

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 curve is very similar to that shown for all allegations.

Figure 5.2..1 YEAR OF ABUSE REPORT

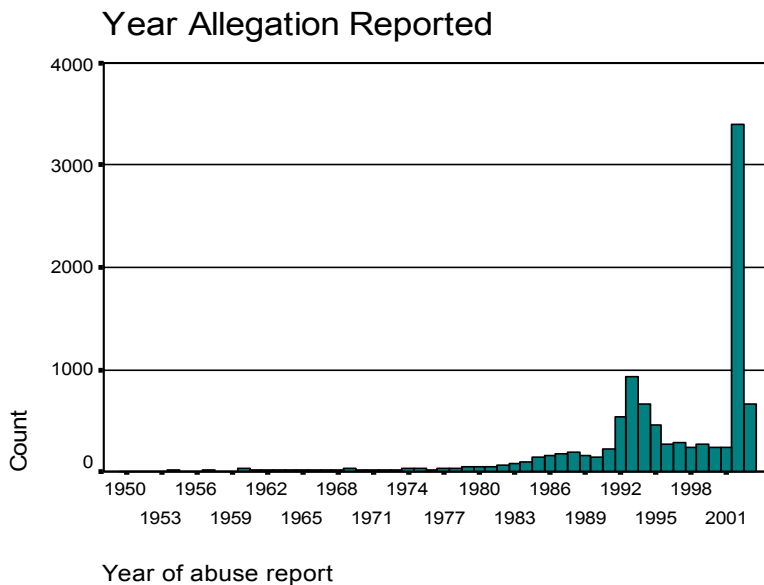


Figure 5.2..2 CASES REPORTED IN 2002, BY BEGIN DATE

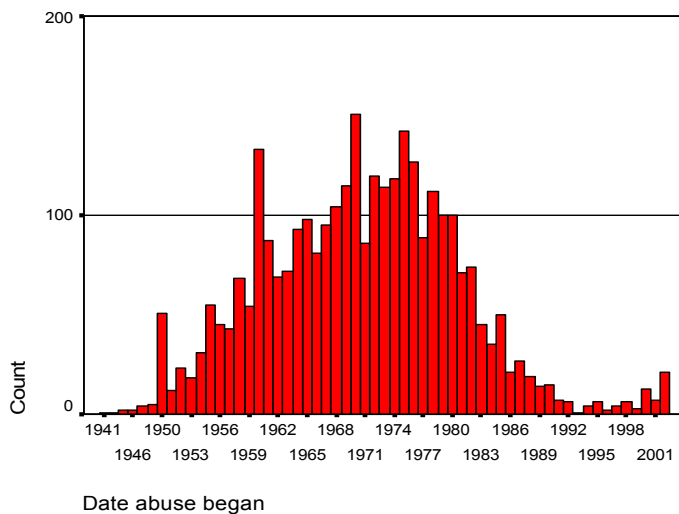


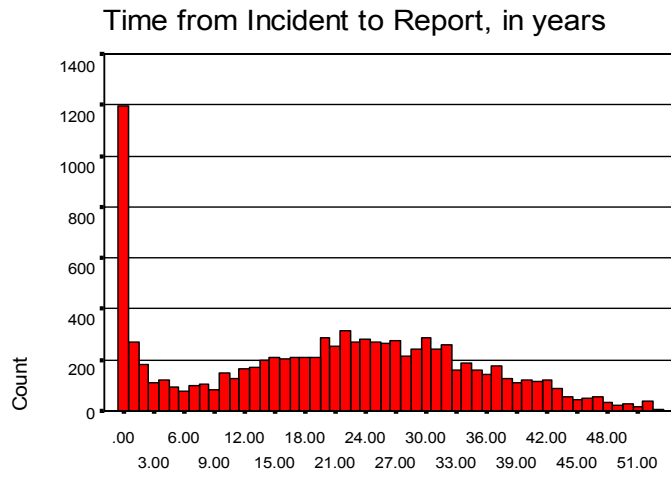
Table 5.2.1 INCIDENT BEGIN DATES REPORTED IN 2002 COMPARED TO ALL INCIDENTS

Decade	Overall Count	Percent	Percent in 2002
1950 - 1959s	939	9.7%	416 / 13.3%
1960 - 1969s	2533	26.1%	966 / 30.7%
1970 - 1979s	3445	35.5%	1196 / 36%
1980s - 1989	2074	20.6%	473 / 15%
1990s - 2003	603	6.2%	95 / 2.8%
Total	9714		

Table 5.2.2 ABUSE REPORTS BY DECADE

Decade	Overall Count	Percent
1950s	53	.5%
1960s	190	1.8%
1970s	266	2.6%
1980s	1146	11.2%
1990s	4022	39.4%
2000 - 2002	4533	44.4%
Total	10, 210	100%

Figure 5.2.2 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?	Count	Percent
Victim	5327	51.6%
Teacher	36	.3%
Cleric	278	2.8%
Parent/Guardian	1450	14.1%
Police Officer	174	1.7%
Lay Person	202	2%
Doctor	28	.3%
Attorney	2165	21%
Self-report	174	1.7%
Other	104	1%
Siblings/Other family	328	3.2%
Anonymous	12	.1
Counselor/Therapist	40	.4
Total	10318	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.

5.2.4 FORM OF ABUSE REPORT

How was the abuse reported?	Count	Percent
Called Parish	290	2.7
Signed letter to parish	97	.9
Anon. letter to parish	6	.1
In person/parish	189	1.8
Told trusted cleric	658	6.2
Media	114	1.1
Called diocese	3216	30.2
Signed letter to diocese	2433	22.8
Anon. Letter to diocese	107	1.0
In person/diocese	709	6.6
Called P/MS	299	2.8
Signed letter to P/MS	171	1.6
Anon. Letter to P/MS	13	.1
Legal filing	1118	10.5
Other	281	2.6
Diocese contacted victim	10	.1
Other unrelated adult	35	.3
Cleric self-reported	86	.8
Police/any CRJ	246	2.3
SNAP, victim hotline	34	.3
School representative	33	.3
Total	10144	95.1