



# Profile of ODRC Sex Offenders Assessed at the Sex Offender Risk Reduction Center

Office of Policy  
Bureau of Research  
December, 2001

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01-2S

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At the Sex Offender Risk Reduction Center***

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December 2001

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## *EXECUTIVE SUMMARY*

- Between January 1, 1999, and May 31, 1999, there were 437 offenders assessed at the Sex Offender Risk Reduction Center.
- Using a sex offender typology based upon age of victim, 46% of those assessed were child molesters (victims under 13 years of age), 23% were teen molesters (victims age 13 through 17) and 21% were rapists (victims age 18 and over). Forty-one offenders (10%) had victims in two or more age categories, and the age of the victim could not be determined for 10 offenders.
- Of those assessed, 89% were sent to SORRC as the result of a current conviction for a sex offense and 11% were sent as the result of a previous conviction.
- Greater proportions of child molesters, teen molesters and offenders with multiple age victims were white, while a majority of the rapists were black.
- Child molesters and offenders with multiple age victims tended to be older than teen molesters and rapists.
- Child molesters (26%), rapists (22%) and offenders with multiple age victims (34%) were more likely to be classified as sexual predators than were teen molesters (10%).
- Child molesters were more likely than rapists, teen molesters or offenders with multiple age victims to have been married, to have a stable employment history and to have only graduated from high school.
- Rapists had a greater frequency of substance abuse, were more likely to have an unstable employment history and were more likely never married.
- When compared by offender type, offenders with multiple age victims had more prior arrests and more convictions for sexual offenses.
- Rapists had a greater frequency of prior convictions for violent offenses than offenders in the other three groups.
- Rapists were most likely to victimize females and strangers.
- More rapists tied up their victim, moved their victim, used a weapon, used force and committed their crime in a public place than the other types of sexual offenders.

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Introduction.....	1
Methodology.....	1
<i>Table 1: Sex Offender Grouped by Victim Age.....</i>	<i>3</i>
Current SORRC Characteristics.....	3
<i>Table 2: Reason for Admission to SORRC and Amount of Time Spent in SORRC.....</i>	<i>3</i>
Reason for Admission to SORRC	
Amount of Time Spent in SORRC	
Most Recent Sex Conviction.....	4
<i>Table 3: Most Recent Sex Conviction by Type of Sex Offender.....</i>	<i>4</i>
Judicial Designation.....	5
<i>Table 4: Judicial Designation by Type of Sex Offender.....</i>	<i>5</i>
Offender Characteristics.....	5
<i>Table 5: Offender Characteristics by Offender Type.....</i>	<i>7</i>
Age at Current Admission	
Race	
Marital Status	
Educational Attainment	
Employment Status	
Substance Abuse History	
Offender Upbringing.....	8
<i>Table 6: Characteristics of Offender's Upbringing by Offender Type.....</i>	<i>8</i>
Offender Sexually Abused as a Child	
Offender Physically Abused as a Child	
Primary Living Arrangement	
Offender Criminal History Characteristics.....	9
<i>Table 7: Characteristics of Prior Criminal Activity by Offender Type .....</i>	<i>10</i>
Prior Sex Related Arrests	
Prior Sex Related Convictions	
Convictions for Prior Violent Offense	
Evidence of Sexual Offending Without Arrest	
Victim and Victim/Offender Relationship Information.....	10
<i>Table 8: Characteristics of Victim &amp; Victim/Offender Relationship by Offender Type.....</i>	<i>11</i>
Total Number of Victims	
Victim Sex	
Victim Stranger to Offender	
Any Victims Not Related to Offender	
Sexual Offense Characteristics.....	12
<i>Table 9: Sexual Offense Characteristics by Offender Type.....</i>	<i>12</i>
Victim Tied Up	
Victim Transported to Another Location	
Was Any Weapon Used During the Commission of Any Sex Offense?	
Was Force Used During the Commission of Any Sex Offense?	
Was Any Sex Crime Committed in a Public Place?	
Was Offender on Drugs and/or Alcohol at Time Sex Offense Was Committed?	
Offender Denial.....	13
<i>Table 10: Denial of Most Recent Sex Offense by Offender Type .....</i>	<i>13</i>
Policy Implications.....	13

Suggestions for Future Research.....	14
Summary: General Description of Offenders Assessed at SORRC.....	16
Summary: Description of Child Molesters.....	17
Summary: Description of Teen Molesters.....	18
Summary: Description of Rapists.....	19
Summary: Description of Offenders with Multiple Age Victims.....	20
Appendix A: Variable List.....	21

# Profile of ODRC Offenders Assessed at the Sex Offender Risk Reduction Center

## INTRODUCTION

Every year for the past 3 years, approximately 1,500 male offenders have been admitted to the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC) as a result of receiving a conviction for a sexual or sexually motivated offense. In an effort to better manage the sex offender population, the Director of the ODRC mandated the implementation of a sex offender intake process. As a result, the Sex Offender Risk Reduction Center (SORRC) was opened in December of 1995. The center is located on the grounds of the Madison Correctional Institution (MACI) and houses 350 sex offenders. According to the Director of ODRC, SORRC was designed to accomplish two goals: “a) to complete sex offender-specific assessments on every sex offender committed to ODRC’s custody, focusing on identifying levels of risk to re-offend and developing treatment plans and b) to provide psycho-educational programming for all sex offenders, emphasizing victim awareness and relapse prevention.”<sup>1</sup>

For intake purposes, a sex offender is defined as a prisoner currently committed for a sexual offense as defined by chapter 2907 of the Ohio Revised Code, or who has a prior felony conviction for a sexual offense within fifteen years from his date of commitment. Furthermore, an offender can be labeled a sex offender after receiving a conviction for a non-sexual offense, if the motivation for the offense was sexual in nature. For example, consider an offender convicted of kidnapping or murder, for whom the motivation for the offense was sexual. In such instances, the offender would be labeled a sex offender. A prisoner is identified as a sexual offender, based upon those three criteria, by the male reception centers, Lorain Correctional Institution and the Correctional Reception Center, and is sent to SORRC prior to being sent to the parent institution. During calendar year 1999 commitments to ODRC for the three criteria totaled 1,509 offenders. This accounted for 8% of the total court commitments for the year.

The purpose of this study is to provide a descriptive analysis of sex offenders assessed at SORRC between January 1, 1999, through May 31, 1999, on various demographic, criminal, and social variables, as well as information on the most recent sexual offense and the victim.

## METHODOLOGY

Beginning January 1, 1999 through May 31, 1999, 525 offenders were sent to SORRC as a result of being identified as a sex offender. However, 88 offenders were not assessed at SORRC for various reasons, including but not limited to “the offender was not a sex offender”, “release date (EDS or EST) prohibited a full or partial assessment”,

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<sup>1</sup> Wilkinson, Director Reginald A. 2000. “Sex Offender Risk Reduction Center.” Association of State Correctional Administrators’ Publication, *Correctional Best Practices: Director’s Perspectives*

“assessment was done during a previous conviction”. As a result, this report is based upon the 437 sex offenders who were assessed at SORRC during the first five months of calendar 1999. Data collected included information contained in the pre-sentence investigation (PSI), the offender background investigation (OBI) report or any other Adult Parole Authority supplemental report as well as information collected at SORRC as part of the assessment process. See appendix A for a full list of all information collected from the PSI and the assessment.

Sex offenders were divided into four groups: Child Molesters (offenders with victims under the age of 13); Teen Molesters (offenders with victims between the ages of 13 and 17); Rapists (offenders with victims age 18 and over); and Multiple Age Victims (offenders with victims in at least two different age categories). The category title of “Multiple Age Victims” refers to those offenders convicted of sexually assaulting victims in two of the following categories: someone under the age of 13, someone between the ages of 13 and 17, someone 18 and over. The category title of “Rapists” is commonly used in sex offender literature to categorize offenders who commit a sex offense with an adult victim. The term “Rapist” does not necessarily refer to the crime of commission or conviction of the offender. These offenders can be convicted of non-rape offenses. See Table 3 for a breakdown of convictions by sex offender type. The separation between the two categories of offenders with victims under the age of 18 was used due to the difference in definitions and sentencing practices described in the Ohio Revised Code for an offender who sexually assaults a child under 13. A person who has sexual intercourse with a child under the age of 13, irrespective of any use of force, may be convicted of forcible rape for the offense and is eligible for life imprisonment. Victims’ ages were gathered from the offender’s pre-sentence investigation report. Offenders were excluded from the analysis if the age of the victim could not be determined. Therefore, when conducting analyses by type of offender, at least 10 offenders were excluded, reducing the study population to 427. Most tables are based on this number of cases. Where possible and relevant, information on all 437 offenders is reported.

As seen in Table 1, almost half of the offenders assessed at SORRC were child molesters (46%). When those offenders from the multiple age category who molested a child are considered, over half of the offenders assessed had molested a child under the age of 13 (56%). The remaining offenders were about equally split between teen molesters (23%) and rapists (21%). For those offenders in the multiple age category, 33 offenders had a victim under age 13 and a victim between the age of 13 and 17, 6 offenders had a victim under age 13 and a victim 18 and over, and 2 offenders had a victim between the age of 13 and 17 and a victim 18 and over. Compared to other studies describing ODRC sex offender cohorts, there was a slight increase in the number of teen molesters committed to the department, but no significant difference in the proportion of rapists (see Jayjohn, 1995<sup>2</sup>).

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<sup>2</sup> Jayjohn, Jennifer. 1995. “Sex Offender Report: Intake 1992.” Bureau of Research. Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction.

Table 1: Sex Offenders Grouped by Victim Age\*

<b>Offender Type</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Child Molester (Victims under 13)	196	46%
Teen Molester (Victims 13 through 17)	99	23%
Rapists (Victims 18 and over)	91	21%
Multiple (Victims in 2 or more age categories)	41	10%
<i>Child / Teen Molester (N=33)</i>		
<i>Child Molester / Rapist (N=6)</i>		
<i>Teen Molester / Rapist (N=2)</i>		
Total	427	100%
Missing (Victim age unknown)	10	

\*Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

## CURRENT SORRC CHARACTERISTICS

Reason for Admission to SORRC: A sex offender is defined as a prisoner currently serving a sentence for a sexual offense as defined by ORC 2907, or a prisoner who has a prior felony conviction for a sexual offense within fifteen years from his date of commitment. The majority of those assessed were admitted to SORRC because of a current sexual conviction (89%). Eleven percent was admitted because of a previous conviction for a sex crime.

Amount of Time Spent in SORRC: There were no apparent differences in the amount of time spent in SORRC between sex offender types. On average, sex offenders spent about 2.4 months in SORRC.

Table 2: Reason for Admission to SORRC and Amount of Time Spent in SORRC

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b><i>Reason for Admission to SORRC</i></b>		
Current Sexual Conviction	390	89%
Prior Sexual Conviction	47	11%
<b><i>Amount of Time Spent in SORRC</i></b>		
1 month or less	19	4%
2 – 3 months	180	41%
3 months or more	238	55%
Average	2.4 months	



### MOST RECENT SEX CONVICTION<sup>3</sup>

The most recent sexual offenses for which the offenders were convicted are listed in Table 3. It should be noted that within their most recent sex commitment, 77 offenders were convicted of more than one sex offense. The numbers of counts of a particular offense were not counted, but sex convictions of different sex crimes were counted. For example, a conviction for 5 counts of GSI, 3 counts of sexual battery and 2 counts of pandering obscenity, is counted as 3 convictions for a sex offense. Within the category of rapists (those with adult victims), 59% were convicted of rape and 23% were convicted of sexual battery. Among teen molesters 45% received a conviction for unlawful sex with a minor. Of the child molesters, 48% had a conviction for gross sexual imposition and 37% received a conviction for rape. In the category of offenders with multiple age victims, 33% received a conviction for rape and 36% received a conviction for gross sexual imposition.

Table 3: Most Recent Sex Conviction by Type of Offender\*

Current Sex Offense Conviction	Child Molester		Teen Molester		Rapist		Multiple Victims		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Kidnapping					1	1%			1	
Rape	90	37%	17	16%	56	59%	20	33%	183	36%
Sexual Battery	16	7%	19	18%	22	23%	4	7%	61	12%
Unlawful Sex With a Minor	4	2%	48	45%			8	13%	60	12%
Gross Sexual Imposition	116	48%	19	18%	15	16%	22	36%	172	34%
Sexual Imposition	1		1	1%			2	3%	4	1%
Felonious Sexual Penetration	2	1%							2	
Compelling Prostitution	1								1	
Solicit. after positive HIV Test					1	1%			1	
Dissem. Matter Harmful to Juv.	4	2%	1	1%			2	3%	7	1%
Pandering Obscenity	7	3%	2	2%			3	5%	12	2%
Total Sex Convictions	241		107		95		61		504	

Missing = 10 Respondents; percent and totals based on number of responses.

\*Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

<sup>3</sup> The 'most recent sex conviction' is the sex offense for which the offender was sent to SORRC and the 'current offense' is the offense for which the offender is currently incarcerated. In some instances, the current offense may not be a sex offense. For example, Inmate Doe is currently incarcerated for burglary, a crime he committed in 1998. However, he was sent to SORRC because of a sex conviction he received in 1994.

## JUDICIAL DESIGNATION

Ohio's Sex Offender Registration Law created 3 classifications of sex offenders: sexually oriented offender<sup>4</sup>, habitual sexual offender and sexual predator. Each classification carries varying degrees of registration and reporting requirements. A qualifying offender can only be classified an habitual sexual offender or a sexual predator through a decision of the sentencing judge. Registration requirements dictate that released convicts who have been classified as a sexually oriented offender verify their address with the county sheriff annually for 10 years after release from prison. Habitual sex offenders must verify residency annually for 20 years. Sexual predators must verify residency every 90 days for the rest of their lives. As Table 4 shows, 58% of offenders with multiple age victims, 55% of the child molesters, 36% of the teen molesters and 42% of the rapists received some type of classification. For those who received a designation, offenders with multiple age victims and rapists were more likely to be labeled sexual predators (34% and 22% respectively). Almost an equal number of child molesters were labeled sexually oriented or a sexual predator (27% and 26% respectively).

Table 4: Judicial Designation as by Type of Sex Offender\*

Judicial Designation	Child Molesters		Teen Molesters		Rapists		Multiple Age Victims		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
No such designation	88	45%	63	64%	53	58%	17	42%	221	52%
Sexually Oriented	56	27%	25	25%	15	17%	4	10%	100	23%
Sexual Predator	50	26%	10	10%	20	22%	14	34%	94	22%
Habitual Sexual Offender	2	1%	1	1%	3	3%	6	15%	12	3%
(Missing = 10)										

\*Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

## OFFENDER CHARACTERISTICS

Six characteristics were used to describe the sex offenders assessed at SORRC (Table 5). Age at current admission, race and educational attainment were based upon information contained in the pre-sentence investigation report (PSI) written for the current offense. Information concerning marital status, employment history and substance abuse was taken from the PSI written for the most recent sex offense.

Age at current admission: When looking at the age of offenders at the time of their current admission, child molesters and offenders with multiple age victims tended to be older, while teen molesters were the youngest. It is commonly found that child molesters tend to be older than teen molesters and rapists (Jayjohn, 1995; Konicek, 2001<sup>5</sup>). The youngest sex offender assessed was 15 and the oldest offender was 85. Both were identified as child molesters.

<sup>4</sup> The reception centers can designate an offender as "Sexually Oriented" if not done so by the court. Only the courts can designate an offender as "Sexual Predator" or "Habitual Sexual Offender."

<sup>5</sup> Konicek, Paul. 2001. "Ten Year Recidivism Follow-up of 1989 Sex Offender Releases." Bureau of Planning and Evaluation. Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction.

Race: This sex offender cohort falls in line with other Ohio sex offender studies in that a larger proportion of child and teen molesters were white (79% and 65% respectively), while a greater proportion of rapists were black (60%) (Jayjohn, 1995; Konicek, 2001). For this population, a majority of the offenders with multiple age victims were white (77%).

Marital status: When compared by type, 65% of the rapists had never been married, while 34% of the child molesters, 44% of the offenders with multiple age victims, and 50% of the teen molesters had never been married. When compared to the other three types of sex offenders, child molesters had a greater proportion (26%) married at the commencement of the most recent sexual assault and a lower portion (44%) never married.

Educational attainment: At the time of their current admission to ODRC, offenders with multiple age victims were the least likely to have graduated from high school; 38% of the teen molesters, 41% of the child molesters, and 30% of the rapists had a high school degree only. Compared to the other offender types a smaller proportion of offenders with multiple age victims had less than a high school education only (44%), but a larger proportion had more than a high school education (27%).

Employment: A greater proportion of child and teen molesters had stable employment at least 1 year preceding their arrest for their most recent sex offense conviction (56% and 53%, respectively). A larger proportion of rapists, 49%, had seasonal or unstable employment, while, at 15%, a larger proportion of offenders with multiple age victims were retired or disabled during the year preceding their arrest.

Substance abuse: In an effort to determine if a pattern of substance abuse existed in the 12 month period preceding the arrest for the most recent sex offense, any interference with family, work, social, interpersonal, physical, and mental functioning as a result of drug or alcohol usage was considered. Other considerations included a diagnosis of chemical dependency, alcohol or drug use following treatment, pattern of frequent drug or alcohol abuse, evidence of serious disruption of functioning (including multiple arrests for consumption, DWI/DUI), etc. With that in mind, a smaller proportion of teen molesters (18%) and child molesters (28%) had a history of substance abuse than rapists (45%) and offenders with multiple age victims (34%).

Table 5: Offender Characteristics by Offender Type\*

	Child Molesters		Teen Molesters		Rapists		Multiple Age Victims		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Age at Current Admission										
25 and younger	31	16%	29	29%	19	21%	9	22%	88	21%
26-30	24	12%	19	19%	21	23%	2	5%	66	16%
31-35	42	21%	15	15%	12	13%	8	20%	77	18%
36-40	33	17%	18	18%	25	28%	6	15%	82	19%
41 and older	67	34%	18	18%	14	15%	16	39%	114	27%
Mean	37.8		32.3		32.7		37.7		35.5	
(Missing = 10)										
Race										
Black	41	21%	35	35%	55	60%	10	24%	141	33%
White	155	79%	64	65%	36	40%	31	77%	287	67%
(Missing=10)										
Marital Status										
Never Married	65	34%	47	50%	59	65%	18	44%	189	45%
Married	50	26%	18	19%	11	12%	9	22%	88	21%
Separated	10	5%	4	4%	1	1%	4	10%	19	5%
Divorced	50	26%	21	22%	20	22%	8	20%	99	24%
Common Law	13	7%	3	3%			2	5%	18	4%
Widower	2	1%	1	1%					3	1%
(Missing=21)										
Educational Attainment										
Less than high school	92	50%	45	48%	50	58%	19	46%	206	51%
High school graduate	76	41%	36	38%	26	30%	11	27%	149	38%
More than HS, no degree	13	7%	12	13%	7	8%	7	17%	39	9%
Post HS degree	5	3%	1	1%	3	4%	4	10%	13	3%
(Missing=30)										
Employment Status										
Stable, 1 year or longer	106	56%	51	53%	34	42%	19	48%	210	52%
Retired, disabled	25	13%	7	7%	7	9%	6	15%	45	11%
Seasonal, unstable	57	30%	38	40%	40	49%	15	38%	150	37%
(Missing=32)										
Substance Abuse History										
No interference with functioning	142	72%	81	82%	50	55%	27	66%	300	70%
Some indication of abuse	54	28%	18	18%	41	45%	14	34%	127	30%
(Missing=10)										

\*Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

## OFFENDER UPBRINGING

Offender upbringing is described in Table 6 using 3 different variables: childhood sexual abuse, childhood physical abuse and primary living arrangement. This information was contained in the pre-sentence investigation report as self-report information and may not have been verified by another source.

Childhood sexual and physical abuse: Regarding whether an offender had been sexually or physically abused as a child, 15% of the offenders with multiple age victims and 13% of the child molesters reported being sexually abused. Offenders with multiple age victims also reported a greater percentage of childhood physical abuse (17%). Few rapists reported being sexually or physically abused as a child (6% and 7% respectively).

Primary living arrangement: We also looked at the primary living arrangement of the offender from birth to age 18. If the offender was moved from caregiver to caregiver, we tried to code with whom the offender was with for the majority of the time from birth to age 9. At 65% and 64%, offenders with multiple age victims and rapists, respectively, were the least likely to have been raised by both parents. Compared to the other offender types, rapists were more likely raised by their mother. At 83%, a greater proportion of child molesters was raised by both parents. Very few of the offenders were raised in foster care or by other relatives.

Table 6: Characteristics of Offender's Upbringing by Offender Type\*

	Child Molesters		Teen Molesters		Rapists		Multiple Age Victims		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b><i>Offender Sexually Abused as a Child</i></b>										
No	170	87%	92	95%	84	94%	35	85%	381	90%
Yes	25	13%	5	5%	5	6%	6	15%	41	10%
(Missing=15)										
<b><i>Offender Physically Abused as a Child</i></b>										
No	180	92%	86	89%	83	93%	34	83%	383	91%
Yes	15	8%	11	11%	6	7%	7	17%	39	9%
(Missing=15)										
<b><i>Primary Living Arrangement*</i></b>										
Both parents	130	83%	58	72%	48	64%	26	65%	262	74%
Mother only	18	12%	18	22%	22	29%	9	23%	67	19%
Father only	3	2%	1	1%			2	5%	6	2%
Foster care	1	1%	2	2%	2	3%	1	3%	6	2%
Other relatives	5	3%	2	2%	3	4%	2	5%	12	3%
(Missing=84)										

\*Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

## OFFENDER CRIMINAL HISTORY CHARACTERISTICS

The summaries below are detailed in Table 7.

Prior sex related arrests: When looking at prior arrests for a sex related offense, 69% of the offenders with multiple age victims had such an arrest; 26% of the rapists and 14% each of the child and teen molesters had such an arrest.

Regarding the mean age when first arrested for a sex offense, child molesters tended to be older than teen molesters, offenders with multiple age victims and rapists (ages 34, 29, 28 and 27 respectively). Within the child molester group, the youngest offender was 14 years old and the oldest offender was 85 when first arrested. If there was no prior arrest for a sex offense, age at the current arrest was used.

Prior sex related conviction: Given that offenders with multiple age victims were more likely to have had a prior sex related arrest, it was not surprising that approximately 69% had at least one prior sex related conviction. Of the rapists, 16% had a prior sex related conviction, while less than 10% of the child and teen molesters had one or more such convictions. Again, child molesters tended to be older than the other two offender types when first convicted for a sex offense.

Prior Conviction for a violent offense (felony or misdemeanor)<sup>6</sup>: Half the rapists had been previously convicted of a violent offense, while 26% of the child molesters, 38% of the teen molesters, and 40% of the offenders with multiple age victims had been previously convicted for a violent offense.

Evidence of sexual offending without arrest: In the last section of this table, we recorded if family, friends or others accused the offender of sexually acting out but no charges were ever filed. For example, in one PSI a family member stated the offender had been in trouble as a child for touching a neighbor kid, but no formal charges were ever filed. Considering that type of scenario, 42% of the child molesters, 32% of teen molesters and 39% of the offenders with multiple age victims had been accused of sexual assault without being charged. When compared to the other types of offenders, only 8% of the rapists had been accused of a previous sexual assault without being charged.

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<sup>6</sup> Refer to ORC 2901.01 (A)(9)(a) for a complete list of “offenses of violence”.

Table 7: Characteristics of Prior Criminal Activity by Offender Type\*

	Child Molesters		Teen Molesters		Rapists		Multiple Age Victims		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>Prior Sex Related Arrests</b>										
None	170	87%	85	86%	68	75%	13	32%	336	79%
1	21	11%	10	10%	16	18%	20	49%	67	16%
2 or more	5	3%	4	4%	7	8%	8	20%	24	6%
(Missing = 10)										
<b>Mean Age at 1<sup>st</sup> Sex Related Arrest</b>										
	34.7		29.5		27.0		28.1		31.3	
<b>Prior Sex Related Convictions</b>										
None	183	93%	91	92%	76	84%	13	32%	363	85%
1	11	6%	4	4%	11	12%	24	59%	50	12%
2 or more	2	1%	4	4%	4	4%	4	10%	14	3%
(Missing = 10)										
<b>Mean Age at 1<sup>st</sup> Sex Related Conviction</b>										
	35.6		30.1		27.9		28.8		32.4	
<b>Convictions for Prior Violent Offense</b>										
None	146	75%	61	62%	45	50%	25	61%	277	65%
1	31	16%	21	21%	29	32%	8	20%	89	21%
2 or more	19	10%	17	17%	17	19%	8	20%	61	14%
(Missing = 10)										
<b>Evidence of Sexual Offending Without Arrest</b>										
No	113	58%	66	68%	84	92%	25	61%	288	68%
Yes	82	42%	31	32%	7	8%	16	39%	136	32%
(Missing = 13)										

\*Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

## VICTIM AND VICTIM/OFFENDER RELATIONSHIP INFORMATION

The summaries below are detailed in Table 8.

Total number of victims: Overall, when compared to the other types of offenders, teen molesters were most likely to have only 1 victim (85%). Approximately 74% of the child molesters and 80% of the rapists had only one victim. All the offenders in the “Multiple Age Victims” group had more than one victim. Altogether, the 196 child molesters victimized a total of 285 persons under the age of 13, the 99 teen molesters victimized 125 persons between the age of 13 and 17, and the 99 rapists had a total of 114 victims aged 18 and older. The 41 offenders with victims in multiple age categories victimized approximately 125 persons. The total number of victims could not be determined for one offender in the ‘multiple age victim’ category as the number of victims of a prior conviction was not revealed. However, that particular offender also received a conviction for sexually assaulting 2 ex-wives and 3 biological children. Overall, the 426 offenders included in the sexual typology were convicted of sexually victimizing 785 persons.

Victim sex: Overall, 87% of the victims were female. Offenders with multiple age victims and child molesters were more likely to have both male and female victims (17% and 4% respectively). At 20%, offenders with multiple age victims had a greater proportion of “male

only” victims when compared to child molesters, teen molesters and rapists (10%, 8% and 6% respectively).

Relationship between offender and victim: Victim/Offender relationships were examined in two ways: “was the victim a stranger to offender?” and “were any victims not related to offender?” With that in mind, 43% of the rapists indicated that their victims’ were a stranger, while a much smaller proportion of offenders with multiple age victims, child molesters and teen molesters victimized total strangers. Indeed, child molesters more frequently victimized relatives only (51%), while only 27% of the offenders with multiple age victims, 24% of the teen molesters and 3% of the rapists limited their victimization to family members.

Table 8: Characteristics of Victim and Victim/Offender Relationship by Offender Type\*

	Child Molesters		Teen Molesters		Rapists		Multiple Age Victims		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>Total Number of Victims</b>										
1	145	74%	84	85%	73	80%			302	71%
2	27	14%	9	9%	15	17%	22	55%	73	17%
3 or more	24	12%	6	6%	3	3%	18	45%	51	12%
(Missing = 11)										
<b>Victim Sex</b>										
Female only	169	86%	89	90%	86	94%	26	63%	370	87%
Male only	19	10%	8	8%	5	6%	8	20%	40	9%
Both male and female	8	4%	2	2%			7	17%	17	4%
(Missing = 10)										
<b>Victim Stranger to Offender</b>										
No	181	93%	91	92%	51	57%	35	88%	358	85%
Yes	14	7%	8	8%	38	43%	5	13%	65	15%
(Missing = 14)										
<b>Any Victims Not Related to Offender</b>										
Only related	100	51%	24	24%	3	3%	11	27%	138	32%
Any non-related	95	49%	75	76%	88	97%	30	73%	288	68%
(Missing = 11)										

\*Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.



## SEXUAL OFFENSE CHARACTERISTICS

Table 9 details characteristics of the most serious sexual offense of these offenders. In several ways rapist patterns differed from molester patterns. Of the rapists 7% tied their victims up, 30% moved their victim from whence they met the victim to another location, 57% used a weapon during the commission of the sex offense, 99% used force<sup>7</sup>, 19% committed their sexual assault in a public place and 44% reported being on drugs and/or alcohol at the commencement of the sexual assault. Although not as prevalent as among rapists, approximately one fifth of the offenders with multiple age victims moved their victim to another location and used a weapon during the commission of the sexual attack. Child molesters and teen molesters had very small numbers of offenders who tied their victims up, moved their victim, used a weapon or committed their sex crime in a public place. Less than one fifth of the offenders with multiple age victims, child and teen molesters reported being on drugs or alcohol at the commencement of the sexual assault. However, 56% of the offenders with multiple age victims, 54% of the child molesters and 42% of the teen molesters used force during the commission of a sex offense.

Table 9: Sexual Offense Characteristics by Offender Type\*

	Child Molesters		Teen Molesters		Rapists		Multiple Age Victims		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b><i>Victim Tied Up</i></b>										
No	190	97%	96	97%	84	92%	41	100%	411	97%
Yes	5	3%	3	3%	7	7%	0		15	3%
(Missing = 11)										
<b><i>Victim Transported to Another Location</i></b>										
No	186	95%	89	91%	64	70%	33	80%	372	88%
Yes	9	5%	9	9%	27	30%	8	20%	53	12%
(Missing = 12)										
<b><i>Was Any Weapon Used During the commission of Any Sex Offense?</i></b>										
No	189	96%	88	90%	39	43%	32	78%	348	82%
Yes	7	4%	10	10%	52	57%	9	22%	78	18%
(Missing = 11)										
<b><i>Was Force Used During the Commission of Any Sex Offense?</i></b>										
No	89	46%	56	57%	1	1%	18	44%	164	39%
Yes	106	54%	42	43%	90	99%	23	56%	261	61%
(Missing = 12)										
<b><i>Was Any Sex Crime Committed in a Public Place?</i></b>										
No	185	95%	86	89%	74	81%	37	90%	382	90%
Yes	10	5%	11	11%	17	19%	4	10%	42	10%
(Missing = 13)										
<b><i>Was Offender on Drugs and/or Alcohol at Time Sex Offense Was Committed?</i></b>										
No	154	79%	82	83%	51	56%	33	80%	320	75%
Drugs or alcohol	37	19%	14	14%	37	41%	6	15%	94	22%
Drugs and alcohol	5	3%	3	3%	3	3%	2	5%	13	3%
(Missing = 10)										

\*Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

<sup>7</sup> Force was defined as any of the following: using, displaying or implying a weapon; actual or the threat of force; coercion or intimidation; supplying the victim with drugs or alcohol; sexually penetrating a victim who was under the age of 13; or the victim was mentally or physically impaired/vulnerable.

## OFFENDER DENIAL

According to present thinking, denial by a sex offender is very crucial to psychological programming or treatment. If the offender denies the offense or minimizes his role, he is not considered appropriate for programming.<sup>8</sup> However, offenders sometimes change what they say about their involvement in the crime. The question then becomes at what point should this information be recorded: during the writing of the pre-sentence or offender background report, at the time of arrest, at admission to prison or during the clinical assessment? For this study, offender denial was measured at the time the SORRC clinical evaluation was written and using only the information in the evaluation. When an offender minimizes or blames the victim, he essentially denies part of the offense or that any wrongdoing took place. For example, many times a sex offender will say that he only touched the victim, when there may have been actual penetration, or the offender contends that the victim ‘came on’ to him or ‘asked for it.’ For this cohort of sex offenders, 61% of the child molesters, 71% of the teen molesters, 73% of the rapists and 82% of the offenders with multiple age victims denied or minimized their role in their most recent sex offense.

Table 10: Denial of Most Recent Sex Offense by Offender Type\*

	Child Molesters		Teen Molesters		Rapists		Multiple Age Victims		Total	
Offender Denial	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
No denial/admits crime	73	39%	27	30%	22	27%	7	18%	129	33%
Minimizes / blames victim	55	30%	48	53%	40	48%	15	40%	158	40%
Denies guilt	58	31%	15	17%	21	25%	16	42%	110	28%
(Missing = 40)										

\*Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

## POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Although studies have been conducted in the past which have described various cohorts of Ohio sex offenders, the present study has the following policy implications:

- Better description of sex offender needs. Because this study provides an updated description of sex offenders processed at SORRC, a better assessment can be made of their needs, providing direction for those designated to treat them.
- More focused programming. Because this study describes sex offenders according to a well-accepted typology, we can now better assess the differences and or similarities between the types of sex offenders on various social, demographic, victim, criminal characteristics as well as on circumstances surrounding the most recent sexual offense. After all, programming strategies for child molesters should be different than those used with rapists.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>8</sup> Barbaree, Howard. 2001. “Denial and Minimization among Sex Offenders: Assessment and Treatment Outcome,” *Sex Offender Programming*. Volume 3, Number 4.

<sup>9</sup> Gordon, Art and Frank Porporino. 1990. “Managing the Treatment of Sex Offenders: A Canadian Perspective.” Research and Statistics Branch, Correctional Service of Canada. No. B-05.

- Better risk and classification instruments. By knowing what the sex offender population looks like, we can build better instruments to assess the likelihood that a sex offender will sexually re-offend. All the variables used to describe child molesters, teen molesters and rapists could be related to sexual re-offending. We now have a database filled with information about our sex offender population, which may assist us in building better risk instruments.
- More effective use of resources used in programs. As the department can determine the size of specific populations and the characteristics and needs of those groups, it can provide appropriate resources more effectively.

## SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

The study was a straightforward descriptive analysis of all sex offenders assessed at the Sex Offender Risk Reduction Center during the first five months of calendar year 1999. In that regard, there were few surprises or few changes in our sex offender population from studies conducted on other Ohio sex offender cohorts. However, this analysis lends itself to future research in the following areas:

- Formal review of SORRC. SORRC has been open since 1995, and improvements are continually being made to increase its effectiveness and efficiency in reaching the sex offender population. There are currently five components of SORRC, including risk assessments, comprehensive assessments, basic education, pre-release programming and community service.<sup>10</sup> The effectiveness of each component should be studied.
- Risk assessment. Assessment of risk is crucial to the programming or treatment offered to Ohio sex offenders. Although clinical judgements are used and exceptions are made, generally, only those offenders designated as moderate to high risk to sexually re-offend will receive a comprehensive assessment from SORRC and extensive programming. This is a prioritization of resources.

There are many risk instruments designed to specifically predict risk of re-offending for sex offenders. However, it is widely suggested that the validity of an instrument be assessed prior to use on a jurisdiction for which it was not designed (Wright, Clear and Dickerson, 1984<sup>11</sup>; Baird 1991<sup>12</sup>; VanVoorhis and Brown, 1996<sup>13</sup>). In the interim, an immediate follow-up to this report can cover a basic description of the offenders assessed at SORRC in relationship to the various risk instruments designed for sex offenders. Those instruments include the Rapid Risk Assessment for Sexual Offense Recidivism (RRASOR), the Static 99, the Minnesota

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<sup>10</sup> Berenson, Dave. 2001. "Institutional Sex Offender Programs: Program Model With Standards and Guidelines." Published by the Office of Correctional Healthcare within the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction.

<sup>11</sup> Wright, K.; T. Clear; P. Dickerson. 1984. "Universal Application of Probation Risk Assessment Instruments: A Critique." *Criminology*. 22(1):113-134.

<sup>12</sup> Baird, Christopher. 1991. "Validating Risk Assessment Instruments Used in Community Corrections." Monograph prepared for the National Council on Crime and Delinquency.

<sup>13</sup> VanVoorhis, Patricia and Kelly Brown. 1996. "Risk Classification in the 1990s." Monograph prepared for the National Institute of Corrections.

Sex Offender Screening Tool-Revised (MnSOST-R) and the Ohio Sex Offender Instrument (SOI).

- Work with SORRC to define more precisely sub-populations of sex offenders with particular programming needs. This may cut across the typology used in this paper. By defining these groups and estimating each size, ODRC can do a better job of allocating staff within the sex offender treatment arena.

***General Description of Offenders Assessed at SORRC:***

- The majority of the sex offenders in this study committed a sex offense against a child under the age of 13 (56%).
- Of those assessed, 89% were sent to SORRC as the result of a current conviction for a sex offense and 11% were sent as the result of a previous sex offense conviction.
- The majority of the sex offenders had received a conviction for a sex offense as described by ORC 2907. One offender was sent to SORRC because his kidnapping conviction was deemed to have been sexually motivated.
- Approximately 71% of the offenders had one victim only.
- Regarding victims' sex, 87% were female only. Forty offenders (9%) restricted their sexual assault to male victims only.

***Summary Description of Child Molesters:***

- 79 percent were white
- 26 percent received a judicial classification as a sexual predator by the courts
- 26 percent were married and 26% were divorced from their spouse at the onset of the most recent sexual assault conviction
- 51 percent graduated from high school
- 56 percent had stable employment for at least one year preceding their arrest for the most recent sex offense
- 13 percent reported being sexually abused as a child
- 83 percent lived with both parents during their formative years
- 14 percent had a prior arrest for a sexual offense
- The mean age when first arrested for a sex offense was 34 and the mean age when first convicted for a sex offense was 35
- 14 percent had 2 victims and 12% had 3 or more victims (according to conviction)
- 10 percent victimized male children only and 4 percent victimized both male and female children
- 49 percent had a non-related victim
- 49 percent of the offenders had at least one victim who was not related to the offender
- 54 percent used force during the commission of a sex offense
- Child molesters were the least likely (compared to teen molesters and rapists) to tie their victim up, move their victim, use a weapon or commit their sex offense in a public place.

***Summary Description of Teen Molesters:***

- 65 percent were white
- 50 percent were never married
- 52 percent graduated from high school
- 53 percent had stable employment for at least one year preceding their arrest for the most recent sex offense
- 11 percent reported being physically abused as a child, and 5% reported being sexually abused
- 23 percent lived with one parent during their formative years
- 14 percent had a prior arrest for a sex offense and 8 percent had a prior conviction for a sex offense
- The mean age when first arrested for a sex offense was 29 and the mean age when first convicted for a sex offense was 30
- 38 percent had a prior conviction for a violent offense
- 15 percent had two or more victims
- 8 percent offended against males only and 2% had male and female victims
- 76 percent had a non-related victim
- 8 percent were strangers to their victim
- 43 percent used force during the commission of a sex offense
- 11 percent committed their sex offense in a public place

***Summary Description of Rapists:***

- 60 percent were black
- 22 percent received a classification as a sexual predator by the courts
- 65 percent had never been married and 22% were divorced
- 58 percent had less than a high school education
- 49 percent were unemployed or had unstable employment during the year preceding their arrest for the current offense
- 45 percent had some indication of substance abuse
- 29 percent lived with only one parent during the formative years of their childhood
- 26 percent had a prior arrest for a sex offense, and 16 percent had a prior conviction for a sex offense
- The mean age when first arrested or convicted for a sex offense was 27
- 50 percent had a prior conviction for a violent offense and 43 percent had a prior conviction for a non-sexual violent offense
- 17 percent had at least 2 victims and 3% had more than 2 victims
- 94 percent had victimized a female only and 6% had only male victims
- 43 percent were strangers to their victims
- 97 percent had at least one victim who was not related to the offender
- 7 percent tied their victim up, 30% moved their victim, 57% used a weapon, 99% used force and 19% commit their crime in a public place



***Summary Description of Offenders With Multiple Age Victims:***

- 77 percent were white
- 34 percent were classified as a ‘sexual predator’ by the sentencing court
- 22 percent were married
- 15 percent were retired/disabled and 38 percent had unstable employment for at least one year preceding their arrest for the most recent sex offense
- 34 percent had some history of substance abuse
- 15 percent reported being sexually abused as a child and 17 percent reported being physically abused
- 28 percent lived with only one parent during their formative years
- 69 percent had a prior arrest and conviction for a sex offense
- 40 percent had a prior conviction for a violent offense
- 20 percent had male victims only and 17 percent had male and female victims
- 27 percent has a non-related victim
- During the assault, 20 percent moved their victim(s), 22 percent used a weapon, 56 percent used force and 20 percent were on drugs and/or alcohol.

## Appendix A: Variable List

### **General Inmate Information:**

1. Inmate ID Number
2. Inmate Last Name
3. Inmate First Name
4. Date Admitted to Prison
5. Date Admitted to SORRC
6. Reason for Admission to SORRC
7. If V6 (Reason for Admission to SORRC)= 2 (Prior Sex Offense Conviction), Record Year of Sex Offense Conviction
8. Date Released from SORRC
9. Institution Offender Sent to After Release from SORRC
10. Judicial Designation as a Sexually Oriented Offender (as ordered by courts)
11. Year of conviction for most recent sex offense.
12. ORC Code for most recent sex offenses
13. Was PSI located?

### **Juvenile Criminal History<sup>14</sup>**

14. Total juvenile sex offense arrests.<sup>-h1 d2 s1</sup>
15. Total juvenile sex offense adjudication.<sup>-h1 m1 s1</sup>
16. Total number of victims of sex offense adjudication.
17. Age of victims of sex offense adjudication.
18. Gender of victims of sex offense adjudication.<sup>-h3</sup>
19. Total juvenile arrests for non-sex offense.
20. Total juvenile non-sex offense adjudication.

### **Adult Criminal History**

21. Total adult felony or misdemeanor arrests for a non-sex offense.
22. Date of first arrest for a non-sex offense.
23. Total adult felony or misdemeanor convictions for a non-sex offense.
24. Date of first felony or misdemeanor conviction for a non-sex offense.
25. Total number of convictions for a violent offense.
26. Total number of convictions for a non-sexual violent offense.<sup>-s5</sup>
27. Total adult sex related arrests.<sup>-h1 d1 s1</sup>
28. Date of first adult sex related arrest.
29. Total adult felony sex related convictions.<sup>-h1 -m1 d1 s1</sup>
30. Total adult misdemeanor sex related convictions.<sup>-h1 -m1 s1</sup>
31. Date of first adult sex related conviction.
32. Total number of sentencing dates?<sup>-s2</sup>
33. Date of first prison incarceration.
34. Prior sex offender treatment.

### **Offender's Upbringing and Social Characteristics**

35. Any indication that the inmate was physically abused as a child (under age 18).
36. Any indication that the inmate was sexually abused as a child (under age 18).
37. What was the primary living arrangement of the inmate from birth to age 18?
38. What is the educational attainment of the inmate at this time?
39. Any indication of adolescent antisocial behavior in the file.<sup>-m10</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> The small letter and number at the end of some items indicate on which instrument the item appears. For example h<sub>1</sub> means the item #1 on the RRASOR, d<sub>1</sub> indicates item #1 on the Ohio Sex Offender Instrument, m<sub>1</sub> indicates item #1 on the MnSOST-R, and s<sub>1</sub> indicates item #1 on the Static-99.

### **Characteristics of Offender at time of Most Recent Sex Offense**

- 40. Was offender on illegal drugs or alcohol at the time offense was committed? <sub>d4</sub>
- 41. Pattern of substantial Alcohol/Drug usage problems 12 months prior to arrest for most recent sex offense. <sub>m11</sub>
- 42. Employment status 12 months prior to arrest for most recent sex offense. <sub>m12</sub>
- 43. Marital status at time of arrest of most recent sex offense. <sub>s10</sub>

### **Victim Information**

- 44. Victim Gender. <sub>h3 d6 s8</sub>
- 45. Total number of victims of all adult sex crime convictions. <sub>d7</sub>
- 46. Were any of the victims' under the age of 6 at the onset of victimization? <sub>m7 d6</sub>
- 47. Were any of the victims' ages 7 to 12 years old at the onset of victimization? <sub>m7</sub>
- 48. Were any of the victims' ages 13 to 15 years old at the onset of victimization? <sub>m7</sub>
- 49. Were any of the victims' 16 years old at the onset of victimization? <sub>m7</sub>
- 50. Were any of the victims' 17 years old at the onset of victimization? <sub>m7</sub>
- 51. Were any of the victims' 18 years old or older at the onset of victimization? <sub>m7</sub>
- 52. Did inmate sexually offend a 13-15 year old victim and the inmate was more than 5 years older than the victim at the time of the offense? <sub>m8</sub>
- 53. Was there any indication the offender committed prostitution or pandering?
- 54. Was the victim a stranger in any sex related offense? <sub>m9 s7</sub>
- 55. Was any victim related to the offender? <sub>h4 s6</sub>
- 56. Was any victim tied up?
- 57. Was any victim of any sex conviction transported to another location?
- 58. Most severe type of weapon used during any sex offense of conviction. <sub>d8</sub>
- 59. Was any sex offense committed in a public place? <sub>m4</sub>
- 60. Is there any evidence of sexual offending without arrest? <sub>d3</sub>
- 61. Length of sexual offending history. <sub>m2</sub>
- 62. Did any sex related offense involve multiple acts on a single victim within any single contact event? <sub>m6</sub>
- 63. Was inmate under any type of supervision when he committed any sex offense for which he was eventually charged/convicted? <sub>m3</sub>
- 64. Was force or the threat of force ever used to achieve compliance in any sex-related offense? <sub>m5</sub>
- 65. Offender denial in relation to the most recent sex offense.
- 66. Total number of convictions for a non-contact sexual offense? <sub>s3</sub>
- 67. Did the current conviction involve a conviction for a non-sexual violent offense? <sub>s4</sub>

### **Hanson Instrument (as coded by SORRC coders)**

- 68. RRASOR 1: PRIOR SEX OFFENSES (DOES NOT INCLUDE INSTANT OFFENSE)
- 69. RRASOR 2: AGE (AT TIME OF RELEASE)
- 70. RRASOR 3: VICTIM GENDER
- 71. RRASOR 4: RELATIONSHIP TO VICTIM

### **Minnesota Instrument (as coded by SORRC coders)**

- 72. MINNESOTA 1: NUMBER OF SEX/SEX-RELATED CONVICTIONS (INCLUDES CURRENT CONVICTION)
- 73. MINNESOTA 2: LENGTH OF SEXUAL OFFENDING HISTORY
- 74. MINNESOTA 3: WAS THE OFFENDER UNDER ANY FORM OF SUPERVISION WHEN THEY COMMITTED ANY SEX OFFENSE FOR WHICH THEY WERE EVENTUALLY CHARGED OR CONVICTED?
- 75. MINNESOTA4: WAS ANY SEX OFFENSE (CHARGE OR CONVICTED) COMMITTED IN A PUBLIC PLACE?
- 76. MINNESOTA 5: WAS FORCE OR THE THREAT OF FORCE EVER USED TO ACHIEVE COMPLIANCE IN ANY SEX OFFENSE (CHARGE OR CONVICTED)?
- 77. MINNESOTA 6: HAS ANY SEX OFFENSE (CHARGE OR CONVICTED) INVOLVED MULTIPLE ACTS ON A SINGLE VICTIM WITHIN ANY SINGLE CONTACT

- EVENT?
- 78. MINNESOTA 7: NUMBER OF DIFFERENCE AGE GROUPS VICTIMIZED ACROSS ALL SEX/SEX-RELATED OFFENSES (CHARGED OR CONVICTED).
  - 79. MINNESOTA 8: OFFENDED AGAINST A 13-15 YEAR OLD VICTIM AND THE OFFENDER WAS MORE THAN FIVE YEARS OLDER THAN THE VICTIM AT THE TIME OF THE OFFENSE(CHARGED OR CONVICTED).
  - 80. MINNESOTA 9: WAS THE VICTIM A STRANGER IN ANY SEX/SEX-RELATED OFFENSE (CHARGED OR CONVICTED)?
  - 81. MINNESOTA 10: IS THERE ANY EVIDENCE OF ADOLESCENT ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOR IN THE FILE?
  - 82. MINNESOTA 11: PATTERN OF SUBSTANTIAL DRUG OR ALCOHOL ABUSE (12 MONTHS PRIOR TO ARREST FOR INSTANT OFFENSE OR REVOCATION).
  - 83. MINNESOTA 12: EMPLOYMENT HISTORY (12 MONTHS PRIOR TO ARREST FOR INSTANT OFFENSE).
  - 84. MINNESOTA 13: DISCIPLINE HISTORY WHILE INCARCERATED (DOES NOT INCLUDE DISCIPLINE FOR FAILURE TO FOLLOW TREATMENT DIRECTIVES.
  - 85. MINNESOTA 14: CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY TREATMENT WHILE INCARCERATED.
  - 86. MINNESOTA 15: SEX OFFENDER TREATMENT HISTORY WHILE INCARCERATED.
  - 87. MINNESOTA 16: AGE OF OFFENDER AT TIME OF RELEASE.

**Ohio DR&C Instrument (as coded by SORRC coders)**

- 88. ODRC 1: PRIOR ADULT SEX RELATED ARRESTS.
- 89. ODRC 2: PRIOR SEX RELATED FELONY CONVICTIONS/ADJUDICATIONS.
- 90. ODRC 3: ANY EVIDENCE OF SEXUAL OFFENDING WITHOUT ARREST?
- 91. ODRC 4: WAS OFFENDER ON DRUGS OR ALCOHOL AT TIME OF MOST RECENT SEX OFFENSE?
- 92. ODRC 5: VICTIM SEX OF ALL ADULT SEX CRIME CONVICTIONS.
- 93. ODRC 6: WAS ANY VICTIM UNDER AGE 13 (CONSIDER ALL ADULT SEX OFFENSES).
- 94. ODRC 7: TOTAL NUMBER OF VICTIMS OF ALL ADULT SEX CRIME CONVICTIONS.
- 95. ODRC 8: WAS ANY WEAPON USED OR IMPLIED DURING AN ADULT SEX CRIME?