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The Profile of a Pedophile: Are Age and Marital Status of Child Molesters Related to the Choice of Gender of the Victim

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THE PROFILE OF A PEDOPHILE:

ARE AGE AND MARITAL STATUS OF CHILD MOLESTERS RELATED TO THE CHOICE OF GENDER OF THE VICTIM?

Bernadine A. McNabb B. A.

An Abstract Presented to the Faculty of the Graduate School of Lindenwood College in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Masters of Art.

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ABSTRACT

The characteristics of adults who sexually abuse children are described by reviewing current definitions and related research literature. The variables to be

The researcher wishes to thank and acknowledge the following people for their help in making the writing of this paper possible. To my thesis committee, Jesse Harris, Ph.D., Pam Nickels, Ph.D., and Donna Noonan, Ph.D., thank you very much for your guidance, help and support. A special thanks to the staff of the Farmington Correctional Center Missouri Sex Offenders Program for allowing me to do the research for my study. To my husband, Jesse E. McNabb, PE, for his support and patience during the writing of this paper.

ABSTRACT

The characteristics of adults who sexually abuse children are reviewed by accessing current definitions and related research literature. The variable of the age and marital status of the sex offender and the gender of the victim is examined. The subjects of the study were incarcerated inmates in a state prison who have been convicted of sexual assault. Research data was extracted from their files. The hypothesis is that marital status and age of the offender is independent of the gender of the victim. The findings of this study revealed that age of the offender is independent of the selection of the gender of the victim, thereby accepting the null hypothesis. The marital status of the sex offender is not independent of the selection of the victim which would allow rejection of the null hypothesis.

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Vita Auctoris

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

From the book "By Silence Betrayed", Pulitzer Prize winner, John Crewdson (1988) writes:

Except for the fact that they like to have sex with children, child abusers look and act pretty much like everybody else. Many of them are men and women with jobs and families, liked by their co-workers and neighbors, and respected in the communities.(p.55)

Adults becoming sexually active with a child is a reprehensible occurrence. Comprehensive Psychiatric Services Facts (1993) stated that in the United States sexual abuse affects no less than one of every ten families. This is a staggering statistic. Love and sexual gratification are not the motives of sexual abuse; rather, it is an act by which the offender maintains control over a weaker victim and subsequently increases the offenders ability to gain attention, to feel wanted by someone, and improves his\her feeling of self-worth. Comprehensive Psychiatric Services Facts (1993) also states that the offender is someone who typically is unable to carry on a healthy, intimate relationship with other people. Research shows that sexual abuse knows no demographic boundaries; 80% of the victims are female and the perpetrator is typically male.

Despite the attempt of researchers to identify some superficial difference among child abusers, the question remains as to whether or not there is some common experience or personality trait that links such individuals with one another.

Crewdson (1988) stated that according to Able and Beckers (1983) research at the New York State Psychiatric Institute involving 142 men reportedly were incestuous fathers, found that, although all had admitted to having sex with their own children, they denied abusing any unrelated children, or even being sexually attracted to children in general. Crewdson (1988) indicated that 40% of the men in the Able & Beckers study said they had been childhood victims of abuse. These findings cannot be coincidental, but neither do they explain why a person grows up to treat children as he was treated when he was a child. This also does not explain the behavior of all child molesters. A small percentage of child molesters were not sexually abused as children.

Priest and Smith (1992) indicated that not all child sexual abusers were sexually abused as children, and to say that the majority of adults who abuse children sexually were sexually abused themselves does not fully explain the root cause of child sexual abuse. Groth (1979) suggested that it is not unusual for a pedophilic to report a history of being sexually victimized as children. Crewdson (1988) reveals

that when physical and emotional abuse are added to this equation, a more common theme begins to evolve. Priest and Smith (1992) reveals that whether they were sexually abused, or beaten, or merely experienced episodes of attack of their self-worth, nearly all adults who have been caught having sex with children were badly treated by somebody when they were children. Crewdson (1988) states that in order to understand why abuse begets abuse the narcissistic personality that begins to develop need to be studied. How many pedophiles are there? There isn't any real way of knowing, but it is likely that they are far outnumbered by their victims.

Valliant and Antonowica (1992) claim that sexual offenses are of importance to investigators of the 1990's in their attempt to understand and treat the psychological disorder behind them. Many have systematically investigated thoughts, personalities, and actions of those who commit sexual assault according to Valliant and Antonowicz (1992). Valliant and Antonowica (1992) reported that Record (1977) in his classification of sex offenders, found them to be more prudish, sexually inadequate, and having had their first sexual experience at a later age than non-sex offenders. Panton (1978) in examining personality styles of child

molesters found that they were socially alienated, low in self-esteem, anxious, inadequate, and insecure.

LITERATURE REVIEW

According to Levin and Strava (1987) sexual offenses appear to be an increasingly serious problem. Levin and Strava (1987) reported that in the American Humane Association data cited in Finkelhor (1984), statistics for sexual abuse of children revealed an increase from 4,327 reported cases in 1977 to 22,718 reported cases in 1982. Prael and Smith (1992) also report the corresponding and disturbing reality of sexual victimization in recognizing the increase in the number of reported cases of child sexual victimization. Research national has revealed that although the focus for treatment is usually the victim, the victimizer should receive therapeutic attention if the incidence of child sexual victimization is to be reduced (Prael and Smith, 1992).

Erickson, Walbok, and Seely (1988) maintain that despite the concentration of interest in the problem of child sexual abuse, there are poor definitions of basic rates for different offense characteristics. Erickson, Walbok, and Seely maintain to state that these descriptors are usually available from victim's descriptions, from official records, the results of physical examinations, or self-reporting from the victims or perpetrators (Kanevsky et al., 1984; Gebhard et al., 1985; Groth and Hansman, 1971).

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

According to Levin and Stova (1987) sexual offenses appear to be an increasingly serious problem. Levin and Stova (1987) reported that in the American Humane Association data cited in Finkelhor (1984), statistics for sexual abuse of children revealed an increase from 4,327 reported cases in 1977 to 22,918 reported cases in 1982. Priest and Smith (1992) also report this compounding and disturbing reality of sexual victimization in recognizing the increase in the number of reported cases of child sexual victimization. Research material has revealed that although the focus for treatment is usually the victim, the victimizer should receive therapeutic attention if the incidence of child sexual victimization is to be reduced (Priest and Smith, 1992).

Erickson, Walbek, and Seely (1988) maintain that despite the intensification of interest in the problem of child sexual abuse, there are poor definitions of base rates for different offense characteristics. Erickson, Walbek, and Seely continues to state that these descriptions are usually available from victim's descriptions, from official records, the results of physical examinations, or self-reporting from the victims or perpetrators (Kinsey et al., 1984; Gebhard et al., 1965; Groth and Birnbaum, 1978;

Finkelhor, 1980; Russel, 1982; Rimza and Niggeman, 1982). In addressing the issues of definition Seng (1986) attempted, in his review of selected research and clinical literature, to clarify confusion in descriptive terminology caused by mass media coverage of this topic. Seng (1986) reported that while various terms are similar in their general meaning, when used specifically they differ substantially.

In addition to definition of terms, there is variability in sources of information, and specificity of description (Erickson, Walbek, and Seely, 1988). According to Erickson, Walbek and Seely(1988), questionnaires and interview studies describe the lifetime experience of the victims often months or years after their occurrence. They also stated that official records and offender reports usually describe only recent events leading up to the perpetrator's arrest. Studies drawn from prison population are further limited in the spectrum of the report of the types of behaviors. In addition, the non-violent misdemeanor offenders are underrepresented (Erickson, Walbek, and Seely, 1988).

In a questionnaire survey of college students, Finkelhor (1980),in assessing childhood sexual experiences, found that 19% of females and 9% of males reported sexual contact with an adult when they were children. Of the females, 40% of the students surveyed reported fondling and 20% reported exhibitionism.

Intercourse was described as infrequent. In cases of incest the stepfathers were far more probable to have been the victimizer than were the biological fathers.

Behaviors in the occurrences of sexual contact between boys and adults were not described.

Definition of a Pedophile

The American Psychiatric Association (1987), considers pedophilia to be a component of a psychiatric syndrome and is listed under atypical identity disorders of gender. As noted by Finkelhor and Williams (1988), "Pedophilia, although a controversial and often misused concept, is generally taken to mean a strong sexual preference for children" (p.53) Also, Kaplan and Sadock (1981) stated that "pedophilia involves preferential sexual activity with children either in fantasy or in actuality"(p. 558). Campbell (1981) defined pedophile as a love of prepubertal children by adults for sexual purposes. For an offender to be classified as an adult, they must be five years older than the victim. In the American Psychiatric Association's (1987) definition in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders-Revised(DSM-III-R):

People with pedophilia generally report an attraction to children of a particular age range, which may be as specific as within a range of only one or two years. Those attracted to girls usually prefer eight

to ten year olds, whereas, those attracted to boys usually prefer slightly older children.(p. 284)

FIXATED OFFENDERS

The specific etiology of pedophilia is not known (Priest and Smith, 1992). In a surprising revelation by Groth et al., 1982, and Bernard, 1975, a significant number of pedophile experienced or observed deviant sexual behavior at an early age, usually prepuberty and most of the participants of Bernard's study revealed that they became conscious of their sexual preference to children prior to adolescence.

Levin and Stava(1987) discussed the necessity of careful assessment of the unique characteristics of sex offenders if treatment programs established in a range of setting are to be successful. Hillbrand, Foster, and Hirt (1990) stated that sexual assault is a behavioral act which does not appear to correspond to any psychiatric diagnostic category. With the aim of arriving at a treatment-relevant formulation, Groth (1978) declared that the sexual assault of children is a behavior which can be classified according to characteristics of offenders and their selection of victims. Groths (1978) detailed study of individual cases exemplify this approach in that the individual case studies resulted in two specific types of child molesters, those who are fixated and those who are regressed.

FIXATED OFFENDERS

Levin and Stava (1987) defined the fixated type of sex offender as an individual who has always been attracted to younger children and not able to develop an age appropriate sexual and social pattern. Groth and Birnbaum (1978) described fixation as "a temporary or permanent arrest of psychological maturation resulting from unresolved developmental issues" (P. 176). Crewdson (1988), notes that in Groth's studies he declared the fixated abuser as a totally different personality altogether from the regressed personality. Crewdson (1988) states that the abusers sexual interest in children develops and becomes the central focus of his life. As a result of the affixation with children, as he grows older the abuser may never be attracted to someone of his own age. Groth's (1979) observation was that male children are the primary targets of fixated sex offenders. Priest and Smith (1992) declared that the fixated offenders are attracted to children based on their identification with children and they adapt their interest level and interests comparable to the child.

(1978) the regressed child abuser is an adult male who lives a relatively normal

life. Crewdson (1988), states that because he has coverage of fixated sex offenders

REGRESSED OFFENDERS

Levin and Stava (1987) defined the regressed sex offender as one who attains a mature relationship but regresses as a result of the stress of an adult relationship in which his sense of adequacy is threatened. Groth and Birnbaum (1978) defined regressed offenders as a "temporary appearance of premature behavior after more mature forms of behavior have been attained regardless of whether the immature behavior actually manifested earlier in the individuals development". Groth and Birnbaum (1978) indicated that regressed sex offenders do not appear to be predispositioned to be sexually active with children. According to Priest and Smith (1992) regressed offenders seem to have more conventional peer orientation and social-sexual development. Priest and Smith (1992) revealed that when these adult relationships become conflicted or the offender experiences stress, then the motivation is to become focused on interacting sexually with a child. Priest and Smith (1992), continued to state that offenders selected female victims as their primary targets and they are often related to the offender. According to Groth (1978) the regressed child abuser is an adult male who lives a relatively ordinary life. Crewdson (1988) states that because he has teenage girlfriends as a teenager

and grows up to have adult women friends when he becomes an adult, the chances are good that this type of offender will marry and be a father. At some point during the thirties, his sexual interest can suddenly expand to include children. Crewdson (1988) also stated that the pedophile is therefore likely to be heterosexual. Crewdson (1988) maintained that the gender of the child to whom the pedophile will be attracted are female.

Most fathers who sexually abuse their own children fall into the regressed category by default stated Crewdson (1988) since they have fathered children. This would indicate they have had some sexual attraction to an adult woman. Crewdson also maintained that when the incident of child sexual abuse is examined it usually becomes clear that the abuser was suffering some unaccustomed stress at the moment he turned to his children for sex.

In Crewdson's (1988) discussion of Able and Beckers's research he stated that by discounting the idea that all incestuous fathers, or even most of them, are necessarily regressive, it adds a new important dimension to the understanding of child sexual abuse. Labeling men as fixated or regressed, may be a way of describing their behavior, but it doesn't do much to explain why some men want to have sex with children while others do not. The nature of sexual attraction remains

so unclear, in fact, that identifying the origin of sexual preference is unknown, even those that are considered normal.

In a study conducted at the Minnesota Security Hospital, St. Peters, Minnesota, at the Intensive Treatment Program for sex offenders, Erickson, Luxenberg, Walbek and Seely (1987) concluded that oversimplified and stereotypic descriptions of the psychological characteristics of sex offenders occur because of the generalization that results when a group of child molesters is tested, the mean profile analyzed and these characteristics are attributed to child molesters in general. Erickson et al. (1987) reported that in administering the MMPI routinely to the sex offender population in the Intensive Treatment Program produced some interesting conclusions involving biological and stepfathers. Clinically, incestuous stepfathers often had histories of previous marital affairs. They also were more likely to come from broken homes than the biological incest offenders and were somewhat more likely to have prior criminal records.

In Ericksons et al. (1987) study, 30 percent of the extrafamilial offenders were married at the time of their evaluation, and 46% had been married at one time. Extrafamilial molesters of female children were more likely to be married than extrafamilial molesters of male children.

In reviewing the literature pertaining to the classification of child molesters into two groups, the fixated and regressed, it appears that there are identifiable variables in each group. Age, marital status, and gender of the victims are variables that show a relationship to the classification of the offender.

The purpose of this research is to explain whether the variables of age and marital status of the offender may be related to the selection of the gender of the victim. The fixated sex offender who victimizes males generally has never married, is of an older age, and is emotionally immature (Priest and Smith, 1992). The regressed sex offender who victimizes females will have a serious heterosexual relationship and may marry, become a father, be in his thirties, and state that his sex offense occurred because of stresses in his life.

CHAPTER III

METHODOLOGY

The male sex offenders in this study were charged with sexual assault offenses and committed to a correctional institution and eventually placed in treatment. The 30 subjects were chosen from a larger population of 784 incarcerated sex offenders. The subjects were classified in two groups under the age of 30 and 30 years of age and older. All of the sex offenders in this study (N=30) were administered a battery of psychological tests upon entering treatment. The following test measures were used, the MMPI, Multiphasic Sex Inventory (Nichols and Malinder, 1984) and the CPS by Carlson (1985). The research sample was taken before the subjects received any therapeutic treatment in the sex offender treatment program.

This researcher obtained permission to study the prison records of 15 sex offenders under 30 years of age and 15 sex offenders over 30 years of age. The subjects were chosen at random using the offense and age as the only identifiers of the subject groups. The prison records were studied and the age, marital status, and gender of the victim was recorded. The sex offenders were designated only as a subject in each sample in order to preserve the confidentiality of the records.

Table 1. Offender Characteristics

Demographic Characteristics

Of the 30 sex offenders (N=30) studied, in the age group under 30 (N=15), 2(13%) were married and 13(87%) were single. Of the 15 sex offenders under age 30, 3 (20%) were black and 12 (80%) were white. The number of female victims in this group was 13 (87%) and the number of male victims was 2 (13%). One (.067%) of the sex offenders reported a history of sexual abuse and 2 (13%) reported abuse of alcohol and drugs.

Of the 15 sex offenders who were age thirty and older, 13 (87%) were married and 2 (13%) were single. Also, 2 (13%) were black and 13 (87%) were white. The number of female victims was 12 (80%) and male victims totaled 3 (20%). One (.067%) reported being sexually abused as a child and 5 (33%) reported use of alcohol and drugs.

Parents never showed affection for love 4

Feels sex offense occurred because of greed 4

Feels emotionally immature 3

Needs help/relationship to control behavior 2

Table I: Offender Characteristics

	Under Age 30	Age 30 & Older
Age (mean)	25	39
	(N)	(N)
Sexually abused as a child	1	1
Alcohol and drugs involved	2	5
Strictly heterosexual	15	13
Strictly homosexual	0	0
As an adult never had sex with another adult	0	1
Attracted sexually to boys	0	2
Attracted sexually to girls	0	1
Touched sexually as a child by older female	1	4
Touched sexually as a child by older male	1	5
Parents never showed affection or love	4	5
Feels sex offense occurred because of stress	4	11
Feels emotionally immature	2	2
Needs help-not able to control behavior	2	4

The characteristics of the sex offender sample groups are stated in Table 1. The group samples (N=15) under age 30 consisted of 12 (80%) white males and 3 (20%) black males. The group sample (N=15) age 30 and older consisted of 13 (87%) white males and 2 (13%) black males.

As illustrated in Table 2, of the 15 sex offenders under age thirty, 2 (13%) were married and 13 (87%) were single. Of the 15 sex offenders under age thirty, 3 (20%) were black and 12 (80%) were white. The number of female victims in this group was 13 (87%) and the number of male victims was 2 (13%). In Table I, in the under age 30 group, one (.067%) of the sex offenders reported a history of sexual abuse and 2 (5%) reported abusing drugs and alcohol. In Table I, the age 30 and older groups reported one (.067%) incident of being sexually abused as a child and 5 (33%) reported use of alcohol and drugs. In Table 3, of the 15 sex offenders age 30 and older, 2 (13%) were single and 13 (87%) were married. Of the 15 sex offenders who were age 30 and older, 2 (13%) were black and 13 (87%) were white. The number of female victims was 12 (80%) and male victims totaled 3 (20%).

CHAPTER IV

RESULTS

The intended focus of this research was to find if the age and marital status of the sex offender had a significant relationship to the selection of the gender of the victim. The present study did produce results which showed a statistically significant relationship between marital status of the offender and selection of gender of the victim, but not in age of the offender and the chosen gender of the victim.

A two-tailed chi square analysis of the data was used. To test the hypothesis, the researcher used the chi square analysis of the data to discover if there was a statistically significant relationship between the marital status of the sex offender and the gender of the victim (Table 4).

In regard to the subjects in this test who were married or single, the results of the study calculated a chi square of 16.133. The table chi square value for 1 degree of freedom and a 0.05 level of significance with a two-tailed test was 3.84. The findings of this analysis, Table 4 in the appendix, showed that the difference between the marital status of the two age groups was significant at the 0.05 level of significance.

The null hypothesis of this study is that the marital status of the sex offenders is not related to the choice of gender of the victim. The hypothesis was rejected. The findings revealed a statistically significant relationship between the marital status of the sex offender and the choice of gender of the victim.

In Table 5, in the appendix, the choice of the gender of the victim was studied in relation to the age of the sex offender. In the age 30 and older group the sex offenders chose 3 male victims and 12 female victims. In the group age 30 and older, 13 were married and 2 were single. A total of 1 sex offender reported a history of sexual abuse and 5 reported abuse of alcohol and drugs in the age 30 and older group.

In the group of sex offenders under age 30, the sex offenders chose 2 male victims and 13 female victims. In the under age 30 group of sex offenders 2 were married and 13 were single.

A chi square analysis of the data yielded a calculated value of .24. Since the table value for 1 degree of freedom with the 0.05 level of significance is 3.84, this produced a statistical significant result. The null hypothesis of this research is that age of the sex offender is not related to the selected gender of the victim. The null hypothesis was not rejected. From the data gathered in this study, the researcher

concluded that the age of the sex offender was not related to the selection of gender of the victim.

A two-tailed chi square analysis of the data was used. To test the hypothesis, the researcher used the chi square analysis of the data to discover if there was a statistically significant relationship between the marital status of the sex offender and the gender of the victim.

Sexual Abuse History

In Table 2 and 3, neither sex offender group had high rates of having been sexually abused. There was no difference in the number of offenders reporting sexual abuse in the under age 30 group and the age 30 and older group. 4 (27%) of the age 30 and older sex offenders reported having been touched sexually as a child by an older female. Only one (.067%) in the under age 30 groups reported this occurrence. 5 (33%) offenders over the age of 30 reported being touched sexually as a child by an older male. Only one (.067%) of the under age 30 group reported a like occurrence.

Table 2: Sex Offenders Under Age 30

	Marital Status	Race	Age	Gender of Victim	
1	S	W	25	Female	
2	S	W	24	Female	
3	S	W	23	Female	
4	S	W	28	Female	
5	S	W	26	Female	
6	S	W	22	Male	
7	S	W	27	Female	
8	M	B	28	Female	
9	S	W	22	Female	
10	S	B	28	Female	
11	S	B	24	Female	
12	S	W	23	Female	
13	S	W	22	Female	
14	S	W	27	Male	
15	M	W	26	Female	
Married Offenders	2	Black	3	Female Victims	13
Single Offenders	13	White	12	Male Victims	2

Table 3: Sex Offenders Age 30 and Older

	Marital Status	Race	Age	Gender of Victim	
1	M	W	36	Female	
2	M	B	31	Female	
3	M	W	49	Female	
4	S	B	34	Female	
5	M	W	34	Female	
6	S	W	36	Male	
7	M	W	48	Female	
8	M	W	41	Female	
9	M	W	40	Male	
10	M	W	37	Female	
11	M	W	48	Female	
12	M	W	31	Female	
13	M	W	30	Female	
14	M	W	46	Female	
15	M	W	46	Male	
Married Offenders	13	Black	2	Female Victims	12
Single Offenders	2	White	13	Male Victims	3

Offender Stress

A surprising result of this study was the large number of the age 30 and older group, 11 (73%) reported that the sex offense occurred because of stress. 4 (27%) of the under age 30 group reported they felt the sex offense occurred because of stress.

Homosexuality or Heterosexuality

In the under age 30 groups, 15 (100%) reported being strictly heterosexual and 13 (87%) of the age 30 and older group reported being strictly heterosexual. None of the two groups reported that they were strictly homosexual, although only 13 of the age 30 and older group reported being heterosexual.

Smith and Berlin (1988) cited a study in which heterosexual and homosexual offenders against children were compared. Heterosexual offenders against children averaged 35 years of age. One sixth of the sample were over 50 years of age and one fourth over the age of 45.

The average age of the homosexual offender according to Smith and Berlin was 30.6 years of age. In almost half of the cases, the male (victims) looked on the offenders as friends. Physical force Smith and Berlin (1988) state, was very rare. Erickson, Walbek, and Seely (1988) reported in their study of the behavior patterns

of child molesters, eighty-six percent of offenders against males described themselves as homosexual or bisexual.

Only 2 (13%) sex offenders age 30 and older and one under age 30 reported they were sexually attracted to boys. One (.067%) of the age 30 and older group claimed to be sexually attracted to girls and none of the under age 30 declared they were sexually attracted to girls. Only 1 subject in both groups revealed he had never had sex with another adult.

Alcohol and Drug Abuse

The sample of this research revealed that 2 of the under age 30 group studies reported using drugs and alcohol when the offense occurred. Five of the age of 30 and older group reported having used drugs or alcohol prior to the occurrence of the offense.

Social Support

Of the two groups, 5 (33%) of the sex offenders age 30 and older reported that their parents never showed affection or love. 2 (13%) offenders in each group reported feeling emotionally immature.

Rehabilitation and Amenability to Treatment

Four of the offenders age 30 and older reported they needed treatment because they were not able to control their behavior. 2 of the under 30 group stated they were out of control and felt they needed treatment.

McGrath (1991) reported that an offenders acceptance of at least some responsibility for his offense is a prerequisite for acceptance into virtually all specialized sex offender treatment programs. He also indicated that those offenders who deny their offense and remain untreated can be viewed as a higher risk for recidivism.

CHAPTER V

DISCUSSION

The results of the study are presented in Tables 2 and 3 which show all of the information gathered regarding the subjects. The intended focus of this research was to find if the age and marital status of the sex offender had a significant relationship to the gender of the victim. Groths (1978) classified sex offenders into two groups of fixated and regressed. The fixated sex offender who victimizes males has never married, has had no self-initiated heterosexual relationship, and is emotionally immature. The regressed sex offender who victimizes females will have a serious heterosexual relationship and may marry, become a father, be in his thirties, and maintain that his sex offense occurred because of stresses in his life. The present study did produce results which show a statistically significant relationship between marital status of the offender and gender of the victim, but not in age of the offender and the chosen gender of the victim.

The findings of this study are not in agreement with the study and the theory used by Groth (1978). He stated that the gender of the victims of perpetrators under the age of 30 who are not married is usually male. He also concluded that the choice of gender of victims of the regressed sex offenders who are in their 30's and are

married is usually female. The study showed that in the under age thirty group there were 13 female victims and 2 male victims. In the age 30 and older group there were 12 female victims and 3 male victims.

Are age and marital status of child molesters related to the choice of gender of the victim? The literature strongly suggested that they were related (Groth, 1978). Due to the only recent attempt to research and treat sex offenders a limited amount of material was available discussing the fixated and regressed sex offender. More research is needed in these areas if the cases of sexual abuse of children is to be diminished. Some form of prevention is more satisfactory than treatment of the sex offender and the victim. America seems to be the most prevention minded nation in the world. Reports of child sexual abuse continue to rise faster than any other crime and many who are concerned for the welfare of children have begun a campaign to prevent sexual abuse of children. Currently, the most popular attempt in preventing sexual abuse of children is educating the child as to how to protect themselves. The ability of the child to apply the information to a real-life situation is questionable due to the factors of not being able to remember what they were taught and how to remain assertive.

Regardless of the attempts to prevent the sexual abuse of children the fact still remains that the sexual abuse of children is a pure product of an emotional disorder. Also when the offense occurs two people are therapeutically treated.

In Crewdson's (1988) book he quotes a remark by Judge O'Brien, "one of the things you usually see in these cases is a very passive dependent woman".

Crewdson (1988) also states that because of the observation that sexual abuse is symptomatic of a multitude of other problems, the abusers inability to handle stress and to empathize, his troubling relationship with his wife or his alcohol and drug abuse, the idea of the moment is to take a holistic approach to treatment that would include a combination of empathy training, instruction in interpersonal relations, participation in Alcoholic Anonymous, and even martial counseling. Crewdson's concern is that although psychodynamic therapy does play a role in lowering the recidivism rate of sex offenders, it leaves the fundamental narcissism which he also believes is a characteristic basically untouched. This condition he states requires long-term therapy.

In discussing developmental problems of child molesters, several factors were presented as significant characteristics. Childhood sexual abuse history, alcohol

and drug abuse, and lack of social support were common characteristics of child molesters.

Awad and Saunders (1991) in studying male adolescent, delinquent, and sexual assaulters found no difference between the sexual assaulters and the delinquents with regard to a history of sexual abuse. The incidence of past sexual victimization was significantly higher among the child molesters.

McGrath (1991) stated that sexual abuse and the use of alcohol are closely associated. He indicated that studies suggest that about half of all sex offenses are committed by offenders who consumed alcohol at the time of their offense, and also about half of all sex offenders are alcoholic. McGrath indicated that according to these studies, incest offenders tend to have the highest rate of drinking at the time of the offense (63%).

McGrath (1991) also reported that in a study by Abel and colleagues (1985) they found that 30% of the child molesters studied reported that alcohol use increased their sexual arousal to children. Awad and Saunders (1991) reported that sexual assaulters were less likely than delinquents to have a history of alcohol abuse.

McGrath (1991) reported that especially in incest cases, the reaction of the offenders family and support network to the abuse can have a profound influence on his recovery process. According to McGrath (1991), offenders who do not, either through choice or circumstances, have a stable, supportive social network, may be at a higher risk to offend.

A case has been built in the literature for a strong positive relationship between these multitude of problems and sexual abuse of children. Even with this information it is extremely difficult to forecast with any degree of accuracy, the propensity for child abuse to occur.

One weakness of the present study was the size of the two samples. Each age category was represented by 15 subjects. This size sample was considered a minimum number of subjects to give a true representation of the population. A larger number of subjects might have yielded results more true to keeping with the representation of the population.

One questionable are of this research also, is in the under age thirty group and the number of married offenders (2) opposed to single offenders(13). There is a current day trend for of cohabitation. Also, the population of America is getting married at a later age.

Individual interviews of the subjects would probably have produced more

Table 4

creditable data. Much of the case file information is self-reported and only one under age 18 only 7 were married. The data was organized in a 2 by 2 table. A battery of psychological testing is done when the offender enters treatment.

The alarming increase and the disturbing reality of sexual victimizations of children is definitely a valid reason to continue this type of research.

Married	11	2	13
Single	2	17	19
	13	19	32

$$\chi^2 = N \frac{(AD - BC)^2}{(A+B)(C+D)(A+C)(B+D)}$$

$$\chi^2 = 32 \frac{(11)(17) - (2)(2)^2}{(13)(19)(32)(32)}$$

$$\chi^2 = \frac{31476}{50624}$$

χ^2 for 1 Degree of freedom is 3.841

Therefore the results do reject the null hypothesis.

Table 3:

Calculations for determining if the choice of gender of the victim is related to age of the offender

Table 4:

Of the 15 sex offenders age 30 and older 13 were married. Of the 15 sex offenders who were under age 30 only 2 were married. The data was depicted in a 2 by 2 table for the two-tail chi square test. The results are as follows:

	Age 30 and Older	Under age 30	
Married	13	2	15
Single	2	13	15
	15	15	30

$$X^2 = N \frac{(AD - BC)^2}{(A+B)(C+D)(A+C)(B+D)}$$

$$X^2 = 30 \frac{(169 - 4)^2}{(15)(15)(15)(15)}$$

$$X^2 = \frac{816750}{50625} = 16.133$$

Therefore, the results do not reject the null hypothesis.

$$X^2 \text{ for 1 Degree of freedom at } .05 = 3.84$$

Therefore the results do reject the null hypothesis.

Table 5:

Calculations for determining if the choice of gender of the victim is related to the age of the offender is as follows:

	Age 30 and Older	Under Age 30	
Male Victim	3	2	5
Female Victim	12	13	25
	15	15	30

$$X^2 = N \frac{(AD-BC)^2}{(A+B)(C+D)(A+C)(B+D)}$$

$$X^2 = 30 \frac{(39-24)^2}{(5)(25)(15)(15)}$$

$$X^2 = \frac{6750}{28125} = .24$$

X^2 for 1 Degree of freedom at .05 = 3.84

Therefore, the results do not reject the null hypothesis.

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