REPORT TO THE IDAHO LEGISLATURE

THE PROSECUTION OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

JULY 1, 2001 - JUNE 30, 2002

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

and

The Office of the Attorney General
Lawrence G. Wasden, Attorney General

January, 2003
To the Idaho Legislature and the Citizens of Idaho:

Re: The Prosecution of Child Sexual Abuse

The latest reported findings on child sexual abuse show an increase of reported cases from last year. There were 434 filed cases of child sexual abuse by adult and juvenile offenders in Idaho courts in 2002, which is an increase from the 386 reported in 2001.

For those of us committed to Idaho's children, there is no more unspeakable crime then child sexual abuse. The increase in reported cases over the past two years indicates that there is still much work to be done in this area.

The most disturbing showing in the data for the prior July 1, 2001-June 30, 2002 is that a significant number of adult abusers (53%) and juvenile abusers (35%) were acquainted with their victims.

I will not rest until there is a significant downward trend in Idaho's child abuse problem. Only through partnership with the Legislature, school administrators, and other policy makers can this occur, and I look forward to this challenge.

Sincerely,

DIRK KEMPThorne
Governor
January 20, 2003

To the Idaho Legislature and the Citizens of Idaho

Re: The Prosecution of Child Sexual Abuse

This is the fourteenth annual report to the Idaho Legislature concerning the prosecution of child sexual abuse cases in Idaho. This report, like its predecessors, contains data on the prosecution of individuals charged with child sexual abuse in Idaho. While the report focuses upon prosecutions for the year ending June 30, 2002, it also includes compiled data for the years 1993 through 2002.

For the year ending June 30, 2002, prosecutions were initiated in 434 cases of child sexual abuse involving 479 victims. While this was both a new high and an increase of 48 cases from the prior year, it is worth noting that the number of prosecutions initiated has increased only 2% from a decade ago, while the state’s population has increased significantly in the same time.

Perhaps most significantly, this report sends the same clear warning that it has sounded for the last ten years. A child is much more likely to be sexually abused by a person whom the child knows and trusts than by a stranger. For the protection of their children, it is crucial that parents pay close attention to the people with whom their children spend time.

With the assistance of the Idaho Department of Correction, the demographic information in this report is improved over the last two reports. However, it still contains notable gaps when compared to the reports delivered prior to 2000.

I hope that this report will be a valuable resource to law enforcement officers, prosecutors, policymakers, parents, and others interested in reducing the incidence of this heinous crime.

Sincerely,

LAWRENCE G. WASDEN
Attorney General
THE PROSECUTION OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

JULY 1, 2001 - JUNE 30, 2002

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

and

The Office of the Attorney General
Lawrence G. Wasden, Attorney General

January, 2003
SUMMARY OF FINDINGS
THE PROSECUTION OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE IN IDAHO
JULY 1, 2001 - JUNE 30, 2002

>434 CASES WERE FILED (310 ADULT CASES, 124 JUVENILE CASES) IN DISTRICT AND JUVENILE COURTS IN FY02. THIS REPRESENTS AN INCREASE OF 48 CASES FROM FY01 AND 70 CASES FROM THE FY00 REPORT.

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

>53% OF THE VICTIMS OF ADULT DEFENDANTS WERE BETWEEN 12 AND 15 YEARS OLD AND 21% WERE 11 OR UNDER.

>APPROXIMATELY 70% OF VICTIMS OF JUVENILE SEX OFFENDERS WERE 11 YEARS OF AGE OR UNDER.

>46% OF THE ADULT ABusers WERE ACQUAINTANCES OF THEIR VICTIMS, 10% NATURAL PARENTS, 9% OTHER RELATIVES, 7% WERE STEP-PARENTS, AND 3% WERE STRANGERS.

>34% OF THE JUVENILE ABusers WERE ACQUAINTANCES OF THEIR VICTIMS OR THEIR PARENTS AND 30% WERE RELATIVES (INCLUDING ONE PARENT). NO STRANGERS WERE Charged WITH ABUSE.

>WHERE ADULT DISPOSITION WAs KNown, THE IMMEDIATE SENTENCE FOR THOSE CONVICTED WAS 42% PROBATION; 27% PRISON; 23% RETAINED JURISDICTION. THIS REPRESENTS A INCREASE IN PRISON SENTENCES AND PROBATION SENTENCES.
Total Charges, Prosecutions and Petitions for 1993 to 2002 in Idaho
RESEARCH TEAM

The research team consisted of Professor Ted Hopfenbeck, Coordinator of Data Collection; Steven Patrick, Ph.D., Coordinator of Data Analysis and Co-Principal Investigator; and Robert L. Marsh, Ph.D., Project Director and Co-Principal Investigator. Baxter Andrews and Michelle Morrison served as Research Associates. Kattie King served as data processor.
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REPORT TO THE IDAHO LEGISLATURE

THE PROSECUTION OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE IN IDAHO

FY02 -- JULY 1, 2001 - JUNE 30, 2002

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. This team has collected data for the past eleven reports. Specifically, data was collected on child sex abuse cases filed from district and juvenile court files throughout the state for the period of July 1, 2001 to June 30, 2002. The data were analyzed by the research team and submitted to the Offices of the Attorney General and the Governor for review. Governor Dirk Kempthorne and Attorney General Alan G. Lance submitted the completed report to the legislative leadership.

PREVIOUS RESEARCH

A number of annual reports and one special report have preceded this study. The approach (methodology) of the data collection in the earlier reports has varied widely but the past eight 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 produced by the Governor's Office covered a two-year period (January 1, 1988 - December 31, 1989) and analyzed data collected by site visitation to all 44 counties. 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 database sizeable 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 evaluations 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 were 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. The researchers visited all counties and data were collected on site for all counties reporting cases in FY97.

TENTH REPORT: July 1, 1997 – June 30, 1998

Data collection procedures by the research team were consistent with past reports. The researchers visited all counties reporting cases and data were collected on site for the FY98 report.

ELEVENTH REPORT: July 1, 1998-June 30, 1999

Data collection and analysis procedures were consistent with the previous years that the Boise State Research Team has produced this report.

TWELVETH REPORT: July 1, 1999-June 30, 2000

The data collection and analysis procedures were comparable with the previous reports. There were 432 cases (298 adult and 134 juvenile) cases reported.

THIRTEENTH REPORT: July 1, 2000-June 30, 2001

The data collection method and analysis were consistent with the previous reports. A total of 386 cases were filed (265 adult and 121 juvenile) in District and Juvenile Courts in FY01.
METHODOLOGY/DATA COLLECTION PROCEDURES

This is the fourteenth report on child sex abuse prosecutions submitted to the Legislature. This report includes data on adult and child sex abuse cases filed in FY02 (July 1, 2001 to June 30, 2002). Actual review of court records for this report was initiated in July 2002, and continued through late November.

For the first eight years, the Chief Justice of the Idaho Supreme Court provided a letter of introduction for the research staff to review the Pre sentence Investigation Reports (PSR) to collect the data for the statutory legislative report on The Prosecution of Child Sex Abuse. This letter allowed the research team to confidentially review the files to provide descriptive data for the legislative report. This report has historically provided aggregate and summary data to the legislature without any identifiers of any kind as to the identity of the sex offenders. Based on the past practices of the research team, the advice of both the Governor’s and Attorney General’s Office all of the material was handled in a confidential manner. In the past 3 years the research team has not been provided access to Pre sentence Investigation Reports.

Information that could not be accessed by the research staff in the field was referred to the Records Office at the Department of Corrections and their staff attempted to fill in the missing data. While this was an improvement over no Pre sentence information, it still does not provide the comprehensiveness of earlier reports.

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. The research team made follow-up phone calls 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 34 counties that reported cases were visited. Eight counties reported no cases filed for FY02. 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, 2001, and June 30, 2002, available for review. The research team reviewed only cases formally filed (district court for adults and petitions filed in magistrate court for juveniles) in FY02.

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 issues.) Some counties enter ISTARS data at the outset while others entered 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 November 30, 2002 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.

The lack of access to Pre sentence Reports continues to inhibit the ability of the research team to provide comprehensive demographic data on adults and juveniles prosecuted for child sex abuse. The assistance in collecting the Pre Sentence data by the Department of Corrections for those convicted did constitute an improvement over the last two reports. Unfortunately the demographic data in this report is not as comprehensive as previous reports.
ADULT CASES
The information from the adult cases is included in Charts 1A-20A and immediately follows the discussion of adult defendants. A total of 310 adult cases were filed in district court during the twelve-month period of July 1, 2001 - June 30, 2002. This is an increase of 17% from last year and the highest number of adult cases reported in the last 14 years.

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

A total of 670 charges were filed in the 310 cases in FY02 for child sex offense felonies in Idaho. This represents an increase of 45 cases or 17% from the FY01 report. There was an average of 2.16 charges filed in each case.

**Chart 1A: Adult Defendants**

Total Cases and Charges Filed

FY02 Idaho Child Sexual Abuse Study

One adult offender received 147 counts for sexual materials and these charges were dismissed. This person is being counted with once in charges.
Adult Defendants: Chart 2A - Victim Gender

There were a total of 332 victims in this survey. Victim gender was predominantly female representing 84.9% (N=282) of the victims. Reported female victimization was slightly higher in this study period than the past eight surveys. Male victims represented 9.64% (N=32) of all victims in this survey. The gender distribution was approximately the same as the FY92, FY93, FY94, FY97 and FY01 studies. The information on victim gender was not available to the research team in 18 (5.42%) cases.
Adult Defendants: Chart 3A - Victim Age

Approximately 2.4%, (N=8) of the victims was under three years of age. Children from four to seven years of age represented 6.63% (N=22) of the victims. A total of 12.35% (N=41) were from eight to eleven years old. A total of 53.01% (N=176) of the victims were between the ages of twelve and fifteen. A total of 22.59% of the victims (N=75) were between the ages of sixteen and seventeen and age was unknown for 10 (3.01%) of the victims. The percentage of victims under the age of three increased from 1% to 2.41% during the last two reports. Victims from ages four to seven decreased from 10% to 6.63% from last year's report. Victims from ages twelve to fifteen increased from 48% to 53%. Victims between sixteen and seventeen years of age increased from 13% to 22.59% of the group.

Chart 3A: Adult Defendants
Victim Age

FY2002 Idaho Child Sexual Abuse Study
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 86.45% (N=268) of the cases were charged with a crime against only one victim. There were two victims reported in 7.42% (N=23) of the cases. In 6 cases (1.94%) there were three or more victims. The number of cases with single victims increased slightly from FY01 and those charged for sex crimes against three or more victims decreased from the previous report.

Chart 4A: Adult Defendants
Number of Victims per Case

- Three (6, 1.94%)
- Two (23, 7.42%)
- One (268, 86.45%)
- No Victim (13, 4.19%)
**Adult Defendants: Chart 5A - Victim Relationship**

Chart 5A indicates the relationship between the 332 victims and the 310 adult defendants (representing 670 charges). The data indicate that 7.23% (N=24) of the children were victimized by their actual parents and 7.23% (N=24) of the victims were abused by stepparents. Other family members were charged with child sexual abuse for 6.93% (N=23) of the victims. Acquaintances were identified as the abusers in 53.31% (N=177) of the victims. Eight strangers (2.41%) were accused of child sexual abuse. (This represents a continuing decline of stranger victimizations. In FY01 it declined from 5% to 2.8% and in FY02 it declined to 2.41%.) The relationship was unknown for 22.29% (N=74).

Of the 332 victims, the relationship between the victim and the accused was known for 258 victims. Seventy-one of the victims (21.38%) were abused by parents, relatives or stepparents. The 53.31% (N=177) of those victimized by acquaintances represents an increase from the 46.5% in FY01. There were a total of 74.69% (N=248) fitting into these two categories. This is a slight increase from last year’s report. The 2.41% (N=8) who were classified as strangers also represents a slight decrease. 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 child or the child’s parents knew the defendant.* This parallels the findings in the FY92, FY93, FY94, FY95, FY96, FY97, FY98, FY99, FY00 and FY01 studies. 

**THE FINDINGS FROM THIS SURVEY HAVE BEEN CONSISTENT FOR THE LAST TEN 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.**
Chart 5A: Adult Defendants
Relationship to Victims

FY2002 Idaho Child Sexual Abuse Study
**Adult Defendants: Chart 6A - PreSentence/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 PreSentence and Sex Offender Evaluations were prepared in 68 (21.93%) of the cases. The survey indicated that 4 (1.29%) of the defendants had a Pre-sentence Report only before sentencing. There were no defendants with neither. Three (0.97%) had a Sex Offender Evaluation only. The remaining cases were in Pending, Not Convicted or in the Unknown categories. This survey indicates that there are a number of cases lacking information on PreSentence evaluations. This remains low and is the trend shows little to no improvement.

**Chart 6A: Adult Defendants**
**Presentence Report and Sex Offender Evaluation**

![Bar Chart](image)

FY2002 Idaho Child Sexual Abuse Study
Adult Defendants: Chart 7A - Prior Convictions

Chart 7A shows prior convictions of adults charged with a child sex abuse crime during this study period. The data in this chart represents those whose case has reached the dispositional stage. Six (3.61%) of the 310 adults charged during the study period had prior felonies. Four (2.41%) of the 310 adults charged had prior child sex abuse charges. The criminal history was unknown for 160 (96.38%) of the adults.

Chart 7A: Adult Defendants
Prior Offenses

Prior Felonies (6, 3.61%)
Prior Child Sexual Abuse (4, 2.41%)
Unknown (160, 96.38%)

Only 6 of the 160 convicted are known to have criminal records. Of these 6, 4 were felonies for child sexual abuse.

FY2002 Idaho Child Sexual Abuse Study
**Adult Defendants: Chart 8A - Type of Charges Filed**

Chart 8A shows the breakdown of the 670 criminal charges filed against adults. Lewd and Lascivious Conduct (IC§18-1508) charges were most frequently filed representing 344 charges or 51.34% of the total. (The indicates another increase of L & L charges over last year.) Rape (IC§18-6101) charges were filed 106 times (15.82%) during FY02. The charge of Sexual Abuse (IC§18-1506) resulted in 40 charges or 5.97% of the total number of charges filed. Sexual Battery (IC§18-1508A) was filed in 12.24% (N=82) of the cases. Offender registration charges were filed in 7 cases or 1.04%.

These data were collected to determine which charges were most frequently used against child sex abusers. This is the tenth year this information has been collected. A detailed analysis of case files for the last year 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 that require accurate data on criminal history.
Chart 8A: Adult Defendants
Most Frequently Filed Charges

FY2002 Idaho Child Sexual Abuse Study
Adult Defendants: Chart 9A - Dispositional Information

One hundred sixty six (64.19%) of the defendants charged were convicted. Cases are pending for 36.77% (N=114). Defendants were acquitted for 2.26% (N=7) of the cases. Charges were dismissed in 7.10% (N=22) of the cases. One defendant (.32%) fled the jurisdiction.

Chart 9A: Adult Defendants
Dispositional Information

FY2002 Idaho Child Sexual Abuse Study
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 166 of the cases. (The additional defendants are awaiting trial, awaiting sentencing, or the charges were dismissed.) Probation only was the disposition in 42.17% (N=70) of the known cases. Judges gave a Retained Jurisdiction sentence in 23.49% (N=39) of the cases. A total of 26.51% (N=44) of convicted defendants were sent directly to prison without a Retained sentence. A total of 7.83% (N=13) were given jail sentences. This year’s study indicates an increase in the use of Probation Only, an increase in the use of the Retained Sentence and an increase in the use of Prison.

Chart 10A: Adult Defendants
Outcomes for Convicted Offenders

FY2002 Idaho Child Sexual Abuse Study
Chart totals to 166 due to multiple outcomes (retained in prison or probation or jail with probation) and the addition of the offender that died in the pending
Adult Defendants: Chart 11A - Offender/Victim Ethnicity

Information was collected on ethnicity of the accused adult offenders and the victims. Victim ethnicity was overwhelming Caucasian for 209 (62.95%) victims. Hispanic victims represented only 23 (6.93%) of the victims. Victim ethnicity could not be determined in 98 (29.52%) cases. These figures are comparable with last year's survey.

Offender ethnicity data indicated that 78.39% (N=243) of the total were Caucasian and 13.55% (N=42) were Hispanic. The remainders were recorded as unknown or other. The data indicates an increase in the numbers of Caucasian offenders.

![Chart 11A: Adult Defendants](image)

Offender/Victim Ethnicity

FY2002 Idaho Child Sexual Abuse Study
Two hundred one (60.54%) of the victims were abused by a member of their own ethnic group. Twenty-eight (8.43%) were victimized by a member of a different ethnic group and the ethnicity relationship was unknown for 103 (31.02%) of the remaining victims.

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

One hundred (32.26%) of the alleged offenses occurred in the victim’s residence. Sixty-three (20.32%) occurred in the offender’s residence. Eighty-nine (28.71%) of the locations could not be determined from court or police records. Fourteen (4.52%) occurred in a vehicle and 7 (2.26%) occurred outside. This was consistent with the findings in FY00 and FY01.

**Chart 12A: Adult Defendants**

Location of Child Sexual Abuse

- **Victim’s Residence** (100, 32.26%)
- **Offender’s Residence** (63, 20.32%)
- **Vehicle** (14, 4.52%)
- **Unknown Location** (89, 28.71%)
- **Other** (37, 11.93%)
- **Outside** (7, 2.26%)
Adult Defendants: Chart 13A - Educational Level

Again the collection of educational data in particular was negatively impacted by the lack of access to Pre-sentence Reports. Data was available for only 28 cases, less than half of the cases for last year. Eleven percent (N=6) had not completed high school. Eighteen (5.81%) had completed high school and 1.29% (N=4) had some education beyond high school (college or vocational/technical). Information was not available for 282 or 90.97% of the cases. (The lack of data for this variable in particular indicates that the data that should be forthcoming from the Department of Corrections has not been available in a timely fashion for this report.)

Chart 13A: Adult Defendants
Offender Education

- Unknown (282, 90.97%)
- Less than High School (6, 1.94%)
- High School (18, 5.81%)
- More than High School (4, 1.29%)

FY2002 Idaho Child Sexual Abuse Study
Adult Defendants: Chart 14A - Outcomes of Retained Jurisdiction

This survey marks the sixth year of the analysis of the Retained Jurisdiction Sentence (Idaho Criminal Code, Section 2601).

There were 39 persons that were sentenced under this statute as of November 30, 2002 (representing persons charged in FY02). Of that number, 13 (33.33%) were still completing their period of limited 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. Twelve (30.77%) were sent to prison to complete their sentence and 14 (35.9%) were released on Probation.

Chart 14A: Adult Defendants
Outcomes of Retained Jurisdiction

FY2002 Idaho Child Sexual Abuse Study
**Adult Defendants: Chart 15A - Offender Occupation**

Defendant occupation data was available and collected for only 23 of the 310 adult defendants. (This represents a decline from the 78 defendants who had occupational data reported last year.) Three (.97%) were unemployed, 2.58% (N=8) worked at unskilled jobs, 2.58% (N=8) worked in skilled labor occupations, .32% (N=1) were classified as service workers, .64% (N=2) were in professional fields, .32% (N=1) were students, and occupation was unclear for the remaining defendants.

**Chart 15A: Adult Defendants Offender Occupation**

FY2002 Idaho Child Sexual Abuse Study
**Adults: Chart 16A Analysis of Determinate/Indeterminate Sentences**

Data was collected on the 115 defendants 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. Seventy-six (45.77%) received a fixed or determinate sentence of 36 months or less. Nineteen (11.44%) received a determinate sentence of 37 to 60 months. Twenty (12.04%) received determinate sentences of 61 months to life.

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**Chart 16A: Adult Defendants Sentencing for All Convicted Defendants**

**Determinate Sentencing**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sentence Duration</th>
<th>Number (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 to 12 Months</td>
<td>6 (3.61%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 to 24 Months</td>
<td>43 (25.00%)</td>
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<td>26 to 36 Months</td>
<td>27 (15.20%)</td>
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<td>37 to 48 Months</td>
<td>25 (14.10%)</td>
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<td>61 to 96 Months</td>
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<td>53 (25.40%)</td>
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</table>

**Indeterminate Sentencing**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sentence Duration</th>
<th>Number (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 to 12 Months</td>
<td>7 (4.22%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 to 24 Months</td>
<td>8 (4.82%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 to 36 Months</td>
<td>10 (6.02%)</td>
</tr>
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<td>49 to 60 Months</td>
<td>16 (9.69%)</td>
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<td>61 to 96 Months</td>
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<td>97 to 120 Months</td>
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<tr>
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<td>5 (3.00%)</td>
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FY2002 Idaho Child Sexual Abuse Study
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. The analysis indicates that the majority of defendants (59.34%, N=33) sent to prison had determinate sentences of 48 months or less. Ninety-one (82.14%) had an indeterminate sentence coupled with the determinate sentence of 49 months to Life.

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

[Bar charts showing determinate and indeterminate sentencing distribution]

FY2002 Idaho Child Sexual Abuse Study
Adult Defendants: Chart 18A - Income

There was insufficient income data to produce this chart.

Chart 18A: Adult Defendants
Offender Income

Insufficient Data to Compute Chart

FY2002 Idaho Child Sexual Abuse Study
Adult Defendants: Chart 19A - Age Relationship Offenders and Victims

This chart shows the relationship between age of perpetrators and their first victim. It provides a graphic representation that shows a preponderance of perpetrators in their 20's and 30's were involved with teenage victims between the ages of 14 and 17. One hundred of the persons charged with a child sex offense were between the ages of 20 and 29 and their victims were between 14 and 17 years of age. Twenty seven offenders were between 30 and 39 and their victims were between 14 and 17 years of age.

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

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Age of First Victim
FY2002 Idaho Child Sexual Abuse Study
**Adult Defendants: Chart 20A—Voluntary vs. Use of Force in Sexual Act**

This chart represents data collected for the fourth year for this report. The researchers collected data on whether force was used in commission of the sexual act with the victim. Of the 332 victims, the force relationship could not be determined in 28.61% (N=95) of the cases. Forty-nine (14.76%) of the defendants used force on their victims. In 27.41% (N=91) the sexual act did not involve the use of force as determined from the data in the defendant’s file. In 29.22% (N=97) of the cases, the act was involuntary.

This variable in particular deserves more detailed research to determine the nature of the “sexual victimization.” Based on a more detailed analysis, the law and policy response could be crafted to more accurately reflect the appropriate societal response to this crime.

**Chart 20A: Adult Defendants**

**Forced, Involuntary or Voluntary Abuse**

FY2002 Idaho Child Sexual Abuse Study
Adult Defendants: Chart 21A—Cases by District Court

This report includes a new analysis of child sex abuse cases by the District in which they occurred. As Chart 21A indicates the largest number of adult cases were filed in District 1. There were a total of 61 (19.68%) cases filed in this District. This number was closely followed by District 4 with 58 (18.71%) cases. The remaining District Courts had from 7.10% to 15.48% of the cases.

Chart 21A: Adult Defendants
District Court

FY2002 Idaho Child Sexual Abuse Study
JUVENILE CASES
ANALYSIS OF JUVENILE CASES FILED-CHARTS 1J-14J
(FY02: July 1, 2001 - June 30, 2002)

The information from the juvenile cases is included in Charts 1J-12J and immediately follows the discussion of juveniles charged with child sex offenses. A total of 124 juveniles were charged (i.e., a Juvenile Petition filed) with a child sex offense during the twelve-month period of July 1, 2001 - June 30, 2002 (FY02).

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

Chart 1J indicates that 124 petitions were filed against juveniles representing 196 charges. In this report period there was an average of 1.58 charges in each petition.

Chart 1J: Juvenile Offenders
Total Cases and Petitions Filed
**Juvenile Offenders: Chart 2J - Victim Gender**

There were 147 victims listed in the juvenile petitions. Victim gender was predominantly female representing 57.14% (N=84) of the total number of known victims. Male victims represented 24.49% (N=36) of the total for juveniles. The information on victim gender was not available to the research team in 18.37% (N=27) cases.

**Chart 2J: Juvenile Offenders**

**Victim Gender**

- Female (84, 57.14%)
- Male (36, 24.49%)
- Unknown (27, 18.37%)
**Juvenile Offenders: Chart 3J - Victim Age**

For the 124 juvenile cases reported (with petitions filed) during the study period, the age of the victims was known for 134 of the 147 victims. Victims under three years of age comprised 8.16% (N=12) of the total study population. Victims from four to seven years comprised 34.69% (N=51) of the study population. Children eight to eleven years were victims in 18.36% (N=27) of the cases. Another 25.85% (N=38) were from twelve to fifteen years of age and the remaining 4.08% (N=6) were sixteen or older. Age was unknown for 8.84% (N=13) of the victims.

**Chart 3J: Juvenile Offenders**

**Victim Age**

FY2002 Idaho Child Sexual Abuse Study
The number victims under seven years remain the same as last year's report. This population represents 42.7% of all victims. The number of victims under the age of 11 has decreased slightly. In the current FY02 study 61.23% of the victims were 11 years of age or less. (In the FY01 study 70% of the victims were under 11.) This parallels the findings in the report last year. It is important to note that perpetrators continue to focus on the younger and more vulnerable children.

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

The number of victims was known for all petitions. A single victim was reported in 109 (87.90%) of the petitions. There were two victims in 12 (9.68%) of the cases and three or more victims in 2 (1.61%) cases. There was one petition that reported no victims.

**Chart 4J: Juvenile Offenders**

*Number of Victims per Case*

- One (109, 87.90%)
- Two (12, 9.68%)
- Three or More (2, 1.61%)
- No Victim (1, 0.81%)
**Juvenile Offenders: Chart 5J - Victim Relationship**

Chart 5J shows the relationship between the 147 victims and the 124 petitioned juveniles. Acquaintances were identified as the abuser for 34.69% (N=51) of the victims. Relatives were charged with offenses for 27.89% (N=41) of the victims. One of the relatives was a natural parent. The relationship could not be determined for 35.37% (N=52) of the victims. There were 2.04% (N=3) listed in the Other category.

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 child or their family knew the offender.

---

**Chart 5J: Juvenile Offenders**

Relationship to Victims

- **Unknown (52, 35.37%)**
- **Relative (41, 27.89%)**
- **Other (3, 2.04%)**
- **Acquaintance (51, 34.69%)**

FY2002 Idaho Child Sexual Abuse Study

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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. Most of these data are not available because of the lack of juvenile file access by the research team.

Chart 6J: Juvenile Offenders
Social History and Sex Offender Evaluation

FY2002 Idaho Child Sexual Abuse Study
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 119 (60.71%) of the total petitions. Rape (IC §18-6101) charges were filed 9 times (4.59%) during the year. A variety of other child sex offenses were filed in the other 68 (34.94%).

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.

Chart 7J: Juvenile Offenders
Most Frequently Filed Petitions

FY2002 Idaho Child Sexual Abuse Study


**Juvenile Offenders: Chart 8J - Dispositional Information**

Chart 8J shows dispositional information on juveniles. Forty (32.26%) were Detained under the YRA and 41 (33.06%) were released under Probation supervision. Ten (8.06%) were released and 33 cases (26.61%) are Unknown or Pending.

**Chart 8J: Juvenile Offenders**

Dispositional Information

Unknown (33, 26.61%)
Detained (40, 32.26%)
Probation (41, 33.06%)
Released (10, 8.06%)

FY2002 Idaho Child Sexual Abuse Study
**Juvenile Offenders: Chart 9J - Victim and Offender Ethnicity**

The petitioned Offender's ethnicity was overwhelmingly Caucasian representing 82.26% (N=102) of the offenders. Nine (7.26%) were recorded as Hispanic. Thirteen (10.48%) had no race recorded in their files.

Victims, where ethnicity was known, were primarily Caucasian representing 55.10% (N=81) of the children abused. Only five (3.40%) of the victims were Hispanic and the ethnicity was Unknown for the remaining 61 (41.50%).

**Chart 9J: Juvenile Offenders**
**Victim and Offender Ethnicity**

FY2002 Idaho Child Sexual Abuse Study
Juvenile Offenders: Chart 10J - Offender/Victim Ethnicity

Eighty (54.42%) of the juveniles petitioned into court committed the sexual offense on a child of the same ethnic status. Only 3 (2.04%) of the cases were between juveniles of a different ethnic group and ethnic relationship was unknown in 64 (43.54%) of the cases.

Chart 10J: Juvenile Offenders
Victim/Offender Ethnic Relationship

FY2002 Idaho Child Sexual Abuse Study
Juvenile Offenders: Chart 11J - Location of Child Sexual Abuse

Forty-six (37.10%) of the juveniles committed their offense in the victim's residence. Sixteen (12.90%) of the offenders committed the offense in their residence. Location was unknown for 50 (40.32%) juveniles.

Chart 11J: Juvenile Offenders
Location of Child Sexual Abuse

FY2002 Idaho Child Sexual Abuse Study
**Juvenile Offenders: Chart 12J - Age of Offenders**

Chart 12J shows the ages of juvenile perpetrators. The ages of perpetrators were predominantly between the ages of 12 and 17 (95.16%). Offenders from 12 to 15 represented 46.77% (N=58) of the total. Offenders 16 and older represented 48.39% (N=60) of the total. Perpetrators 10 to 11 represented 3% of the total.

**Chart 12J: Juvenile Offenders**  
**Age of Juvenile Offenders**

- Unknown Age (2, 1.61%)
- 10 to 11 (4, 3.22%)
- 12 to 15 (58, 46.77%)
- 16 or Older (60, 48.39%)

FY2002 Idaho Child Sexual Abuse Study
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, primarily eleven years old or younger. Fifteen-year-olds were the most frequently occurring age of offenders closely followed by 14 year olds.

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

FY2002 Idaho Child Sexual Abuse Study
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. (These data reflect information in the Petitions and Police Reports and do not represent information from PreSentence Reports.) In 10 (6.80%) cases the sexual act was forced. In 19 (12.92%) there was no evidence that force was used. In 58 (39.46%) it was involuntary and it was unknown in 60 (40.82%) of the reported cases.

Chart 14J: Juvenile Offenders
Forced or Voluntary Sexual Abuse

FY2002 Idaho Child Sexual Abuse Study
**Juvenile Offenders: 15J -- Case Status**

This chart provides a view of the case status. A total of 64.52% (N=80) admitted to the Petition filed. The Petition was denied by 4.84% (N=6). Pending cases comprise 11.29% (N=14) and the status is unknown for 19.36% (N=24) cases.

**Chart 15J: Juvenile Offenders**

Case Status

FY2002 Idaho Child Sexual Abuse Study
**Juvenile Offenders: 16J – District Court Cases**

This Chart includes a new analysis for this survey. These data show caseload by District Court across the state of Idaho. The seven District Courts had a wide variation in the number of child sex abuse cases they handled. District 4 Court handled 27.42% (N=34) of the cases for juveniles in the state. District 6 Court handled 20.97% (N=26) cases. District 3 handled 14.52% (N=18) cases. The remaining cases were spread across the other District Courts.

**Chart 16J: Juvenile Offenders**

**District Court**

FY2002 Idaho Child Sexual Abuse Study
STATEWIDE CASE ANALYSIS
STATEWIDE CASE ANALYSIS

This year's report includes an analysis of data standardized to the population in each of the 44 Idaho counties based on the 2000 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 to this reporting standard and the comparisons (rates) are accurate throughout the state.

There were 310 adult cases and 124 juvenile petitions of child sexual abuse filed in district and juvenile courts during FY02 (July 1, 2001-June 30, 2002). The total number of cases filed in the period covered by this report was 434. There were 386 cases filed in FY01; 364 cases in FY00; 432 cases in FY99; 403 cases in FY98; 332 cases in FY97; 271 cases in FY96; 295 cases in FY95; 356 cases in FY94; 372 cases in FY92 and 425 cases reported in the FY93 study. The number of adult and juvenile cases reported in FY02 is the highest number in the 11 years this research team has been conducting the survey.

Incidence of Case Filings by County-Table 1

The overall incidence of child sex abuse follows in Table 1 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 each County Clerk's office and compared with the County Prosecutor records in Idaho's 44 counties. The research team from the Department of Criminal Justice Administration at Boise State University collected data on-site in all counties reporting offenses.

Case filings are standardized and a rate calculated based on the most recent census data. The rate for adults is calculated and is reported for each county in the column Rate/Adults. The rate for juveniles was calculated and is
reported for each county in the column Rate/Juveniles. A total rate for each county was calculated and the combined adult and juvenile rate is reported in the column Rate/Total. (Ten counties, Adams, Bear Lake, Butte, Camas, Clark, Custer, Gem, Latah, Lemhi, and Owyhee reported no cases and their rates are reported as zero.)

The Total (mean) Rate of the child sex abuse court cases filed by county for the study period was 4.03/10,000. The Standard Deviation was 3.56/10,000. Over 95% of the counties fall within a range of plus or minus two standard deviations (3.56 x 2 = 7.12) from the average of 4.03 cases per 10,000. This means that 95% of Idaho counties reported from zero (0) to 11.15/10,000 child sex abuse cases filed during the study period.

The average rate for adults (Adult/Rate) in each county was 2.84/10,000 with a standard deviation of 2.52/10,000. This is higher than last year’s rate. The total rate for juveniles (Juvenile/Rate) was 1.19/10,000 with a standard deviation of 1.61/10,000. This rate is higher than last year’s Juvenile Rate.
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Rates for All Counties, 1993 – 2002: Table 2

Table 2 shows the rates for all 44 counties in Idaho from 1993 to 2002. This chart shows the trends in child sex abuse prosecutions and the standard deviation from the average rate during this period (FY93-FY02). This provides an accurate account of the range of the case-filing rate by county throughout this period.

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51
**Filing Rates in the Most Populated Counties-Chart 1T**

Chart 1T, on page 54, 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 300,904 in Ada County to 34,935 in Latah County. The Total/Rate varies from a high of 5.4/10,000 in Bannock County to a low of 0/10,000 in Latah County. Bannock County falls within two standard deviations of the Total (mean) Rate of 4.03/10,000. 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, on page 55, shows the incidence of child sex abuse in the 10 least populated counties. The Total/Rate varied from a low of 0.0 in a number of the small counties to a high of 14.6 in Oneida County. Most small counties reported no prosecutions but Boise, Lewis and Oneida Counties are above the state average of 4.03/10,000. The incidence in Oneida County is outside the range of two standard deviations (0-11.15). The small population (4,125) of Oneida County exacerbates the incidence in this county.

**Ten Counties: Highest Rates of Child Sex Abuse Cases-Chart 3T**

Chart 3T, on page 56, 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 2000 census data allowing for valid comparisons among the counties regardless of population density. In the current FY02 report, Bannock County (75,565) reported the lowest Total/Rate for the ten counties with 5.4/10,000. Oneida County (4,125) reported the highest rate with 14.6/10,000.

Again, as mentioned in the previous reports, the small population of many
Idaho counties skews 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.
Chart 1T - 10 Largest Counties

Rates per 10,000 Population
FY2002 Idaho Child Sexual Abuse Study
Chart 2T - 10 Smallest Counties

Rates per 10,000 Population
FY2002 Idaho Child Sexual Abuse Study
Chart 3T - 10 Counties with Highest Rates

Rates per 10,000 Population
FY2002 Idaho Child Sexual Abuse Study
Gender and Gender Relationships - Chart 4T

This chart examines offender-victim relationships. Females were the most predominant victims representing 84.94% (N=282) of all identified. Male victims represented 9.64% (N=32) of the victims.

The offenders were overwhelmingly male, representing 96.77% (N=300) of the accused perpetrators. Female perpetrators represented 2.90% (N=9) of the total.

The analysis of gender relationships between the accused and the victim indicated that 85.84% (N=285) represented different genders. In 8.43% (N=28) a sexual act occurred between the same gender and it was unknown for those remaining.

Chart 4T - Gender and Gender Relationships

Gender Relationships: For Adults Only
FY2002 Idaho Child Sexual Abuse Study
Rates / Standard Deviations of Child Sex Abuse Prosecutions - Chart 5T

This chart shows a graphic picture of the ten-year trend in child sex abuse prosecutions and the standard deviation from the average rate from 1993 to 2002 (FY92-FY-02). The current reported rate (FY02) is the highest in the 10-year period. After the decline from FY93 to FY96, the incidence and rate from FY97 through FY00 has been comparable. The decline in the rate in FY00 and FY01 are probably related to the 2000 Census data showing an increase in the state population. (Note that 1997 has a higher rate than 2002 but this is not due to higher abuse but a smaller population. The 1997 rates are based on 1990 census populations while the 2002 rates are based on the 2000 populations.)

Chart 5T - 1993 to 2002
Rates and Standard Deviations of Child Sexual Abuse Charges for Idaho

Rates per 10,000 Population
FY2002 Idaho Child Sexual Abuse Study

58
TREND ANALYSIS
TREND ANALYSIS

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

Table 2 (seen on page 51) shows the reported rate of prosecution over a ten-year period for both adults and juveniles. This provides a more accurate picture of the variation of prosecution over time. Based on the ten-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 ten-year rate was 3.15/10,000 (Avg 93-02) prosecutions per year throughout the state.

Table 2 and Chart 5T show the trend analysis of prosecutions in this state over a ten-year period. The highest number of adult prosecutions and juvenile petitions occurred in this last year (FY02). After fairly stable rates of reported child abuse in FY97–FY00 the rate dropped in FY01. Then the rate in this study (FY02) dramatically increased. Data collection and analysis in the 44 counties have provided few clues to this phenomenon. Increased reporting, 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 remains 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 slowly and a decline in a one or two year period may be the normal variation that would be expected.
CONCLUSION
CONCLUSION

The data in this report summarizes child sex abuse prosecutions in Idaho in FY02 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 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 late November 2002 were included in this analysis.

This report marks the eleventh year that data have 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 434 cases of child sexual abuse were prosecuted during the study period FY02. Of that number, 310 were adults and 124 were juveniles. The Total (Mean) Rate of cases filed by county (standardized to census data) was 4.03/10,000.

The average Total Rate (Adult/Rate) for adult child sex abuse felony filings was 2.84/10,000. The average Total Rate (Juvenile/Rate) for juvenile child sex abuse petitions filed was 1.19/10,000. The Adult and Juvenile rates have increased from FY01.

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.