

**Atypical Sexual Experiences in Male Children and Youth:
A Retrospective Study**

by

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We accept this thesis as conforming
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Abstract

Survey data was collected toward examining atypical sexual experiences of male children and youth. The Sexual Experiences and Perceptions Questionnaire (SEP-Q) and the Trauma Symptom Inventory (TSI) were administered to a sample of 279 male students from a university population in British Columbia, Canada. Subjects were recruited from a first year psychology course and through advertisements placed on campus.

Childhood and adolescent sexual experiences information provided by subjects was differentiated using five categories of age or authority based definition criteria. Self-reported perceptions and measures of trauma were compared using descriptive cross tabulations toward answering several questions about symptomology and perceptions of males reporting these experiences.

The results for the different age and sexual behavior categories were represented within tables. Comparisons were noted regarding the affective perceptions of subjects to childhood sexual experiences with significantly older or authority positioned partners in relation to the gender of the sexual partner, the age difference between the subject and partner, the level of manipulation involved in the sexual encounter,

whether or not the subject previously disclosed the sexual encounter, the subject's perception of abuse, and assessment of traumatic symptoms.

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Dedication

I dedicate this thesis to my wife, daughter, and parents. Despite the difficult periods while completing this degree, Gillian has acted as my forestay, providing me both the courage and emotional strength needed to continue working in the face of adversity.

My daughter, Jenna, was born in the midst of the turmoil that enveloped my academic endeavors. Her birth altered my perspective and provided much of the renewed will to complete what I had not finished.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Child Sexual Abuse of Males

Research examining male victims of child sexual abuse continues to be a nascent topic frequently cited by researchers as requiring further investigation (Bauserman & Rind, 1997; Cermak & Molidor, 1996; Dhaliwal, Gauzas, Antonowicz, & Ross, 1996; Finkelhor, 1990; Fromuth, Burkhart, & Jones, 1991; Holmes, Offen, & Waller, 1997; Holmes & Slap, 1998; Krug, 1989; Stevenson & Gajarsky, 1991; Violato & Genius, 1993; Weber, Gearing, Davis, & Conlon, 1992). Considerable variance in the prevalence estimates for male victims of child sexual abuse has been found in sexual abuse research literature (Faller, 1989; Rind, Tromovitch, & Bauserman, 1998). Most researchers have commonly acknowledged a tendency in males to under-report their sexually abusive experiences (Holmes & Slap, 1998; Violato & Genius, 1993). The common themes presented to explain this under-reporting are two fold; definitional and methodological disparity and social phenomena common to male gender roles, which discourage male sexual, abuse disclosure (Briere, Evans, Runtz, & Wall, 1988; Holmes & Slap, 1998; Violato & Genius, 1993; Watkins & Bentovim, 1992). This under-reporting may have some relevance regarding perceived inconsequential or positive childhood sexual experiences of males with older

or authority positioned sexual partners (Bauserman & Rind, 1997; Broussard, Wagner, & Kazelskis, 1991; Fromuth et al., 1991; Weber et al., 1992). As Finkelhor (1990) observed many researchers have found significant portions of their samples, both males and females, who have identified having experienced child sexual abuse but have claimed to have little or no symptoms as a result of their experiences. Finkelhor (1990) further observed that much speculation and conjecture has been posited about this population but little empirical research has been completed to assess these individuals. Several common speculations about the existence of asymptomatic victims include inadequate or inaccurate measures and assessment techniques, the use of denial as a method of coping, the explanation that asymptomatic victims have experienced sexual abuse considered less severe, and the premise that these victims have greater resilience due to better psychological and social resources (Finkelhor, 1990). Possible explanations toward understanding under-reporting of male childhood sexual abuse continues to require further research particularly when examining individuals who respond in a non-negative way to sexual interactions with adults (Bauserman & Rind, 1997; Broussard et al., 1991; Finkelhor, 1990).

It is generally acknowledged within the field of child sexual abuse research that under-reporting of childhood sexual abuse is a genuine phenomenon among males (Cermak & Molidor, 1996; Holmes, et al., 1997; Watkins & Bentovim, 1992). In a fairly comprehensive review of child sexual abuse literature Watkins and Bentovim (1992) highlighted a variety of research problems. The problems cited were not only

pertinent to male child sexual abuse research but were important when considering research concerning inconsequential or positively perceived child sexual experiences with significantly older or authority positioned partners. These problems included definitional and methodological issues, male gender role issues as they relate to child sexual abuse, and a lack of research into the population of individuals who frequently are identified as asymptomatic (Bauserman & Rind, 1997; Rind et al., 1998; Violato & Genuis, 1993). Watkins and Bentovim (1992) also noted that besides those explanations for male under-reporting which are applicable to both females and males there remains the question, "Are there different factors operating in the under-reporting of boys compared to girls?" (Watkins & Bentovim, 1992, p. 202). Factors forwarded to explain the apparent under-reporting of male child sexual abuse incidences have included different sex role socialization, a differential emotional response in males compared to females, society's tendency to deny the possibility of females engaging in sexual activities with male minors and an increased tendency within society to minimize the effects of childhood sexual experiences males encounter by assigning blame to the male youth (Broussard et al., 1991; Holmes et al., 1997; Watkins & Bentovim, 1992). These factors led Watkins and Bentovim (1992) to question whether the factors leading to the under-reporting of child sexual abuse in males are due to internal processes or a lack of response by those around the victim. Broussard et al. (1991) noted that there have been relatively few empirical studies utilizing standardized outcome measures that assess the degree of trauma experienced

by individuals who report responding in a non-negative way during a sexual interaction with an adult.

For the reasons outlined this researcher intends to examine the perceptions that males have regarding childhood sexual experiences with significantly older or authority positioned sexual partners. More specifically this researcher queries to what extent there is a population of males who have had childhood sexual experiences with significantly older or authority positioned individuals who have either consciously chosen or simply perceived the sexual experience to be positive or inconsequential, and who have not reported these experiences to an authority figure. Providing an estimate of the prevalence of this social phenomenon would be beneficial toward better understanding the underlying factors regarding the underreporting of sexual abuse in males. This research would also provide some information about any potential impact such sexual experiences have on males. Further, this information is potentially useful in evaluating whether such sexual interactions should be deemed a significant form of sexual abuse or categorized as a separate type of sexual experience.

Statement of the Problem

Although research into male child sexual abuse continues to increase in proliferation, there has been little work looking at a broad continuum of male childhood sexual experiences which may or may not be deemed to fall within child

sexual abuse criteria. Researchers investigating male child sexual experiences with significantly older or authority positioned partners continue to predominantly focus their attention on the negatively impacting phenomenon of child sexual abuse. This focus is not surprising given the seriousness of this socially maladaptive behavior and the potentially large negative impact child sexual abuse has on the victims.

Some investigators of child sexual abuse have, however, in past research identified populations of individuals who did not react negatively or experience a negative impact to their childhood sexual experiences even though the sexual experience was deemed to be sexually abusive either by the child, an authority figure, or the criteria used by researchers (Baker & Duncan, 1985; Holmes & Slap, 1998). Furthermore, a few researchers have observed that some individuals perceived their childhood sexual experiences with significantly older partners or partners in a position of authority over them to be overall a positive experience (Okami, 1991; Fromuth & Burkhart, 1989; Weber, et al., 1992). This phenomenon appears to be particularly prevalent regarding male youth.

Clinicians and researchers addressing the issues of male child sexual abuse have been frequently challenged regarding the criteria that should or should not be used in identifying which childhood sexual experiences represent child sexual abuse. Definition criteria are often altered to permit the examination of particular aspects or types of childhood sexual experiences which are typically considered as sexually abusive. Generally there are two common themes that overlap to some extent

concerning the criteria used in defining child sexual abuse. These criteria include sexual activity between an individual deemed a minor with an individual considered to be significantly older and the implication of force or coercion by the dominant individual (Finkelhor, 1986).

Recently, child sexual abuse criteria has been challenged by a number of media reports that have emphasized the dilemma that judicial systems and society in general are having concerning childhood sexual encounters of males with older or authority positioned partners. This dilemma appears to be particularly apparent when the partner is female or the male youth did not perceive the experience as aversive or as producing a negative impact (Vizinczey, 1997). Some researchers have indicated that the genders of the minor and the significantly older individual combined with an apparent passive or encouraging response by the minor to the older person's sexual advances can significantly affect people's perceptions regarding whether or not they consider the sexual encounter to represent child sexual abuse (Broussard & Wagner, 1988; Broussard, et al., 1991). Based on the observations of Broussard et al. (1991), this diminished perception of child sexual abuse is particularly apparent when the child is a male and the perpetrator is a non-related female adult. This type of attitude is surprising considering the fact that a child cannot give informed consent for sexual interactions with an adult.

Considerable inconsistencies have been identified in past literature on reporting the prevalence of female perpetrators (Bauserman & Rind, 1997; Fromuth et al., 1991;

Watkins & Bentovim, 1992; Weber et al., 1992). A possible explanation for these inconsistencies appears to involve definition and methodology differences among researchers. Studies that focused on assessing negative impacts of childhood sexual experiences predominantly found the perpetrators to be male (Reinhart, 1987; Watkins & Bentovim, 1992; Weber et al., 1992). These inconsistencies regarding female perpetration and apparent difficulties of the judicial system and society in assessing the harmfulness of inconsequential or positively perceived sexual relationships between males and older partners represent a compelling problem. As little research has been completed examining these types of childhood sexual experiences, it would seem prudent to examine this issue more closely. An important factor to evaluate within this topic area is whether or not there is a relationship between the males' perceptions about their childhood sexual experiences and specific characteristics of the sexual encounters, such as coercion or force. Other important factors may include family or personal demographic characteristics, which may significantly relate to the male's perception about the sexual experiences. In addressing these topics the present study explored the continuum of childhood sexual experiences of males with older or authority positioned sexual partners and identify the prevalence estimates of childhood sexual experiences in those males who have experienced childhood sexual encounters with older or authority positioned partners.

In general the term 'childhood sexual experiences' is used in this document to refer to all childhood sexual experiences with significantly older or authority

positioned partners including those that are perceived by the individual as being either neutral or positive. The absence of a universally accepted term referring to this phenomenon in the literature is based on the premise that the topic of investigation is largely exploratory with little evidence as to what extent this phenomenon and population exists in the general populous. Specifically, childhood sexual experiences with a significantly older partner refers to all sexual experiences individuals have at the age of 14 or younger with individuals three or more years older, or prior to age 17 with a partner five or more years older. Childhood sexual experiences with a partner in a position of authority refers to all sexual experiences that the individual encounters prior to age 17 where the sexual partner's position of authority and responsibility has the potential to influence or be used to manipulate the youth's decision to engage in sexual activities. The age discrepancy previously defined is not necessarily a factor in this scenario. A sexual encounter may be considered inappropriate in cases where there is no significant age discrepancy but there is an increased perception by the individual that engaging in the sexual relationship was directly due to coercion or fear of reprisal due to sexual partner's position of authority.

Purpose of the Study

The primary purpose of this study was to assess the prevalence of different childhood sexual experiences male subjects had prior to age 17 with significantly older

partners or partners who are in a position of power over them. This researcher collected information about the subjects' perceptions regarding their childhood sexual experiences and whether or not salient factors about the sexual experiences were related to any significant or long lasting aversive effects. Perceptions about the specified childhood sexual experiences categorized into three broad categories: negatively perceived childhood sexual experiences, neutrally perceived childhood sexual experiences, and positively perceived childhood sexual experiences. Particular focus was placed on examining those childhood sexual experiences with older or authority positioned partners who were in the past or at the time of the data collection perceived as neutral or positive by the male. Specific factors of interest related to these experiences include: the type of relationship between the male youth and the older partner (e.g., teacher, parent, baby sitter), whether or not the relationship was extrafamilial or intrafamilial, the type of sexual activity engaged upon in the relationship, whether any force, coercion or perceived manipulation was used by the older or dominant person in the relationship, the gender of the significantly older or dominant partner, the age difference between the male and his partner, and whether or not the male individual had considered or now considers the specific childhood sexual experience to represent child sexual abuse. Information about a variety of personal and family characteristics, which have been identified as significantly related to this topic area in other research, was also collected. This information was then used to evaluate whether or not any particular family or personal characteristic examined were

significantly related to the childhood sexual experiences and perceptions of the male subjects.

A standardized assessment tool designed to evaluate trauma related to the sexual experiences was used. Subjects were also asked to complete a sexual experience questionnaire to enable a comparison between their perceptions of specific childhood sexual experiences and any trauma symptoms that could be identified by the standardized assessment tool.

General Procedures

As previously stated this research was exploratory, examining to what extent males have had childhood sexual encounters with significantly older individuals, and identifying any common characteristics that are predominant within this population in relation to perceptions of those experiences. To accomplish this objective the researcher employed a group survey design to collect data (i.e. subjects were asked to complete survey type material in small group settings). An advantage of utilizing a group survey design is that by completing the survey information in a group setting the respondents would have an increased sense of anonymity concerning the process of data collection and would not feel as if they, alone, were being assessed and observed by the research attendant.

Contact between the subjects while completing the survey information was discouraged by the research attendant and diminished by the dimensions of the room. The distance between subjects was sufficiently large that subjects were adequately dispersed, thereby ensuring privacy.

Subjects were asked to complete a pencil and paper questionnaire, developed by the researcher, containing questions regarding their childhood sexual experiences. This questionnaire, referred to as the Sexual Experiences and Perceptions Questionnaire (SEP-Q), used three types of response formats. These response formats included 'yes' or 'no' boxes, 'fill in the blank' spaces, and Likert scale responses. The general purpose of the questionnaire was to collect both demographic information about the subject and specific information about the individual's present and childhood sexual experiences and perceptions. This questionnaire was organized into three sections, which were untitled but represent the following three categories:

1. family and personal demographic information,
2. personal sexual experiences information,
3. personal childhood sexual experiences with older or authority positioned partners and perceptions of these experiences.

Section 1 was primarily fill in the blank items which were completed by all participants. Sections 2 and 3 were constructed in a filter-question method. Filter questioning in this particular instrument refers to shifting the focus gradually from general questions about sexual experiences to childhood sexual experiences and finally

to childhood sexual experiences with significantly older or authority positioned partners. The subject may not be required to finish all of the sections of the questionnaire depending on how the subject responds concerning sexually related issues. A copy of the questionnaire is located in Appendix A of this document.

Subjects were also asked to complete a second assessment survey tool referred to as the Trauma Symptom Inventory (TSI). The TSI was designed to assess a variety of trauma related symptoms commonly observed in individuals who have experienced some form of abuse. This assessment tool has 100 statements describing various types of experiences that the subjects may or may not have had during a six-month period immediately prior to testing. The subjects are asked to respond using a Likert Scale format to indicate to what extent they have experienced the described situation. This assessment tool has been standardized and provides a series of scales which include three validity scales (i.e., Response Level, Atypical Response, and Inconsistent Response), ten clinical scales (e.g., Anxious Arousal, Depression, and Anger/Irritability), and ten interpretative scales based on combinations of the clinical scales (e.g., classic post traumatic presentation is represented by a combination of the clinical scales such as Intrusive Experiences, and Dissociation or Defensive Avoidance).

Subjects were provided an envelope upon entering the research room. These envelopes contained a brief explanation about the research, an informed consent form, a prize draw form, an instruction page, the Sexual Experiences and Perceptions

Questionnaire, and the Trauma Symptom Inventory. Subjects were asked to read the research explanation form which informed the subject of their right to withdraw at any time from the study. The subjects was then asked to read and sign an informed consent document before commencing on the questionnaire and the TSI. The instruction page directed half of the subjects to complete the TSI first followed by the Sexual Experiences and Perceptions Questionnaire and alternatively directed the other subjects to complete the tools in the inverse order. A more detailed explanation of the procedures used to collect data has been presented in the methodology section in Chapter 3. Copies of the instruction sheets are located in Appendix B and also in Appendix C.

The Sexual Experiences and Perceptions Questionnaire and the TSI were utilized to evaluate:

- a) the prevalence of male individuals who have had sexual experiences as minors with older partners or partners, who were in a position of authority or power over the individual,
- b) if any common characteristics regarding the type of relationship, sexual activity, and gender of the other partner are prevalent to those males who perceive their sexual experiences as inconsequential or positive,
- c) if male individual's perceptions about their childhood sexual experiences have changed between the time they occurred and the time of the investigation,

- d) how family reactions and personal characteristics relate to the male individual's reactions to their childhood sexual experiences, and,
- e) what trauma related symptoms these male individuals exhibit in response to their childhood sexual experiences regardless of their memories and perceptions about the events.

Scope and Limitations of this Study

The researcher used a retrospective approach to investigate early childhood sexual experiences with older or authority positioned partners among a male non-clinical sample. The sample population was comprised of adult male university students obtained from a university within British Columbia, Canada. As the research used a convenient sample of volunteer adult males, the results of the research will be restricted to similar populations of males. The results in no way should be applied to female populations. Generalization of the results to any broader population of males should be done with caution. The use of a sample of convenience to complete the research is based on the premise that the topic of this research remains largely unexplored with little previous research to support sampling of more generalized populations particularly given the sensitivity of the research topic. Should the results of this exploratory research be considered significant then further research using a more generalized sample may be warranted.

Research Questions

As previously stated the purpose of the study was to examine the perceptions that males have regarding their childhood sexual experiences with significantly older or authority positioned sexual partners. The research collected data on a broad spectrum of childhood sexual experiences ranging from positive to negative reactions. Therefore, the study has been designed to address the questions that follow.

Main Research Questions

- 1). What is the prevalence of adult male subjects who have encountered some form of childhood sexual experiences with a significantly older individual or an individual who is in a position of authority or power over the male youth?
- 2). What are the prevalence estimates of adult male subjects who acknowledge childhood sexual experiences with significantly older individuals or authority positioned individuals relative to the sexual encounters being perceived as either a) negative, b) neutral, or c) positive?
- 3). In the population of subjects who perceive their childhood sexual experiences as either a) negative, b) neutral, or c) positive, how many appear to be experiencing some form of trauma symptoms?

- 4). Are any specific types of trauma reactions significant for each group of males who have had childhood sexual experiences and perceived it as either a) negative, b) neutral, or c) positive?

Additional Research Questions

- 5). Does the gender of the partner significantly relate to the subjects' affective perceptions and the extent to which they exhibit trauma symptoms?
- 6). Does the type of relationship (i.e., extrafamilial or intrafamilial, level significance of trust) between the male subjects and the sexual partners significantly relate to male subjects' affective perceptions and the extent to which they exhibit trauma symptoms?
- 7). Does the level of manipulation or coercion used in the childhood sexual encounter by the partner significantly relate to the subjects' affective perceptions and the extent to which they exhibit trauma symptoms?

Definitions of Terms

The following terms are defined for the purpose of the current research.

Childhood Sexual Experiences

Childhood sexual experiences refers to a childhood sexual encounter by a male subject prior to the age of 17 years of age with an individual who is deemed significantly older than the youth, who may be in a position of authority over the youth, and who may have manipulated the youth's participation in the sexual encounter.

Significantly Older Partner

A significantly older partner is defined using two categories of age differences between the male youth under the age of 17 and an older sexual partner. A subject may be included in more than one of these categories. These categories include:

- 1). An age difference of five or more years between the subject and the older sexual partner when the subject is 16 years of age or younger. Included sexual activities are limited to light petting, heavy petting, physical sex, and penetrative sex as included in the definitions that follow;

- 2). An age difference of three or more years between the subject and the older sexual partner when the subject is 14 years of age or younger. Included sexual activities are limited to light petting, heavy petting, physical sex, and penetrative sex as included in the definitions that follow;

Authority Positioned Partner

Authority positioned partner refers to a sexual partner who was placed in a position of authority or power over the subject, prior to the subject being age 17. The designation of authority or power was established individually by subjects. Subjects are asked to identify the type of relationship that existed (e.g. parent, co-worker, employer) between themselves and the authority or power positioned sexual partner. The types of relationships are summarized in the results section of this document.

Sexual Activity

Sexual activity refers to the following types of sexual activities: sexual intercourse, sodomy, oral sex, masturbation of partner's genitals, fondling of breasts, stimulation of genitals or anus with objects, masturbation of self with partner present, sensual kissing leading to sexual arousal, erotic verbal talk, viewing sexually explicit material, and sensual touching of non-sexual body parts.

Sexual activities were also allocated into specific categories to aid in the analysis of the data. These categories included penetrative sex, physical sex, heavy petting, and light petting.

Penetrative Sex

Penetrative sex refers to those sexual activities listed by the subject that include coitus involving either the vagina or anus of either the subject or sexual partner.

Physical Sex

Physical sex refers to sexual activities between the subject and sexual partner where either oral sex or stimulation of genital or anus by an object are among the sexual activities listed but no penetrative sexual activities occur.

Heavy Petting

Heavy petting refers to sexual activities where either the subject or the sexual partner is masturbated by the other person or masturbates himself with the other person present but no penetrative or physical sexual activities occur.

Light Petting

Light petting refers to fondling of breasts.

Child Sexual Abuse

Child sexual abuse has frequently been defined in academic research as abuse that occurs at or before 16 years of age with an individual five or more years older (Browne & Finkelhor, 1986; Holmes & Slap, 1998; Finkelhor, 1990).

Child sexual abuse as defined by Ministry of Children and Families (1998) in The B.C. HandBook for Action on Child Abuse and Neglect (p.7), states that the criminal code prohibits the following activities.

- any sexual activity between an adult and a child under the age of 14 - a child under 14 is incapable in law of consenting to sexual activity (s. 150.1 of the Criminal Code). The criminal law recognizes that consensual “peer sex” is not an offense in the following situation: if one child is between 12 and 14 years and the other is 12 years or more but under the age of 16, less than two years older, and not in a position of trust or authority to the other.
- any sexual activity between an adult in a position of trust or authority towards a child between the ages of 14 and 18 years.
- any sexual activity without the consent of a child of any age. (Depending on the activity, nonconsensual sexual activity may constitute the criminal offense of sexual assault).
- use of children in prostitution and pornography.

Combined Child Sexual Abuse Category

For the purpose of this document, the term Combined Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) is used. The CSA category includes the total number of subjects within the sample that have experienced child sexual abuse as defined by the preceding parameters. Subjects' childhood sexual experiences that included at least one of the sexual activities with a significantly older partner were included. Subjects were only represented once in this category despite whether or not their childhood sexual experiences involved multiple types of sexual activities with a significantly older sexual partner and despite whether or not the age differential between the sexual partner and the subject met both age categories for significantly older partners (i.e., if the male subject was under fourteen years of age while the significantly older partner was in a position of authority and exceeded his age by five or more years, and the sexual activities included all forms of sexual activity, they would only be represented once in this category even though their sexual experiences met numerous child sexual abuse categories previously defined). However, if the subject had experienced multiple childhood sexual encounters with different significantly older sexual partners, each encounter was included in the Combined Child Sexual Abuse category.

Summary

More research examining childhood sexual experiences of males and the relationship of these experiences to defining criteria for child sexual abuse is needed. Of particular interest is the prevalence of childhood sexual experiences with significantly older partners, as previously defined, and the perceptions males have concerning these childhood sexual experiences with significantly older sexual partners. Furthermore, the researcher has examined how childhood sexual experiences in males relate to the tenets used to define child sexual abuse for males. Comparisons have also been made between specific characteristics of childhood sexual experiences of males in relations to their perceptions about the sexual experience, their perceptions of the sexual experience as child sexual abuse. In addition, this study was designed to include an objective measurement of aversive symptoms associated with childhood sexual experiences involving significantly older sexual partners.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

Early Research

Child sexual abuse as a field of research has attracted increased interest over the past 30 years. This interest has also led to an expansion in the scope and breadth of topics investigated, a broadening of populations examined, and an increased diversity in the research methods employed to investigate child sexual abuse (Banning, 1989; Rind et al., 1998). Early literature emphasized child sexual abuse as a crime committed against girls by men (Banning, 1989) and tended to use clinical populations. In the 1970s the focus of research was primarily on female populations and prevalence estimates during this era indicated that 90% of all victims were female. Two factors that have been proposed for the lack of research on male child sexual abuse are the fact that the entire area of research of sexual abuse developed from the “rape model” which subsumes primarily a female victim--male perpetrator paradigm and a reluctance within our society to accept the vulnerability of males to sexual victimization (Munoz, 1997; Young, Brandi, & Titus, 1994). While in the 1960s estimates of the ratio of sexually victimized females to males was believed to be 12 to 1, the ratio has become progressively closer in more recent years (Hunter, 1991). In the 1980s prevalence estimates of male child sexual abuse increased to

between 23% and 40% depending on the study being cited (Banning, 1989). Much of the early research utilized clinical populations, but more recent research utilizing college and nationwide non-clinical populations have resulted in estimates of an average of 14% of males (a range of 3% to 37%) who have had childhood sexual experiences which may be classified as child sexual abuse (Rind et al., 1998). Wellman (1993) noted that some researchers using clinically based reports have estimated that between 10% to 20% of all child sexual abuse victims are male compared to college based self-reports which estimate that one third of all child sexual abuse victims are male.

A number of researchers have identified methodological issues that significantly impact child sexual abuse research results, estimates, and interpretations (Bauserman & Rind, 1997; Okami, 1991; Pierce & Pierce, 1985; Rind et al., 1998; Violato & Genuis, 1993). These include difficulty in developing a child sexual abuse definition criteria, the effects of subsequent differences in using such criteria, the varying sampling processes chosen by researchers, and the choice of populations (Okami, 1991; Bauserman & Rind, 1997; Rind et al., 1998). These issues have frequently been identified as having a substantial impact on the prevalence estimates of child sexual abuse and identification of subsequent effects on abuse survivors (Bauserman & Rind, 1997; Cermak & Molidor, 1996; Okami, 1990; Violato & Genuis, 1993).

In terms of definitional problems, a number of researchers have observed that the parameters of sexual contact representative within child sexual abuse definitions

vary considerably between studies and that in much research the descriptions of sexual contact constituting child sexual abuse have been described vaguely or inconclusively making comparisons of research results very difficult (Holmes & Slap, 1998). In a recent literature review Holmes and Slap (1998) reviewed 149 studies published between 1985 and 1997 that investigated male subjects within North America. All the studies reviewed met the author's criteria for inclusion, that is there were a minimum of 20 male subjects within the sample population, research designs were clearly stated, and the studies were not reviews, perspectives, dissertation abstracts, editorials, or letters. Holmes and Slap's (1998) analysis identified the use of more than 30 different combinations of abuse history-eliciting methods and definition criteria in the chosen studies. These differences serve as an example of the disparity in criteria used to define child sexual abuse and the regularity in which the various definitions of child sexual abuse are amended. The frequent amendments may result from academic, protection, and health agencies efforts to operationally define the terms of child sexual abuse in such a way that the definition adequately accommodates various populations and types of sexual abuse phenomenon. Furthermore, some researchers have noted that in examining the sexual abuse paradigm, organizations such as those just listed, and society in general, are influenced by socio-cultural and socio-politic forces robust within a society at any given time (Banning, 1989; Cermak & Molidor, 1996; Okami, 1990). In the following sections, a number of methodological issues relating to research on sexual experiences of male youth will be examined. These include

definitions of abuse, clinical vs. non-clinical populations, victim gender differences, victim beliefs regarding abuse, under-reporting, impact of abuse on the victim, and perpetrators.

Methodological Issues

Within the child sexual abuse literature, several methodological issues are pertinent to the analysis of results of research examining sexual contact between male youth and significantly older partners. Discrepancies in prevalence estimates and observed characteristics and outcomes of child sexual interaction with significantly older partners are affected by inconsistencies in the type of population utilized, the method of data collection, and the definition of abuse (Bauserman & Rind, 1997; Faller, 1989; Holmes & Slap, 1998; Okami, 1990; Violato & Genuis, 1993). As Finkelhor and Korbin (1988) have stated, a definition of child sexual abuse should accomplish the following two objectives. Firstly, the definition should permit for a clear distinction between child sexual abuse and other social, economic, and health related problems. Secondly, the definition should be sufficiently flexible to apply to a range of situations in a variety of social and cultural contexts. The following review covers definitions of child sexual abuse that are commonly used by researchers, with particular emphasis on how they relate specifically to experiences of male youth with those older than them or in a position of power over them.

Age and Behavior Based Definitions

Frequently used criteria applied toward defining child sexual abuse are age differentials between a younger child or youth (i.e., the victim) with a significantly older partner (i.e., the perpetrator). In addition, a specific chronological age, such as age 16, has often been used to differentiate maturity and immaturity as it relates to sexual responsibility of the victim and perpetrators (Violato & Genuis, 1993). In a further attempt to “refine” the definition, child sexual abuse has also been established by an age difference of five or more years between the youth and the older partner. However, this type of criteria has been criticized for often negating child sexual abuse in cases where there has been little or no age difference between the child and partner (Briere, 1992; Cermak & Molidor, 1996; Violato & Genuis, 1993; Watkins & Bentovim, 1992). In addition, many researchers have difficulty specifying the degree of age differential between the child and partner that should constitute child sexual abuse (Cermak & Molidor, 1996). Others, meanwhile, have shifted away from age differentials to delineate child sexual abuse in favor of focusing primarily on behavioral criteria (Cermak & Molidor, 1996; Holmes & Slap, 1998; Miller, Johnson & Johnson, 1991; Violato & Genuis, 1993). A primary difficulty of this approach has been specifying an exclusive group of specific behaviors that might describe child sexual abuse (Violato & Genuis, 1993).

Perpetrator Based Definitions

As child sexual abuse definitions have evolved, many researchers have included the notion of force or coercion (e.g., consensual sex vs. rape) in conjunction with age differentials and descriptions of the various types of sexual interaction (e.g., fondling vs. intercourse). This may present difficulties notes Miller et al. (1991) as some forms of child sexual abuse have been suggested to occur in the context of sublime and subtle persuasion or coercion. Similar to force and coercion is the concept of ‘power’ or ‘authority.’ As it relates to child sexual abuse, this concept centers on the perpetrator’s position as the dominant person in a hierarchy consisting of both the perpetrator and victim. The perpetrator’s position of power acts as an impetus -- whether intentionally or not -- toward obtaining sexual compliance from the less powerful victim. This definition criteria is specific to a particular type of child sexual abuse relationship but may present problems by excluding other types of sexual abuse where the power position of the perpetrator is not as obvious.

Victim Based Definitions

In a continued effort to provide a robust operational definition of sexual abuse, which adequately addresses all forms of child sexual abuse across a variety of populations, some researchers have utilized the criterion of “unwanted sexual contact”

(Miller, et al., 1991; Violato & Genuis, 1993). An advantage of this criterion is that each individual discriminates which childhood sexual experiences he perceives as negative or which may have produced a negative impact upon him. This criterion relies on an accurate self-report and discernment of cognitive-emotion effects and has also been criticized for truncating sexual abuse where the child has had a neutral or even positive response to sexual interactions with an adult or older youth (Bauserman & Rind, 1997; Okami, 1990).

Other victim-based criteria prevalent in many child sexual abuse definitions include the concept of “informed consent.” Informed consent presumes that not only is adequate knowledge about sexual activity present, but that the child or youth has the ability to resist successfully from the sexual activity if they choose to demur or decline. Furthermore, the child must have a perception of control, the ability to choose with a clear understanding of the impact of entering into such activity, and the ability to end activities deemed undesirable (Constantine, 1981). In general, this concept is paired with a chronological age criterion for which society believes most individuals are mature enough and cognitively capable of providing consent for sexual activity. Once again, the age at which informed consent can be provided often has the potential to produce debate.

Harmful Outcome Based Definitions

Given that the definition of child sexual abuse continues to fluctuate depending on how researchers ascribe to the aforementioned criteria, it is not surprising that reported prevalence estimates and sexual abuse effects on the child similarly vary (Holmes & Slap, 1998; Violato & Genuis, 1993). Due to variations in definitions, numerous scholars debate as to what represents child sexual abuse and the populations that are indicative of such abuse (Bauserman & Rind, 1997; Okami 1990; Violato & Genuis, 1993). Furthermore, the word “abuse” in the term “child sexual abuse” has developed at least two implicit interpretations that appear to confound the meaning.

One interpretation of the word “abuse” includes all sexual interaction between a child or youth and a significantly older individual, as determined by social taboos established by a society and reinforced by legal imperatives, regardless of the outcome (Okami, 1990). All events, even though they may be neutral or positive to the youth, are still with this interpretation termed “abuse.” Another interpretation of the word “abuse” would only include those sexual acts between a child or youth and a significantly older individual which would construe a significant likelihood of resulting in harm, distortion, or impairment of a youth’s mental health development (Bagley, 1991). Obviously, these apparent differences in the interpretation of what is meant by the word “abuse” has made an impact on how populations are determined and

evaluated (Bauserman & Rind, 1997; Okami 1990; Okami, 1991). They are also significant to the discussion of asymptomatic individuals of child sexual abuse.

Many researchers have noted that some individuals who have experienced child sexual abuse seem to be “asymptomatic” (Finkelhor, 1990). Several premises have been posited to explain such individuals. These explanations have included suggestions that the assessment tools are inadequate to identify underlying pathology, that distortions of memory result in patterns of denial or repression of these experiences, that the individuals have better family and personal resources to cope, and that the sexual activities did not involve force, were short in frequency and duration, and were of a more benign form of sexual interaction (Finkelhor, 1990; Okami, 1990). Whether or not sexual encounters may be considered abusive despite the victim perceiving it as non-abusive would appear to depend on definition criteria used for child sexual abuse and the interpretation of the term abuse (Bauserman & Rind, 1997; Okami, 1990; Okami, 1991). Some researchers have contended that the inclusion of these “asymptomatic” experiences under the guise of child sexual abuse can potentially obscure or dilute the significance and magnitude of symptoms prevalent for individuals who have responded negatively to child sexual abuse (Okami, 1990). To the same extent, labeling these experiences “sexual abuse” may lead to an exaggeration of negative symptoms for those individuals who perceived their child sexual abuse experiences as being neutral or positive (Bauserman & Rind, 1997). In an attempt toward controlling for variability in the interpretation of meaning, at least one

researcher has suggested qualifying particular types of childhood sexual experiences or abuse with unique terminology (Bauserman & Rind, 1997; Okami, 1991). Okami (1991) suggested that the term “sexual misuse” might be more appropriate than “child sexual abuse” when discussing positive experiences and outcomes so as to avoid misinterpretations of what is inferred when the word “abuse” is used. Although the discussion of the appropriateness of new and differentiating terminology is beyond the scope of this research, the argument to use caution in applying child sexual abuse terminology should be noted, particularly when examining non-clinical male populations and their childhood sexual experiences (Bauserman & Rind, 1997).

Methodological Effects on Prevalence Estimates

Concerns have been raised over potential bias in research due to aversive definition criteria, negative outcome research design, clinical wording, and the use of clinical samples. However, the same concerns have been presented for the reverse paradigm in research design where very broad child sexual abuse definitions have been utilized and generalized wording and loose constructs toward evaluating child sexual abuse have threatened to diminish the reported severity of sexual abuse and its effects (Collings, 1995; Okami, 1990). As previously mentioned, this contention within the literature appears to center on how the word “abuse” is interpreted (Mendel, 1995). It is important to observe that definitions can effect the prevalence estimates observed in

child sexual abuse research results and can also have an impact on how data is collected and evaluated (Constantine, 1981; Holmes & Slap, 1998; Okami 1990; Wyatt & Peters, 1986; Violato & Genuis, 1993). Fromuth and Burkhart (1987) demonstrated the effect of different definition criteria on prevalence estimates by using age differentials or coercion as criteria for child sexual abuse. They found that the prevalence estimates within their sample varied from 10% when both age differential and coercion criteria were applied as compared to 22% when only coercion was considered. Both Faller (1989) and Wyatt and Peters (1986) have highlighted the importance of how the methods of recruitment of a sample can affect prevalence estimates in research. Faller (1989) noted that many researchers fail to identify higher percentages of sexually abused male children as a result of obtaining the samples from child protection agencies who tend to have higher rates of reported abuse of girls. This criticism is based on previous researchers' observations that child sexual abuse of boys is often not brought to the attention of authorities and is frequently not disclosed by the victims. Further, Faller indicated that research utilizing recruitment sources such as protection agencies have consistently found higher percentages of females than males compared to research that sampled other sources such as college samples.

Wyatt and Peters (1986) examined descriptions used to recruit subjects in four studies utilizing non-clinical samples and cautioned researchers to consider the study description carefully so as to avoid deterring specific subjects who may have had particular experiences. They also suggested researchers use caution regarding the

terminology and framing of questions. Others have suggested that generalizations and comparisons of prevalence estimates should be limited to populations with similar characteristics and only compared with other types of populations with caution (Holmes, et al., 1997; Rind et al., 1998; Violato & Genuis, 1993). An extreme example of this issue can be drawn by comparing the 8.2% prevalence estimate of unwanted child sexual abuse found by Bagley (1991) in a non-clinical sample to prevalence estimates as high as 57% and 76% for rapist populations (Condy, Templar, Brown, & Veaco, 1987; Holmes et al., 1997; Violato & Genuis, 1993). Clearly, comparisons of prevalence estimates between these different types of populations would be inappropriate.

Clinical and Non-Clinical Populations

Researchers studying child sexual abuse generally approach the topic by utilizing one of two general methods. The first method involves research conducted with individuals who have previously been identified as having experienced child sexual abuse (i.e., a clinical population) whereas the second type of research is directed at identifying individuals who have been sexually abused regardless of whether or not they have previously been identified as such (i.e., a non-clinical population) (Munoz, 1997). These two approaches are particularly relevant to research directed at male childhood sexual encounters. Researchers utilizing

individuals previously identified as having experienced child sexual abuse frequently obtain their samples from clinical populations referred from protection agencies and the mental health system (Faller, 1989; Munoz, 1997). Frequent criticisms of using clinical populations such as these are that the research results are not generalizable to the general population (Bauserman & Rind, 1997; Briere, 1992; Shrier & Johnson, 1988; Munoz, 1997). Furthermore, some researchers have observed that research based on clinical populations has tended to indirectly overestimate the prevalence of female child sexual abuse while underestimating male child sexual abuse (Bauserman & Rind, 1997; Faller, 1989). Similarly, researchers using clinical samples may have tended to inadvertently underestimate the prevalence of female perpetrators of child sexual abuse (Banning, 1989; Web, Gear, Davis, & Conlon, 1992). Criticisms such as these are primarily aimed at definitional criteria focused on identifying negative or unwanted sexual experiences and on research utilizing clinical populations which generally present significantly more extreme psychopathology than non-clinical populations (Bauserman & Rind, 1997; Briere, 1992; Munoz, 1997; Rind, et al., 1998). As noted by Briere (1992), clinical samples tend to report more frequent molestation, longer duration of abuse, an increase in severity of sexual acts, and more symptomology than commonly observed in non-clinical samples. Researchers disagree on the disparity between clinical and non-clinical approaches concerning the commonality of outcomes between genders and differences in results regarding the intensity of symptoms attributed to child sexual abuse. Past debate has progressed to

criticisms over methodological differences in research design that might confound results depending on the population and approach utilized by the researchers (Finkelhor, 1993; Bauserman & Rind, 1997; Briere, 1992; Rind et al., 1998).

When looking at previously published research on male child sexual abuse, Bauserman and Rind (1997) reported a number of problematic methodological issues. They noted that some early researchers generalized reactions and outcomes observed in sexually abused female populations to sexually abused male populations without any or sufficient results to formulate such conclusions. In addition, many researchers who included male subjects in their research studies failed to analyze the data in a manner that permitted comparisons between female and male outcomes. Bauserman and Rind also contend that many past reviews of literature addressing characteristics of child sexual abuse and their outcomes have frequently focused primarily on clinical research results without adequately balancing these results with observations made via non-clinical research. Although clinical research has been identified as necessary and valuable, it has been argued that this type of research focuses on the more pestiferous forms of childhood sexual experiences, which have been associated with greater psychological and behavioral pathology (Okami 1990).

Some researchers have begun to examine and discern significant differences between research using non-clinical and clinical samples (Bauserman & Rind, 1997; Rind et al., 1998). They have argued that distinctions should be made when reviewing results obtained from either clinical or non-clinical male samples as mounting evidence

indicates that the outcomes are significantly different for these populations (Bauserman & Rind, 1997; Fromuth & Burkhart, 1989; Okami, 1991). Fromuth and Burkhart's (1989) research with college students in the late 1980s has raised considerable debate and interest in the topic of male child sexual abuse. Their research has frequently been cited by researchers who make distinctions between clinical and non-clinical populations and related research due to significant disparities in results. Fromuth and Burkhart's survey of two populations of university males resulted in different prevalence estimates, perpetrator gender rates, and self-reported perceptions when different criteria were applied to the data. This was particularly true when results were compared using an age differential definition to results using a definition that included both an age differential and a specification for negative effects -- the results were significantly different. Fromuth and Burkhart subsequently examined the data using a definition that did not include criteria of coercion or unwanted experiences and also used several outcome assessment tools common to past child sexual abuse research. Of the subjects who identified a sexually abusive experience in childhood, 78% and 72% respectively identified that the perpetrator was female, 60% of the experiences were described as pleasurable, the perpetrator was known to the individual in 83% and 96% of cases, and approximately half of all encounters were one-time experiences (Fromuth & Burkhart, 1987; Fromuth and Burkhart, 1989). They found little relationship between child sexual abuse and subsequent psychological, sexual, and behavioral adjustment and raised concerns regarding child

sexual abuse criteria, sampling issues, and the weakness or insensitivity of broad-band standardized assessment tools to adequately detect specific pathology within males which may or may not be different from symptoms commonly observed in females. These results are not entirely surprising when the definition of child sexual abuse permits self-reports, whether negative or positive, of childhood sexual encounters with adults.

The long-term impact of childhood sexual encounters has also received attention from Okami (1990; 1991) who rebutted the tendency by some researchers to interpret all child-adult sexual interactions as resulting in harm and a negative impact on the individual. This position is supported by Bauserman and Rind (1997) who noted that some studies ask only about sexual experiences considered unwanted or abusive. Most researchers examining childhood sexual encounters qualify that their purpose is not to dismiss, deny, or diminish research results which collate the severity of those child-adult sexual encounter which are unwanted and have been shown to produce significant negative impact and outcomes on the individual. Rather, these researchers are making a distinction between two apparent populations, clinical and non-clinical, which have presented differences in prevalence estimates, outcomes, and characteristics.

Victim Gender Differences

Golding, Cooper, and George (1997) concluded from their meta-analysis of seven general population studies representing a combined sample population of 2451 that sexual abuse was not necessarily associated with a self-perception of poor health in males. These results have been supported by other researchers, such as Rind et al (1998) who performed numerous meta-analyses on college samples. In one meta-analysis of 15 college-based studies dated from 1979 to 1993, comparisons were made of self-reported initial reactions of individuals to childhood sexual abuse. Interestingly, in this analysis 72% of females reported immediate negative reactions to their child sexual abuse experiences compared with 33% for corresponding males, whereas seventeen percent of the females reported neutral immediate reactions while 30% of the males reported neutral reactions. Only 11% of the females reported positive immediate reactions compared to 37% of the males. In addition it was found that results for retrospective reactions to child sexual abuse experiences were similar to results for immediate reactions. Retrospective negative reactions were 59% for females compared to 26% for males; while conversely, 42% of males retrospectively reported their experiences as positive whereas only 16% of the females retrospectively reported their experiences as positive. Based on these results, Rind et al. (1998) concluded that, "in college populations, men and women with experiences classifiable as CSA [child sexual abuse] feel very differently about them and perceive very

different effects from them” (Rind et al., 1998, p. 38). Bauserman and Rind (1997) similarly noted that within college studies large differences have emerged between male and female self-evaluations concerning early sexual experiences with adults. Specifically, they stated that most female respondents in studies rate their experiences as negative both at the time and in retrospect, whereas male respondents predominantly rated their experiences as either neutral or positive. The results from these self-report college studies indicate that many individuals, whether female or male, do not perceive negative outcomes from sexual abuse and that it is less common for men to perceive negative reactions to their sexual abuse experiences than females. Further, females and males within non-clinical samples who have experienced child sexual abuse may have different reactions to childhood sexual experiences than those in clinical samples who report psychological disturbances.

Research completed by Fischer (1991) and Fischer (1992) used a large college sample of university students to examine gender differences between males and female that had experienced child or adolescent sexual abuse by an older partner. Fischer (1991) concluded that unlike some past clinical studies there was no significant difference in the severity of sexual abuse between males and females in a university sample. However, Fischer also found that male subjects more frequently viewed the experience as positive compared to the female subjects who had experienced abuse. Further, Fischer concluded that the results of this research supported the premise of differential gender socialization posited by Nasjleti (1980), which suggested that

females, unlike males, are permitted to exhibit helplessness and vulnerability. In addition, Fischer (1991) found that although the severity of sexual acts experienced by male victims did not vary relative to whether or not the sexual experience was homosexual or heterosexual, the male participants who had experienced homosexual child sexual abuse had elevated stress ratings of these experiences compared to those who had experienced heterosexual child sexual abuse. Interestingly, subsequent analyses by Fischer (1992) using the same university populations indicated much lower child sexual abuse estimates, almost equivalent for both the male and female sample, than clinical research indicates. Fischer observed that the near equivalence of child sexual abuse across genders (17% and 12% for female and male participants respectively) represents a departure from many clinical studies such as Pierce and Pierce (1985) which found one of seven sexually abused children were male. Fischer also found that the prevalence of homosexual child abuse within the university male child victims was 36% and noted that this estimate was significantly lower than that found in other clinical research and that fewer relatives were involved in male child sexual abuse in the university sample of males compared to clinical samples.

Nevertheless, the tendency of males to view childhood sexual experiences as neutral or positive may present some problems for the victims, themselves. Research indicating emotional and perceptual differences in responses of males and females to child sexual abuse experiences have supported the explanation for male under-reporting as resulting from a tendency within society to blame or hold male children or

youth more responsible than females for their part in sexual encounters with older partners. In addition, these emotional and perceptual responses of males can be attributed to tendencies by males to either deny abuse by females or perceive such sexual encounters as non-abusive (Broussard & Wagner, 1988; Cermak & Molidor, 1996; Maynard & Widerman, 1997; Peluso & Putman, 1996; Watkins & Bentovim, 1992). Holmes and Slap (1998) note that males had a tendency to revise their perceptions such that sexually abusive experiences become redefined in retrospect as normative experiences instead of abuse. Bauserman and Rind (1997) also stated that even though the reaction to the sexual experience may be negative or positive, many males tend to move toward a neutral appraisal of the child-adult sexual experience over time.

Briere (1992) suggested that conclusions obtained from retrospective research might be affected by several methodological issues. These issues include suppression and repression of memories, alterations of memories for past events to adapt to new situation contexts, and age cohort and socialization differences which may cause individuals in a particular cohort to be more reluctant to report sexual abuse. Further, as Holmes, et al. (1997) recorded, a growing body of clinically based studies refutes the argument that adult males are not adversely affected by childhood sexual abuse experiences. They presented evidence that, as with non-clinical female populations, non-clinical male populations exhibit elevated psychological disturbances similar to those seen in clinical studies, and cited the research of Collings (1995) and Steine,

Golding, Siegel, Burnam, and Sorenson (1988) in support of this premise. In a review of research by Collings (1995) and Steine et al. (1988) they found that the definition of child sexual abuse focused on coercion and force. As main defining criteria, coercion and force have been associated with a greater likelihood of obtaining increased results of negative reactions and outcomes to child sexual abuse experiences.

The research completed by Collings (1995) paralleled the research design and measures employed by Fromuth and Burkhart (1989). However, Fromuth and Burkhart (1989) used sexual maturity and age differential criteria toward defining child sexual abuse, whereas Collings (1995) used age of sexual maturity as well as unwanted sexual contact criteria. Fromuth and Burkhart (1989) found that 60% of the males in their study who had experienced child sexual experiences with older females reported pleasure at the time of the encounter while 28% reported surprise and 12% reported fear or shock. Only a slight psychological maladjustment (as measured by the Global Severity Index of the SCL-90) was identified by the research team for males who had experienced child sexual abuse. Conversely, Collings (1995) concluded from his results that male child sexual abuse in non-clinical populations is associated with later problems in psychological adjustment, and attributes the results, at least in part, to differences in operational definition criteria. As noted by Briere (1992) differences in definitions affect research results and “researchers who restrict themselves to earlier or more intrusive forms of abuse might report more extreme outcomes than those using broader definitions” (p.198). These differences in definitions appear to have a

significant impact on the meaning obtained in child sexual abuse research and the subsequent explanations of related phenomena such as male under-reporting. Therefore, it is important for researchers to make evaluations of child sexual abuse correlate in terms of the specific definitions used (Briere, 1992). Alternately, this field of research might require improved categorization of distinct forms of childhood sexual encounters (Okami, 1991).

Regardless of these differences in research results and related implicit methodological issues, some researchers have posited that differences in sex roles and sexual socialization contribute to differences in perceptions between males and females regarding what represents normative sexual experiences, particularly in non-clinical populations (Bauserman & Rind, 1997; Cermak & Molidor, 1996; Fromuth & Burkhart, 1987; Watkins & Bentovim, 1992; Weber, et al., 1992; Wellman, 1993). Support for this premise has come from both Boussard and Wagner (1988) and Maynard and Widerman (1997) who have each found in their respective research that people's perceptions of child sexual abuse vary with the gender of the perpetrator and the victim. Adult female interactions with male youth, particularly adolescent males, was less likely viewed by participants in the research as examples of child sexual abuse as opposed to adult male interactions with female youth, which was consistently viewed to be abusive by participants (Boussard & Wagner, 1988; Maynard & Widerman, 1997). As Maynard and Widerman (1997) observed, either female adult-male youth sexual interactions are rare or this type of sexual interaction is considered

more acceptable within society and is therefore not reported as child sexual abuse. Broussard and Wagner (1988) similarly found, with the use of sexual vignettes, that certain types of adult-child sexual encounters were considered more acceptable by males than females. For example, among their male participants less responsibility was attributed to perpetrators when the child of a child-adult sexual encounter was acting in an encouraging manner. Female participants, however, identified such interactions as child sexual abuse. Broussard and Wagner (1988) surmised that this difference between male and female perceptions suggests that males equate encouraging behavior with consent. If this premise is correct then it is not surprising that males would under-report sexual experiences with older females in cases where they perceived themselves as having encouraged the interaction. Broussard and Wagner (1988) note that this bias regarding males would have significant consequences regarding support and treatment opportunities for males should they seek assistance.

Victim Beliefs Regarding Abuse

Johnson and Shrier (1987), who tended to have a broad definition of child sexual abuse and negative symptomology, concluded from their results that males have equivalent responses to child sexual abuse experiences as females. In explaining male reticence to disclose child sexual abuse experiences with older females, Johnson and Shrier (1987) speculated that the failure of males to report sexual molestation was due

to the subject's discomfort with his sexuality and a lack of perspective and maturity. Furthermore, they suggested that this discomfort results in denial or repression of experiences until the individual is adequately old enough to be capable of coping with his sexual experiences. In contrast, Dimock (1988) noted that males appear to be socialized such that they easily perceive sexual experiences with significantly older females as normative experiences.

Some researchers have sought to better understand the underlying dynamics about why males tend to under-report specific types of child sexual abuse, and differences between genders concerning assumptions and beliefs about child-adult sexual encounters. Directed at examining these differences are two notable studies, those by Broussard and Wagner (1988) and Maynard and Widerman (1997). These researchers used vignettes of child-adult sexual encounters to assess college and university students' perceptions of abuse and the respondents' attributions of responsibility and blame to the victim and perpetrator. Maynard and Widerman (1997) found that respondents perceived that opposite-sex encounters as less abusive than same-sex encounters. More specifically, less blame was attributed to an adult female perpetrator when the interaction was with a 15-year-old male, and this interaction was not considered to represent child sexual abuse by most respondents. Further, Broussard and Wagner (1988) observed that participants presented with vignettes, whether female or male, tended to blame the perpetrator of child sexual abuse less while holding the victim more responsible if the victim was observed to act in an

encouraging manner. These researchers also concluded that males, unlike females, attributed less responsibility to the perpetrator when the victim was male. Bauserman and Rind (1997) have indicated from their review of literature that males are more likely to perceive their sexual experiences with female adults as a “sexual initiation” instead of a violation. These results suggest that males are more susceptible to being abused and to not reporting this abuse due to prevailing social contexts (Bauserman & Rind, 1997; Broussard & Wagner, 1988). Maynard and Widerman (1997) suggested that male child sexual interactions with older female partners is viewed as more socially acceptable and is therefore not often reported as abuse.

Under-Reporting

The under-reporting of child sexual abuse of males has frequently been observed by researchers (Cermak & Molidor, 1996; Finkelhor, 1993; Watkins & Bentovim, 1992). Holmes et al. (1997) found that under-reporting in large-scale survey studies of non-clinical populations supported clinical estimates. Under-reporting, as well as non-identification of the effects of abuse in males, may be due to many factors. Three commonly posited explanations for under-reporting of child sexual abuse by males have been that men do not define their childhood sexual experiences with older partners as child sexual abuse, the consequences of disclosure are perceived by males as worse than the consequences of non-disclosure, and a paucity of community services dissuade males from disclosing as they feel nothing will

happen (Fischer, 1991; Fischer, 1992; Holmes et al., 1997). Watkins and Bentovim (1992) posit several explanations for under-reporting that would be common to both males and females. These explanations would include factors such as immaturity, insufficient mastery of language, inhibition over possible consequences of disclosure, and confusion over any pleasurable aspects of the sexually abusive experiences. Another proposed explanation for the under-reporting of child sexual abuse by males includes the concept of the traditional male ethic of self reliance (Fischer, 1991; Fischer, 1992; Finkelhor, 1984). As Holmes and Slap (1998) stated, "Society casts the normal male as sexually active, rather than sexually passive" (p. 77). This view is supported by Erickson and Rapkin (1991) who noted that their results from a high school population of 180 sexually abused youth support sex role expectations of males as the sexual aggressor. Other researchers suggest that cultural male sex role stereotypes discourage male victims from disclosing male-male child sexual abuse in an effort to avoid the potential social denigration males might receive from an implied homosexual label (Browne and Finkelhor, 1986; Finkelhor, 1990; Vander Mey, 1988; Watkins & Bentovim, 1992; Wellman, 1993). Holmes and Slap (1998) found that of 149 studies reviewed, disclosure rates for male child sexual abuse ranged from 10% to 33%. These results indicate that 67% to 90% of males failed to disclose the abuse. Further, Finkelhor, Hotaling, Lewis, and Smith (1990) similarly found in their sample that 42% of the men had never told anyone about their childhood sexual abuse.

Kellogg and Hoffman (1995) observed that the perception of the sexual experience as unwanted was the key to disclosure for the clinical population they utilized.

Roesler and McKenzie (1994) found in their research that the only significant variable indicative of a gender difference for child sexual abuse was the rates of disclosure of the abuse. Sixty one percent of female participants in their study had disclosed their abuse as a child compared to only 31% of male participants. An important question regarding this phenomenon concerns whether or not there are different factors operating in the under-reporting of boys and girls. Bauserman and Rind (1997) and Fischer (1991) have both independently observed that many researchers have failed to examine male childhood sexual experiences with male partners as compared to female partners. A recent example of this failure to make comparisons between male and female perpetrated child sexual abuse can be found in a study completed by Garniefski and Arends (1998). These researchers examined gender differences as they related to child sexual abuse and adolescent adjustment in a non-clinical population. Their research examined suicidal ideation and emotional and behavioral problems in 1490 sexually abused youth who were obtained from a larger school population sample of 15, 245 youth. Comparisons were made between the sexually abused and non-sexually abused samples. Unfortunately, the researchers did not provide information concerning outcome differences across victim gender as the abuse experiences related to perpetrator gender.

Impact on Victim

Several variables relevant within both clinical and non-clinical research on childhood sexual abuse experiences are consistently examined by researchers toward making attributions about the likelihood of increased or decreased negative outcomes resulting from child sexual abuse. Moderator variables that have commonly been examined include the age of the male at the time of the sexual abuse, the age differences between the child and older partner, the duration and repetitions of the sexual encounters, the type of relationship between the child and the sexual partner (i.e., familial or extrafamilial relationships), the gender of the perpetrator, the degree of coercion or force employed by the perpetrator toward the child or youth, the type of sexual activities that the child and partner engage in, and the family related correlates which might affect the child's perceptions and ability to cope with his sexual experiences (Bauserman & Rind, 1997; Rind et al., 1998).

Conte and Schuerman (1988) have identified several factors of child sexual abuse associated with a higher degree of impact on the victim. These include increased force by the perpetrator, increased age differences between the victim and offender, closer relationship between offender and victim, stable attributional statements of responsibility (i.e., the victim has a tendency to blame himself), prolonged period of abuse, victims willingness or passivity to the abuse, poor family support, betrayal within a positive and trusting relationship, denial of the abuse by the

perpetrator, fear of reprisal by the perpetrator, and the perpetrator of the sexual abuse being of the male gender. In addition, results from offender studies have indicated that male perpetrators have a greater tendency to use sexually invasive acts including the use of more invasive forms of coercion or physical force (Faller, 1989; McCarty, 1986). Alternatively, female perpetrators predominately use less invasive forms of coercion, such as verbal persuasion or mental and emotional coercion. Based on these aforementioned factors, one could expect that those studies that identify instances where the perpetrator is male would also identify a greater negative impact on the victim.

Baker and Duncan (1985) undertook a large national study of child sexual abuse involving both male and female subjects. Of the 2019 respondents, 206 were identified as having experienced child sexual abuse. Based on analysis, they found that 46% of the individuals with child sexual abuse histories did not report prolonged adverse reactions or outcomes from their experiences and an additional 4% reported an improvement in the quality of their life. After closer analysis of their data, Baker and Duncan (1985) observed that the majority of individuals (71%) claiming an improvement to their life due to their child sexual abuse experiences were male and that over half of these males had been abused by an older female. Based on their results, the researchers concluded that, overall, males reported less damage from their sexual abuse experiences than women. Similarly, Condy et al. (1987) found that male subjects who participated in their research generally identified sexual encounters with

older females as positive when they initiated the sexual contact or when they agreed to the female's advances, but identified forceful encounters as negative. More recently, Rind et al. (1998) undertook four separate meta-analyses comparing gender to individual consent to child-adult sexual encounters. This meta-analysis comprised a combined population of 11, 631 participants from college-sampled research. Their results indicated that adjustment problems for males were associated more strongly with unwanted child sexual abuse than when these experiences included consent by the male. The authors concluded that the association between child sexual abuse and adjustment problems was not equivalent for males and females. However, they observed that if the definition of child sexual abuse was restricted to the criteria of unwanted sex only, then results for both males and females implied an association between child sexual abuse and adjustment problems.

Support for the results and observations obtained by Rind et al (1998) can be found in a retrospective self-report study on male child sexual abuse by Fromuth and Burkhart (1987). Six different child sexual abuse definitions were applied to the results obtained from two male college samples. Each definition used different criteria to discriminate child sexual abuse from non-abuse experiences. In this study, the researchers demonstrated that the results for males' emotional perceptions of child sexual abuse experiences were dramatically affected by the definitional criteria applied to the data. When a five year age differential was applied in cases where the perpetrator had to be at least 16 years old, 31% of those males who had experienced

child sexual abuse based on the aforementioned definitional criteria recalled their reaction at the time as pleasurable and 29% reported interest. Only 6% indicated fear and another 6% indicated the experience produced shock. In contrast, when the same definition was applied but included only negatively perceived sexual experiences, the results changed significantly for the same samples of male participants. The application of a negative impact definition resulted in only 5% of male participants indicating a pleasurable reaction at the time of the sexual encounter and 16% indicating interest, while 21% recalled fear and 11% reported shock (Fromuth & Burkhart, 1987).

Perpetrators

A common assumption within our society and among many researchers is that the majority of perpetrators of child sexual abuse victims are male. This premise has had considerable support from the findings of much of the clinical research completed in the field (Bauserman & Rind, 1997; Doll, Joy, Bartholow, Harrison, Bolan, Douglas, Saltman, Moss & Delgado, 1992; Fischer, 1992; Reinhart, 1987; Watson & Bentovim, 1992). Bauserman and Rind (1997) noted that this assumption appears accurate for females, as many research estimates indicate that between 90% to 100% of female child sexual abuse is perpetrated by males. Some male child sexual abuse research provides similar estimates for male clinical populations. As an example,

Reinhart (1987) found 96% of the child sexual abuse perpetration within a clinical male sample was committed by males. However, Bauserman and Rind (1997) argued that the assumption of the predominance of older male perpetrators couldn't be made for all male child sexual encounters within non-clinical populations. Based on college and nationally sampled research, these researchers have estimated that male childhood sexual encounters with significantly older female partners range from 40% to 75%. This finding indicates a significant difference between estimates in studies concerning the older partners' gender in childhood sexual encounters. More specifically, male victims of child sexual abuse are significantly more likely to have been abused by older female perpetrators than female children (Bauserman & Rind, 1997; Rind et al., 1998). Furthermore, female perpetration appears to be an important variable when examining definition, sampling, and research design as methodological issues affecting research results about positive versus negative reactions and outcomes in male populations (Bauserman & Rind, 1997; Rind et al., 1998).

When considering the explanation that males are less likely to report abuse by females, McCarty (1986) has been quoted as noting an attitude within society of women being viewed as sexually harmless to children. Indeed, prevalence estimates of female perpetrators have varied greatly. For example, Holmes and Slap (1998) observed from their review of 149 studies on sexual abuse that estimates of female perpetrators varied from 6% to 78% across the studies. They also noted that in instances where male child sexual abuse is perpetrated by a female, 88% of the males

who were sexually abused perceived the incident positively. The wide variance in these estimates can be attributed in part to the methodological issues previously mentioned. In particular, the use of either non-clinical or clinical populations as the targeted population for research, the choice of child sexual abuse definition criteria, and the use of either direct assessment or self-report research design appear to account for much of the variance in estimates of female perpetrators (Bauserman & Rind, 1997; Okami, 1991; Rind et al., 1998).

Fromuth and Burkhart (1987) observed that retrospective self-report designs in sexual abuse research generally have produced higher rates of disclosure about female perpetration among males than other research designs. They also noted that results using retrospective self-report designs are in direct contrast to those results found in clinical studies where males are reported as the predominant perpetrators. Examples of how definitions and clinical populations can affect prevalence estimates of perpetrator gender can be drawn from research completed by Reinhart (1987) and Doll et al. (1992). Reinhart (1987) obtained his sample population from community agency referrals to a medical center for sexual abuse evaluation. The results of this study indicated that male perpetrators abused 96% of the sample population of males, who experienced child sexual abuse. Furthermore, of the 4% of female perpetrators in this study, the researcher noted that only one female perpetrator acted alone, thus indicating that the remaining female perpetrators acted as accomplices to male perpetrators. Similarly, Doll et al. (1992) found that in their clinical population of

homosexual and bisexual males who had reported sexual contact before age 19, over 90% had experienced sexual contact with either an older or more powerful male partner, 5% had experienced contact with older female partners, and 1% had experienced contact with female and male partners concurrently. These results are not entirely surprising given the sample population's sexual orientation. Conversely, Johnson and Shrier (1987) found that 60% of the males from their clinical population (4.8% of total sample) identified childhood sexual victimization as being perpetrated by females. This clinical study has frequently been cited by researchers due to its unusual and contradictory results to other clinical research concerning estimates of female perpetration. However, Johnson and Shrier's results should be evaluated with caution as their definition of abuse was not reported and the way in which they approached questioning subjects may have led to elevated estimates of abuse.

It is generally recognized by researchers that greater negative reactions and impact are associated with male perpetrators than with female perpetrators (Bauserman & Rind, 1997; Fromuth & Burkhart, 1987; Rind et al., 1998). Explanations for this center on the premise that the majority of female perpetrators tend to use less aggressive and invasive means to involve the younger male (Faller, 1989; Kaufman, Wallace, Johnson, & Reeder, 1995; McCarty, 1986). Results from offender studies have indicated that male perpetrators have a greater tendency to use sexually invasive acts including the use of more coercion or physical force (Faller, 1989; Kaufman et al., 1995; McCarty, 1986). In contrast, it is observed that female

perpetrators predominately use less invasive forms of coercion, such as verbal persuasion or mental and emotional coercion. Based on these aforementioned factors, one could expect that those studies that use negative impact orientated definition criteria and methodologies are more likely to identify instances where the perpetrator is male, as such situations are associated with a greater negative impact.

While some researchers have observed that males are more likely to view their participation in sexual encounters with older females more positively than encounters with males, particularly when these sexual encounters do not contravene other social taboos, such as the type of sexual relationship (Bauserman & Rind, 1997; Fromuth & Burkhart, 1987), others who have examined the full spectrum of reactions to child sexual abuse experiences have found that the majority of males in their research reported negative perceptions and outcomes from their child sexual experiences with older female partners (Collings, 1995; Hunter, 1991; Johnson & Shrier, 1987; Shrier & Johnson, 1988; Weber et al., 1992). Differences between those studies indicating more neutral or positive reactions and those identifying negative outcomes involve differences in the population and the criterion used to define child sexual abuse as discussed in previous sections.

In contrast to female perpetration, sexual encounters of males with male perpetrators have been suggested to frequently produce concerns of homosexual stigmatization which may lead to negative appraisals of the sexual encounter (Browne and Finkelhor, 1986; Finkelhor, 1990; Vander Mey, 1988; Watkins & Bentovim, 1992;

Wellman, 1993). An example of this tendency can be obtained from Doll et al. (1992). In this study, which involved a clinical sample of 1001 males, 37% of the participants reported that they had experienced a forceful sexual encounter. Ninety four percent of these individuals had these forceful sexual experiences with older or more powerful males. Further analysis revealed that only 8% of those males who had experienced sexually coercive encounters with older or more powerful males evaluated their contact as positive both at the time of the contact and at the time of the research and that only 3% indicated a neutral reaction. The negative assessment at the time of the sexual encounter and at the time of the interview was found to be 39%. These results support the premise that reactions of males to male perpetrated child sexual abuse are generally perceived more negatively than female perpetrated sexual abuse. However, as Bauserman and Rind (1997) caution, both homosexual and heterosexual child sexual abuse can produce reactions ranging from positive to negative. A more salient underlying factor associated with negative reactions has been found to be the extent to which an individual experiences force and coercion in the sexual interaction and if they perceive this type of forceful encounter as unwanted (Bauserman & Rind, 1997; Doll et al., 1992; Haugaard & Tilly, 1988; Holmes & Slap, 1998; Rind et al., 1998; Struckman-Johnson & Struckman-Johnson, 1994; Struckman-Johnson & Struckman-Johnson, 1997).

Haugaard and Tilly (1988) have concluded from their research which examined childhood sexual experiences between youth where small age differences existed

between the youth and the perpetrator that negative reactions to sexual experiences are more likely to be associated with higher levels of coercion by their partner, with sex that is homosexual in nature, and with sex involving a relative or stranger.

Haugaard and Emery (1989), likewise, found that their subjects reported greater negative responses to situations that included increased pressure. Struckman-Johnson and Struckman-Johnson (1997) identified that the level of force used by a woman, the desire for the sexual encounter by the male, the type of relationship, and the degree to which the woman's actions violated the male's sexual standards are significant factors influencing the male's reactions to these sexual advances. Research by Struckman-Johnson and Struckman-Johnson (1994) and Struckman-Johnson and Struckman-Johnson (1997) has indicated that the level of coercion and force by women affects male's perceptions with more negative impact being associated with high levels of physical force and sexual encounters which the male perceives as unwanted.

Struckman-Johnson and Struckman-Johnson (1994) also noted that although the majority of men in their study self-reported minimal negative effects from their sexual encounters, 20% to 30% of these males exhibited moderate to severe negative effects.

Although Struckman-Johnson and Struckman-Johnson's research is not directly on child sexual abuse, it does have some relevance when considering the variable of force and coercion as the researchers have removed the moderator variable of age differentials as an alternative factor and explanation in relation to reaction and impact of sexual encounters.

This discrepancy within the research literature concerning estimates of female versus male perpetrators and the apparent association of perpetrator gender with perceived negativity and outcome has been observed to relate to a number of other moderator variables. These moderator variables interact with each other, along with perpetrator gender, and result in varying reactions of male victims to child sexual abuse.

Conclusion

The recent interest in male victims within the field of child sexual abuse research is a positive trend contributing to knowledge of this previously neglected gender population (Rind et. al, 1998). However, findings vary considerably between studies, as do research parameters such as methodology and inconsistencies in the type of population utilized (Holmes & Slap, 1998). These problems, as well as inappropriate data-eliciting methods and definitions of abuse, may make male subjects reticent to disclose experiences of childhood sexual encounters with older partners. This reticence may be further confounded by the use of questionnaires designed for female populations and which may be unsuitable for male populations.

Researchers have noted that even when men have experienced abuse they tend to move toward a more neutral appraisal of the event over time (Bauserman & Rind, 1997). Men may suppress or repress memories, adapt memories to situational

contexts, and not recognize the encounter with an older partner as abuse due to the influence of male gender role stereotypes. Sexually abusive experiences may become redefined in retrospect as normative experiences instead of abuse (Holmes & Slap, 1998).

A number of issues, as noted in the literature review, may impact on the way that males perceive sexual encounters. This can make research results with male populations vague or inconclusive. These issues may also greatly contribute to underreporting of child sexual abuse by males as well as inconsistent findings as to the impact of abuse on the victim. In light of the reticence of males to disclose sexual abuse, the researcher has designed a questionnaire with consideration to neutral terminology and male gender-role stereotypes. It is hoped that this attempt at measuring the childhood sexual experiences of males may prove to be effective within this population.

CHAPTER III

METHODOLOGY

Introduction

The purpose of the current research has been to examine the prevalence and characteristics of early childhood sexual experiences with significantly older or authority positioned partners using a university population of male students. Much of the previous research on childhood sexual experiences with older or authority positioned partners has predominantly been completed using clinical populations. The few college or community based studies, and most clinical research studies, in which childhood sexual experiences of males with significantly older or dominant sexual partners have been examined tended to focus on those experiences that were perceived as aversive or unwanted. Additionally, the criteria used often incorporated premises that identify negative outcomes. However, a number of researchers have noted that some subjects who have identified themselves as having been sexually abused do not exhibit any significant aversive reactions to these encounters (Finkelhor, 1990). With this in mind, the current research was designed to permit analysis of all childhood sexual experiences with significantly older sexual partners with a focus on all incidences regardless of the individual's perceptions of these experiences. Subjects' experiences of childhood sexual encounters with older partners were noted, and then subjects' perceptions and responses to these experiences were compared with an

objective assessment of aversive symptoms commonly associated with child sexual abuse.

Toward a better understanding of this phenomenon, this researcher examined the following research questions:

Main Research Questions

- 1). What is the prevalence of adult male subjects who have encountered some form of childhood sexual experiences with a significantly older individual or an individual who is in a position of authority or power over the male youth?
- 2). What are the prevalence estimates of adult male subjects who acknowledge childhood sexual experiences with significantly older individuals or authority positioned individuals relative to the sexual encounters being perceived as either a) negative, b) neutral, or c) positive?
- 3). In the population of subjects who perceive their childhood sexual experiences as either a) negative, b) neutral, or c) positive, how many appear to be experiencing some form of trauma symptoms?
- 4). Are any specific types of trauma reactions significant for each group of males who have had childhood sexual experiences and perceived it as either a) negative, b) neutral, or c) positive?

Additional Research Questions

- 5). Does the gender of the partner significantly relate to the subjects' affective perceptions and the extent to which they exhibit trauma symptoms?
- 6). Does the type of relationship (i.e., extrafamilial or intrafamilial, level significance of trust) between the male subjects and the sexual partners significantly relate to male subjects' affective perceptions and the extent to which they exhibit trauma symptoms?
- 7). Does the level of manipulation or coercion used in the childhood sexual encounter by the partner significantly relate to the subjects' affective perceptions and the extent to which they exhibit trauma symptoms?

The information that follows provides the criteria and procedures that were used to collect and analyze the data used to examine male childhood or adolescent sexual experiences with significantly older partners or partners in a position of authority or power. This chapter has been divided into several sections which include: (a) Recruitment of Subjects, (b) Data Collection Procedure, (c) Definitions of Child Sexual Abuse, (d) Development and Selection of Tests (e) Procedure for the Analysis of Data, and (f) Summary.

Recruitment of Subjects

All subjects for this research were recruited from the student population at the University of Victoria. The University of Victoria is a publicly funded educational facility located on the West Coast of Canada on Vancouver Island, British Columbia. This population is comprised of 17, 519 (estimated 1998) enrolled students of which 42% are male. The University also estimates that approximately 75% of these students' permanent residences are from regions outside the Greater Victoria area. Based on the estimates provided by the university, the initial research sample of 279 male volunteers was drawn from approximately 7, 358 male students. Participation of subjects in the sample was voluntary with all the inherent qualities of a volunteer sample. Subjects were required to be male and 17 years or older in age. The age range of subjects varied from age 17 to age 51. The mean age was 20.8 years of age, while the mode was 18 years of age.

Recruitment of subjects was completed using two approaches. Approximately half of the subjects were recruited from a first year Psychology course subject pool and the other half were recruited from student volunteers. Students in the subject pool were participating in an entry-level psychology course and could acquire additional course credit by volunteering as subjects in research studies. For each half hour a student volunteered in a research study he received one unit point. For this particular study it was estimated that most students would take between 35 to 60 minutes to

complete the assigned questionnaires and therefore received two points toward course credit. As per the guidelines of the Psychology Subject Pool, these subjects were not permitted to receive any monetary benefit for their participation in the research and also did not lose course credit for failure to participate.

Students were recruited in two ways. Firstly, sign-up forms were posted every week on a bulletin board in the psychology department at the university. The psychology students in the first year course were directed by instructors to sign up for the research studies on the forms posted there (see Appendix D for sample sign-up form). On the sign-up sheets, students were provided a brief description of the nature of the research topic and the task they would have to perform should they elect to participate in the study. The description placed on the sign-up sheets was as follows: “This research examines sexual experiences in males and how these experiences are perceived. The study uses a written survey format and all information is anonymous with no connection between you and the information you provide.” Those psychology students who elected to participate in the research signed up for particular session times on specified dates. Secondly, students were recruited through a contest whereby volunteering subjects were able to enter a draw for one of seven different possible prizes. The top prize was \$300.00. The second prize, which was provided to six participants, consisted of one complementary ticket to go whale watching with a commercial tour company. Every participant was also provided a chocolate bar or donut as a refreshment while they completed the survey material.

Advertisement of the contest included signs placed around the university and recruitment through verbal advertisement of the study (see Appendix E for sample advertisements). Verbal advertisement involved walking around the campus informing students about the study, the nature of the research topic and what tasks subjects were expected to perform, the contest and prizes, and the times and location of the data collection. The dialogue for the verbal advertisement was as follows: “Hi. I was wondering if I might have a few minutes of your time to tell you about a study on campus. I should let you know that there is a contest you can enter. The top prize is three hundred dollars. Second prizes include one of six tickets to go whale watching, and everybody who participates gets a chocolate bar. Would you be interested in hearing more about the study? ... What we’re asking you to do is complete a written survey. All information is anonymous. There is no connection between you and the information you provide. The topic is about sexual experiences of males. Would you be interested in participating.”? (The exact wording of the verbal dialogue might vary slightly depending on the response of the candidate and possible questions). At the time of recruitment, candidates were not pressured in any way to participate other than the researcher or assistant providing information about the study as described above and inquiring if the individual might be interested in participating. No additional information about the purpose or topic of the research was provided prior to the subject completing the survey material. Subjects were only permitted to participate in the study once. If the candidate was interested in participating he was informed or

shown the location and times of the study. Those individuals inquiring about the study by phone were given the same information as listed above.

Procedure for Data Collection

As mentioned previously, this researcher employed a written survey format to collect relevant information about male subject's childhood or adolescent sexual experiences with significantly older partners or partners in a position of authority or power. Participants in the study were required to complete the survey material in a specified location at the University of Victoria. The purpose of this procedure was to control for the possibility that survey material might not be returned, or may be lost or misused. As the participants committed to participating in a more structured session there was also a greater likelihood that they would also complete the material and return it to the researchers. This greater completion rate would also increase the validity of any significant research results.

Data collection sessions were run every weekday afternoon in several different university classrooms, depending on availability. A number of sessions were completed on weekday evenings and on several weekends in an unused area within the university residence cafeteria. The data collection period of the study ran for a period of two and a half months during the fall semester of the school year. Sessions were scheduled and run so that there was usually more than one subject completing the

survey material at a time. The number of subjects participating in any given session varied considerably. The majority of sessions had 4 or more subjects in the classroom at a time, although there were some sessions with only one subject and some sessions with up to 12 subjects. Subjects were asked not to communicate with each other while completing the survey material. This instruction was reinforced by the test administrator. Subjects arrived and commenced answering the survey material at various intervals during any given sessions.

Several purposes were accomplished by having subjects arrive and commence completing the survey at different times within a group setting. The administrator could collect more data in a shorter period of time, the researcher would have a good return rate, and the subject might experience diminished observer reaction. The use of groups was also directed at creating a greater sense of anonymity within each subject. To this end, the administrator received numerous sealed envelopes at the end of each session that had no markings or names on the survey material or envelopes that could connect a subject to the information they had provided. At the outset of a session, it was emphasized to the subjects that they were to seal the material in the provided envelope and place it in the pile and that these envelopes would not be examined until the end of the collection phase.

Staggering the arrival and commencement of subjects completing the survey material provided several advantages. Delayed commencement of the surveys better permitted the administrator time to explain the procedure and instructions to subjects

individually or in small groups and address any concerns or questions regarding the collection procedure. The lag time also permitted the administrator time to debrief with individual subjects about their participation in this research study subsequent to their completion of the survey material. The stagger commencement may have also reduced any sense of time constraints on subjects and diminished any sense of embarrassment should the subject need extra time due to answering additional questions which related to the research target experiences.

Sessions for the psychology subject pool were run separately from sessions for those entering the contest. Psychology subject pool sessions were run so that between two and four subjects arrived at the session every five minutes for the first fifteen minutes of the session. Sessions run for the contest were not as structured, with subjects arriving at various times throughout the session.

When a subject arrived at the data collection room he was asked to sit at one of the desks that had an envelope on it containing the survey material. These envelopes were dispersed throughout the room to maximize the space between subjects (generally a minimum of 7 or 8 feet). On top of the envelope was an informed consent letter (see Appendix F). Subjects were asked to first read and sign the consent forms and were then directed to wait until the administrator had collected them and had provided further instructions. Once subjects had read and signed the consent forms, the administrator would describe the survey instructions individually or in small groups. Subjects were also told that there was a written copy of the instructions in the

envelope in case they forgot the verbal instructions provided. At the time the administrator was providing verbal instructions, subjects were informed that all information about their sexual experiences was confidential and anonymous with no connection between the information they provided and their name. They were told that depending on the envelope they had received they would be asked in the instructions to complete one of the two survey booklets first. The order varied for each subject regarding whether or not they filled out the SEP-Q or the TSI first. Each envelope had the survey material placed in the correct order from top to bottom in accordance with the instruction set.

Having provided this information to the subjects, the administrator then displayed the SEP-Q and the TSI materials. The administrator then identified and provided instructions for each booklet as well as information about several aspects of the SEP-Q (see Appendix G for TSI instructions sheet). Subjects were informed that they were welcome to withdraw for any reason, and that they did not have to answer any question they did not want to answer. Each envelope also included a form that informed subjects that the researcher had made efforts to have personal counseling available to those who experienced aversive memories about childhood experiences as a result of their participation in the study (see Appendix H). Furthermore, a request for information form about the research results was also provided in the envelope (see Appendix I). Subjects were reminded both verbally and through written instructions to not place this form in the sealed envelope when returning the survey material as it

had their name on it. Subjects were also verbally, and in the written instructions, reminded not to place their name on any survey material. Subjects were permitted to commence once the administrator had completed the verbal instructions.

Upon completion of the survey material, subjects were asked to seal the answer sheet for the TSI and the SEP-Q in the envelope and then hand it in. All other material was turned in separately to the administrator.

Those subjects recruited from the psychology subject pool were required to provide their name and student number which the administrator entered onto a record of participation form. This form was submitted to the psychology subject pool office each week so that the student received credit for participation in the research. These students also received a receipt as a personal record of their participation in the survey.

Those student volunteers who participated in the contest completed an entry form, which was placed in an entry box in the classroom after they had turned in their survey material. The draw for the prizes was completed in April of 1999. The seven winners were contacted by phone and each was directed to collect his prize from the general office of the faculty.

The described data collection method was successful in ensuring a high survey return and completion rate for those individuals that agreed to volunteer for the survey. Only one volunteer withdrew from the survey, which meant that the return

rate for completed questionnaires was 99.6%. The one individual who did not complete the survey material withdrew due to the nature of the survey questions.

Development and Selection of Tests

Development of the SEP-Q

Due to the lack of research examining neutral and positive perceptions about early male childhood or adolescent sexual experiences with significantly older partners or partners in a position of authority or power, a questionnaire to obtain relevant information about these types of experiences was developed by the researcher and was entitled the Sexual Experiences and Perceptions Questionnaire (SEP-Q). The purpose and focus of this questionnaire was to obtain pertinent demographic information about subjects followed by more personal information about sexual experiences and the self-reported perceptions subjects had about their sexual experiences. Items in this questionnaire were categorized into three sections using a funnel-down design. Funnel-down design refers to a questionnaire design whereby the initial items in the questionnaire require general information about the subject while subsequent sections contain questions that are progressively more focused on the topic area under investigation. The funnel-down design also employs a process of elimination in the method of questioning. Thus, if a subject answering the SEP-Q had not experienced a specific sexual experience being examined within the research, he was not required to

answer all of the subsequent sections within the questionnaire. Based on the responses made in a previous section, the subject might have been directed to forgo all or some of the subsequent sections.

The SEP-Q utilized three different question formats. These formats included Yes/No check boxes, one to two word blank spaces, and Likert scales. These answer formats were employed in an effort to avoid lengthy written responses that might have required lengthy interpretation and encoding.

The first section in the SEP-Q focused on personal and family demographic information. All the questions used either a one or two word blank answer space or a Yes/No check box answer format. At the end of this section several Yes/No questions were posed about subjects' past and current sexual experiences. Based on the responses to these questions, subjects were directed to either move on to the next section or to discontinue the questionnaire.

The second section of the SEP-Q utilized one or two word blank answer spaces and Yes/No check boxes. The focus of this section was to identify particular types of sexual experiences as they related to the age of the sexual partner and the subject at the time of the sexual encounters, and to identify whether the subject ever had a sexual relationship with an individual in a position of authority or power. At the end of this section the directions again instructed the subject to continue on to the third section or to stop, depending on the responses the subject had made.

The third section of the SEP-Q dealt with the specific qualities of those sexual encounters subjects had experienced as a child or adolescent with significantly older partners or partners in a position of authority or power, and the perceptions subjects had about various aspects of these sexual encounters. Subjects were asked about the types of sexual encounters, which person initiated the sexual encounters, the frequency and duration of the sexual relationship, the relationship between the subject and partner, whether or not the relationship was disclosed, the subjects emotional reaction to the sexual relationship, and whether or not the sexual encounters were perceived as sexual abuse.

In total, the SEP-Q posed 76 questions and a subject could potentially have provided 166 responses to these questions. The difference in the number of questions posed compared to potential responses was due to the spreadsheet format of the third section. The third section asked 15 questions in reference to two contexts of sexual experience, but provided four sets of answer spaces to the 15 questions in each of the contexts. In effect a subject could potentially have answered 120 times to 30 questions. Each set of answer spaces was for one sexual relationship the subject had encountered with mutually exclusive partners.

Trauma Symptom Inventory

As mentioned previously, researchers examining subjective perceptions about childhood or adolescent sexual experiences with significantly older partners or partners in a position of authority or power have been criticized for the lack of objective assessment. A criticism when using psychometric assessment tools within the field of child sexual abuse research has been that the more generic assessment tools were developed to assess the symptomology of various conditions within numerous contexts. Some researchers in the field of child sexual abuse have suggested that the non-significant results and presence of asymptomatic child abuse victims has been likely due to the insensitivity of the assessment tools used to identify related symptomatology (Finkelhor, 1990).

This researcher sought a standardized assessment tool developed specifically for the assessment of the negative symptomatology associated with child sexual abuse in an effort to ensure a reliable measurement of possible negative symptoms related to childhood or adolescent sexual experiences with significantly older partners or partners in a position of authority or power. There have been very few standardized tools developed specifically to assess trauma and associated symptoms for individuals who have experienced child sexual abuse. One tool that was specifically designed to measure trauma symptoms related to sexually intrusive experiences is the Trauma Symptom Inventory (TSI) produced by Dr. John Briere. The TSI was originally

developed and standardized from its predecessor the Trauma Symptom Checklist-33/40 (TSC-33/40) (Briere & Runtz, 1989). Some advantages of the TSI as an assessment tool over other similar tools included multiple clinical scale scores, a greater focus on characteristic symptoms associated with childhood trauma, and the use of clinical, military, and university populations for formal standardization of the tool. Furthermore, the TSI contained three validity scales to ensure that the subject answered in a consistent and congruent way. The TSI also contained items to assess dissociative symptomatology associated with trauma (Briere, 1995).

The TSI contained 100 questions, using a 4-point Likert scale format --ranging from 0 to 3 --, and it was estimated to take an individual approximately 20 minutes to complete. A zero response on the Likert scale indicated that the subject had never experienced the event being described, while an answer of three on the scale indicated that his experience of the event being described occurred often. The population that this tool was designed for were men or women aged 18 and above.

The ten clinical scales incorporated from the 100 test items on the TSI included Anxious Arousal, Depression, Anger/Irritability, Intrusive Experiences, Defensive Avoidance, Dissociation, Sexual Concerns, Dysfunctional Sexual Behavior, Impaired Self-Reference, and Tension Reduction Behavior. The first three clinical scales named above were self-explanatory (Anxious Arousal, Depression, and Anger/Irritability) and their meaning may be inferred from the describing name given to the scale. Intrusive Experiences referred to cognitive processes that the individual could not control.

These symptoms were associated with post-traumatic stress. Examples of Intrusive Experiences would have been nightmares, flashbacks, or obsessive thoughts about traumatic events. Defensive Avoidance referred to an individual having avoided stimuli that triggered memories of traumatic events, the suppression or repression of thoughts, or memories about traumatic events. Dissociation referred to an individual having experienced symptoms such as de-realization and depersonalization, which is a sense that the world around one is artificial or that the individual, himself, feels artificial. Sexual Concerns related to sexual dysfunction, sexual distress or dissatisfaction, and disturbing sexual thoughts and feelings. Dysfunctional Sexual Behavior measured self-reported sexual distress, sexual dysfunction, sexual dissatisfaction, and the potential for self-harm or inappropriate use of sex to accomplish non-sexual goals. Impaired Self-Reference referred to the individual having experienced disturbances associated with identity confusion, sense of self, and self-esteem. Finally, the Tension Reduction Behavior scale measured externalized behavior such as self-mutilation, anger rages, and suicidal threats as a measure of the individual's ability to have coped with his traumatic sexual experiences.

The TSI's Validity Scales included the Response Level scale, the Atypical Response scale, and the Inconsistent Response scale. Within the TSI there were a number of test items that would normally be scored as a zero in a standardization sample. If a subject scored high on this scale it was interpretative of the individual tending to respond in a defensive manner or needing to appear unusually free of

symptoms. High scores on the Atypical Response Scale may have reflected psychosis or extreme distress and may have potentially indicated that a person was either disturbed or was attempting to present as distressed. The Inconsistent Response scale evaluated whether or not similar test items were being answered with similar responses. High scores on this scale would have indicated that the individual completing the TSI was either answering randomly or that he was experiencing difficulty with his attention, concentration, or the use of language in the TSI.

Beyond the individual scales of the Trauma Symptom Inventory three global scales were quantitatively standardized. These included the Global Trauma Scale, the Global Self-Dysfunction Scale, and the Global Dysphoria Scale. These global scales were derived through validation of the TSI with both clinical and normal populations and were composites developed from scores derived from the individual clinical scales. The Trauma Symptoms score was based on variance in responses from the Anxious Arousal, Depression, Intrusive Experiences, Defensive Avoidance, Dissociation, Impaired Self-Reference, and the Tension Reduction Behavior scales.

Procedure for the Analysis of Data

All data was analyzed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 9.0. Data was not included in the analysis if the subject had either an invalid or incomplete Trauma Symptom Inventory or if the subject completing

the surveys was 17 years old or younger. Invalid TSI scores were determined by means of a computer-scoring program provided with the assessment tool. If the subject scored beyond a statistically significant cutoff point generated by the scoring program on one of the embedded validity scales, then the data for both the SEP-Q and the TSI were removed from the data base. The computer program used to score the TSI was the Trauma Symptom Inventory for Windows Scoring Program version 1.0.

Much of the statistical analysis has been limited to descriptive statistics, specifically cross tabulation of nominal data provided by the subjects. Frequencies were also tabulated regarding relevant personal and family demographic information concerning the characteristics of the research sample. The results of these cross tabulations are reported in a tabular fashion in Chapter IV. Nominal non-parametric tests of significance were also completed using the Phi-square, Lambda, and Goodman and Kruskal tau tests. Significant results for these statistics are reported in Chapter IV.

Cross-tabular comparisons within the data were made for three defined categories of childhood sexual experiences with significantly older or authority positioned partners. The first category involved childhood sexual experiences with significantly older or authority positioned partners where the subject was under the age of 17 years of age and there was an age difference of five or more years between the subject and the older sexual partner. Inclusion of sexual

encounters in this category was limited to those sexual encounters that involved either heavy petting, physical sex, or penetrative sex. The second category involved childhood sexual experiences with significantly older or authority positioned partners for a male youth at or before the age of 14 years of age with a sexual partner three or more years older. Inclusion of sexual encounters in this category was limited to those encounters that involved either heavy petting, physical sex, or penetrative sex. The third category included those childhood sexual experiences with an authority positioned partner where subjects indicated their sexual partner had been in a position of authority over them at the time of the sexual encounter with a three or more year age differential between the youth and perpetrator. A specific type of sexual encounter did not limit inclusion of sexual encounters in this category.

Cross-tabular comparisons were completed for a variety of the subject's self-reported perceptions. Subjects were requested to provide a retrospective perception of the experience (i.e., positive, neutral, or negative) at the time of the sexual encounter and their perceptions about the sexual encounter at the time the survey material was completed. Cross-tabular comparisons were completed for data concerning perceptions of childhood sexual experiences with significantly older or authority positioned partners both at the time of the sexual encounters and at the time the subjects completed the survey.

Analysis of trauma in subjects required the use of Anova and Manova computations to test for significance within the data. Marginal statistical significance was obtained for several computations when univariate and multivariate outliers were removed. However, after consultation with a statistician, it was deemed that the outliers could not be justifiably removed from the data. It should be noted that the number of subjects with childhood sexual experiences with significantly older or authority positioned partners was relatively small within the overall sample of subjects who also made significance testing difficult when using either inferential or non-parametric statistics.

Examination of traumatic symptoms using descriptive statistics was completed by comparing significant T-test scores of global trauma scales generated by the TSI scoring program to self-reported perceptions about cases of childhood sexual experiences with significantly older or authority positioned partners. These comparisons were performed using cross tabulations.

Summary

Survey data was collected using two self-report questionnaires, the Sexual Experiences and Perceptions Questionnaire and the Trauma Symptom Inventory, using a sample of 279 students from a university population within the province of British Columbia. Subjects were recruited from a first year Psychology course subject pool and by advertising for subjects throughout the university campus.

Analysis of information about childhood sexual experiences with significantly older or authority positioned partners provided by subjects who had such experiences were examined using four different categories of age and/or authority based criteria to differentiate the types of childhood sexual experiences. Self-reported perceptions and measures of trauma were compared using descriptive cross tabulations toward answering several questions about symptomatology and perceptions males students have regarding childhood and adolescent sexual experiences.

CHAPTER IV

RESULTS

Introduction

The purpose of this study was to assess the prevalence of different childhood sexual experiences males had prior to age 17 with significantly older partners or partners who were in a position of authority or power over the male youth. Information about early sexual experiences was collected using both subjective and empirical methods. Comparisons between subject's perceptions and specific factors of the sexual encounters were compared. The specific factors included: (1) the gender of the partner, (2) the type of sexual activity, (3) the age difference between the subject and partner, (4) the level of coercion or force, (5) the subject's perception of the encounter, (6) the partner's position of authority or relationship to the subject, and (7) the extent to which resulting adverse symptoms may or may not have occurred.

The following questions were used to investigate the aforementioned factors:

Main Research Questions

- 1). What is the prevalence of adult male subjects who have encountered some form of childhood sexual experiences with a significantly older individual or an individual who is in a position of authority or power over the male youth?

- 2). What are the prevalence estimates of adult male subjects who acknowledge childhood sexual encounters with significantly older individuals or authority positioned individuals relative to the sexual encounters being perceived as either a) negative, b) neutral, or c) positive?
- 3). In the population of subjects who perceive their childhood sexual experiences as either a) negative, b) neutral, or c) positive, how many appear to be experiencing some form of trauma symptoms?
- 4). Are any specific types of trauma reactions significant for each group of males that have had childhood sexual experiences and perceived it as either a) negative, b) neutral, or c) positive?

Additional Research Questions

- 5). Does the gender of the partner significantly relate to the subjects' affective perceptions and the extent to which they exhibit trauma symptoms?
- 6). Does the type of relationship (i.e., extrafamilial/intrafamilial, level significance of trust) between the male subjects and the sexual partners significantly relate to the subjects' affective perceptions and the extent to which they exhibit trauma symptoms?

- 7). Does the level of manipulation or coercion used in the childhood sexual encounter by the partner significantly relate to the subjects' affective perceptions and the extent to which they exhibit trauma symptoms?

The information presented in Chapter IV includes the results collected using the Sexual Experiences and Perceptions Questionnaire (SEP-Q), developed by this researcher, and the Trauma Symptom Inventory (TSI), a standardized psychometric tool developed to assess adverse symptoms as they relate to childhood sexual experiences. A detailed description of the research procedures and materials utilized for data collection can be found in Chapter III of this document.

Sampling Procedure

All information was collected in a survey format from volunteers in a convenient sample of university students within the Province of British Columbia. Subjects in this sample were obtained by means of two methods: (1) a subject pool of students enrolled in a first year psychology course, and (2) student volunteers recruited on campus through verbal and posted advertisements. Data was collected in the fall semester from September 30 to November 10, 1998. The total number of students sampled was 279.

The return rate of survey material was 99.6% and only one volunteer withdrew from the study before completing the questionnaires. Prior to analysis of the research data the surveys were screened to ensure that survey material was complete and met the limitations established by the developers of the Trauma Symptom Inventory (i.e., TSI limits interpretation of results to a population 18 years and older). Although research has been completed which indicates that the Trauma Symptom Inventory can provide reliable scores for individuals under age 18, subjects under the age of 18 were not included in the analysis of the research data (Munoz, 1997). Twelve of the participants were 17 years of age at the time of completion and were thus removed from the sample base to ensure clarity of results. An additional thirteen other surveys were found to be invalid due to failure by the subjects to complete a sufficient number of TSI items to produce valid scores on the assessment tool's scales (e.g., failure to complete the last page of the TSI) or due to students not meeting the criteria of the validity scale (e.g., high scores that met or exceeded the recommended cutoff T scores on any of the three validity scales included in the TSI). The removal of these surveys resulted in a final sample size of 254 surveys. Excluding those surveys removed due to the subject's age, the return of valid surveys was 91.0%.

Of the 254 valid surveys, 128 of the subjects (50.4%) were obtained from the first year psychology course subject pool at the university. The remainder ($n=126$) of the subjects (49.6%) were students recruited on campus from advertisements. One hundred and twenty six subjects (49.6%) were presented with the Trauma Symptom

Inventory first and the Sexual Experiences and Perceptions Questionnaire second while 128 of the subjects (50.4%) were presented with the Sexual Experiences and Perceptions Questionnaire first and the Trauma Symptom Inventory second.

Characteristics of Subjects

Demographic Information

Those subjects who had valid surveys ranged from 18 years to 51 years of age. Almost half (49.2%) of the sample ($n=125$) was 18 or 19 years of age. Two hundred and thirty five subjects (92.5%) were 25 years old or younger. One hundred and fifty one of the subjects in the validated sample (59.4%) were in either first or second year university, while 211 subjects (83.1%) had completed between one and four years of university. The majority of subjects ($n=223$) were Caucasian (87.8%). Fourteen of the subjects (5.5%) indicated that they were Asian-Canadians and seven participants (2.8%) identified themselves as being Indo-Canadian. The remaining 10 subjects (3.9%) represented their racial origins as either Hispanic, Afro-Canadian, First Nations, or mixed.

Relationship with Parents

Within the final sample, 101 subjects (39.8%) reported that they no longer lived with parents while 152 subjects (59.8%) still lived with one or more parents.

Over three quarters of those subjects ($n=200$) that still resided with parents (78.7%) lived with both their mother and father. Five subjects (2.0%) lived primarily with their fathers, while 39 respondents (15.4%) lived primarily with their mothers. Prior to age 17, the majority of subjects (90.9%) had not lived away from home for a period greater than six months ($n=231$). Approximately three quarters of the subjects (76.8%) reported that they had intact families ($n = 195$) prior to the age of 19, while 56 subjects (22.0%) came from separated families.

One hundred and seventy five subjects (68.0%) indicated that they had a positive or very positive relationship with their father. Forty-five subjects (17.7%) found their relationship with their father to be indifferent, while 30 subjects (11.9%) indicated that their relationship with their father was negative or very negative. Similarly, 201 subjects (79.1%) indicated that they had a positive or very positive relationship with their mother. Thirty-five participants (13.8%) found their relationship with their mother to be indifferent, while 16 subjects (6.3%) indicated their relationship with their mother was either negative or very negative.

Additional family information

The family income within the sample tended to reflect the higher income categories. One hundred and twenty two subjects (48.1%) indicated their parents' combined incomes were over \$80,000. Seventy-eight subjects (20.7%) indicated a

combined parental income ranging between \$41,000 and \$80,000, while the remaining 44 subjects (17.3%) indicated a combined parental income of less than \$41,000.

The majority of subjects ($n=221$) indicated no family history of mental illness (87.0%). Of those 32 subjects indicating family mental illness (12.6%), over half (56.3%) of the respondents ($n=18$) indicated that the mental illness was depression.

Current and Past Sexual Activity

Subjects were asked about their past and current sexual activity. Two hundred and twenty eight subjects (89.8%) indicated that they had experienced past sexual activity. One hundred and ninety two respondents (75.6%) had sexual encounters prior to 17 years of age. For each of these subjects, the number of sexual partners ranged from 1 to 25. Approximately 80% of subjects ($n=154$) who had engaged in sexual activity prior to age 17 (79.4%) had between one and five sexual partners.

When considering the age difference between the subjects prior to the age of 17 and sexual partners younger than them, the frequency distribution produced two modes. Forty-nine subjects (55.1%) that were sexually active prior to age 17 had sexual encounters with a partner one year younger than they at the time of the relationship, while 23 participants (9.1%) had sexual encounters with a partner who was two years younger. Eleven participants (4.8%) reported having sexual contact prior to the age of 17 with partners who ranged from 14 to 19 months younger, and six subjects (2.4%) reported having sexual contact with partners who were three or

more years younger than they prior to the age of 17 years. These six men, according to the legal definition provided in the B.C. Hand Book for Action on Child Abuse and Neglect, would be considered as having engaged in an abusive relationship with a younger participant.

Sixteen subjects (6.3%) indicated that they had had one or more sexual encounters prior to the age of 17 with a partner five or more years older. Nineteen subjects (7.4%) reported sexual experiences at or before the age of 14, with a partner three or more years older. In total, 13 subjects (5.1%) acknowledged being sexually abused in response to a direct question.

Results

Given the exploratory nature of this topic, the primary purpose of this research was to provide descriptive measures of childhood sexual experiences in a sample of male university students. Little research has been completed into examining male childhood sexual experiences with significantly older or authority positioned partners, males emotional perceptions of these experiences, and whether or not these experiences may be related to overt symptoms of trauma. Unfortunately, the numbers of subjects with the specific sexual experiences being examined in the research were in most instances insufficient to permit tests of statistical significance. Thus, analysis is mainly limited to descriptive statistics. Those results that had sufficient numbers to

reach statistical significance are reported. Given the low percentage of reported targeted sexual experiences, future university samples would need to be in excess of 500 subjects to permit an improved likelihood of being able to statistically test for significance using inferential or non-parametric tests.

Prevalence Estimates of Childhood Sexual Encounters

Research Question: *What is the prevalence of adult male subjects who have encountered some form of childhood sexual experiences with a significantly older individual or an individual who is in a position of authority or power over the male youth?*

Five sets of criteria were used in examining the data to define types of childhood sexual experiences that may or may not be considered abusive with significantly older or authority positioned partners. These sets of criteria are based on the age differences between the subject and his sexual partner, the older sexual partner's position of power relative to the subject, and the type of sexual activity engaged upon. These categories are defined in more detail in the methodology section of this document and include:

- (1) All childhood sexual experiences at 14 years of age or younger that involve a partner three or more years older and include more definite forms of sexual activities;

- (2) All childhood sexual experiences prior to age 17 with a partner five or more years older and only include more definite forms of sexual activity;
- (3) All childhood sexual experiences prior to age 17 with a partner that was reported by the subject to be in a position of power or authority over them at the time of the sexual encounter;
- (4) All childhood sexual experiences at either age 14 or younger with a partner three or more years older, or prior to age 17 with a partner five or more years older, or with an authority positioned partner.

These categories were used to provide multiple sets of results so that the results could be used in various ways to examine sexual abuse as it relates to males and also as it relates to other research in the area of child sexual abuse.

Given that some individuals may have had multiple childhood sexual experiences with significantly older or authority positioned partners which may have included more than one partner or occurrence, data was collected on up to four different sexual encounters that each subject may have had.

In an effort to provide an accurate representation of the results, some of the descriptive statistics in this study were calculated using two methods. Firstly, the prevalence estimates were calculated according to the number of subjects who qualified for the phenomenon being examined regardless of the number of sexual encounters each subject may have experienced. Secondly, the data was also coded such that multiple encounters would be included. Only three subjects of the 254

validated surveys reported that they had multiple childhood sexual encounters. Two subject had two childhood sexual encounters with significantly older or authority positioned partners and the other subject had three such encounters. Consequently, in the multiple case data the overall sample population was increased to 258 cases.

The prevalence estimates of childhood sexual encounters with significantly older or authority positioned partners are provided in Tables 1 to 4 for each set of criteria used to evaluate this university sample.

Table 1

Childhood sexual encounters at age 14 or younger with a partner three or more years older by partner gender (n=21)

Partner Gender	Within Group		Within Total Sample	
	<u>n</u>	%	<u>n</u>	%
Female partner	16	76.2	16	5.8
Male partner	5	23.8	5	1.9
Total	21	100.0	21	8.1

Note. Sexual experiences involved at least one of the following: light petting, physical sex, and penetrative sex.

Table 2

Childhood sexual encounters prior to age 17 with a partner five or more years older by partner gender (n=16)

Partner Gender	Within Group		Within Total Sample	
	<u>n</u>	%	<u>n</u>	%
Female	11	68.8	11	4.3
Male	5	31.3	5	1.9
Total	16	100.0	16	6.2

Note. Sexual experiences involved at least one of the following: light petting, heavy petting, physical sex, and penetrative sex.

Table 3

Childhood sexual encounters with older partner in a position of authority by partner gender (n = 10)

Partner Gender	Within Group		Within Total Sample	
	<u>n</u>	%	<u>n</u>	%
Female partner	8	80.0	8	3.1
Male partner	2	20.0	2	0.8
Total	10	100.0	10	3.9

Note. With two exceptions, sexual experiences involved at least one of the following:

light petting, heavy petting, physical sex, and penetrative sex.

Table 4

Prevalence of combined CSA experiences by partner gender (n = 29)

Partner Gender	Within Group		Within Total Sample	
	<u>n</u>	%	<u>n</u>	%
Female partner	23	79.3	23	8.9
Male partner	6	20.7	6	2.3
Total	29	100.0	29	11.2

Some qualification is required for those presented results which use the criteria of prior to age 17 with a sexual partner five or more years older and the criteria at or before age 14 with a sexual partner three or more years older. Analysis using the former category overlaps with the latter. An example of this overlap would be a subject that had an encounter at age 12 with a partner that was eight years older and which involved touching of the genitals. This experience meets the criteria for both the 14 years or younger and the 17 years or younger categories and was therefore included in both. This overlap was permitted as most research that includes child sexual abuse experiences neither uses multiple criteria nor includes a category of over age 14 but prior to age 17 with a sexual partner five or more years older.

The combined CSA category shown in Table 4 represents the combination of all childhood sexual experiences with significantly older or authority positioned

partners that fall within three of the defined age categories based on age differences, position of authority, and sexual activity. The sexual encounters included in this category occurred at or before the age of 14 years of age with a partner three or more years older, or prior to age 17 but older than age 14 with a partner five or more years older, or the partner was identified by the subject as being in a position of authority. Using the combined CSA category, all but two childhood sexual experiences with a significantly older or authority positioned partner involved sexual activity where either the partner or the subject was involved in sexual petting, oral sex, stimulation of the genitals or penetration of either the anus or vagina with a penis, hand or object. The two exceptions involved childhood sexual activities involving a partner whom the subject reported as being in a “position of authority”. One relationship involved a female parent and the activity involved sensual kissing causing sexual arousal. The other relationship involved an encounter between a subject and a female boy scout volunteer that was identified by the subject as being in a position of authority. The subject was 13 years of age at the time of the sexual encounter and his partner was 4.5 years older at the time. The sexual activity included sensuous kissing leading to sexual arousal and sensual touching of non-sexual body parts.

Three subjects reported multiple instances of childhood sexual experiences with significantly older partners. Disregarding the four instances of multiple childhood sexual experiences within the validated survey sample of 254 male subjects, the number of subjects who experienced childhood sexual experiences with significantly

older or authority positioned partners ($n=24$) represented 9.5% of the total sample.

The types of relationships with older sexual partners listed by the subjects included the following: 6 friends, 5 girlfriends, 3 baby-sitters, 2 uncles, 2 cousins, and 2 strangers. All other relationships listed occurred only once in the sample and included a parent, sister, step-sister, brother, female boy scout volunteer, employer, coworker, family friend, friend's cousin, and acquaintance. Eight of the relationships (3.1%) listed by subjects were considered intrafamilial and included partners who were also the subjects' parent, uncle, brother, sister, stepsister, or cousin.

Within this university sample, subjects who had sexual encounters with an older male partner rather than an older female partner tended to have the encounters occur at an earlier age and also had larger age differences between themselves and the older partner. However, the largest age differences between a subject and sexual partner was 35 years, involving a female partner, and 34 years, involving a male partner. Male partners were five or more years older than the subject in 83.3% of the encounters ($n=5$) and less than five years older in only 16.7% of encounters ($n=1$). Female partners were five or more years older than the subject in 42.3% of encounters ($n=11$) and three to four years older in 61.5% of encounters ($n=16$). The male sexual partners reported by subjects as being in a position of authority or power ($n=2$) were five or more years older than the subject at the time of the sexual encounter. Female sexual partners were three to four years older than the subject in 37.5% of encounters ($n=3$) and five or more years older than the subject in 62.5% of encounters ($n=5$).

Based on the different age and sexual activity categories, the prevalence estimates for the total sample of 258 childhood sexual experiences with significantly older or authority positioned partners can be estimated to range between 3.9% and 11.2% depending on the stringency of the definition criteria used to evaluate the sample population.

Within this sample, an unusually high number of childhood sexual experiences that involved an older female partner were reported. Across the different categories, the number of significantly older or authority positioned female partners ranged from 3.1% to 8.9% compared with the number of significantly older or authority positioned male partners, which ranged from 0.8% to 2.3% within the total sample of subjects.

The type of sexual activity with significantly older or authority positioned partners was examined and compared to the gender and age difference of the older partner. Results for the combined CSA category are reported in Tables 5. Interestingly, reported sexual encounters involving older male sexual partners did not involve penetrative sexual activities whereas the most commonly reported sexual activity involving older female partners, in contrast, was penetrative sex (37.9%, $n=11$). For those who had encounters with males, heavy petting was the sexual activity reported most often, followed by physical sex. Light petting and sensuous behaviors were not reported.

Duration and Frequency of Childhood Sexual Encounters

Distribution frequencies were completed for the 29 childhood sexual experiences reported by subjects in the “combined Child Sexual Abuse” category relative to the length of the relationship and the frequency with which the sexual encounters occurred. The results for this category have been reported as it encompasses all three of the other categories and the results were similar across these categories.

Table 5

Sexual activity by partner gender for combined CSA category (n=29)

Partner Gender	Within Group		Within Sample	
	Percent	<u>n</u>	Percent	<u>n</u>
Female partner				
3 or 4 years older				
Penetrative sex	24.1	7	2.7	7
Physical sex	--	--	--	--
Heavy petting	6.9	2	0.8	2
Light petting	3.4	1	0.4	1
5 or more years older				
Penetrative sex	13.8	4	1.5	4
Physical sex	6.9	2	0.8	2
Partner Gender	Percent	<u>n</u>	Percent	<u>n</u>
Heavy petting	13.8	4	1.5	4

Table 5 (continued)

Light petting	3.4	1	0.4	1
Authority figure				
Sensuous behaviors	6.9	2	0.8	2
<hr/>				
Male partner				
3 or 4 years older				
Penetrative sex	--	--	--	--
Physical sex	3.4	1	0.4	1
Heavy petting	--	--	--	--
Light petting	--	--	--	--
5 or more years older				
Penetrative sex	--	--	--	--
Physical sex	3.4	1	0.4	1
Heavy petting	13.8	4	1.5	4
Light petting	--	--	--	--
Authority figure	--	--	--	--
<hr/>				
Total	100.0	29	11.2	29
<hr/>				

Duration of Relationship

Of the 29 childhood sexual experiences reported, only 24 subjects included responses to the questions concerning the length of sexual relationship (Table 6). Twelve of the twenty-four subjects (50.0%) that reported childhood sexual encounters were not involved in a set of encounters that lasted more than one day. Five of the childhood sexual encounters (20.8%) involved a relationship span between two days to thirty days, while seven subjects (29.2%) reported relationships that spanned forty-two days to four years in duration. The modal duration for the sexual relationships was reported as single day encounters, while the mean average was 134 days and the median was 1.5 days.

Frequency of Encounters

Childhood sexual encounters with significantly older or authority positioned sexual partners were reported by the 29 subjects in the “Combined Child Sexual Abuse” category. As shown in Table 7, single sexual encounters were reported most frequently and were indicated by 12 subjects (41.4%). Ten subjects (34.4%) reported childhood sexual relationships involving between 2 and 9 sexual encounters, while seven subjects (24.1%) reported childhood sexual relationships involving 10 or more sexual encounters. The mean average for frequency of sexual encounters was found to be 3.93 episodes of sexual contact, while the median was 2.00 and the mode was 1.00.

The results in Table 7 indicate a consistent pattern regarding the frequency with which the sexual encounters occurred. Sexual encounters with significantly older or authority positioned male partners were less frequent than encounters with female partners and the sexual relationship took place over a briefer period of time regardless of the varied age criteria applied to the sample data.

The length of the childhood sexual relationships and the frequency of sexual encounters were also compared to subjects' disclosure of the encounters, perceptions of abuse, type of sexual activity and frequency of sexual acts, affective perceptions of the encounters, type of relationship between subject and older partner, level of persuasion by partner, extent to which the partner initiated the encounters, and the Global Trauma scales of the TSI. No obvious or noteworthy patterns or relationships were identified between the duration and frequency of sexual encounters and the other variables.

Table 6

Length of sexual relationship by partner gender and age

Gender and age	Length of sexual relationship							
	One Day		Up to one month		More than month		Total within category	
	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
<u>Age 14 or younger, three year age difference or more</u> ^a								
Female	6	42.9	2	14.3	4	28.6	12	75.0
Male	3	7.1	1	7.1	0	0.0	4	25.0
<u>Prior to age 17, five year age difference</u> ^a								
Female	4	30.8	2	14.3	3	21.4	9	71.4
Male	3	21.4	1	7.1	0	0.0	4	28.6
<u>Authority positioned partner</u> ^b								
Female	2	28.6	0	0.0	3	42.9	5	71.4
Male	2	28.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	28.6
<u>Combined CSA category</u> ^c								
Female	8	34.8	4	17.4	7	30.4	19	82.6
Male	3	13.0	1	4.3	0	0.0	4	17.4

a. Note. Four subjects did not respond regarding the length of the sexual relationship with significantly older partners or a partner in a position of power or authority.

b. Note. Three subjects did not respond regarding the length of the sexual relationship with significantly older partners.

c. Note. Six subjects did not respond regarding the length of the sexual relationship with significantly older partners.

Table 7

Frequency of sexual encounters by partner gender and age difference

<u>Gender and age</u>	<u>Frequency of sexual encounters</u>									
	<u>Once</u>		<u>2-5 times</u>		<u>6-9 times</u>		<u>10 or more</u>		<u>Total</u>	
	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
<u>Age 14 or younger, three year age difference or more</u>										
Female	7	33.3	3	14.3	1	4.8	5	23.8	16	76.2
Male	2	9.5	2	9.5	1	4.8	0	0.0	5	23.8
<u>Prior to age 17, five year age difference</u>										
Female	4	25.0	3	18.8	1	6.3	3	18.8	11	68.8
Male	3	18.8	1	6.3	1	6.3	0	0.0	5	31.2
<u>Authority positioned partner</u>										
Female	3	30.0	1	10.0	1	10.0	3	30.0	8	80.0
Male	2	20.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	20.0
<u>Combined CSA category</u>										
Female	9	31.0	5	17.2	2	6.9	7	24.1	23	79.3
Male	3	10.3	2	6.9	1	3.4	0	0.0	6	20.7

Affective Perceptions of Childhood Sexual Experiences

Research Question: *What are the prevalence estimates of adult male subjects who acknowledge childhood sexual experiences with significantly older individuals or authority positioned individuals relative to the sexual encounter being perceived as either a) negative, b) neutral, or c) positive?*

The affective perceptions reported by subjects who had childhood sexual experiences with older or authority positioned partners were grouped into three categories: positive, neutral, and negative. The original survey questions were on a five point Likert scale which included the option of selecting a midpoint between neutral and either positive or negative depending on the direction of emotion reported. To improve the ease of result interpretation and reporting, positive and mildly positive were grouped together, as were negative and mildly negative. The decision to group the data in such a manner was based on the premise that subjects were indicating some emotional preference in relation to the sexual encounter if they chose the mid point between neutral and either negative or positive on the scale.

Affective perceptions about childhood sexual experiences with significantly older or authority positioned partners were reported by the subjects both retrospectively (at the time of the sexual experience) and more immediately (at the time of the survey).

These findings are reported in Table 8 for the combined CSA category. As shown in the table, some of the subjects who perceived their childhood sexual experiences with

significantly older or authority positioned partners to be positive at the time of the sexual encounter shifted toward a more neutral or negative perception at the time of survey completion. Calculating these results based on the group of 29 subjects shown in Table 8, four subjects shifted away from a positive perception of the experience (13.8%). Two of the four subjects (6.9%) altered their perception to neutral, while the other two subjects (6.9%) altered their perception to negative.

Affect and gender

In Tables 9 to 12, subjects' affective perceptions about their childhood sexual experiences with significantly older or authority positioned partners were cross-tabulated with the gender of the older sexual partner. When the gender of the partner was considered, the apparent relationship between the subject's age at the time of the sexual encounter and the age difference between the subject and older partner was substantially changed. Those sexual encounters which involved an older female partner were more likely to be reported as being positive, both at the time of the sexual encounter and later, whereas those sexual encounters which involved an older male partner were mostly reported as either negative or neutral. In only one instance did a male subject report a childhood sexual encounter with a significantly older male partner as positive. This encounter occurred prior to age 17 with a partner who was five or more years older (see Table 10).

Table 8

Affective perception of childhood sexual experiences in combined CSA category by time lapse (n=29)

Condition	Affective Perception						Percent of Total Sample
	<u>Positive</u>		<u>Neutral</u>		<u>Negative</u>		
	Percent	<u>n</u>	Percent	<u>n</u>	Percent	<u>n</u>	
Time of the encounter	6.2	16	2.3	6	2.7	7	11.2
Time of the survey	4.7	12	3.1	8	3.5	9	11.2
Perceptual shift	-1.5	-4	+0.8	+2	+0.8	+2	

Note. 11.2% (n=29) of subjects had this type of experience

Table 9

Affective perception of childhood sexual experiences at age 14 or younger with a partner three or more years older by time lapse and partner gender (n=19)

Condition	Affective Perception							
	Positive		Neutral		Negative		Within Group	
	<u>n</u>	%	<u>n</u>	%	<u>n</u>	Percent	<u>n</u>	Percent
<u>Time of the encounter</u>								
Female partner	9	42.9	3	14.3	4	19.0	16	76.2
Male partner	0	0.0	2	9.5	3	14.3	5	23.8
Total	9	42.9	5	23.8	7	33.3	21	100.0
<u>Time of survey</u>								
Female partner	10	47.6	2	9.5	4	19.0	15	76.2
Male partner	0	0.0	1	4.8	4	19.0	4	23.8
Total	10	47.6	3	14.3	8	38.1	21	100.0

Table 10

Affective perception of childhood sexual experiences prior to 17 with a partner five or more years older by time lapse and partner gender (n=17)

Condition	Affective Perception							
	Positive		Neutral		Negative		Within Group	
	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
<u>Time of the encounter</u>								
Female partner	7	43.8	2	12.5	2	12.5	11	68.8
Male partner	1	6.3	1	6.6	3	18.8	5	31.3
Total	8	46.9	3	18.8	5	31.3	16	100.0
<u>Time of survey</u>								
Female partner	5	31.3	4	25.0	2	12.5	11	68.8
Male partner	0	0.0	1	6.3	4	25.0	5	31.3
Total	5	31.3	5	31.3	5	31.3	17	100.0

Table 11

Affective perception of childhood sexual experiences prior to 17 with authority positioned partners by time lapse, partner gender and age discrepancy (n=10)

Condition	Affective Perception							
	Positive		Neutral		Negative		Within Group	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
<u>Time of the encounter</u>								
Female partner								
Three to four years older	2	20.0	0	0.0	1	10.0	3	30.0
Five or more years older	2	20.0	1	10.0	2	20.0	5	50.0
Male Partner								
Three to four years older	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Five or more years older	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	20.0	2	20.0
Total	4	40.0	1	10.0	5	50.0	10	100.0
<u>Time of survey</u>								
Female partner								
Three to four years older	1	10.0	1	10.0	1	10.0	3	30.0
Five or more years older	3	30.0	1	10.0	1	10.0	5	50.0
Male Partner								
Three to four years older	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Five or more years older	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	20.0	2	20.0
Total	4	40.0	2	20.0	4	40.0	10	100.0

Table 12

Affective perception of childhood sexual experiences in combined CSA category by time lapse and partner gender (n=29)

Condition	Affective perception							
	Positive		Neutral		Negative		Within Group	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
<u>Time of the encounter</u>								
Female partner	15	51.7	4	13.8	4	13.8	23	79.3
Male partner	1	3.4	2	6.9	3	10.3	6	20.7
Total	16	55.2	6	20.7	7	24.1	29	100.0
<u>Time of survey</u>								
Female partner	12	41.4	6	20.7	5	17.2	23	79.3
Male partner	0	0.0	2	6.9	4	13.8	6	20.7
Total	12	41.4	8	27.6	9	31.0	29	100.0

Subject's affective perceptions about their childhood sexual experiences with significantly older or authority positioned partners were shown to become more negative with time. Interestingly, as the criterion for the subject's age became younger and the age difference between the subject and the older partner increased, those subjects identifying the sexual experiences as negative rather than positive or neutral increased. The number of childhood sexual experiences with authority positioned partners (see Table 11) which were reported as negative were equal or greater than those childhood sexual experiences reported as positive or neutral.

In the authority positioned partner category (see Table 11), the type of relationships reported by the subjects as representing a position of authority or power include a parent, guardian, uncle, employer, female boy scout volunteer, baby-sitter, step-sister, older sister, and coworker. Three of these childhood sexual experiences (30.0%) with an authority positioned partner occurred with female partners three to four years older and prior to the subject being 17 years of age. Five of these sexual experiences (50.0%) occurred prior to age 17 with female partners five or more years older, while only two (20.0%) occurred with male sexual partners five or more years older. All negatively perceived childhood sexual experiences with an authority positioned partner were disclosed to a parent or guardian with the exception of one negatively perceived sexual encounter with a female partner five or more years older. In the Sexual Experiences and Perceptions Questionnaire (SEP-Q), disclosure referred to informing a parent or guardian.

At the time that the survey was completed, the self-reported perceptions of those subjects who had experienced childhood sexual experiences with an authority positioned female partner only changed for two of the eight subjects. One subject's perception of the sexual experience changed from positive at the time of the sexual encounter to neutral at the time the survey was completed. The other subject's perception changed from negative at the time of the encounter to positive at the time of the survey.

It was interesting to note that subjects who reported childhood sexual experiences with authority positioned male partners viewed them as negative. In contrast, the majority of subjects who reported similar experiences with an authority positioned female partner viewed them as either neutral or positive.

The findings for the 14 years of age (see Table 9) and authority positioned (see Table 11) categories showed one or two changes in subject's perceptions. Interestingly, for both categories the number of sexual experiences with older female partners was fewer. When the gender of the older partner was not considered, the number of negatively perceived childhood sexual experiences was equal to or greater than those considered positive. This finding was possibly due to a decline in the number of female partners in these categories compared to male partners. When the partner gender was not considered, subjects' perceptions shifted over time from positive to neutral or negative. In effect the smaller number of encounters with older

female partners dispersed over the levels were consistently counterweighted by the negatively perceived childhood sexual experiences involving older male partners.

Unfortunately, these results are anecdotal as the number of subjects with childhood sexual experiences with significantly older or authority positioned partners were insufficient to permit statistical tests for significance. It cannot be asserted that the results and apparent shift in subjects' reported perceptions are due specifically to the age, age difference, and/or sexual activity criteria used to define the different categories.

Disclosure Relative to Affective Perceptions

A child or youth who has had a sexual encounter with another person not only has to decide whether or not to disclose the relationship, but also has to decide from whom he or she will seek help. In the present study the focus on disclosure to a parent or guardian was based on the premise that such authorities are most likely to act upon disclosure of abuse. Furthermore, the reaction of the parent or guardian to such a disclosure was believed to most likely have an impact on the youth's own reactions about the sexual experience. For the purpose of parsimony, only the results for subjects' affective perceptions of childhood sexual experiences at the time of the sexual encounter have been reported as the observed shift in perception over time has already been discussed. As in the previous section, results have been reported for each category. Tables 13 to 16 contain the comparisons of subject's perceptions relative to

whether or not the subject's childhood sexual experience with a significantly older or authority positioned partner had been disclosed to a parent or guardian.

As shown in Table 16, only eight subjects (28.6%) in the combined CSA category disclosed their childhood sexual encounters with a significantly older or authority positioned partner relative to the total number of identified childhood sexual experiences ($n=28$). Conversely, the number of undisclosed encounters ranged from 5 cases (50.0%) to 20 cases (71.4%) depending on the category examined. The number of childhood sexual experiences with significantly older or authority positioned partners disclosed to a parent or guardian relative to the total number of reported cases similarly ranged from five subjects (50.0%) to eight subjects (27.6%) across categories.

Table 13

Affective perception of childhood sexual encounters prior to age 14 with a partner three or more years older by partner gender and disclosure (n=21)

Condition	Affective Perception							
	Positive		Neutral		Negative		Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
<u>Disclosure</u>								
Female partner	2	25.0	0	0.0	3	37.5	5	62.5
Male partner	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	37.5	3	37.5
Total	2	25.0	0	0.0	6	75.0	8	100.0
<u>No disclosure</u>								
Female partner	7	53.8	3	23.1	1	0.0	11	84.6
Male partner	0	0.0	2	15.4	0	0.0	2	15.4
Total	7	53.8	5	38.5	0	0.0	13	100.0

Table 14

Affective perception of childhood sexual encounters prior to age 17 with a partner five or more years older by partner gender and disclosure (n=16)

Condition	Affective Perception							
	Positive		Neutral		Negative		Total	
	<u>n</u>	%	<u>n</u>	%	<u>n</u>	%	<u>n</u>	%
<u>Disclosure</u>								
Female partner	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	25.0	1	25.0
Male partner	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	75.0	3	75.0
Total	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	100.0	4	100.0
<u>No disclosure</u>								
Female partner	7	58.3	2	16.7	1	8.3	10	83.3
Male partner	1	8.3	1	8.3	0	0.0	2	16.7
Total	8	66.7	3	25.0	1	8.3	12	100.0

Table 15

Affective perception of childhood sexual encounters with a partner in a position of authority by partner gender and disclosure (n=10)

Condition	Affective Perception							
	Positive		Neutral		Negative		Total	
	<u>n</u>	Percent	<u>n</u>	Percent	<u>n</u>	Percent	<u>n</u>	Percent
<u>Disclosure</u>								
Female partner	0	0.0	1	20.0	2	40.0	3	60.0
Male partner	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	40.0	2	40.0
Total	0	0.0	1	20.0	4	80.0	5	100.0
<u>No disclosure</u>								
Female partner	4	80.0	0	0.0	1	20.0	5	50.0
Male partner	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total	4	80.0	0	0.0	1	20.0	5	50.0

Table 16

Affective perception of childhood sexual encounters in combined CSA category by partner gender and disclosure to parent or guardian^a (n=29)

Condition	Affective Perception							
	Positive		Neutral		Negative		Total	
	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
<u>Disclosure</u>								
Female partner	1	12.5	1	12.5	3	37.5	5	62.5
Male partner	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	37.5	3	37.5
Total	1	12.5	1	12.5	6	75.0	8	100.0
<u>No disclosure</u>								
Female partner	13	65.0	3	15.0	1	5.0	17	85.0
Male partner	1	5.0	2	10.0	0	0.0	3	15.0
Total	14	70.0	5	25.0	1	5.0	20	100.0

a. Note. Only 28 subjects provide a response to the question regarding disclosure to a parent or guardian.

Those categories distinguished by the age differential between the subject and the older sexual partner did not differ much in the number of subjects who reported having disclosed the sexual incident to a parent or guardian. Six subjects (35.3%) reported disclosing a childhood sexual experience in the prior to age 17 with partner five or more years older category. Seven subjects (38.8%) reported disclosing sexual encounters which occurred at or before age 14 with a partner three or more years older. Five of the ten subjects (50%) who reported disclosing sexual encounters involving an authority positioned partner disclosed these encounters to a parent or guardian. Based on combined CSA category criteria, which is an aggregate of the three other categories, eight subjects (27.6%) reported disclosing their childhood sexual experiences with a significantly older or authority positioned partner to parents or a guardian.

Although not statistically significant within this sample, those childhood sexual encounters with significantly older or authority positioned partners perceived as being either positive or neutral were much less likely to have been disclosed to a parent or guardian than those encounters perceived as negative. Nineteen of the 20 cases (95.0%) that were not disclosed by subjects within the combined CSA category (see Table 16) were perceived by subjects as either neutral or positive and were not reported to parents or guardians.

The results in Table 13 are not consistent with those in Table 14 and 15. Interestingly, two subjects (25.0%) of eight who reported disclosing childhood sexual

experiences, as reported in Table 13, perceived the encounter as positive rather than negative. However, the majority (71.4%) of those childhood sexual experiences disclosed to a parent or guardian ($n=5$) were perceived by the subjects as negative. In contrast, those childhood sexual experiences that subjects had not chosen to disclose to a parent or guardian were all either reported as positive or neutral. These results indicate that subjects who perceive childhood sexual experiences negatively are more likely to disclose these experiences to a parent or guardian than those who perceive these experiences as positive. These findings support the premise that males who have had childhood sexual experiences with significantly older or authority positioned partners do not report these experiences, particularly when they are perceived in a positive manner.

In the childhood sexual experiences prior to age 17 with a partner five or more years older category (see Table 14), none of those childhood sexual experiences perceived as positive or neutral by subjects within this category were ever disclosed to a parent or guardian. However, five of the six childhood sexual experiences perceived as negative (83.3%) were disclosed.

In the authority positioned partner category, none of the childhood sexual experiences with female partners (see Table 15) perceived as positive or neutral at the time of the sexual encounters were disclosed to parents or guardians. The two experiences involving male partners were viewed negatively by the subject at the time of the sexual encounters and had been disclosed to a parent or guardian. Similarly,

two (66.7%) of the three reported childhood sexual encounters with female partners viewed negatively at the time of the encounters had also been disclosed to a parent or guardian. However, the five encounters (50.0%) which subjects reported as being neutral or positive all involved an older female partner.

It is indicated that within this university sample many more childhood sexual encounters with older female partners went unreported to a primary parent or guardian than similar sexual encounters that involved older male partners (see Tables 13 to 16). In most cases the sexual experiences were not reported when they were perceived as neutral or positive.

Gender and Disclosure

Direct comparisons between older male and female sexual partners is difficult given the very small numbers of childhood sexual experiences with significantly older or authority positioned male partners (see Tables 13 to 16). Despite this difficulty, some observations can be made about childhood sexual experiences with older or authority positioned female sexual partners.

The number of undisclosed childhood sexual experiences with significantly older or authority positioned female partners ranged from 5 of 10 cases (50.0%) to 20 of 28 cases (71.4%) depending on the category examined. The number of subjects who reported having disclosed their childhood sexual experiences to a parent or

guardian relative to those subjects who did not report these sexual experiences varied across the four criteria categories.

Childhood sexual experiences with an older female partner that occurred at a younger age (e.g., the age 14 or younger category compared to the prior to age 17 category) were more likely to be disclosed by the subject (see Table 13). Those childhood sexual experiences reported by subjects who involved an older female partner in a position of authority were disclosed in similar proportions to the at age 14 or younger category (see Table 15).

The largest reported differences between the number of disclosed and undisclosed childhood sexual experiences with older or authority positioned female partners were in the combined CSA category (see Table 16). More than three times the number of reported childhood sexual experiences with female partners had not been disclosed to a parent or guardian compared to those that had been disclosed. These findings revealed that within this sample many childhood sexual experiences with significantly older or authority positioned female partners had not been disclosed to a parent or guardian.

It was interesting to note that, depending on the category examined, between half and all of those reported childhood sexual experiences with significantly older or authority positioned male partners had been disclosed by subjects to a parent or guardian at some point.

Reaction to Disclosure

With the exception of one subject, all parents reacted negatively to their son's disclosure of abuse. The one subject who reported a positive reaction from his parents to his disclosure of a sexual encounter with his uncle indicated that they had been supportive of him rather than of the event. This subject reported a negative perception of the sexual encounter both at the time of the encounter and at the time the survey was completed.

Affective Perception

Within the total sample of 258 subject cases, subjects' affective perceptions were examined regarding those childhood sexual experiences that met the criteria of any of the child sexual abuse definitions examined (see Tables 17 to 19). As reported by subjects, 12 childhood sexual experiences with significantly older partners were perceived as positive by the subject at the time of the sexual encounter. This represented 6.2% of the total sample population and 55.2% of those subjects who reported childhood sexual experiences. Six subjects reported a neutral perception of their childhood sexual experiences at the time of the encounter, which represented 2.3% of the total sample and 20.7% of those subjects who reported childhood sexual

experiences. Consequently, 7 of the 29 subjects (24.1%) who reported childhood sexual experiences with significantly older or authority positioned partners, representing 2.7% of the total sample, reported that their perception of the childhood sexual experiences was negative.

Subject's affective perceptions about their childhood sexual experiences with significantly older or authority positioned partners, as previously indicated, changed for some subjects between the time of the sexual encounter and the time of the survey. This change in perception occurred for four subjects who reported childhood sexual experiences with significantly older or authority positioned partners, altering from positive at the time of the sexual experiences to either neutral or negative at the time of the survey. At the time of the survey, 12 subjects (41.4%) of those who had reported a childhood sexual experience with a significantly older partner continued to view the sexual experience as positive. The number of subjects who reported a neutral perception, at the time of the survey, increased by 2 resulting in a total of 8 subjects (27.6%). Similarly, the number of subjects who reported a negative perception increased by 2 subjects which resulted in a total of 9 subjects (31.0%).

Affective Perception and Relationship Type

The majority (72.4%) of childhood sexual experiences with significantly older or authority positioned partners ($n=21$) reported by subjects in this study were

extrafamilial. The other eight reported childhood sexual experiences with significantly older or authority positioned partners (27.6) were intrafamilial.

Comparisons performed between affective perception, time lapse, and partner gender were just short of having sufficient numbers of subjects with reported childhood sexual experiences in order to meet the requirements for statistical tests of significance. Despite these limitations, a large majority of subjects (n=16) that experienced childhood sexual encounters reported their perception at the time of the encounters as positive (see Tables 17 and 18). The 16 reported childhood sexual experiences perceived as positive at the time of the sexual encounter represent 76.2% of all the extra-familial relationships reported by subjects and over half (55.2%) of all the childhood sexual experiences with significantly older or authority positioned partners reported in this study.

In contrast, the eight reported childhood sexual experiences with significantly older or authority positioned intrafamilial partners (27.5%) were either perceived as neutral or negative at the time of the sexual encounter. Five of these eight experiences (62.5%) were reported as being perceived as negative at the time of the sexual encounter.

Table 17

Type of relationship by affective perception of sexual encounter at the time it occurred, for combined CSA category (n=29)

Condition	Type of sexual relationship					
	Extrafamilial		Intrafamilial		Total	
	<u>n</u>	%	<u>n</u>	%	<u>n</u>	%
Positive	16	55.2	0	0.0	16	55.2
Neutral	3	10.3	3	10.3	6	20.7
Negative	2	6.9	5	17.2	7	24.1
Total	21	72.4	8	27.6	29	100.0

At the time of the survey, some subjects had changed their perceptions regarding previous childhood sexual experiences with significantly older or authority positioned partners. The majority of those subjects, with two exceptions, had a change over time toward a neutral or negative perception. This shift is apparent when comparing the results in 17 with those in Table 18. One of the two exceptions to this trend involved a subject who had an extrafamilial childhood sexual experience prior to age 14 with a female baby-sitter who was five or more years older than he at the time (i.e., the subject was 7 years old and the baby-sitter was 17 years of age). The other exception

Table 18

Type of relationship by affective perception of sexual encounter at the time of the survey, for combined CSA category (n=29)

Condition	Type of sexual relationship					
	<u>Extrafamilial</u>		<u>Intrafamilial</u>		<u>Total</u>	
	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
Positive	11	37.9	1	3.4	12	41.4
Neutral	7	24.1	1	3.4	8	27.6
Negative	3	10.3	6	20.7	9	31.0
Total	21	72.4	8	27.6	29	100.0

involved a subject who had intrafamilial childhood sexual encounter prior to age 14 with an older sister (i.e., the subject was age 10 and the older sister was 15 years of age).

The findings of comparisons between subjects' affective perceptions and the type of relationship (extrafamilial or intrafamilial) produced similar results across categories. A larger proportion of subjects across the four categories reported positive perceptions of the childhood sexual experiences if the type of relationship was extrafamilial. Conversely, subjects who had childhood sexual experiences that were intrafamilial primarily reported these experiences as negative.

Relationship Type and Partner Gender

The relationship type between partner and subject was compared with partner gender and shown for the combined CSA category (see Table 19). The results shown in Table 19 were statistically significant using the Phi-square and Cramér's V (0.447, $p < 0.018$) at an alpha level of .05. The 0.447 value obtained was equivalent to the Pearson's Correlation Coefficient demonstrating the strength of relationship between relationship type (i.e., extrafamilial and intrafamilial) and the partner gender. The Contingency Coefficient (0.408, $p < 0.016$) was also statistically significant at an alpha level of .05.

The Goodman and Kruskal tau test also produced statistical significance (0.199, $p < 0.018$) at the alpha level of .05. This value indicates that knowledge about the partner's gender reduced the error of predicting the type of relationship between the subject and sexual partner by 19.9 percent, and vice versa.

An equal number of subjects had female and male partners in the intrafamilial relationships (see Table 19). Also, the number of subjects involved in intrafamilial sexual relationships was small relative to the number involved in extrafamilial relationships. However, a large majority of the extrafamilial relationships involved an older female partner, whereas the intrafamilial relationships involved equal numbers of male and female partners.

Table 19

Type of relationship by partner gender for combined CSA category (n=29)

Partner Gender	Type of relationship					
	<u>Extrafamilial</u>		<u>Intrafamilial</u>		<u>Total</u>	
	Percent	<u>n</u>	Percent	<u>n</u>	Percent	<u>n</u>
Female	65.5	19	13.8	4	79.3	23
Male	6.9	2	13.8	4	20.7	6
Total	72.4	21	27.6	8	100.0	29

The distribution pattern of reported types of relationships relative to the gender of the sexual partner was found to be consistent for two of the age differential categories. The results obtained for childhood sexual experiences that occurred in the at or before age 14 with a partner three or more years older category were similar in distribution to those results found in the combined CSA category (shown in Table 19). In the former category, 12 of the sexual encounters (63.2%) had occurred in an extrafamilial encounter with a female partner, and one had occurred in an extrafamilial sexual encounter (5.2%) with a male partner. Reported intrafamilial encounters (n=4) were equally divided between male and female partners (19.0%). Those childhood sexual experiences reported in the prior to age 17 with a partner five or more years older category included 11 extrafamilial relationships (68.8%) and 5 intrafamilial

relationships (31.3%). Of the 11 reported extrafamilial relationships, 9 relationships (56.3%) involved female partners, while two relationships (12.5%) involved male partners. These findings vary in the authority positioned sexual partner category. Of the 10 childhood sexual experiences with an authority positioned partner that were reported by subjects, all five of the extrafamilial relationships (50.0%) involved a female partner. Reported intrafamilial relationships involved three female partners (30.0%) and two male partners (20.0%).

Relationship Type, Partner Gender, and Affect

Comparisons between the type of relationship between subjects and partners and the gender of the sexual partner was expanded to also include the subjects' reported perceptions about their childhood sexual experiences and are shown in Tables 20 to 23. These results provide comparisons across the age difference or authority positioned categories. As previously stated, the shift in subjects' perceptions regarding childhood sexual experiences with significantly older or authority positioned partners has been demonstrated and, therefore, for the purpose of parsimony only the subjects' retrospective perceptions have been reported.

Across the four categories, those childhood sexual experiences with significantly older or authority positioned partners which involved intrafamilial relationships were perceived as either neutral or negative by subjects regardless of the gender of the older sexual partner. In contrast, perceptions of those childhood sexual experiences with

significantly older or authority positioned partners which involved extrafamilial relationships ranged from positive to negative. Between the different categories there are a few variances in perceptions as shown in Tables 20 to 23.

Table 20

Type of relationship by affective perception and partner gender for encounters prior to age 14 with sexual partners three or more years older (n=21)

Condition	Type of relationship					
	Extrafamilial		Intrafamilial		Total	
	n	Percent	n	Percent	n	Percent
<u>Female</u>						
Positive	9	56.3	0	0.0	9	56.3
Neutral	2	12.5	1	6.3	3	18.8
Negative	1	6.3	3	18.8	4	25.0
Total	12	75.0	4	25.0	16	100.0
<u>Male</u>						
Positive	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Neutral	0	0.0	2	40.0	2	40.0
Negative	1	20.0	2	40.0	3	60.0
Total	1	20.0	4	80.0	5	100.0

Table 21

Type of relationship by affective perception and partner gender for encounters prior to age 17 with sexual partners five or more years older (n=16)

Condition	Type of relationship					
	Extrafamilial		Intrafamilial		Total	
	n	Percent	n	Percent	n	Percent
<u>Female</u>						
Positive	7	63.6	0	0.0	7	63.6
Neutral	2	18.2	0	0.0	2	18.2
Negative	0	0.0	2	18.2	2	18.2
Total	9	81.8	2	18.2	11	100.0
<u>Male</u>						
Positive	1	20.0	0	0.0	1	20.0
Neutral	0	0.0	1	20.0	1	20.0
Negative	1	20.0	2	40.0	3	60.0
Total	2	40.0	3	60.0	5	100.0

Table 22

Type of relationship by affective perception and partner gender for childhood sexual experiences prior to age 17 with an authority positioned partner (n=10)

Condition	Type of relationship					
	<u>Extrafamilial</u>		<u>Intrafamilial</u>		<u>Total</u>	
	<u>n</u>	Percent	<u>n</u>	Percent	<u>n</u>	Percent
<u>Female</u>						
Positive	4	50.0	0	0.0	4	50.0
Neutral	1	12.5	0	0.0	1	12.5
Negative	0	0.0	3	37.5	3	37.5
Total	5	62.5	3	37.5	8	100
<u>Male</u>						
Positive	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Neutral	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Negative	0	0.0	2	100.0	2	100.0
Total	0	0.0	2	100.0	2	100.0

Table 23

Type of relationship by affective perception and partner gender for combined CSA category (n=29)

Condition	Type of relationship					
	Extrafamilial		Intrafamilial		Total	
	<u>n</u>	Percent	<u>n</u>	Percent	<u>n</u>	Percent
<u>Female</u>						
Positive	15	65.2	0	0.0	15	65.2
Neutral	3	13.0	1	3.4	4	17.4
Negative	1	4.3	3	10.3	4	17.4
Total	19	82.6	4	13.8	23	100.0
<u>Male</u>						
Positive	1	16.7	0	0.0	1	16.7
Neutral	0	0.0	2	33.3	2	33.3
Negative	1	16.7	2	33.3	3	50.0
Total	2	33.3	4	66.7	6	100.0

For each category, older or authority positioned female partners were primarily extrafamilial in relationship to the subject and ranged from 5 cases (62.5%) in the authority positioned category to 19 cases (82.6%) of all reported childhood sexual experiences with significantly older female partners. Of the intrafamilial relationships, subjects reported the majority as negative. The number of reported intrafamilial childhood sexual experiences was also much smaller relative to the number of reported extrafamilial relationships. Across the categories, the number of reported female intrafamilial encounters ranged from two cases (18.2%) to four cases (13.8%).

With two exceptions, all of the reported encounters with male partners in the authority positioned partner category (see Tables 20 to 23) were intrafamilial and were viewed by subjects as either negative or neutral. Another two of the reported encounters with male partners were extrafamilial. One of these subjects perceived the extrafamilial encounter as negative, both at the time of the sexual encounter and at the time of the survey. The other subject reported the extrafamilial encounter as positive at the time of the sexual encounter, but neutral at the time of the survey. Interestingly, the number of subjects viewing childhood sexual encounters with females as positive diminished as the classification criteria for inclusion in a given category stipulated larger age differences between the subjects and the older partners. The number of subjects perceiving encounters with females as positive also diminished when the defining criteria involved a position of authority or power over the subjects.

Affective Perceptions and Perceptions of Abuse

Cross tabulated comparisons were completed looking at the relationship between subjects' affective perceptions (i.e., positive, neutral, or negative) of the sexual encounters with an older partner, and whether or not they perceived these encounters to be abusive. The results of these comparisons are shown in Tables 24 to 27.

The results in Table 27 were found to be statistically significant using non-parametric statistical computations. The Phi-square and Cramer's V obtained statistical significance (0.533, $p < 0.004$) at an alpha level of .05. The Contingency Coefficient also reached statistical significance (0.470, $p < 0.004$) at an alpha level of .05, as did the Goodman and Kruskal tau (0.284, $p < 0.005$). These results indicate that knowledge of the sexual partners gender produced a reduction in error of 28.4% in predicting the subject's perception of child sexual abuse. The same reduction of error was found, in this category, when subjects' perceptions of child sexual abuse were used to predict the gender of the older sexual partner.

Table 24

Perception of abuse by partner's gender and time lapse for childhood sexual experiences prior to age 14 with partners three or more years older (n=21)

Condition	Perception of abuse					
	<u>No CSA</u>		<u>Yes CSA</u>		<u>Total</u>	
	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
<u>Time of sexual encounter</u>						
Female	16	76.2	0	0.0	16	76.2
Male	3	14.3	2	9.5	5	23.8
Total	19	90.5	2	9.5	21	100.0
<u>Time of survey completion</u>						
Female	11	52.4	5	23.8	16	76.2
Male	1	4.8	4	19.0	5	23.8
Total	12	57.1	9	42.9	21	100.0

Table 25

Perception of abuse by partner gender and time lapse for childhood sexual experiences
prior to age 17 with partners five or more years older (n=16)

Condition	Perception of abuse					
	<u>No CSA</u>		<u>Yes CSA</u>		<u>Total</u>	
	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
<u>Time of sexual encounter</u>						
Female	11	68.8	0	0.0	11	68.8
Male	3	18.8	2	12.5	5	31.3
Total	14	87.5	2	12.5	16	100.0
<u>Time of survey completion</u>						
Female	8	50.0	3	18.8	11	68.8
Male	1	6.3	4	25.0	5	31.3
Total	9	56.3	7	43.8	16	100.0

Table 26

Perception of abuse by partner gender and time lapse for childhood sexual experiences prior to age 17 with an authority positioned partner (n=10)

Condition	Perception of abuse					
	No CSA		Yes CSA		Total	
	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
<u>Time of sexual encounter</u>						
Female	8	80.0	0	0.0	8	80.0
Male	0	0.0	2	20.0	2	20.0
Total	8	80.0	2	20.0	10	100.0
<u>Time of survey completion</u>						
Female	4	40.0	4	40.0	8	80.0
Male	0	0.0	2	20.0	2	20.0
Total	4	40.0	6	60.0	10	100.0

Table 27

Perception of abuse by partner gender and time lapse for combined CSA category

(n=29)

Condition	Perception of abuse					
	<u>No CSA</u>		<u>Yes CSA</u>		<u>Total</u>	
	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
<u>Time of sexual encounter</u>						
Female	23	79.3	0	0.0	23	79.3
Male	4	13.8	2	6.9	6	20.7
Total	27	93.1	2	6.9	29	100.0
<u>Time of survey completion</u>						
Female	18	62.1	5	17.2	23	79.3
Male	2	6.9	4	13.8	6	20.7
Total	20	69.0	9	31.0	29	100.0

As shown in Tables 24 to 27, the number of childhood sexual encounters with significantly older or authority positioned partners perceived by the subject as child sexual abuse was relatively low compared to the total number of encounters in each of the four categories.

The number of reported childhood sexual encounters perceived by subjects as child sexual abuse were based on perceptions at the time of the survey, as some subjects' changed their perception from non-abuse at the time of the encounters to abuse at the time of the survey. The shift in subjects' perceptions concerning abuse ranged from 24.1% to 40.0% depending on the category reviewed. This shift in perceptions was consistent with some subjects viewing the encounters as more positive at the time of the experiences compared to viewing these encounters as more neutral or negative at the time of the survey.

Some of the childhood sexual experiences perceived as sexually abusive by subjects did not meet the stringent age difference or authority criteria used in each category. Two subjects in the study reported childhood sexual experiences that they perceived as child sexual abuse that were not consistent with the age criteria used to define child sexual abuse. These childhood sexual experiences were excluded so that the findings of the study remained conservative.

When examining the groups, varying percentages were found of subjects who viewed the encounters as abusive. Nine subjects (42.8%) in the childhood sexual experiences prior to age 14 with a partner three or more years older category

perceived that the encounter represented child sexual abuse (see Table 24) and seven subjects (43.8%) in the prior to age 17 with a partner five or more years older category had childhood sexual experiences that they perceived as child sexual abuse (see Table 25). In addition, six subjects (60.0%) in the authority positioned partner category considered themselves to have had a sexually abusive experience. Within the combined CSA category there were a total of nine childhood sexual experiences (31.0%) that subjects considered abusive at the time of the survey (see Table 27).

Across the five categories, the percentage of childhood sexual experiences with significantly older or authority positioned partners perceived by subjects as child sexual abuse ranged from 31.0% to 60.0%. It was interesting to note that as the number of subjects decreased per category due to increasingly stringent inclusion criteria, the number of reported sexual experiences considered abusive increased. Childhood sexual experiences with older or authority positioned female partners were consistently reported by subjects as not representing child sexual abuse at the time of the sexual encounter regardless of the category examined. However the shift in subject's perceptions of the childhood sexual encounters with older or authority positioned female partners as abusive ranged from 17.2% to 40.0% depending on the category examined.

The disparity of reported childhood sexual experiences involving female and male partners made comparisons between these conditions difficult. However, subjects who changed their perceptions regarding the abusiveness of childhood sexual

encounters with females represented between 60.0% and 100.0% of all those subjects who changed their perception. Interestingly, no childhood sexual experiences with a significantly older or authority positioned female partner was considered to be sexually abusive at the time of the sexual encounter.

Subjects' perceptions regarding the abusiveness of the child sexual encounter were subsequently compared with the type of reported relationship (i.e., extrafamilial or intrafamilial) for each of the four definition categories. Generally, the results of this comparison were inconclusive due to the small number of childhood sexual experiences reported by subjects. Of the five subjects who reported encounters with female partners and subsequently perceived the sexual encounter as child sexual abuse, three (60.0%) reported the encounters as intrafamilial while the other two (40.0%) reported the encounters as extra-familial. Those subjects who shifted their perception of encounters with a male partner from non-abuse to abuse were involved in equal number of intrafamilial and extrafamilial relationships. The exception to this was the authority positioned category that included encounters with male partners who represented intrafamilial relationships only.

Manipulation and Coercion

In Table 28 the level of partner manipulation and subject participation (i.e., the extent to which a subject believed that they had willingly participated in the sexual

encounter) were compared to the subjects' perceptions of the encounter as abusive. All of the subjects reporting encounters with female partners reported perceiving these encounters as being non-abusive at the time they occurred. Therefore, perceptions at the time of the survey were used in the analysis as this information best exhibits the change in subjects' perceptions over time.

Due to the size of the Tables and relatively consistent dispersion of data results across categories, only the results for combined child sexual abuse (CSA) category have been provided in Table 28. The findings in Table 28 do not make any distinction between the gender of the significantly older or authority positioned partner.

In Table 28 the level of persuasion headings are abbreviated. The heading None means that the subject did not perceive any coercion by the partner to enter into the sexual encounter. The heading Verbal refers to the subject noting that the partner used verbal persuasion to obtain compliance in the sexual encounter. The heading Physical refers to the subject perceiving that the partner used non-forceful physical persuasion to obtain compliance. Finally, the heading Force refers to the subject's perception that the partner used physical force to obtain compliance in the sexual encounter.

Table 28

Partner persuasion by initiation of sexual activity and subjects' perception of abuse for combined CSA category^a (n =28)

Condition	Level of persuasion									
	None		Verbal		Physical		Threats		Forced	
	n		n		n		n		n	
<u>Subject alone initiated</u>										
No CSA	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
CSA	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<u>Subject mostly initiated</u>										
No CSA	2	7.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
CSA	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<u>Mutually engaged</u>										
No CSA	8	28.6	1	3.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
CSA	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<u>Partner mostly initiated</u>										
No CSA	2	7.1	0	0.0	2	7.1	0	0.0	0	0.0
CSA	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	3.6	0	0.0	0	0.0
<u>Partner alone initiated</u>										
No CSA	3	10.7	0	0.0	1	3.6	0	0.0	0	0.0
CSA	1	3.6	2	7.1	3	10.7	1	3.6	1	3.6

a. Note. One subject did not respond to the questions asking about child sexual abuse.

The cumulative percent does not equal 100.

An important finding in Table 28 is that those subjects who reported perceiving the encounters as child sexual abuse also reported that their partner had primarily or completely initiated the sexual encounter. When the factors were inversed, the level of persuasion used by the partner to obtain the subjects compliance was not as good at predicting subject's perceptions of abuse, as it was more varied.

Subject Participation, Partner Gender, and Perception of Abuse

In Table 29, subject's perceived involvement in the encounter, subject's perception of abuse, and the partner's gender are compared. Interestingly, those subjects who perceived that the partner was the primary instigator of the sexual encounter were more likely to believe, at the time of the survey, that they had experienced child sexual abuse.

Those subjects who reported childhood sexual experiences with a male partner, where partner was noted as the major instigator of the encounter, all perceived at the time of the survey that their childhood sexual experiences represented child sexual abuse. Similar findings were found for those subjects who had childhood sexual experiences involving a female partner who was reported as the main instigator of the sexual encounter. However, of the 22 reported childhood sexual experiences with significantly older or authority positioned female partners, only five subjects (22.7%) reported a change of perception toward perceiving the sexual experience as child sexual abuse at the time of the survey.

Table 29

Subject's Participation in sexual encounter by perception of abuse for combined CSA category^a (n=28)

Condition	Subject's participation in sexual encounter (S. E.)									
	Subject initiated more than partner		Mutually engaged in S. E.		Partner initiated more than subject		Partner alone initiated S. E.		Within group Total	
	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
<u>Time of Sexual Experience</u>										
<u>Perceived Abuse</u>										
Female partner	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Male partner	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	7.1	2	7.1
<u>Perceived Non-Abuse</u>										
Female partner	1	3.6	8	28.6	5	17.9	8	28.6	22	78.6
Male partner	1	3.6	1	3.6	0	0.0	2	7.1	4	14.3
Total	2	7.2	9	32.2	5	17.9	12	42.8	28	100.0
<u>Time of Survey</u>										
<u>Perceived Abuse</u>										
Female partner	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	3.6	4	14.3	5	17.9
Male partner	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	14.3	4	14.3
<u>Perceived Non-Abuse</u>										
Female partner	1	3.6	8	28.6	4	14.3	4	14.3	17	60.7
Male partner	1	3.6	1	3.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	7.2
Total	2	7.2	9	32.2	5	17.9	12	42.9	28	100.0

a. Note: One subject did not respond to the participation question and as a result the computations are based on 28 subjects instead of 29 for the combined CSA category.

In Tables 30 and 31, the level of partner persuasion, the gender of the partner, and the subject's perceptions of abuse were also compared. The findings of these comparisons using the combined CSA category are shown in Tables 30 and 31.

Those childhood sexual experiences reported as involving non-forceful physical persuasion, verbal threats, and physical force were perceived by subjects as representing child sexual abuse, both at the time of the encounter and at the time of the survey. However, some subjects did not require the encounters to have an elevated level of persuasion or coercion in order to be perceived as child sexual abuse.

The results in Table 32 indicate that of those childhood sexual experiences subjects perceived as child sexual abuse, all but one occurred with a partner that was five or more years older. The one exception involved a subject who had an encounter with a female partner who was three to four years older.

Those encounters with significantly older or authority positioned female partners which subjects perceived as child sexual abuse included four instances (55.6%) of all the childhood sexual experiences deemed by subjects as abusive, and the remaining four cases (44.4%) that were perceived by subjects to represent child sexual abuse involved older male partners.

Table 30

Level of persuasion used by partner relative to partner gender and the subject's perception of abuse at the time of the sexual encounter (n=29)

Level of persuasion	Perceptions of child sexual abuse and gender of partner									
	Perceived Abuse				Perceived Non-Abuse				Within Group Total	
	Female Partner		Male Partner		Female Partner		Male Partner		n	%
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
No coercion	0	0.0	0	0.0	14	48.3	3	10.3	17	58.6
Verbal persuasion	0	0.0	1	3.4	2	6.9	0	0.0	3	10.3
Non-forceful physical persuasion	0	0.0	0	0.0	6	20.7	1	3.4	7	24.1
Verbally Threatened	0	0.0	1	3.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	3.4
Physically Forced	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	3.4	0	0.0	1	3.4
Total	0	0.0	2	6.9	23	79.3	4	13.8	29	100.0

Table 31

Level of persuasion used by partner relative to partner gender and the subject's perception of abuse at the time of the survey (n=29)

Level of persuasion	Perceptions of child sexual abuse and gender of partner									
	Perceived Abuse				Perceived Non-Abuse				Within	
	Female Partner		Male Partner		Female Partner		Male Partner		Group Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
No coercion	0	0.0	1	3.4	14	48.3	2	6.9	17	58.6
Verbal persuasion	1	3.4	1	3.4	1	3.4	0	0.0	3	10.3
Non-forceful physical persuasion	3	10.3	1	3.4	3	10.3	0	0.0	7	24.1
Verbally Threatened	0	0.0	1	3.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	3.4
Physically Forced	1	3.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	3.4
Total	5	17.2	4	13.8	18	62.1	2	6.9	29	100.0

Table 32

Partner persuasion by initiation of sexual activity, partner gender, and age discrepancy for those childhood sexual experiences perceived as sexually abusive

Condition	Level of persuasion									
	None		Verbal		Physical		Threats		Forced	
	<u>n</u>	%	<u>n</u>	%	<u>n</u>	%	<u>n</u>	%	<u>n</u>	%
<u>Partner mostly initiated</u>										
Female										
3 to 4 years older	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	3.4	0	0.0	0	0.0
5 plus years older	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Male										
3 to 4 years older	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
5 plus years older	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<u>Partner alone initiated</u>										
Female										
3 to 4 years older	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
5 plus years older	0	0.0	1	3.4	2	6.9	0	0.0	1	3.4
Male										
3 to 4 years older	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
5 plus years older	1	3.4	1	3.4	1	3.4	1	3.4	0	0.0

Based on the results shown in Tables 28 to 32 there does not appear to be any single underlying factor that accurately predicts subjects' perceptions of abuse regarding the childhood sexual experiences reported in this study, but rather an interaction between several underlying factors. Noteworthy findings in Tables 29 to 32 were the relatively large number of subjects who did not consider their childhood sexual experiences with significantly older or authority positioned partners to represent child sexual abuse.

Manipulation and Coercion in Relation to Trauma Symptoms

Question: Does the level of manipulation or coercion used in the childhood sexual encounter by the partner significantly relate to the subjects' affective perceptions and the extent to which they exhibit trauma symptoms?

As alluded to previously, the small number of subjects who had childhood sexual experiences with a significantly older or authority positioned partner was insufficient to permit the use of nonparametric and inferential statistics. Consequently, the raw data scores collected from the Trauma Symptom Inventory could not be used to assess statistical significance as related to subjects' self-reported incidences of childhood sexual encounters and subjects' perceptions of manipulation and coercion by the older or authority positioned sexual partners. Despite this, an attempt has been

made in the following section to describe subjects' response patterns on the Trauma Symptom Inventory.

Within the TSI are 10 clinical and three global assessment scales. For each subject, T-scores of significance were made available on the Clinical Scales and Global Scales. To enable some statistical comparison of subject data, the three global assessment scales of the TSI were encoded in the database in a manner that indicated whether or not the T-Score was statistically significant. The three Global Scales included: trauma symptoms, self-dysfunction, and dysphoria symptoms. These Global Scale scores are composite scores derived from the 10 clinical scales in the TSI.

This encoding procedure permitted descriptive comparisons and some assessment of statistical significance using the nominal data available. The encoded TSI Global Scale scores were subsequently compared with each subject's data obtained from the Sexual Experiences and Perceptions Questionnaire. Surprisingly, it was indicated within these results that those subjects who had experienced a childhood sexual encounter with a significantly older or authority positioned partner experienced no significant trauma symptomology associated with the event.

Within the entire sample of 254 subjects, including those who had not experienced childhood sexual encounters, 36 subjects (14.0%) had significant Student T-Scores on the Global Trauma scales. Forty-nine subjects (19.1%) had significant Global Self scores, and 16 subjects (6.3%) had significant Global Dysphoria scores. Of those subjects within the entire sample that had experienced a childhood sexual

encounter with a significantly older or authority positioned partner, two subjects (6.9%) had significant Global Trauma scores, while 10 subjects (34.5%) had significant Global Self scores and one subject (3.4%) had a significant Global Dysphoria score.

Trauma Related Symptomology

One of the final goals of this research was to provide an overt measurement of symptomology and compare those results to subjective information provided by subjects from the Sexual Experiences and Perceptions Questionnaire. However, inferential statistical comparisons using the TSI were not possible due to the small number of people who had childhood sexual experiences prior to the age of 17 with significantly older or authority positioned partners. Data was grouped in a variety of ways in an effort to increase the power of the statistic so that any effect could be assessed. No significance was obtained using either univariate or multivariate statistics.

Trauma Symptom Inventory T-scores, which indicate the level of significance of each scale for each subject, were then encoded as to whether or not each subject scored significantly or non significantly on the three Global Scales (Trauma, Self, and Dysphoria). Comparisons were made using each category of reported childhood sexual experiences. The number of subjects who scored significantly on the Global Self Scale ranged from 5 subjects (9.4%) to 10 subjects (34.5%). Of the 10 subjects

who reported childhood sexual experiences involving an authority positioned partner, 7 of the subjects (70.0%) within this group scored significantly on the Global Self Scale. Significant scores on the Global Self Scale indicate “self-dysfunction” symptomology, associated with difficulties in identity, affect regulation and dysfunctional behavior.

Very few subjects who had childhood sexual encounters with significantly older partners, regardless of the definitional category, scored significantly on the Global Trauma Scale. Only 2 subjects (6.9%) of the 29 who reported childhood sexual experiences with significantly older or authority positioned partners had significant Student T- scores, and both of these individuals had reported encounters with older female partners. Similarly, only one subject (3.4%) who reported a childhood sexual encounter scored significantly on the Global Dysphoria scale.

The Trauma Symptom Inventory (TSI) Global Trauma Scale and Global Dysphoria Scale scores indicate that few male subjects in this sample who reported childhood sexual encounters with significantly older or authority positioned partners exhibited trauma symptoms manifested as intrusive, avoidant, or dysphoric behavior. In contrast, the subject scores on the TSI Global Self Scale indicated that an increased number of subjects exhibited elevated self-dysfunction. Significant scores on the Global Self Scale indicated difficulties in identity, affect regulation, and elevated dysfunctional behavior. These results applied to approximately one-third of all those individuals who had childhood sexual experiences with significantly older partners.

Perception of Child Abuse and Trauma Symptoms

Given the few significant scores on the Global scales of the TSI, subsequent results are reported based on the combined CSA category. The results did not differ greatly across the four age and authority criteria categories.

It should be noted that of the nine subjects (31.0%) who had childhood sexual encounters with older or authority based partners and perceived themselves to be sexually abused, only one subject (11.1%) scored significantly on the TSI Global Trauma Scale and none of these subjects scored significantly on the Global Dysphoria Scale. These results indicate that the subjects who had childhood sexual experiences with older individuals showed little or no intrusive, avoidant, or dysphoric symptoms associated with the general factor of trauma using the TSI Global Trauma Scale. However, four (44.4%) of the nine subjects who reported perceiving their childhood sexual experience as child sexual abuse scored significantly on the Global Self Scale.

Overall, less than half of the subjects who reported any childhood sexual experiences with significantly older or authority positioned partner had significant scores on the Global Scales of the TSI. These findings indicate that either the TSI Global Scales and the associated Student -T scores were insensitive in identifying maladaptive behavior and trauma symptoms in subjects within this study, or that few

subjects within this study exhibited any significant trauma or self-dysfunction symptoms associated with reported childhood sexual experiences.

Affective Perceptions of Abuse and Trauma Symptoms

Question: *In the population of subjects who perceive their childhood sexual experiences as either a) negative, b) neutral, or c) positive, how many appear to be experiencing some form of trauma symptoms?*

and,

Question: *Are any specific types of trauma reactions significant for each group of males who have had childhood sexual experiences and perceived it as either a) negative, b) neutral, or c) positive?*

Comparisons were made between subjects' scores on the Global TSI Scales and their reported emotional perceptions of the childhood sexual encounters with an older partner either at the time of the sexual encounter or at the time of the survey. None of the nine subjects (31.0%) who reported their childhood sexual encounters as being perceived as negative scored significantly on the Global Trauma Scale. As mentioned previously, only two subjects (6.9%) scored significantly on the Global Trauma Scale, and these two subjects reported perceiving their childhood sexual experiences as either positive or neutral.

Emotional perception scores were distributed fairly evenly across the levels of emotional perception for the 10 subjects (34.5%) who had childhood sexual encounters with older or authority positioned individuals and who scored significantly on the Global Self Scale. Three subjects (30.0%) of the 10 subjects who had significant Global Self Scale scores reported their childhood sexual experience as positive at the time of the survey. Similarly, four subjects (40.0%) reported the experience as neutral, and three subjects (30.0%) reported the experience as negative. In addition, the one subject who had a significant Global Dysphoria Scale (3.4%) of those 29 subjects who reported childhood sexual encounters in the combined CSA category reported perceiving the sexual encounter as a positive experience at the time of the survey. These results lead the researcher to suggest that the results of the TSI Global Scores, which are aggregates of the clinical scales, were irresolute and inconsistent with subjects' self-reported emotional perceptions of the childhood sexual encounters with significantly older or authority positioned partners.

Relationship Type and Trauma Symptoms

The results of the comparison of the type of relationship to the Global Scales of the TSI, using the combined CSA category, were of some interest despite the few scores that were significant. The two subjects with significant Global Trauma scores (6.9%) who had experienced childhood sexual encounters were both involved in extrafamilial sexual encounters with older female partners. None of the subjects who

reported intrafamilial sexual encounters had significant scores on the Global Trauma Scale.

Of the ten subjects who scored significantly on the Global Self Scale and who had childhood sexual encounters (34.5%), six subjects (20.7%) indicated the sexual encounters involved an extrafamilial encounter with a female partner, while the other four subjects (13.8%) indicated the sexual encounters involved intrafamilial relationships. The intrafamilial relationships involved equal numbers of older male and female partners. The six subjects with significant extrafamilial Global Self Scale scores represent 28.6% of 21 reported extrafamilial sexual encounters, while the four subjects with significant intrafamilial Global Self Scale scores represent 50.0% of the eight reported intrafamilial sexual encounters.

The single subject who scored significantly on the Global Dysphoria Scale within the group of those reporting a childhood sexual encounter (3.4%) reported an extrafamilial sexual encounter with an older female partner. None of the eight individuals reporting intrafamilial relationships scored significantly on the Global Dysphoria Scale scores.

In conclusion, these results indicate that those subjects who had significant scores on the Global Trauma and Dysphoria scales were almost exclusively involved in extrafamilial encounters. Of the 10 subjects who had significant Global Self Scale scores, eight (80.0%) were involved in extra-familial relationships.

The results obtained utilizing the Trauma Symptom Inventory for subjects who had experienced childhood sexual experiences with a significantly older or authority positioned partner produced few significant results of overt symptomology. The greatest number of significant scores across the three Global Scales of the TSI were found on the Global Self Scale. The number of subjects with significant scores relative to all the childhood sexual experiences examined ranged between 1 subject (3.4%) and 10 subjects (34.5%) across the three Global scales. Conversely, those with non-significant scores ranged from 21 subjects (72.4%) to 28 subjects (96.6%) across the three Global scales for the combined CSA category.

Trauma Not Associated with Childhood Sexual Experiences

It should also be noted that some subjects within the overall sample who did not report any childhood sexual experiences had significant scores on the Global scales of the TSI. Of the entire sample of 258 subjects who did not report any childhood sexual encounters, 33 subjects (12.8%) scored significantly on the Global Trauma Scale, 37 subjects (14.4%) scored significantly on the Global Self Scale, and 15 subjects (5.9%) scored significantly on the Global Dysphoria Scale.

Partner Persuasion and Trauma Symptoms

Question: *Does the level of manipulation or coercion used in the childhood sexual encounter by the partner significantly relate to the subject's affective perceptions and the extent to which they exhibit trauma symptoms?*

Trauma Symptom Inventory Global scales and reported level of persuasion used by the older sexual partner were compared for each of the four categories. As reported previously, the Global Trauma Scale and Global Dysphoria Scale results provided few significant scores and the results for these two scales did not vary significantly across the categories. Consequently, the results are only reported for the combined CSA category.

Of the 29 subjects who reported childhood sexual experiences with significantly older partners, the three subjects (10.3%) who scored significantly on the Global Trauma Scale reported levels of partner persuasion that included no coercion, and non-forceful verbal persuasion. One subject (3.4%) scored significantly on the Global Dysphoria Scale, but reported no partner coercion. Overall, the ten subjects (34.5%) who scored significantly on the Global Self Scale reported a wide range in the levels of partner persuasion, as identified in the SEP-Q.

The ten subjects who scored significantly on the TSI Global Self Scale were dispersed evenly over the five levels of persuasion. Five of these subjects (17.2%)

reported that they had experienced no coercion and of these subjects, four were involved with female partners and one with a male partner. One of the subjects who scored significantly on the Global Self Scale, one subject (3.4%) reported verbal persuasion, and was involved with a female partner, and two subjects (6.9%) reported non-forceful physical persuasion and were also involved with female partners. The final two subjects reported partner persuasion that involved verbal threats (3.4%) and physical force (3.4%).

Partner Initiation and Trauma Symptoms

The TSI T-scores were derived to have a mean of 50 with a standard deviation of 10 for each scale in the tool and were derived from the raw score data of the standardization sample based upon combinations of age and sex groupings. The results of the T-scores for each subject's Global Scale were examined and encoded in the database as either statistically significant or non-statistically significant. These scores were then compared to the four categories of subjects who had reported childhood sexual experiences with significantly older or authority positioned partners and related variables. Besides for a few elevated Self Scale scores, not much was found.

Conclusion

In conclusion, it was found that the prevalence of males who had early childhood sexual experiences with significantly older or authority positioned partners ranged from 11.2%, using broad definition, to 3.9%, using a more stringent definition. Subjects were assigned to one or more definitional groups, which varied in the criteria used to define abuse. As the defining criteria became more stringent, the likelihood of the subject perceiving the childhood sexual encounter as abuse increased. In the authority-positioned category, for example, 60% of subjects identified themselves as having been abused. Nevertheless, it is indicated in the results of this study that many male subjects who had childhood sexual encounters with older partners did not perceive these experiences as abuse. The subjects' conclusions that they had not been abused may center around the fact that many of the males identified the older partner as female, perceived themselves as participating - to some extent - in initiating the encounter, and experienced minimal force or coercion from the older sexual partner.

Increased levels of persuasion, including force, were noted for those who considered themselves as having been sexually abused. A significant factor within this sample determining whether or not subjects considered their encounters to be sexually abusive was the extent to which the partner initiated the sexual encounter. With one exception, those encounters considered abusive by the subjects all involved initiation of sexual activity by the sexual partner alone.

Further analysis of the results were undertaken in order to assess whether or not subjects who had sexual encounters with older partners had also experienced any degree of trauma associated with these events. The analysis consisted of comparisons, using each definition category, between significant scores on the Global Scales of the TSI and inclusion in the group of subjects who had identified themselves on the SEP-Q as having had childhood sexual encounters with significantly older or authority positioned partners. These results included a descriptive analysis of partner gender, age difference between the subject and partner, perception of child sexual abuse, subject perception of participation in the encounter, and partner initiation in relation to significance or non-significance of scores on the global assessment scales of the Trauma Symptom Inventory. The resulting findings were inconclusive. This raises the question of the ability of the TSI to adequately assess aversive symptoms in those male subjects identified in this research who had childhood sexual encounters with older or authority positioned partners, especially those experiences that were not necessarily considered to be “unwanted.”

CHAPTER V

DISCUSSION, IMPLICATIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The major purpose of this study was to investigate the broad spectrum of childhood and adolescent sexual experiences in males with significantly older or authority positioned partners. The major research questions focused on the prevalence of childhood and adolescent sexual experiences in males as they relate to four different categories of definitional criteria. Factors that were evaluated were the subject's emotional perceptions of these experiences (positive, negative, or neutral), whether or not they perceived these experiences as abuse, and whether or not they experienced any overt traumatic symptomology. Additional questions concerned whether or not the gender of the partner, the type of relationship (intrafamilial or extrafamilial), the level of manipulation, the frequency of the encounters, and the duration of the relationship had any significant effects in terms of subjects' affective perceptions or traumatic symptoms related to these experiences.

The chapter is divided into the following sections: (1) Summary of the Findings, (2) Limitations, (3) Implications, and (4) Recommendations.

Summary of the Findings

The total sample consisted of 254 valid surveys. Included in the sample were 128 students from a first year psychology course subject pool and 126 students recruited through advertisements on campus. Approximately half of the students filled out the Sexual Experiences and Perceptions Questionnaire first and the Trauma Symptom Inventory second whereas the other half filled out the Trauma Symptom Inventory first. The respondents, most of who were Caucasian and under the age of 25, revealed their demographic background, personal sexual activity, and more specific information regarding childhood sexual experiences prior to the age of 17. The respondents also indicated whether or not they had experienced any trauma symptoms within the past six months. Two hundred and twenty eight subjects (89.8%) indicated that they had experienced past sexual activity, one hundred and ninety two (75.6%) subjects indicated that they had experienced sex prior to the age of 17, and 32 subjects (12.6%) had experienced sex prior to the age of 17 with partners who were at least 3 years older. Two subjects in the latter category had experiences with two different partners and another subject with three different partners. Only thirteen subjects (5.1%) responded that they viewed themselves as ever having been “abused”.

The responses of those subjects who had experienced sex before the age of 17 with older or authority positioned partners were analyzed using different definitional criteria. Subjects were assigned to these groups based upon (1) the age at which the

individual had the sexual experience, (2) the age discrepancy between the subject and the older partner, and (3) the types of sexual activity experienced. The research questions were examined using each of these criteria and then comparisons were made between the groups. Given that the focus of this study was on the occurrence of a sexual experience and not the number of subjects, results were analyzed using the total number of experiences. This approach was taken as three subjects, as mentioned previously, had multiple experiences prior to the age of 17 with older partners. Twenty-nine experiences (11.2%) fit into a group categorized by the combination of an academic and legal definition of child sexual abuse (i.e., under the age of 14 with at least a three year age difference or between the ages of 14 and 17 with at least a five year age difference). The data was also analyzed using the following categories: prior to age 17 with a five year age difference; prior to age 14 with a three year age difference; and prior to age 17 with a three year age difference where the partner was in a position of authority over the subject. These positions of authority included a parent, guardian, uncle, older sister, older stepsister, employer, baby-sitter, and female Boy Scout volunteer. The subjects, rather than the researcher, identified that they perceived these people as being in authority over them at the time of the sexual experiences.

Of those 29 instances of early childhood sexual encounters reported by subjects, who's experiences met the three distinct sets of definition criteria for child sexual abuse used, 11 of the encounters (37.9%) involved older female partner who

were three to four years older, and 12 encounters (41.4%) involved older female partners who were five or more years older. Six childhood sexual experiences (20.7%) reported by subjects involved older male partners. Five of the six childhood sexual experiences involving older male partners that were reported by subjects involved a partner who was five or more years older. Only one of the six male partners reported by subjects was three to four years older than the subject at the time of the sexual encounter. Of the 10 subjects who reported childhood sexual experiences with female partners three to four years older, seven subjects reported sexual encounters that included penetration, one subject reported physical sex, and two subjects reported heavy petting sexual activities. Of the nine subjects who reported childhood sexual experiences with female partners five or more years older, four subjects reported sexual activities that included penetration, one subject reported sexual activities that included physical sex, four subjects reported heavy petting as the sexual activity, and three subjects reported light petting sexual activities. Finally, of those subjects who reported sexual activities with older male partners, none reported any sexual activities that included penetration. Four of the reported sexual encounter involved heavy petting, while the other two encounters involved physical sex.

Overall, the subjects who had encounters with female partners tended to perceive the encounters more positively than those who had encounters with male partners. However, it should be noted that the reported number of encounters with males was much lower than the reported number of encounters with females.

Nevertheless, some general observations can be made for this sample. Regardless of gender, there was a small shift in perception by some subjects from a more positive perspective of the sexual encounter to a more negative perspective over time.

The disclosure rate for childhood sexual experiences varied across gender. The majority of those who had sexual encounters with female partners did not disclose the encounters to a parent or guardian. Those who had encounters with males, however, were fairly evenly split between disclosure and non-disclosure. Regardless of gender, those experiences that were perceived as positive were generally not disclosed and those that were perceived as negative were typically disclosed. Given that the analysis of data involved descriptive statistics and that the numbers in each group are quite small, it is difficult to draw further conclusions regarding the disclosure.

A large proportion of reported sexual relationships with significantly older partners that were extra-familial, ranged from 50.0% to 72.4%. Across the age definition categories used to define child sexual abuse in this study those extra-familial childhood sexual experiences reported as being perceived as positive at the time of the survey ranged from 36.4% to 56.3% depending on the definitional category. Only those childhood sexual experiences reported by subjects that involved older female partners were reported as being perceived as positive.

In contrast, the intra-familial relationships, ranged from 25.0% to 50.0% of the four different category groups. Only one subject reported a positive perception when

the sexual encounter with older partner involved an intrafamilial relationship. The remainder of reported perceptions about childhood sexual experiences with significantly older or authority positioned partners were either negative or neutral. Between 24.1% and 50.0% of reported childhood sexual experiences with an intrafamilial partner were perceived as negative or neutral depending on the category.

Although the number of individuals perceiving the extrafamilial experiences as positive diminished as the sexual abuse criteria became more stringent (i.e., a larger age difference between partner and subject, or the use of the authority positioned criteria) the number of positively perceived experiences in the extrafamilial group, nevertheless, remained very large. Interestingly, four of a maximum of six reported childhood sexual experiences with significantly older male partners (66.7%) were intrafamilial, whereas the majority of childhood sexual experiences with significantly older female partners were reported by subjects as extra-familial.

Although nine subjects who had sexual encounters with significantly older partners prior to the age of 17 considered themselves, at the time of the survey, as having been abused, none of those who had encounters with female partners considered themselves, at the time of the encounter, as having been abused. However, over a period of time some subjects (between three and five subjects, depending on the category examined) reported a change in perception with older female partners from a perspective of non-abuse to a perspective of sexual abuse. This apparent shift in subjects' perceptions concerning status of their childhood sexual experiences as being

either non-abuse or abuse was also presents for the childhood sexual experiences with older or authority positioned male partners. However, subjects who reported childhood sexual experiences with male partners appeared to be more likely than subjects who reported childhood sexual experiences with female partners to view their sexual experiences as abuse both at the time of the encounter and later at the time of the survey.

The perception of child sexual abuse in relation to the level of persuasion used by the partner and the extent to which the sexual partner initiated the activity was compared. Increased levels of persuasion, including force, were noted for those who considered themselves as having been sexually abused. However, the level of persuasion ranged from no coercion to physical force. Initiation of the sexual encounters by the partner was found to be a strong factor within this sample of subjects regarding whether or not subjects considered their encounters to be sexually abusive. With one exception, those encounters considered abusive by the subjects all involved initiation of sexual activity by the sexual partner alone.

Findings obtained regarding the level of persuasion partners used to persuade the subject to participate in the sexual encounter were also found to be a factor in some subjects perception of their childhood sexual experiences being sexually abusive. In this study, subjects could report on the level of persuasion, which ranged from no coercion to physical force. Those subjects who reported the older partner as using more persuasive techniques to obtain the subject's compliance in the sexual encounter

were also more likely to report perceiving the childhood sexual experiences as sexual abuse. However, three subjects who reported perceiving their childhood sexual experiences as child sexual abuse also reported either no coercion or non-aggressive verbal persuasion. Two of these three subjects had a sexual encounter with male partners and one subject had an encounter with a female partner. The same three subjects reported that their partners had been the major instigator of the sexual encounters.

With one exception, all the childhood sexual experiences with a significantly older or authority positioned partners reported by subjects as being perceived as child sexual abuse involved partners who were five or more years older. The one exception was a subject aged 14 or younger who had a sexual encounter with a female partner three to four years older and who primarily initiated the encounter.

These findings support the premise that an individual's perception of a childhood sexual encounter representing child sexual abuse is dependent on an interaction between the extent the subject's believed he was a willingly participant in the encounter and the degree to which the subject believed that he was coerced by the partner.

Whether or not the subjects viewed their childhood sexual encounters as abusive was compared to the type of relationship between the subject and partner (i.e., extrafamilial or intrafamilial). These findings were somewhat inconclusive, as there did not appear to be any clear pattern of results for this analysis. Generally,

extrafamilial relationships were reported by subjects as being perceived more positively, while intrafamilial relationships were reported by subjects as being perceived negatively. Overall, those who had encounters with male partners, regardless of the relationship type, reported these experiences as neutral or negative.

Inconclusive findings resulted from a comparison between the level of persuasion used by sexual partners and the degree that the sexual partners initiated the sexual encounters relative to whether or not the subjects had disclosed their childhood sexual experiences to a parent or guardian. More subjects had disclosed to their parents when the partner involved in the childhood sexual experiences had been the primary instigator of the sexual encounter.

One of the final goals of this research was to provide an overt measurement of symptomology and compare those results to subjective scores provided by subjects from the Sexual Experiences and Perceptions Questionnaire. Toward this end the Trauma Symptom Inventory (TSI) was utilized. However, it was difficult to make inferential statistical comparisons due to the small number of people who had childhood sexual experiences prior to the age of 17 with significantly older or authority positioned partners. Comparisons made using the Global Scales of the TSI did not indicate a large number of individuals who had experienced childhood sexual encounters with significantly older individuals and who also exhibited trauma or self-disturbances. Of the Global Scales that were assessed, the Global Self Scale proved to have the most number of significant scores relative to early childhood sexual

experiences. These percentages were relatively low, ranging from 9.4% to 34.5% across the definitional categories. Interestingly, 70% of those in the authority positioned partner category scored significantly on the Global Self Scale.

Limitations

This study was conducted at the University of Victoria, British Columbia. Therefore, the results of this study cannot be generalized to other universities within the province or to universities across Canada or the United States. Given the exploratory nature of this research and the descriptive manner in which the results are reported, this study may not be a true representation of the views or experiences of all males who have had early childhood sexual encounters with significantly older or authority positioned partners.

The results of this study may have been influenced by the voluntary nature of student participation. Those who did not volunteer may not have had similar responses to those who did. Consequently, one cannot generalize these findings to anything but this sample. There was also no way of knowing whether participating volunteers responded because they had extreme opinions (for or against) topics related to male sexuality. Similarly, there was no way of knowing if individuals avoided participating due to sexually related trauma issues. In fact, several students declined participating when first asked, saying that the topic was too personal in nature.

Students were mainly obtained from first year psychology courses and from students in residence at the university. There is no way of determining if, in fact, the responses of students who answered these questionnaires are a representative cross-section of students attending university in British Columbia or of males in general.

Implications

This study was an attempt to explore male childhood sexual experiences using a sample of students from the University of Victoria. Generally, three questions will be addressed in this section. They are:

- 1). Why do prevalence estimates vary across studies?
- 2). Why do males tend to under-report abuse?
- 3). Do males experience trauma as a result of childhood sexual experiences with older or authority positioned sexual partners?

Prevalence Estimates

In order to examine prevalence estimates of childhood sexual experiences with older or authority positioned partners, four different definitional category criteria were applied to the data. This approach was taken in order to address the variations in prevalence estimates that have resulted due to definitional discrepancies in past research regarding age differences, use of force, and type of sexual acts. Within this

study, legal and commonly used academic criteria were applied to the data in order to assess abuse. It was found that the prevalence of males who had early childhood sexual experiences with significantly older or authority positioned partners ranged from 3.9% using stringent definition criteria, to 11.2%, using a more broad and inclusive definition criteria. Other studies based on college and nationwide non-clinical populations have found prevalence estimates of an average of 14% for males with a range from 3% to 37% (Holmes & Slap, 1998; Rind et al., 1998).

A question then becomes evident: Why do prevalence estimates vary across studies? Other researchers have suggested that these large variations are due to methodological design, definitions, and the type of population examined (Dhaliwal, et al., 1996).

The definition and methodological design used in a study may directly affect the responses of males in identifying their childhood sexual experiences. The criteria and methodological design used in much research with males originated from studies examining females and concentrated on unwanted sexual experiences (Okami, 1990). It may be inappropriate to treat males and females as if they have been similarly sexually socialized and may respond in similar ways to childhood sexual experiences and subsequent disclosure of those experiences. As a consequence of using the same types of criteria with male subjects, the overall group of sexually abused males may often be truncated. This study, by using several definitions of child sexual abuse, confirms that variations in results may be found through the use of different

definitional criteria. In fact, a difference of 19 subjects (about 7%) was found across the definition categories as meeting the criteria within this study for child sexual abuse.

Underreporting of Abuse by Males

Beyond the influence of definition and methodological issues, male reporting of abuse may vary as a result of many factors. These may include social role stereotypes, the gender of the perpetrator, the use of force, and the instigator of the abuse. It was found, within this study, that many males were abused but did not report the abuse when asked directly if they had ever been sexually abused. Of those 21 subjects who had sexual experiences at age 14 or younger with a partner three or more years older, less than half of the subjects ($n=9$, 42.9%) reported that they had perceived these experiences as sexually abuse. Similarly, 20 subjects (69.0%) of those subjects who met the age criteria for the combined CSA category for child sexual abuse did not consider themselves to be sexually abused. As the criteria for abuse became more stringent, the likelihood of the subject perceiving their experience as child sexual abuse increased. In the category where the individual had to identify the partner as being in a position of authority or power, 60.0% of subjects identified themselves as having been abused.

As our results indicate, a lot of males do not perceive themselves as having been abused and therefore underreport the abuse. In the past, common explanations

for male underreporting of male child sexual abuse have included social stigmatization, concealment of abuse, or perhaps less males being abused than females (Broussard et al., 1991; Holmes et al., 1997; Watkins & Bentovim, 1992). However, several factors were identified in this research that lead one to conclude that males may not generally perceive childhood sexual encounters with significantly older partners as abuse. The results of this study indicate that the extent to which the subject perceives the partner as initiating the sexual interaction is significant in affecting the subject's perception of sexual abuse, and this is also influenced by level of persuasion (force or coercion) and the gender of the partner. These conclusions that males do not generally perceive themselves as having been abused to a large extent appear to center the finding that many of the males identified the older partner as female (e.g., 68.8 % to 80.0%), and also perceived themselves as at least an equal participant in initiating the sexual encounters. Almost half of the subjects who had experienced childhood sexual encounters with older partners (both male and female) either perceived themselves as mutually involved in initiating the experience or perceived themselves as mainly initiating the experience.

These results seem to fit with the premise posited by some researchers that some males might underreport child sexual abuse due to male gender sex roles (Dhaliwal et al., 1996). More specifically, heterosexual male gender roles within society depict males as seeking, initiating, and enjoying early sexual experiences with females. Males may perceive their experiences with older female partners as being

normative and therefore positive (Dhaliwal et al., 1996; Dimock, 1988; Fromuth & Burkhart, 1989). Also, males may not perceive females as abusers, and may therefore be more likely to perceive themselves as having instigated the sexual encounters. In this study, it was found that the more the subjects perceived themselves as initiating the encounter with the older partner, the less they perceived the experiences as child sexual abuse. Also, subjects might be less likely to view the experiences as abuse as a large majority of the childhood sexual encounters which involved older female partners did not involve significant amounts of forceful persuasion.

These findings are consistent with premises suggested by Dhaliwal et al., 1996. Their findings suggested that women are more likely to be perceived as nurturers within society and therefore less likely to be viewed as perpetrators of abuse. Krug (1989) suggested that for women, kissing, hugging, or touching are viewed as more normative behaviors than for men. In fact, men who demonstrate these behaviors toward children or youth would be more likely viewed with concern.

Underreporting of sexual abuse in males may also be due to the encounters primarily involving extra-familial partners (Dhaliwal et al., 1996). Within this study, childhood sexual experiences were less likely to be reported by the subject to a parent or guardian if they were viewed as positive or neutral. Regardless of gender, most subjects ($n=16$) of the 21 extrafamilial sexual interactions (76.2%) were considered positive at the time they occurred. Of the eight intrafamilial encounters, three encounters (37.5%) were neutral and five encounters (62.5%) were negative. Also,

the vast majority of extrafamilial relationships involved older female partners. These extrafamilial interactions were more likely to be viewed as positive and this may have contributed to the underreporting of male sexual abuse within this sample.

Sexual Abuse and Trauma Reactions of Males

Due to the small number of males within this sample who reported having experienced childhood sexual encounters with older partners, inferential statistics could not be used to compare the results of the TSI raw data. Subsequently, it is difficult to make accurate conclusions regarding the symptomology and possible trauma reactions for those males who reported childhood sexual experiences.

The TSI has been shown to be a valid tool for assessing trauma (Briere et al., 1995). Given this indication, there is a good likelihood that the dearth of significant results on this test suggests that few of the individuals who reported childhood sexual experiences exhibited overt symptoms of trauma and associated symptomology. However, it is of interest that there were an elevated number of individuals who experienced childhood sexual encounters who had elevated Global Self Scale results. The Global Self Scale is an aggregate of dysfunctional sexual behavior, tension reduction behavior, impaired self-reference, sexual concerns, and anger/irritability clinical scales. These scales are described as follows. Specifically, the Dysfunctional Sexual Behavior scale refers to problematic sexual behaviors and has been associated

with self-reports of childhood sexual victimization and the Impaired Self-Reference scale is associated with the individual appearing to have a low sense of self-confidence and self-knowledge compared to others. The Tension-Reduction Behavior scale reflects a negative internal state and can lead to overt acting out of inner conflict. Further, the Sexual Concerns scale is associated with sexual dissatisfaction and dysfunction and is associated with anxiety and fearfulness regarding sexual matters, and the Anger/Irritability scale is usually associated with post-traumatic stress or a chronic anger state.

Recommendations

Focus on Male Populations

Paramount to this study is the recommendation that more research is needed looking specifically at the broad spectrum of sexual experiences in males and their reactions to these experiences. It would appear to be apparent that males and females have differences in the ways they are sexually socialized. These differences contribute to variances in the perceptions of some males who have had childhood sexual experiences as compared to females. Due to these differences, including the tendency of males to underreport abuse, it is recommended that questionnaires designed for male subjects use non-intrusive terminology that does not focus primarily on unwanted sexual experiences. We also need to start looking at how we define “abuse” for males.

In the female population, abuse is generally viewed as having a negative impact. In the male population it is possible that abuse may not have as negative an impact.

Therefore, if a researcher is only going to focus on unwanted or aversive sexual experiences, a large number of male childhood sexual encounters with significantly older or authority positioned partners, which meet the Canadian legal definition of child sexual abuse would be truncated.

Inferential Statistics

More research needs to be done with sufficient sample size to permit tests of statistical significance examining males who have had childhood sexual experiences and associated phenomena. Given the prevalence estimates of our sample, future sample sizes would need to be in excess of 500 subjects in order to reach sufficient numbers of individuals with the targeted childhood sexual experiences to permit inferential statistical tests of significance regarding the questions addressed in this research.

Revision of Questionnaire

It should be noted that several changes to the Sexual Experiences and Perceptions Questionnaire are recommended in order to make this tool more efficient

to delineate the full spectrum of factors influencing and characterizing childhood sexual experiences. Specific recommendations encompass the inclusion of questions to address the following concerns:

- 1). Was the sexual experience unwanted?
- 2). Were there concurrent forms of abuse (emotional or physical) which may influence pathology, perceptions, and overt symptomology?
- 3). Is the subject currently using drugs or alcohol as coping mechanisms?
- 4). What is the sexual orientation of the subject answering the questionnaire?
- 5). To what extent has the subject been involved with sexual perpetration of younger individuals?
- 6). What is the subject's attitude toward sexual interactions between children and older individuals?
- 7). What other factors might affect the reported negative or positive aspects of the subjects childhood sexual encounters with older partners.

The SEP-Q could be improved by the inclusion of these questions, and by more rank ordering overall, including a rank ordering of factors that would most likely affect the negative or positive aspects of the subject's childhood sexual experience with older or authority based partners. As well, the grammar and choice of words in the SEP-Q could be further refined to avoid confusion, and several redundant questions could be removed, such as the second table question regarding authority.

Conclusion

The results of this exploratory research indicate that considerably more research examining male childhood sexual experiences is required. An important factor that should be considered in further research is that the design and choice of words should not limit the investigation of childhood sexual experiences in males to negative or unwanted childhood sexual experiences. The results of this study indicate that many males do not identify sexual experiences with older female partners as negative. Nor do they consider these experiences to be abusive despite whether or not the encounters meet the criteria for child sexual abuse.

Based on the results of this study, it would appear that many males have childhood sexual experiences with significantly older partners that they do not view as abuse. These males also do not appear to exhibit significant symptoms of trauma, although further research is needed in this area. If males do not consistently exhibit trauma in response to experiences deemed abuse, then this may present problems. For example, a discrepancy may exist between academic and legal approaches to abuse, and academic approaches may not always measure childhood sexual experiences with older partners that males consider non-negative. Some research on child sexual abuse still involves the criteria of 'unwanted' sexual experiences despite the emphasis of legal

definitions of sexual abuse on age discrepancy and the partner's position of power or authority.

Research design and terminology tends to depict or focus on negative sexual experiences considered to be abuse. This researcher suggests that further work in this area should focus on the full spectrum of male childhood sexual experiences with significantly older partners. This may be done by avoiding the use of terms such as sexual 'abuse' that may have negative connotations for the subject. This may also be accomplished by using neutral terminology such as 'persuasion' rather than 'force.' These changes will enable one to gain a full understanding of the spectrum of male childhood sexual experiences so that aspects of these experiences, such as the contribution of gender role stereotypes and underreporting, may be studied more fully.

Male underreporting has been conjectured to arise from embarrassment, the trauma of the experience, feelings of disempowerment, and that the thought that the individual will not be believed (Bauserman & Rind, 1997; Broussard & Wagner, 1988, Broussard et al., 1991; Holmes et al., 1997; Watkins & Bentovim, 1992). This could hold true for many negative childhood sexual experiences. It is only more recently that researchers have begun to consider that the underreporting may be due to males not considering their experiences to be abusive or negative. This perspective fits with the differences in sexual socialization between males and female, and male gender roles.

The question arises as to how we treat those individuals who have had childhood sexual experiences with significantly older individuals where there is no

apparent harm and the encounter is perceived as neutral or positive. As very little research has been done on male populations we may not yet know the full effects of childhood abuse on males. Some may say that those males who do not identify these experiences as negative are merely repressing or distorting the genuine effects and impact of abuse.

One needs to consider a couple of options in order to address these ongoing problems. Firstly, researchers either need to include within categories of abuse those males who have had positive or indifferent childhood sexual experiences with significantly older partners or, secondly, researchers should create a new category of 'sexual misuse' as suggested by Okami (1990). Finally, researchers looking at the area of male childhood sexual encounters with older partners need to either acknowledge the legal definitions of abuse and start examining the population based on these definitions, or the legal definitions need to be amended. As there is limited information regarding male trauma reactions to childhood abuse, and legal definitions are often influenced by academic research, it may be appropriate at this point to continue collecting data in the light of established legal definitions while using questionnaires that are designed with the idiosyncrasies of male populations in mind.

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APPENDIX A

SEXUAL EXPERIENCES AND PERCEPTIONS QUESTIONNAIRE

PLEASE READ THE PARAGRAPHS BELOW BEFORE STARTING THE QUESTIONNAIRE

This questionnaire will ask you a variety of questions about your early sexual experiences. The majority of the questions focus on those experiences that you may have had prior to the age of 19 years of age. Research in this area has found that many men have sexual experiences in their youth and that these experiences vary in a variety of ways.

It is not uncommon for the age at which males have their first sexual experiences to vary greatly from early childhood to later adolescence and adulthood. Similarly, it's not uncommon for the age of the sexual partner to vary considerably between younger and older partners. The types of sexual activities male youth participate in also varies greatly. This questionnaire seeks to gain more information about these particular experiences.

When completing this questionnaire, the researchers wants you to know that they are very aware of the personal nature of the information. To increase your willingness to answer these questions openly and honestly, the researchers wants you to know that there is no way of identifying your questionnaire. All questionnaires are anonymous with no labels or names associated with you. The questionnaire number on the next page is only for the purpose of connecting this questionnaire to the other booklet given to you. All questionnaires and TSI answer sheets are to be sealed in the plain envelope provided to you upon their completion and returned to the research attendant.

Sexual Experiences and Perceptions Questionnaire

Questionnaire No. _____

Section 1

- 1) How old are you? _____
- 2) How many years have you been in university? _____
- 3) In what city and country is your permanent residence located? _____
- 4) What nationality are you? _____
- 5) Are you of a particular religion? Yes No
- 6) What religion are you? _____ (Leave Blank if you have no religion)
- 7) Please identify which category you would consider yourself?
 - Caucasian Asian-Canadian First Nation Afro-Canadian
 - Indo-Canadian Other _____
- 8) Do you currently reside with your parents when at your permanent residence? Yes No
- 9) If you do NOT live at home, at what age did you leave home? _____
- 10) What income range would you consider your parents to be in?
 - Below \$20,000/year \$21,000 - \$40,000/year \$41,000 - \$60,000/year
 - \$61,000 - 80,000/year \$81,000 - \$100,000/year \$101,000 - \$120,000/year
- 11) Did your parent's divorce or separate prior to you being age 19 years? Yes No
- 12) Which parent did you mostly live with prior to age 17? Mother Father Both
- 13) How would you rate your relationship with your parents, prior to you becoming 17 years old?

	Very Positive						Very Negative
Father	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Very Positive						Very Negative
Mother	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- 20) Prior to age 17, did you ever live away from your parents for a period greater than six months?
 - Yes No If you answered YES with whom did you live? _____
 - 21) Has there been any mental illness in your immediate family? Yes No
 - 22) If you answered YES to Question 21, what type (s) of illness? _____
- For the purpose of this questionnaire, sexual activity would include any of the following activities that you may have participated in: sexual intercourse, oral or anal sex, fondling genitalia and/or breasts, masturbation of self or others, Erotic verbal talk, and voyeurism (watching others have sex).**
- 23) Are you currently sexually active? Yes No
 - 24) Have you ever been sexually active in the past? Yes No
 - 25) Prior to the age of 17 years old, did you ever have any sexual encounters? Yes No
 - 26) Do you consider yourself to have been sexually abused? Yes No
 - 27) Have you ever been married or lived common law for 3 or more years? Yes No
 - 28) If you answered YES to Question 27, How many marital or common law partners have you had? _____

If you answered Yes to **any** of the Questions 23 - 26, please fill out the following pages.

If you answered No to **all four** of Questions 23 - 26, please do not answer any further questions in this survey. Please ensure you have completed the TSI and return this survey and the TSI form to the attendant in the sealed envelope provided.

Section 2:

The following section asks you questions of a more personal nature about issues regarding your sexuality and personal history. Please answer these questions honestly, and remember that your identity is completely anonymous. Should you wish to clarify any question, please feel free to ask the attendant.

- 29) What is the largest age difference between you and a sexual partner younger than you? _____ (please indicate whether your answer is in months or years)
- 30) When considering the partner in Question 29, how old were you at that time? _____ years old
- 31) How many sexual partners **prior** to age 17 have you had in the past? (including present partners, if applicable) _____
- 32) Prior to age 17, what was the largest age difference between you and a sexual partner younger than you? _____
- 33) Prior to age 17, what was the largest age difference between you and a sexual partner older than you? _____
- 34) Prior to becoming age 19 did you have a sexual partners who was **three** or **more** years younger than you? Yes No
- 35) If you answered **yes** to Question 34, how many such partners did you have? _____
- 36) Have you ever had a sexual partner **three** or more years older than you **prior** to when you were 17 years of age? Yes No
- 37) If you answered **yes** to Question 36, how old were you at that time? _____
- 38) If you answered **yes** to Question 36, how many different partners have you had that were **three** or **more** years older than you **prior** to you being 17 years of age? _____
- 39) Have you ever had a sexual partner **five** or **more** years older than you **prior** to when you were 17 years of age? Yes No
- 40) If you answered **yes** to Question 39, how old were you at that time? _____
- 41) If you answered **yes** to Question 39, how many different partners have you had that were **five** or **more** years older than you **prior** to you being 17 years of age? _____
- 42) Have you ever had a sexual partner whose age was 16 or less and who was **five** or **more** years **younger** than you? Yes No
- 43) If you answered **yes** to Question 42, how many sexual partners have you had that were 5 or **more** years **younger** than you and aged 16 or less? _____
- 44) At what age do you believe a person should be free to engage in sexual activities? _____
- 45) Have you ever had sexual encounters with a partner who was in a position of authority or power over you **prior** to 17 years? Yes No

46) If you answered yes to Question 45, what was the position of authority this person had over you?

Instructions & Reference Sheet for the next Questions on pages 5 - 8

If you answered **YES** to any of the above questions 34 - 45, please read the instructions below and complete the questions on the following pages.

The next two questions use a table format.

There are two main questions.

Each main question is written in RED at the top of the table and has a series of sub-questions presented in the table in the first column. (These questions are also written in RED).

Each of the columns to the right of the sub-question column are answer spaces.

Each column of answer space is for responses about one particular sexual partner.

There are a maximum of FOUR answer columns so that you can answer the questions concerning four different sexual partners.

PLEASE READ THE QUESTION AT THE TOP OF THE TABLE AND THE QUESTIONS IN THE QUESTION COLUMN CAREFULLY BEFORE ANSWERING.

If you have any problems feel free to ask the attendant.

Examples of Possible Sexual Relationship Categories for question 12 in the table

You are welcome to enter any other type of relationship category that may not be mentioned here.

Friend	Stranger	Foster Parent
Acquaintance	Teacher	Doctor
Sibling's Friend	Parent's Friend	Nurse / Medical Staff
Cousin	Friend's Parent	School counselor
Second Cousin	Brother / Sister	Aunt / Uncle
Step Sibling (step brother / sister)	Parent / Step Parent	Employer
Baby Sitter	Instructor of <i>some kind</i>	Co-worker
Coach	Camp Counselor	Social Worker

Please answer the questions concerning the oldest partners, (older than you at the time), with whom you have had sexual relationships, prior to age 17.

Questions	Partner (a) answer column	Partner (b) answer column	Partner [c] answer column	Partner (d) answer column
1) Please write your age at the time of the first sexual encounter in this relationship.	Your age at the time of <u>first</u> sexual encounter	Your age at the time of <u>first</u> sexual encounter	Your age at the time of <u>first</u> sexual encounter	Your age at the time of <u>first</u> sexual encounter
2) Please indicate the gender of your partner and write the age of the partner at the time of the first sexual encounter in this relationship.	<input type="checkbox"/> Male _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Female _____ If there was more than one partner in this relationship, please indicate the number for each gender in the spaces above & write their ages below with comma between ages. _____ The age of your partner(s) at the time of the first sexual encounter	<input type="checkbox"/> Male _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Female _____ If there was more than one partner in a relationship please indicate the number for each gender in the spaces above & write their ages below with comma between ages. _____ The age of your partner(s) at the time of the first sexual encounter	<input type="checkbox"/> Male _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Female _____ If there was more than one partner in a relationship please indicate the number for each gender in the spaces above & write their ages below with comma between ages. _____ The age of your partner(s) at the time of the first sexual encounter	<input type="checkbox"/> Male _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Female _____ If there was more than one partner in a relationship please indicate the number for each gender in the spaces above & write their ages below with comma between ages. _____ The age of your partner(s) at the time of the first sexual encounter
3) From first to last sexual encounter, over how many days, weeks, or months did the sexual encounter(s) occur?	_____ <input type="checkbox"/> Days <input type="checkbox"/> Weeks <input type="checkbox"/> Months <input type="checkbox"/> Years	_____ <input type="checkbox"/> Days <input type="checkbox"/> Weeks <input type="checkbox"/> Months <input type="checkbox"/> Years	_____ <input type="checkbox"/> Days <input type="checkbox"/> Weeks <input type="checkbox"/> Months <input type="checkbox"/> Years	_____ <input type="checkbox"/> Days <input type="checkbox"/> Weeks <input type="checkbox"/> Months <input type="checkbox"/> Years
4) Please write the relationship between you and your partner in the space	_____ The relationship between you & your partner- see Relationship Categories on page 4.	_____ The relationship between you & your partner- see Relationship Categories on page 4.	_____ The relationship between you & your partner- see Relationship Categories on page 4.	_____ The relationship between you & your partner- see Relationship Categories on page 4.
5) Did you tell your parent(s) or authority about your sexual activity in this relationship?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No _____ If you answered yes, how old were you when you told?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No _____ If you answered yes, how old were you?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No _____ If you answered yes, how old were you?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No _____ If you answered yes, how old were you?
6) To what extent did you feel persuaded or forced to engage in the sexual activities by your partner?	<input type="checkbox"/> I didn't experience physical or verbal coercion <input type="checkbox"/> I was verbally persuaded to have sex <input type="checkbox"/> I was persuaded by my partner's physical actions <input type="checkbox"/> I was verbally threatened into complying <input type="checkbox"/> I was physically forced into the sexual activity	<input type="checkbox"/> I didn't experience physical or verbal coercion <input type="checkbox"/> I was verbally persuaded to have sex <input type="checkbox"/> I was persuaded by my partner's physical actions <input type="checkbox"/> I was verbally threatened into complying <input type="checkbox"/> I was physically forced into the sexual activity	<input type="checkbox"/> I didn't experience physical or verbal coercion <input type="checkbox"/> I was verbally persuaded to have sex <input type="checkbox"/> I was persuaded by my partner's physical actions <input type="checkbox"/> I was verbally threatened into complying <input type="checkbox"/> I was physically forced into the sexual activity	<input type="checkbox"/> I didn't experience physical or verbal coercion <input type="checkbox"/> I was verbally persuaded to have sex <input type="checkbox"/> I was persuaded by my partner's physical actions <input type="checkbox"/> I was verbally threatened into complying <input type="checkbox"/> I was physically forced into the sexual activity
7) Overall, who initiated the sexual encounters?	<input type="checkbox"/> I alone initiated the sexual encounter(s) <input type="checkbox"/> I initiated the sexual contact more than my partner <input type="checkbox"/> My partner and I mutually engaged in sex <input type="checkbox"/> My partner initiated sexual contact more than me <input type="checkbox"/> My partner alone initiated the sexual encounters	<input type="checkbox"/> I alone initiated the sexual encounter(s) <input type="checkbox"/> I initiated the sexual contact more than my partner <input type="checkbox"/> My partner and I mutually engaged in sex <input type="checkbox"/> My partner initiated sexual contact more than me <input type="checkbox"/> My partner alone initiated the sexual encounters	<input type="checkbox"/> I alone initiated the sexual encounter(s) <input type="checkbox"/> I initiated the sexual contact more than my partner <input type="checkbox"/> My partner and I mutually engaged in sex <input type="checkbox"/> My partner initiated sexual contact more than me <input type="checkbox"/> My partner alone initiated the sexual encounters	<input type="checkbox"/> I alone initiated the sexual encounter(s) <input type="checkbox"/> I initiated the sexual contact more than my partner <input type="checkbox"/> My partner and I mutually engaged in sex <input type="checkbox"/> My partner initiated sexual contact more than me <input type="checkbox"/> My partner alone initiated the sexual encounters

8) Please check off those sexual activities you participated in with this sexual partner.	<input type="checkbox"/> Intercourse (Sex) <input type="checkbox"/> Fondling breasts <input type="checkbox"/> Sensual touching of non-sexual parts <input type="checkbox"/> Sensual kissing causing sexual arousal <input type="checkbox"/> Sodomy (Anal sex) <input type="checkbox"/> Oral sex <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual toys to stimulate genitals or anus <input type="checkbox"/> Playing with partners genitals (Penis/Vagina) <input type="checkbox"/> Erotic verbal talk <input type="checkbox"/> Masturbating self with partner present <input type="checkbox"/> Viewing sexually explicit material Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Intercourse (Sex) <input type="checkbox"/> Fondling breasts <input type="checkbox"/> Sensual touching of non-sexual parts <input type="checkbox"/> Sensual kissing causing sexual arousal <input type="checkbox"/> Sodomy (Anal Sex) <input type="checkbox"/> Oral Sex <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual toys to stimulate genitals or anus <input type="checkbox"/> Playing with partners genitals (Penis/Vagina) <input type="checkbox"/> Erotic verbal talk <input type="checkbox"/> Masturbating self with partner present <input type="checkbox"/> Viewing sexually explicit material Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Intercourse (Sex) <input type="checkbox"/> Fondling breasts <input type="checkbox"/> Sensual touching of non-sexual parts <input type="checkbox"/> Sensual kissing causing sexual arousal <input type="checkbox"/> Sodomy (Anal Sex) <input type="checkbox"/> Oral Sex <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual toys to stimulate genitals or anus <input type="checkbox"/> Playing with partners genitals (Penis/Vagina) <input type="checkbox"/> Erotic verbal talk <input type="checkbox"/> Masturbating self with partner present <input type="checkbox"/> Viewing sexually explicit material Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Intercourse (Sex) <input type="checkbox"/> Fondling breasts <input type="checkbox"/> Sensual Touching of non-sexual parts <input type="checkbox"/> Sensual Kissing causing sexual arousal <input type="checkbox"/> Sodomy (Anal Sex) <input type="checkbox"/> Oral Sex <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual Toys to stimulate genitals or anus <input type="checkbox"/> Playing with partners genitals (Penis/Vagina) <input type="checkbox"/> Erotic verbal talk <input type="checkbox"/> Masturbating Self with partner present <input type="checkbox"/> Viewing sexually explicit material Other _____
9) Please indicate how frequently you and this person engaged in any sexual activity on the scale provided.	<input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ Once 2-5 6-9 10 or more times times times times	<input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ Once 2-5 6-9 10 or more times times times times	<input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ Once 2-5 6-9 10 or more times times times times	<input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ Once 2-5 6-9 10 or more times times times times
10) Overall, how did you view your sexual encounter(s), at that time?	<input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ Positive Neutral Negative	<input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ Positive Neutral Negative	<input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ Positive Neutral Negative	<input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ Positive Neutral Negative
11) Overall, how do you view those sexual encounter(s), now?	<input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ Positive Neutral Negative	<input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ Positive Neutral Negative	<input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ Positive Neutral Negative	<input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ Positive Neutral Negative
12) Did you disclose the sexual relationship to your parents or guardian prior to age 19? If YES, how did they react to this information?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ Positive Neutral Negative	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ Positive Neutral Negative	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ Positive Neutral Negative	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ Positive Neutral Negative
13) Was alcohol/ drugs used by you or your partner during any sexual encounters?	Your Partner <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No By You <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Your Partner <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No By You <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Your Partner <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No By You <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Your Partner <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No By You <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
14) At the time of the relationship, did you consider these sexual encounter(s) to be sexually abusive?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
15) Do you currently consider these sexual encounter(s) to be sexually abusive?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Please answer the questions in the table concerning those sexual partner with whom you engaged in sexual activity who were in a position of authority or power over you.

Questions	Partner (a) answer column	Partner (b) answer column	Partner [c] answer column	Partner (d) answer column
1) Please write your age at the time of the first sexual encounter in this relationship.	Your age at the time of first sexual encounter _____	Your age at the time of first sexual encounter _____	Your age at the time of first sexual encounter _____	Your age at the time of first sexual encounter _____
2) Please indicate the gender of your partner and write the age of the partner at the time of the first sexual encounter in this relationship.	<input type="checkbox"/> Male _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Female _____ If there was more than one partner in this relationship, please indicate the number for each gender in the spaces above & write their ages below with comma between ages. The age of your partner(s) at the time of the first sexual encounter _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Male _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Female _____ If there was more than one partner in a relationship please indicate the number for each gender in the spaces above & write their ages below with comma between ages. The age of your partner(s) at the time of the first sexual encounter _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Male _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Female _____ If there was more than one partner in a relationship please indicate the number for each gender in the spaces above & write their ages below with comma between ages. The age of your partner(s) at the time of the first sexual encounter _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Male _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Female _____ If there was more than one partner in a relationship please indicate the number for each gender in the spaces above & write their ages below with comma between ages. The age of your partner(s) at the time of the first sexual encounter _____
3) From first to last sexual encounter, over how many days, weeks, or months did the sexual encounter(s) occur?	<input type="checkbox"/> Days <input type="checkbox"/> Weeks <input type="checkbox"/> Months <input type="checkbox"/> Years	<input type="checkbox"/> Days <input type="checkbox"/> Weeks <input type="checkbox"/> Months <input type="checkbox"/> Years	<input type="checkbox"/> Days <input type="checkbox"/> Weeks <input type="checkbox"/> Months <input type="checkbox"/> Years	<input type="checkbox"/> Days <input type="checkbox"/> Weeks <input type="checkbox"/> Months <input type="checkbox"/> Years
4) Please write the relationship between you and your partner in the space	The relationship between you & your partner- see Relationship Categories on page 4. _____	The relationship between you & your partner- see Relationship Categories on page 4. _____	The relationship between you & your partner- see Relationship Categories on page 4. _____	The relationship between you & your partner- see Relationship Categories on page 4. _____
5) Did you tell your parent(s) or authority about your sexual activity in this relationship?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If you answered yes, how old were you when you told? _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If you answered yes, how old were you? _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If you answered yes, how old were you? _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If you answered yes, how old were you? _____
6) To what extent did you feel persuaded or forced to engage in the sexual activities by your partner?	<input type="checkbox"/> I didn't experience physical or verbal coercion <input type="checkbox"/> I was verbally persuaded to have sex <input type="checkbox"/> I was persuaded by my partner's physical actions <input type="checkbox"/> I was verbally threatened into complying <input type="checkbox"/> I was physically forced into the sexual activity	<input type="checkbox"/> I didn't experience physical or verbal coercion <input type="checkbox"/> I was verbally persuaded to have sex <input type="checkbox"/> I was persuaded by my partner's physical actions <input type="checkbox"/> I was verbally threatened into complying <input type="checkbox"/> I was physically forced into the sexual activity	<input type="checkbox"/> I didn't experience physical or verbal coercion <input type="checkbox"/> I was verbally persuaded to have sex <input type="checkbox"/> I was persuaded by you partner's physical actions <input type="checkbox"/> I was verbally threatened into complying <input type="checkbox"/> I was physically forced into the sexual activity	<input type="checkbox"/> I didn't experience physical or verbal coercion <input type="checkbox"/> I was verbally persuaded to have sex <input type="checkbox"/> I was persuaded by my partner's physical actions <input type="checkbox"/> I was verbally threatened into complying <input type="checkbox"/> I was physically forced into the sexual activity
7) Overall, who initiated the sexual encounters?	<input type="checkbox"/> I alone initiated the sexual encounter(s) <input type="checkbox"/> I initiated the sexual contact more than my partner <input type="checkbox"/> My partner and I mutually engaged in sex <input type="checkbox"/> My partner initiated sexual contact more than me <input type="checkbox"/> My partner alone initiated the sexual encounters	<input type="checkbox"/> I alone initiated the sexual encounter(s) <input type="checkbox"/> I initiated the sexual contact more than my partner <input type="checkbox"/> My partner and I mutually engaged in sex <input type="checkbox"/> My partner initiated sexual contact more than me <input type="checkbox"/> My partner alone initiated the sexual encounters	<input type="checkbox"/> I alone initiated the sexual encounter(s) <input type="checkbox"/> I initiated the sexual contact more than my partner <input type="checkbox"/> My partner and I mutually engaged in sex <input type="checkbox"/> My partner initiated sexual contact more than me <input type="checkbox"/> My partner alone initiated the sexual encounters	<input type="checkbox"/> I alone initiated the sexual encounter(s) <input type="checkbox"/> I initiated the sexual contact more than my partner <input type="checkbox"/> My partner and I mutually engaged in sex <input type="checkbox"/> My partner initiated sexual contact more than me <input type="checkbox"/> My partner alone initiated the sexual encounters

<p>8) Please check off those sexual activities you participate in with this sexual partner.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Intercourse (Sex) <input type="checkbox"/> Fondling breasts <input type="checkbox"/> Sensual touching of non-sexual parts <input type="checkbox"/> Sensual kissing causing sexual arousal <input type="checkbox"/> Sodomy (Anal sex) <input type="checkbox"/> Oral sex <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual toys to stimulate genitals or anus <input type="checkbox"/> Playing with partners genitals (Penis/Vagina) <input type="checkbox"/> Erotic verbal talk <input type="checkbox"/> Masturbating self with partner present <input type="checkbox"/> Viewing sexually explicit material Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Intercourse (Sex) <input type="checkbox"/> Fondling breasts <input type="checkbox"/> Sensual touching of non-sexual parts <input type="checkbox"/> Sensual kissing causing sexual arousal <input type="checkbox"/> Sodomy (Anal Sex) <input type="checkbox"/> Oral Sex <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual toys to stimulate genitals or anus <input type="checkbox"/> Playing with partners genitals (Penis/Vagina) <input type="checkbox"/> Erotic verbal talk <input type="checkbox"/> Masturbating self with partner present <input type="checkbox"/> Viewing sexually explicit material Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Intercourse (Sex) <input type="checkbox"/> Fondling breasts <input type="checkbox"/> Sensual touching of non-sexual parts <input type="checkbox"/> Sensual kissing causing sexual arousal <input type="checkbox"/> Sodomy (Anal Sex) <input type="checkbox"/> Oral Sex <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual toys to stimulate genitals or anus <input type="checkbox"/> Playing with partners genitals (Penis/Vagina) <input type="checkbox"/> Erotic verbal talk <input type="checkbox"/> Masturbating self with partner present <input type="checkbox"/> Viewing sexually explicit material Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Intercourse (Sex) <input type="checkbox"/> Fondling breasts <input type="checkbox"/> Sensual Touching of non-sexual parts <input type="checkbox"/> Sensual Kissing causing sexual arousal <input type="checkbox"/> Sodomy (Anal Sex) <input type="checkbox"/> Oral Sex <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual Toys to stimulate genitals or anus <input type="checkbox"/> Playing with partners genitals (Penis/Vagina) <input type="checkbox"/> Erotic verbal talk <input type="checkbox"/> Masturbating Self with partner present <input type="checkbox"/> Viewing sexually explicit material Other _____
<p>9) Please indicate how frequently you and this person engaged in any sexual activity on the scale provided.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> — <input type="checkbox"/> — <input type="checkbox"/> — <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Once 2-5 6-9 10 or more times times times</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> — <input type="checkbox"/> — <input type="checkbox"/> — <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Once 2-5 6-9 10 or more times times times</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> — <input type="checkbox"/> — <input type="checkbox"/> — <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Once 2-5 6-9 10 or more times times times</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> — <input type="checkbox"/> — <input type="checkbox"/> — <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Once 2-5 6-9 10 or more times times times</p>
<p>10) Overall, how did you view your sexual encounter(s), at that time?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> — <input type="checkbox"/> — <input type="checkbox"/> — <input type="checkbox"/> — <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Positive Neutral Negative</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> — <input type="checkbox"/> — <input type="checkbox"/> — <input type="checkbox"/> — <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Positive Neutral Negative</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> — <input type="checkbox"/> — <input type="checkbox"/> — <input type="checkbox"/> — <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Positive Neutral Negative</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> — <input type="checkbox"/> — <input type="checkbox"/> — <input type="checkbox"/> — <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Positive Neutral Negative</p>
<p>11) Overall, how do you view those sexual encounter(s), now?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> — <input type="checkbox"/> — <input type="checkbox"/> — <input type="checkbox"/> — <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Positive Neutral Negative</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> — <input type="checkbox"/> — <input type="checkbox"/> — <input type="checkbox"/> — <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Positive Neutral Negative</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> — <input type="checkbox"/> — <input type="checkbox"/> — <input type="checkbox"/> — <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Positive Neutral Negative</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> — <input type="checkbox"/> — <input type="checkbox"/> — <input type="checkbox"/> — <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Positive Neutral Negative</p>
<p>12) Did you disclose the sexual relationship to your parents or guardian prior to age 19? If YES, how did they react to this information?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> — <input type="checkbox"/> — <input type="checkbox"/> — <input type="checkbox"/> — <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Positive Neutral Negative</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> — <input type="checkbox"/> — <input type="checkbox"/> — <input type="checkbox"/> — <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Positive Neutral Negative</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> — <input type="checkbox"/> — <input type="checkbox"/> — <input type="checkbox"/> — <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Positive Neutral Negative</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> — <input type="checkbox"/> — <input type="checkbox"/> — <input type="checkbox"/> — <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Positive Neutral Negative</p>
<p>13) Was alcohol/ drugs used by you or your partner during any sexual encounters?</p>	<p>Your Partner <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>By You <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>Your Partner <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>By You <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>Your Partner <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>By You <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>Your Partner <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>By You <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>14) At the time of the relationship, did you consider these sexual encounter(s) to be sexually abusive?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>15) Do you currently consider these sexual encounter(s) to be sexually abusive?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>

If you have completed both the TSI and this questionnaire please place this questionnaire and the other answer sheet and booklet into the envelope provided, seal it, and give it to the attendant as you leave. All information is anonymous - please make sure that you do NOT include the slip with your name and phone number for the draw in the envelope. This slip is to go into the box at the door. Thank you for participating.

APPENDIX B

GENERAL INSTRUCTION SHEET FOR TSI FIRST

**Instruction Sheet for completing requested
Research Material**

Please read this set of instructions before starting the other material in the envelope.

1. Before commencing on completing the material in this envelope the research attendant should have had you read and sign an INFORMED CONSENT FORM. If you have not read and signed an informed consent form please approach the attendant and complete this form before commencing on answering the material in the envelope. (It is assumed by the researcher that if you fail to complete an Informed Consent Form but complete the TSI and Sexual Experiences and Perceptions Questionnaire and return them to the research attendant that you are providing informed consent as a participant of the study.) If you have signed an Informed Consent Form please continue.
2. The material in your envelope is organized in a specific order from the top to the bottom of the pile. The researcher would like you to complete these forms in the specified order. Please complete the TSI Form **first** then the Sexual Experiences and Perceptions Questionnaire **second**.
3. After completing the TSI and the Sexual Experiences and Perceptions Questionnaire, please read the Counseling Form and complete the Information Request Form **if** you would like more information about the purpose and results of this study.
4. Once all of this information is complete please place the TSI Booklets/Sheets and the Sexual Experiences and Perceptions Questionnaire back into the envelope and seal it. Please **DO NOT** place any of the other forms in the envelope besides the TSI Booklet/Sheets and the Sexual Experiences and Perceptions Questionnaire.
5. Please return the envelope and contents along with the Information Request Form and this instruction sheet to the research attendant as you leave.
6. If you wish to enter the raffle please place your completed Draw Form in the Entry Box as you leave the room.
7. Please retain the Counseling Form.

APPENDIX C

GENERAL INSTRUCTION SHEET FOR SEP-Q FIRST

Instruction Sheet for completing requested Research Material

Please read this set of instructions before starting the other material in the envelope.

1. Before commencing on completing the material in this envelope the research attendant should have had you read and sign an INFORMED CONSENT FORM. If you have not read and signed an informed consent form please approach the attendant and complete this form before commencing on answering the material in the envelope. (It is assumed by the researcher that if you fail to complete an Informed Consent Form but complete the TSI and Sexual Experiences and Perceptions Questionnaire and return them to the research attendant that you are providing informed consent as a participant of the study.) If you have signed an Informed Consent Form please continue.
2. The material in your envelope is organized from the top to the bottom of the pile in a specific order. The researcher would like you to complete these forms in the specified order. Please complete the Sexual Experiences and Perceptions Questionnaire **first** then the TSI Form **second**.
3. After completing the TSI and the Sexual Experiences and Perceptions Questionnaire, please read the Counselling Form and complete the Information Request Form **if** you would like more information about the purpose and results of this study.
4. Once all of this information is complete please place the TSI Booklets/Sheets and the Sexual Experiences and Perceptions Questionnaire back into the envelope and seal it. Please **DO NOT** place any of the other forms in the envelope besides the TSI Booklet/Sheets and the Sexual Experiences and Perceptions Questionnaire.
5. Please return the envelope and contents along with the Information Request Form and this instruction sheet to the Research attendant as you leave.
6. If you wish to enter the Raffle please place your completed draw form in the Entry Box as you leave the room.
7. Please retain the Counselling Form.

APPENDIX D
ADVERTISEMENTS
FOR PSYCHOLOGY SUBJECT POOL

Figure A1. Psychology Subject Pool Sign-up Sheet

P100 SUBJECT POOL SIGN UP SHEET

Project Name: Sexperiences **Amount of Credit or Payment:** 2.0

Brief Description: This research examines early sexual experiences in males, and how these experiences are perceived.
The study uses a written survey format and all information is anonymous with no connection between you and
the information you provide. Please note the restriction below and we hope you'll sign up.

Duration of session(s): Sessions will take between 40 minutes to 1 hour

Restrictions on who can participate: This study seeks male participants 17 years or older.
Sessions outside the times listed below can be arranged by phone. (Feel free to call).

Location: MacLaurin Building Room 524 **Phone contact for cancellations:**

Name(s) of person(s) conducting session: Andrew or Gillian

SIGN UP ONLY FOR AVAILABLE TIME SLOTS. TO CANCEL, CALL THE CONTACT NUMBER AT LEAST 24 HRS IN ADVANCE (OTHERWISE PENALIZED AS A NO-SHOW). MAKE NOTE OF WHEN AND WHERE YOU ARE TO PARTICIPATE, AS THIS SHEET MAY NOT BE POSTED THEN. BE ON TIME.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>PRINT First Initial and Last Name LEGIBLY</u>
<u>Sept. 30 /98 (Wed.)</u>	<u>1:00 PM.</u>	_____
<u>Sept. 30 /98 (Wed.)</u>	<u>1:00 PM.</u>	_____
<u>Sept. 30 /98 (Wed.)</u>	<u>1:05 PM.</u>	_____
<u>Sept. 30 /98 (Wed.)</u>	<u>1:05 PM.</u>	_____
<u>Sept. 30 /98 (Wed.)</u>	<u>1:10 PM.</u>	_____
<u>Sept. 30 /98 (Wed.)</u>	<u>1:10 PM.</u>	_____
<u>Sept. 30 /98 (Wed.)</u>	<u>1:15 PM.</u>	_____
<u>Sept. 30 /98 (Wed.)</u>	<u>1:15 PM.</u>	_____
<u>Sept. 30 /98 (Wed.)</u>	<u>2:05 PM.</u>	_____
<u>Sept. 30 /98 (Wed.)</u>	<u>2:05 PM.</u>	_____
<u>Sept. 30 /98 (Wed.)</u>	<u>2:10 PM.</u>	_____
<u>Sept. 30 /98 (Wed.)</u>	<u>2:10 PM.</u>	_____
<u>Sept. 30 /98 (Wed.)</u>	<u>2:15 PM.</u>	_____
<u>Sept. 30 /98 (Wed.)</u>	<u>2:15 PM.</u>	_____
<u>Sept. 30 /98 (Wed.)</u>	<u>2:20 PM.</u>	_____
<u>Sept. 30 /98 (Wed.)</u>	<u>2:20 PM.</u>	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

APPENDIX E

CONTEST ADVERTISEMENTS

Sex!!!

There's a study on Campus and it's about Sexual Experiences

**ALL WE ASK OF YOU IS TO FILL OUT
TWO QUESTIONNAIRES**

Would you be interested in participating?

If so, please call

Did I mention a prize draw for \$300.00.

Research through Psychological Foundations in Education. Sessions are held on weekday afternoon in the MacLaurin D Wing

With your participation in the study your name will be entered into a PRIZE DRAW.

All we need is roughly 30 minutes of your time to answer some questions.

You could win one of several prizes.

Check the prizes out on the right.

*This study seeks **males only**.*

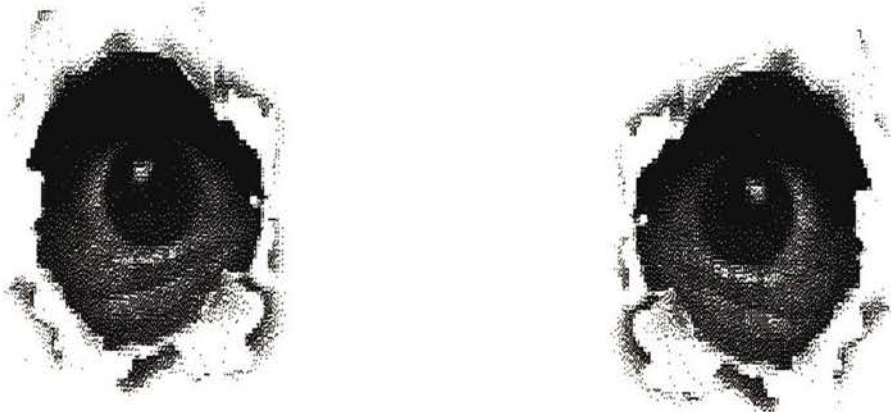
Prize Draws to occur in December 1998



Top Prize - \$300.00

Other Prizes - 6 draws for a complementary ticket to go whale watching with SEAFUN SAFARIS
- All participants will receive a chocolate bar

Prize Draw



Interested in participating in a study?

**Come participate &
have a Chocolate Bar**

Room D110 It's happening right now!

This research seeks male subjects

Enter a draw for other prizes

You're welcome to drop in, just look for the signs every weekday afternoon



Interested in participating in a study?

**Come participate &
have a Chocolate Bar**

Room D283 It's happening right now!

This research seeks male subjects

Enter a draw for other prizes

APPENDIX F
CONSENT FORM FOR PARTICIPATION

**CONSENT FORM FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE STUDY ENTITLED,
“A RETROSPECTIVE STUDY OF MALE CHILDHOOD
SEXUAL EXPERIENCES”**

Researcher: Andrew Croft Phone:

Purpose: This research is investigating the various sexual experiences that males have in their childhood, adolescence, and adult life. The researchers are also examining perceptions about these experiences. The researchers will ask you to complete two assessment pamphlets, the TSI and a questionnaire developed by the researchers. Both pamphlets use a pencil and paper format. You will be asked to either fill in a blank, answer Yes or No, or use a scale to answer the questions about present and past sexual experiences and your perceptions about those experiences. Some demographic information about you and your family (age, gender, socioeconomic status, etc.) is also requested. Your participation in this research is estimated to take about 60 minutes of your time. The results obtained from the collected data will be used in a graduate masters thesis by Andrew Croft and may possibly be published in a scholarly journal should the results prove valuable.

Participation: We would like to emphasize that your participation in this research is completely voluntary and that you may withdraw from the study at any time, without explanation. Further, you have the right to refuse to answer any question posed that you do not wish to answer.

Confidentiality: All data collected in this study will remain confidential and anonymous. Your name will not be attached to any research information you provide or the published results of this research. A number is on both the TSI Booklet and the Sexual Experiences and Perceptions Questionnaire. This number has no connection to your name, it is there so that information derived from the TSI booklet can be connected to the data collected in the Questionnaire. Completed TSI Booklets and the Sexual Experiences and Perceptions Questionnaires, when not being examined by the researchers will be locked in a filing cabinet. Only the primary researcher (Andrew Croft), his assistant (Gillian Croft), and possibly the researcher’s graduate committee (Dr. Brian Harvey, Dr. Roy Ferguson, and Dr. Jennifer Hill) will have access to the data. All forms with your name (Contest Draw Form, Informed Consent Form, and Results Request Form) are to be handed in separately from the research information (TSI and SEP-Q). The researcher request that when completing the information you avoid using names of sexual partners so that their identify remains anonymous thereby privacy is maintained.

Data: All information obtained in the TSI Booklet and the Sexual Experiences and Perceptions Questionnaire will be stored in a locked filing cabinet. This data will then be destroyed once analysis and interpretation of the data is completed for this research

project and the accompanying thesis documents are recognized as completed by the University of Victoria. If you elect to withdraw from the study, the information you have provided will be promptly destroyed.

Implications: Whether you participate or choose not to participate will have no bearing on your academic standing. Due to the sensitive topic of this research there is some possibility that subjects might recall memories that were unpleasant. To assist those subjects who may experience such unpleasant memories as a result of your participation in this study, a telephone number and a contact person at the University Counseling Center has been provided. Should you remember unpleasant circumstances as a result of your participation in the study, we encourage you to contact the Counseling Center to obtain assistance regarding these memories.

It is assumed that you have given informed consent when you sign this document. Should you choose to withdraw from participation in this study it is your responsibility as a subject to inform the researcher verbally upon leaving this session. If you fail to sign this document but return research information (TSI Booklet and/or the Sexual Experiences and Perceptions Questionnaire) to the researcher(s) without stating that you are withdrawing, the researcher assumes you have given consent to participate in the study. **Please provide your signature and today's date on the blank spaces below if you have read the above statements and agree to participate in this study.**

Participant's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Witness' Signature: _____

Date: _____

APPENDIX G
TSI INSTRUCTIONS

Read Me First before starting the TSI

Attached are the TSI Item Booklet, and the TSI Answer Sheet.

First, fill out the information requested at the top of the TSI Answer Sheet.

- Please **DO NOT** put your name on the Answer Sheet.

When you are done, read the instructions on the front page of the item booklet.

The booklet describes a number of things that may or may not have happened to you. Read each one carefully, and then indicate on the answer sheet how often it has happened in the last 6 months by circling the correct number.

Circling a 0 means it **hasn't** happened at all in the last 6 months.

Circling a 3 means it **has** happened **often** in the last 6 months.

Circling a 1 or 2 means it **has** happened in the last 6 months, but **has not happened often**.

Please answer each item as honestly as you can.

Be sure you answer every item.

You can take as much time as you need to finish the TSI.

If you have any questions please feel free to ask the attendant.

APPENDIX H
COUNSELLING FORM

Counselling Form

As previously mentioned in the Informed Consent document, your participation in this study has the potential to cause you to recall negative memories or emotions about unpleasant childhood experiences. Should you find yourself re-experiencing such memories, we suggest that you contact the UVIC Counselling Services (721-8341) to speak with a counsellor. The counselling Services has already been informed about the nature of this study and the potential need for some participants to obtain help regarding aversive childhood or adult memories.

Should you find yourself needing assistance outside the regular hours of operation for the Counselling Services, please contact the **NEED CRISIS LINE** at **386-6323**.

If you did not complete the Information Request Form at the time that you provided data and you now wish to obtain further information about the purpose and results of the research, please contact **Andrew Croft** at.

Should you have any concerns about this research please feel free to contact Andrew Croft or his academic supervisors, **Dr. Jennifer Hill** (721-7799) or **Dr. Brian Harvey** (721-7856).

APPENDIX I
INFORMATION REQUEST FORM

Information Request Form

Full Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

(Please make sure this is the phone number where you can be reached at the end of July.)

The purpose of this form is to make a request of the researchers to provide you more information about the aim and results of this study when they become available. If you complete and return this document to the research attendant you will be contacted or receive a message from a researcher in July, 1999 informing you as to where you can obtain a detailed copy of the purpose and results of this study.

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Title of Thesis:

Atypical Sexual Experiences in Male Children and Youth: A Retrospective Study

Author =


Andrew John Croft

Date

April 27 / 2000

VITA

Surname: Croft

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Place of Birth: Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

Educational Institutions Attended:

University of Victoria	1992 to 2000
University of Victoria	1982 to 1987

Degrees Awarded:

B.Sc.	University of Victoria	1987
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Honours and Awards:

Publications:
