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Study of Incarcerated Male Sex Offenders

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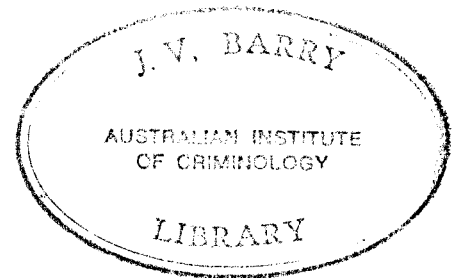
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Running Head: SEXUAL INTERACTION BEFORE THE AGE OF 12
AND SEVERITY OF RETROSPECTIVE EVALUATION

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Abstract

The aim of the present study was to investigate and explain the retrospective evaluation of sexual interaction with another person before the age of 12. It involved comparisons between 100 male child sexual molesters representing the experimental group, and 100 "other" male offenders, representing the control group, all incarcerated in prison in South East Queensland, Australia. The results indicate more sexual molestation during childhood in the experimental group and further, that the less the frequency and duration, and the less the threat or coercion used during their sexual molestation, the greater its subsequent negative retrospective evaluation. Children who undergo such interaction in the middle years of childhood (8 - 11 years) seem particularly likely to experience such adverse effects. Our results differ in some respects from previous reports in the literature but, in general, the populations of other studies have not involved incarcerated offenders. It is proposed that re-enactment of these experiences in adulthood may be a maladaptive coping strategy.

Most sexual behaviours are consumatory in nature and species specific, that is, individuals seek out a partner of their own species with whom they can share intimacy. In the majority of cases, the object of erotic affection is an opposite gender, same age peer. However, increasing attention needs to be focused in Australia on the consequences of the sexual molestation of children, many cases of which are unreported or undetected.

For example, Goldman and Goldman (1988) surveyed 991 male and female Australian students from post-secondary institutions. They reported that 83% of their sample reported some kind of sexual experience with another person before the age of 13. However, of this 83%, nearly two thirds had had sexual experience with other children, not with adults. Even so, the remaining one third constitutes a substantial population. Their study indicates that childhood sexual interactions occur here, both detected and undetected, on a substantial scale.

Two terms will be used throughout this paper: sexual molestation and sexual interaction. The former is defined as "any sexual contact between an offender and victim who, due to age and/or immaturity, is incapable ... of giving consent. The specific sexual acts may range from mutual touching and fondling to actual intercourse, but access to the victim is

achieved through pressure, coercion, or deception" (Hobson, Boland & Jamieson, 1985, p. 104). Viewing of personal sexual organs has also been included here. The term sexual molestation will be used whether the victim is a blood relative of the perpetrator or not.

Sexual interaction is defined as a sexual experience involving another person. Peer sexual interaction has been excluded from sexual molestation although it must be admitted that peer sexual activity may, on occasion, include coercion and threat, an issue the present study did not investigate.

In examining the relationship between exposure to, or the experience of, varying types of sexual behaviour by children and their propensity as adults to abuse children sexually, Glick (1970) addressed the issue of long-term psychological harm caused to the victim so as to distinguish it from the "immediate impact" - how the interaction was viewed at the time. Results indicated that the experience may hamper the ability of the victim to develop reliance on the outside world, but he did not investigate its effects upon adult sexual behaviour.

Evaluating long term psychological harm would require much more than what we undertook here: the administration of a questionnaire. Much less difficult to assess is an individual's retrospective evaluation of his childhood sexual

interaction which is what will be considered here. Other have taken a similar approach.

The literature suggests that retrospective evaluation is more negative where the child is younger and the molester older at the time of sexual molestation (Hunter, 1990), more negative as the frequency and duration of the behaviour increases (Finkelhor, 1979) and more negative as the degree of force or coercion exerted upon the individual increases (Finkelhor, 1979; Hunter, 1990; Kilpatrick, 1990). These results, as will be emphasized later, were obtained in populations quite different from that reported on here.

Plummer (1981) noted that arguments presented around the notion of threat centre on the concepts of consent and exploitation. He argues that a child can never willingly consent to engage in sexual acts with adults because s/he lacks the capability to consent. Exploitation exists here because adults are stronger and fully aware of their sexual needs and the child is vulnerable, should the adult choose to ignore the child's feelings and instead focus on personal gratification. Coercion can be conceptualized as one form of exploitation. There are other means whereby the sexual molester can achieve his aims: for example by bribery or by sexually molesting within the context of meeting the child's emotional needs. These methods, although forms of

exploitation, appear best separated from threat and coercion.

Follow-up studies have shown consequential negative effects - both short and long term - on sexually molested children. The short-term effects reported include of fear, anxiety, depression, anger and hostility, and inappropriate sexual behaviour. Long-term effects are summarized as poor self-esteem and substance abuse, and the continuing experience of depression, self-destructive behaviour, anxiety and feelings of isolation and stigma. Inability to trust others and sexual maladjustment have also been reported (Browne & Finkelhor, 1986; Oates, 1990). Not only are the sexual acts reported to cause severe and continuing trauma for the victim, but the legal, social and psychological ramifications for the offender and his/her family can be far-reaching.

As already indicated there are a number of characteristics of the experience of sexual molestation which have been described as effecting outcome. These include the type of population studied, the age of the child and the perpetrator at the time of sexual molestation, its frequency and the duration, and the amount of threat or coercion employed. The present study considers these factors. It investigates the retrospective evaluation of sexual interaction before the age of 12 in a special but highly

relevant population: males incarcerated for child sexual molestation.

The sexually molested boy all too often becomes a man who habitually sexually molests children (Awad & Saunders, 1991; Awad & Saunders, 1989; Bard, Carter, Cerce, Knight, Rosenberg, & Schneider, 1987; Conte & Schuerman, 1987; Cordoba & Chapel, 1983; Groth, 1979; Hiller & Goddard, 1990; Holstein & Schultz, 1983; Lanyon, 1986; Meiselman, 1978; Ressler, Burgess, Hartmen & Douglas, 1986; Simon, Males, Kaszniak & Kahn, 1992). Can the characteristics of the childhood molestation predict such an outcome? Answers to this question are the focus of the present paper. Where molestation with such characteristics is known to have occurred, perhaps early intervention, as a form of triage, could prevent such a sequel.

Method

Subjects

The present study was conducted with adult male inmates held in prisons throughout South East Queensland.

One hundred offenders comprised each of the experimental and the control groups. They participated voluntarily in the project. Participants included a sample convicted for a wide variety of illegal activities and deemed to range from maximum to minimum security risks to the community. In Table

1 a number of demographic details are provided.

The terms of imprisonment to which they had been sentenced ranged from one year to life. All had been incarcerated for more than three months, and had thus settled into their prison sentences and environment.

The sample of experimental subjects was drawn from those offenders who had been imprisoned for any sexual offence involving children, but excluding "Talking" (that is, talking about sexual matters) which of itself would not lead to incarceration. This offences included indecent dealing (82), incest (23), sodomy (13) and indecent assault (3). It was not possible to determine how many of those offered participation did not volunteer. Some would simply have had prior work or study commitments, others may have chosen not to become involved.

This also applies to the control group which comprised inmates serving sentences for other offences. These included rape (only eight of the controls were rapists, too small a number for separate analysis, and too small also to impact greatly on other comparisons made between experimental and control groups), stealing (35), drug related (24), prostitution related (15), murder (18) and miscellaneous (14). Rapists were included in the control group because they constituted part of this population of incarcerated

offenders.

Many of both groups of inmates were serving terms of imprisonment which involved more than one offence. None of the controls were currently serving a sentence for any child sexual molestation offence.

Instrumentation and Procedure

The protocol, in the form of an eight part questionnaire, addressed demographic characteristics of each subject, social experiences, perception of self, physical health, present perceptions, and sexual and other offending history. Enquiry revealed a wide range of sexual interactions, from talking about sex to intercourse (as depicted in Table 2). Except for the last four parts (which addressed health issues, personal perceptions, and offending behaviour) each section was divided into experiences before the age of 12, and experiences between the ages of 12 and 16 years.

Only a small part of the results obtained are reported there.

Staff from the prisons were addressed independently by the first author at the commencement of data collection so as to provide clear and accurate information about the study. Groups either of sex offenders or of control offenders were also addressed with staff present as passive observers. This

strategy served to minimize interference from staff and to maximize participation rates. It allowed inmates to question the researcher personally and to have the issues of their personal and legal protection outlined.

The questionnaires were:

- a) completed individually and at the same time, by all prisoners,
- b) administered in a group, and
- c) the prisoners had no opportunity to discuss their answers with each other prior to completing them since the questionnaires were completed before the prisoners returned to the prison compound.

Quantifying Retrospective Evaluation

Retrospective evaluation of any sexual interaction that had occurred during boyhood was quantified using a five point scale. The limits involved "very enjoyable" on one end of the spectrum and "horrendous" on the other, with the intermediate gradations comprising "enjoyable", "neutral" and "negative".

Frequency, Duration and Coercion

As far as frequency is concerned, the protocol offered a choice of:

once only
2 - 5 times
6 - 12 times
more

As far as total duration is concerned, the protocol

Sexual Interaction Before the Age of 12

11

offered a choice of: 1 day
 1 month
 more than 1 month
 over years

As far as coercion is concerned, the protocol question was as follows: Did the other person threaten or coerce you?

Yes
Somewhat
No

Reliability Procedure

So as to determine the reliability of each question in the questionnaire, 10 subjects whose proformas were selected randomly (using a table of random numbers) from the first 30 subjects from each of the experimental and control groups completed the questionnaire on a second occasion. The subjects had not been prewarned of this procedure. Approximately two weeks elapsed between the first and second presentations of the document. Test-retest reliability was evaluated from the resulting data with the use of the Kappa Statistic (Cohen, 1968; Everitt, 1968; Fleiss, Cohen & Everitt, 1969). Those items that yielded Kappa results of 0.4 or less were removed from the data base and not analysed further. Less than 1.5% of items were removed in this way.

Statistical Analysis

Kendall's Tau was used to compare age and socioeconomic status in Table 1. The Chi-square statistic, using Yates'

Correction, was used in Table 1 for marital status and throughout Tables 2 and 3. In Table 4, a series of multiple regression analyses, producing Beta weights, were also undertaken in order to determine the relative severity of the retrospective evaluation of various childhood sexual interactions. The variables were regressed simultaneously and included the age of the sex offender as a child, the age of the other person, frequency and duration of the behaviour and the use of threat of force or coercion by the other person.

Results

Demographic details of the sex offenders and control offenders are depicted in Table 1.

Analysis of the data reveals a significant disparity between the occupational (SES) status of the sex offenders and control offenders. Table 1 indicates that more of the control offenders have been in professional/administrative occupations and fewer have been in semi- or unskilled positions compared with sex offenders. Further analysis utilized the 1991 Queensland Census data pertaining to occupation of employed male persons (Australian Bureau of Statistics - ABS, 1991). It was thus determined that, as far as SES is concerned, the control population can be considered to approximate to the general population.

Investigation of this unexpected result revealed that

the control offenders included a number of police officers. This occurred as a consequence of the Fitzgerald Inquiry into corruption in the Queensland (Australia) Police Force (Report of a Commission of Enquiry Pursuant to Orders in Council, 1989) and the imprisonment of a number of senior police officers who had held professional and administrative positions within the police force.

Variables Relating to Socio-economic Status

Investigation of other variables included the following: the relationship between the offender's occupation and that of his father; the relationship between the SES of the family of origin and the geographical environment in which it resided - e.g. the number of bedrooms in the house in which the family lived and the number of people who lived in the house. These variables could have related to SES. But analyses showed that SES did not relate to the number living in the house, or the number of bedrooms in that house or the number sharing the offender's bedroom. Thus, although sexual offenders were of lower SES than control offenders, none of these factors emerged as possible determinants of how SES differences operated.

The offender's sexual interactions before the age of 12 are depicted in Table 2 where more sex offenders than control offenders were involved with viewing, fondling, masturbation

and oral sex before the age of 12. Note, though, that data in Table 2 refer to both sexual molestation and peer sexual interaction together.

insert Table 2 about here

Further, note that in Table 3 some of those indicated as having experienced sexual molestation, may also have experienced peer sexual activity. Some of the latter may have constituted a re-enactment of their own sexual molestation.

In terms of sexual interactions involving a person who was four or more years older, the sex offenders reported significantly more viewing, fondling, masturbation, oral sex and genital sex without penetration than the control offenders before the age of 12 (see Table 3). Except for intercourse, more of the control offenders reported not having had any sexual experiences before the age of 12. There were no significant differences involving anal sex and rape between the groups.

insert Table 3 about here

In order to determine how these interactions were viewed retrospectively, a series of multiple regression analyses was undertaken. The analyses produced a series of Beta weights which indicate the retrospective evaluation of the

variables in terms of the degree of their significance and the direction of their retrospective evaluation effects (Table 4).

This table refers only to sex offenders and the sexual molestation to which they were subjected in childhood. The figures given (+0.174 etc.) are beta weights. The size of each number indicates its relative weight as a predictor for each variable. Thus the figure of 0.926 in the centre of the table can be interpreted two ways (a), vertically: of all variables that related to sexual fondling, the frequency of the experience had the most powerful effect - the more fondling, the less negative its evaluation and (b), horizontally: of all experiences it was sexually fondling that was less negatively evaluated as the frequency of the experience increased. Note that there is a high degree of consistency in the direction of effects across the range of sexual experiences that are tabulated (as shown by the + and - signs). Note also that the high values for R everywhere except "Fondling" suggest that no significant variable is likely to have been overlooked in the analyses.

insert Table 4 about here

A similar analysis was undertaken for the control offenders. This was based on numbers that were a great deal

smaller (see Table 3, left hand column lower figures). This yielded a very much smaller number of significant findings. The only variable which yielded any consistency in its direction of effect was the age of the "other" person. When that person was older, the retrospective evaluation tended to be more negative.

The results shown in Table 4 can be summarised as follows:

- * In general, the younger the age of the sex offender's sexual experiences in his own childhood, the less negative was his retrospective evaluation of the experience.
- * The other person being older (across all sexual behaviours except for fondling) was accorded a more strongly negative retrospective evaluation.
- * The more frequently an experience occurred (and to a lesser extent the longer its duration), the less negative its retrospective evaluation.
- * Analysis of sexual behaviours involving intercourse, anal sex and rape produced frequencies too small to interpret.

So as to combat difficulties arising from small numbers, analysis of the combined groups of sex offenders and control offenders of "first-time" sexual experiences between the ages of 12 and 16 years was undertaken. The results were very much

less decisive than for the group under the age of 12. Thus frequency appeared to be a much less important determinant of retrospective evaluation in the 12 to 16 years age group. The pattern produced by the younger group was replicated for oral sex and sex talk only, where the more these behaviours occurred, the less negatively were they evaluated retrospectively. Similarly, duration and age of the other person produced much less clear cut results (data not tabulated).

Discussion

Similar to other empirical studies (Conte & Schuerman, 1987), the data from the present study reveal that not all children are affected, or affected in the same way, or to the same extent, by childhood sexual interactions.

Finkelhor (1980) in his study of sexual molestation of children made the point that "many of the factors that describe the background of the victim are also describing the background of the offender" (p. 272). This is a finding of the present study: many sexual offenders had been victimized themselves and later perpetrated sexual behaviour during their adult years similar to that experienced by them as children.

In comparing results of retrospective evaluation reported in the literature with the present study, the

studies of Goldman and Goldman (1988), Hunter (1990) and Finkelhor (1979) are of particular note. These are summarized in Table 5. It is important to note that our study and that of Hunter (1990) considered effects on boys only.

insert Table 5 about here

There are many notable differences between our findings and those of other investigators. However, unlike these other studies, our starting point was the incarcerated offender. We propose that the re-enactment of boyhood experiences of sexual molestation in adult life may be conceptualized as a way of coping with that experience. Further, that this is a fundamentally different way of coping such that the determinants of outcome to which Table 5 refer operate differently: that in these other studies the dominant needs were for the victim to deal with feelings that were generally negative, sometimes including a strong sense of guilt. Factors determining a re-enactment outcome could include the characteristics of the sexual molestation itself (depicted at the bottom of Table 5), an ambivalent relationship towards that experience and its perpetrator(s), the amount of family support available and the personality of the victim. In support of the last mentioned factor Conte (1989), referring to child molesters suggests that "men in prison may be

psychologically distinct from men with the same problem who are not imprisoned" (pp. 26-27).

Determinants of Outcome: 1. Age of the Victim

Hunter (1990) in referring to the case histories of patients with whom he had worked, suggested that the earlier age at which the sexual molestation occurred, the more severe the impact. Like Browne and Finkelhor (1986), Garland and Dougher (1990) noted that opinion differs as to whether younger or older children are more traumatized by early sexual contact with adults. However, they suggested that the age of the child may interact with other variables, and that emotional disturbance or psychiatric disorder in the child might make a sexual experience with another person a positive experience because the child may experience needed affection from such a relationship.

In this study although the sex offenders were generally under 12 when first molested, the younger they were when the sexual interaction with another person occurred, the less negatively was it evaluated. Those who were in the age range 8 to 11 years reported feeling more negative about the experience than those who were younger. There is a similar report in the bereavement literature (Raphael, 1994), that children between the ages between 8 and 11 are more likely to experience greater trauma associated with bereavement than at

any other age.

The present findings could be explained in terms of children younger than 8 years having limited cognitive and perceptual maturity and thus unable to understand the implications of their various sexual interactions: they thus avoided substantial trauma. Similarly, Browne and Finkelhor (1986) speculated that naivete may protect from some negative effects of child sexual abuse.

Browne and Finkelhor's (1986) proposal that "the age at which abuse begins is less important than the developmental stages of development through which the abuse persists" (p. 172), is based on the research findings of Tufts' New England Medical Centre (1984). This suggested that latency-age children, that is those between the ages of 6 and 11 years, were the most disturbed by sexual molestation. This is further supported by the present study: those offenders who were victimized as adolescents (that is both sex and control offenders between the ages of 12 and 16 years) reported less decisive adverse effects than those under 12 years of age.

Determinants of Outcome: 2. Frequency, Duration and Spacing

In the present study, the more frequently sexual molestation occurred during childhood and to a lesser extent the longer its duration, the less negatively the sexual

interaction reportedly had on the individual. This can be explained in terms of the child's desensitization to the repetition of these experiences or to avoidance of any repetition of the more horrendous experiences. Conversely, it may be explained in terms of gratification as suggested by Burgess, Groth, Holstrom and Sgroi (1978) who have suggested that the longer young males are involved with an adult sexual partner, the more likely it is that they develop and maintain positive emotional and social ties with him.

Hunter (1990) suggested that the degree of impact is greater when multiple incidents are "spaced closely together" (p. 47). This, he claims, prevents the victim from "stabilizing between each occurrence" (p. 47). Utilizing this view, the results in the present study could be explained if the victim had had adequate "spacing" between the incidents. However, "spacing" was not an issue that we specifically addressed.

Determinants of Outcome: 3. Coercion and Complicity

The findings in the present study differ from previous reports in that the less force and coercion used on the victim during early sexual interaction, the greater the impact later experienced by that victim (Table 4). Explanation of this result could relate to the victim's lack of guilt and complicity in the sexual experience. Thus when

greater coercion was applied, the victim may have redefined his own behaviour in terms of his lack of control over the experience, thus relinquishing self blame and guilt by attributing all responsibility to the molester. By functionally redefining his role as that of a passive child, the offender might have later provided himself with a sense of control over choosing and changing the subsequent course of events in his life: "now I can choose, then I couldn't". By choosing he could once again believe that he has some control over and protection from random events in his life. This could facilitate the rebuilding of a positive self image.

Similarly, Conte (in press) describes a contrasting outcome: that some victims over time, "come to view their compliance with the abuse, compliance inducted by threat, bribe, or meeting other emotional needs, as evidence of their complicity" (p. 10). In time they may then come to develop such adverse consequences as self blame, poor self concept, or poor self esteem. However, we would argue that complicity should not extend to the experience of threat or coercion.

Determinants of Outcome: 4. Family Support

The results of Conte and Schuerman's 1987 study, which investigated factors which are associated with increased negative reaction, indicated that "the factors associated

with a variation in symptoms are the victim's supportive relationship with an adult or supportive relationship with siblings; (and) the number of characteristics of the victim's family which are indicative of a poorly functioning (unhealthy) family" (p. 207). Where families had significant problems with life and/or indicators of pathology, the victims are more negatively affected. There was a great deal of evidence of family pathology in the present study (paper in preparation). One aspect of such a negative outcome might be the adoption by the victim of the role of child molester.

Conte and Schuerman (1987) also cite factors such as the victim's fear of negative consequences to him/herself if the abuse was revealed (but fail to specify what those negative consequences might be) and the offender's denial of the behaviour.

Commencement of Molestation

Interestingly, Groth, Longo and McFadin (1982), whilst investigating incarcerated child molesters, found that the modal age at the time they first molested was 16 years. Likewise Goldman and Goldman's (1988) Australian study of 1000 post-secondary students found that the average age of perpetrators against boys was estimated as 22 years. Although our sexual offenders were much older, there is not necessarily any inconsistency here: perhaps their activities

had extended over many years, for long undetected in many instances.

Methodological Issues

Note that Table 3 indicates quite substantial sexual interactions as having occurred in the control group. The question arises whether the prevalences there are greater than would have been expected in a properly constituted sample of the Australian male population. However, no report of such sampling appears to have been published. A comprehensive epidemiological study within Australia would generate very useful data with which to compare results from specific populations such as the ones we have studied but would be a substantial undertaking.

Similar to some other studies (for example Simon et al., (1992) who, in attempting to validate the fixated-regressed typology, sampled cases of convicted child molesters using case histories, MMPI assessments, presentence reports and police report data), our data derived from a captive population of men who had been convicted of committing sexual offences against children. For a number of reasons this sample is not representative of all men who have committed sexual offences against children. Firstly, not all men who commit child-related sexual offences are apprehended. Secondly, there are individuals who have committed such

offences and who are apprehended but through lack of sufficient evidence - through the victims being too young to prove effective witnesses or because of other legal considerations - are not prosecuted or prosecuted and not convicted.

The literature frequently comments on the difficulties of undertaking retrospective studies which rely on self-report (Conte, 1985; Freund et al., 1991) and hence do not allow for direct causal analysis. Since this is one such study, the results cannot be interpreted unequivocally since self report is likely to be less than completely reliable.

Miller (1985) noted that, as a consequence of trauma, mechanisms may develop to "protect" the individual against the psychological effects of the trauma. In referring to sexual abuse of children, she argued that these may take the form of "repression, splitting off of the feeling connected with the recollected content, and denial by means of idealization" (p. 100). It could well be the case in our study that some subjects had so totally repressed early sexual molestation experiences that they could not report them. Alternatively, it might be the case that repression is so successful a means of coping as to lead to a quite different outcome in which re-enactment plays no part. There is of course, no easy and safe means of ascertaining the

degree to which repression occurred.

The theory of emotional incongruence (Finkelhor, 1986) may be utilized to explain the fact that many offenders re-offend when they identify with their own victimiser and/or attempt to fulfill their psychological need to achieve mastery over "their world" by taking on the power of the aggressor (Araji & Finkelhor, 1986; Finkelhor & Brown, 1986; Groth, 1979; Groth, Hobson & Gary, 1982; Howells, 1981; Storr, 1964; Watkins & Bentovim, 1992). There may be an element of repetitive re-enactment here similar to that described in disaster situations (Raphael, 1994). The greater seriousness and/or frequency of their offences then results in their higher rates of incarceration. Perhaps they attempt repeatedly to cope with their own boyhood experiences by re-enactment with the aim of achieving, at least temporarily, emotional congruence for themselves.

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Sexual Interaction Before the Age of 12

34

Table 1. Demographic details of sex offenders and control offenders

	Sex Offenders N = 100	Controls N = 100	Kendall's Tau b	T - Value or X (4df) p <
<hr/>				
<u>Age</u>				***
20 - 29	16	11	-.20632	-3.118
30 - 39	65	53		
40 - 49	9	20		
50 - 59	7	16		
<hr/>				
<u>Usual Class of Occupation</u>				****
Professional	5	29	.32992	5.668
Administrative/ Managerial	0	8		
Clerical/Sales/ Technical	6	12		
Skilled	28	25		
Semi-skilled	37	10		
Unskilled	19	8		
Unemployed	4	8		
<hr/>				
<u>Marital Status</u>				*
Single	48	37		12.834
Married	3	16		
Separated or Divorced	31	26		
Widowed	4	9		
Defacto (in a relationship for 12 mths. or longer)	14	12		
<hr/>				

* p < 0.05

** p < 0.01

*** p < 0.001

**** p < 0.0001

Sexual Interaction Before the Age of 12

35

Table 2. Occurrence of specific sexual interactions before the age of 12 years, including both sexual molestation and peer sexual interaction

Occurrence of Experience	No. With This Experience		X (1df)
	Sex Offenders N = 100	Controls N = 100	
Talking	57	56	0.000
Viewing	46	30	4.775
Fondling	62	40	8.824
Masturbation	54	20	23.360
Oral Sex	32	7	18.345
Genital Sex Without Penetration	34	24	1.967
Intercourse	6	10	.611
Anal Sex	15	9	1.184
Rape	12	5	2.314

Note: Many offenders participated in more than one of these interactions.

* p < 0.05
 ** p < 0.01
 *** p < 0.001

Sexual Interaction Before the Age of 12

36

Table 3. Sexual molestation by a person four or more years older, peer sexual activity only, and neither of these for offenders and controls before aged 12.

No. of Respondents Reporting This Experience				
Occurrence of Sexual Activity	Sexual Molest.	Peer Sexual Activity only	Neither Experience	X (2df)
Viewing N = 100	24	22	54	10.065
+N = 100	8	22	70	
Fondling	32	30	38	14.099
	12	28	60	
Masturbation	29	25	46	25.395
	13	7	80	
Oral Sex	29	3	68	20.326
	7	0	93	
Genital Sex Without Penetration	23	11	66	4.205
	12	12	76	
Intercourse	5	1	94	N.S.(Fisher's
	10	0	90	Exact Test)

+ Note 1: Here, for each sexual activity, the top row of numbers are for sex offenders, the bottom row for control offenders

Note 2: Many offenders participated in more than one of these behaviours

N.S. $p < 0.05$
 * $p < 0.05$
 ** $p < 0.01$
 *** $p < 0.001$

Sexual Interaction Before the Age of 12

37

Table 4. Severity of the negative retrospective evaluation of sexual interaction with an older person before the age of 12, sex offenders only, based on the values of Beta weights.

	Sex Talk	Sex View	Sex Fondle	Masturb. Sex	Oral Sex	Genital W/out Penet.	Sex Penet.
	R = .800		R = .520		R = .810		
		R = .850		R = .894		R = .890	
Age of Child	** +0.174		* +0.230	** +0.148	*** +0.449	* +0.178	
Age of Other	**** +0.539	**** +0.438		**** +0.351	** +0.350	**** +0.716	
Freq. of Experience	**** -0.455	*** -0.333	**** -0.926	**** -0.835	**** -0.876		
Durat. of Experience	* -0.179	**** -0.420				* -0.308	
Coercion/ Threat	*** -0.230		** -0.242	** -0.178		**** -0.373	

- Notes: 1. + = positive relationship between the respective variables and their retrospective evaluation by the individual
2. - = negative relationship between the respective variables and their retrospective evaluation by the individual
3. * p < 0.05
 ** p < 0.01
 *** p < 0.001
 **** p < 0.0001

Sexual Interaction Before the Age of 12

38

Table 5. Summary of four studies of the adverse effects of sexual molestation

	Pop'n	Younger age of child	Older age of perp'tor	Inc'd freq.	Inc'd durat.	Inc'd coerc'n (Defined as)
Goldman & Goldman (1988)	Tertiary Students 388 males & 603 females	Non- signif.	Inc.	?	?	Threat & force Inc.
Hunter (1990)	Case study of boys	Inc.	?	Inc.	Inc.	Threat and force more than tricks an coerc'n
Finkelhor (1979)	College students 266 males & 530 females	Inc. (small non- sig.)	Inc.	* Inc.	* Inc.	Inc. force
Present Study	Incarc'd male sex offend's	At its worst, aged 8 - 11	Inc.	Dec.	Dec.	Threat or Coercion Dec.

Notes: Pop'n = Population
 Inc. = Increased
 Dec. = Decreased
 ? = Not stated
 * = Highly correlated and considered together