

5.2 REPORTING OF ALLEGATIONS OF SEXUAL ABUSE

The shape of the distribution of incidents of alleged abuse, as was shown in Figure 2.3.1 in Part Two of this report, follows a regular curve, rising steadily from 1950 to its height in the mid-1970s and then steadily decreases until the end of the study period. Although the reporting of child sexual abuse follows a completely different pattern, as is shown in Figure 5.2.1, the distribution of abuse allegations over time that are reported in the peak year 2002, are not different from the overall pattern of events. As Figure 5.2.2 shows, the distribution of incidents reported in 2002 is very similar to that shown for all allegations reported over the 52 years that is the time frame of this study.

Figure 5.2.1 YEAR OF ABUSE REPORT

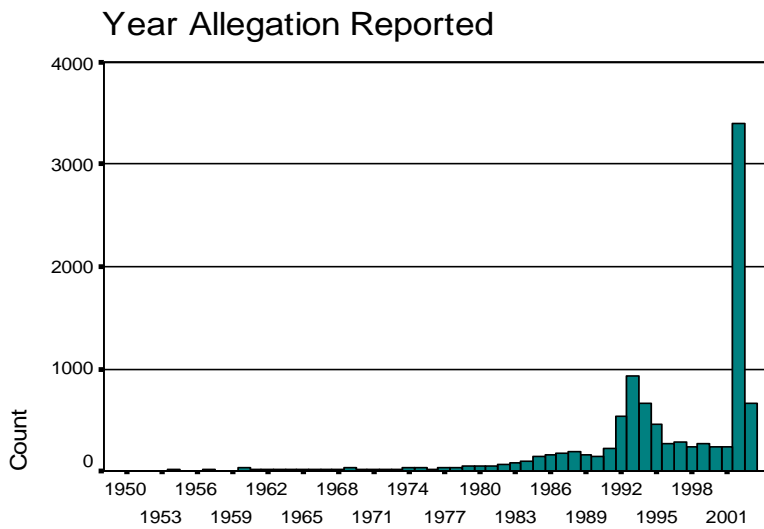
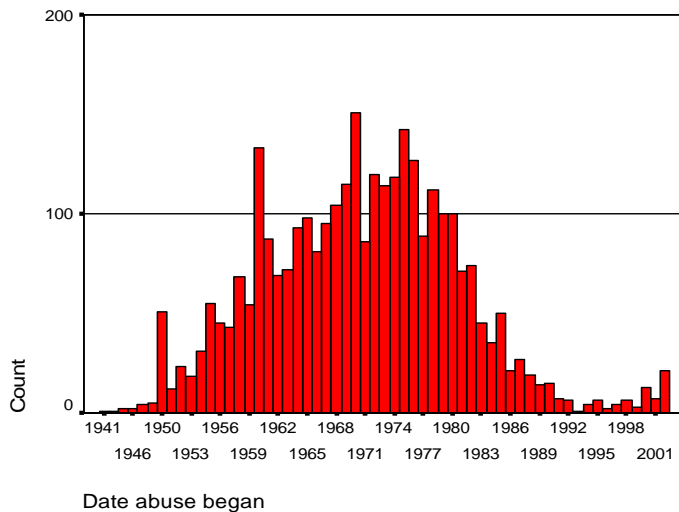


Figure 5.2.2 CASES REPORTED IN 2002, BY BEGIN DATE



**Table 5.2.1 INCIDENT BEGIN DATES REPORTED IN 2002
COMPARED TO ALL INCIDENTS**

<i>Decade</i>	<i>Overall Count</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent in 2002</i>
1950 - 1959s	939	9.7%	416 / 13.3%
1960 - 1969s	2,533	26.1%	966 / 30.7%
1970 - 1979s	3,445	35.5%	1,196 / 36%
1980s - 1989	2,074	20.6%	473 / 15%
1990s - 2003	603	6.2%	95 / 2.8%
Total	9,714		

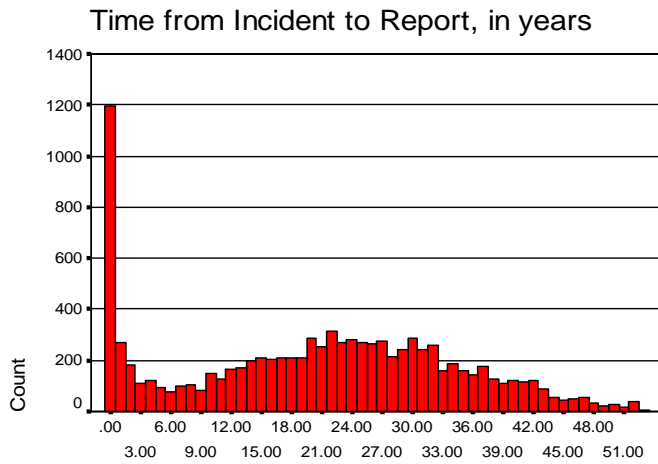
Table 5.2.1 compares the decade by decade totals of alleged incidents for all reported incidents and for those reported in 2002. The pattern of abuse alleged in 2002 and over the entire study period is very similar.

Table 5.2.2 ABUSE REPORTS BY DECADE

<i>Decade</i>	<i>Overall Count</i>	<i>Percent</i>
1950s	53	.5%
1960s	190	1.8%
1970s	266	2.6%
1980s	1,146	11.2%
1990s	4,022	39.4%
2000 - 2002	4,533	44.4%
Total	10,210	100%

Table 5.2.2. shows the remarkable clustering of reports of child sexual abuse in and after the decade of the 1990s.

Figure 5.2.3 TIME FROM INCIDENT TO REPORT



Half of the incidents of abuse were reported by individuals who experienced the victimization. Attorneys reported one in five incidents, followed by family members, who reported approximately 17%.

Table 5.2.3 SOURCE OF ABUSE REPORT

Who reported abuse?	Count	Percent
Victim	5,327	51.6%
Teacher	36	.35%
Cleric	278	2.7%
Parent/Guardian	1,450	14.05%
Police Officer	174	1.69%
Lay Person	202	2%
Doctor	28	.3%
Attorney	2,165	21%
Self-report	174	1.7%
Other	104	1%
Siblings/Other family	328	3.2%
Anonymous	12	.1%
Counselor/Therapist	40	.4%
Total	10,318	100%

The reports of abuse came to the Church in many and varied ways. Phone calls and letters were the most common forms of contact, followed by a legal filing by an attorney.

Table 5.2.4 FORM OF ABUSE REPORT

How was the abuse reported?	Count	Percent
Called Parish	290	2.85%
Signed letter to parish	97	.9%
Anon. letter to parish	6	.1%
In person/parish	189	1.8%
Told trusted cleric	658	6.5%
Media	114	1.1%
Called diocese	3,216	32%
Signed letter to diocese	2,433	24%
Anon. Letter to diocese	107	1%
In person/diocese	709	7%
Called P/MS	299	2.94%
Signed letter to P/MS	171	1.6%
Anon. Letter to P/MS	13	.1%
Legal filing	1,118	11%
Other	281	2.7%
Diocese contacted victim	10	.1%
Other unrelated adult	35	.35%
Cleric self-reported	86	.8%
Police/any CRJ	246	2.4%
SNAP, victim hotline	34	.3%
School representative	33	.3%
Total	10,145	100%

There was at least one effort made to follow up the initial report in half of the incidents of sexual abuse reported from the Church files for this study.

TABLE 5.2.5 FOLLOW UP EFFORTS BY ALLEGED VICTIM OF ABUSE

Second contact about incident	Count	Percent
Yes, at least one follow up effort	4,938	49.7%
No follow up	4,986	50.3%
Total	9,924	100%
