

# REPORT TO THE IDAHO LEGISLATURE

## THE PROSECUTION OF CHILD SEX ABUSE

JULY 1, 1991-JUNE 30, 1992

a joint submission by  
The Office of the Governor  
Cecil D. Andrus, Governor

and

The Office of the Attorney General  
Larry EchoHawk, Attorney General

January, 1993

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## RESEARCH PROJECT TEAM

The research project team consisted of a large number of people. Professor Ted Hopfenbeck was the Coordinator of Data Collection in eastern Idaho. Chris Danekas served as a Research Associate and Coordinator of Data Collection in northern Idaho. Dr. Stephen Patrick coordinated the visual presentations in this report. Dr. Anthony Walsh, Dr. Jane Foraker-Thompson, and Dr. Patricia Dorman also participated in data collection in this project. Darlene Flacker coordinated the budget.

Robert L. Marsh, Ph.D. was the coordinator of data collection in southwestern Idaho and Principal Investigator.

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

> THE AVERAGE TOTAL RATE BY COUNTY OF PROSECUTION OF CHILD SEX ABUSE WAS 4.18/10,000. THE RANGE WAS 0 TO 14.2/10,000. MOST COUNTIES HAD BETWEEN 1.5 AND 7 CASES REPORTED PER 10,000 POPULATION. HIGHEST REPORTED RATES WERE IN LESS POPULATED COUNTIES.

> 372 TOTAL CASES PROSECUTED (246 ADULTS, 126 JUVENILES)

> DISPOSITION OF 97% OF THE 246 ADULT CHILD SEX ABUSE CASES INVOLVED FELONY PROCEEDINGS IN THE DISTRICT COURT

> MOST DEFENDANTS HAD NO PRIOR CONVICTIONS FOR CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE AND WERE CHARGED WITH ABUSE AGAINST ONE VICTIM

> 22 OF ADULTS CHARGED WHERE CRIMINAL HISTORY COULD BE DETERMINED HAD A PREVIOUS CONVICTION FOR CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

> VICTIM GENDER WAS PREDOMINANTLY FEMALE

> 43% OF ALL VICTIMS FOR ADULT DEFENDANTS CHARGED WITH CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE WERE BETWEEN 12 AND 15 YEARS OLD

> VICTIMS WERE MOST OFTEN MOLESTED BY FAMILY MEMBERS AND ACQUAINTANCES WHERE VICTIM/OFFENDER RELATIONSHIP WAS KNOWN

> ADULT DEFENDANTS WERE CONVICTED IN 78% OF THE CASES WITH MOST PLEADING GUILTY

> WHERE ADULT DISPOSITION WAS KNOWN, THE IMMEDIATE SENTENCE WAS 28%-PROBATION, 14%-PRISON, 50%-RETAINED JURISDICTION, 5%-WITHHELD JUDGEMENT, AND 3%-SUSPENDED SENTENCE

> WHERE JURISDICTION WAS RETAINED (92 CASES), AN ADDITIONAL 28 OFFENDERS (1/3) WERE SUBSEQUENTLY RELEASED TO PRISON AND THE REMAINING 64 CASES WERE RETURNED TO THE COURT AND PLACED ON PROBATION

> FINAL ADULT DISPOSITION (AFTER CONCLUSION OF RETAINED JURISDICTION) OF KNOWN CASES WAS 63%-PROBATION, 29%-PRISON, 5%-WITHHELD JUDGEMENT, AND 3%-SUSPENDED SENTENCE

# INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

# REPORT TO THE IDAHO LEGISLATURE

## THE PROSECUTION OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

JULY 1, 1991-JUNE 30, 1992

### INTRODUCTION

This study was conducted by researchers at the Department of Criminal Justice, Boise State University in conjunction with the Offices of the Governor, the Honorable Cecil D. Andrus and the Attorney General, the Honorable Larry EchoHawk. This report is submitted to the Legislature in response to House Bill 362 (passed in 1989) which added section 67-1405. This bill stipulated that the Attorney General's duties be expanded to require that a yearly report be submitted detailing the incidence of child sexual abuse cases filed in the state. Data on child sexual abuse cases were collected directly from court files covering the stipulated time period.

### PREVIOUS RESEARCH

Three annual reports and one special report have preceded this study. The approaches (methodology) of the data collection have varied widely through the past four reports. The following synopsis provides an overview of the reports.

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

The first report covered a two-year period from January 1, 1988, through December 31, 1989, and analyzed data and information collected by site visitation to all 44 counties under the direction of the Governor's Office. This report also obtained sexual abuse information that was available from the agencies that dealt with some aspect of child sexual abuse. For example, the Department of Law Enforcement provided information on investigation of known cases and the Department of Correction focused on disposition of offenders under their jurisdiction. The Department of Health and Welfare reported on child sex abuse and the



impact 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 that the state needed a way to "track" child abuse cases and report on the occurrence, nature and treatment of these crimes against children.

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

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

Resources available to the Attorney General prohibited a complete review of each county. Instead, the second report was based on a review on-site of courthouse case files of the state's six largest counties and nearby smaller communities. This review, together with telephone and mail contact of the remaining counties, provided access to a data base sizeable enough to produce a document for the Legislature.

As with the first report, the 1990 study concentrated on child sexual abuse from the perspective of the criminal justice system. It assessed cases from the time of 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 concerning sex crimes

committed against children were collected by reviewing district court records of individual counties. The report analyzed such specifics as the number and types of crimes experienced for the year, and the reasons why some reported cases were not brought to prosecution by the counties.

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

Last year's report provided information on adult and juvenile offenders. The incidence of juvenile sex abuse crimes was not a specific area of attention in previous reports. Offender age data, the relationship of the offenders to victims, demographic data on victims, and system processing information was collected on-site in each county. The data collected from court clerk records were verified with prosecuting attorneys in each jurisdiction.

### METHODOLOGY/DATA COLLECTION PROCEDURES

Data collection for the present report was initiated in late October, 1992, and continued through November. All counties were contacted by mail from the Attorney General's Office explaining the yearly data collection on cases filed in district court for the annual report to the legislature in January, 1993. Follow-up phone calls were made by the Project Team from the Department of Criminal Justice at BSU before visiting each county. On-site visits were made to all counties reporting district court case filings during the study period. (Court Clerks and prosecuting attorneys that reported no cases had been filed for the time period included in this study were not visited.) Court Clerks from each District Court were requested to furnish the files on all felony case filings and juvenile case filings for the period of July 1, 1991, through June 30, 1992. Only cases formally filed (district court for adults and magistrate's court for juveniles) in that time period were reviewed by the project team.

This study covered the following charges: Sexual Abuse (IC 18-1506), Ritualized Abuse (IC 18-1506A), Sexual Exploitation of a Child (IC 18-1507), Lewd and Lascivious Conduct (IC 18-1508), Sexual Battery (IC 18-1508A), Enticing (IC 18-1509), Rape (IC 18-6101), Attempted Rape (IC 18-6101, 18-306), and Incest (IC 18-6602). These charges are consistent with the charges covered in previous reports.

Many different procedures were used by individual counties to track cases filed during the year. Some counties such as Canyon County utilized the ISTARS system available through the Administrative Offices of the Idaho Supreme Court. (The system will eventually be statewide but is not yet available in all counties.) ISTARS tracks cases that have reached the disposition stage. Unfortunately, cases that have not reached disposition are not included in the system. The Ada County Prosecutor's Office maintained a separate computerized system that tracked each case filing in both the adult and juvenile courts. Other counties maintained a separate manual system of the pertinent cases. In each adult case the files were made available to the research team. In juvenile cases, depending on the directions of the judge in the district, court personnel reviewed the files and answered a more limited series of queries of the project team or allowed the project team access to files if no reference was made to the identity of the parties. All files were reviewed on-site. The project team relied on the individual system that each county utilized to track cases that were filed. After completing site visits, confirmation letters 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.

In all instances, the project team collected data in a way to insure the integrity of the data. Only cases filed in the district court for adults and magistrate's court for juveniles and identified by the clerks or county prosecutors of that county are included in this report. Cases handled informally when charges were not filed are not included.

The absence of a uniform method of tracking cases and retrieving the data remain a serious problematic issue beyond the scope of the present project. Recommendations will be made by the researchers to alleviate problems of data collection in the counties in the future. A trend analysis over time will not be feasible until this problem is resolved.

## ADULT CASES

## ANALYSIS OF ADULT CASES FILED-Charts 1-11

The information from adult cases is included in Charts 1-11 and immediately follows the discussion of adult defendants. A total of 246 cases were filed in district court during the time period of the study.

### Type of Court-Chart 1

Chart 1 indicates that 238 (97%) of the 246 adult child sex abuse cases involved felony proceedings in the district court. Eight cases (3%) of the 246 were pled down to a misdemeanor and sentenced in the lower court. The research team noted that most cases were reduced to a misdemeanor because of evidentiary concerns relating to felony prosecution.

### Victim Gender-Chart 2

The victim gender was predominantly female with 89% (N=183) female victimization when gender was known. Males represented 11% (N=22) of the victims where gender information was available. The information on victim gender was not available to the research team in a total of 94 cases. The primary reason for lack of gender information was limited access to Presentence Reports in a number of counties. Some defendants had no Presentence Report completed and it was impossible to determine victim gender from court files. There was no reason to assume that victim gender would change if the unknown cases were added into this analysis.

### Age of Victims for Adult Defendants-Chart 3

Only 1% (N=3) of the victims were under 3 years of age. Children from 4 to 7 represented 22% (N=65) of the victims. Twenty seven per cent (N=81) of the total were from 8 to 11. A total of 43% (N=129) of the victims were between the ages of 12 and 15. Seven per cent (N=21) were between the ages of 16 and 17. (Rape (IC 18-6101) and Attempted Rape (IC 18-6101, 18-306) statutes cover 16 and 17 year olds.)

### Number of Victims for Adults-Chart 4

Defendants in 86% (N=211) of the cases were charged with only one victim. There were 2 victims in 8% (N=20) of the cases. Nine defendants or 4% were charged with crimes on 3 or more victims. The number of

victims was unknown in 3% (N=6) of the cases. The information for the number of victims charged against each defendant was based on court files. It must be noted that research of sources independent of the court files could identify additional victims.

#### Victim/Offender Relationship for Adult Defendants-Chart 5

Chart 5 indicates the relationship between the victim and the charged defendant. (The percentages are reported on cases where the victim/offender relation is known.) The data indicate that 15% (N=24) were the actual parents of the children and was slightly greater than the 14% (N=23) identified as stepparents. Other family members including siblings (3%, N=4), aunts and uncles (3%, N=4), grandparents (6%, N=10) were charged with sex abuse crimes on their victims. Acquaintances accounted for 53% (N=85) of the charged sexual abuse crimes against children where the relationship was known. The total of both family members and acquaintances charged with sexually victimizing children was 98% (N=156) in this study when the victim/offender relationship was known. In 2% (N=3) of the cases the charged defendant was a stranger.

A significant caveat to these data is that the victim/offender relationship is unknown in 140 cases in this study. This information, representing 47% of the total adult cases in the state, could alter the distribution of victim/offender relations but there was no information to indicate to the research team that the distribution would be different if this information was available.

Most adults charged with child sexual abuse offenses knew their victims. The children generally had good reason to trust the defendant because the defendant was known by the child.

#### Sex Offender Evaluation for Adults-Chart 6

The data in Chart 6 show the number of convicted perpetrators that had a formal Sex Offender Evaluation before sentencing. The research indicated that 29% (N=54) of the cases known only had a Sex Offender Evaluation or a Sex Offender Evaluation in conjunction with the Presentence Report before sentencing. A total of 70% (N=128) of the known cases had a Presentence only. A number of the cases are pending.

The number of defendants that had a sex offender evaluation may be greater but unless full access to presentence reports is provided for research purposes, it is impossible to determine.

#### Prior Sex Abuse Charges for Adults-Chart 7

Out of the 246 adult cases there was access to criminal histories in 198 cases. In the cases where criminal histories were available, most defendants (83%, N=165) had no prior sex abuse charges against children. There were 17% (N=33) of the known defendants with a prior criminal history of sex abuse charges. The majority of prior charges involved sex abuse against children but it was impossible to determine victim age in all cases based on the records available. It will continue to be difficult to determine criminal history in child sex abuse cases unless presentence investigations are completed on all defendants and the records are open for research.

#### Outcomes of Prior Sex Abuse Charges for Adults-Chart 8

Twenty two of the 33 defendants that had a prior charge of sex abuse had been convicted. This represents 11% (N=22) of the 198 adults charged that had a prior conviction for child sex abuse. The number may be greater but, based on the analysis from available court records, this was all that could be determined.

#### Charges for Adults-Chart 9

Chart 9 shows the criminal charges filed against adults. The most frequently occurring charge for adults was Lewd and Lascivious Conduct (IC 18-1508) with 56% (N=164) of the total of 293 charges. The second most frequently occurring charge was Sexual Abuse (IC 18-1506) with 27% (N=79) of the total charges. (The total number of charges is greater than the total number of cases because some defendants were charged with more than one crime against a single victim or had multiple victims.)

These data were collected to determine which charges were most frequently used against child sex abusers. A more detailed analysis from the case files revealed an exceedingly wide variability in the types of sex abuse behavior and the actual charge filed. The Lewd and Lascivious statute was used to prosecute cases ranging from touching of private sexual organs to copulation. Simply analyzing the case charges provides

little meaningful information on the types of sexual abuse behaviors perpetrated against children.

#### Sentencing Information for Adults-Chart 10

The disposition is known in 185 of the cases. (This is the total number used to calculate percentages in this section.) Probation was the disposition in 28% (N=52) of the known cases initially. Jurisdiction was retained in 50% (N=92) of the cases with known dispositions. It was usually recommended by the sentencing judge that these offenders be sent to Cottonwood for evaluation. Prison without retained jurisdiction was ordered for 14% (N=26) of those convicted. A withheld judgement was given to 5% (N=10) of the defendants and a suspended sentence given to 3% (N=5). Sentencing was pending in 6 cases.

#### Retained Jurisdiction Analysis

A further analysis was conducted of the 92 cases with retained jurisdiction. Information was gathered from court records in November, 1992. Additional information was requested in early January, 1993 from the record system at the Department of Corrections. Based on this analysis, a total of 30% (N=28) of the 92 persons on retained jurisdiction were sent to prison after completing the initial period stipulated in the retained jurisdiction. When considering the number of persons initially sentenced to prison (N=26) and those sent to prison after completing the retained jurisdiction program (N=28), the number of persons incarcerated increases to a total of 28% (N=54) of all persons convicted. The remaining 64 persons were placed on probation.

#### Direct-to-Prison Sentences (8 Largest Counties)

Three counties (Bingham, Bonneville, and Twin Falls) sent no one directly to prison. Ada County sent 6 offenders to prison directly with an average of 3 years fixed sentence and 8.7 years indeterminate. Bannock County sent 3 offenders directly to prison with an average of 3 years fixed and 8.7 years indeterminate. Canyon County sent two offenders directly to prison. One was sentenced to 5 years fixed and 5 indeterminate and the other to 20 years fixed with life indeterminate. Kootenai County sent two offenders directly to prison with an average of 2.7 years fixed and 7.2 indeterminate. Nez Perce County with two offenders sent to prison with an average of 5 years fixed and 17.5 years indeterminate.



#### Case Status for Adults-Chart 11

The majority of adults charged with felony child sex abuse were convicted. Defendants were convicted in 78% (N=191) of the total of 246 cases filed with most entering pleas of guilty. The charges were dismissed in 28 (11%) of the cases and 4 (1.6%) of the defendants were acquitted.

# Chart 1 - Adult Child Sex Abuse Dispositions

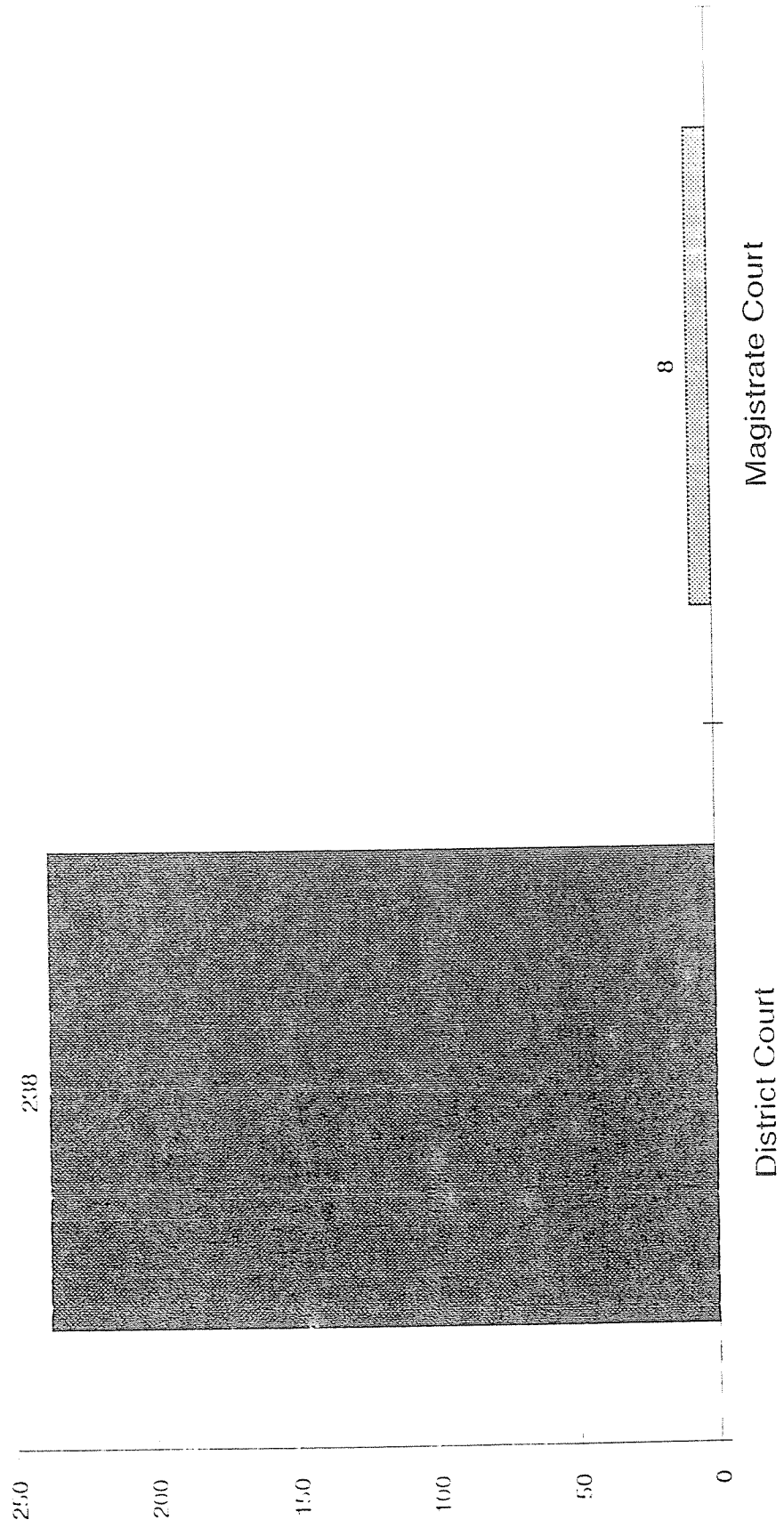
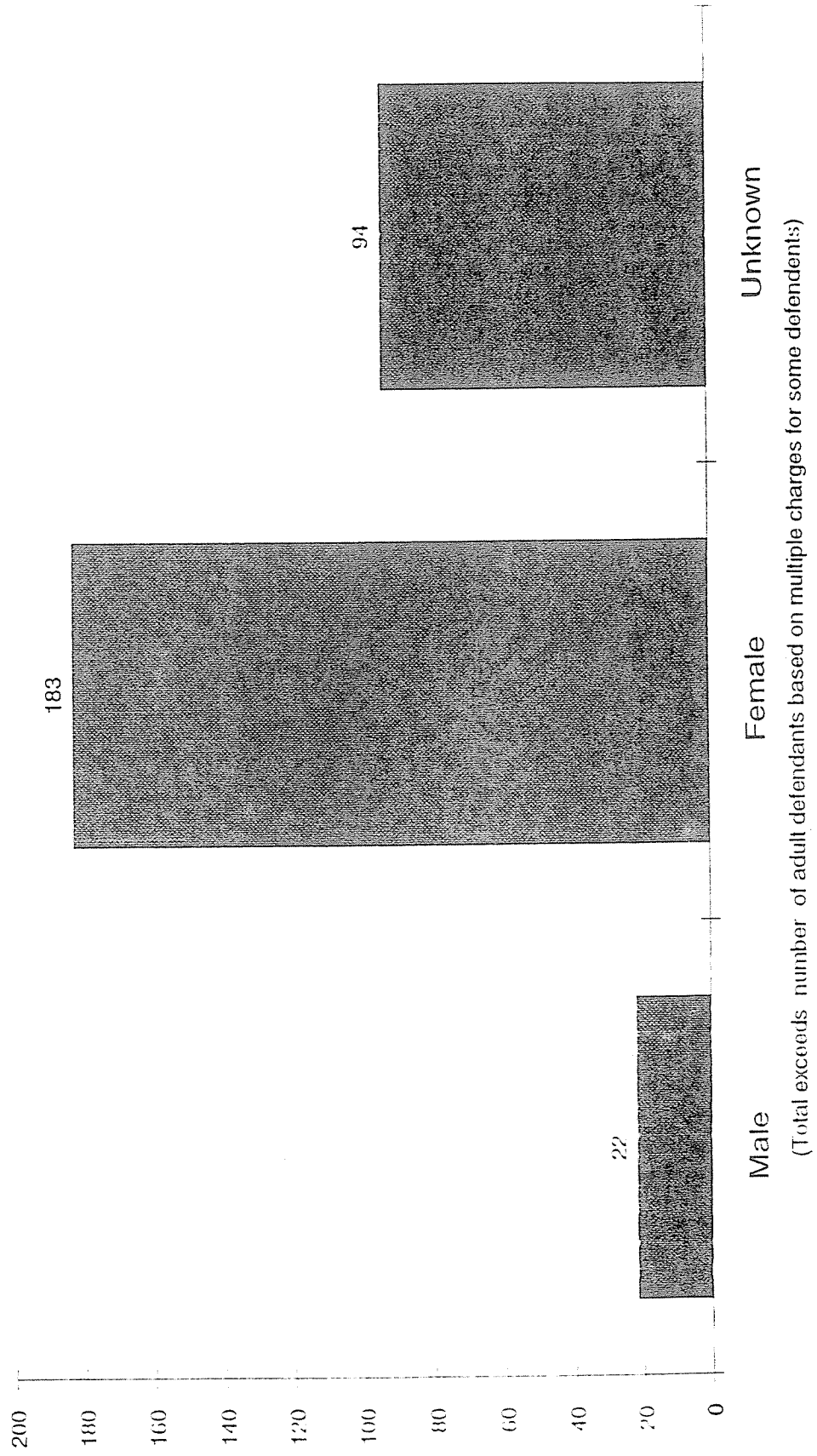


Chart 2 - Victim Gender for Adults



# Chart 3-Age of Victims for Adult Defendants

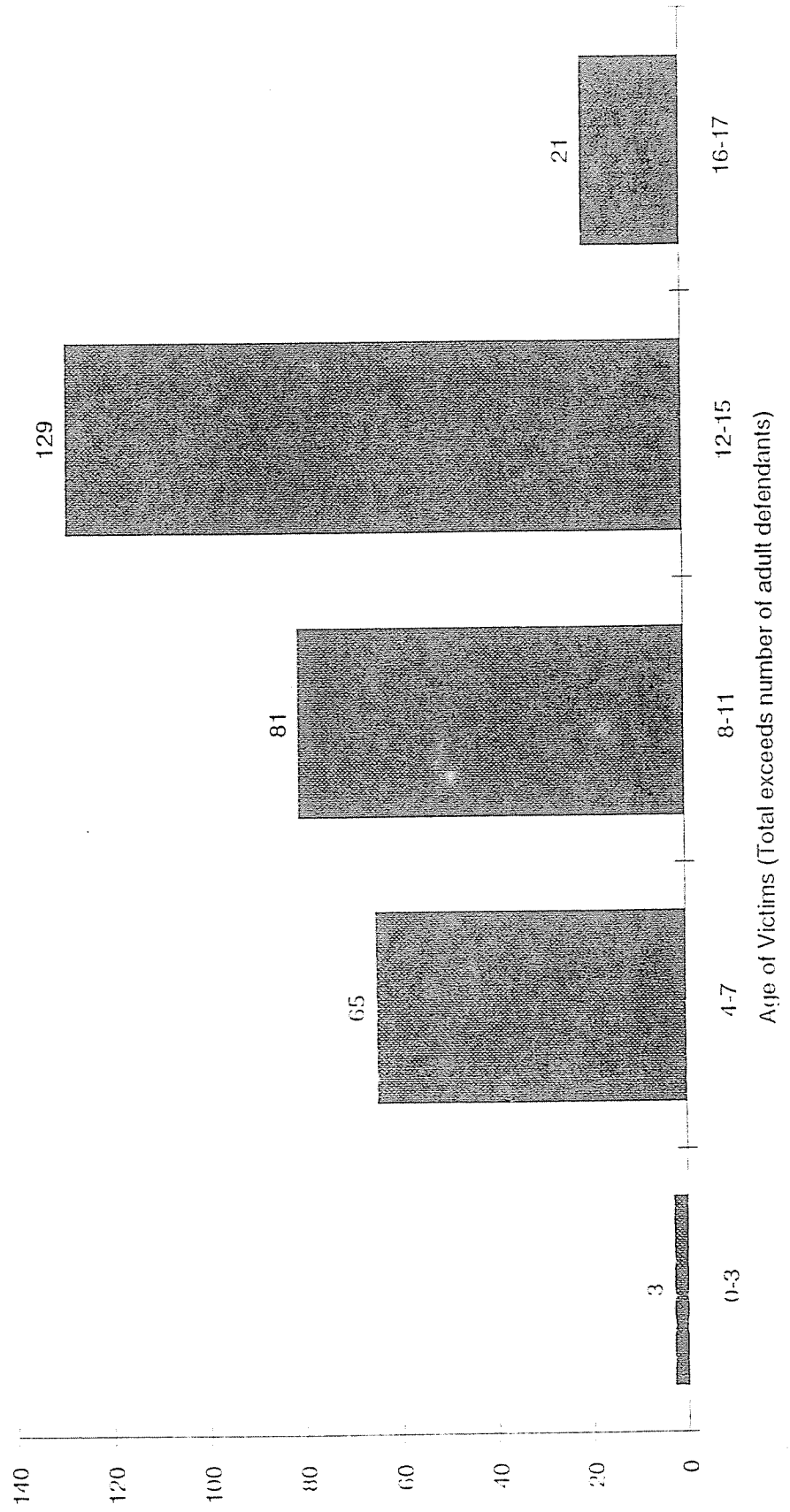
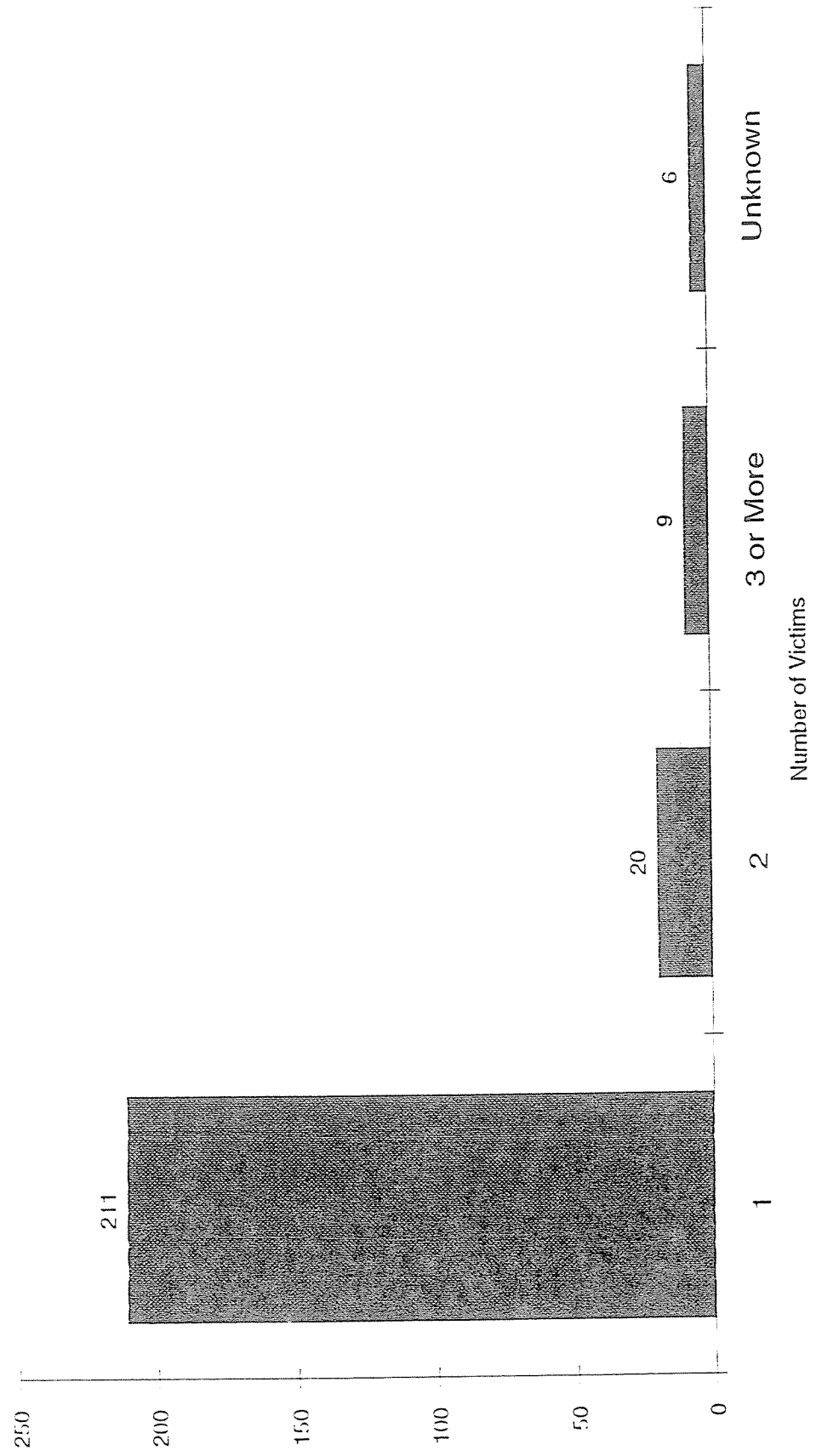


Chart 4-Number of Victims for Adults



# Chart 5-Victim/Offender Relationship for Adult Defendants

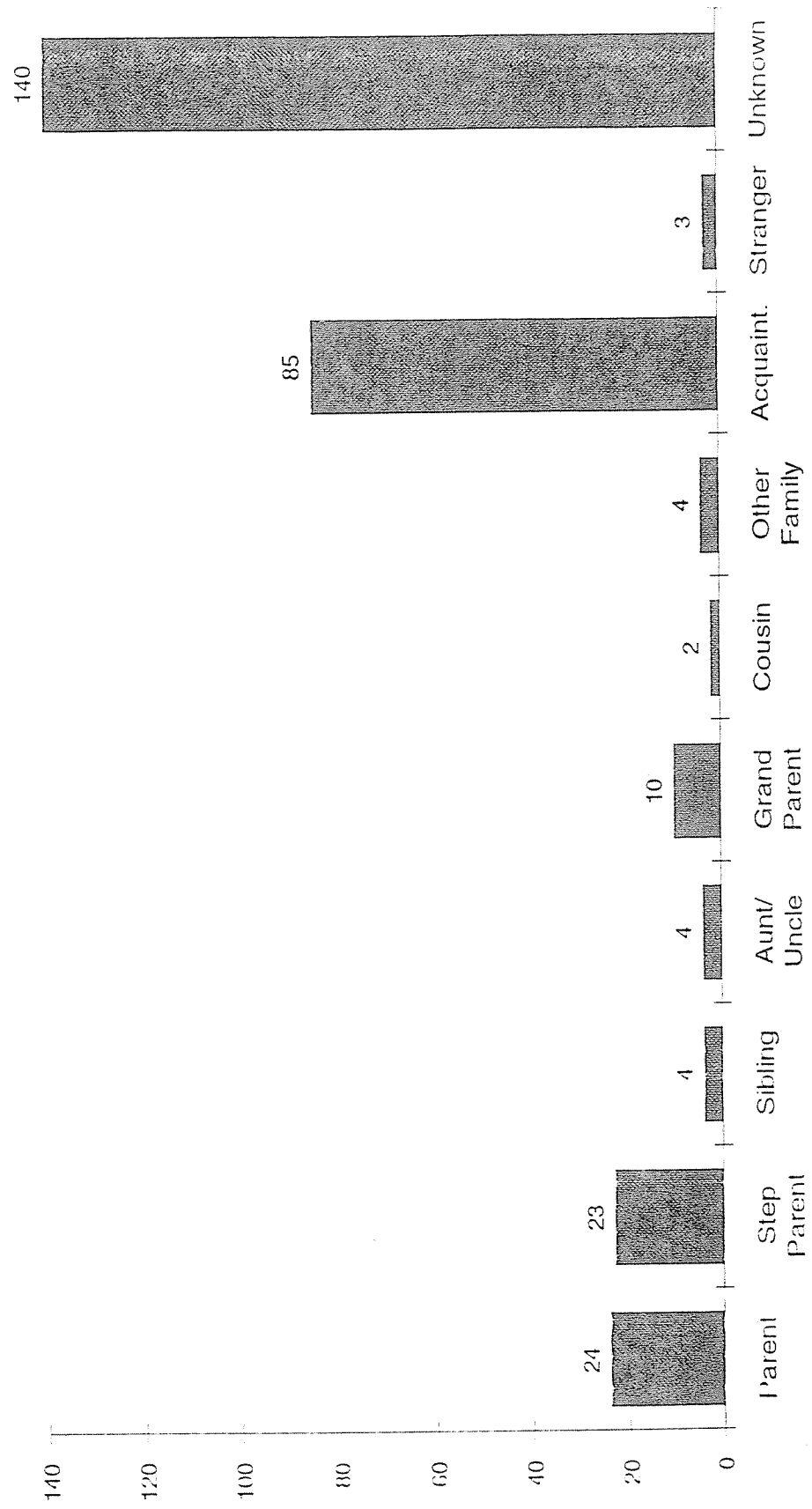


Chart 6-Sex Offender Evaluation for  
Adults

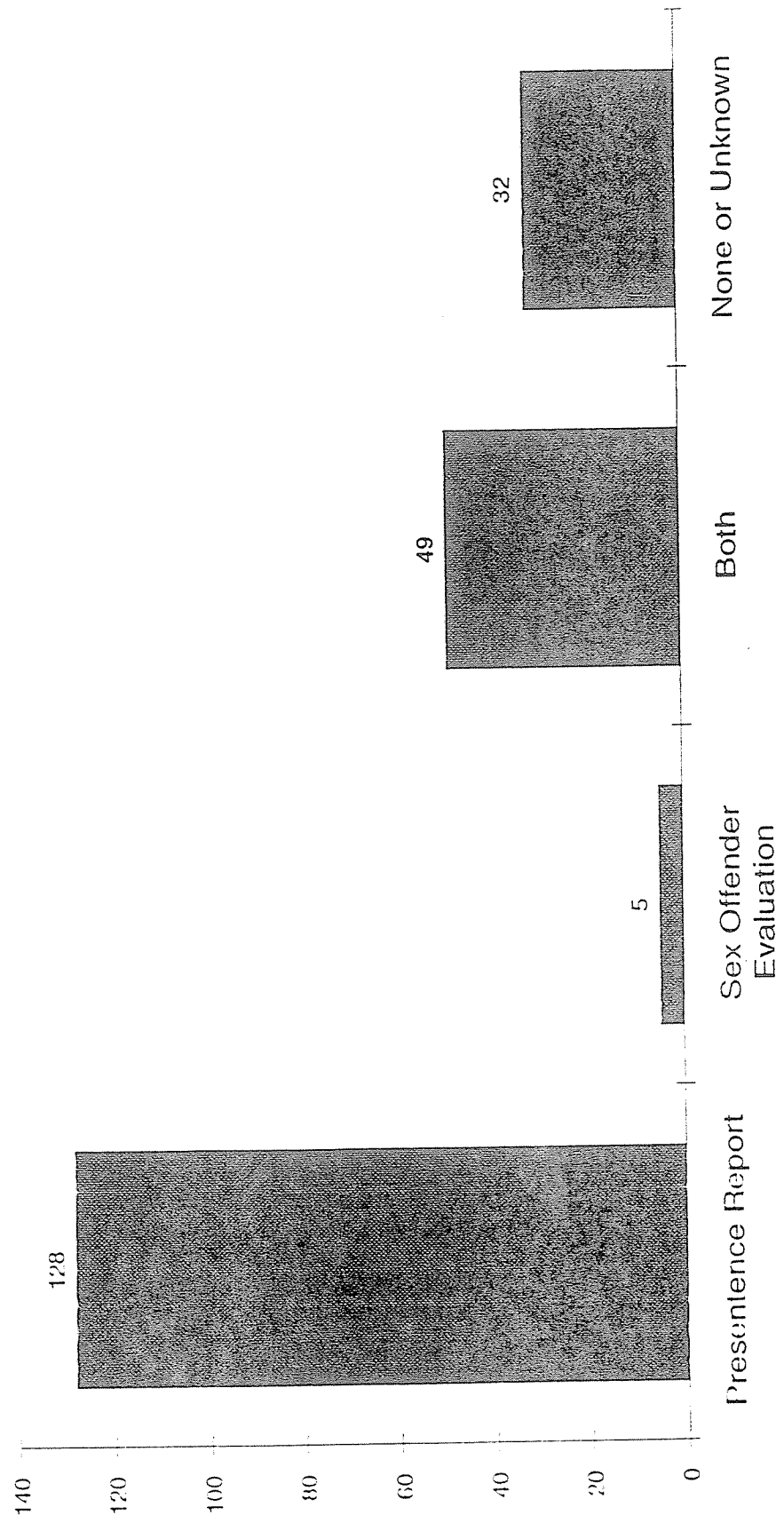


Chart 7 - Prior Sex Abuse Charges for  
Adults

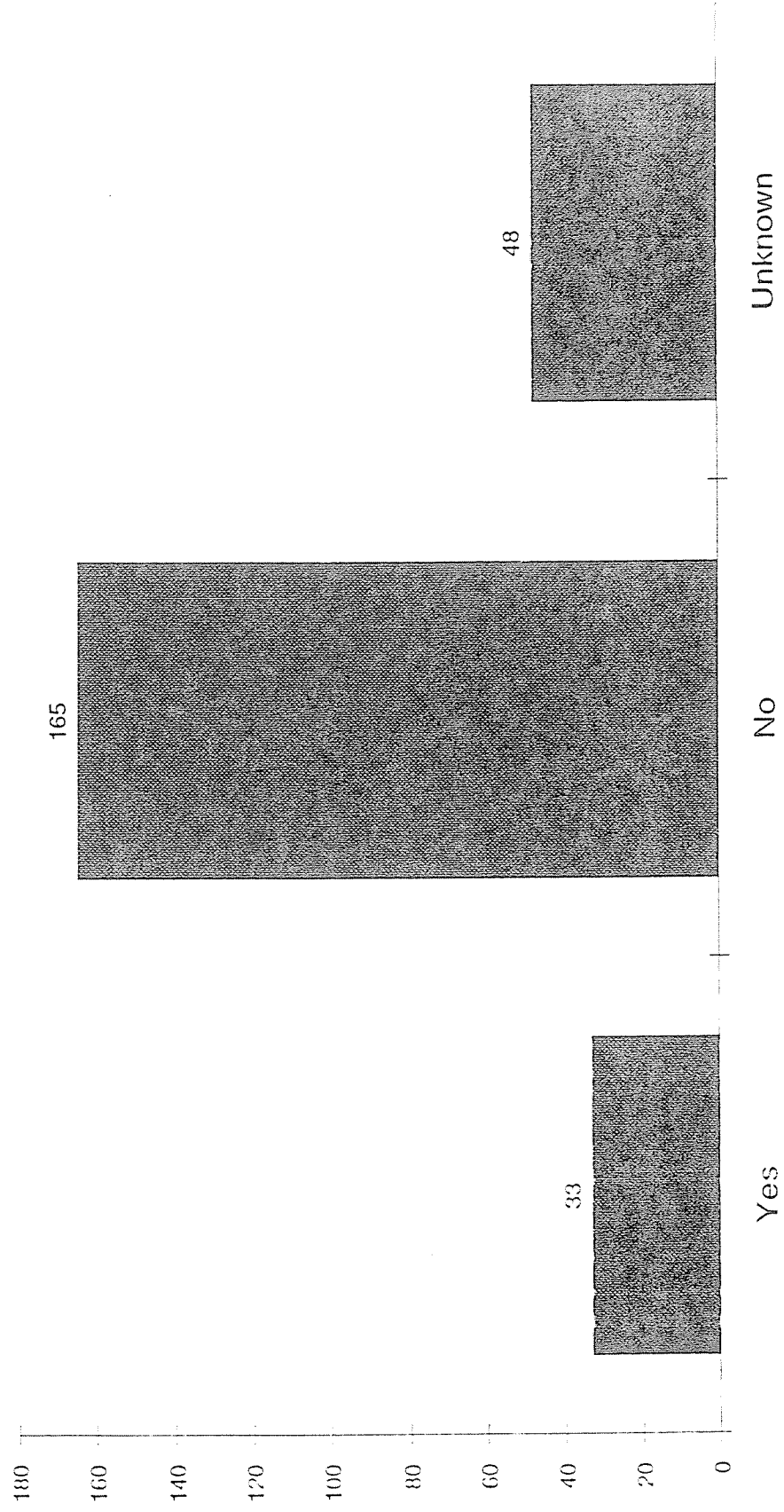




Chart 8-Outcome of Prior Sex Abuse  
Charges for Adults

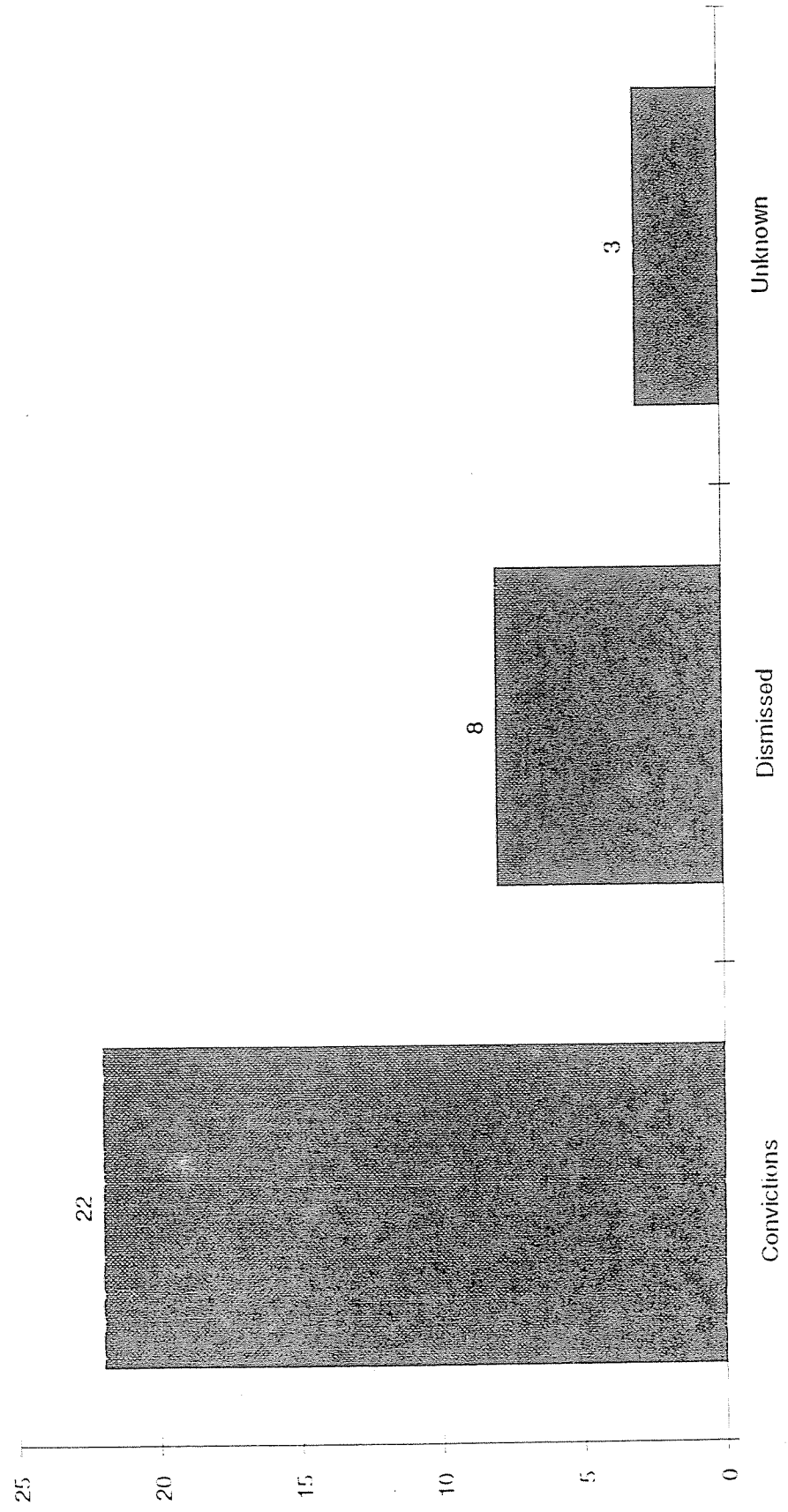
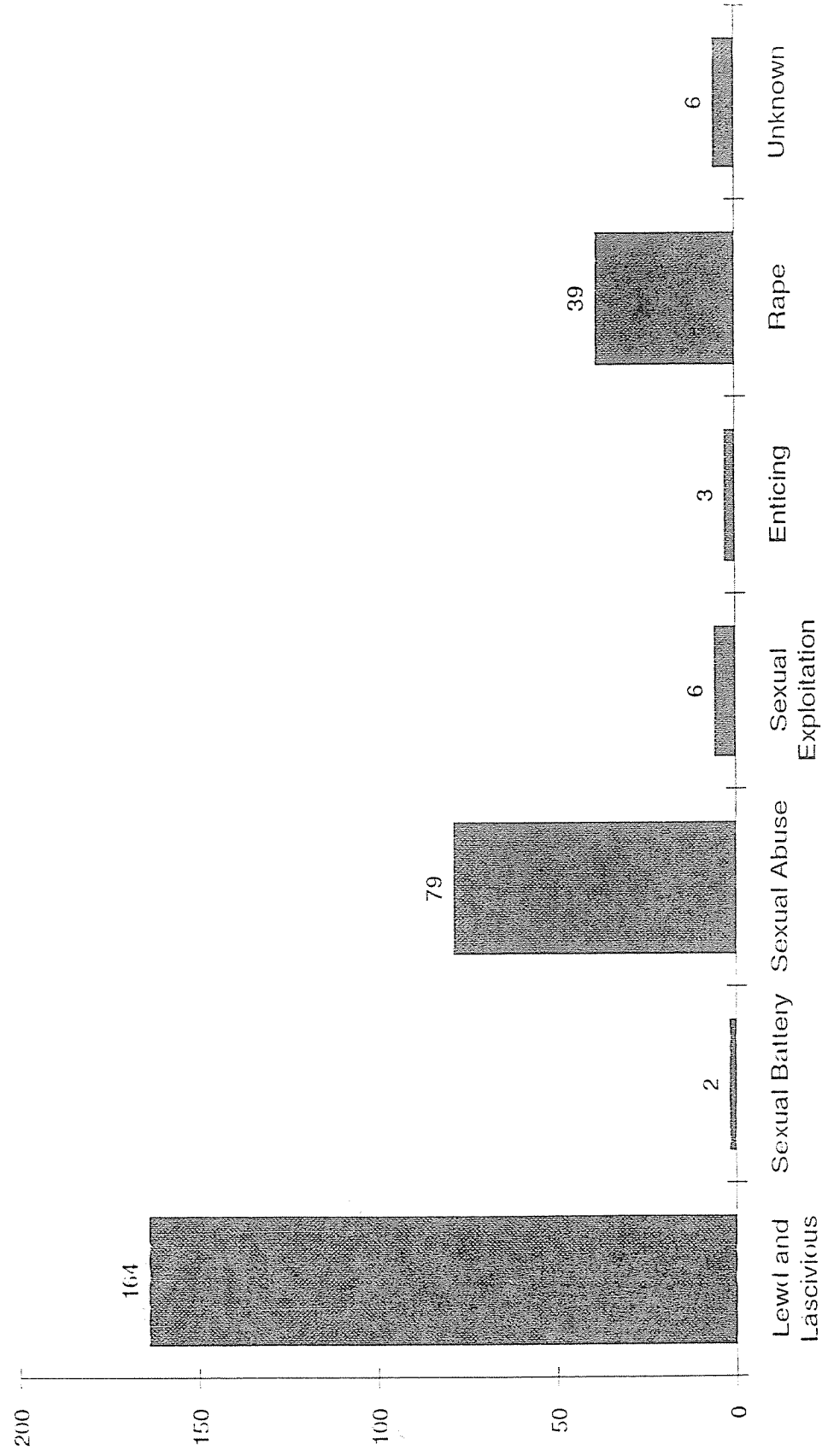


Chart 9-Charges for Adults



# Chart 10-Sentencing Information for Adults

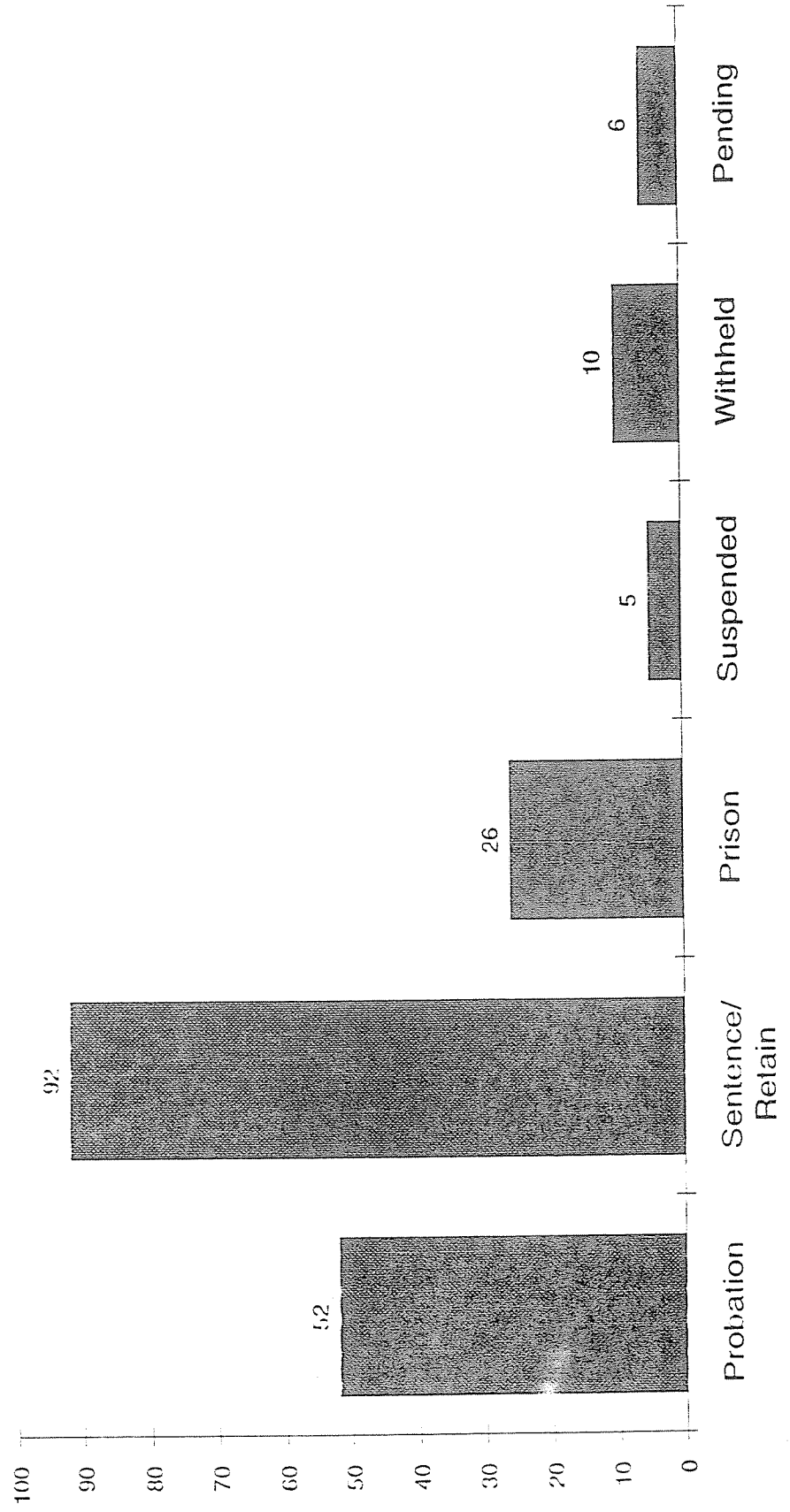
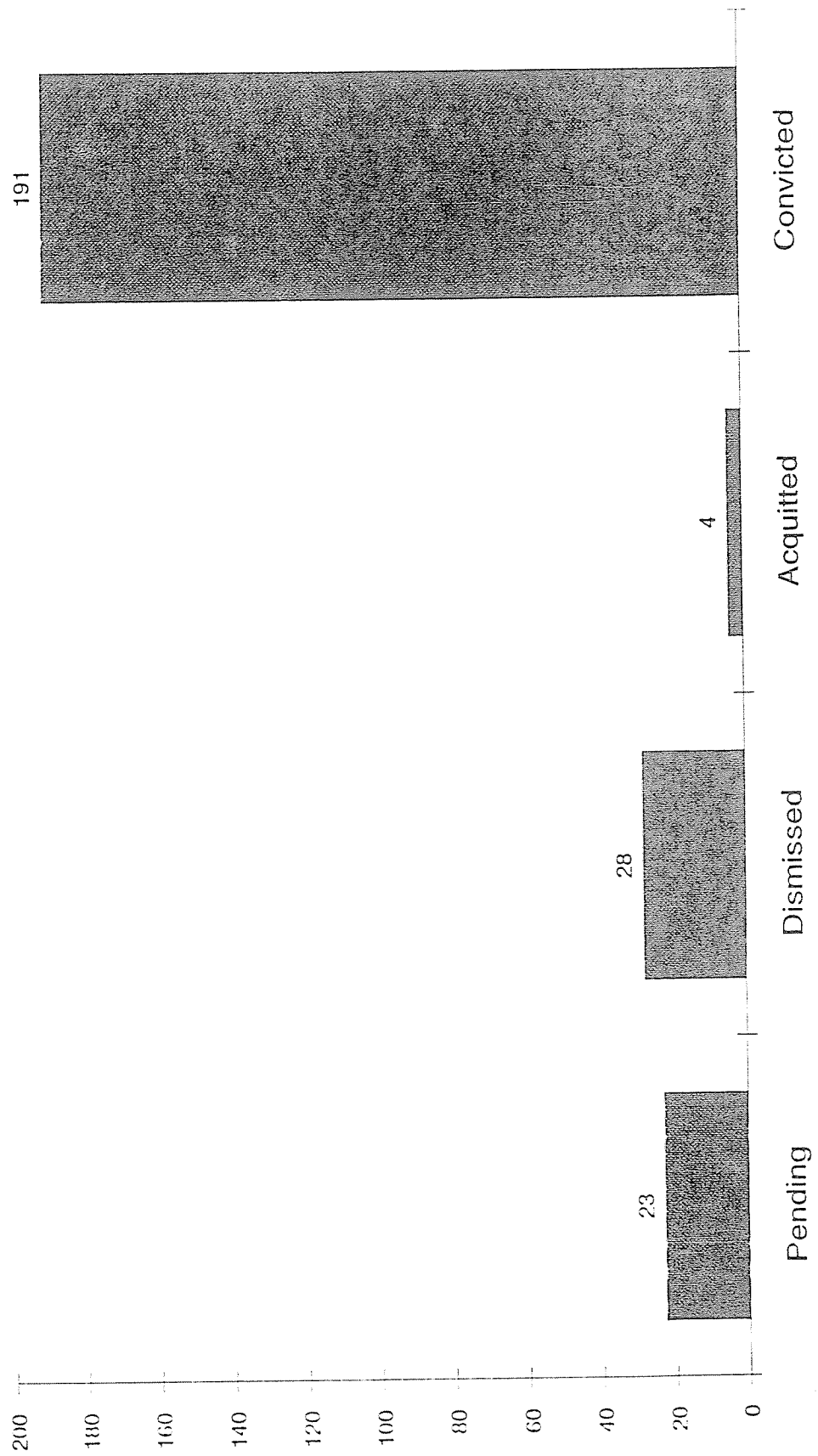


Chart 11-Determination of Guilt for Adults



# JUVENILE CASES

## ANALYSIS OF JUVENILE CASES FILED

There were a total of 126 juvenile cases filed from July 1, 1991, to June 30, 1992, as reported by the court clerks in the forty-four Idaho counties. Accurate and complete information on juveniles was most difficult to obtain because of different interpretations by the judiciary of standards of confidentiality in juvenile cases. The majority of the judges in the state interpreted standards of confidentiality of juvenile records to extend to the collection of research data and generally would not grant full access to the records. The usual manner that the project team collected juvenile data was to query a court clerk or secretary in a prosecutor's office for a limited amount of descriptive data in the file. Under no circumstances was the data "name-linked" to the juvenile charged. The limitations of court records for the research team made it most difficult to provide complete information for this report.

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### VICTIM GENDER FOR JUVENILES

<u>Sex</u>	<u>Number of Victims</u>
Male	5
Female	30
Unknown	91

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#### Gender of Victims for Juveniles

The gender of the victims could only be determined in 35 cases. Based on that number, 14% (N=5) of the victims were male and 86% (N=30) were female. This closely parallels the adult cases where 89% of the victims were female and 11% male. In the majority of the cases the gender could not be determined. The unknown category of victim gender comprised 72% (N=91) of the total of 126 cases.

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AGE OF VICTIMS FOR JUVENILES

<u>Age</u>	<u>Number of Victims</u>
0-3 years	3
4-7 years	12
8-11 years	8
12-15 years	12
16-17 years	2
Unknown Ages	95

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Age of Victims for Juveniles

Of the 126 juvenile cases reported during the study period, the age of the victims is known for 37 of the victims. (The number of the victims is higher than the total number of defendants because of multiple victims.) Victims from 1-3 years of age comprise 8% (N=3) of the study population. Victims from ages 4-7 years comprise 32% (N=12) of the study population. Children 8-11 years were victims in 21% (N=8) of the known cases. Another 32% (N=12) were from 12-15 years of age and the remaining 5% (N=2) were 16-17 years of age. The lack of access to court records hindered the research team in making a final determination on ages of all victims.

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NUMBER OF VICTIMS FOR JUVENILES OFFENDERS

<u>Victims</u>	<u>Juveniles</u>
One	30
Two	2
Three	2
Unknown	92

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Number of Victims for Juvenile Offenders

The study indicated that 88% (N=30) of the defendants had been charged with a crime against a single victim. Two of the defendants had 2 victims and the remaining 2 defendants had 3 victims. Although this pattern resembles the pattern in the adult cases, the large unknown category could significantly alter the data.

Sex Offender Evaluation for Juveniles

A significant number of the records could not be reviewed for this report. The primary reason for this was that judges would not allow the research team to access case files because of different interpretations of the standard of confidentiality for juveniles. Undoubtedly the majority of the juvenile cases had a report submitted to the sentencing judge by the Department of Health and Welfare before sentencing but the actual details of the information in that report were not available.



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SENTENCING INFORMATION FOR JUVENILES

<u>Sentence</u>	<u>Number of Defendants</u>
Probation	78
YRA Confinement	12
Suspended Sentence	17
Case Dismissed	12
Unknown or Pending	7

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Sentencing Information for Juveniles

Sentencing data were much more accurate with juveniles than the previously discussed variables. Dispositional data was ascertained in a total of 119 of the 126 cases. The case against the defendant was dismissed in 10% (N=12) of the juveniles. Probation was the disposition for 65% (N=78) of the known cases. YRA confinement was the disposition in 10% (N=12) of the known cases. A suspended sentence was given in 14% (N=17) of the cases and the rest are unknown or pending.

# STATEWIDE CASE ANALYSIS

## STATEWIDE CASE ANALYSIS

This year's report includes the first analysis of data that is standardized to the population in each of the forty four Idaho counties based on the 1990 U.S. Census. This allows for a valid comparison of the prosecution of child sexual abuse throughout the state. The data are reported based on a standard of 10,000 persons. Smaller counties are corrected to conform with this reporting standard and therefore the comparisons are accurate throughout the state.

There were 246 adult and 126 juvenile cases of child abuse filed in district and juvenile courts during the period of July 1, 1991-June 30, 1992. The total number of cases filed for the period covered by this report was 372.

### Incidence of Case Filings by County-Table 1

The overall prosecution 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 office in each of the 44 counties. This information was verified with the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney in each county. The data gathered from those two primary sources were included in this report.

Case filings were standardized based on the most recent census data. The rate for adults was calculated and is reported for each county in the column Rate/A. The rate for juveniles was calculated and is reported for each county in the column Rate/J. A total rate for each county was calculated and the combined adult and juvenile rate is reported in the column Tot/Rate. Butte, Camas, Clark, Custer, Lemhi, Lewis, and Teton reported no cases and their rate is reported as 0.

THE TOTAL RATE OF THE PROSECUTION OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE FOR THE STUDY PERIOD WAS 4.18/10,000. THE STANDARD DEVIATION WAS 2.76/10,000. THIS INDICATES THAT 68% OF THE COUNTIES FALL WITHIN A RANGE OF PLUS OR MINUS 2.76 CASES/10,000 FROM THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF CASES.

These data should be used cautiously because a relatively small number of counties with a larger number of cases filed can have a greater impact on the average (mean) for the state. A reanalysis of the data was made that did not include the two counties with the highest rate of prosecution and the average (mean) was 3.69/10,000 with a standard deviation of 1.8/10,000. This indicates the 68% of the cases were within plus or minus 1.8/10,000 cases of the average.

#### Prosecution in the 10 Most Populated Counties-Chart 12

This chart shows prosecution of child sex abuse in the 10 most heavily populated counties. The population varies from 205,775 in Ada County to 26,662 in Bonner. Total/Rate varies from a high of 4.8 in Bingham to a low of 2.0 in Twin Falls County. The most populous county, Ada, had a rate less than the statewide Total/Rate but within the range of most counties.

#### Prosecution in the 10 Least Populated Counties-Chart 13

This chart shows the prosecution of child sex abuse in the 10 least populated counties. Camas, Custer, Lewis, and Teton reported no cases. The Total/Rate varied from a low of 0.0 in Camas, Custer, Lewis, and Teton to a high of 14.2 in Boise County.

#### Idaho Counties with Greatest Prosecution of Child Sex Abuse-Chart 14

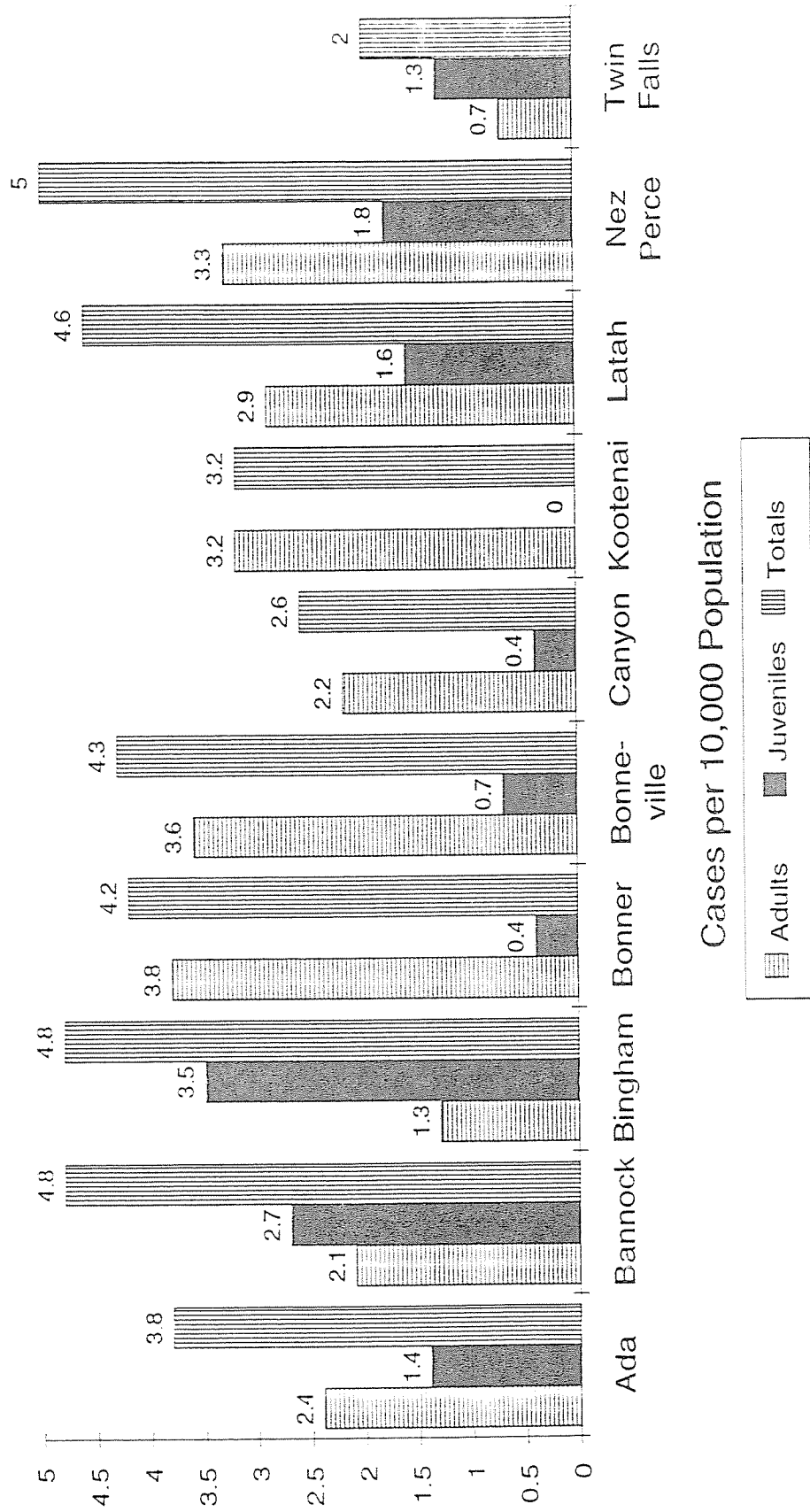
This chart indicates the 10 counties with the highest prosecution of child sex abuse. The rate is shown for Adults, Juveniles and the Total Rate per 10,000. The figures are standardized based on 1990 census data. Based on this analysis, Boise County had the highest Total/Rate with 14.2. Boise County, with a total population of 3,509, had 3 adult and 2 juvenile offenders for a total of 5 offenders. Valley County reported the second highest rate of prosecution with a Total/Rate of 11.5. Valley County, with a population of 6,109, had 6 adult and 1 juvenile offenders. Payette County had the third highest incidence with 7.3. Payette County, with a population of 16,434, had reports of 5 adults and 7 juveniles.

It is important to note that a few cases in a small population county can indicate a very high rate of prosecution. Trend analysis over time provide a clearer picture of rate of prosecution of child sexual abuse.

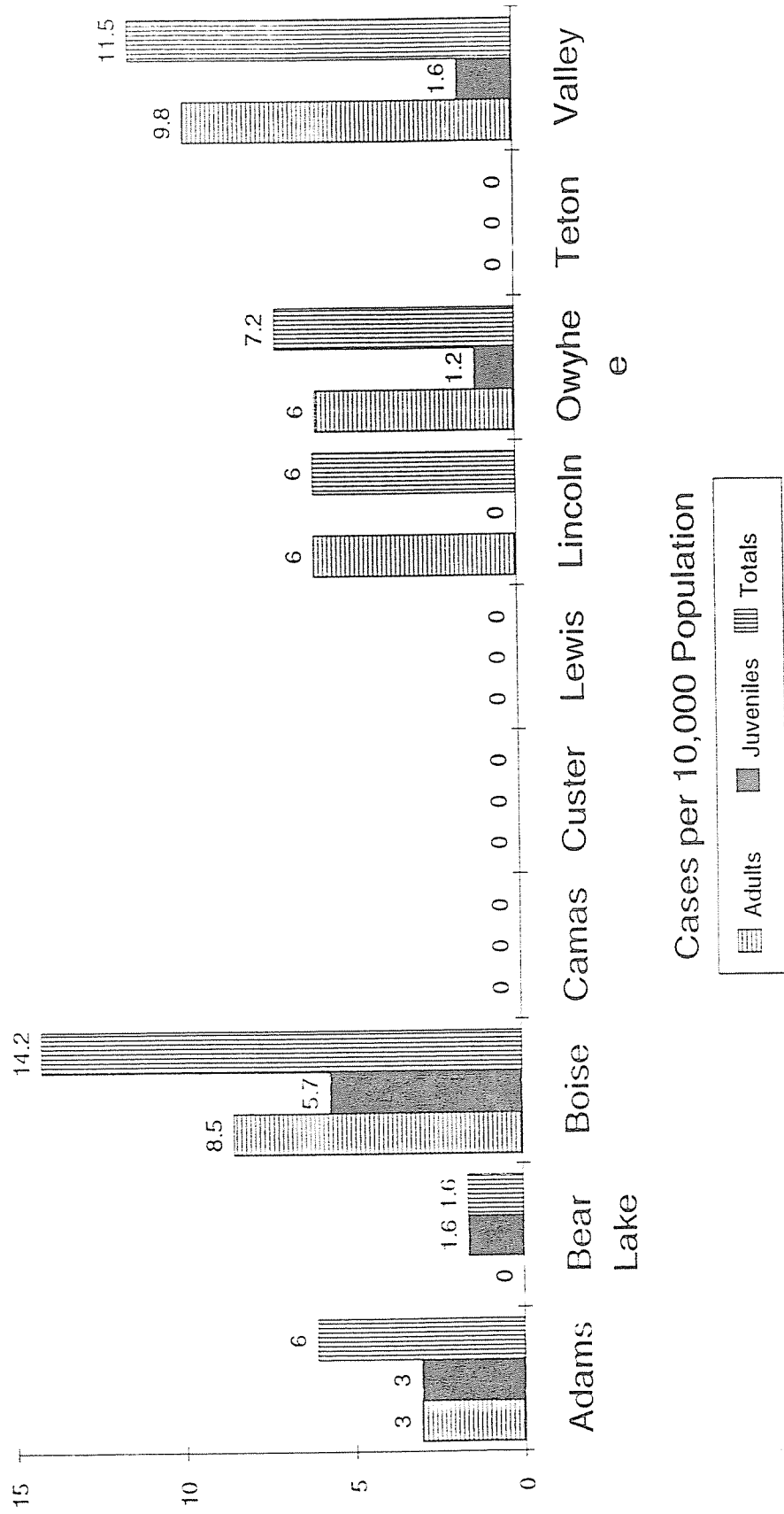
**Table 1-Incidence of Prosecutions by County(Rate/10,000 population)**

COUNTY	POPULATION	ADD	JUV	RATE/A	RATE/J	TOP/RATE	COUNTY	POPULATION	ADD	JUV	RATE/A	RATE/J	TOP/RATE
Ada	205,775	50	29	2.4	1.4	3.8	Gem	11,844	2	0	1.7	0	1.7
Adams	3,254	1	1	3.0	3.0	6.0	Gooding	11,633	1	3	.8	2.6	3.4
Bannock	66,026	14	18	2.1	2.7	4.8	Idaho	13,783	3	0	2.2	0	2.2
Bear Lake	6,084	0	1	0	1.6	1.6	Jefferson	16,543	4	4	2.4	2.4	4.8
Benewah	7,937	1	0	1.3	0	1.3	Jerome	15,138	4	3	2.6	2.0	4.6
Bingham	37,583	5	13	1.3	3.5	4.8	Kootenai	69,795	22	0	3.2	0	3.2
Blaine	13,552	2	2	1.5	1.5	3.0	Latah	30,617	9	5	2.9	1.6	4.6
Boise	3,509	3	2	8.5	5.7	14.2	Lemhi	6,899	0	0	0	0	0
Bonner	26,622	10	1	3.8	.4	4.2	Lewis	3,516	0	0	0	0	0
Bonneville	72,207	26	5	3.6	.7	4.3	Lincoln	3,308	2	0	6.0	0	6.0
Boundary	8,332	3	0	3.6	0	3.6	Madison	23,674	2	0	.8	0	.8
Butte	2,918	0	0	0	0	0	Minidoka	19,361	2	4	1.0	2.1	3.1
Camas	727	0	0	0	0	0	Nez Perce	33,754	11	6	3.3	1.8	5.0
Canyon	90,076	30	4	2.2	.4	2.6	Oneida	3,492	2	0	5.7	0	5.7
Caribou	6,963	1	0	1.4	0	1.4	Owyhee	8,392	5	1	6.0	1.2	7.2
Cassia	19,532	6	0	3.1	0	3.1	Payette	16,434	5	7	3.0	4.3	7.3
Clark	762	0	0	0	0	0	Power	7,086	1	1	1.4	1.4	2.8
Clearwater	8,505	1	0	1.2	0	1.2	Shoshone	13,931	2	0	1.4	0	1.4
Custer	4,133	0	0	0	0	0	Teton	3,439	0	0	0	0	0
Elmore	21,205	13	0	6.1	0	6.1	Twin Falls	53,580	4	7	.7	1.3	2.0
Franklin	9,232	0	1	0	1.1	1.1	Valley	6,109	6	1	9.8	1.6	11.5
Fremont	10,937	2	4	1.8	3.7	5.5	Washington	8,550	1	3	1.2	3.5	4.7

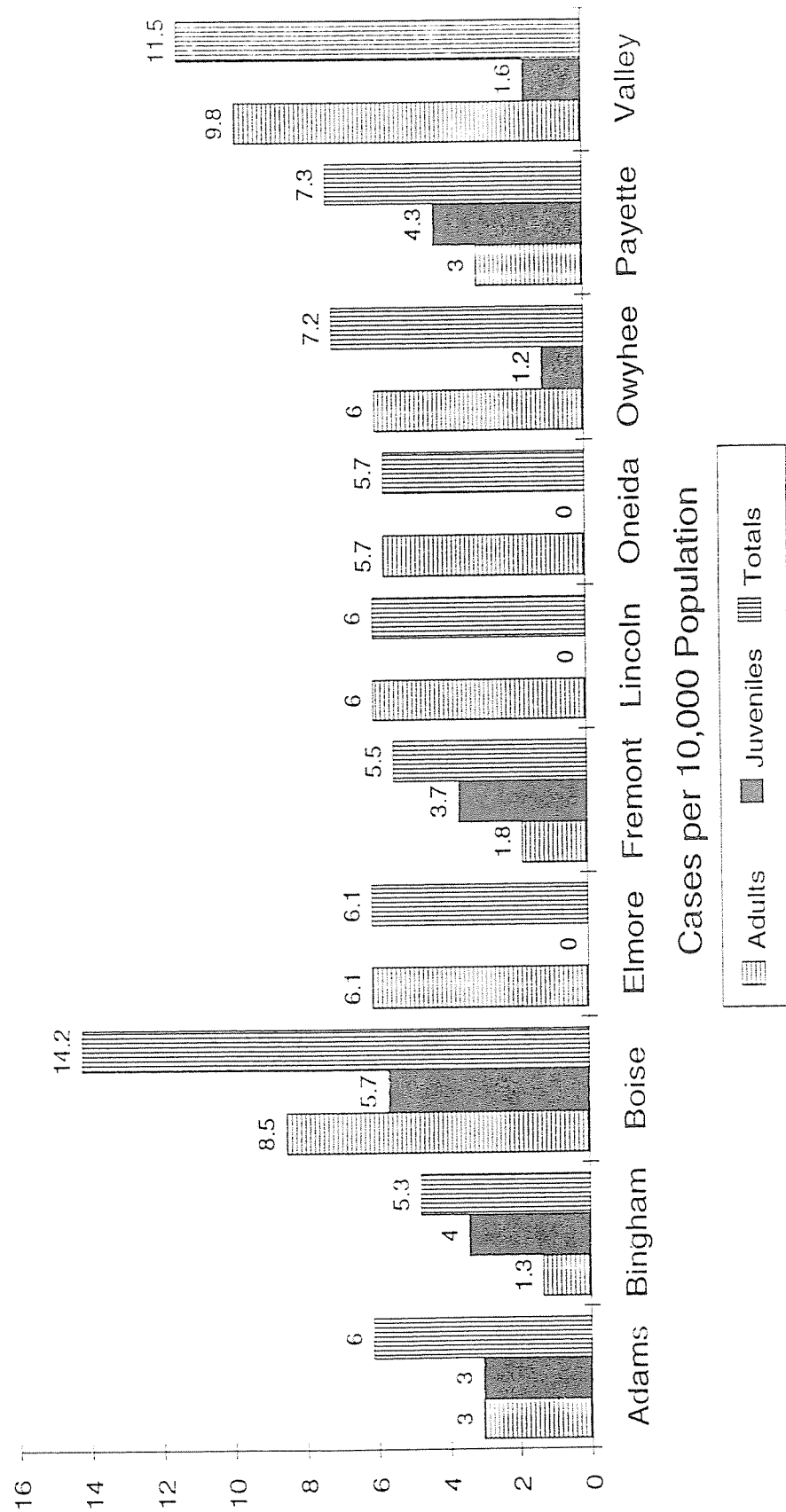
# Chart 12-Prosecution in the 10 Most Populated Counties



# Chart 13-Prosecution in the 10 Least Populated Counties



# Chart 14- Idaho Counties with Greatest Rate of Prosecution of Child Sex Abuse





## CONCLUSION

## CONCLUSION

The data in this report covers the period as designated by the Idaho Legislature for the annual report. Data were collected throughout Idaho by a Research Project Team in accordance with the guidelines specified by the Governor's and Attorney General's Offices. All counties that reported cases filed in their jurisdiction were visited for data collection from court files. In addition to on-site visits with the court clerk in each county, the number of cases filed was sent to the prosecuting attorney in each jurisdiction for verification. All corrections that were sent to the project team by December 15, 1992, were included in this analysis.

This report marks the first 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 rate of prosecution.

A total of 372 cases of child sexual abuse were reported during the study period (July 1, 1991-June 30, 1992). Of that number, 246 were adults and 126 were juveniles. The Total/Rate of prosecution (standardized to rate/10,000 based on the most recent census data) was 4.18/10,000.

The rate for the larger counties were grouped around the average prosecution rate for the state. Smaller counties had a higher rate but this information should be used in a guarded fashion. Because of small populations in a number of Idaho counties (see Table 1), a relatively small number of cases can seriously impact the total rates.

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

Most persons charged have no prior criminal convictions for child sexual abuse crimes. The majority plead guilty and are convicted. A significant portion are sent to prison.

Any conclusions about this information should be guarded because of the nature child sex abuse, low incidence of reporting, and the lack of adequate data for a trend analysis. More detailed research should be conducted to determine the actual trends over time. This research should include a more in depth analysis of the criminal history of the offenders, the dynamics of this crime between victim and offender, and the effectiveness of criminal sanctions against defendants. Because of the complexity of child sexual abuse behavior, it is essential that the analysis of this behavior extend beyond simply reporting incidence.