

REPORT TO THE IDAHO LEGISLATURE

THE PROSECUTION OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

JULY 1, 1997 - JUNE 30, 1998

**Joint Submission by
The Office of the Governor
Dirk Kempthorne, Governor**

and

**The Office of the Attorney General
Alan G. Lance, Attorney General**

January, 1999

THE PROSECUTION OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE IN IDAHO

JULY 1, 1997 - JUNE 30, 1998

**Robert L. Marsh, Ph.D., Project Director and Co-Principal Investigator
Steven Patrick, Ph.D., Co-Principal Investigator
Ted Hopfenbeck, Director of Data Collection**

January, 1999



DIRK KEMPTHORNE
GOVERNOR

January 20, 1999

To the Idaho Legislature and the Citizens of Idaho:

Re: The Prosecution of Child Sexual Abuse

For the second year in a row Idaho has seen a rise in the number of reported child sexual abuse cases. There were 403 filed cases of child sexual abuse by adult and juvenile offenders in Idaho courts last year. This is an increase of 71 cases over the 332 reported in 1997. Most disturbingly, 1998 ranked second only to 1993 for the highest number of reported cases.

Child sexual abuse must be taken seriously by all of us. Incidents of abuse need to be reported and, once reported, thoroughly investigated and vigorously prosecuted. Only when all of us pledge ourselves to the elimination of this problem can we ensure that all of Idaho's children will have the childhood that they deserve.

It is important for us to focus on the absolute numbers and to redouble our efforts to do everything possible to stop this heinous crime. It is my sincere hope that the information provided in this report will highlight to legislators, policy makers, school teachers and others who are interested in the well-being of our children that more needs to be done to protect the youngest members of our society from those who would abuse them and rob them of their innocence and childhood.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature of Dirk Kempthorne in dark ink, written over a circular stamp.

DIRK KEMPTHORNE
Governor



STATE OF IDAHO

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

ALAN G. LANCE

January 20, 1999

To the Idaho Legislature and the Citizens of Idaho

Re: The Prosecution of Child Sexual Abuse

Once again, 1998 saw an increase in the prosecution of child sexual abuse cases in Idaho. While the total number of such cases is actually down from 1997, the rate remains at an intolerable level. Lawmakers, law enforcement, prosecutors, teachers and parents must redouble their efforts to do everything possible to stop this senseless and devastating crime.

This report contains statistics not only for 1998, but also comparative data for the years 1992 through 1998. It is clear from the seven years of statistics reported that the risk of child sexual abuse comes not from strangers, but from acquaintances and relatives of the abused children. Children who are sexually abused are abused by people they know and, unfortunately, had reason to trust. The child abuser exploits the trust for his own gratification and with devastating effect upon his child victim.

Last year the legislature passed legislation drafted by my office which will provide parents with more information about individuals convicted of child sexual abuse. By arming themselves with this information, parents will be able to determine whether an individual who occupies a position of trust with their son or daughter is a convicted sexual offender.

This report, and the preceding reports to the legislature, also demonstrate that too often judges do not have all the information about a convicted sexual offender prior to sentencing. An important aspect of the legislation I introduced last year was to require that every individual convicted of a sexual offense undergo an evaluation which would provide the court with, among other things, information as to whether this was a first offense or a second, third, or even seventh offense.

This report calls for continued vigilance and a redoubling of efforts by legislators, policymakers, law enforcement and prosecutors to end the scourge of child sexual abuse.

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alan G. Lance".

Alan G. Lance
Attorney General

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SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

> FOUR HUNDRED THREE (403) CASES WERE FILED (263 ADULT CASES, 140 JUVENILE CASES) IN DISTRICT AND JUVENILE COURTS IN FY98. THIS REPRESENTS AN INCREASE OF 71 CASES FROM THE FY97 REPORT AND 132 CASES FROM THE FY96 REPORT.

>TWENTY-TWO OR 8.37% OF THE 263 ADULT CASES PROSECUTED HAD PRIOR CONVICTIONS FOR CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE.

>VICTIM GENDER WAS PREDOMINANTLY FEMALE FOR BOTH ADULT AND JUVENILE PERPETRATORS.

>SIXTY PERCENT OF THE VICTIMS OF ADULT DEFENDANTS WERE BETWEEN TWELVE AND SEVENTEEN YEARS OLD AND 34% WERE UNDER TWELVE.

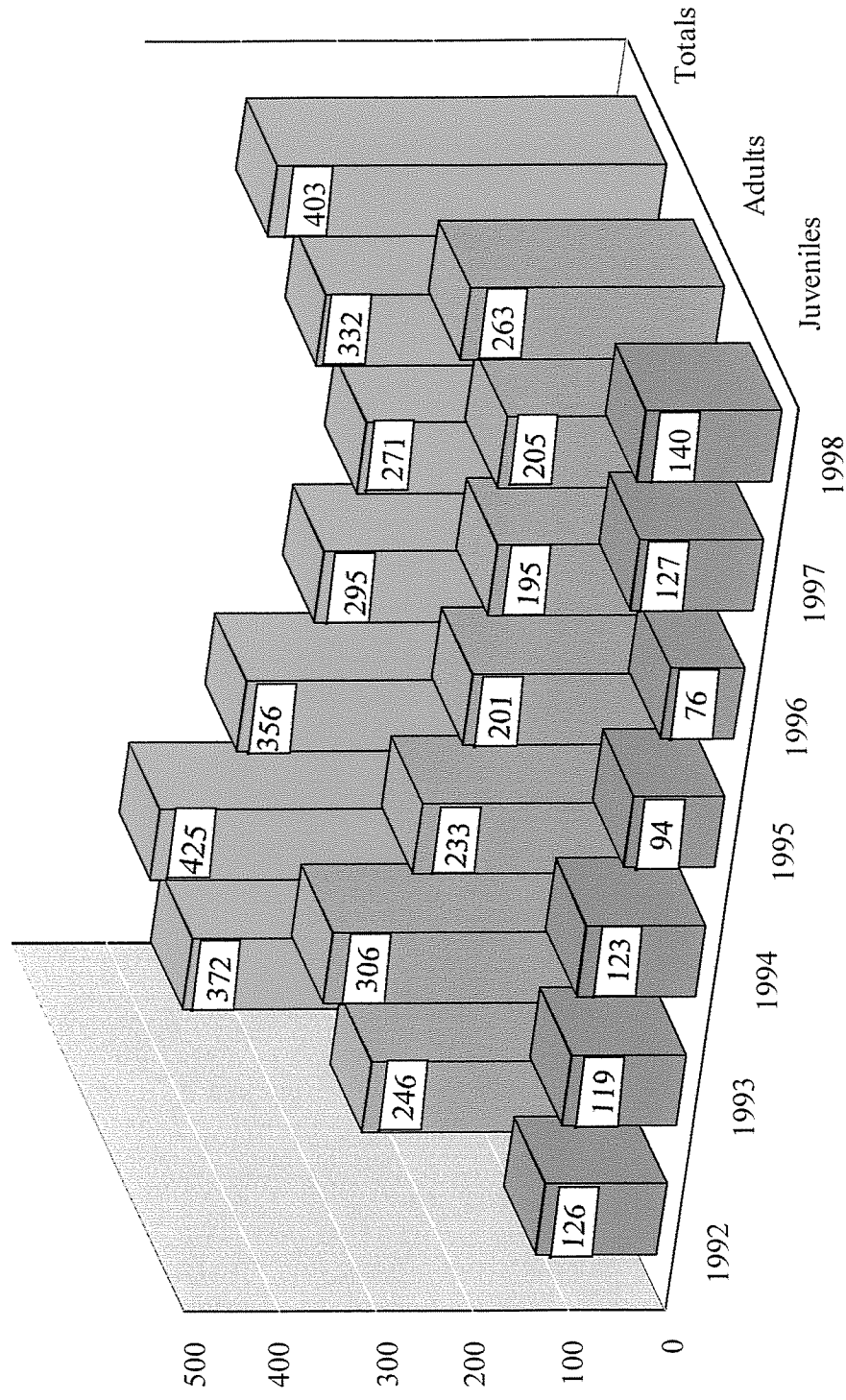
>SIXTY PERCENT OF VICTIMS OF JUVENILE SEX OFFENDERS WERE UNDER ELEVEN YEARS OF AGE.

>FORTY PERCENT OF THE ADULT ABUSERS WERE ACQUAINTANCES OF THEIR VICTIMS, 10% NATURAL PARENTS, 6% OTHER RELATIVES, 12% WERE STEP- PARENTS, AND 1% STRANGERS.

>FIFTY-ONE PERCENT OF THE JUVENILE ABUSERS WERE ACQUAINTANCES OF THEIR VICTIMS OR THEIR PARENTS AND 27% WERE RELATIVES (NON-PARENTS). NO STRANGERS WERE CHARGED WITH ABUSE.

>WHERE ADULT DISPOSITION WAS KNOWN, THE IMMEDIATE SENTENCE WAS 46% PROBATION; 24% PRISON; 20% RETAINED JURISDICTION. THIS REPRESENTS AN INCREASE IN PROBATION SENTENCES AND AN INCREASE IN PRISON SENTENCES.

Total Charges, Prosecutions and Petitions for 1992 to 1998 in Idaho



RESEARCH TEAM

The research team consisted of Professor Ted Hopfenbeck, Coordinator of Data Collection; Dr. Stephen Patrick, Coordinator of Data Analysis and Co-Principal Investigator; and Robert L. Marsh, Ph.D., Project Director and Co-Principal Investigator. Deborah N. Dolgarn and Mary C. Schoeler served as Research Associates and Joshua Marsh as Research Assistant. Rebecca Howell provided secretarial support.

INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

REPORT TO THE IDAHO LEGISLATURE

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INTRODUCTION

House Bill 362, passed in 1989 (adding section 67-1405 to the Idaho Code), expanded the Attorney General's duties to require preparation of an annual report to be submitted to the legislature reporting the incidence of felony child sex abuse charges filed in adult and juvenile courts in the state. A research team from the Department of Criminal Justice at Boise State University worked in conjunction with the Offices of the Governor and the Attorney General to collect data and prepare the report to comply with this legislation. Specifically, data was collected on child sex abuse cases filed in district and juvenile court files throughout the state for the period of July 1, 1997 to June 30, 1998. The data were analyzed by the research team and submitted to the Attorney General's and Governor's offices for review. The completed report was submitted to the legislative leadership by Governor Dirk Kempthorne and Attorney General Alan G. Lance.

PREVIOUS RESEARCH

A number of annual reports and one special report have preceded this study. The approaches (methodology) of the data collection in the earlier reports have varied widely but the past seven reports have utilized a consistent data collection procedure. The following synopsis provides an overview of previous reports and the data collection procedures.

FIRST REPORT: January 1, 1988-December 31, 1989

The first report covered a two-year period from January 1, 1988 - December 31, 1989, and analyzed data collected by site visitation to all 44 counties under the direction of the Governor's Office. This report included sexual abuse information available from the agencies that dealt with various aspects of child sexual abuse. The Department of Law Enforcement provided information on investigation of known cases and the Department of Corrections focused on disposition of offenders under its jurisdiction. The Department of Health and Welfare reported the impact of child sex abuse on families and children.

No single department of state government was able to provide a complete accounting for each child abuse case as it was processed through the system. One of the recommendations of the first report was to develop a statewide system to record incidence, track case filings, and disposition of child sex abuse cases.

SECOND REPORT: July 1, 1989-June 30, 1990

This report covered child sexual abuse crimes from July 1, 1989, to June 30, 1990, utilizing data from state agencies. This time, however, an attempt was made to collect data directly from district court records and county prosecuting attorneys.

This report was based on a review on-site of courthouse case files of the state's six largest counties and nearby smaller communities. The survey, together with telephone and mail contact with the remaining counties, provided access to a data base sizable enough to produce a document for the legislative report.

As in the first report, the 1990 study concentrated on child sexual abuse from the perspective of the criminal justice system. It assessed cases from prosecution to sentencing and disposition. The report provided information on plea bargaining arrangements, suspended sentences, offender evaluation and punishment alternatives.

SPECIAL REPORT: Sex Crimes Against Children

In July, 1991, the Department of Health and Welfare issued a special report entitled **Sex Crimes Against Children**. This report analyzed complex issues of child sexual abuse from the vantage point of the largest state agency, the Department of Health and Welfare. The report examined nearly 1,900 reported cases of sex abuse from July 1, 1989, to June 30, 1990. It traced cases from initial report to investigation by caseworkers, referral to law enforcement, and disposition by the prosecutor and the courts.

Each county in the state was visited and data were collected on sex crimes committed against children by reviewing district court records of individual counties. The report analyzed the number and types of crimes prosecuted or filed for the year.

THIRD REPORT: July 1, 1990-June 30, 1991

This report provided information on adult and juvenile offenders. The incidence of juvenile sex abuse crimes had not been reported as a separate category in previous reports. A complete section was devoted to juvenile sex crimes for the first time. Offender age data, the relationship of the offenders to victims, demographic data on victims, and system processing information were collected on-site in each county for adults and juveniles. The data collected from court clerk records were verified with prosecuting attorneys in each jurisdiction.

FOURTH REPORT: July 1, 1991-June 30, 1992

This report provided information on adult and juvenile offenders as provided by the Clerk of the Court in each county and verified with the county prosecutor. The research staff reviewed case files on-site to determine offender age, the relationship of the offenders to victims, criminal history, demographic data on victims, and case processing information. Pre-sentence and sex offender evaluations that were completed on the offenders were also reviewed. Rates of case filings were standardized for the first time based on county population. Data on Pre-sentence and Sex Offender Evaluation was collected to determine if they were used in sentencing decisions.

FIFTH REPORT: July 1, 1992 - June 30, 1993

Court records were reviewed for juveniles and adults throughout the state in order to complete this report. Data were collected on the same variables as the previous report to insure consistency. Rates were reported in a standardized format based on county population.

SIXTH REPORT: July 1, 1993 - June 30, 1994

Court records were reviewed throughout the state for adults and juveniles accused of child sex abuse. Data were collected consistent with the reports from the previous two years. In addition to reporting standardized rates, comparisons were made of reported incidence in the most and least populated counties.

SEVENTH REPORT: July 1, 1994 - June 30, 1995

Court records were reviewed throughout the state for adult and juvenile cases filed. Data were collected on variables consistent with the previous three years.

EIGHTH REPORT: July 1, 1995 - June 30, 1996

The data collection procedures and methodology were consistent with the previous four reports. Data were collected on site for all counties reporting cases during FY96.

NINTH REPORT: July 1, 1996 - June 30, 1997

Data collection procedures by the Boise State research team were consistent with the previous reports. All counties were visited by the researchers and data were collected on site for all counties reporting cases in FY97.

METHODOLOGY/DATA COLLECTION PROCEDURES

This is the tenth report submitted to the Legislature. This report includes data on adult and child sex abuse cases filed in FY98 (July 1, 1997 to June 30, 1998). Actual review of court records for this report was initiated in July, 1998, and continued through early November. All counties were contacted by mail by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court explaining the yearly data collection on cases filed in district court for adults and magistrate court for juveniles for the annual legislative report. Follow-up phone calls were made by the research team from the Department of Criminal Justice at Boise State University before data collection began. Facsimiles were sent to all county prosecutors requesting the case numbers of all cases filed during the study period. The information was collected by on-site visits to all counties reporting child sex abuse cases (adult and juvenile). Members of the research staff consulted by telephone with any county requesting assistance in identifying child sex abuse cases. A total of 39 counties that reported cases were visited. Five counties reported no cases filed. The research team reviewed files identified and supplied by the Court Clerk or the Prosecutor. County Clerks were asked to have the files on all felony and juvenile cases filed between July 1, 1997, and June 30, 1998, available for review. Only cases formally filed (district court

for adults and petitions filed in magistrate court for juveniles) in FY98 were reviewed by the research team.

This study covered the following charges: Attempted Rape (IC §§ 18-301, 18-306), Sexual Abuse (IC § 18-1506), Ritualized Abuse (IC § 18-1506A), Sexual Exploitation of a Child (IC § 18-1507), Possession of Sexually Exploitative Materials (IC § 18-1507A), Lewd and Lascivious Conduct (IC § 18-1508), Sexual Battery (IC § 18-1508A), Rape (IC § 18-6101), Male Rape (IC § 18-6108), Incest (IC § 18-6602), Crimes Against Nature (IC §§ 18-6605 and 18-6606), Forcible Sexual Penetration with a Foreign Object (IC § 18-6608), and Sex Offender Registration (IC §§ 18-8304 and 18-8311).

Counties tracked the cases utilizing different systems throughout the state. Many counties utilized the ISTARS system available through the Administrative Offices of the Idaho Supreme Court. (The system has not been standardized across all counties because of funding.) Some counties enter ISTARS data at the outset while others enter the case into the system at the final disposition. The Ada County Prosecutor's Office maintained a separate computerized system that tracked each case filed in both the adult and juvenile courts. Other counties maintained a separate manual system of the pertinent cases. On site data collection was done directly from the files provided to the researchers. The research team relied on the individual system that each county utilized to track cases that were filed. After initial identification of the cases, confirmation letters/facsimiles were sent to respective county prosecutors providing a list of identified cases from their county and requesting any corrections. Every possible attempt was made to insure that all cases were included in this study. Since the state has not designed a standard statewide tracking system, a few cases may have been unreported.

After case information was collected in the field, the research team also requested updated dispositional information on pending cases. Counties that provided dispositional information by facsimile through October 15, 1998 are included in this analysis. Cases that had not reached the dispositional stage were left in the "pending" category.

Only cases filed in the district court for adults and petitions filed in magistrate court for juveniles and identified by the clerks or county prosecutors of that county were included in this report. Cases handled informally when charges were not filed were not included.

The absence of a uniform method of tracking cases and retrieving the data remains a serious issue beyond the scope of the present project. Recommendations have been made by the researchers to alleviate problems of data collection by developing a standardized tracking system.

ADULT CASES

ANALYSIS OF ADULT CASES FILED-CHARTS 1A - 18A

(FY97: July 1, 1997 - June 30, 1998)

The information from the adult cases is included in Charts 1A-18A and immediately follows the discussion of adult defendants. A total of 263 adult cases were filed in district court during the twelve-month period of July 1, 1997 - June 30, 1998.

Adult Defendants: Chart 1A - Total Cases and Charges Filed

A total of 411 charges were filed in the 263 cases in FY98 for child sex offense felonies in Idaho. This represents an increase of 58 cases from the FY97 report, 8 cases from the FY96 report, 62 felony cases from FY95, an increase of 30 cases from FY94 but less than the 306 cases filed in FY93. There was an average of 1.56 charges filed in each case.

Adult Defendants: Chart 2A - Victim Gender

There was a total of 304 victims in this survey. Victim gender was predominantly female representing 82% (N=248) of the victims. Reported female victimization was slightly less in this study period than victim gender reported in three of the past five surveys. Male victims represented 10% (N=29) of all victims in this survey. The gender distribution was approximately the same as the FY92, FY93, FY94 and the FY97 studies. The information on victim gender was not available to the research team in 27 (9%) cases. Some defendants had no Pre-sentence Report completed and it was impossible to determine victim gender from court files.

Adult Defendants: Chart 3A - Victim Age

Less than 2% (N=4) of the victims were under three years of age. Children from four to seven years of age represented 13% (N=41) of the victims. Nineteen percent

(N=58) were from eight to eleven years old. A total of 47% (N=142) of the victims were between the ages of twelve and fifteen. Thirteen percent of the victims (N=39) were between the ages of sixteen and seventeen and age was unknown for 20 (7%) of the victims. The percentage of victims under the age of three remained the same as in previous reports but victims from four to seven increased in the last two years. Victims from eight to eleven years increased slightly but twelve to fifteen year old victims decreased. Sixteen to seventeen year olds increased by 4% over last year's report.

Adult Defendants: Chart 4A - Number of Victims Per Case

Data presented in this chart represents the number of reported victims per case filed. Defendants in 63% (N=166) of the cases were charged with a crime against only one victim. There were two victims reported in 23% (N=60) of the cases. In 37 cases (14%) there were three or more victims. The number of single victims decreased and those charged for sex crimes against two or more victims increased substantially from the FY97 report.

Adult Defendants: Chart 5A - Victim Relationship

Chart 5 indicates the relationship between the 304 victims and the 258 adult defendants (representing 263 cases). The data indicate that 10% (N=29) of the children were victimized by their actual parents and 12% (N=36) of the victims were abused by stepparents. Other family members were charged with child sexual abuse for 6% (N=19) of the victims. Acquaintances were identified as the abusers in 40% (N=121) of the victims. Three strangers (1%) were accused of child sexual abuse. The relationship was unknown for 30% (N=90).

Of the 304 victims, the relationship between the victim and the accused was known for 214 (90 were unknown) victims. Twenty-eight percent (N=84) of the victims were abused by parents, relatives or step-parents. Forty percent (N=121) were victimized by acquaintances. Sixty-eight percent (N=205) of the victims fit these

two categories. Less than one percent (.99%, N=3) were strangers. Most adults charged with child sexual abuse offenses knew their victims. The parents and children generally had reason to know and/or trust the defendant because the defendant was known by the child or the child's parents. This parallels the findings in the FY92, FY93, FY94, FY95, FY96 and FY97 studies. THE FINDINGS FROM THIS SURVEY HAVE BEEN CONSISTENT FOR THE LAST SIX YEARS. CHILDREN ARE MUCH MORE LIKELY TO BE VICTIMS OF PERSONS THEY KNOW (AND THEIR PARENTS KNOW). IT IS ASSUMED THAT THIS TYPE OF PERPETRATOR HAS LEGITIMATE ACCESS TO THE CHILD.

Adult Defendants: Chart 6A - Pre-sentence/Sex Offender Evaluation

Chart 6A shows the number of convicted perpetrators that had a Pre-sentence Report and/or Sex Offender Evaluation completed before sentencing. Both Pre-sentence and Sex Offender Evaluations were prepared in 74 (28%) of the cases. The survey indicated that 46 (18%) of the defendants had a Pre-sentence Report only before sentencing. There were 15 (6%) defendants with neither. The remaining cases were in Pending or in the Unknown categories. This survey indicates that there was an increase of 8% of cases that had both a Sex Offender Evaluation and a Pre-Sentence completed from the report two years ago. This still remains quite low.

Adult Defendants: Chart 7A - Prior Convictions

Chart 7A shows prior convictions of adults charged with a child sex abuse crime during this study period. Fifty-two (20%) of the 258 adults charged during the study period had prior felonies. Twenty-two (8%) of the 258 adults charged had prior sex abuse charges. Over 90% of the adult defendants had no prior sex abuse convictions against children.

Adult Defendants: Chart 8A - Type of Charges Filed

Chart 8A shows the breakdown of the 312 criminal charges filed against adults. Lewd and Lascivious Conduct (IC §18-1508) charges were most frequently filed representing 186 charges or 60% of the total. Rape (IC §18-6101) charges were filed 59 times (19%) during FY98. The charge of Sexual Abuse (IC §18-1506) resulted in 38 charges or 12% of the total number of charges filed. Sexual Battery (IC §18-1508A) was filed in 2% (N=7) of the cases. Offender registration charges were filed in eight cases or 3%.

These data were collected to determine which charges were most frequently used against child sex abusers. This is the seventh year this information has been collected. A detailed analysis of case files for the last six years indicates exceedingly wide variability in the types of sex abuse behavior and the actual charge filed. The Lewd and Lascivious statute continues to be used to prosecute cases ranging from fondling to actual copulation. Most charging decisions continue to reflect a decision in favor of filing the most serious charge possible, not necessarily the most accurate charge. This creates problems in developing treatment programs and education/prevention programs which require accurate data on criminal history.

Adult Defendants: Chart 9A - Dispositional Information

Fifty-five percent (N=145) of the defendants charged pled guilty and were convicted. Forty-five (17%) were convicted by trial. Cases are pending for 14% (N=38). Charges were dismissed against 6% (N=16) of the defendants and 5% (N=12) were acquitted. The outcome was unknown for the other defendants because of incomplete records. Generally, the outcomes in the FY98 study were consistent with previous studies.

Adult Defendants: Chart 10A - Sentencing Information

Chart 10A shows the sentencing outcomes for the adult defendants in this study. The sentencing decision is known for 170 of the cases. (The additional defendants are awaiting trial, awaiting sentencing or the charges were dismissed.) Probation Only was the disposition in 46% (N=88) of the known cases. A Retained Jurisdiction sentence was given by judges in 19% (N=37) of the cases. Only 24% of the convicted defendants were sent directly to prison without a Retained sentence.

Adult Defendants: Chart 11A - Offender/Victim Ethnicity

Information was collected on ethnicity of the accused offender and the victim. Victim ethnicity was overwhelmingly Caucasian with 175 (58%) victims. Hispanic victims represented only 16 (5%) of the victims. Victim ethnicity could not be determined in 113 (37%) cases.

Offender ethnicity data showed that 71% (N=186) of the total were Caucasian and 14% (N=38) were Hispanic. One of the accused (.4%) was Black and three (1.2%) were Asian. The remainder were recorded as unknown or other. The data is consistent with the ethnicity noted in previous surveys.

One hundred fifty-seven (52%) of the victims were victimized by a member of their own ethnic group. Twenty-seven (9%) were victimized by a member of a different ethnic group and the ethnicity relationship was unknown for 120 (39%) of the remaining victims. As in past surveys, child sex abuse in Idaho is inter-racial.

Adult Defendants: Chart 12A - Location of Child Sexual Abuse

One hundred sixty-five (64%) of the alleged offenses occurred in a residence. Seventy-one (27%) of the locations could not be determined from court or police records. Sixteen (6%) were in other locations such as a car and 6 (2%) occurred outside. This was consistent with the findings last year.

Adult Defendants: Chart 13A - Educational Level

Educational data on adult defendants was available for 132 of the 263 cases. Of that 132, 53% (N=70) had not completed high school. Thirty-one percent (N=41) had completed high school and 16% (N=21) had some education beyond high school (college or vocational/technical). Information was not available for 131 of the cases.

Adult Defendants: Chart 14A - Outcomes of Retained Jurisdiction

This survey marks the third year of the analysis of the Retained Jurisdiction Sentence (Idaho Criminal Code, Section 2601). Although the time frame is short, this research will continue with offenders sentenced under the Retained status in future years.

There were 55 persons that were sentenced under this statute as of October 31, 1998, representing persons charged in FY98. Of that number, 37 (67%) were still completing their period of incarceration and evaluation in the Department of Corrections. It was not known if they would be released on Probation or complete their sentence in prison. Six (11%) were sent to prison to complete their sentence and 12 (22%) were released on Probation.

Adult Defendants: Chart 15A - Offender Occupation

Defendant occupation data was available and collected for 155 of the adult defendants. Twenty-four percent (N=64) were unemployed, 20% (N=52) worked at unskilled jobs, 8% (N=22) worked in skilled labor occupations, 3% (N=9) were classified as service workers, 2% (N=5) were in professional fields, 1% (N=3) were students, and occupation was unclear for the remaining defendants.

Adult Defendants: Chart 16A - Analysis of Determinate and Indeterminate Sentences

Data was collected on the 148 people sentenced and the length of their sentence when the report was completed. These data include persons sent directly to prison, those sent directly to probation, and those on a Retained status. Fifty-five percent (N=104) received a fixed or determinate sentence of 36 months or less. Thirty-eight percent received indeterminate sentences of 61 months to life.

Adult Defendants: Chart 17A - Sentencing for Those Sent to Prison

The data in this chart refers to convicted perpetrators sent to prison and not given a Retained Jurisdiction sentence. These data indicate that the majority of defendants (64%) sent to prison had determinate sentences of 48 months or less. Eighty-eight percent (N=38) had an indeterminate sentence coupled with the determinate sentence of 49 months to Life.

Adult Defendants: Chart 18A - Income

Income data was available for 119 of the cases. The defendants in the majority of the cases (N=90 or 76%) earned \$15,000 or less annually. Twenty-four percent earned more than \$15,000 annually.

Adult Defendants: Chart 19A - Age Relationship Offenders and Victims

This chart shows the relationship between age of perpetrators and their victims. It provides a graphic representation that shows a preponderance of perpetrators in their 20's and 30's with teenage victims.

Adult Defendants: Chart 20A - Voluntary vs. Use of Force in Sexual Act

This chart represents new data collected for the first time this year. The researchers collected data on whether force was used in commission of the sexual act with the victim. Of the 304 victims the force relationship could not be determined in 36% (N=109) of the cases. In the remainder, 44% (N=134) of the defendants used force on their victims. In 20% (N=61) the sexual act did not involve the use of force as determined from the data in the defendant's file.

Chart 1 A: Adult Defendants

Total Cases and Charges Filed

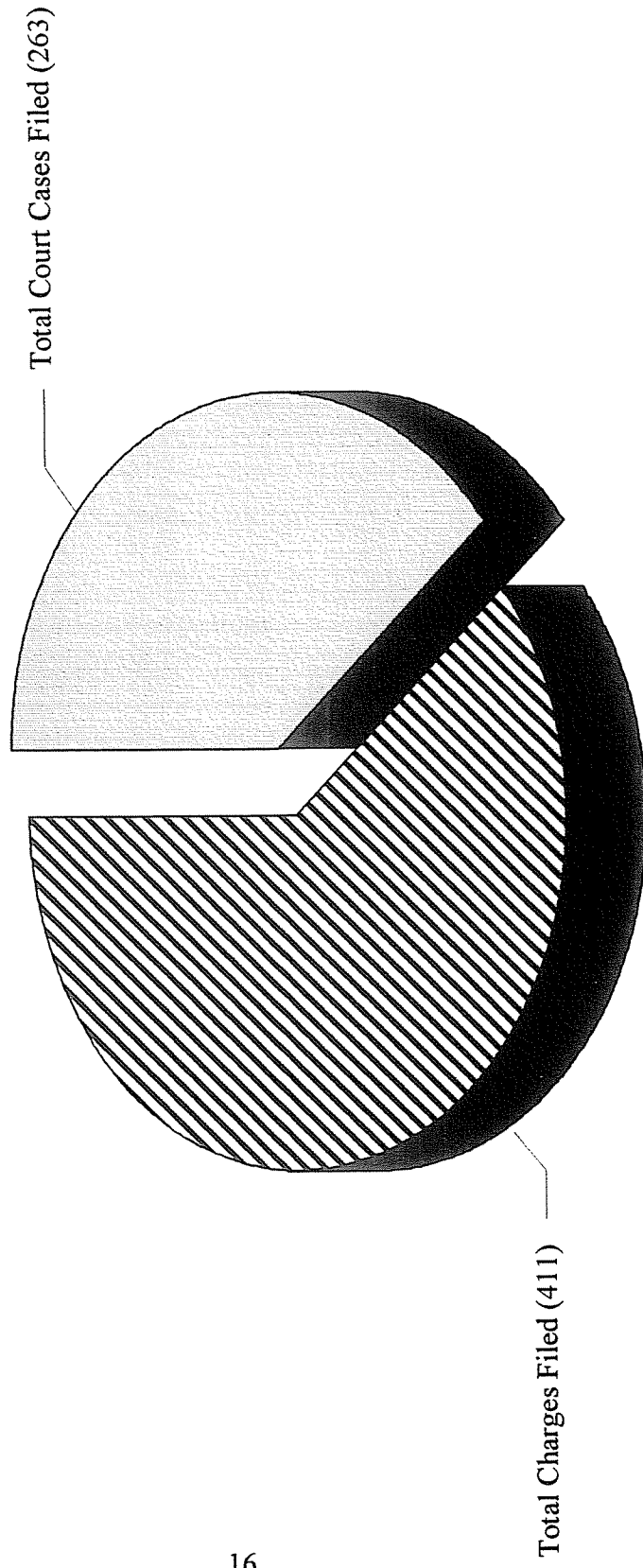


Chart 2A: Adult Defendants

Victim Gender

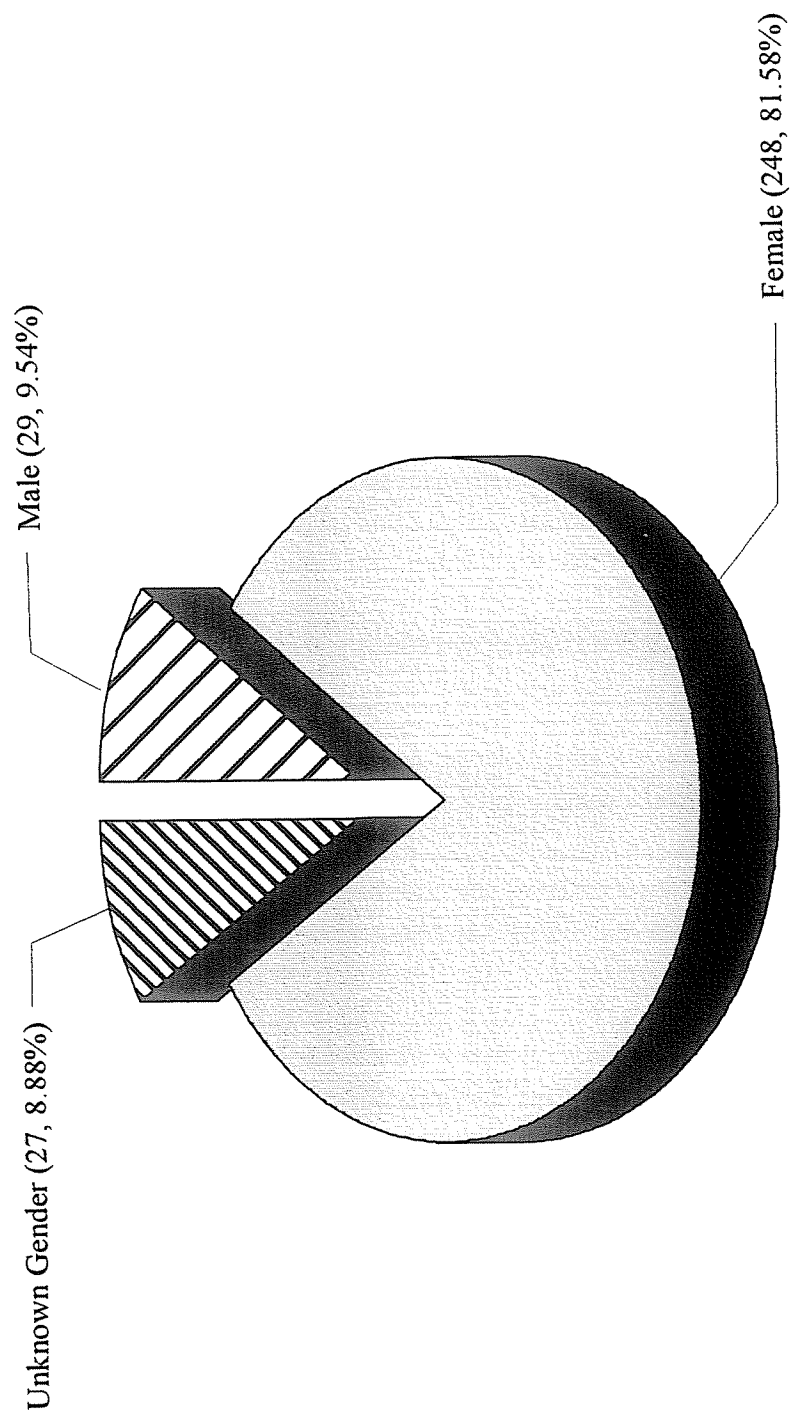
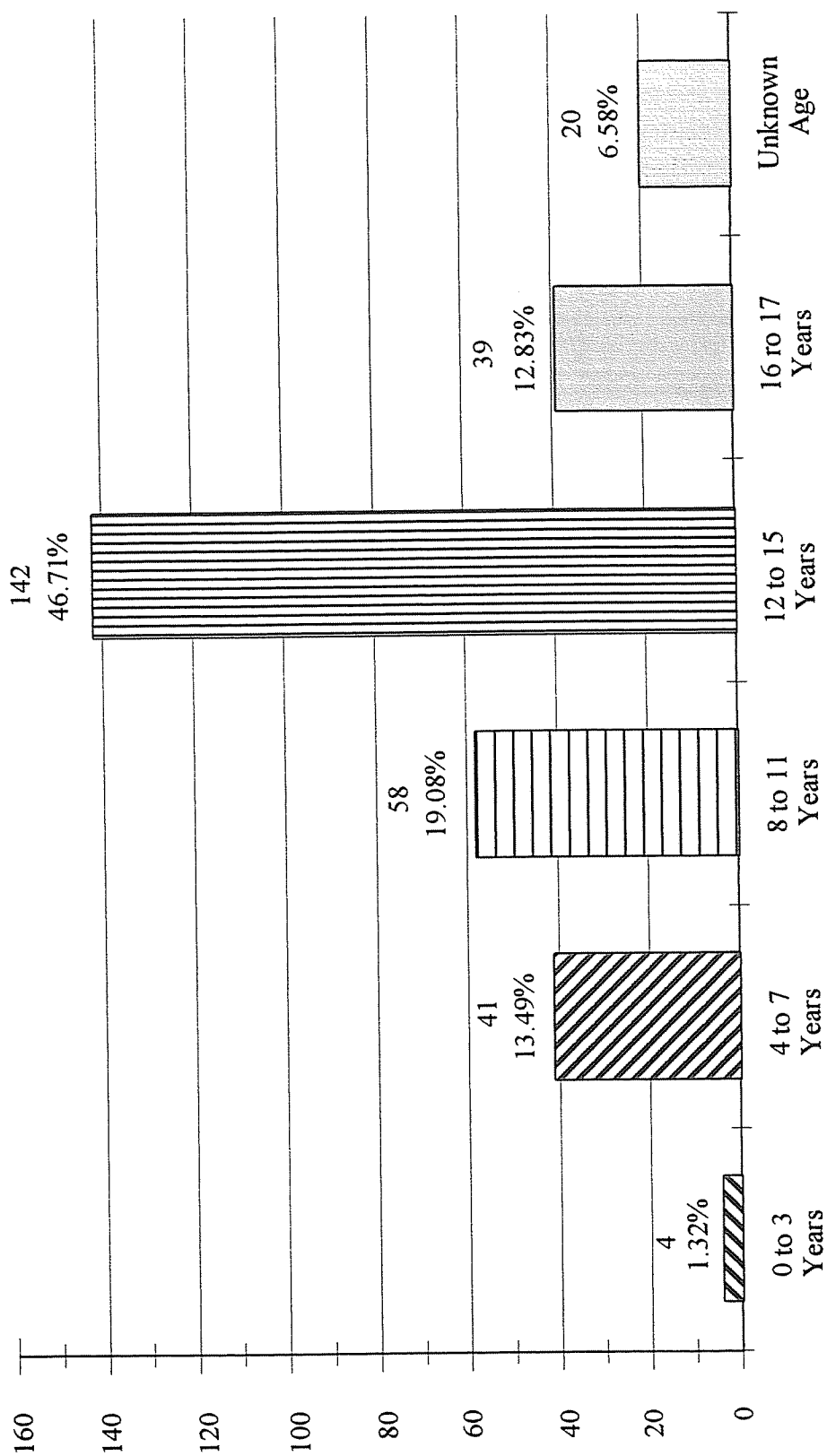


Chart 3A: Adult Defendants

Victim Age



FY98 Idaho Child Sexual Abuse Study

Chart 4A: Adult Defendants

Number of Victims per Case

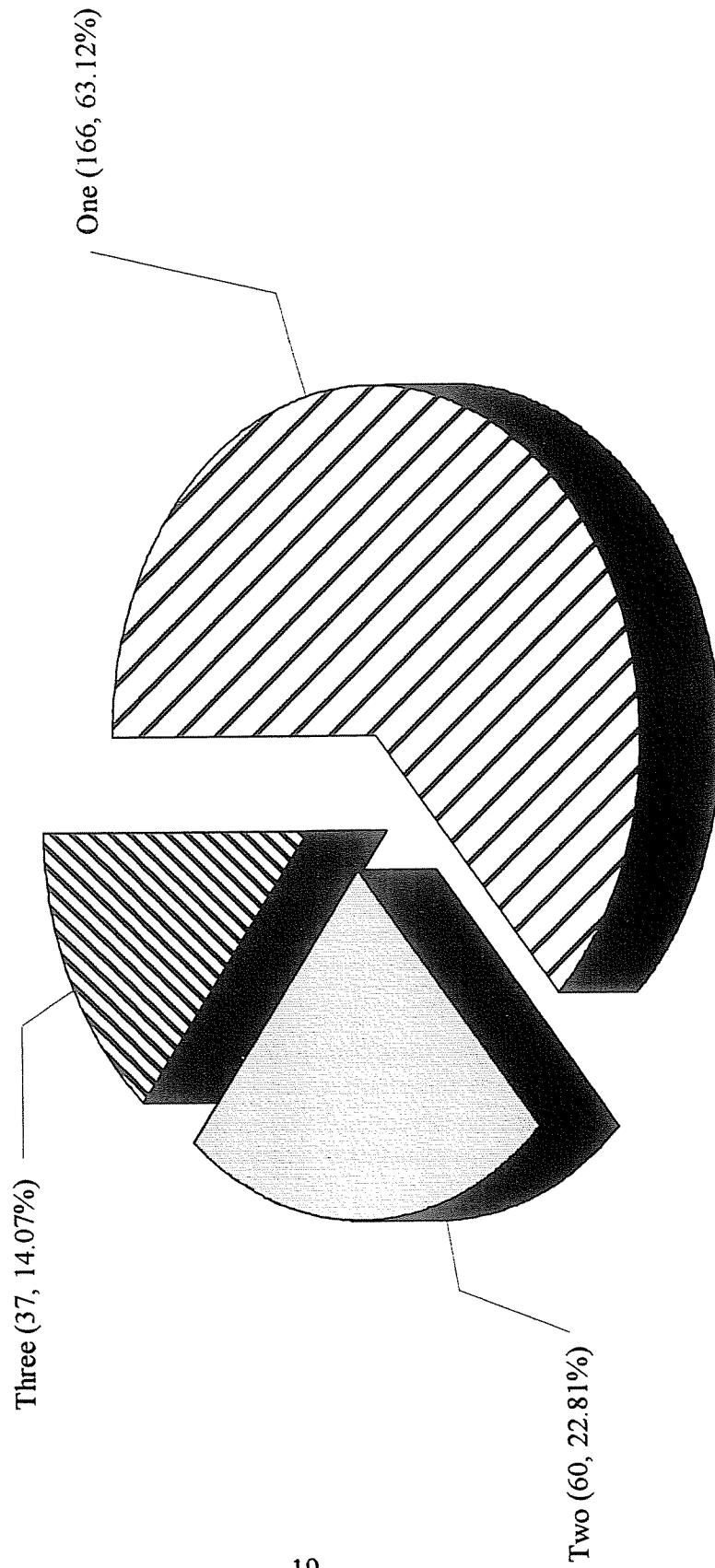
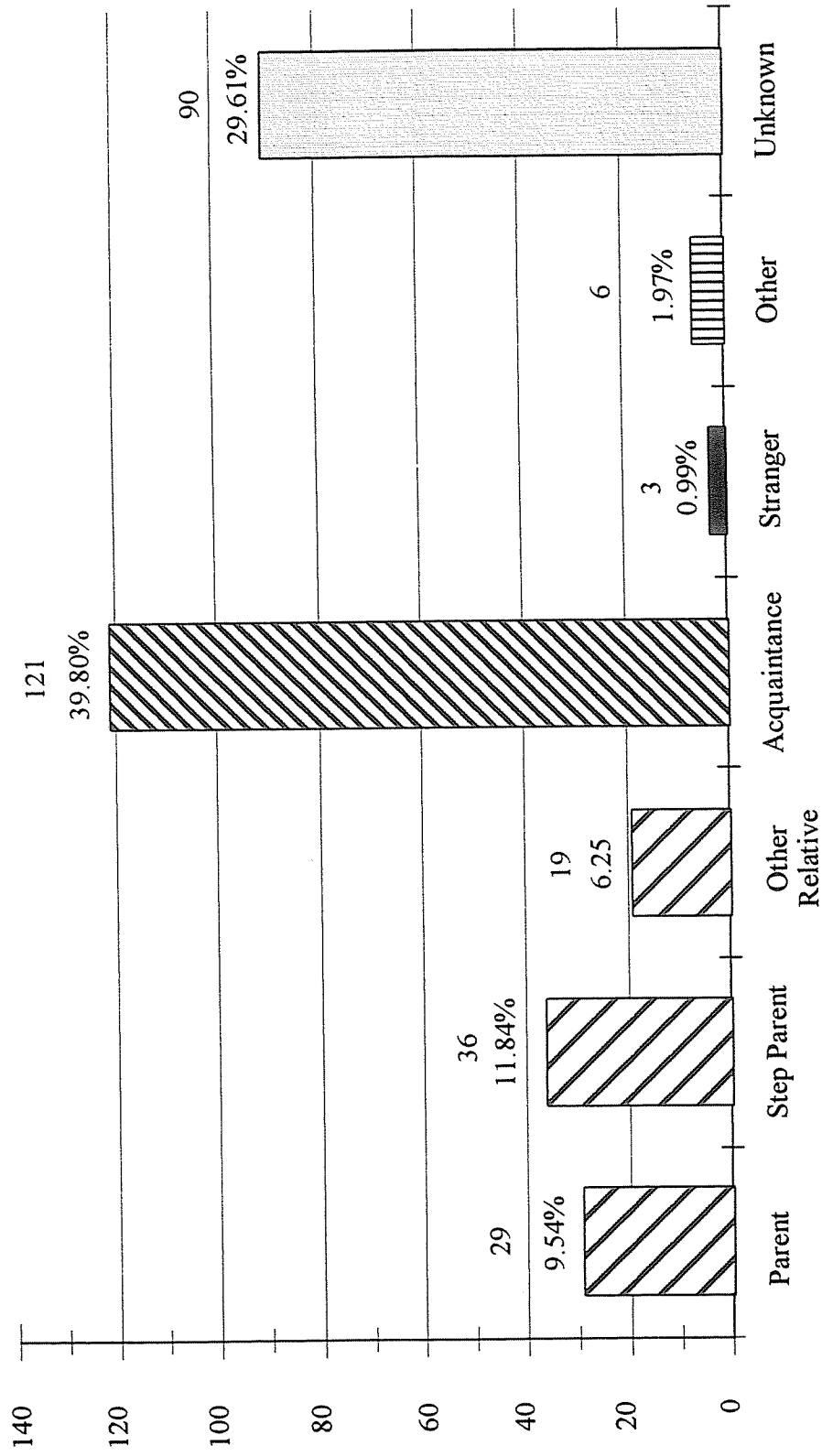


Chart 5A: Adult Defendants

Relationship to Victims



FY98 Idaho Child Sexual Abuse Study

Chart 6A: Adult Defendants

Presentence Report and Sex Offender Evaluation

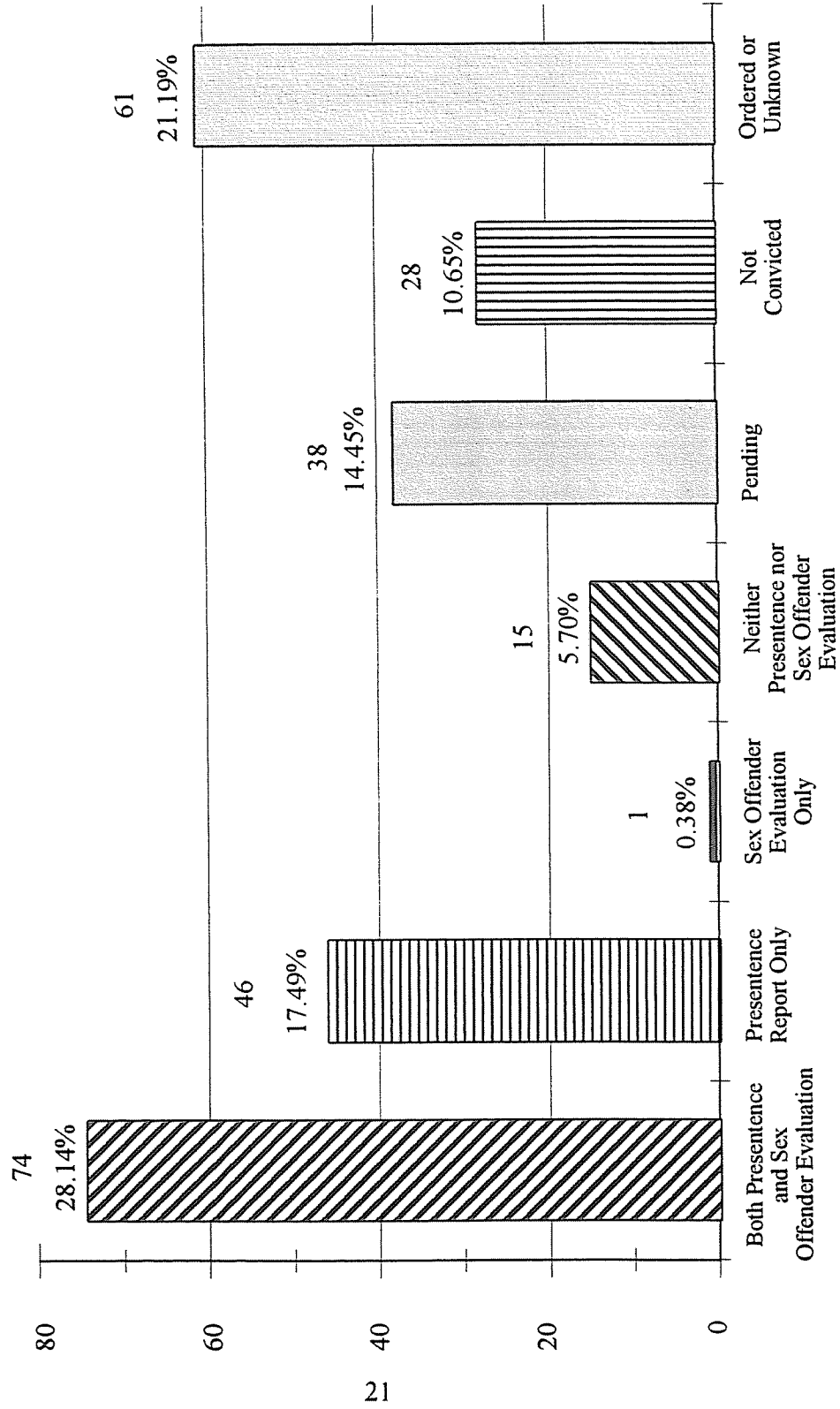


Chart 7A: Adult Defendants Prior Offenses

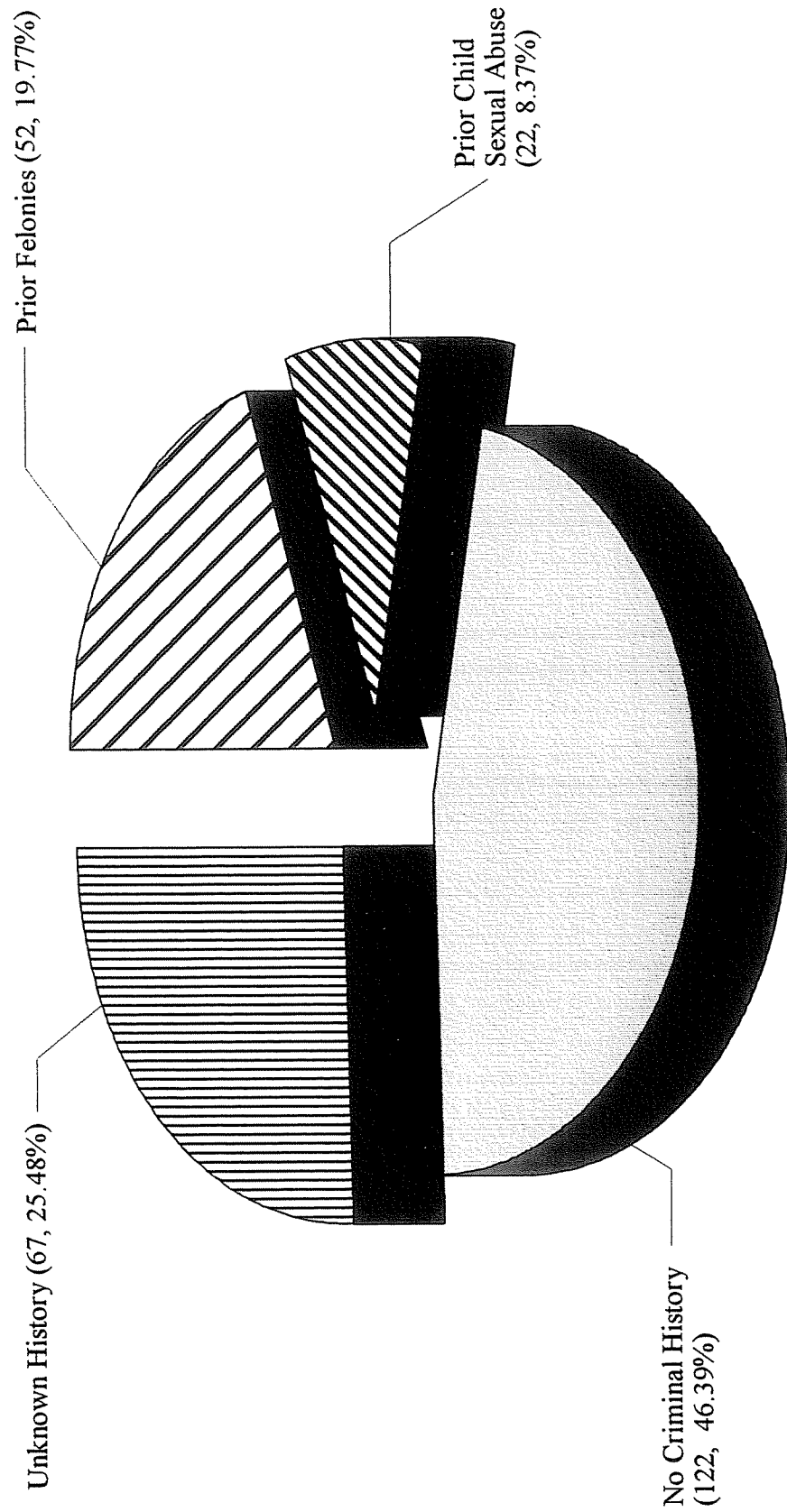
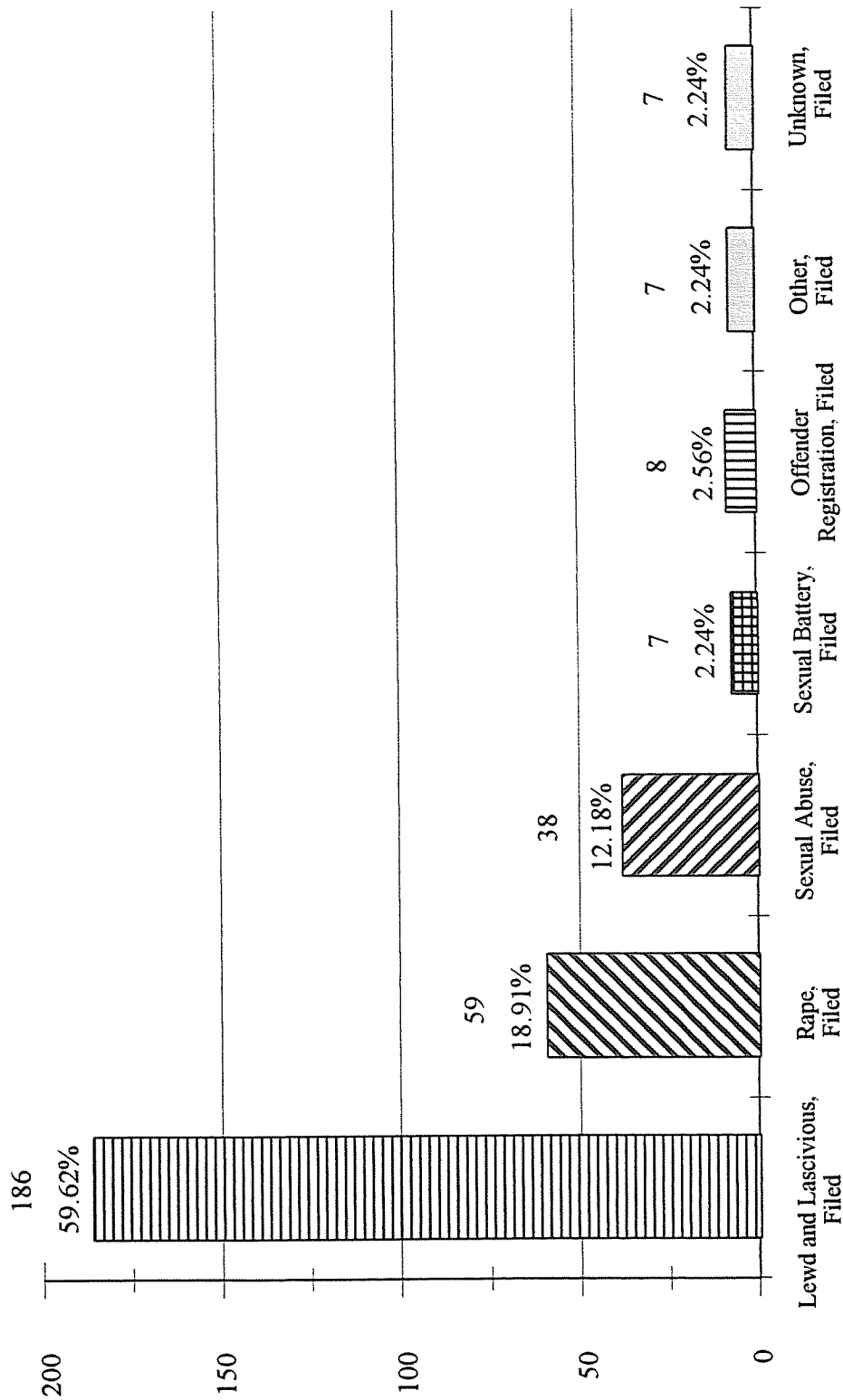


Chart 8A: Adult Defendants

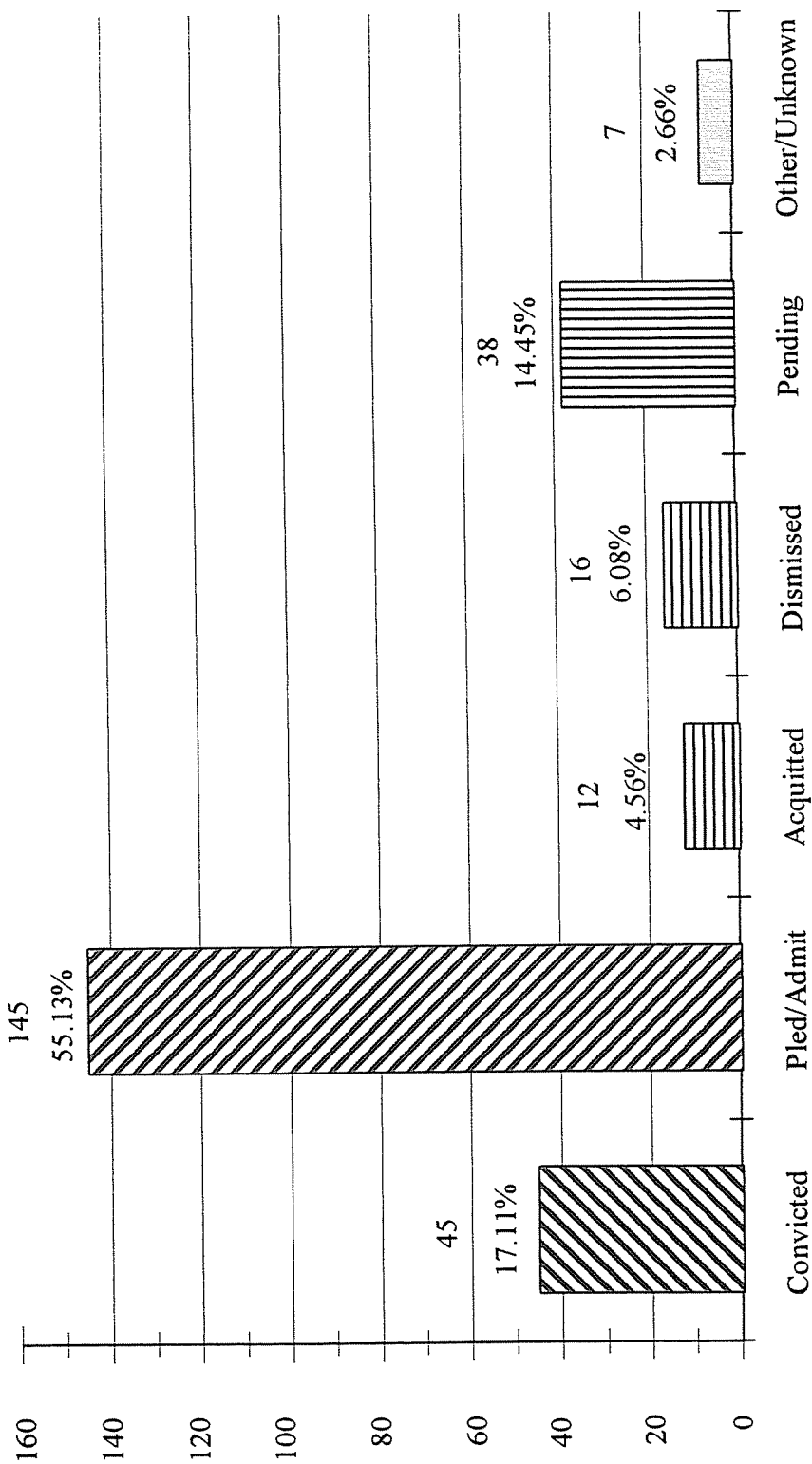
Most Frequently Filed Charges



FY98 Idaho Child Sexual Abuse Study

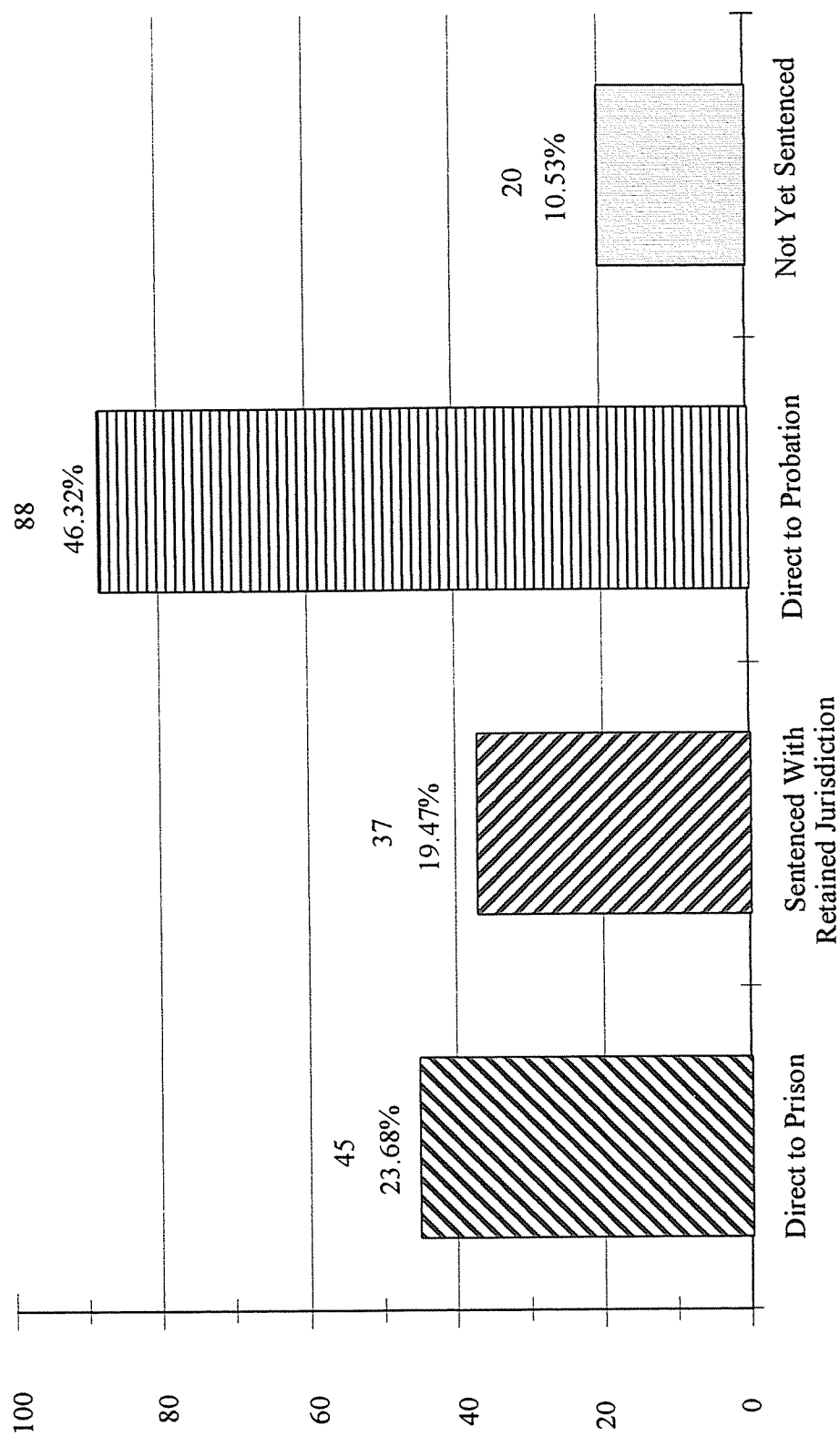
Chart 9A: Adult Defendants

Dispositional Information



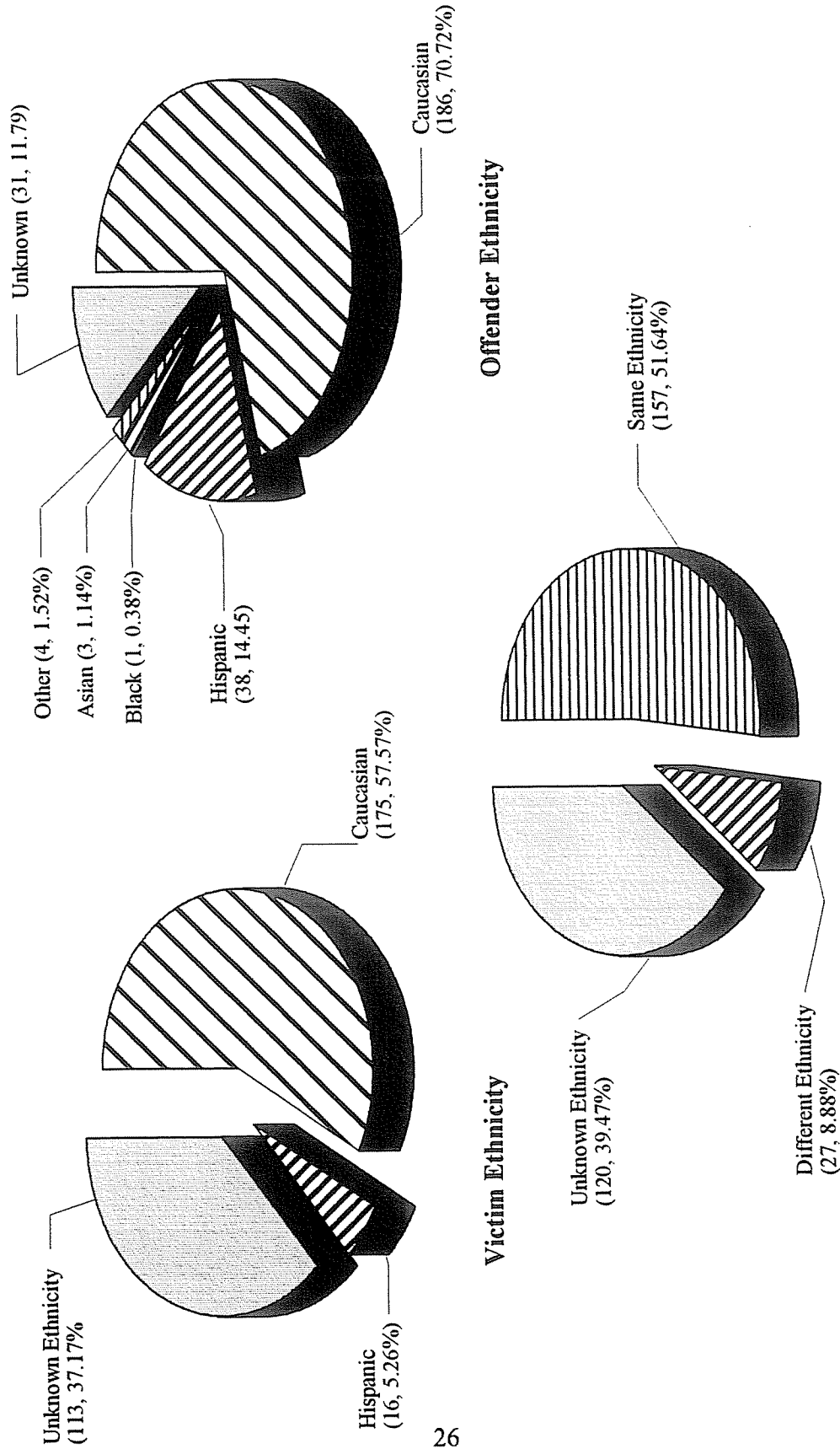
FY98 Idaho Child Sexual Abuse Study

Chart 10A: Adult Defendants Outcomes for Convicted Offenders



FY98 Idaho Child Sexual Abuse Study

Chart 11A: Adult Defendants



Offender/Victim Ethnicity

FY98 Idaho Child Sexual Abuse Study

Chart 12A: Adult Defendants

Location of Child Sexual Abuse

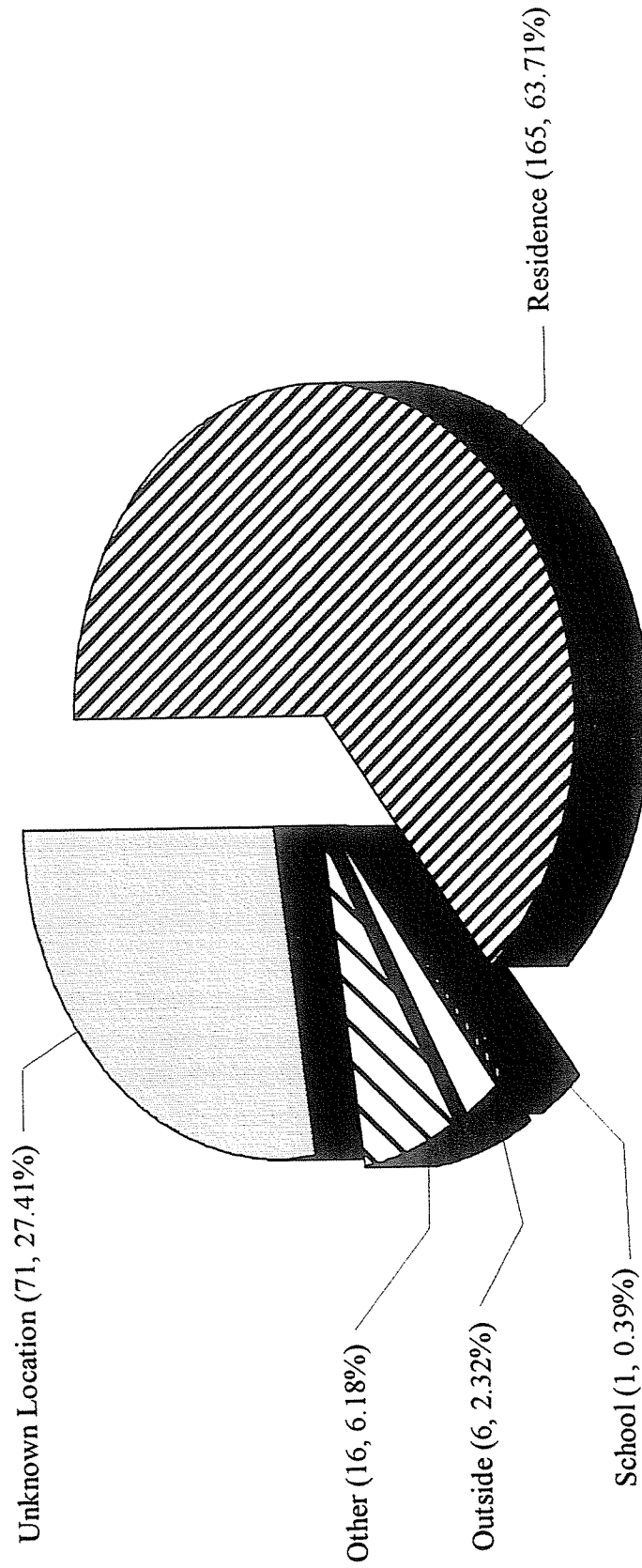


Chart 13A: Adult Defendants

Offender Education

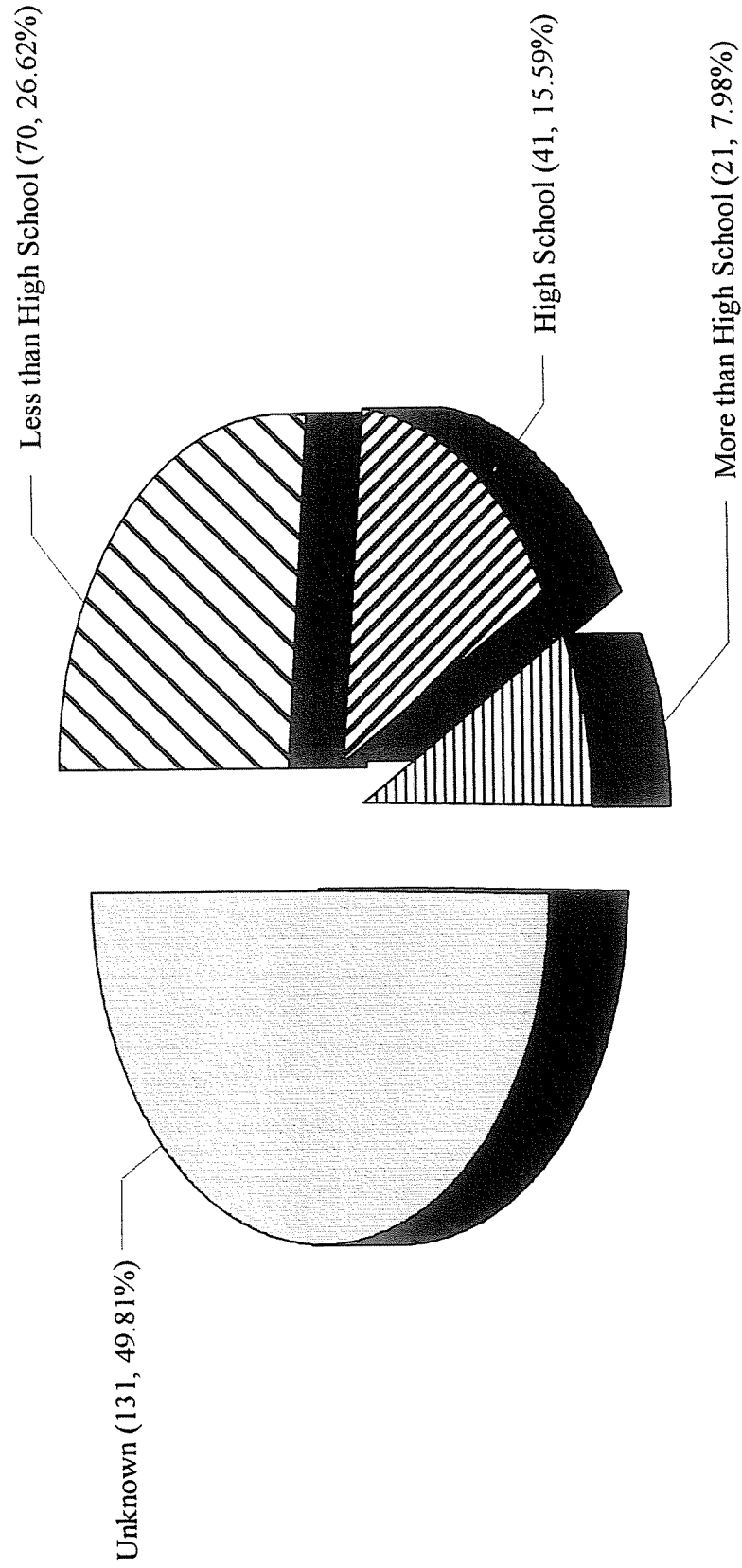


Chart 14A: Adult Defendants

Outcomes of Retained Jurisdiction

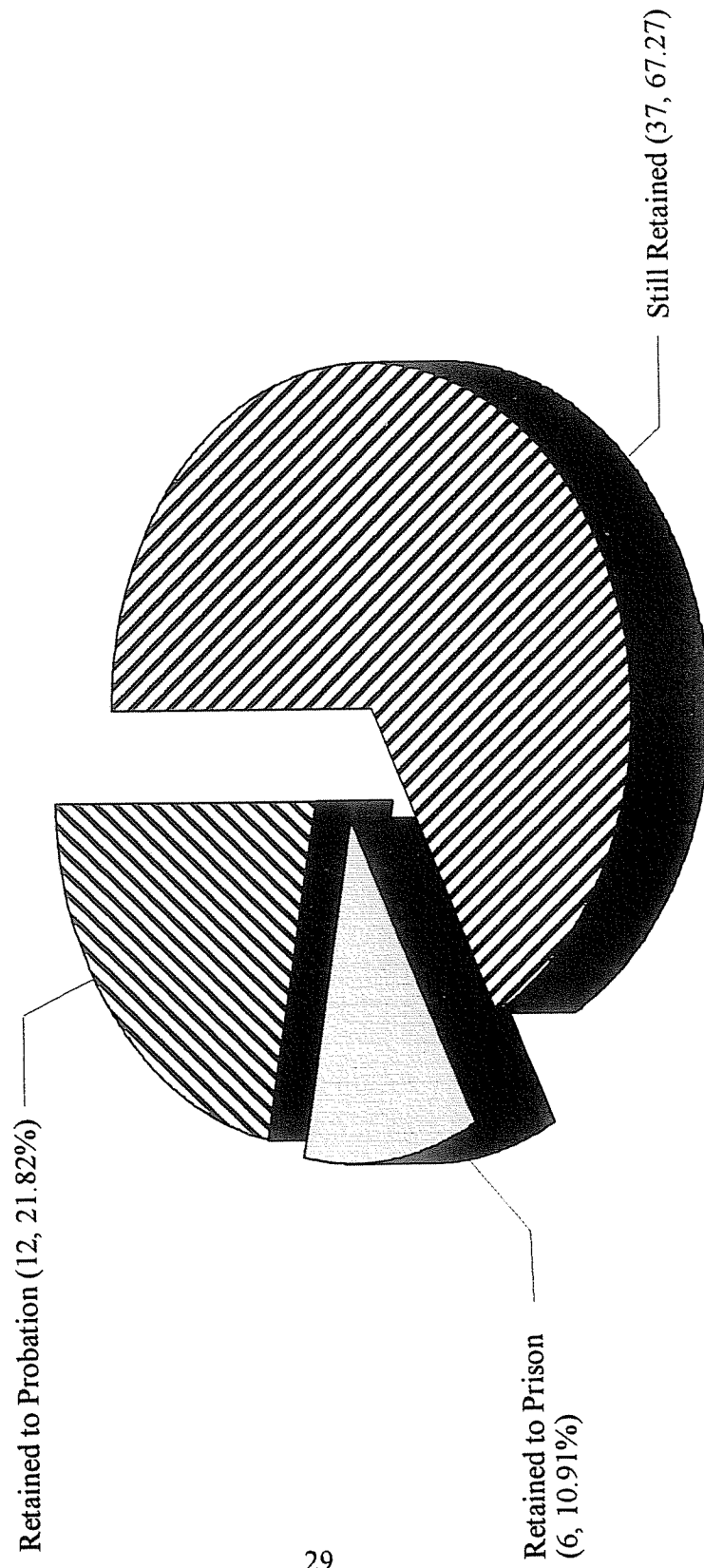
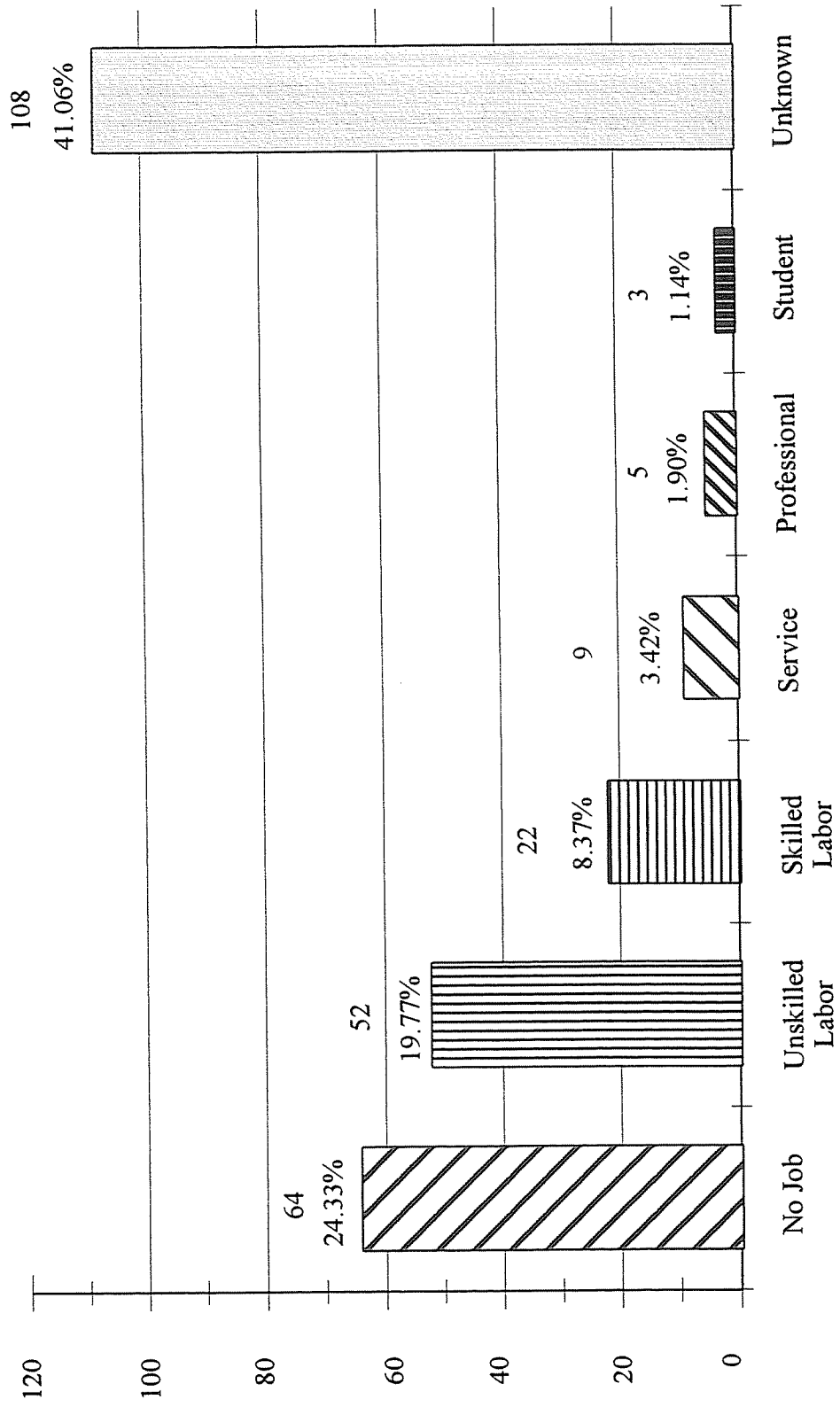
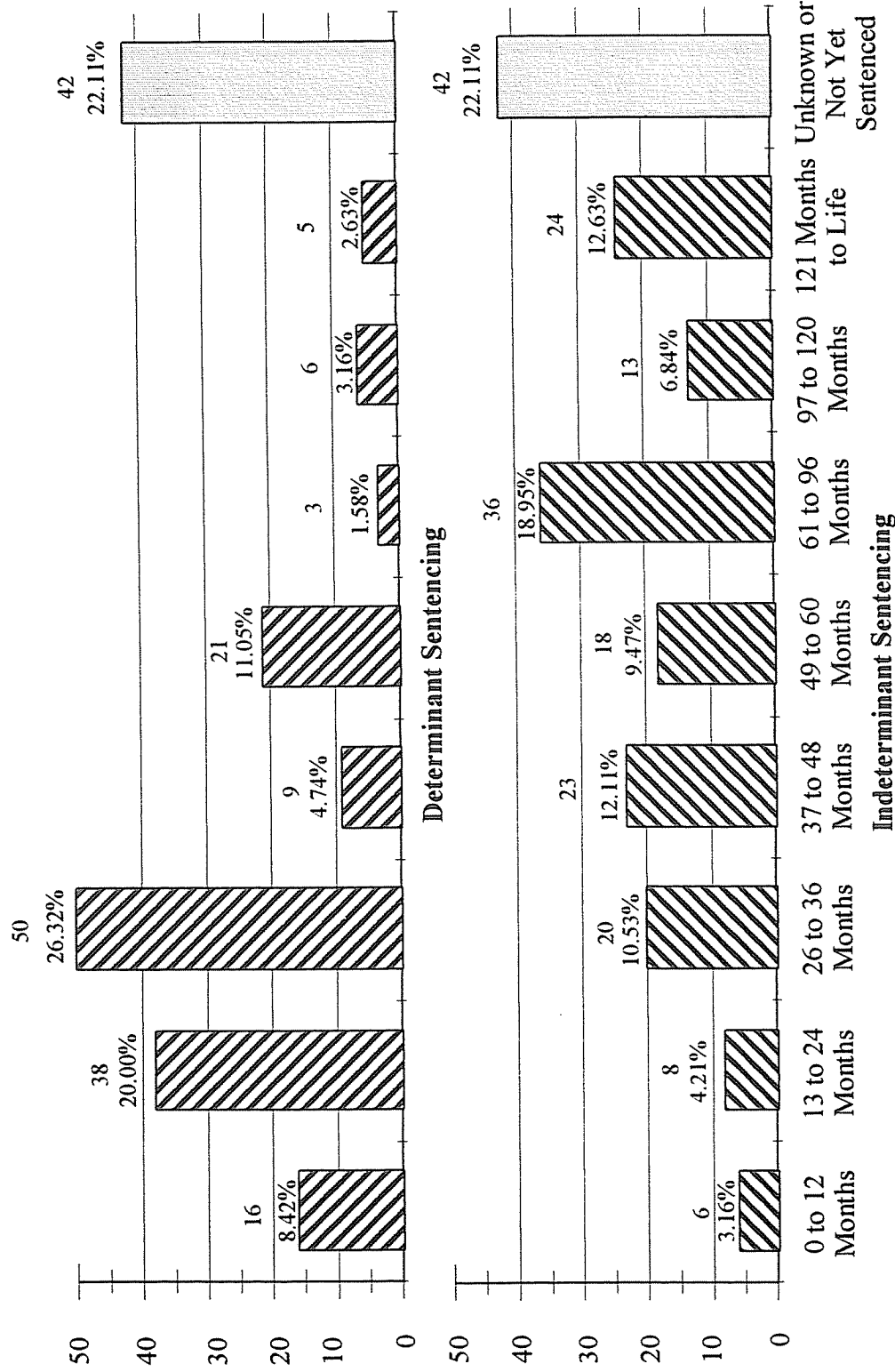


Chart 15A: Adult Defendants Offender Occupation



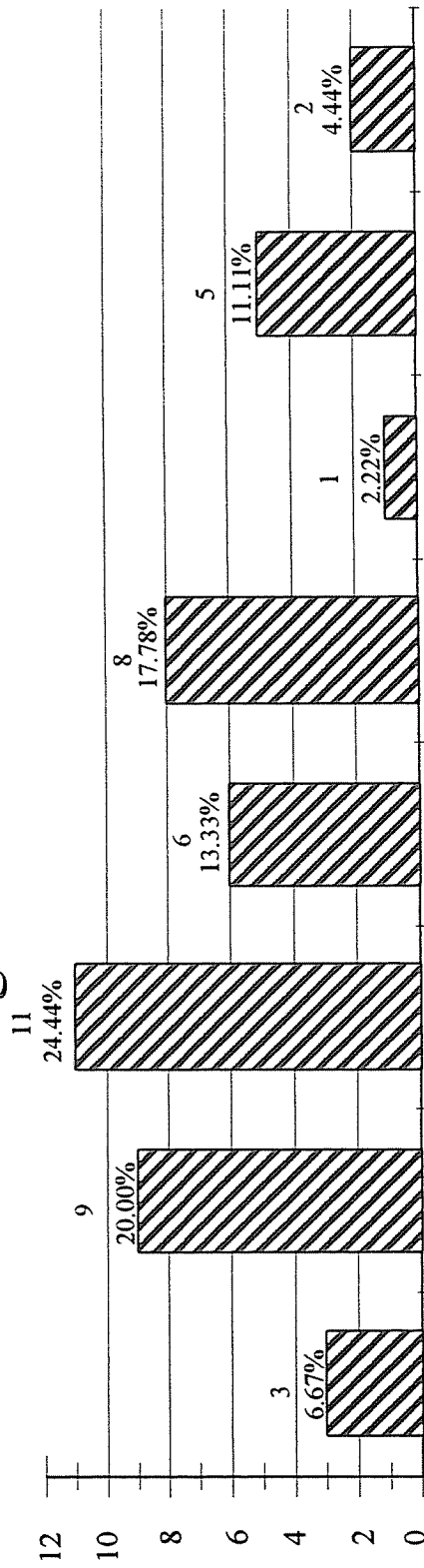
FY98 Idaho Child Sexual Abuse Study

Chart 16A: Adult Defendants Sentencing for All Convicted Defendants

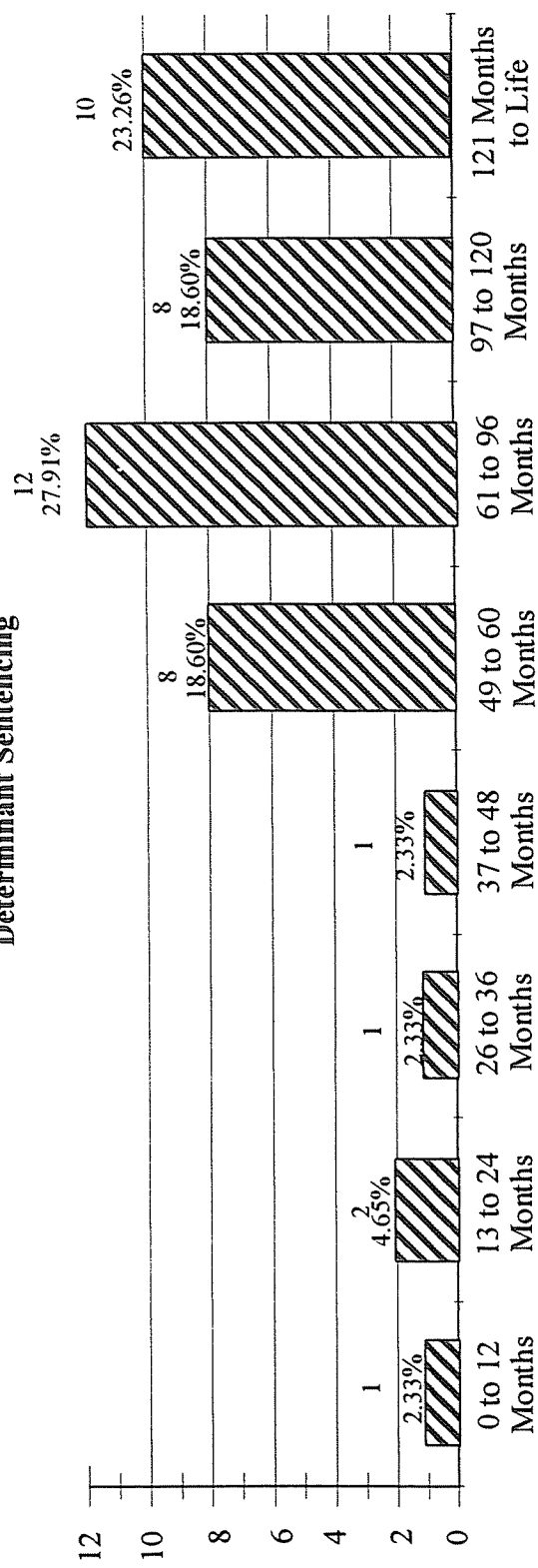


FY98 Idaho Child Sexual Abuse Study

Chart 17A: Adult Defendants Sentencing for Those Sent to Prison



Determinant Sentencing



Indeterminant Sentencing

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Chart 18A: Adult Defendants

Offender Income

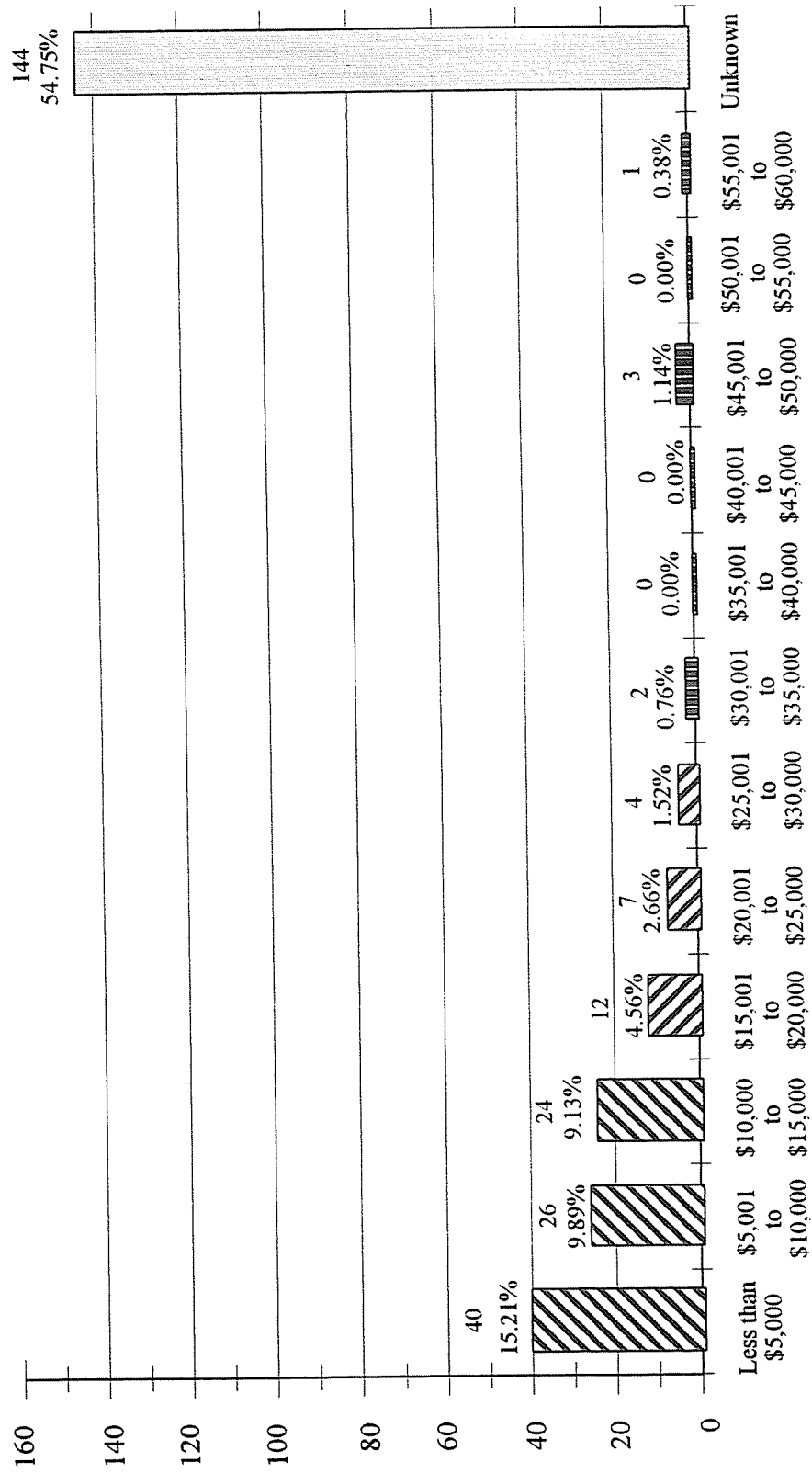
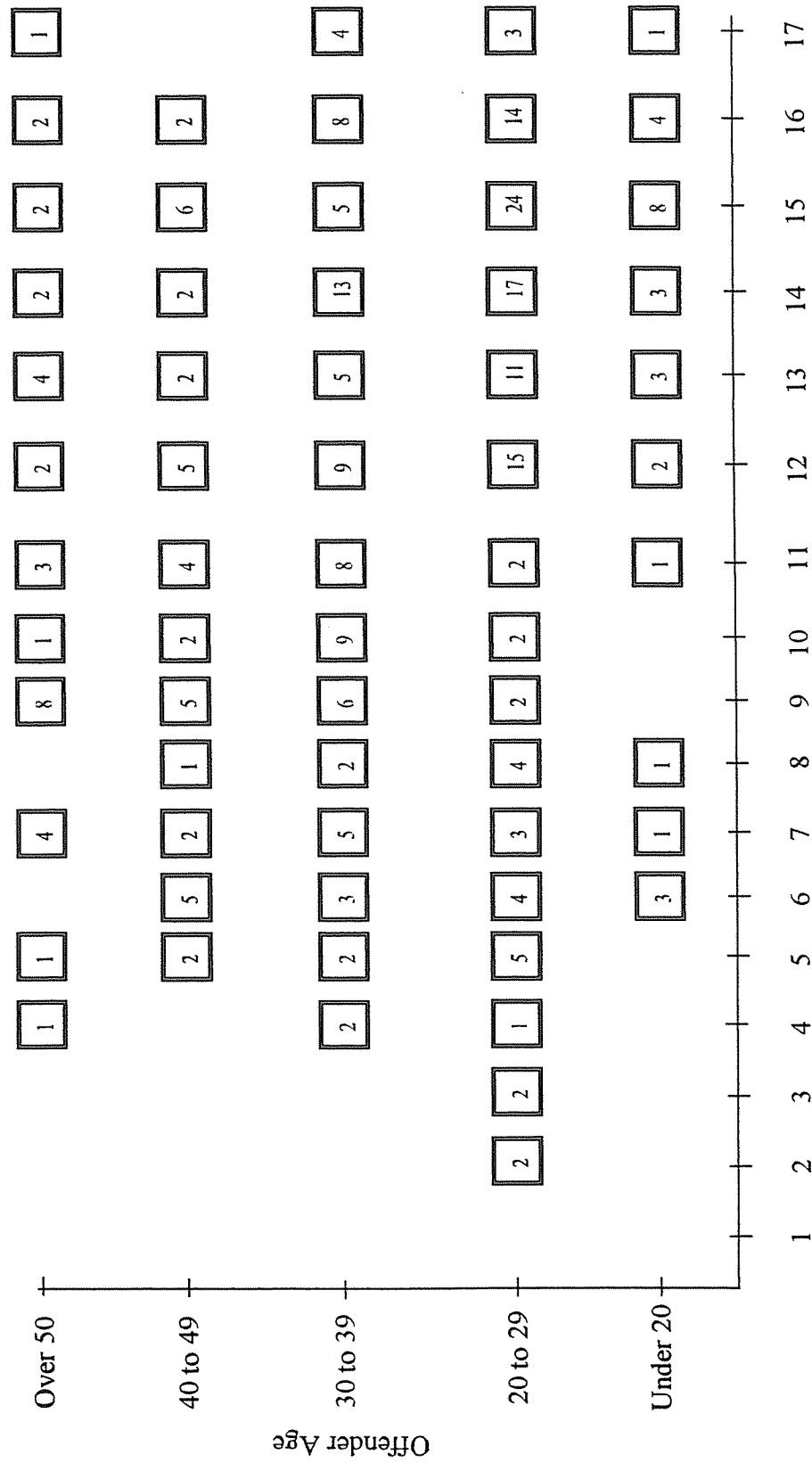


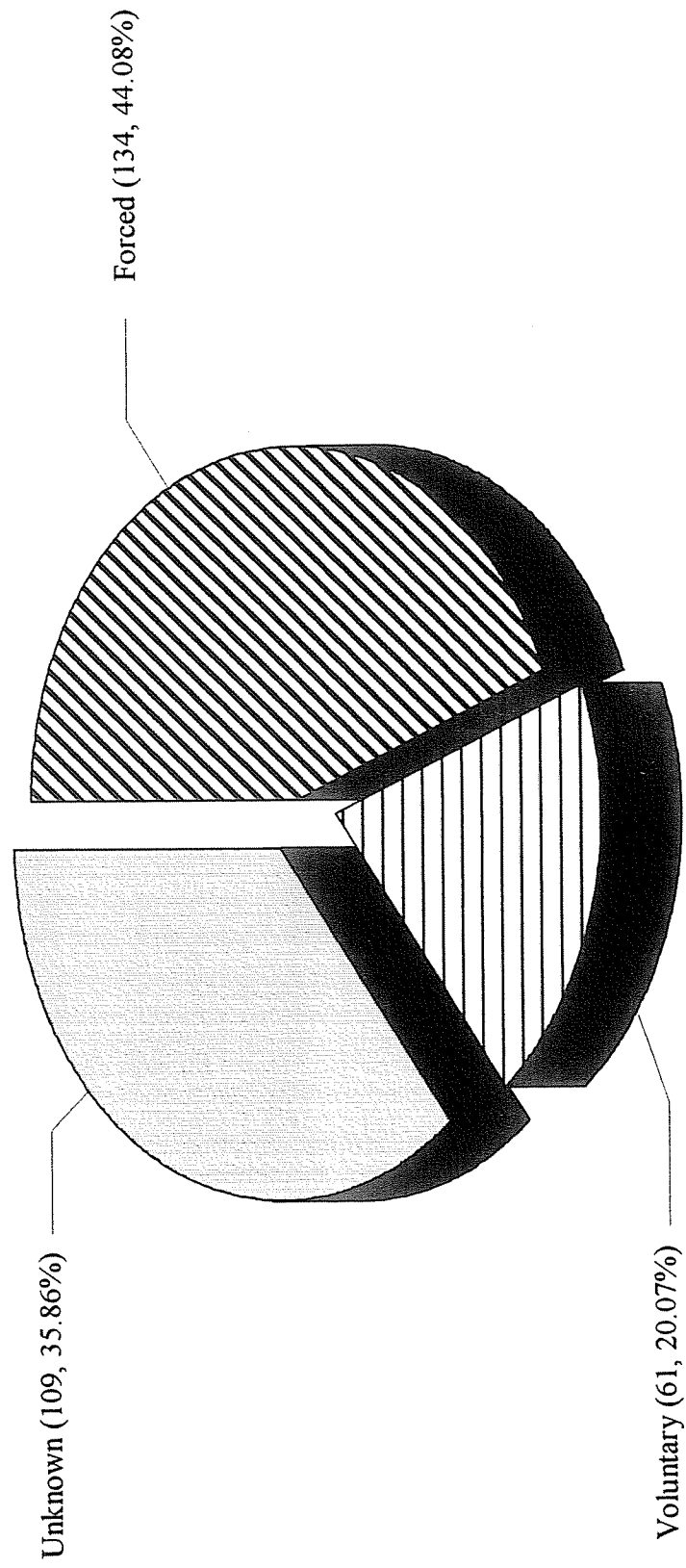
Chart 19A: Adult Defendants Age Relationship for Offenders and Victims



Age of Victims
FY98 Idaho Child Sexual Abuse Study

Chart 20A: Adult Defendants

Forced or Voluntary Abuse



JUVENILE CASES

ANALYSIS OF JUVENILE CASES FILED-CHARTS 1J-12J

There were a total of 140 juvenile cases filed in FY98.

Juvenile Offenders: Chart 1J - Total Petitions and Charges Filed

Chart 1J indicates that 140 petitions were filed against juveniles representing 219 charges. This is an increase of 13 cases from FY97, an increase of 64 cases over the 76 juvenile cases filed in FY96, an increase over the 94 cases filed in FY95 and the 123 juvenile cases filed in FY94. In this report period there was an average of 1.56 charges in each petition.

Juvenile Offenders: Chart 2J - Victim Gender

There were 176 victims listed in the juvenile petitions. Victim gender was predominantly female representing 54% (N=95) of the total number of known victims. (Females represented 82% of the victims for adult offenders.) Male victims represented 35% (N=61) of the total for juveniles. Female victimization declined from last year and male victims increased. Male victims of juvenile perpetrators were FOUR TIMES as high as male victims of adult perpetrators. The information on victim gender was not available to the research team in 11% (N=20) of the cases. Some juveniles had no Social History completed and it was impossible to determine victim gender from the petition.

Juvenile Offenders: Chart 3J - Victim Age

For the 140 juvenile cases reported (with petitions filed) during the study period, the age of the victims was known for 136 of the 176 victims. Victims under three years of age comprised 7% (N=13) of the total study population. Victims from four to seven years comprised 41% (N=72) of the study population. Children eight to eleven years were victims in 12% (N=21) of the cases. Another 15% (N=26) were from twelve to

fifteen years of age and the remaining 2% (N=4) were sixteen or older. Age was unknown for 23% (N=40) of the victims.

The number of victims under seven years old remained the same as last year and children from eight to eleven declined by 50%. Forty-eight percent (N=85) of the victims were seven years old or younger. **Sixty percent of the victims were under eleven during this study period.**

Juvenile Offenders: Chart 4J - Number of Victims Per Case

The number of victims was known for all 140 juveniles petitioned. Seventy-four percent of the juveniles (N=104) had been charged with violations against a single victim. There were two victims in 17% (N=24) of the cases and three or more victims in 9% (N=12) of the cases. This represents an increase of multiple victims and a decline in single victims from last year's report.

Juvenile Offenders: Chart 5J - Victim Relationship

Chart 5J shows the relationship between the 176 victims and the 140 petitioned juveniles. Relatives (non-parents) were charged with offenses for 27% (N=48) of the victims. Acquaintances were identified as the abuser for 51% (N=90) of the victims. No strangers were charged with child sexual abuse. The relationship could not be determined for 21% (N=37) of the victims. No victims in this study were abused by a parent and only one abuse was reported by a step-parent where victim relationship was known.

Most juveniles charged with child sexual abuse knew or had some familiarity with their victims. The parents and/or children generally had reason to trust the offender because the offender was known by the child or their family.

THE SURVEYS FOR THE PAST FIVE YEARS HAVE INDICATED THAT ONLY THREE STRANGERS HAVE MOLESTED CHILDREN WHERE VICTIM RELATIONSHIP WAS KNOWN. THIS IS A DRAMATIC INDICATION THAT CHILDREN ARE AT RISK FROM PERSONS THEY KNOW (OR THEIR PARENTS KNOW) WHO HAVE SOME LEGITIMATE ACCESS TO THE CHILDREN.

Juvenile Offenders: Chart 6J - Social History/Sex Offender Evaluation

The data in Chart 6J show the number of adjudicated juveniles that had a Social History or Sex Offender Evaluation completed before disposition. Thirty-seven percent (N=51) of the known juveniles had only a Sex Offender Evaluation completed before disposition. Both a Social History and Sex Offender Evaluation were prepared in only 4% (N=6) of the known cases. Juvenile offenders with neither, as determined by the case files, comprised 11% (N=15) of the study. The petition was Dismissed or the juvenile was Acquitted in 21 cases and seven cases were Pending. The information was unavailable or incomplete in 36 cases. Although it was assumed that the majority had some type of investigation completed before disposition, incomplete records and the absence of a tracking system made it impossible to determine whether Sex Offender Evaluations and Social Histories were completed.

Criminal history data was limited because of the absence of complete Social Case History records in the court files.

Juvenile Offenders: Chart 7J - Types of Charges

Chart 7J shows the types of petitions (charges) filed against juveniles. Lewd and Lascivious Conduct (IC §18-1508) petitions were most frequently filed representing 155 (71%) of the total petitions. Rape (IC §18-6101) charges were filed twelve times (5%) during the year.

These data were collected to determine which charges were most frequently used against juvenile child sex abusers. As with adults, there was an exceedingly wide variability in the types of sex abuse behavior and the actual charge filed. The Lewd and Lascivious statute was used most frequently.

Juvenile Offenders: Chart 8J - Dispositional Information

Chart 8J shows dispositional information on juveniles. The outcome was not available in the court records for 15 juveniles. One hundred five were sentenced under the Youth Rehabilitation Act. Twenty-one (20%) were Detained under the YRA and 66 (63%) were released under supervision.

Juvenile Offenders: Chart 9J - Victim and Offender Ethnicity

The petitioned offender's ethnicity was predominantly Caucasian representing 74% (N=103) of the offenders. Thirteen percent (N=18) were recorded as Hispanic. One percent (N=2) were listed as Black and the remaining 16 (12%) had no race recorded in their files. This represents a decline in Caucasian offenders but an increase in Hispanic offenders from the previous survey.

Victims were primarily Caucasian with 63% (N=110) of the total. Six percent (N=10) were Hispanic and the remaining 32% (N=56) were unknown.

Juvenile Offenders: Chart 10J - Offender/Victim Ethnicity

One hundred three (74%) of the juveniles petitioned into court committed the sexual offense on a child of the same ethnic status. Nine (6%) abused a child of a different ethnic group and ethnic relationship was unknown in 27 (19%) cases.

Victims, where ethnicity was known, were primarily Caucasian representing 63% (N=110) of the children abused. Ten (6%) of the victims were Hispanic but ethnicity was unknown for 32% (N=56).

Juvenile Offenders: Chart 11J - Location of Child Sexual Abuse

Seventy-four (53%) of the juveniles committed their offense in a residence. Location was unknown for 43 (31%) juveniles. Thirteen (9%) occurred outside and six (4%) in other locations such as a car. Four (3%) occurred in daycare facilities. Place data is similar to last year's report except for the incidence in daycare.

Juvenile Offenders: Chart 12J - Age of Offenders

Chart 12J shows the ages of juvenile perpetrators. The most frequently occurring age was twelve to fifteen year olds, representing 48% (N=66) closely followed by sixteen years and older with 45% (N=62). Perpetrators eight to eleven represented 6% of the total.

Juvenile Offenders: Chart 13J - Age Relationship: Offenders and Victims

Chart 13J graphically shows the age relationship between victims and perpetrators. This demonstrates that a significant number of teenage perpetrators choose very young victims. Fourteen year olds were the most frequently occurring age of offenders.

Juvenile Offenders: Chart 14J - Forced or Voluntary Sexual Abuse

This chart reflects data collected from court files on the forced versus voluntary nature of the abuse. In 98 cases (56%) the sexual act was forced and in 18 (10%) there was no evidence that force was used. It was unknown in 60 (34%) of the reported cases.

Chart 1J: Juvenile Offenders

Total Cases and Petitions Filed

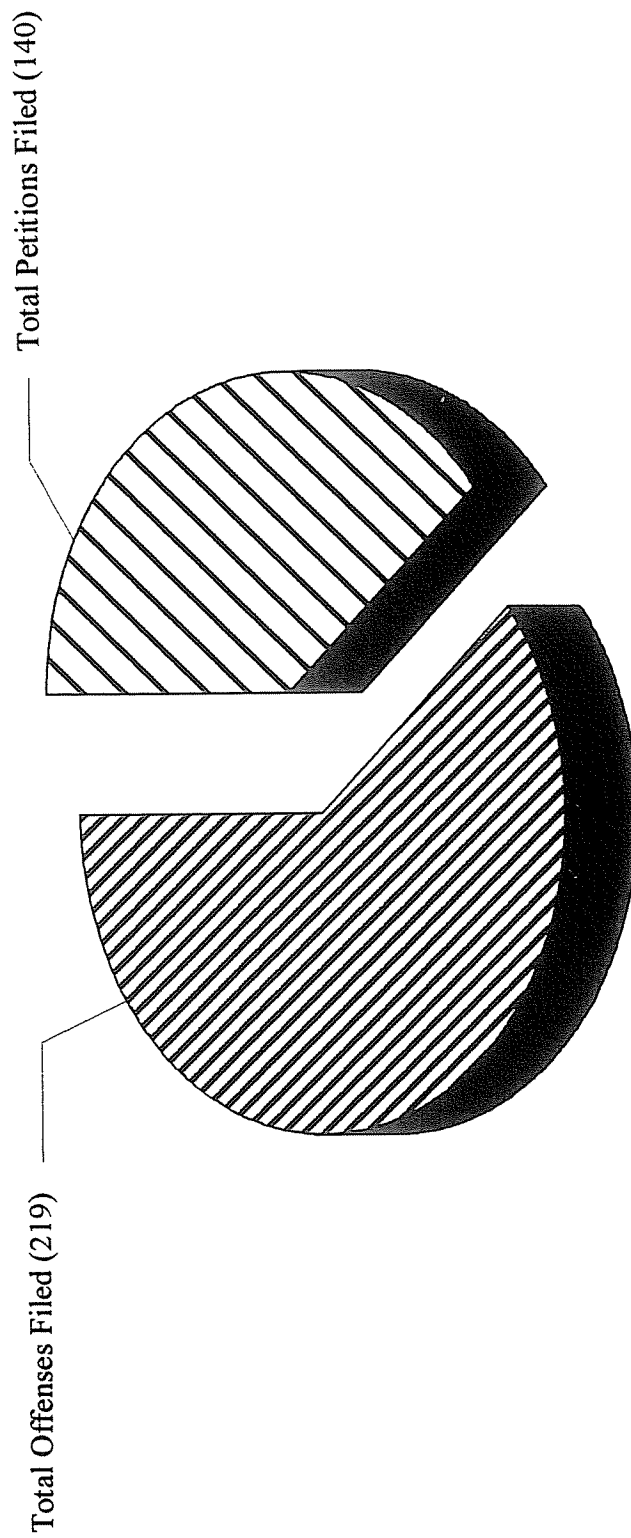


Chart 2J: Juvenile Offenders

Victim Gender

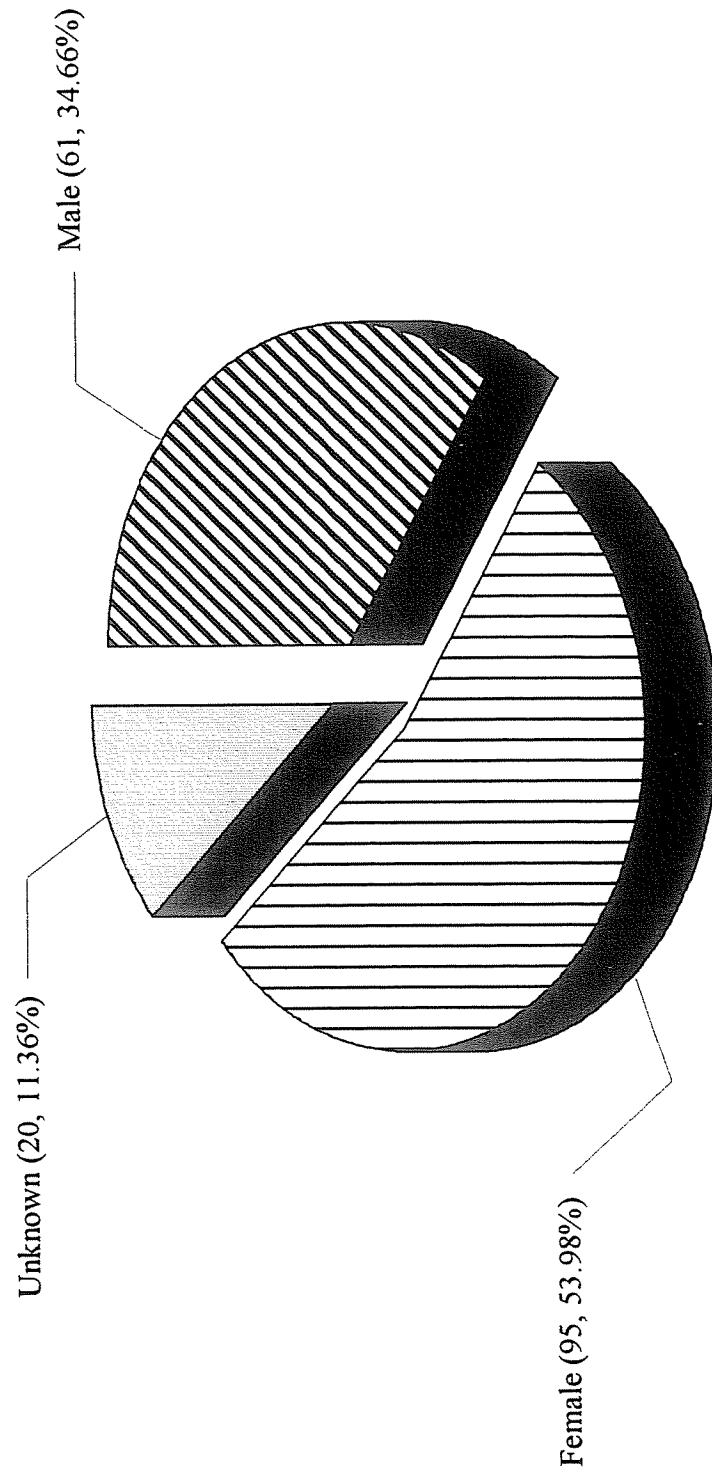
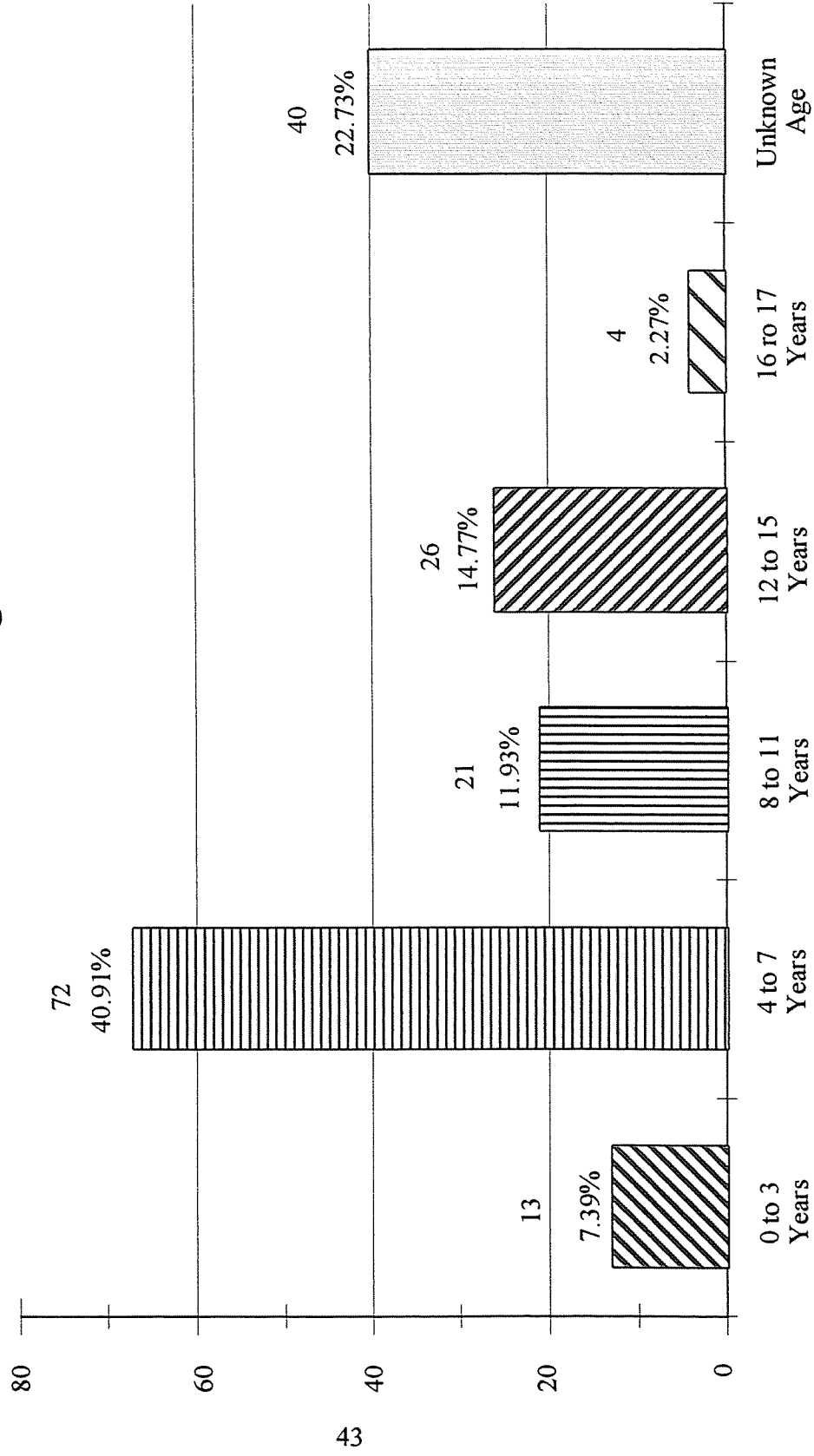


Chart 3J: Juvenile Offenders

Victim Age



FY98 Idaho Child Sexual Abuse Study

Chart 4J: Juvenile Offenders

Number of Victims per Case

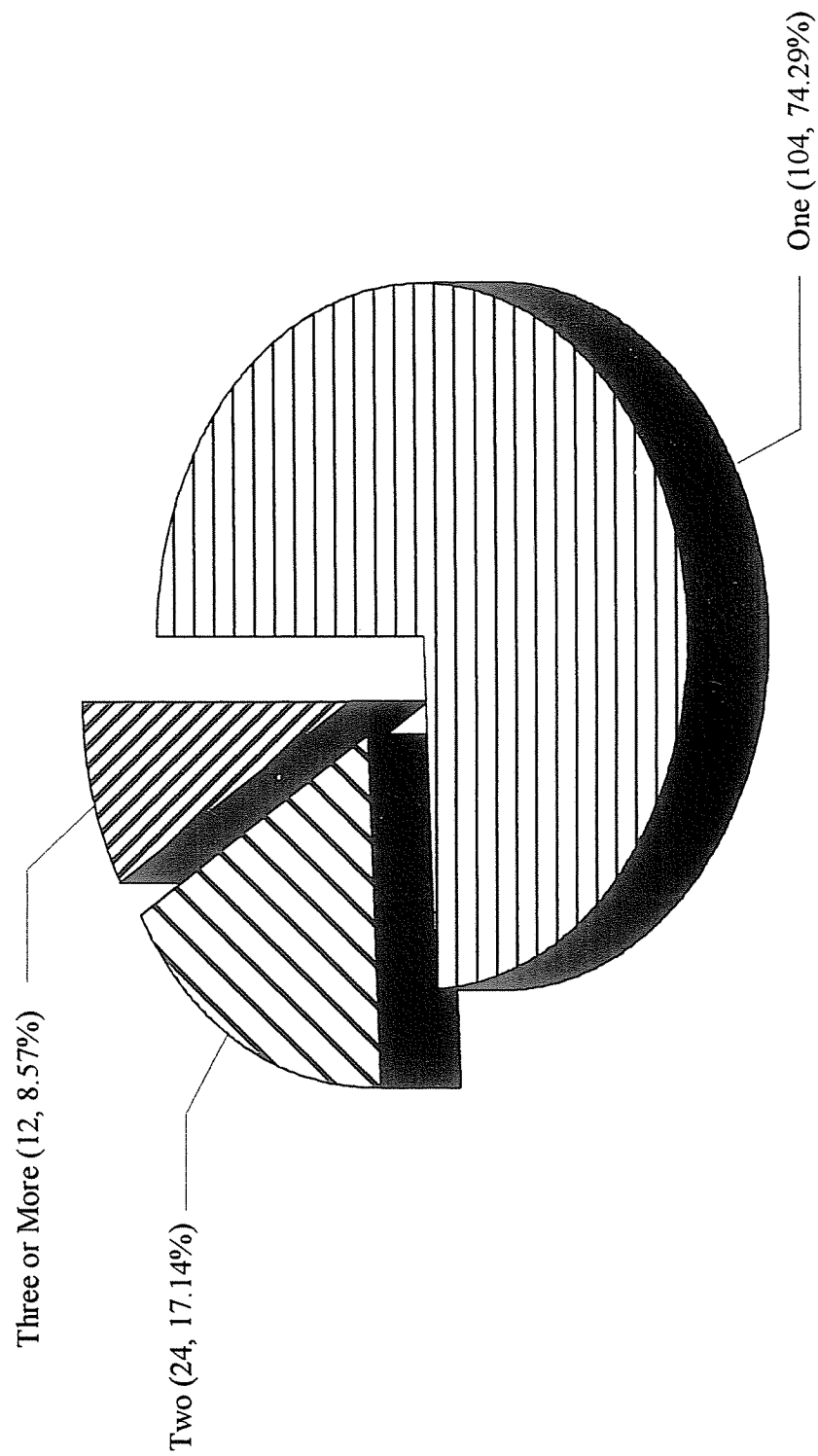
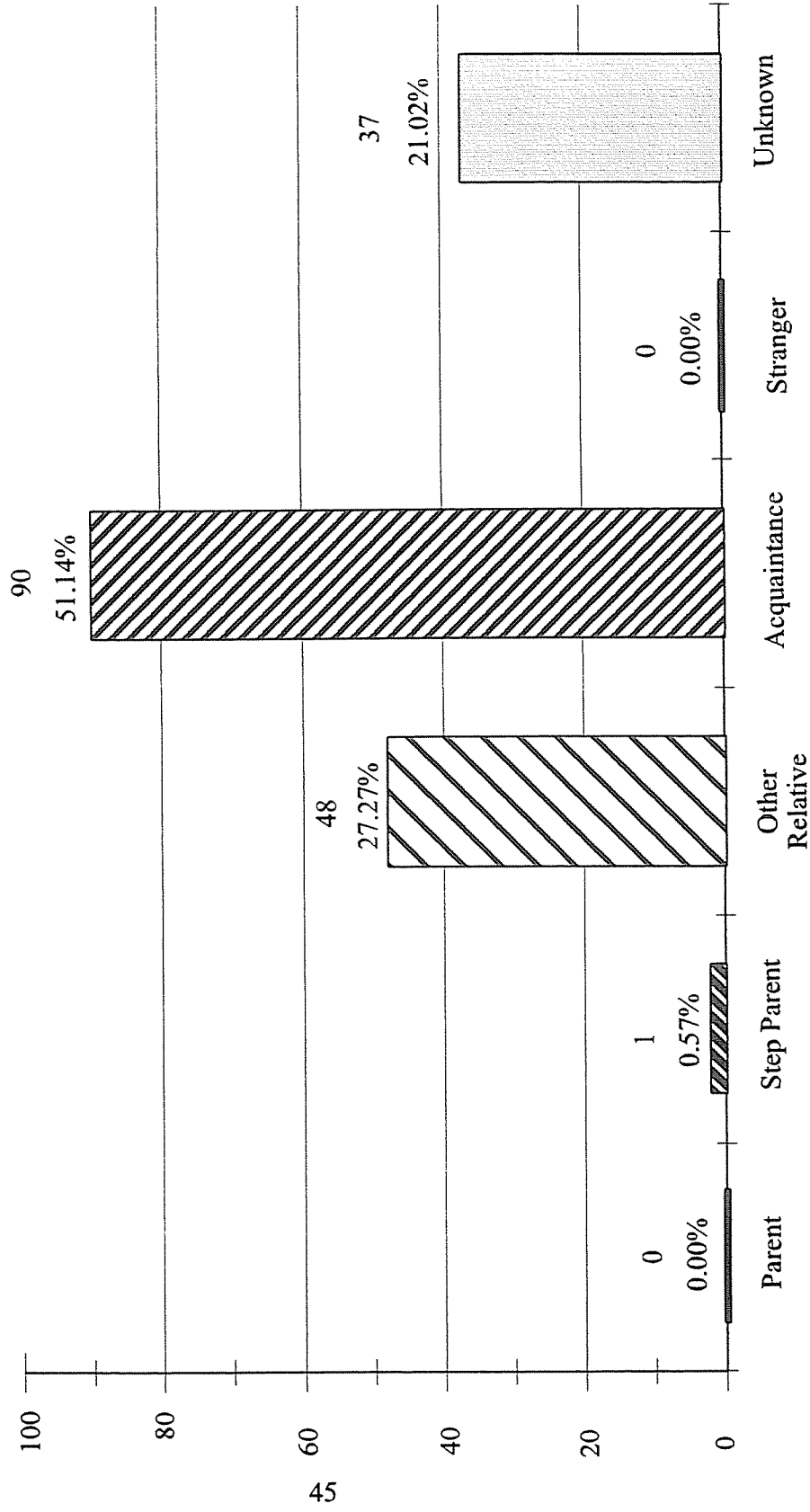


Chart 5J: Juvenile Offenders

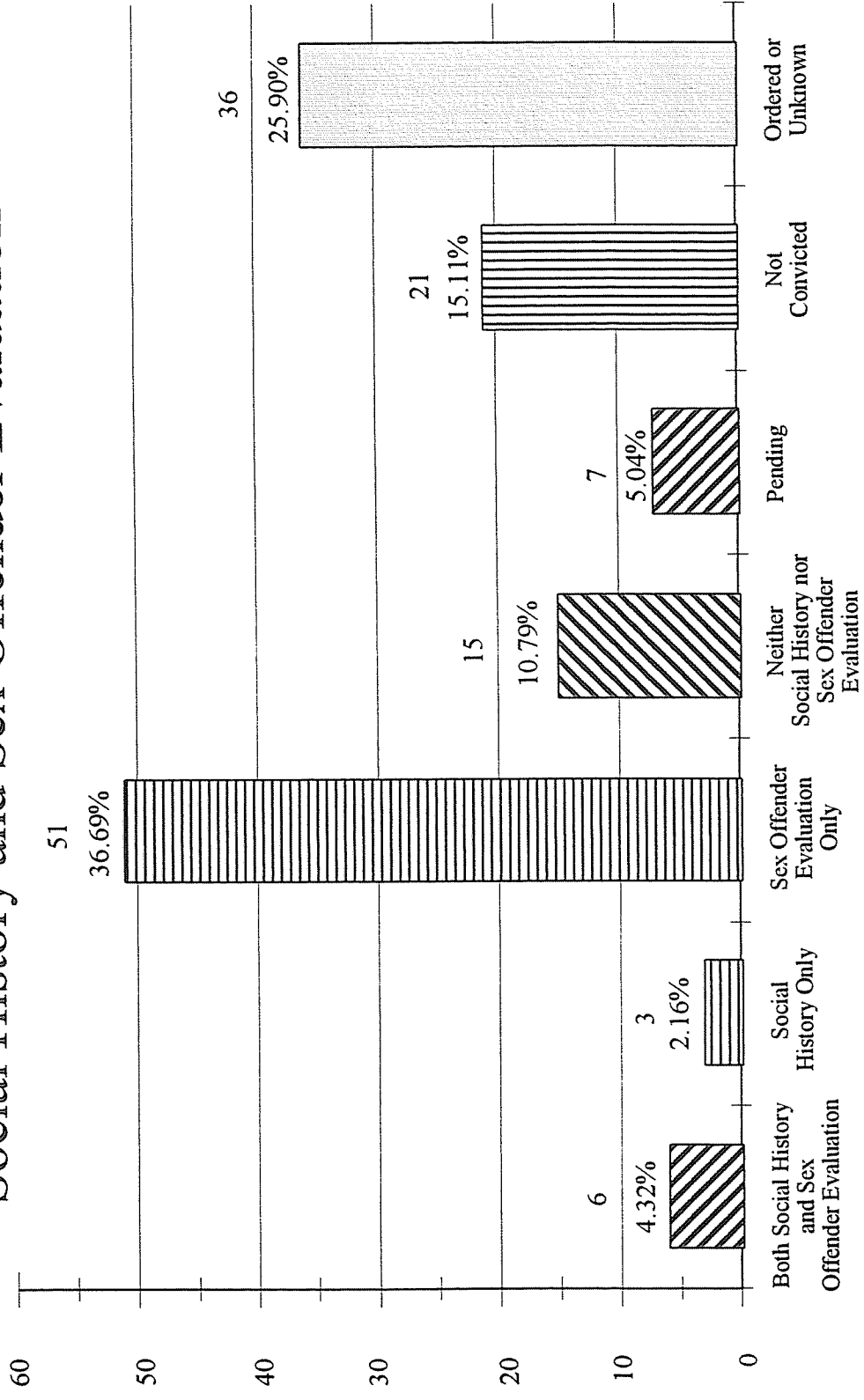
Relationship to Victims



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Chart 6J: Juvenile Offenders

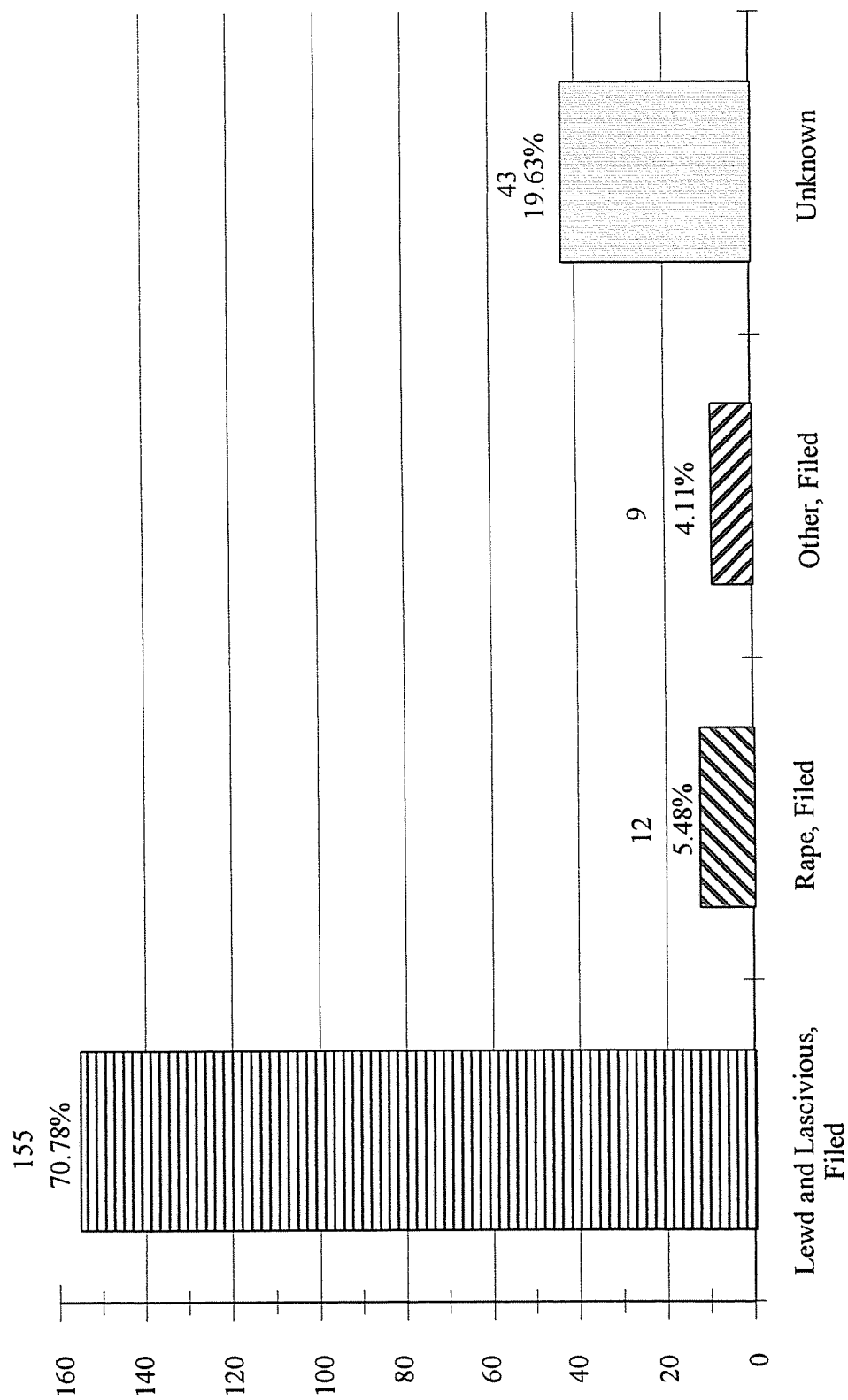
Social History and Sex Offender Evaluation



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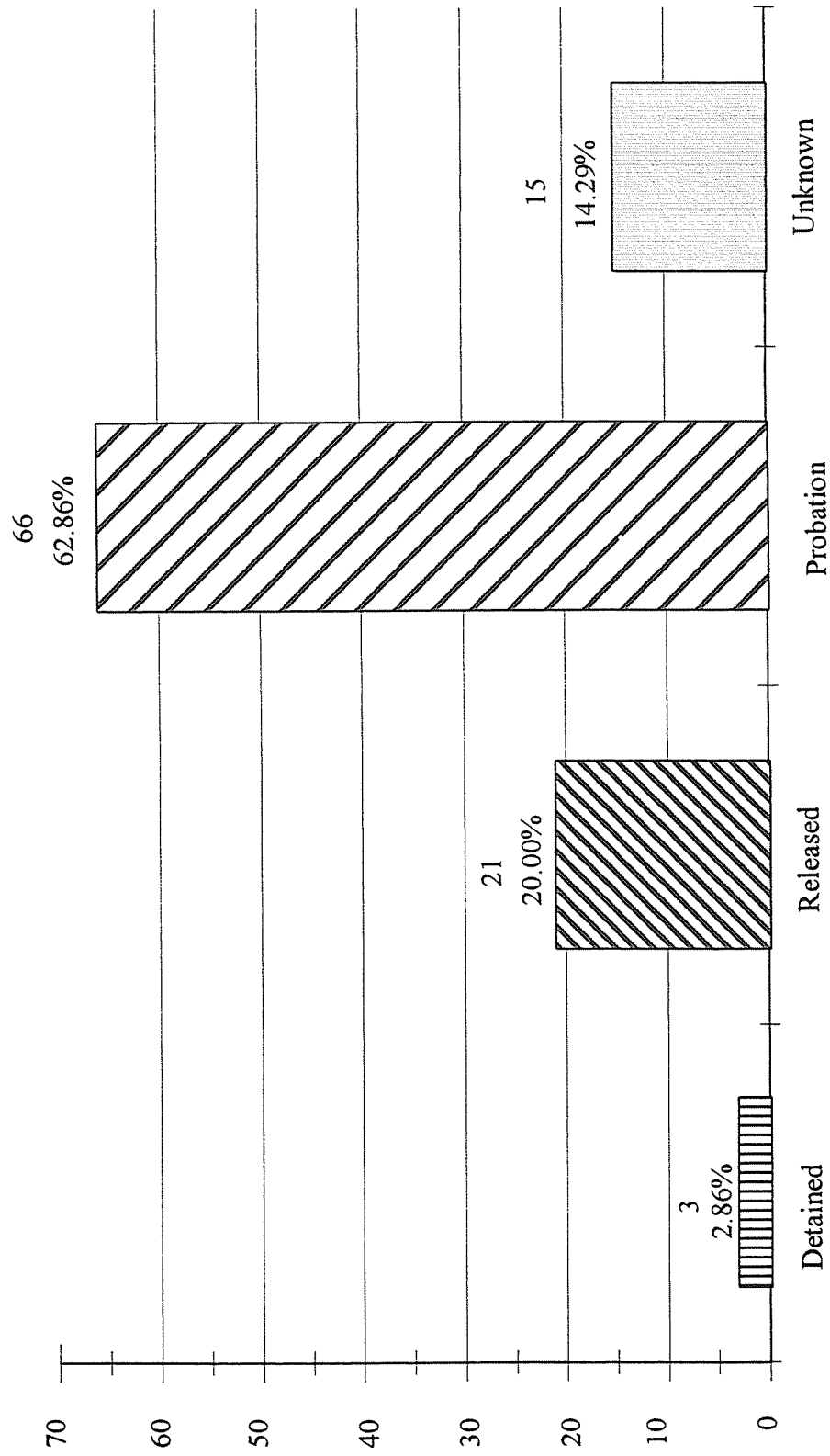
Chart 7J: Juvenile Offenders

Most Frequently Filed Petitions



FY98 Idaho Child Sexual Abuse Study

Chart 8J: Juvenile Offenders Dispositional Information



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Chart 9J: Juvenile Offenders Victim and Offender Ethnicity

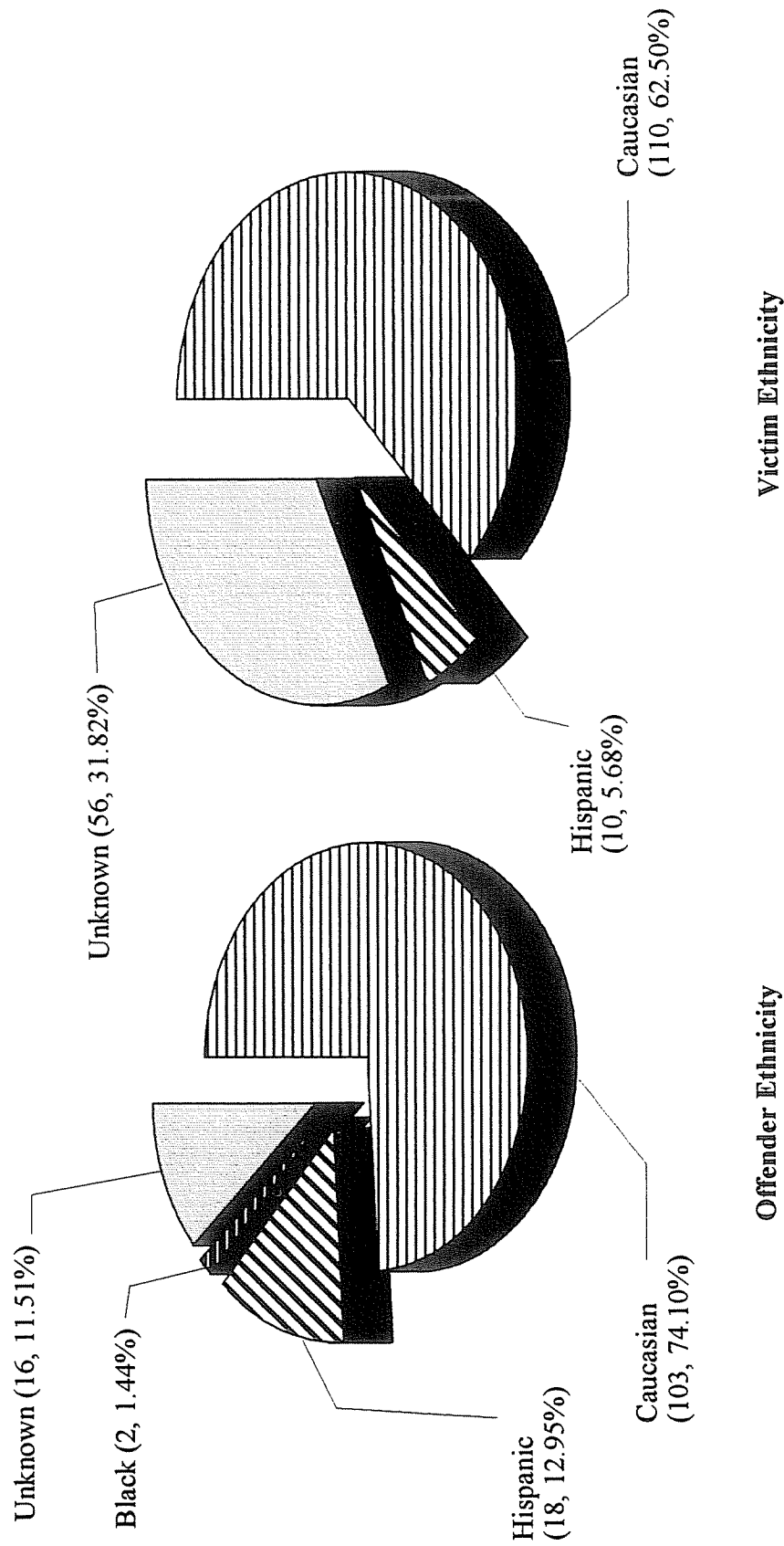


Chart 10J: Juvenile Offenders

Victim/Offender Ethnic Relationship

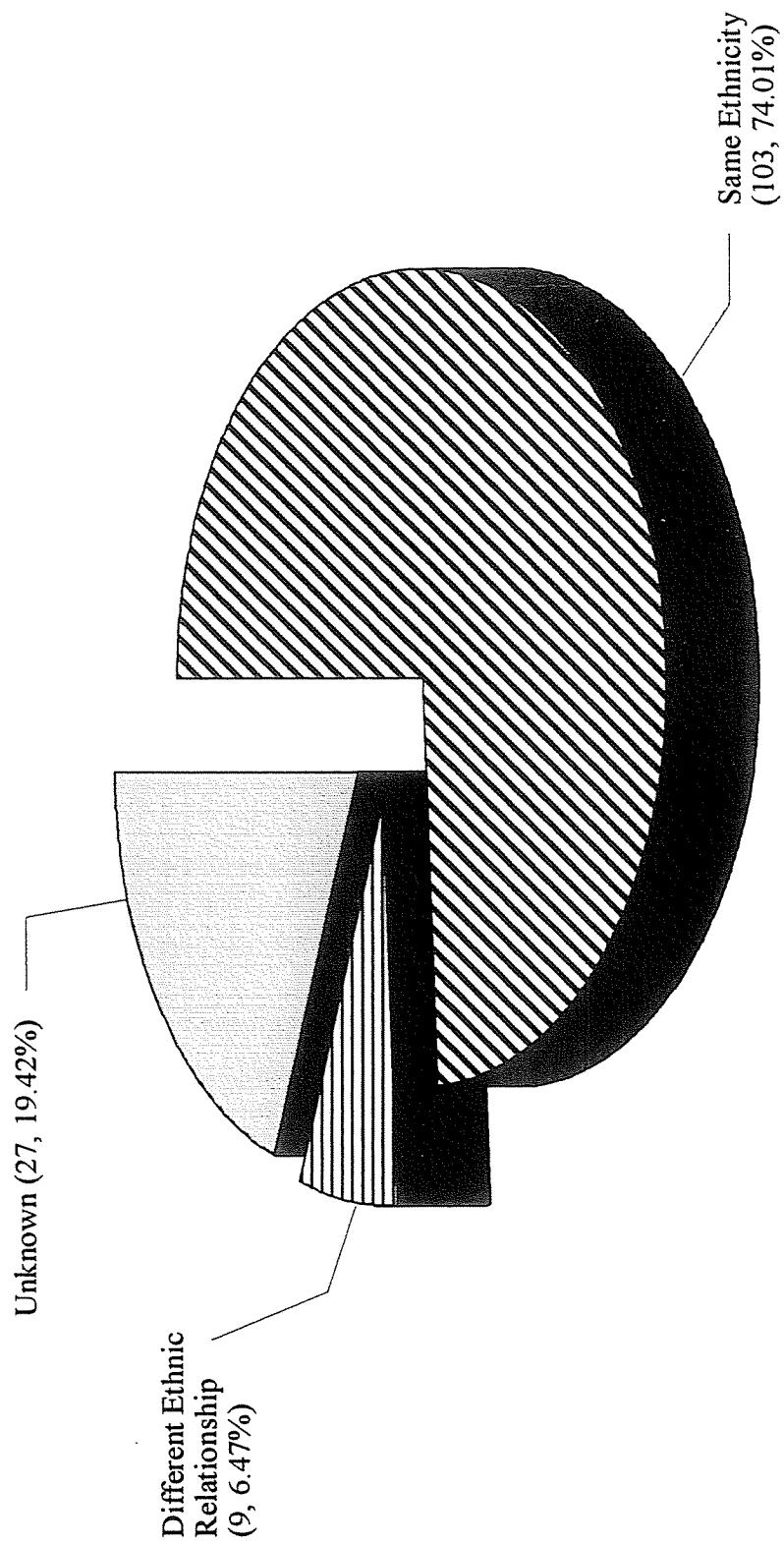


Chart 11J: Juvenile Offenders

Location of Child Sexual Abuse

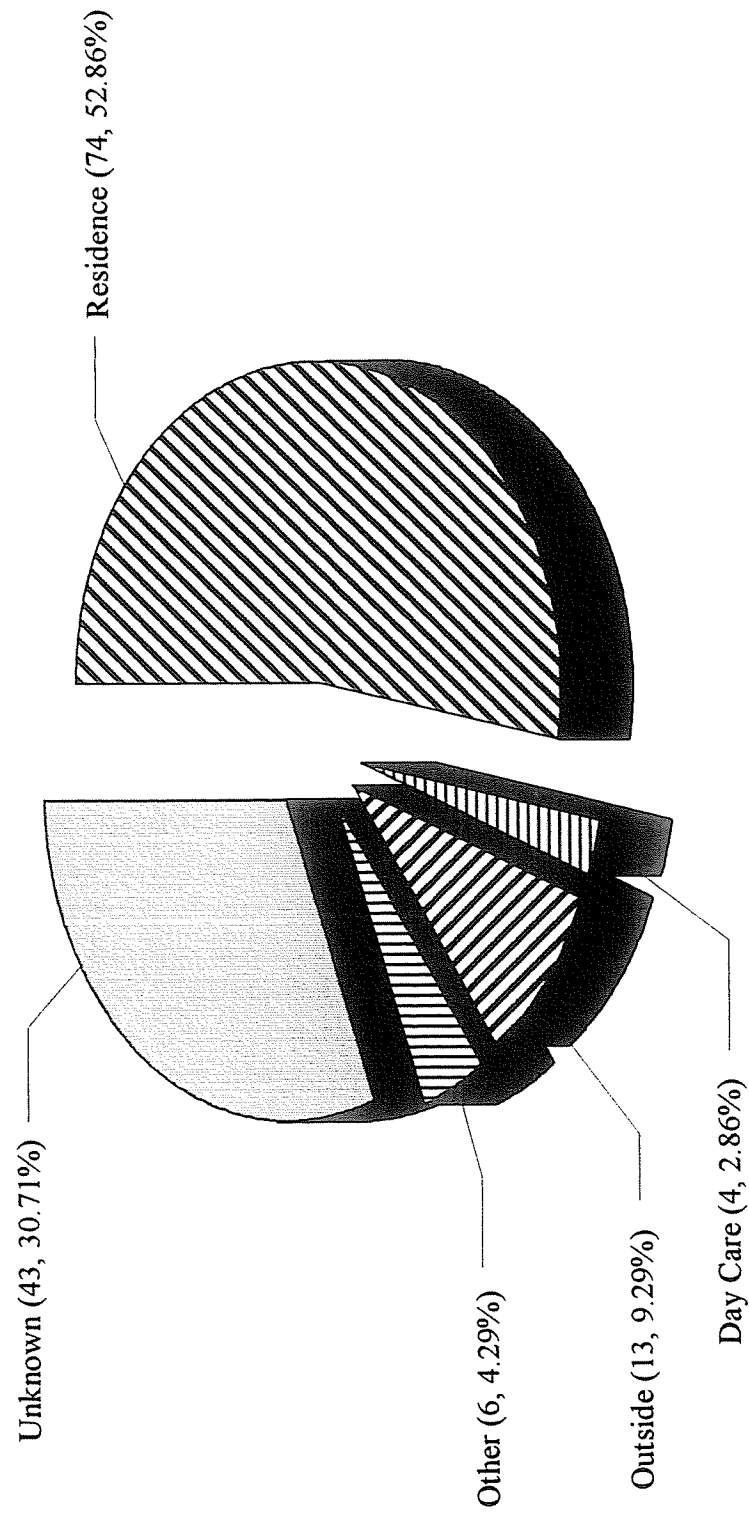


Chart 12J: Juvenile Offenders

Age of Juvenile Offenders

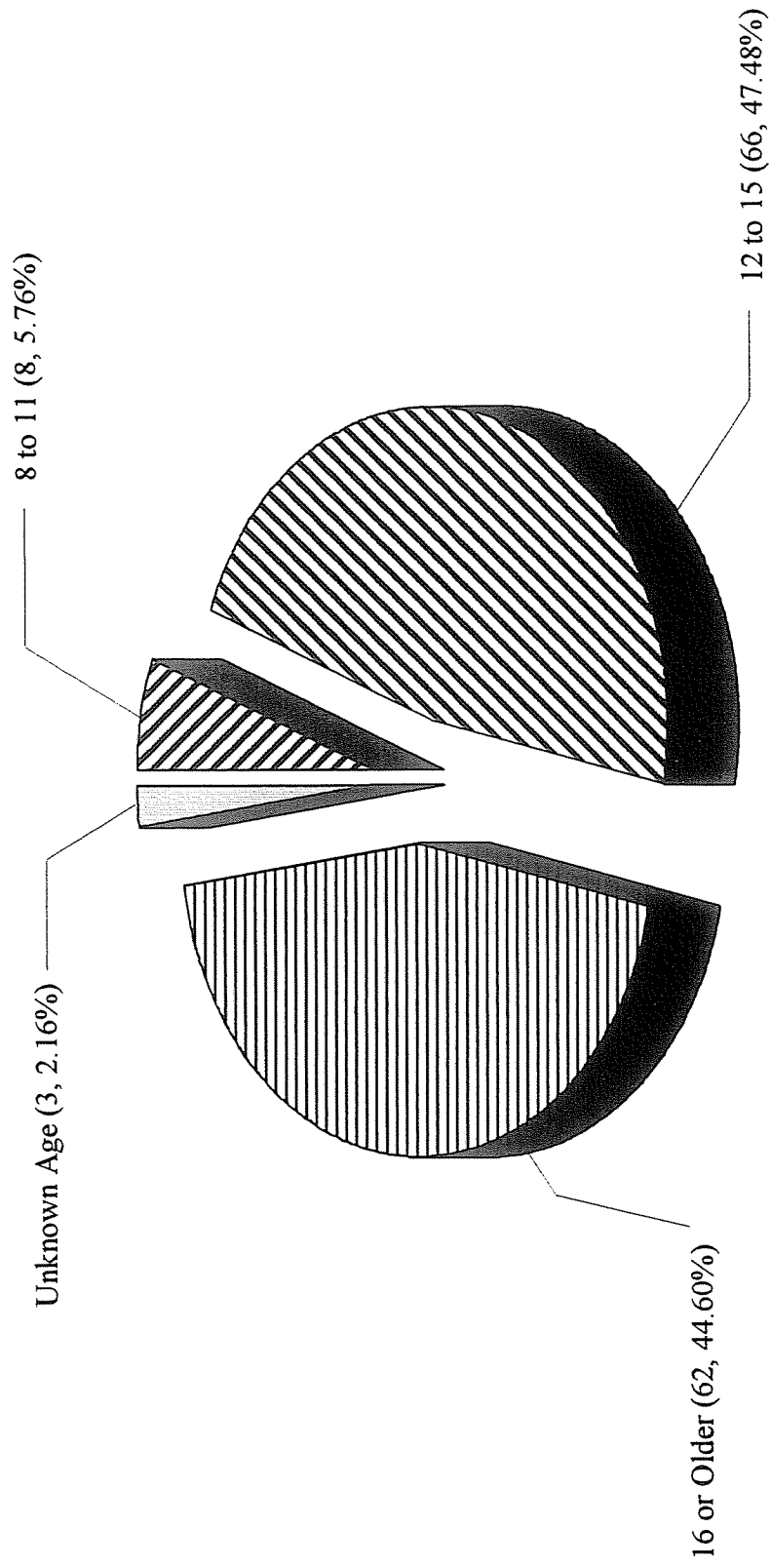
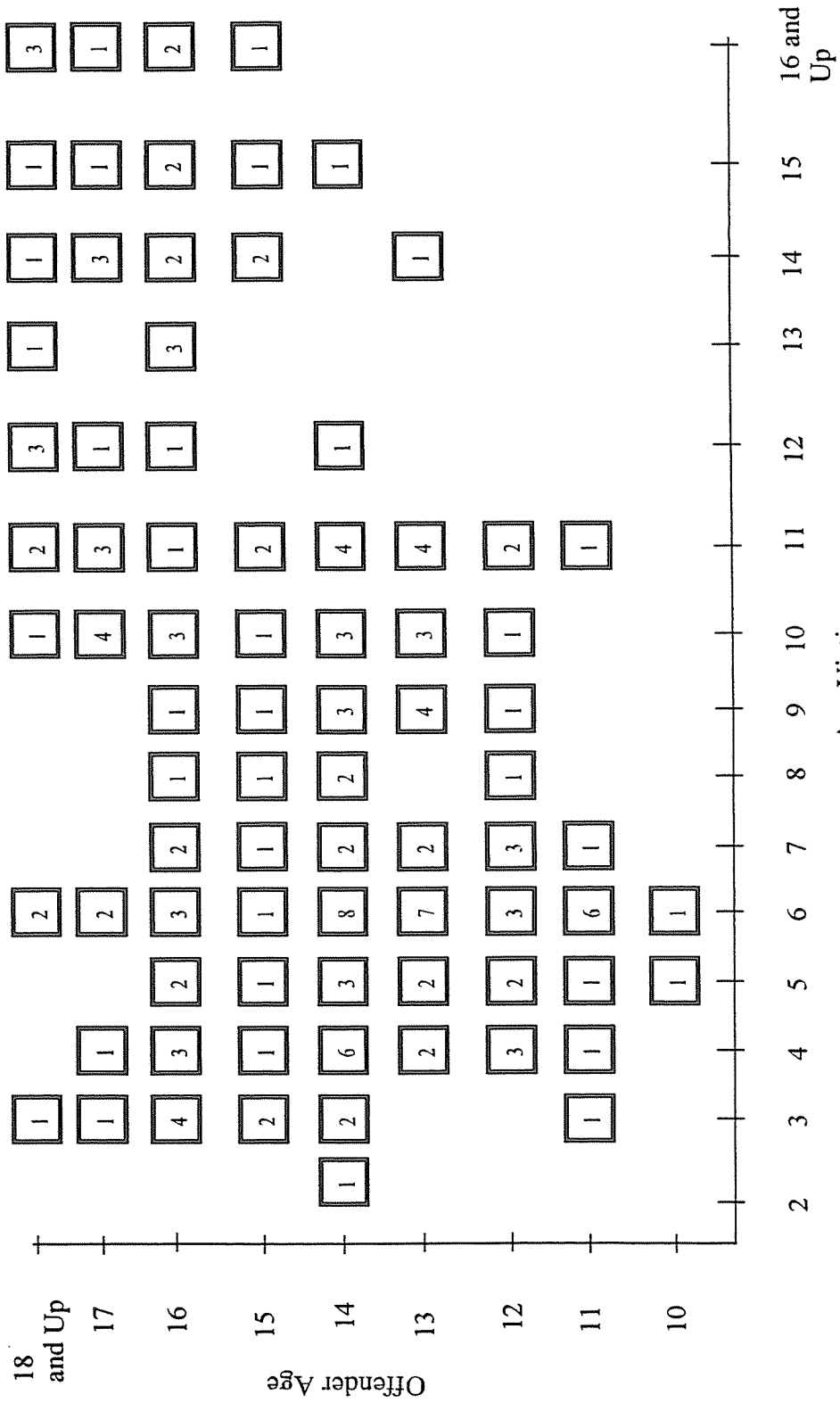


Chart 13J: Juvenile Offenders

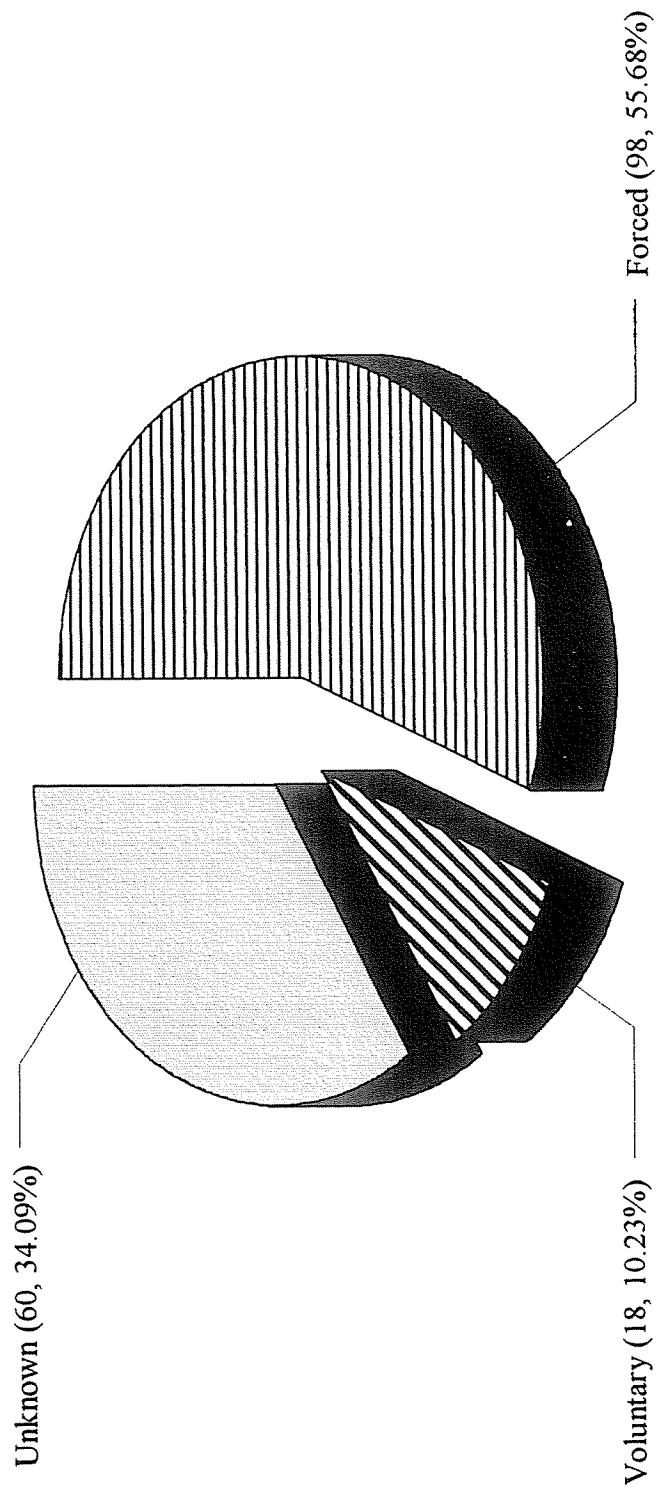
Age Relationship for Offenders and Victims



FY98 Idaho Child Sexual Abuse Study

Chart 14J: Juvenile Offenders

Forced or Voluntary Sexual Abuse



STATEWIDE CASE ANALYSIS

STATEWIDE CASE ANALYSIS

This year's report includes the seventh analysis of data standardized to the population in each of the 44 Idaho counties based on the 1990 U.S. Census. The standardization of prosecution by population allows for valid comparisons of incidence prosecutions across the state and the criminal justice response. The data is reported per 10,000 persons. Smaller counties are corrected to conform with this reporting standard and the comparisons (rates) are accurate throughout the state.

There were 263 adult cases and 140 juvenile petitions of child sexual abuse filed in district and juvenile courts during FY98 (July 1, 1997-June 30, 1998). The total number of cases filed in the period covered by this report was 403. This represents an increase from the 332 cases filed in FY97, the 271 cases filed in FY96, the 295 cases in FY95, the 356 reported for FY94, 372 cases in FY92 and a decrease from the 425 cases reported in the FY93 study.

Incidence of Case Filings by County - Table 1

The overall incidence of child sex abuse is reported by county and type of offender (adult or juvenile) for every county in Idaho. This information was taken from the records provided to the research team by the county clerk's and the county prosecutor's offices in Idaho's 44 counties.

Case filings were standardized and a rate calculated based on the most recent census data. The rate for adults was calculated and is reported for each county in the column Adult/Rate. The rate for juveniles was calculated and is reported for each county in the column Juvenile/Rate. A total rate for each county was calculated and the combined adult and juvenile rate is reported in the column Total/Rate. (Adams, Butte, Camas, Clark, Custer, and Lincoln reported no cases and their rate is reported as zero.)

The Total (mean) Rate of the child sex abuse court cases filed by county for the study period was 3.42/10,000. The standard deviation was 2.43/10,000. Over 95% of the counties fall within a range of plus or minus two standard deviations ($2.43 \times 2 = 4.86$) from the average of 3.42 cases per 10,000. This means that 95% of Idaho counties reported from zero (0) to 8.28/10,000 child sex abuse cases filed during the study period.

The average rate for adults (Adult/Rate) in each county was 2.48/10,000 with a standard deviation of 2.01/10,000. This is comparable to last year's rate which was 2.49/10,000. The total rate for juveniles (Juvenile/Rate) was .95/10,000 with a standard deviation of 1.15/10,000. This is below last year's rate of 1.47/10,000.

Rates for All Counties, 1992 - 1998 - Table 2

Table 2 shows the rates for all 44 counties in Idaho from 1992 to 1998. This provides an accurate account of the range of the case filing rate over a seven year period.

Filing Rates in the Most Populated Counties - Chart 1T

Chart 1T shows the incidence of child sex abuse in the 10 most heavily populated counties. County population varies in these 10 counties from a high of 205,775 in Ada County to 26,622 in Bonner County. Total/Rate varies from a high of 6.99/10,000 in Canyon County to a low of 2.15/10,000 in Kootenai County. Kootenai falls within two standard deviations of the Total (mean) Rate of 3.42/10,000. This indicates that all of the 10 most populated counties are grouped around the average incidence for the state.

Filing Rates in the Least Populated Counties - Chart 2T

Chart 2T shows the incidence of child sex abuse in the 10 least populated counties. The Total/Rate varied from a low of 0.0 in Adams, Butte, Camas, Clark, Custer and Lincoln to a high of 5.73 in Oneida County. Most small counties report no prosecutions but Boise, Lewis, Oneida and Teton are grouped around the state average.

Ten Counties: Highest Rates of Child Sex Abuse Case Filings - Chart 3T

Chart 3T shows the counties with the highest incidence of cases filed for child sex abuse. The rate is shown for Adults, Juveniles and the Total/Rate per 10,000. The figures are standardized based on 1990 census data allowing for valid comparisons among the counties regardless of population density. In the current FY98 report, Boise County (3,509) reported the lowest Total/Rate for the ten counties with 5.7/10,000. Franklin County (9,323) reported the highest rate with 10.73/10,000.

Again, as mentioned in the previous reports, the small population of many Idaho counties skew the findings. The dynamics of this type of crime as well as the age of the victims may account for under-reporting. The higher reported numbers may also indicate more aggressive enforcement efforts and prosecution. Trend analysis over time is providing a clearer picture of incidence by county and the justice system response.

Gender and Gender Relationships - Chart 4T

This chart examines offender-victim relationships. Females were the most predominant victims representing 71% (N=343) of all identified. Male victims represented 19% (N=90) of the victims.

The offenders were overwhelmingly male, representing 95% (N=377) of the accused perpetrators. Female perpetrators represented 4% (N=15) of the total.

The analysis of gender relationships between the accused and the victim indicated that 73% (N=351) represented different genders. In 16% (N=76) a sexual act occurred between the same gender and it was unknown for the remaining.

Rates / Standard Deviations of Child Sex Abuse Prosecutions - Chart 5T

This chart shows the trends in the rate of child sex abuse prosecutions from 1992 to 1998. The current reported rate in FY98 appears to be closer to the prosecution rates in FY92, FY93, FY94 and FY97.

Table 1: Incidence of Case Filings by County

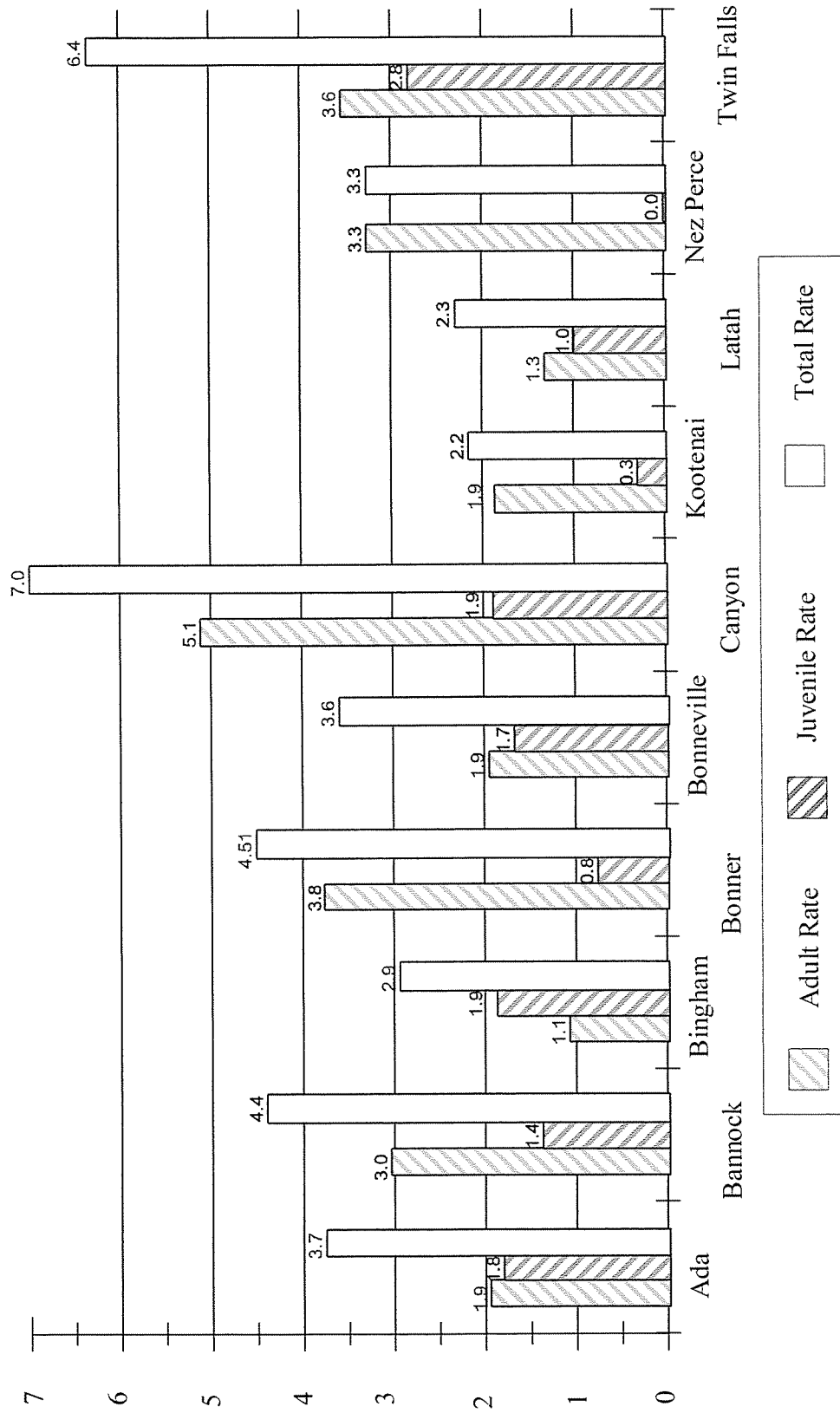
(Rates per 10,000 Population)

County	Pop	Adult Count	Juvenile Count	Total Count	Adult Rate	Juvenile Rate	Total Rate	County	Pop	Adult Count	Juvenile Count	Total Count	Adult Rate	Juvenile Rate	Total Rate
Ada	205775	40	37	77	1.94	1.80	3.74	Gem	11844	4	3	7	3.38	2.53	5.91
Adams	3254	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	Gooding	11633	6	0	6	5.16	0.00	5.19
Bannock	66026	20	9	29	3.03	1.36	4.39	Idaho	13783	2	0	2	1.45	0.00	1.45
Bear Lake	6084	1	0	1	1.64	0.00	1.64	Jefferson	16543	2	8	10	1.21	4.84	6.04
Benewah	7937	1	0	1	1.26	0.00	1.26	Jerome	15138	3	2	5	1.95	1.32	3.30
Bingham	37583	4	7	11	1.06	1.86	2.93	Kootenai	69795	13	2	15	1.86	0.29	2.15
Blaine	13552	4	2	6	2.95	1.48	4.43	Latah	30617	4	3	7	1.31	0.98	2.29
Boise	3509	2	0	2	5.70	0.00	5.70	Lenhi	6899	1	0	1	1.45	0.00	1.45
Bonner	26622	10	2	12	3.76	0.75	4.51	Lewis	3516	0	1	1	0.00	2.84	2.84
Bonneville	72207	14	12	26	1.94	1.66	3.60	Lincoln	3308	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Boundary	8332	5	0	5	6.00	0.00	6.00	Madison	23674	5	7	12	2.11	2.96	5.07
Butte	2918	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	Minidoka	19361	3	0	3	1.55	0.00	1.55
Camas	727	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	Nez Perce	33754	11	0	11	3.26	0.00	3.26
Canyon	90076	46	17	63	5.11	1.89	6.99	Oneida	3492	2	0	2	5.73	0.00	5.73
Caribou	6963	1	1	2	1.44	1.44	2.87	Owyhee	8392	2	1	3	2.38	1.19	3.57
Cassia	19532	0	0	1	0.51	0.00	0.51	Payette	16434	8	3	11	4.87	1.83	6.69
Clark	762	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	Power	7086	2	2	4	2.82	2.82	5.64
Clearwater	8505	5	1	6	5.88	1.18	7.05	Shoshone	13931	6	1	7	4.31	0.72	5.02
Custer	4133	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	Teton	3439	1	0	1	2.91	0.00	2.91
Elmore	21205	3	0	3	1.41	0.00	1.41	Twin Falls	53580	19	15	34	3.55	2.80	6.35
Franklin	9323	8	2	10	8.58	2.15	10.73	Valley	6109	2	0	2	3.27	0.00	3.27
Fremont	10937	0	1	1	0.00	0.91	0.91	Washington	8550	2	0	2	2.34	0.00	2.34
								Total/Avg/ Std Dev		263	139	402	2.48/ 2.01	0.95/ 1.15	3.42/ 2.43

Table 2: Rates for All Counties, 1992-1998

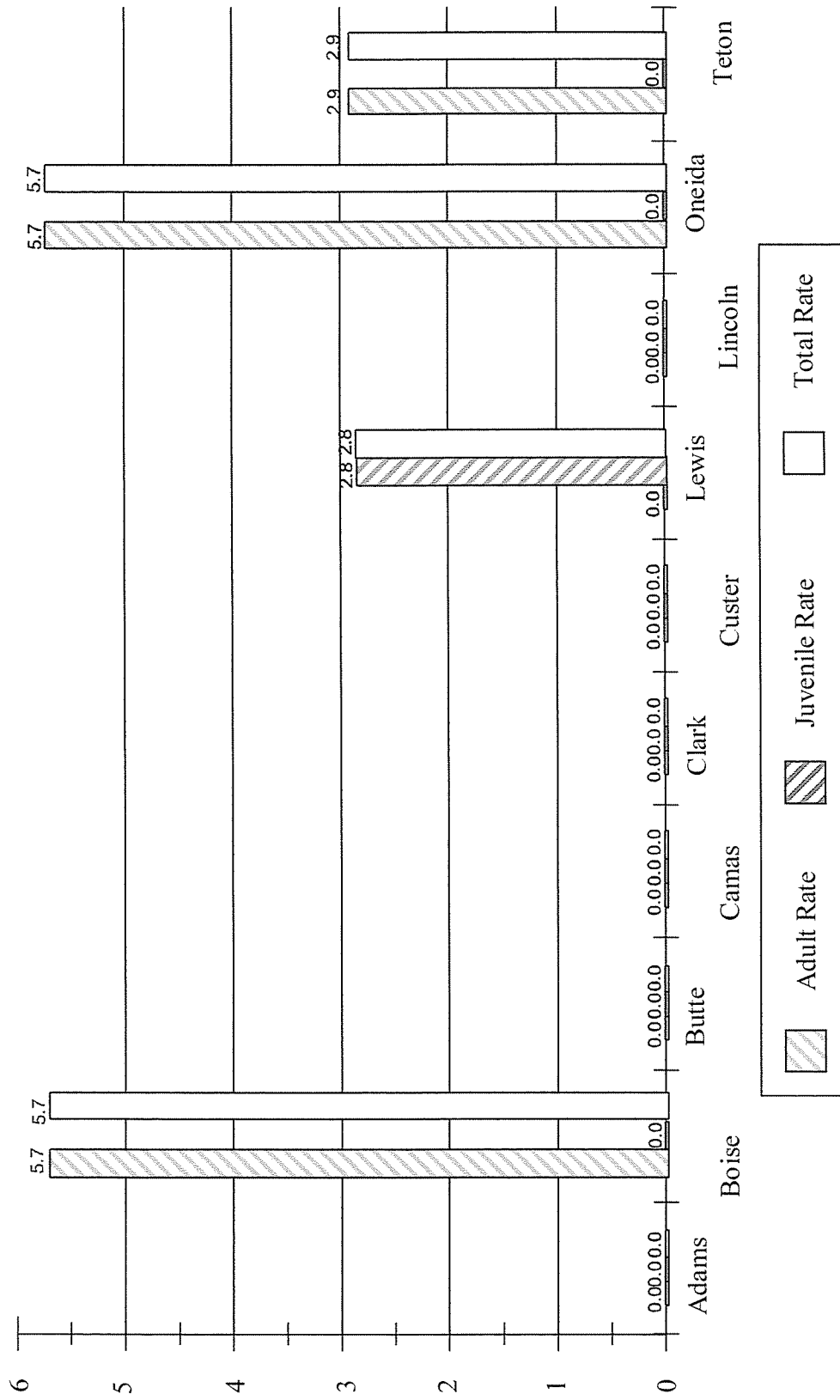
County	Rate 92	Rate 93	Rate 94	Rate 95	Rate 96	Rate 97	Rate 98	Avg 92-98	SD 92-98
Ada	3.84	5.54	4.18	3.35	2.33	3.21	3.74	3.74	0.92
Adams	6.15	6.15	9.22	3.07	6.15	0	0	4.39	3.23
Bannock	5	5.6	2.88	2.57	4.09	5.45	4.39	4.28	1.11
Bear Lake	1.64	4.93	4.93	1.64	4.93	8.22	1.64	3.99	2.30
Benewah	1.26	6.3	3.78	1.26	0	7.56	1.26	3.06	2.68
Bingham	5.32	5.06	3.73	4.26	2.66	3.19	2.93	3.88	0.96
Blaine	2.95	0	2.21	5.9	5.17	4.43	4.43	3.58	1.87
Boise	19.95	2.85	0	0	8.55	2.85	5.7	5.70	6.46
Bonner	4.13	5.26	1.5	4.51	1.5	4.13	4.51	3.65	1.40
Bonneville	4.29	2.35	4.29	1.66	1.66	3.46	3.6	3.04	1.06
Boundary	7.2	4.8	2.4	6	0	2.4	6	4.11	2.39
Butte	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00
Camas	0	0	0	0	0	27.51	0	3.93	9.63
Canyon	2.78	5.66	3	4	2.78	2.55	6.99	3.97	1.59
Caribou	1.44	2.87	12.93	0	0	1.44	2.87	3.08	4.17
Cassia	3.07	3.58	2.56	2.05	0	5.12	0.51	2.41	1.64
Clark	0	13.12	0	0	0	0	0	1.87	4.59
Clearwater	1.18	10.58	7.05	3.53	2.35	3.53	7.05	5.04	3.06
Custer	0	0	0	2.42	0	4.84	0	1.04	1.76
Elmore	6.13	2.83	2.36	4.72	3.3	4.72	1.41	3.64	1.51
Franklin	1.07	4.29	3.22	0	4.29	10.73	10.73	4.90	3.97
Fremont	5.49	0.91	0	0.91	0.91	0	0.91	1.30	1.75
Gem	1.69	5.07	3.38	3.38	8.44	2.53	5.91	4.34	2.14
County	Rate 92	Rate 93	Rate 94	Rate 95	Rate 96	Rate 97	Rate 98	Avg 92-98	SD 92-98
Gooding	3.44	1.72	4.3	1.72	2.58	2.58	5.16	3.07	1.20
Idaho	2.18	0	5.08	4.35	3.63	0	1.45	2.38	1.89
Jefferson	4.23	0.06	7.25	1.81	3.63	4.84	6.04	3.98	2.27
Jerome	5.28	2.64	9.91	3.96	9.91	5.95	3.3	5.85	2.77
Kootenai	3.3	2.72	1.86	1.72	1	1.58	2.15	2.05	0.71
Latah	4.57	1.63	0.98	1.31	1.63	1.96	2.29	2.05	1.10
Lemhi	1.45	2.9	5.8	1.45	1.45	1.45	1.45	2.28	1.52
Lewis	0	0	0	14.22	2.84	0	2.84	2.84	4.81
Lincoln	6.05	6.05	0	0	0	9.07	0	3.02	3.61
Madison	0.84	0.84	0.84	2.96	1.27	2.96	5.07	2.11	1.50
Minidoka	5.17	2.58	0	0	7.75	1.55	1.55	2.66	2.64
Nez Perce	5.33	2.96	1.48	0.59	2.96	2.67	3.26	2.75	1.38
Oneida	2.86	5.73	0	0	2.86	0	5.73	2.45	2.39
Owyhee	7.15	4.77	2.38	4.77	2.38	4.77	3.57	4.26	1.54
Payette	7.91	3.04	4.87	2.43	0.61	3.04	6.69	4.08	2.36
Power	1.14	12.7	15.52	7.06	4.23	4.23	5.64	7.22	4.73
Shoshone	1.44	13.64	10.77	7.9	4.31	2.15	5.02	6.46	4.19
Teton	0	0	0	5.82	0	0	2.91	1.25	2.12
Twin Falls	2.61	2.61	3.17	2.99	3.17	2.24	6.35	3.31	1.28
Valley	11.46	9.82	6.55	3.27	3.27	9.82	3.27	6.78	3.33
Washington	3.51	1.17	5.85	2.34	3.51	5.85	2.34	3.51	1.65
Averages	3.74	3.98	3.64	2.86	2.77	3.97	3.42	3.48	0.46
SD	3.52	3.51	3.63	2.68	2.48	4.47	2.43	3.25	0.69

Chart 1T - 10 Largest Counties



Rates per 10,000 Population
 FY98 Idaho Child Sexual Abuse Study

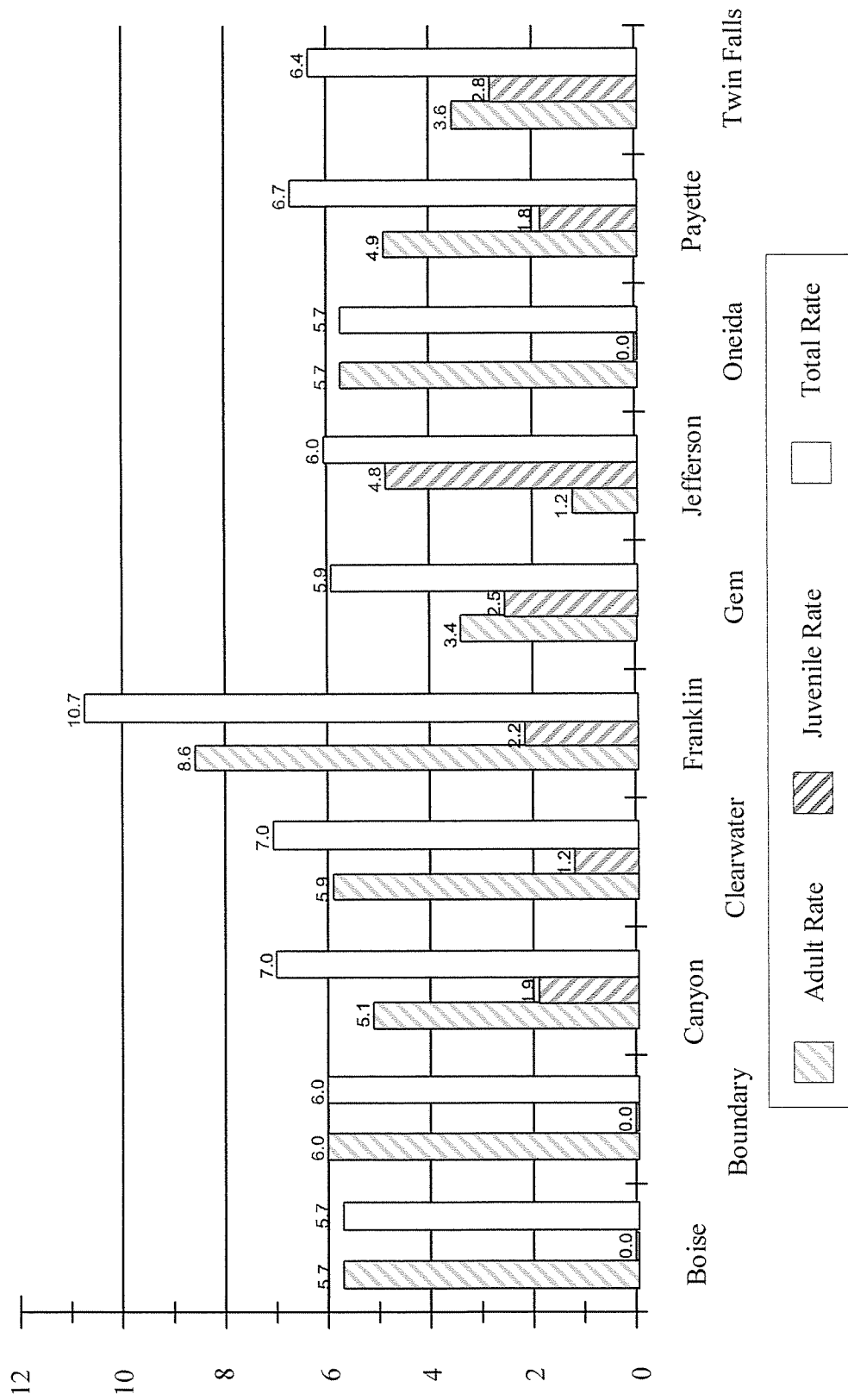
Chart 2T - 10 Smallest Counties



Rates per 10,000 Population

FY98 Idaho Child Sexual Abuse Study

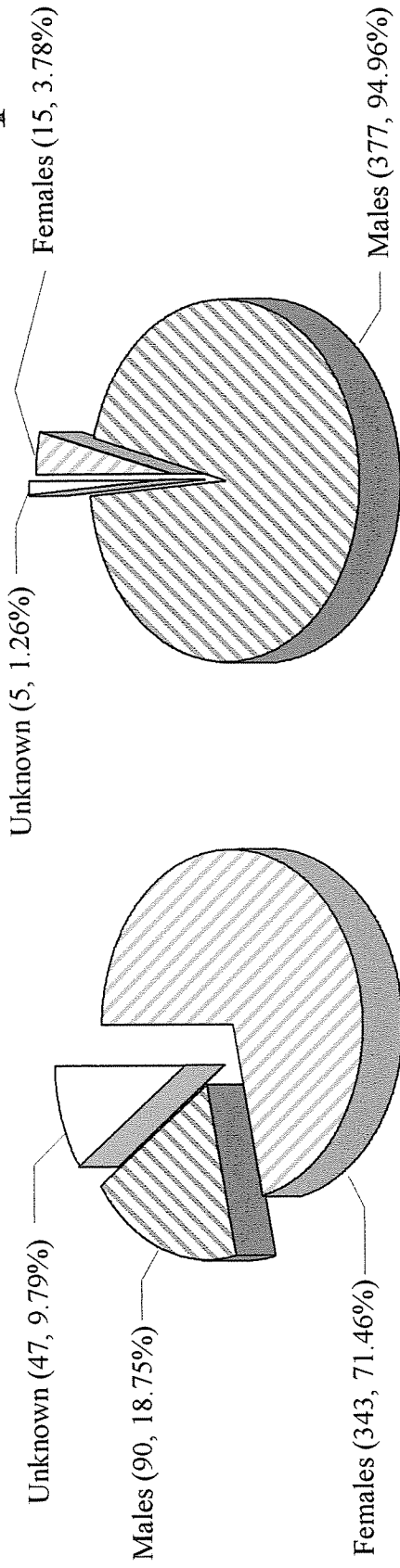
Chart 3T - 10 Counties with Highest Rates



Rates per 10,000 Population

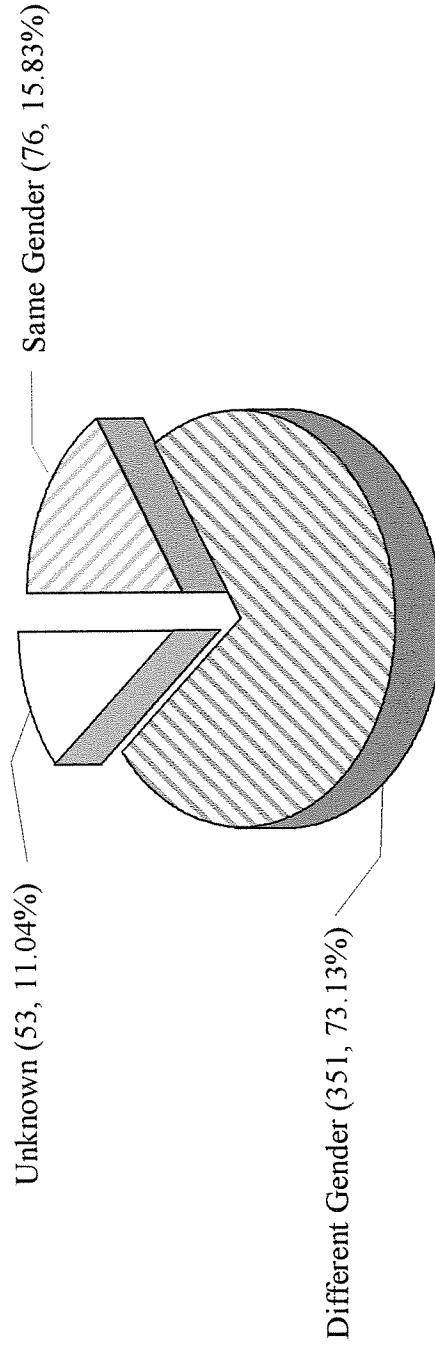
FY98 Idaho Child Sexual Abuse Study

Chart 4T - Gender and Gender Relationships



Victim Gender

Offender Gender

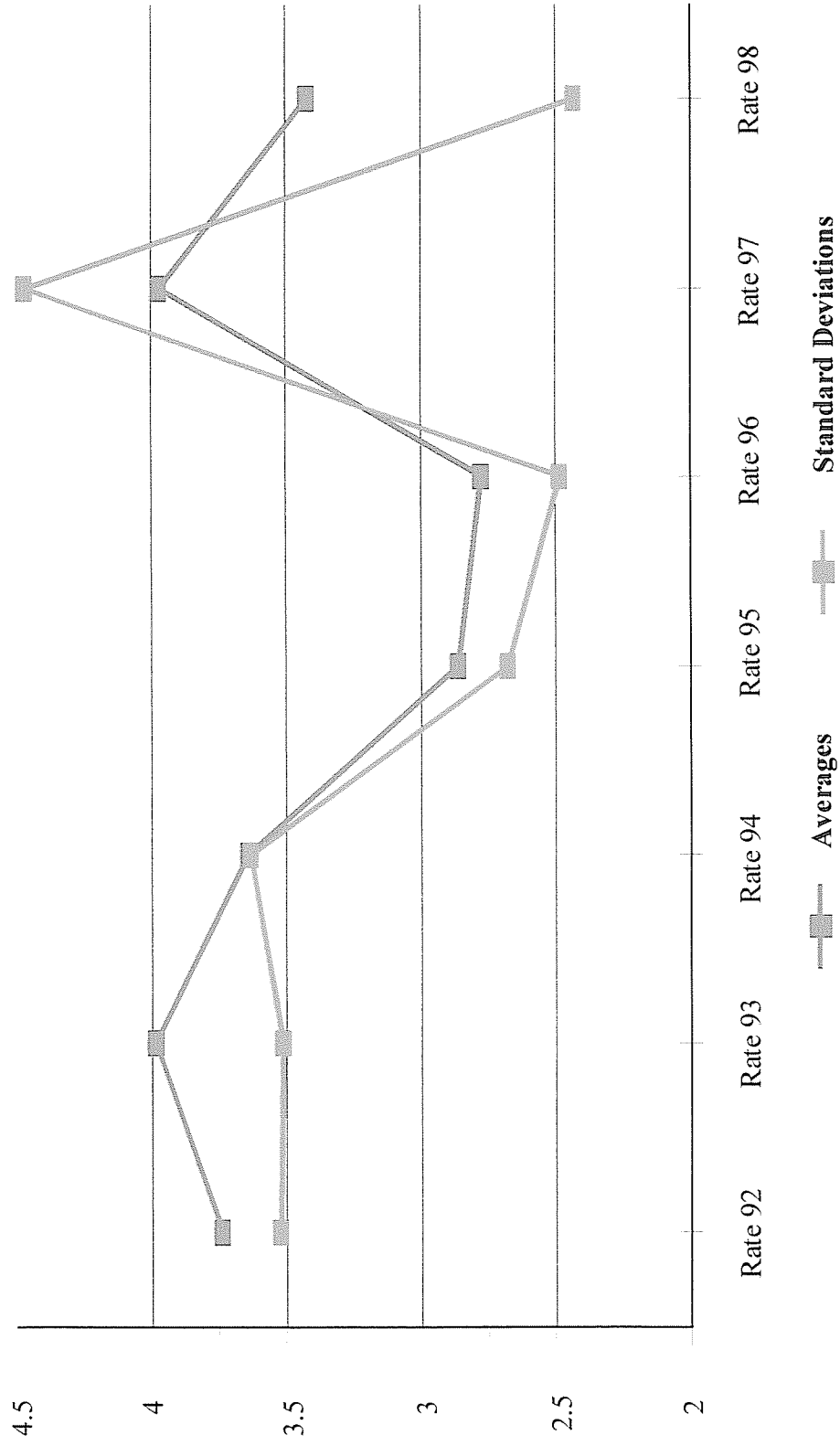


Gender Relationships

FY98 Idaho Child Sexual Abuse Study

Chart 5T - 1992 to 1998

Rates and Standard Deviations of Child Sexual Abuse Charges for Idaho



Rates per 10,000 Population
FY98 Idaho Child Sexual Abuse Study

TREND ANALYSIS

TREND ANALYSIS

Trends In Incidence and Prosecution of Child Sex Abuse - Table 2

Table 2 shows the reported rate of prosecution over a seven-year period for both adults and juveniles. This provides a more accurate picture of the variation of prosecution over time. Based on the seven-year rates (per 10,000 population) of prosecution, most counties that reported higher rates in a particular reporting year regressed toward the state averages in subsequent reporting periods. The average seven-year rate was 3.25/10,000 prosecutions per year throughout the state.

Table 2 and Chart 5T show a trend analysis of prosecutions in this state over time. The highest number of adult prosecutions and juvenile petitions occurred in FY93. After relative stable rates from FY92-FY94 the prosecution rates declined for two years and then increased for the past two years. Data collection and analysis in the 44 counties have provided few clues to this phenomenon. Aggressive prosecution, evaluation, and punishment/treatment of offenders may contribute positively to reducing incidence. Also, increased education of both parents and children may positively impact prevention strategies. This annual survey continues as a useful tool to continue to monitor the trend over time.

The increased attention of the state to child sex abuse crime may have sensitized parents to taking precautions with their children as well as made children aware of appropriate and inappropriate touching.

Still it is important to note that a trend in this type of crime emerges only slowly and a decline in a one or two year period may be the normal variation that would be expected.

CONCLUSION

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The data in this report summarizes child sex abuse prosecutions in Idaho in FY98 as stipulated by the Idaho Legislature. Data was collected throughout Idaho by a research team from the Department of Criminal Justice at Boise State University in accordance with the guidelines specified by the Governor's and Attorney General's offices. Data was collected on-site in all 39 counties reporting prosecutions. The number of actual cases was sent to the prosecuting attorney in each jurisdiction for verification. All corrections that were sent to the project team by mid-November, 1998 were included in this analysis.

This report marks the seventh year that data has been standardized for cross county comparisons. This type of analysis provides policy makers at the local and state levels with accurate comparative data to determine the counties with higher incidence.

A total of 403 cases of child sexual abuse were prosecuted during the study period FY98. Of that number, 263 were adults and 140 were juveniles. The Total (Mean) Rate of cases filed by county (standardized to census data) was 3.42/10,000.

The average Total Rate (Adult/Rate) for adult child sex abuse felony filings was 2.48/10,000. The average Total Rate (Juvenile/Rate) for juvenile child sex abuse petitions filed was .95/10,000. The Adult and Juvenile rates have declined from FY97.

The data in this study further indicated that child sexual abuse occurs most frequently between the victim and an acquaintance or relative. This has significant implications for policy makers in preventing child sexual abuse and treating those persons convicted of this type of crime.

Any conclusions about this information should be guarded because of the nature of child sexual abuse and the low incidence of reporting. This research is determining incidence over time. A standardized data collection system statewide would greatly facilitate comprehensive data collection.