SUMMARY OF SEX OFFENDER CHARACTERISTICS
1992 INTAKE SAMPLE POPULATION

Criminal sexual conduct can be viewed in several different aspects: the offender, the victim, and the offense. In this study, we will be examining characteristics of the offenders, who were separated by victim's age.

The purpose of this study is to analyze the relationship between the age of the victim and other characteristics of sexual offenders and sex offenses. By looking at this relationship, we will attempt to develop a profile for sex offenders entering Ohio's prison system.

Methodology

This report is based on data gathered on all inmates entering the Ohio prison system for sex offenses from April 15, 1992 through June 12, 1992 for two months worth of intake data. The two month intake period is believed to be generally representative of the entire year. Data from the 1992 Intake Study used for this report included demographic variables, commitment offense information, sentencing information, and criminal history information. For this study additional information was collected from the pre-sentence investigations concerning the actual sexual offense and the victim.

Sex offenders for the purposes of this study were divided into three subgroups: Child Molesters (offenders with victims under the age of 13), Teen Molesters (offenders with victims between the ages of 13 and 17), and Rapists (offenders with victims age 18 and older). The category title of "Rapists" used for those offenders with victims age 18 and older is a term that is commonly used in sex offender literature to categorize offenders who commit sex offenses against an adult. The term "Rapist" does not necessarily refer to the crime the offender committed. These offenders can be convicted of non-rape sex offenses. The separation between the two categories of victims under the age of 18 was used to describe the difference in definitions and sentencing practices described in the Ohio Revised Code for an offender who sexually assaults a child under the age of 13. A person who has sexual intercourse with a child under the age of 13 and is convicted of forcible rape for this offense is eligible to be sentenced to life imprisonment. This also holds true for an offender convicted of felonious sexual penetration of a child under the age of 13 where force was used. Victims' ages were gathered from the offender's pre-sentence investigation report. For offenders whose pre-sentence report did not specify the age of the victim(s), the offender was excluded from analysis.

For the purposes of this study, a sex offender was defined as an inmate who had a conviction and was sentenced during the two month time period for any of the following offenses: Rape, Sexual Battery, Gross Sexual Imposition, Felonious Sexual Penetration, or Corruption of a Minor. The sex offense did not have to be the most serious offense for which the person was convicted, but at least one offense of conviction had to be a sex offense, as defined above. Only current convictions were used to define sex offenders; therefore, any past sex offense did not define an individual as a sex offender if the current offense was not sexual in nature.

OFFENDER CHARACTERISTICS

Age Group Divisions

The age group divisions are shown below. Child Molesters made-up the majority of sex offenders for this sample (58.2%). When the Teen Molesters were added together with the Child Molesters, offenders with victims under the age of 18 comprised 74.1% of the total sample. There were two cases of the original 234 sex offenders from the 1992 study where the victim's age was unknown. These two cases were removed from analysis, leaving the total number of known sex offenders entering the prison system during the two month sample period as 232.

Seven of the total known sex offenders were female. All seven of the female inmates in this study were categorized as Child Molesters.

Table 1.   **Sex Offenders Grouped By Victim Age**

	N	%
Child Molesters **(Victims under 13)**	135	58.2%
Teen Molesters **(Victims 13 through 17)**	37	15.9
Rapists **(Victims 18 and Older)**	60	25.9
TOTAL	232	100.0

Missing = 2

Offender's Ethnicity:

Three-fourths of the sample were white (77%) and one fourth were black (23%). The overall DRC breakdown of commitments to the Department by ethnicity for 1992 was 55.4 percent black and 44.6 percent white. When looking at individual categories of offenders, Child Molesters and Teen Molesters had higher percentage of white inmates than the overall average for sex offenders. Of the three groups of sex offenders, Rapists were more likely than the other tow groups to be black, although the Rapists category was still more heavily white that the overall intake percentage for the Department for 1992.

Table 2.   Ethnicity of Sex Offender Sample

	Child Molesters		Teen Molesters		Rapists	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
White	108	80.0	32	86.5	39	65.0
Black	27	20.0	5	13.5	21	35.0

Offender's Age:

The age of commitment to DRC for a sex offender ranged from 17 to 67, decreasing somewhat as victim age increased (moving from Child Molesters to Teen Molesters to Rapists). Rapists tended to be younger that the other two categories of sex offenders, with 75 percent of Rapists under the age of 35. The other two groups were more evenly represented across the age groupings. The mean age for each of these groups is several years older that the mean age of all offenders admitted in 1992 (mean age = 29).

Table 3.   Age of Sex Offender

	Child Molesters		Teen Molesters		Rapists	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
25 and Under	25	18.5	9	24.3	15	25.0
26 Through 30	30	22.2	8	21.7	12	20.0
31 Through 35	25	18.5	6	16.2	18	30.0
36 Through 40	27	20.1	5	13.5	5	8.3
Over 40	28	20.7	9	24.3	10	16.7
Mean	34.2		33.8		31.5	
Median	33.0		33.0		31.0	

Offense of Conviction

The offenders in this sample differed in the type of conviction offense, depending on the age of the victim. For this section, the conviction offenses represented both a conviction for a specified crime and the convictions for an attempt of the specified crime. A conviction of Other Felony was generally for Robbery or Burglary. Sex offenders with adult victims were more likely to be convicted of rape (45.0%) than any other group. Teen Molesters were the least likely group to be committed to DRC for a conviction of rape (5.4%). Sex offenders with child victims, ages 12 and under, had the greatest number of offenders convicted of gross sexual imposition (43.7%). The group of sex offenders with teenage victims had the greatest percentage of offenders convicted of corrupting a minor (35.2%).

Table 4.   **Most Serious Offense of Conviction**

	Child Molesters		Teen Molesters		Rapists	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Rape	48	35.6	2	5.4	27	45.0
Sexual Battery	19	14.1	11	29.7	16	26.7
Gross Sexual Imposition	59	43.7	9	24.3	14	23.3
Felonious Sexual Penetration	7	5.2	1	2.7	1	1.7
Corrupting a Minor	1	0.7	13	35.2	2	3.3
Other Felony	1	0.7	1	2.7	0	0.0

Marital Status:

All three groups of sex offenders were more likely to be single or never married at the time the offense was committed. The Rapist category had a significantly higher concentration of sex offenders in the Single grouping that the other two sex offenders divisions. Child Molesters were more evenly represented among the three major categories for marital status (Single, Married, Divorced) than the other groups.

Table 5.   **Marital Status**

	Child Molesters		Teen Molesters		Rapists	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Single/ Never Married	46	35.1	16	44.4	27	48.3
Married/ Separated	43	32.8	13	36.1	14	25.0
Divorced	36	27.5	6	16.7	10	17.9
Other	6	4.6	1	2.8	5	8.8

Missing = 3

Education Level:

There were slight differences in the education level of those offenders victimizing children and those victimizing adults. Child and Teen Molesters were more likely to have less than an eighth grade education. The Rapist category was more likely to have obtained more that a high school education when compared with the other categories. The groups were consistent in the percentage of offenders with some secondary school education.

Table 6.   **Education Level**

	Child Molesters		Teen Molesters		Rapists	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
8th grade or less	11	9.7	5	14.7	2	4.0
At Least Some High School	102	83.0	29	85.3	42	84.0
More than High School	9	7.3	0	0.0	6	12.0

Missing = 26

Mental Health History:

Mental health history did appear to produce a difference between the three groups of sex offenders. Close to half of Child Molesters (46.3%) reported some type of mental health problem in the past. Offenders in the Teen Molester and Rapist categories were much less likely to have a reported mental health problem in the past. It is interesting to compare the sex offender sample with all categories of offenses from the 1992 Intake Study. Close to 17% of Non-sex offenders had a reported history of mental health problems. A third of offenders in the sex offender category, as a whole, reported some type of mental health problem in the past.

This data should be viewed with caution. Mental health history is not always readily available in a pre-sentence investigation. Mental health history was only determined to be present if there was explicit reference to a prior mental health problem in the pre-sentence investigation (PSI), such as an admission of psychiatric counseling or mental health hospitalization. If no prior mental health problem was recorded in the PSI, no mental health history was recorded. Therefore, the results of this table may be a result of a more explicit effort to discover prior mental health problems in sex offenders, particularly child molesters, which may not occur for non-sexual offenses.

Table 7.   **Mental Health History**

	Child Molesters		Teen Molesters		Rapist	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Yes	57	46.3	7	20.6	14	27.5
No	66	53.7	27	79.4	37	72.5

Missing = 24

Drug Use History:

Drug use history also appears to have produced a difference between the groups, specifically between the Rapist category and the other two groups. Sex offenders with adult victims were more likely to have some type of admitted drug abuse problem in the past. Close to sixty percent of offenders in the Rapist category had some drug history, with over twenty percent having an addiction problem. Child Molesters and Teen Molesters were less likely to report a drug problem. Drug use history also appears to produce a difference between Sex offenders and Non-sex offenders in the 1992 Intake Study. Only 31.6% of Non-sex offenders had no reported drug use history compared with 48.5% of Sex offenders. Sex offenders appeared to have less of a problem with drug use than Non-sex offenders.

Table 8.   **Drug Use History**

	Child Molesters		Teen Molesters		Rapist	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
No Problem	72	61.0	23	67.7	19	38.8
Light to Moderate	23	19.5	5	14.7	11	22.4
Heavy	8	6.8	4	11.8	8	16.2
Addicted	12	10.2	1	2.3	11	22.4
Unspecified	3	2.5	1	2.3	0	0.0

Missing = 31

Alcohol Use History:

The majority of sex offenders in all three categories were reported to have a history of alcohol use. Heavy alcohol use or addiction was reported for a third of Child Molesters and over two-fifths of Rapists.

Table 9. **Alcohol Use History**

	Child Molesters		Teen Molesters		Rapist	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
No Problem	42	36.2	13	39.4	17	34.0
Light to Moderate	30	25.9	7	21.2	10	20.0
Heavy to Addicted	40	34.4	10	30.3	21	44.0
Unspecified	3	2.6	1	3.0	1	2.0
Rehabilitated	1	0.9	2	6.1	0	0.0

Missing = 34

Under the Influence of Drugs or Alcohol

Close to sixty percent of sex offenders in the Rapist category were reported to have used drugs and /or alcohol at the time the offense was committed. Rapists were more likely to be under the influence of alcohol (44.4%) than to be under the influence of a drug (13.9%). About a third of the Child Molesters and a third of the Teen Molesters were under the influence of either alcohol or drugs during the commission of the sex offense.

Again, it is interesting to compare Sex offenders with Non-sex offenders in regards to the being under the influence of alcohol or drugs at the commission of the crime. There was a noticeable difference between Non-sex offenders and the different categories of Sex offenders. The majority of Non-sex offenders were under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or both (61.1%) during the commission of their crime. While only 39.9% of Non-Sex offenders were not under the influence of any drug during the convicted offense, 72.7% of Child Molesters and 70.3% of Teen Molesters were not under the influence of any type of drug.

It should be noted that there are a number of cases with missing information; these represent inmates for whom a pre-sentence investigation did not contain this information and the information was unavailable from the reception process.

Table 10.   **Under the Influence of Drugs or Alcohol**

	Child Molesters		Teen Molesters		Rapist	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Neither Drugs or Alcohol	72	72.7	19	70.3	15	41.7
Drugs	2	2.0	1	3.7	5	13.9
Alcohol	22	22.3	7	26.0	16	44.4
Both	3	3.0	0	0.0	0	0.0

Missing = 70

Relationship to Victim:

Child Molesters were much more likely to sexually abuse a family member that the other sex offenders. The majority of sex offenders in all three groups committed a sexual assault against a friend or acquaintance. Close to a third of offenders in the Rapist category committed a sex offense against an unknown person while the other two groups were much more likely to sexually assault a known victim.

Table 11.   **Relationship to Victim**

	Child Molesters		Teen Molesters		Rapist	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Family	44	32.8	6	16.7	5	8.3
Friend/ Acquaintance	76	56.8	30	83.3	33	55.0
Stranger/ Unknown	3	2.2	0	0.0	19	31.7
Multiple	11	8.2	0	0.0	3	5.0

Missing = 2

Prior Convictions:

Total number of prior adult felony convictions is displayed in Table 12a below. The two tables following Table 12a are subsets of that table. Prior adult felony convictions that fall under the categories of violent, non-sex offenses and prior sex offenses are examined, Tables 12b and 12c respectively. Fewer than half (46.7%) of Rapists had no prior adult convictions. The majority of Child Molesters (79.1%) and Teen Molesters (66.7%) had no prior adult convictions.

As the data in Table 12b show, twenty percent of offenders in the Rapist category had a prior adult conviction for a violent, non-sex offense. Less than ten percent of Child Molesters and Teen Molesters had a prior violent conviction.

Table 12c displays prior felony convictions for sex offenses. Close to ninety percent of Child Molesters and Teen Molesters had no prior convictions for a sex offense. The offenders in the Rapist category were more likely that the other two groups to have a prior sex offense conviction; still, less than twenty percent had a prior sex offense conviction.

Table 12a. **Prior Felony Conviction (any type)**

	Child Molesters		Teen Molesters		Rapist	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
None	106	79.1	24	66.7	28	46.7
One to Three	26	19.4	8	22.2	23	38.3
Four or More	2	1.5	4	11.1	9	15.0

Missing = 2

Table 12b. **Prior Violent, Non-Sex Felony Convictions**

	Child Molesters		Teen Molesters		Rapist	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
None	124	92.5	33	91.7	48	80.0
One or More	10	7.5	3	8.3	12	20.0

Missing = 2

Table 12c. **Prior Felony Sex Convictions**

	Child Molesters		Teen Molesters		Rapist	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
None	119	88.8	32	88.9	50	83.3
One or More	15	11.2	4	11.1	10	16.7

Missing = 2

Number of Victims:

Child Molesters were more likely than other sex offenders to have sexually assaulted multiple victims. Close to forty percent of Child Molesters victimized more than one child compared with only sixteen percent of Teen Molesters victimizing more than one child and less than ten percent of offenders in the Rapist category. When Teen Molesters or offenders in the Rapist category had multiple victims, it was rarely more than two victims.

Table 13.   Number of Victims

	Child Molesters		Teen Molesters		Rapist	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
One Victim	86	63.7	39	83.8	49	94.9
Two Victims	28	20.7	5	13.5	3	5.1
More than Two Victims	21	15.4	1	2.7	0	0.0

Victim Demographics:

Information on victim demographics is presented below in Table 14. Child molesters had the greatest number of victims. The majority of victims from all three groups were female. Child Molesters had the highest percentage of male victims (24.6%) when compared with the other two groups.

Table 14.   Victim Information

	Child Molesters	Teen Molesters	Rapist
Total Number of Victims	232	52	55
Mean Age of Victims	7.4 years	14.0 years	26.0 years
Sex of Victims			
Female	175 75.4%	47 90.0%	54 98.0%
Male	57 24.6%	5 10.0%	1 2.0%

Type of Coercion:

Over half of sex offenders in the Rapist category used physical force to coerce the victim into submission. Inmates in the Rapist category were more likely than the other two groups to use a weapon or threaten the victim with a weapon. Child and Teen Molesters generally used threats of violence without using violence to coerce the victim into submission. It should be noted that there are several cases (N=64) where the pre-sentence investigation did not report the details of the actual sexual assault. Coercion information was not available in these cases.

Table 15. **Type of Coercion**

	Child Molesters		Teen Molesters		Rapist	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Physical Force	14	15.4	4	15.4	28	54.9
Threat of Violence	32	35.2	12	46.2	6	11.8
Threat	17	18.7	1	3.8	0	0.0
Weapon/ Threat of Weapon	5	5.5	1	3.8	15	29.3
Promises	4	4.4	1	3.8	0	0.0
Money	7	7.7	3	11.5	1	2.0
Other	12	13.2	4	15.4	1	2.0

Missing = 64

Institution Classification:

Two-thirds of inmates in the Teen Molester category were initially classified to minimum custody at the institutional reception centers. The majority of sex offenders in the Rapist category were initially classified at medium security. Inmates in the Rapist category were more likely than the other two sex offender groups to be initially classified to close security status.

Table 16. **Institutional Classification Status**

	Child Molesters		Teen Molesters		Rapist	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Minimum	69	51.1	25	68.3	22	36.7
Medium	52	38.5	10	29.0	29	40.3
Close	13	9.6	1	2.7	9	15.0

Missing = 2

Estimated Time To Serve:

The following table reports the results of calculating the expected length of time an inmate will serve from prison admission to the expiration of definite sentence or first statutory parole board hearing. Expected good time was factored into the calculations, as was jail time credit.

As the data in table 17 show, close to half (48.6%) of inmates in the Teen Molester category are expected to serve one year or less. In contrast, only one fourth of Child Molesters are expected to serve one year or less. The majority of inmates in the Child Molester category are expected to serve at least two to five years. Inmates in the Rapist category are proportionally more likely to that the other two groups to serve over five years incarcerated.

The mean expected time to serve for inmates in the Rapist category is 39.5 months, Teen Molesters 17.3 months, and Child Molesters 44.8 months. As was noted earlier in this paper, an offender convicted of Rape or Felonious Sexual Penetration of a child under the age of 13 where force was used is eligible to be sentence to a life term of imprisonment. This difference in sentencing practice may account for the reason that the Child Molester category has a higher expected time to serve, considering 6 out of the 7 inmates with more than ten years to serve are sentenced to life in prison.

The following table represents the expected time to serve until the expiration of an inmate's definite sentence or the first statutory parole hearing date. The table should not be interpreted as representing exact release times. The expected time to serve is the least amount of time that may be served, barring suspended sentence or shock probation granted by a judge. It is likely, however, that many sex offenders will serve more time before prison release than what is represented below. It is very unlikely that an offender committed to prison for a sex or sex-related offense will be released at the first hearing by the Parole Board.

Table 17.   **Expected Time to Serve**

	Child Molesters		**Teen Molesters**		**Rapist**	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Less than One Year	34	25.2	18	48.6	16	26.7
One to Two Years	23	17.0	11	29.7	11	18.3
Two to Five Years	48	35.6	7	18.9	17	28.3
Five to Ten Years	23	17.0	1	2.7	15	25.0
More than Ten Years	7	5.2	0	0.0	1	1.7
Time To Serve (In Months)						
Mean	44.8		17.3		39.5	
Median	30.0		13.0		27.5	

SUMMARY

Profile of Child Molesters:

- 95 percent of Child Molesters incarcerated during the two month sample period were male.

- 80 percent of theses inmates were white.

- The mean age of inmates in the Child Molester group was 34 years old.

- The most frequently occurring serious offense for inmates in this category were Gross Sexual Imposition (43.0%) and Rape (35.6%).

- Close to half of these inmates (46.3%) reported some type of mental health problem in the past.

- Child Molesters were more likely to have reported a history of alcohol use in the past (60.3%) than a history of drug abuse (36.5%).

- This was the first adult felony conviction for 79.1% of these inmates.

- The most frequent coercion techniques used by inmates in this category to gain submission from the victim were Threats of Violence (35.1%) and General Threats (18.7%).

- The estimated mean time these inmates are expected to serve until expiration of the definite sentence or first statutory parole board hearing is 44.8 months; the median estimated time to serve is 30 months.

Profile of Teen Molesters:

- All known Teen Molesters in this sample were male.

- 86.5 percent of these inmates were white.

- The mean age of inmates in this category was 33.8 years of age; the median age was 33.

- The most frequent offense of commitment for inmates in this category were Corrupting a Minor (35.2%) and Sexual Battery (27.0%).

- Almost 15% of these inmates had less than a high school education.

- Teen Molesters were more likely to report a history of alcohol use in the past (51.5%) than a history of drug use (29.4%).

- One hundred percent of Teen Molesters victimized someone known to them.

- Two-thirds of these inmates had no prior adult felony convictions.

- The most frequent coercion technique used against the victim by Teen Molesters was Threats of Violence (46.2%).

- The majority of Teen Molesters (69.4%) were initially classified to minimum security status in the institution.

- The estimated mean time to serve for inmates in this category is 17.3 months until the end of definite sentence or first parole board hearing; the median time to serve is 13 months.

Profile of the Rapist Category:

- All sex offenders categorized as Rapists were male.

- The mean age of commitment was 31.5 years old; the median age was 31 years.

- The most frequent offense of commitment for offenders in this category was Rape (43.3%) and Sexual Battery (26.7%).

- Almost half of offenders in this category were never married (48.3%).

- Sixty-one percent of inmates in the Rapist category reported a history of drug use, with 22.4% of them reporting drug addiction.

- Sixty-four percent of these inmates reported a history of alcohol use, with 44% reporting heavy use of addiction problems.

- Close to sixty percent of inmates in this category reported using alcohol or drugs during the commission of the current crime.

- Almost a third (31.7%) of inmates in this category victimized a person unknown to them at the time of the sexual assault.

- Over half of these inmates (53.3%) had at least one prior adult felony conviction.

- The most frequent coercion technique used by these offenders were Physical Force (54.9%) and the Use of a Weapon/Threat of a Weapon (29.3%).

- The majority of these inmates were initially classified to medium security in the institution.

- The mean time to serve for inmates in the Rapist category is 39.5 months; the estimated median time to serve is 27.5 months.