the caller to stay on the line and talk with a counselor. The average age of the caller is fifteen, and only one in every ten who calls stays on the line. The Knoxville program is believed to be the first of its kind
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Situation</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>Per Cent</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Per Cent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Forcing a child into sexual activity with another child</td>
<td>1327</td>
<td>99.1</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Fondling a child's sex organs</td>
<td>1293</td>
<td>96.6</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>3.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Hugging and kissing a child not a relative</td>
<td>1142</td>
<td>85.3</td>
<td>197</td>
<td>14.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Forcing or enticing a child to engage in sexual activity</td>
<td>1323</td>
<td>98.8</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. Touching a child's sex organs</td>
<td>972</td>
<td>72.6</td>
<td>367*</td>
<td>27.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F. Showing a child pornographic pictures or movies</td>
<td>1228</td>
<td>91.7</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>8.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G. A parent having sexual intercourse with his own child</td>
<td>1327</td>
<td>99.1</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H. Photographing a nude child (not an infant)</td>
<td>1077</td>
<td>80.4</td>
<td>262</td>
<td>19.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I. Enticing or forcing a child to pose nude before an adult</td>
<td>1280</td>
<td>95.6</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>4.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. Other responses</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Usually qualified as limited to bathing, medication, and other appropriate parental activities.

Source: Child Abuse in Texas: A Descriptive Study of Texas Resident's Attitudes (Reproduced with permission of author).
in the country, combining a telephone message and follow-up counseling for the caller (4).

The reporting of sexual abuse by a victim often becomes a problem because of feelings of family disloyalty (2, 9). Even when sexual abuse information does reach authorities, formal charges are seldom filed (9), cases never reach court (2), or the child is too embarrassed to repeat the details in court (5). It is the opinion of several authorities (3, 5, 12) that there is usually a greater concern for prosecuting the offender than for helping the victim and the victim's family. According to a survey of Texas residents (19), 15 per cent indicated that they were aware of existing abuse of children of close friends. Abuse of children of neighbors who were not close friends was reported by 16.7 per cent of the respondents. Of these cases of abuse, only 31.0 per cent of child abuse of close friends, and 41.5 per cent of neighbors were reported. Two of the reasons for not reporting were the same for each group: (1) lack of knowing where to report the abuse; and (2) fear of lawsuits. A reason given only by the group with close friends committing the abuse was "they felt that the friends would control the situation."

Recognition of Sexual Abuse in Children

Venereal disease in children is one sign of sexual contact that some authorities recognize as providing a strong
possibility of sexual abuse (1, 17). Except for rare instances, any case of venereal disease among children must be suspected and investigated for sexual abuse. Sgroi contends that the medical profession is often not prepared to corroborate medical evidence of sexual abuse because of the long-term perpetuation of two myths. Number one is that genital examination of a child is intrinsically traumatic. Number two is that children somehow can contract gonorrhea through a nonvenereal mode of transmission (2, 17). Until both of these myths are finally annihilated, children will continue to go unrecognized as victims of sexual abuse.

A radical change in the behavior of a child can often be characteristic of exposure to a sexual crime (1, 3). Overt aggression toward family members and listlessness or antagonism towards parents, teachers, or other adults are examples of symptomatic behavior patterns of sexually abused children. Clinical symptoms of toddlers and school-age children include bad dreams, restlessness, and a marked tendency to be withdrawn and hostile (3). Physical complaints may be accompanied by the presence of genital irritation, laceration, abrasion, bleeding, discharge, or infection. Infants may show generalized symptoms of eating and sleeping disturbances and altered activity levels due to overstimulation. Other somatic symptoms of children include gastrointestinal disturbances, sleeping irregularities or enuresis which all need to be evaluated
by physicians and regarded as symptoms indicative of sexual abuse (1). Poor sphincter tone in the anal area is an indication of recurring sexual abuse. Tears and infected lesions of the mouth and anus as well as vaginal area are also signs of sexual exploitation (14).

Role of Investigatory Agencies

National, state, and community organizations have recognized the need for programs dealing with child abuse and neglect. The area of sexual abuse of children is considered by agencies and programs as a type of child abuse. The descriptions of programs and agencies provided below were obtained in the Guide to Children's Services: 1975-76 (18).

Federal-local programs are those in which funds flow directly from the federal level to local agencies. The Department of Health, Education and Welfare's National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect has given funds to the University of Texas Graduate School of Social Work for a regional resource center. The Center is an information clearinghouse for training and technical assistance services for agencies and community groups concerned with identifying, treating, and preventing child abuse and neglect.

State of Texas programs are extensive. Some of these programs are operated by the Texas Department of Mental Hygiene and Mental Retardation, which was created in 1965 and sponsors twenty-seven community centers. These centers
receive grants-in-aid provided by the state and are also supported by federal grants, local funds, and fees for services paid by clients according to their ability to pay. Each community center develops its own programs in response to the needs of local citizens with the needs of children and their families a high priority.

The Texas Department of Public Welfare, created by legislation in 1939, administers programs that offer financial assistance, social services, and medical aid to eligible low-income families in Texas. Responding to the mandate of the 63rd Legislature, the Texas Department of Public Welfare, now called the Texas Department of Human Resources, promotes a statewide child abuse public education campaign, investigates reports of abuse, and maintains a computerized system for recording child abuse information. The Child Abuse and Neglect Report and Inquiry System, CANRIS, keeps a file of reported child abuse and neglect cases in Texas, so that a caseworker or official of the court may have a ready reference to any prior history of child abuse or neglect. The Department's Foster Care and Adoption Program has been expanded to provide temporary or permanent homes for abused children when a court has ordered placement away from their families. These services for children are offered to the families of abused children without regard to family income.

Protective Services for Children, a program administered by the Texas Department of Human Resources, is carried
out through regional offices across the state. The Department provides protection for any child who has been abused or neglected. When abuse or neglect comes to the attention of any one of the social services offices, that office begins an immediate investigation. Every effort is made to preserve or restore the child's family and home. Parents are helped to recognize and remedy home conditions that are harmful to the child. Only in cases where the child's home situation is dangerous does the Department of Human Resources go through legal proceedings to obtain conservatorship of the child. The Department also operates the Child Abuse Hot Line in Austin.

Legal proceedings are necessary when a child must be removed from the home for protection, and foster care may be provided by the Texas Department of Human Resources through the Foster Care Services for Children program. The child may be neglected, abused, or abandoned. If the parent-child relationship has not been terminated by the court, the Department works with the parents to stabilize the home and prepares the child for return into the home. Adoptive services are also provided by the Department when the children are made legally available for adoptive placement by a District Court.
Research Related to Sexual Abuse

There is little information available on sexual abuse of children in Texas relating to the characteristics of age, sex, ethnic group, type of abuse, living arrangement, and relationship to perpetrator. Some related research on these areas can be found among studies made of children in the United States and Canada, but findings are often conflicting or inconclusive. Research on sexual abuse has been conducted by several agencies, each reporting varying facets of information. The absence of a national clearinghouse for information about crimes against children has made a thorough review of the problem difficult (3).

Age of child victims.--Research indicates a variety of ages of sexual abuse victims. DeFrancis found that victims are of all ages (5). His study found a range from one to fifteen years of age with a median age of eleven years. An epidemiologic study of sexual abuse in Minneapolis of children under sixteen years of age reflected a range from two to fifteen years with a mean age of 10.7 years (13). Sgroi cites a newspaper account of a rape victim only two months of age (17). In one study conducted in Maryland in which venereal disease in children was used to identify possible cases of sexual abuse, the average age of the male child was seven to ten years. The average age for female children was three to five years (13). An extensive study of alleged
sexual assault conducted in the District of Columbia over an almost four-year period found an age distribution from six months to ninety-one years. The peak ages were at fourteen and fifteen. Thirteen per cent were children through nine years; 23 per cent were adolescents ten through fourteen; 22 per cent were teenagers fifteen through nineteen; and 42 per cent were adults twenty years and over (10).

Summarized findings of unpublished manuscripts by J. R. B. Ball and J. W. Mohr in 1961 and cited in Pedophilia and Exhibitionism (15) reported the age of victims in the Forensic Clinic study. Within the age range zero through three years, victims constituted 4 per cent of the total; four years through seven years, 18 per cent; between eight and eleven years, 40 per cent; twelve through fifteen years, 32 per cent; and an unknown age group, 6 per cent. The largest per cent occurs in the early adolescent group and the mean age is 10.0 years. Another unpublished study in 1961 from the same source claimed that among females, about one-third were adolescents and the others were younger. The opposite was the case among males, with 64 per cent falling into the adolescent group and 36 per cent into the juvenile group. A similar distribution was found among victims in Atascadero Hospital, California (8). The largest number of female child victims fell into the six- to eight-year range and the largest number of male victims fell into the twelve- to fourteen-year range. In a study conducted in 1978,
findings indicated that children appear to be most vulnerable to victimization prior to puberty with a mean age for girls of 10.2 years. Victimization seems to decrease after age twelve (6).

Sex of victims.--Girls are the more usual victims of sexual child abuse. DeFrancis found girls to be victims on a ratio of ten girls to one boy (5). There were 291 reported cases of sexual offenses against children in Minneapolis in 1970. The figure represented one-third of all the reported cases of child abuse in that city for the year. Eighty-eight per cent of the victims of sexual abuse were female (13). Findings reported in the Atascadero Hospital, California, study (15) claimed that in 68.7 per cent of the sexual molestation cases the victims were female. Victims were males in 31.3 per cent of the cases. In a four-year study in the District of Columbia the Sex Squad brought 2,274 of the complainants to medical examination. The total number represented all ages of victims and 2,190, or 96 per cent, were females (10). In a survey of 795 college undergraduates at six New England colleges and universities, 9 per cent of the men reported that as a child they had experienced a sexual encounter with an older person (7).

Far fewer males than females come to the attention of medical personnel. "It is not known whether males are in fact misused less often than females or whether other
factors contribute to males' seeking medical attention less often" (1, p. 86). Chaneles suggests that boys less often report sexual abuse because of a strong "code" which prohibits the "betrayal" of an adult (3).

**Ethnic group of victims.**--There appears to be very limited information regarding the ethnic background of sexual abuse victims. One study, conducted in the District of Columbia, cited the incidence of sexual abuse among one particular ethnic group. In that four-year study 85 per cent of the total female victims of sexual assault were Negro, even though the Negro female population comprised 67 per cent. This indicates a disproportionate assault on Negro females (10). In a study conducted in 1978 information collected showed few ethnic differences between children who were victims from those who were not (6).

**Sexual abuse and other types of abuse.**--The incidence of sexual abuse as compared with the incidence of other physical abuse types has not been adequately addressed. Some suggest that sexual abuse is probably the least reported of all abuse types (1, 11). One study reviewed records of patients that might lead one to suspect that a child had been sexually abused. The findings indicated that in at least 25 per cent of the cases the diagnosis of sexual abuse was indicated by complaints, but not considered as a diagnosis by medical professionals (1). Of the Texas
residents who took part in an attitudinal study of child abuse (19) and reported that their child or children had been abused, 46.8 per cent reported physical abuse, 13 per cent reported sexual abuse, 67.5 per cent emotional abuse, and 23.4 per cent reported neglect as the type of abuse. Not all sources agree that sexual abuse is on the increase. In a recent study data was compared with two earlier studies on similar populations, primarily college educated women, to demonstrate that sexual abuse reports had not increased at the spectacular rate that many people had assumed (6). Knowing that sexual abuse along with child abuse in general is probably under reported, to know where the numerical occurrence of sexual child abuse falls as compared with other types of physical abuse would be of social significance.

Relationship of victim to perpetrator.--The majority of authorities agree that a high percentage of victims of sexual child abuse are related to the perpetrator. The Connecticut Child Welfare Association reported in fiscal year 1973 and 1974 that in 80 per cent of the cases, the relationship of the child victim to the perpetrator in all cases of suspected sexual abuse was that of a parent or parent-surrogate (17). The distribution of relationships in the Forensic Clinic study (15) showed 15 per cent of the cases as those related, 34 per cent acquainted, 26 per cent
casually acquainted or strangers, and 25 per cent an unknown relationship. In a California study of sexual abuse (8), the distribution of relationships reflected 30 per cent of cases of related persons, 51 per cent with acquaintances, and 19 per cent with strangers. DeFrancis found parents to be involved in the sexual molestation of children in 72 per cent of the cases studied by acts of omission, commission, or by actual perpetration of the offense (5). "Most studies point to the father, a male relative, or a boyfriend of the mother as the most frequent perpetrator of the abuse" (1, p. 82). Research conducted by Chaneles with incarcerated men found 80 per cent of the offenders involved in the sexual abuse of a child to be closely related to the victim (3). DeFrancis found 40 per cent to involve persons, other than the parent, who were closely related to the child (7). A recent study surveying 795 college undergraduates at six New England colleges and universities found 75 per cent of the reported sexual experiences during childhood to be with older persons known to the child. Forty-four per cent were with family members, 22 per cent were within the nuclear family, and 6 per cent of these were with fathers and stepfathers. "Girls who had stepfathers had particularly high rates of sexual victimization" (6, p. 6). Relationship of the victim and perpetrator appears to be highly significant to the incidence of sexual child abuse and merits further investigation.
Living arrangement of the victim.--There is no specific mention regarding the living arrangement of the sexually abused child in the literature. Implications are that because a high percentage of cases of sexual abuse against children occurs within the family structure, most victims would be living in the home (1, 3, 5, 13, 17). There are other possible living arrangements however, and to persons concerned with sexual abuse of children, it may be valuable to know under what circumstances children are most vulnerable to sexual abuse. For example, is the child living with relatives or foster parents more or less likely to be a victim of sexual abuse as compared with the child living at home?

Summary

Texas law requires reporting of sexual child abuse. Most authorities agree that the incidence of such abuse is severely under reported. There are several agencies and programs involved with the problems of sexual abuse, yet no national statistics regarding sexual abuse of children exist.

Often child victims exhibit symptoms such as radical behavior changes or physical manifestations which are recognizable. "Venereal disease is being reported with increasing frequency and must be considered in any child presenting genital irritation, discharge, or infection" (1, p. 83). It
has been suggested by several sources that members of the medical profession in many cases do not acknowledge the possibility of sexual abuse in children. The first step in recognizing cases of sexual abuse is accepting the possibility that the situation exists.

Sexual abuse occurs at all age levels. Most of the reported cases concern female victims. Information dealing with the ethnic background of victims, the incidence of sexual abuse as compared with other physical abuse types, and living arrangement of victims at the time of sexual abuse have not been adequately researched. Most findings indicate that child victims are typically related to the perpetrator. Additional research addressing these aspects of sexual child abuse could be beneficial to expanding the knowledge of the problem and serve as background information useful to the development of future programs of treatment and prevention.

Statement of the Problem

The problem of the study was to examine validated reports of sexually abused children in Texas and show possible relationships and trends by age, sex, ethnic group, type of abuse, living arrangement, and relationship to perpetrator over the three-year period 1975 through 1977.
Purpose of the Study

The purposes of the descriptive study were as follows:

1. To examine validated sexual child abuse reports in Texas by age and sex over the three-year period, 1975 through 1977.

2. To analyze the population trends in Texas over the three-year period of 1975, 1976, and 1977, and compare sexual abuse reports of children within the same period.

3. To investigate validated reports of sexually abused children in Texas by ethnic group over the years 1975, 1976, and 1977.

4. To compare the incidents of validated sexual abuse of children to all child abuse types in Texas over the three-year period 1975 through 1977.

5. To investigate the relationship of victims to perpetrators in validated sexual abuse incidents in Texas over the three-year period 1975, 1976, and 1977.

6. To explore the living arrangements of validated sexual abuse victims in Texas as recorded at the time of abuse over the three-year period 1975 through 1977.

Definition of Terms

The following definitions were taken from the Social Services Handbook prepared by the Texas Department of Human Resources (20), Vernon's Texas Code Annotated (21, 22), and/or the CANRIS Output Report Number 313 column headings.
1. CANRIS: CANRIS is the acronym for the Child Abuse and Neglect Report and Inquiry System, established as a result of legislation in 1973. Cases may be categorized as abuse or neglect.

2. Child: Protective services for abuse and neglect of children include responding to reports and substantiating evidence of abuse or neglect of children under the age of eighteen.

3. Child Abuse: Any non-accidental infliction of physical injury or emotional or mental damage to a child by a person responsible for the child's health and welfare is child abuse, and is usually corroborated by medical, psychological, or psychiatric personnel.

4. Deviate Sexual Intercourse: Any contact between any part of the genitals of one person and the mouth or anus of another person is deviate sexual intercourse.

5. Emotional Abuse: Emotional abuse may be manifested in a variety of ways such as extremes of scapegoating, name calling, derisive or belittling comments, constant expectations far above the child's capabilities, or constant rejection resulting in the child's feeling worthless or bad.

6. Ethnic Group: Ethnic groups appearing in the CANRIS Output Report Number 313 include Anglo, Negro, American Indian, Oriental, Mexican-American (including Mexican, Chicano, and Spanish-American), and other.
7. Living Arrangement: Living arrangements appear in the CANRIS Output Report Number 313 and include:

(a) DPW Foster Family Home: A home certified by a child-placing agency, licensed by the Licensing Division, and approved for participation in the Department's child-placing program is a DPW foster family home.

(b) Other Foster Family Home: A home in which foster care is provided by an agency other than the Texas Department of Human Resources is considered as other foster family home.

(c) DPW Foster Group Home: DPW foster group home is a child care facility which provides for seven to twelve children twenty-four hours a day.

(d) Other Foster Group Home: Other foster group home is defined as care provided by independent foster group homes meeting the same requirements as DPW foster group homes.

(e) Emergency Shelter Foster Group Home: An emergency shelter foster group home is a child-caring institution which provides short-term residential care for children when no other place is available.

(f) Emergency Shelter Foster Home: Emergency shelter foster home is the same as foster home except that it is used when no other place is available.
(g) Emergency Shelter Institution: An emergency shelter institution provides emergency shelter in a child-caring institution and includes providing food, clothing, shelter, medical care, and the formulation of a plan for continuing care outside the shelter.

(h) Private Child-Caring Institution: A profit-oriented agency which provides care for thirteen or more children twenty-four hours a day is a private child-caring institution.

(i) Public Child-Caring Institution: A public child-caring institution is the same as a private child-caring institution except that it is non-profit.

(j) Private Institution for Mentally Retarded: A private institution for mentally retarded is a profit-oriented agency caring for children who are physically, mentally, or emotionally handicapped.

(k) Public Institution for Mentally Retarded: A public institution for mentally retarded is the same as a private institution for mentally retarded except that it is non-profit oriented.

(l) Private Institution for the Emotionally Disturbed: The definition for private institution for the emotionally disturbed is the same as the definition for private institution for the mentally retarded.

8. Neglect: Neglect is the failure to provide and/or the passive involvement of a child with the person
responsible for the child's health and welfare. The types of neglect appearing in the CANRIS Output Report Number 311 include abandonment, educational neglect, medical neglect, physical neglect, and supervisory neglect.

9. Perpetrator: A perpetrator is a person committing an offense.


11. Sexual Abuse of a Child: Sexual abuse of a child is any sex act perpetrated on a child. A person commits an offense if, with intent to arouse or gratify the sexual desire of any person, he engages in deviate sexual intercourse with a child, not his spouse, whether the child is of the same or opposite sex, and the child is younger than seventeen years.

12. Validated Sexual Abuse Case: In order for a sexual abuse case to be considered as validated, it must be substantiated by a Texas Department of Human Resources case-worker. Only validated sexual abuse cases are reflected on the CANRIS Output Reports.
Limitations of the Study

Annual population figures for Texas by age and sex in class intervals which correspond to the Texas Department of Human Resources CANRIS Output Report Number 313 were not available. Attempts were made to secure the figures from the Bureau of Census, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Dallas Chamber of Commerce, the Texas Department of Community Affairs, and the Population Research Bureau in Washington, D. C.

Material on sexually abused children with regards to age, sex, ethnic group, relationship to perpetrator and living arrangement were difficult to obtain, and no related literature on these characteristics was located for the state of Texas. Information that was available was usually general, scarce, inconclusive, or conflicting with other sources.

The characteristics selected for the study were chosen to accommodate CANRIS reporting requirements. The selected items were considered as critical and were required in the computer report.
CHAPTER BIBLIOGRAPHY


CHAPTER II

PROCEDURE

The study examined validated reports of sexually abused children in Texas and analyzed relationships and trends by age, sex, ethnic group, type of abuse, living arrangement, and relationship of victim to perpetrator over the three-year period 1975 through 1977. The purposes of the investigation were to examine reports by age and sex, compare population trends and reports of the same period, 1975 through 1977, investigate reports by ethnic group, compare sexual child abuse reports to reports of other abuse types, examine the relationship of victims to perpetrators, and explore the living arrangements of the victims at the time of the sexual abuse.

Data collection included obtaining CANRIS reports from the Texas Department of Human Resources for the years 1975, 1976, and 1977. Most of the required information was available through CANRIS Output Reports Numbers 311 and 313, titled Perpetrator-Victim Correlations From Validated Reports Finalized and Victim Profile Information From Validated Reports Finalized respectively. The specific data provided by the reports and used for the study included all the characteristics under investigation.
The entire Texas population of validated sexual child abuse reports was considered. Statistical treatment of the data provided a meaningful method of evaluating annual fluctuations in the reports of 1975, 1976, and 1977. The chi-square test of independence at the .05 level of significance was applied to the characteristics of the victim's age, sex, ethnic group, relationship to perpetrator, and living arrangement as well as the Texas population for children under eighteen years of age. If the chi-square test of independence was significant for a given characteristic at the .05 level, then the given characteristic was independent of the year, meaning that there was a significant difference between years (1).

In addition to the chi-square test for independence, Tables II through IX were completed from data reflected on the annual CANRIS 311 and 313 reports for the years 1975 through 1977. Figures 1 and 2 were completed to graphically illustrate data and facilitate understanding of the results. Analysis of the data intended to show relationships and trends by age, sex, ethnic group, type of abuse, living arrangement, and relationship to perpetrator over the three-year period 1975, 1976, and 1977.
CHAPTER BIBLIOGRAPHY

CHAPTER III

ANALYSIS OF DATA

Validated reports of sexually abused children in Texas from 1975 through 1977 were examined. Reports were analyzed by victim's age, sex, type of abuse, ethnic group, relationship to perpetrator, and living arrangement. The incidence of sexual abuse was also compared with all child abuse types and neglect over the three years. Basic sources of data were provided by the Texas Department of Human Resources and the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Age of Victims

Age ranges of victims as reported by the Texas Department of Human Resources were designated as zero through three years, four through six years, seven through ten years, eleven through fourteen years, and fifteen through seventeen years of age. Table II indicates that the number of validated sexual abuse victims in each age group from zero through seventeen years increased in each of the three years 1975, 1976, and 1977, with only one exception. In 1977 the eleven- through fourteen-year age group had more victims than the fifteen- through seventeen-year-olds.

Table II indicates that for each year more than 60 per cent of validated sexually abused children were aged eleven
TABLE II
VALIDATED SEXUAL ABUSE VICTIMS REPORTED BY THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES BY AGE FOR THE YEARS 1975, 1976, 1977

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age in Years</th>
<th>1975</th>
<th>1976</th>
<th>1977</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Per Cent</td>
<td>Number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1.07</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-6</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>10.83</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-10</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>23.98</td>
<td>152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-14</td>
<td>178</td>
<td>31.62</td>
<td>195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-17</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>32.50</td>
<td>199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>563</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>630</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Mean Age     | 12.3  | 11.5  | 11.1  |

Source: CANRIS Output Report Number 313.

or above, and about 85 per cent were at least seven years of age. The mean ages for 1975, 1976, and 1977 were 12.3 years, 11.5 years, and 11.1 years respectively, indicating a decrease in the mean age of sexual abuse victims in Texas over the three-year period.

The chi-square value for Table II was 24.97 and the standardized table value (9) at the .05 level of significance was 15.51. Because the calculated value was larger
than the standardized table value, there was a significant relationship between the age ranges and the years. The main contributors to the large chi-square value were noted in the eleven- through fourteen-year range and the fifteen- through seventeen-year age range. There were significant fluctuations in these age ranges between years as can be confirmed by the percentages in Table II. The chi-square values indicated that the expected frequencies of eleven- through fourteen-year-olds in 1975 and 1976 and the fifteen- through seventeen-year-olds in 1977 were markedly higher than the recorded numbers. Thus, the percentages of victims eleven through seventeen years were not increasing as expected between 1975 and 1976. In the fifteen- through seventeen-year range, the percentage of victims decreased again in 1977.

Sex of Victims

Validated sexual child abuse victims were classified by male and female for the three years 1975, 1976, and 1977 (see Table III). The number of validated sexual abuse victims in Texas more than doubled between 1975 and 1977 with growth from 568 to 1153. During this time males had an increase of about 35 per cent and females about 122 per cent. Females were more likely to be the sexually abused victims in Texas in 1975, 1976, and 1977. The percentage of female victims increased each year and was highest in
### TABLE III

VALIDATED SEXUAL ABUSE VICTIMS REPORTED BY THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES BY SEX FOR THE YEARS 1975, 1976, 1977

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Per Cent</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Per Cent</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Per Cent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>453</td>
<td>80.46</td>
<td>545</td>
<td>86.51</td>
<td>1004</td>
<td>87.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>19.54</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>13.49</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>12.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>563</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>630</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>1153</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: CANRIS Output Report Number 313.

1977, 87 per cent, while the highest per cent for males was about 20 per cent in 1975.

The chi-square test of independence reflected a significant relationship between sex and year. The chi-square value was 14.18 and the standardized table value was 5.991 at the .05 level of significance. The difference between expected and recorded incidences was noted for males in 1975. The expected frequency was noticeably lower than the recorded which accounted for about 20 per cent of male victims in 1975. The next most noted difference in the chi-square value occurred with males in 1977 where the expected number was markedly higher than the recorded number. As
verified by the chi-square test of independence, the percentage of male victims in 1977 was lower than would be expected.

Ethnic Group of Victims

Sexual child abuse in Texas by ethnic groups changed less than 5 per cent between the years 1975, 1976, and 1977. The Anglo group far outnumbered the other ethnic groups in Texas as reflected in Table IV. The increase in the Anglo victims was more than 105 per cent between 1975 and 1977. This group constituted at least 60 per cent of the total sexual child abuse victims for each of the three years. Next in rank order were Mexican-Americans, constituting over 20 per cent, and Negroes, about 14 per cent. The increase in the Mexican-American group was about 156 per cent and the Negro group about 104 per cent between 1975 and 1977.

Both the American Indian and Oriental showed few victims in 1975, 1976, and 1977. The American Indian had no change in number over the years whereas the Oriental showed an increase of 200 per cent with the number of victims rising from one in 1975 to three in 1977. Discounting the Oriental because of extremely low reporting numbers which might inaccurately reflect large percentage increases, the greatest increase in percentage for the three-year period was the Mexican-American group.
TABLE IV

VALIDATED SEXUAL ABUSE VICTIMS REPORTED BY THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES BY ETHNIC GROUPS IN THE YEARS 1975-1977

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnic Group</th>
<th>1975</th>
<th>1976</th>
<th>1977</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Per Cent</td>
<td>Number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anglo</td>
<td>342</td>
<td>60.8</td>
<td>386</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexican-American</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>19.0</td>
<td>139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negro</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>14.2</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oriental</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>563</td>
<td>100.1</td>
<td>630</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Mexican-American category includes Mexican, Chicano, and Spanish-American.

Source: CANRIS Output Report Number 313.

For purposes of a chi-square value, the "other" category was not considered. While the total number of victims of sexual child abuse increased each year, the "other" category decreased. Conversations with Texas Department of Human Resources personnel (2, 7, 14) clarified that the decision of what ethnic group is reported is subjectively
appraised by caseworkers. The "other" category may have included those reports of an unknown or uncertain ethnic group which would tend to be unreliable as a truly "other" ethnic group category. Therefore, the discussion of Table IV does not include the "other" group.

The chi-square test of independence indicated that there was no relationship between ethnic group and year. The calculated value of 5.33 was lower than the standardized table value of 15.507 at the .05 level of significance. The percentages in Table IV confirm the small variations between years within each group. All ethnic groups remained in the same rank order across the years, but the Mexican-American group experienced the greatest percentage variation between 1975 and 1977 with an increase of almost 5 per cent.

Types of Abuse

Obtaining population estimates for children in Texas under eighteen years of age for 1975, 1976, and 1977 was necessary to adequately analyze the relative changes in the number of abuse types. According to the data presented in Table V the population of children under eighteen in Texas increased in each age range each year except for those under five years in 1976. Even though the population of those under five years did decrease slightly between 1975 and 1976, the chi-square test of independence indicated that the age ranges were independent of the year. The chi-square value
of 0.18 was less than the standardized table value of 9.488 at the .05 level of significance, signifying that the fluctuations in population estimates for Texas were within expected limits.

**TABLE V**


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>1975</th>
<th>1976</th>
<th>1977</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 5 years</td>
<td>1049</td>
<td>1038</td>
<td>1056</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 through 13 years</td>
<td>1981</td>
<td>1986</td>
<td>1995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 through 17 years</td>
<td>982</td>
<td>992</td>
<td>1006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>4012</td>
<td>4016</td>
<td>4057</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census (8, 9, 10).

The Child Abuse and Neglect Report and Inquiry System, CANRIS, reports abuse and neglect separately. Sexual abuse is considered a type of physical abuse. Table VI gives the numbers of abuse, neglect, the total of abuse and neglect, and only sexual abuse victims for the three years 1975, 1976, and 1977. The Texas population estimates discussed previously and appearing in Table V were used to calculate the per cent of incidence in the population of physical abuse, neglect, total abuse and neglect, and sexual abuse
only. Changes in each category between years were analyzed using 1975 as a base year equal to 100 per cent.

According to Table VI, the percentage of abuse and neglect victims in the Texas population decreased between

TABLE VI
FREQUENCY, INCIDENCE IN POPULATION, AND RELATIVE CHANGE FOR PHYSICAL ABUSE, NEGLECT, TOTAL ABUSE AND NEGLECT, AND SEXUAL ABUSE OF VALIDATED SEXUAL ABUSE VICTIMS AND THOSE UNDER EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE IN TEXAS FOR 1975, 1976, 1977

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yr</th>
<th>Incidence</th>
<th>Physical Abuse</th>
<th>Neglect</th>
<th>Abuse and Neglect</th>
<th>Sexual Abuse Only</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1975 Frequency</td>
<td>6659</td>
<td>19578</td>
<td>26235</td>
<td>593</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% in population*</td>
<td>.1660</td>
<td>.4880</td>
<td>.6540</td>
<td>.0143</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relative change**</td>
<td>.00</td>
<td>.00</td>
<td>.00</td>
<td>.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1976 Frequency</td>
<td>5849</td>
<td>12210</td>
<td>18059</td>
<td>630</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% in population*</td>
<td>.1456</td>
<td>.3040</td>
<td>.4497</td>
<td>.0157</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relative change**</td>
<td>-12.29</td>
<td>-37.70</td>
<td>-31.24</td>
<td>+9.79</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1977 Frequency</td>
<td>8884</td>
<td>9540</td>
<td>18424</td>
<td>1153</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% in population*</td>
<td>.2190</td>
<td>.2351</td>
<td>.4541</td>
<td>.0284</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relative change**</td>
<td>+31.93</td>
<td>-51.82</td>
<td>-30.57</td>
<td>+98.60</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*See Table V for Texas population under eighteen years.

**1975 is used as the base year equal to 100 per cent.

Source: CANRIS Output Report Number 313.
1975 and 1976 by about 31 per cent and maintained that level in 1977. Only sexual abuse had a positive relative change in both 1976 and 1977 (see Figure 1, page 40). Looking only at the number of incidents, it is apparent that abuse, neglect, and total abuse and neglect decreased from 1975 to 1976. The increase in the validated physical abuse victims in 1977 surpassed the number of victims in 1975, reflecting a positive relative change. The incidents of neglect, however, decreased in both 1976 and 1977 causing the total abuse and neglect to be just slightly higher in 1977.

Figure 1 illustrates the positive relative change in incidents in 1976 and 1977 using 1975 as a base year equal to 100 per cent. Although physical abuse and total abuse and neglect along with sexual abuse showed an increased relative change in 1977 from 1976, only physical and sexual abuse showed a positive relative change from 1975. As can be seen in Table VI and Figure 1, the incidence of sexual abuse increased almost 100 per cent from 1975 to 1977.

Table VII shows the types of physical abuse as listed by the Texas Department of Human Resources CANRIS Output Report Number 313 (see Table VII). For each of the three years 1975, 1976, and 1977, bruises was the type of abuse which claimed the largest number of victims in Texas, averaging about 48 per cent of the total physical abuse over the three-year period. Emotional abuse consistently ranked second with 26 per cent of the victims, and sexual abuse
Fig. 1--Relative change in per cent of incidents of physical abuse, neglect, total abuse and neglect, and sexual abuse of all validated reports of abuse and neglect in Texas for 1976 and 1977, with 1975 representing the base year.

Source: Table VI.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>1975</th>
<th>1976</th>
<th>1977</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Per Cent</td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Per Cent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bone fracture</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>1.20</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brain damage</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>.12</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bruises</td>
<td>3227</td>
<td>48.46</td>
<td>2925</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burns</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>1.44</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concussion</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>.00</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confinement</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>.63</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dislocation</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>.06</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dismemberment</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>.00</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emotional abuse</td>
<td>1763</td>
<td>26.48</td>
<td>1543</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exploitation</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>1.99</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exposure</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>.36</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hematoma, subdural</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>.09</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hemorrhage, subdural</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>.07</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internal injuries</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>.24</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malnutrition</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>2.46</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poisoning</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>.17</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scalding</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>.09</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual abuse</td>
<td>546</td>
<td>8.47</td>
<td>630</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skull fracture</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>.23</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sprains</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>.02</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suffocation</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>.00</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welts</td>
<td>333</td>
<td>5.00</td>
<td>216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wounds</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>2.43</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>6659</td>
<td>100.01</td>
<td>5849</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: CANRIS Output Report Number 313.
ranked third each year. Sexual abuse increased in percentage each year and is the only abuse type in the five most common that more than doubled in the number of victims in the three-year period. In 1975 sexual abuse represented approximately 8.5 per cent of the total physical abuse cases, increasing in 1976 to about 11.8 per cent and almost 13 per cent in 1977. Welts, the fourth most common abuse type, ranged between 3.7 and 5.0 per cent over the three years. The fifth most common type of abuse varied between years. In 1975 malnutrition was fifth but fell to seventh place in 1976 and ninth place in 1977. Wounds, the fifth most common type of abuse in 1976 and 1977, was sixth in 1975.

The chi-square test of independence was applied to the five abuse types with the highest number of validated reports occurring between 1975 and 1977. The five were bruises, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, welts, malnutrition, and wounds. The chi-square value was 175.09 and the standardized table value at the .05 level of significance was 18.307. The high chi-square value signified that the type of abuse was highly related to the year. Main contributors to the large chi-square were the values for malnutrition in 1975 and sexual abuse in 1975. Malnutrition had significantly more recorded reports than would be expected and sexual abuse for 1975 recorded far fewer reports than expected.
Figure 2 graphically illustrates that for each year the most common type of physical abuse of child victims in Texas was bruises. The highest percentage of bruises was

Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Per Cent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1975</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1976</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1977</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fig. 2--Percentage of validated child abuse victims in Texas by the five most common abuse types for the years 1975, 1976, and 1977.
reported in 1976, but the highest number was in 1977 (see Table VII). The percentage of emotional abuse of children remained almost constant for the three years. Sexual abuse, however, steadily increased each year. Welts fluctuated only slightly between years and the fifth most common abuse type changed in 1975 from malnutrition to wounds in 1976 and 1977.

Relationship to Perpetrator

Review of the literature indicated that most sexual child abuse is perpetrated by a person known to the child (1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10). According to conversations with knowledgeable persons connected with the Texas Department of Human Resources (2, 7, 14), sexual assault of a child by a stranger would not appear in the CANRIS reports used in the study. Within the definition used by the Texas Department of Human Resources for child abuse, only reports of abuse perpetrated by a person responsible for the welfare of the child would be included in the CANRIS reports. Therefore, although a child may be sexually abused and reported to authorities, the case may be considered a felony and not appear in the CANRIS report. The relationships as listed in Table VIII reflect only those relationships where the named party had responsibility for the care of the child involved. The rank order for six relationships remained the same in 1975, 1976, and 1977. They were, in
**TABLE VIII**

RELATIONSHIP OF VALIDATED SEXUAL CHILD ABUSE VICTIMS TO PERPETRATORS IN TEXAS FOR THE YEARS 1975, 1976, 1977

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Relationship</th>
<th>1975</th>
<th>1976</th>
<th>1977</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Num-</td>
<td>Per</td>
<td>Num-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ber</td>
<td>Cent</td>
<td>ber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father</td>
<td>182</td>
<td>31.65</td>
<td>246</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother*</td>
<td>174</td>
<td>30.26</td>
<td>143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stepparent</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>16.87</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adoptive parent</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>.20</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foster parent</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>.00</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grandparent</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1.22</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brother</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>3.31</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sister</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>.00</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other relative</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>3.48</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School personnel</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>.00</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day care personnel</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>.87</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutional personnel</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>.00</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other*</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>11.83</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>575</td>
<td>100.19</td>
<td>607</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Included mother passively standing by and permitting abuse by boyfriend or other person. Some cases classified as "other."

**Total may differ from totals in Table II if the victim would not name the perpetrator or the victim named more than one perpetrator.

Source: CANRIS Output Report Number 311.

order from highest to lowest: father, mother, stepparent, other, other relative, and brother.
The number of father perpetrators more than doubled and almost tripled over the three-year period. The number of mothers performing or permitting sexual abuse had almost doubled in the three years; an 87 per cent increase was noted between 1975 and 1977. The number of mother perpetrators may appear as unusually high. However, conversations with Texas Department of Human Resources personnel (2, 7, 14) revealed that the mother might be considered a perpetrator by a caseworker and recorded as such if she were to passively stand by and permit abuse, or if she were allowing her "boyfriend" or other person to sexually abuse a child in her care. In such a case the caseworker would make the determination on whether the relationship to victim was "mother" or "other."

The chi-square test of independence was 70.44 and the standardized table value was 36.415 for the .05 level of significance. The relationship to victim was found to depend on the year. The main contributors to the large chi-square value were foster parents in 1976 and mothers in 1975. Both categories reported numbers well above those expected.

Living Arrangement of Victims

A child victim of sexual abuse may be in one of a variety of living arrangements defined by the Texas Department of Human Resources. The four types of arrangements
which represented at least one incident in each of the three years 1975, 1976, and 1977 included own home, relative's home, independent living arrangement, and adoptive home. These four types of living arrangements constituted 93 percent of the cases for the three years. Table IX reflects that even though other living arrangement categories such as DPW foster family home, DPW foster group home, emergency shelter foster home, emergency shelter foster group home, emergency shelter institution, public and private child-caring institutions, and public institution for mentally retarded had no cases in 1975, increases were noted in 1976 and 1977. These categories represented almost 7 percent of the cases reported over the three years. No cases were reported in 1975 nor 1976 for other foster family home, other foster group home, private institution for mentally retarded, private institution for the emotionally disturbed, detention or correctional facility, and other hospital, but abused were recognized in 1977. These categories represented less than 1 percent of the sexual abuse victims in Texas for the three-year period (see Table IX).

Only the first three types of living arrangements listed in Table IX, own home, relative's home, and independent living arrangement, were considered in the chi-square test of independence. The years in which validated reports were zero for other categories tended to influence the chi-square value and invalidate results. In the case of
TABLE IX
LIVING ARRANGEMENTS OF VALIDATED SEXUAL CHILD ABUSE VICTIMS IN TEXAS AT TIME OF ABUSE FOR YEARS 1975, 1976, 1977

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Living Arrangement*</th>
<th>1975</th>
<th>1976</th>
<th>1977</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Own home</td>
<td>485</td>
<td>514</td>
<td>899</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relative's home</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent living arrange</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adoptive home</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DPW foster family home</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other foster family home</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DPW foster group home</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other foster group home</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency shelter foster home</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency shelter foster group home</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency shelter institution</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public child-caring instit</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private child-caring instit</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public institution for mentally retarded</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private institution for mentally retarded</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private institution for the emotionally disturbed</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detention or correctional facility</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other hospital</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>563</td>
<td>630</td>
<td>1153</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Other living arrangements listed by the Texas Department of Human Resources having no incidents in 1975, 1976, and 1977 include: Public institution for the emotionally disturbed, public or private institution for physically handicapped, public or private institution for the blind or deaf, maternity home, halfway house, State TB hospital, nursing home, other, or unknown.

Source: CANRIS Output Report Number 313.
adoptive home, the obvious decrease in frequency showed the living arrangement as dependent on the year. The chi-square value for the first three living arrangements listed in Table IX was 5.13 and the standardized table value at the .05 level of significance was 9.48. The chi-square was smaller than the standardized table value, indicating that the living arrangement did not differ between years for own home, relative's home, and independent living arrangement more than could be expected by chance.
CHAPTER BIBLIOGRAPHY


6. Frisbie, Louise, "Treated Sex Offenders and What They Did," Mental Hygiene, 43 (April, 1959), 263-267.


50

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSIONS

Validated reports of sexually abused children in Texas over the three-year period 1975 through 1977 were examined. Reports were analyzed by victim's age, sex, type of abuse, ethnic group, relationship to perpetrator, and living arrangement. The incidence of sexual abuse was also compared with all child abuse types and neglect over the three years. Basic sources were provided by the Texas Department of Human Resources and the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Age of Victims

Approximately 60 per cent of sexual child abuse victims in Texas were eleven through seventeen years of age. The high percentage of abuse occurred during the adolescent period and was supported by other findings. Studies of sexual assault in the District of Columbia (3) and in the Forensic Clinic study (5) also found most victims to be adolescents. The mean age of victims in Texas was 12.3 years in 1975, 11.5 years in 1976, and 11.1 years in 1977. The Forensic Clinic study (5) found a mean age of 10.0 years among the victims sixteen years and younger. A study in Minneapolis (4) found a range of victims from two to fifteen with a mean age of 10.7 years. The mean age reflected by
Texas children may appear to be higher than the means found in other studies; however, it must be remembered that children in Texas included those through seventeen years whereas the other studies had lower age limits which would lower the mean age.

According to the statistical analysis of the data on age, there was a direct relationship between the age group and the year. The number of victims in each age range did not increase in proportion to the total number of sexually abused children each year. There was a substantially lower number of victims aged eleven through fourteen in 1975 and 1976 and fifteen through seventeen years in 1977 than was expected according to the chi-square calculations. The other age ranges reflected no radical fluctuations in percentage from the total reports for each year. Therefore, in Texas for the years 1975, 1976, and 1977, the largest changes in the validated sexual child abuse reports occurred among those eleven through fourteen years with the eleven-through fourteen-year range showing a larger percentage of abuse in 1977 than for the two-year period of 1975 and 1976.

Sex of Victims

Texas recorded more female than male victims of sexual child abuse in each of the three years 1975, 1976, and 1977. The finding supported the conclusions of other studies in which females were found to predominate victims. The
average percentage of female victims in Texas over the three years was about 85 per cent and the average for males was about 15 per cent. A study in Minneapolis in 1970 (4) found female victims of sexual offenses in 88 per cent of the cases. DeFrancis (1) found a ratio of ten girls to one boy. In 1975 girl victims in Texas were found to outnumber boy victims four to one while in 1977 the ratio was closer to seven girls to one boy.

A direct relationship was found between the sex of the victim and the year. Males appeared to be the reported victims much more frequently in 1975 than the chi-square calculation of expected numbers indicated. The number of male victims was also significantly lower than the chi-square value for expected number indicated. The number of total victims of sexual child abuse more than doubled between 1975 and 1977, yet the number of male victims only increased by about 35 per cent during that period.

Ethnic Group of Victims

Each ethnic group defined by the Texas Department of Human Resources, Anglo, Mexican-American (including Mexican, Chicano, and Spanish-American), American Indian, Negro, Oriental, and Other, showed less than a 5 per cent change from the years 1975 through 1977. The Anglo group comprised about 60 per cent of all victims and increased by more than 105 per cent between 1975 and 1977. The next
largest percentage of victims were Mexican-Americans which comprised over 20 per cent of the sexual abuse victims. The increase in the Mexican-American group was about 156 per cent. Negroes ranked third at about 14 per cent of the victims and increased in percentage by about 104 per cent between 1975 and 1977. The American Indian and Oriental had extremely few victims reported which made study of these groups difficult.

The chi-square test of independence showed no relationship between ethnic group and year. The percentage for each group each year remained within limits expected by chance. It was not possible to get population figures for Texas children by ethnic group so it was not possible to investigate any overrepresentation of a particular ethnic group in reports of sexual assault as was done in the District of Columbia study (3). Findings in this study supported the findings in a study in 1978 (2) which showed few ethnic differences between children who were victims of sexual child abuse from those who were not.

Types of Abuse

Overall, the number of validated reports of abuse and neglect decreased by about 30 per cent from 1975 to 1977. According to the data provided by the Texas Department of Human Resources, the incidence of sexual child abuse in Texas from 1975 through 1977 was on the definite increase
both in numbers and in percentage of incidents in the population. Using the Texas population of those under eighteen years to figure the per cent of incidence in the population, sexual abuse of children showed an almost 100 per cent increase in 1977 relative to 1975. The relative change in physical abuse dropped in 1976 by about 12 per cent from 1975, but increased in 1977. Relative to 1976 the increase was about 46 per cent, but relative to 1975 the increase was about 32 per cent. Neglect showed a continued decrease in per cent of incidents in the population and relative change across the three years.

Sexual abuse was found to be the third most frequent among all validated physical abuse types of children in Texas for 1975, 1976, and 1977. The percentage of validated sexual abuse reports of all physical abuse types was about 8.5 per cent in 1975, 10.8 per cent in 1976, and 13 per cent in 1977. In a 1978 survey of Texas residents (7), those who reported that their child or children had been abused, 13 per cent reported sexual abuse as the type. The percentage reported in 1978 approximated the almost 13 per cent of validated reports found in 1977. One source (2) suggested that sexual child abuse has not increased at the spectacular rate that many people suggest. The author based his opinion on research conducted on a population of primarily college educated women who were asked if they had any sexual experiences as a child. The study of validated reports of children
in Texas indicated that sexual abuse over the three-year period 1975 through 1977 had unquestionably increased.

Sexual abuse was the only type which showed a steady annual increase among those abuse types ranked in the five most common for the years 1975, 1976, and 1977. Bruises increased slightly in percentage of the total in 1976 to about 50 per cent and then returned in 1977 to closely occupy the 1975 position of about 48 per cent of the total abuse types. Emotional abuse remained almost constant for the three years and remained in the second most common position at about 26 per cent. Welts vacillated between 5.0 and 3.7 per cent for the three years and the fifth most common type of abuse changed in 1976 and 1977 to wounds from malnutrition in 1975.

Relationship to Perpetrator

The father was the most likely perpetrator of sexual child abuse in Texas for each year 1975, 1976, and 1977. Fathers represented an average percentage of 35.5 for the three-year period. Mothers were the second most common perpetrator, averaging 24.4 per cent for 1975, 1976, and 1977. It must be remembered, however, that the mother may have been named as perpetrator even if she did not personally commit the abuse as long as she passively permitted it to happen or allowed others to commit the offense. Step-parents committed an average of 18.7 per cent of the sexual
child abuse in Texas during the years 1975, 1976, and 1977. Sexual abuse by stepparents was followed by the categories other, other relative, and brother in rank order.

In an average of 82.5 per cent of the reports in Texas from 1975 through 1977, the relationship of the victim to the perpetrator involved a parent or parent-surrogate. The Connecticut Child Welfare Association in 1974 (6) reported the same relationship in 80 per cent of the cases. DeFrancis (1) found parents contributed to the circumstance of sexual abuse of children in 72 per cent of the cases he studied either by acts of omission, acts of commission, or by actually perpetrating the offense.

The relationship of victim to perpetrator was found to depend on the year. The position of the top six relationships in frequency did not change between years, but the frequency of each relationship within each year did. Findings indicated that most victims of sexual child abuse in Texas were related to the perpetrator, and the majority were parents.

Living Arrangement of Victims

Most children under eighteen years of age live with a parent so it would be expected that most sexual child abuse would be committed on children who lived in their own home. Findings indicated that for each of the three years 1975, 1976, and 1977, more than 80 per cent of victims were
living in their own homes at the time of abuse. The number increased from 485 in 1975 to 899 in 1977, but the percentage of victims living at home decreased from about 86 per cent in 1975 to about 80 per cent in 1977. Those children living in a relative's home were the next most likely victims of sexual abuse. An alarming observation was made on the next most frequently reported living arrangement of a sexually abused child. The DPW foster family home reported zero cases of sexual abuse in 1975, but seventeen cases were reported in 1976, and sixty-one cases were reported in 1977. Victims living independently represented a total of twenty-seven cases for the entire three-year period which translated to an average of less than 1 per cent.

The living arrangement of own home, relative's home, and independent living arrangement were found to be independent of the year and did not differ more than expected by chance. However, the data showed that sexual child abuse reports in Texas more than doubled between 1976 and 1977 in the categories of independent living arrangement, DPW foster family home, DPW foster group home, emergency shelter foster home, emergency shelter foster group home, emergency shelter institution, and public child-caring institution.

Summary

The related literature was often found to be inconclusive, scarce, or conflicting. While some studies supported
findings in this study, comparisons were difficult in many cases. The implications of the findings are important for legal, medical, and social services and others who wish to target preventative measures at the age, sex, ethnic group, type of abuse, living arrangement, and relationship to perpetrator where children are the most vulnerable.

Most victims of sexual child abuse in Texas for 1975, 1976, and 1977 were females eleven years and over, of the Anglo ethnic group, living in her own home, and victimized by a parent. Certain aspects of sexual child abuse were found to be on the rapid increase over the three years, such as the number of validated reports, and the number of children placed in foster care falling victims to sexual abuse. It is difficult to identify a potential perpetrator of sexual abuse. The study seems to indicate that many of the foster homes in which children were placed provided poor protection against sexual abuse.

The need for recognition, treatment, and protection of sexually abused children in Texas was clearly demonstrated. Validated reports of sexual child abuse are increasing either because people are more aware of the problem, or because offenses are becoming more prevalent. Among the top five abuse types, sexual abuse in Texas showed a greater increase than any other type in Texas in 1975, 1976, and 1977.
Additional research on sexual child abuse is needed. Additional research might include more detailed analysis of available information produced by the Texas Department of Human Resources. Consideration may be given to age and sex of both perpetrator and child. The current study should be repeated within the next three years to see if there has been a change in the trends and tendencies in the sexual abuse of children in Texas.
CHAPTER BIBLIOGRAPHY


7. Teske, Raymond H. C. Jr., Allen D. Sapp and David L. Carter, Child Abuse in Texas: A Descriptive Study of Texas Resident's Attitudes, Sam Houston State University, Department of Sociology, October, 1978.
BIBLIOGRAPHY

Books


Goger, Nancy and Cathleen Schurr, Sexual Assault: Confronting Rape in America, New York, Grossett and Dunlap, 1976.


Articles


Frisbie, Louise, "Treated Sex Offenders and What They Did," Mental Hygiene, 43 (April, 1959), 263-267.


Public Documents


Unpublished Materials


Teske, Raymond H. C. Jr., Allen D. Sapp and David L. Carter, Child Abuse in Texas: A Descriptive Study of Texas Resident's Attitudes, Sam Houston State University, Department of Sociology, October 1978.

Newspapers


Personal Communications

