4.5 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE ABUSE ALLEGATIONS

The following section describes characteristics of the alleged abuse. Information from this section was obtained through the surveys of the incidents completed for each allegation of abuse of a child by a priest or deacon. These data present contextual factors associated with the reported incidents including where and when the event took place. This section also described the relationships of the priests: their work assignment at the time the abuse was alleged to have occurred, their relationship (if any) with the family of the child involved and whether the priest was alleged to have abused siblings of the child as well.

These variables paint a picture of the circumstances surrounding reported incidents of abuse, which may aid clinicians in their understanding of such behaviors in the population of priests who abuse children. Most importantly, however, these factors may be useful in designing policies and procedures to prevent abuse from occurring in the future. Table 4.5.1 represents the decades in which the abuse allegedly occurred, or the date it began if it occurred over multiple decades.

Table 4.5.1...ALLEGED INCIDENTS, BY DECADE

Decades	*Count*	*Percent*	*Cumulative Percent*
1950s	913	9.94%	9.94%
1960s	2402	26.14%	36.08%
1970s	3245	35.32%	71.4%
1980s	2048	22.29%	93.69%
1990s	500	5.44%	99.13%
2000-2002	80	.87%	100%
Total	**9188**	**100.0**	

This table summarizes the total numbers of acts alleged by the decade when they began. It is important to note that it does not include the duration of the alleged abuse if it occurred in more than one time period.

As Table 4.5.2 makes clear, the majority of priests, approximately 67% were serving as either the pastor or associate pastor in their parish when the abuse was alleged to have occurred. A little over 10% of priests were resident priests at the time and approximately 9% were serving in the parish in some other capacity. Thus, the bulk of incidents were reported to have occurred in the context of the priest serving in some capacity within the parish. Other roles, such as teacher in a school were present, but explain far fewer incidents.

Table 4.5.2 PRIEST'S PRIMARY FUNCTION AT TIME OF ALLEGED INCIDENT

Priest's Function	*Count*	*Percent of accused priests*
Pastor	2450	25.08%
Associate Pastor	4137	42.34%
Resident Priest	1019	10.43%
Teacher (grades 1-8)	55	.56%
Teacher (grades 9-12)	649	6.64%
Seminary Administrator/Faculty	182	1.86%
Chaplain	264	2.70%
Bishop, Vicar, Chan., Card.	33	.34%
Deacon or Seminarian	72	.74%
Other Parish Roles	870	8.91%
Relative of alleged victim	39	.40%
Total	**9770**	**100%**

Some priests were serving multiple functions in the community at the time allegations were made against them. This list, however, included the primary function of the priests at the time of their allegations.

Table 4.5.3 contains categories representing reported incidents of abuse, some of which were single- instances and others based upon multiple instances of abuse over a period of time. Therefore, some incidents reflect abuse in more than one location. However, the most commonly reported location where the incident took place was the priest's residence/parish residence. This was the location of at least one instance of abuse for 41 %f of reported allegations. Incidents were reported to have occurred in the church in approximately 16% of the cases, and in the victim's home in approximately 12% of the cases. In almost one quarter of the cases, no record of location was reported.

Table 4.5.3 LOCATION OF ABUSE

	Count	**Percent of cases**
In school	939	10.3%
In a hotel room	675	7.4%
Retreat house	133	1.5%
Priest's home / Parish residence	3730	40.9%
Vacation house	941	10.3%
Other residences (friends, family, etc.)	49	.5%
Congregate residences	51	.6%
In victim's home	1131	12.4%
Priest's office	685	7.5%
In church	1483	16.3%
In the hospital	75	.8%
In a car	897	9.8%
Outings (camp, park, pool, etc.)	757	8.3%
Other location	571	6.3%
No record of location	2109	23.1%

This is a multiple response table. The categories are not mutually exclusive since an incident of abuse may have taken place over time and in more than one place,

Table 4.5.4 shows the situations when the abuse allegedly occurred. These varied widely. Social events were the most common context (20%), followed by travel with the priest (17.8%) and visiting or working at the rectory or priest's place of residence (approximately 15%), and travel with the priest to church-related activities. It should be noted that 168 (or almost 2 percent of incidents) were alleged to have occurred during the sacrament of reconciliation. No record of the situation when abuse occurred was present in 30% of cases.

Table 4.5.4 SITUATIONS WHEN THE ABUSE ALLEGEDLY OCCURRED.

	Count	**Percent of cases**
During a retreat	100	1.0%
Church service (before, during, after)	687	7.2%
During travel	1702	17.8%
During counseling	677	7.1%
During social event	1953	20.4%
During reconciliation	168	1.8%
During sporting event	442	4.6%
Outings	296	3.1%
School hours	492	5.1%
Church service/training	39	.4%
Priest visited home of alleged victim	394	4.1%
Hospital visit	13	.1%
Visiting/working at priest's home/rectory	1405	14.7%
Other	752	7.9%
No record of time	3035	31.8%

This is a multiple response table. The categories are not mutually exclusive, since an incident of abuse may have taken place over time and in more than one place

Table 4.5.5 indicates the relationship between the allegedly abusive priest and the family of his alleged victim. In a little less than half of the cases, no relationship was reported, but in just over one quarter of the cases, records indicated that the priest engaged in a social relationship with the alleged victim's family.

Table 4.5.5 PRIEST/FAMILY SOCIAL RELATIONS

Did the priests social with the alleged victim's family?	**Count**	**Percent**
Yes	2621	25.6%
No	2637	51.3%
No information given	4991	100.0%

This is a multiple response table. The categories are not mutually exclusive, since an incident of abuse may have taken place over time and in more than one place.

Table 4.5.6 describes the way in which the priests socialized with their alleged abusers' families. In cases where there was information in the records to indicate that the family of the child socialized with the priest, the majority of socializing, approximately 80%, reportedly occurred in the family's home. A little under half off the socializing was reported to have occurred at the church or in activities sponsored by the Church. Records indicated that in almost a quarter of reported incidents, families socialized with the priest in his residence. It should be noted that these were not mutually exclusive categories, so many families saw the priest socially in one of several contexts.

Table 4.5.6 TYPE OF PRIEST/FAMILY SOCIALIZING

Type of socializing	Count	Percent
In the church	702	27.5%
In his residence	620	24.3%
Vacations/social activities	436	17.1%
Church day activities	537	21.0%
In family's residence	2031	79.6%
Other	152	6.0%

This is Multiple Response Table. Categories are not mutually exclusive.

Table 4.5.7 describes the number of alleged victims whose siblings were also allegedly abused. This Information was available in about 60% of reported cases. In 1,842 cases, or 17% of all incidents, siblings of the alleged victim were also alleged to have been abused by the priest.

4.5.7 SIBLINGS ABUSED

Were any of the alleged victim's siblings abused?	Count	Percent
Yes	1842	29%
No	4508	71%
Total	6350	100.0%