

### 3.5 PRIESTS AND DEACONS AND THE ALLEGATIONS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

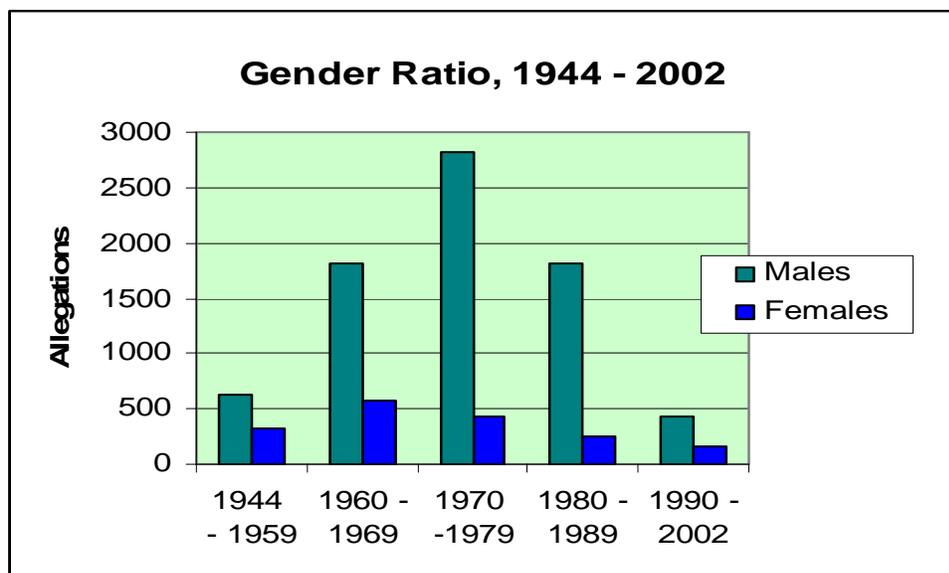
*In 429 surveys, the gender of the alleged victim was not identified.*

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

Table 3.5.7 SUMMARY OF ALLEGED ACTS OF SEXUAL ABUSE

	Number of priests accused	Number of incidents reported	% of all priests accused of each act
Verbal Abuse	610	1049	19.43%
Victim Disrobed	862	1394	27.46%
Priests Disrobed	676	1084	21.54%
Touching over Victim's Clothes	1783	3432	56.80%
Touching over Priest's Clothes	479	844	15.26%
Touching under Victim's Clothes	1797	3792	57.25%
Touching under Priest's Clothes	544	936	17.33%
Shown Pornographic Video	105	143	3.35%
Shown Pornographic Magazine/Photo	144	229	4.59%
Photos of Victim	121	193	3.85%
Masturbation	458	708	14.59%
Mutual Masturbation	571	1036	18.19%
Manual Penetration	275	370	8.76%
Penetration with Object	61	81	1.94%
Cleric Performed Oral Sex	857	1450	27.30%
Victim Performed Oral Sex	577	906	18.38%
Penile Penetration/Attempt	787	1189	25.07%
Hugs and Kissing	324	481	10.32%
Other	358	565	11.40%
No Record	572	949	18.22%
Unspecified Sexual Abuse	713	1112	22.71%
Sexual Games (Strip Poker, Skinny Dipping)	8	9	0.25%
Group Sex or Coerced Sex w/ Others	2	2	0.06%
<i>This table is a Multiple Response Table. The categories are not mutually exclusive, as an individual may have participated in more than one act during the course of an incident.</i>			

---

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

<sup>2</sup> Dean, 7.

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

<sup>4</sup> Langan., 2

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

<sup>6</sup> Snyder, 2.

<sup>7</sup> Langan. 2.