

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

CHILDHOOD SEXUAL EXPERIENCES OF NATIVE
WOMEN LIVING IN ALBERTA

by

GILLIAN PATRICIA RUNDLE

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Gillian P. Rundle 1990

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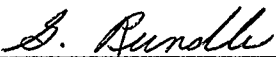
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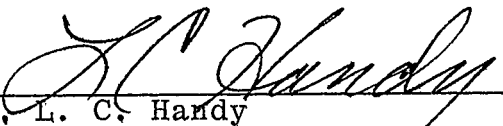
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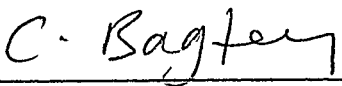
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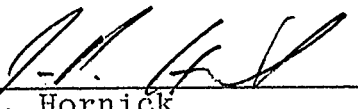
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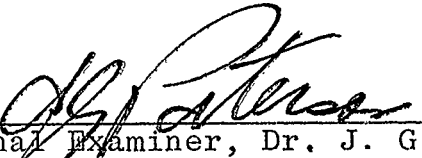
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ABSTRACT

The purpose of the study was to examine characteristics of childhood sexual abuse as recalled by Native Indian women living on three Alberta Native Reservations and in the city of Calgary, Canada. A second purpose was to identify certain antecedent variables as risk factors to victimization.

Data for the survey were provided by 203 female, volunteer respondents. The sole researcher conducted a private, structured interview with each respondent. An adaptation of Finkelhor's (1979) "Family and Sexual Experiences Questionnaire" was administered to gather respondents' recollections of childhood sexual experiences. Additional data obtained from respondents included sociodemographics, number of placements, identity of guardians, and quality of relationships with the guardians prior to respondents reaching their 17th birthday.

The resulting data revealed that intra-familial sexual abuse predominated. The use of alcohol by the perpetrator, the application of force, and the unwanted nature (on the part of the victim) typically differentiated victims from non-victims; that is, the vast majority of respondents who were sexually abused reported that the sexual relationship was unwanted, was forced upon them by the perpetrator, and that alcohol had been used by the perpetrator. In addition,

approximately one half of the respondents who reported being victimized once said they were revictimized.

The current effect reported by the respondents appeared to be related more to the number of abusive partnerships than to the actual characteristics of the partnerships.

Risk factors to child sexual abuse were assessed for pre-pubescent and post-pubescent children. The seven factors identified as predictors of childhood sexual victimization for the pre-pubescent group were: years of negative relationship with female guardian (most powerful predictor), fewer years in a boarding school, number of placements, number of years of negative relationship with male guardian, number of years in foster placement, fewer years with mother and (biological) father, and number of years with mother and stepfather.

The three risk factors identified for the post-pubescent group were: years of negative relationship with female guardian, years with mother only, and number of placements. The findings of this study were suggestive of further research of a more definitive nature.

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Chapter 1

BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

The existence of child sexual abuse has, since the early 1970s, been generally accepted as a serious and pervasive social problem with respect to both female and male children. The present study deals only with child sexual abuse among girls, therefore, boys as victims are precluded from both the discussion and the literature review.

Researchers in the U.S.A., using random sampling procedures, have investigated women's recollections of sexual exploitation in childhood; for example, estimated prevalence rates of child sexual abuse were reported to be as high as 54% (Russell, 1983) and 62% (Wyatt, 1985). Badgley et al. (1984), utilizing random sampling among women in 210 Canadian communities, found that 34% of the respondents had been sexually victimized before the age of 18 years.

The estimated prevalence rates, as reported in a number of studies, together with the various sample sizes, sample selection procedures, and definitions of child sexual abuse, are presented later in tabulated format (see Table 1 in the Review of the Research Literature).

Despite the variety of reported prevalence rates, sexual exploitation of children by adults is seen as widespread, and is also acknowledged to be highly damaging to many of its victims. There appears to be a consensus in the literature that a proportion of victims does present serious initial and/or long-term negative psychological effects (Conte & Schuerman, 1987; Courtois, 1979; Finkelhor, 1986; Herman, Russell, & Trocki, 1986; Russell, 1986; Tsai, Feldman-Summers, & Edgar, 1979), including depression, low self-esteem, guilt, fear, sexual dysfunction, relationship difficulties, subsequent sexual revictimization, antisocial behaviour, and subsequent prostitution (Bagley & Ramsay, 1986; Herman, 1981; Porter, Blick, & Sgroi, in Sgroi, 1982; Russell, 1986; Silbert & Pines, 1981).

In addition to studies which contain reports of negative effects of child sexual victimization in the general population, there is a body of research literature which focuses on factors that may predispose a child to sexual abuse. These factors have been assessed retrospectively, using samples from the majority population. Data have shown that the presence of factors such as parental absence, poor relationship(s) with guardian(s), and the presence of a stepfather, all increase the likelihood of child sexual victimization (Finkelhor, 1986).

Most researchers who investigated child sexual abuse

retrospectively have sampled adult females from the majority population, including some representation from ethnic minorities. It is noteworthy that researchers, using random community samples, found little difference in the rates of sexual abuse between white and black women (Russell, 1986; Wyatt, 1985). Some indication of a higher rate of sexual abuse among Hispanic women, when compared to white women, was reported by Kercher and McShane (1984). Russell (1986) found a lower rate of incest among both Jewish and Asian women in comparison with a total sample.

To date, there has been no research published that included a large, non-clinical sample from the North American Native Indian population (hereinafter called "Natives"). The only data available, thus far, pertain to highly selective individuals such as those comprising clinical or court samples known to professionals. Despite the lack of data obtained from the Native population at large, it is thought that child sexual abuse is both pervasive and extremely detrimental (Grossman & Goodluck, 1985). On a local level, members of the Alberta Native Women's Association (ANWA) (Personal communication, January 1986) have expressed opinions similar to those of Grossman and Goodluck (1985), based on their own experiences and observations. A need has arisen, therefore, to assess the nature and extent of the problem in the Native population

in order to develop educational approaches toward the prevention of child sexual abuse.

Research conducted among non-Native populations (Bagley & Ramsay, 1986; Kline & Forbush-Overstreet, 1972) has shown that separation from parent(s), multiple placements, and poor relationships with guardians may lead to subsequent mental health problems, as well as having a strong association with child sexual abuse (Bagley & Ramsay, 1986; Finkelhor, 1986). Similarly, within the Native population, clinical evidence suggests a link between separation from parents, followed by multiple placements and poor relationships with guardians, and subsequent negative psychological/psychiatric effects (Bagley, 1985; Dismang, Watson, May, & Bopp, 1974; Dlugokinski, & Kramer, 1974; Ishisaka, 1978; Shore & Nicholls, 1975; Stickel, 1987). Research evidence to date, however, has not associated these antecedent characteristics with increased risk of sexual exploitation of children within the Native population.

Rationale and Purpose of the Study

In the absence of empirical research evidence pertaining to child sexual victimization in the Native population, it was deemed important to conduct the present exploratory survey among a sample of Native women. It was the impression among Native leaders, and of spokeswomen for ANWA on

the Indian Reservations surveyed, and also in the Calgary, Alberta region, that child sexual abuse was occurring with great frequency, and, in their estimation, was resulting in subsequent devastating psychological effects on the victims.

Extrapolation of the study findings which dealt with the effects of child sexual abuse within non-Native populations, together with the clinical data obtained from the Native community, indicate that Childhood Sexual Experiences (CSEs) within the Native population is at least potentially damaging. A non-clinical study was, thus, deemed important in order to begin to understand the nature of the effects of CSE on Native women. As a first step toward assessing the effects of CSE among Native women, it seemed appropriate to ask women about their subjective responses to childhood sexual activity; that is, it was important to know whether or not Native women view CSE in a positive, negative, or neutral manner.

In addition to the lack of knowledge concerning the effects of CSE on Native women, there is a lack of non-clinical data dealing with characteristics directly related to CSE and how these characteristics differentially influence the self-perceived effect(s) of a sexual experience on these women. Because the present work was a pioneering and exploratory study, it seemed prudent, for the sake of comparison, to use an adaptation of a research

instrument used in a previous, pioneering and exploratory study of the characteristics and the effects of CSE as perceived by non-Native women.

The instrument entitled "Family and Sexual Experiences Questionnaire," devised by Finkelhor (1979) was, therefore, adapted for use in the present research project. It seems obvious that, if at least some CSEs are considered to be damaging, prevention of this kind of sexual victimization is extremely important. In addition, therefore, to assessing the characteristics of CSEs and their effects on Native women, it was deemed important to study risk factors to those sexual experiences in childhood reported to have been negative in nature. As previously stated, as a result of the dearth of data linking specific background factors to the occurrence of child sexual abuse within the Native population, contributing factors described in the non-Native literature were employed in the present study.

There is consensus in the non-Native literature that factors related to parenting are very important in predicting child sexual abuse. Factors related to parenting were, therefore, included for examination in the present research project. In addition, within traditional Native culture, the practice of shared parenting of children among several guardians was a typical and accepted way of life (Dismang et al., 1974). From a theoretical perspective, children

can and do, under certain circumstances, form multiple attachments considered to be healthy (Maccoby, 1980). In contemporary North American society, a large proportion of Native children continue to be placed with a number of surrogate parents, often including non-Native foster parents (Ishisaka, 1978). As well, a large proportion of adults reported having been placed in boarding schools in childhood. These adults, therefore, experienced a number of different guardians. Because multiple placements appear to occur with considerable frequency, factors related to parenting have been dealt with in the present study not only with respect to single, biological parents, but also with respect to all surrogate parents or guardians of Native female children who had not yet reached the age of 17 years.

As well as evaluating the characteristics directly associated with CSEs and their self-perceived emotional effects, and risk factors to child sexual abuse for Native women, the exploration of an additional issue seemed important; that is, knowledge concerning the perceived negativity of sexual victimization in childhood compared to other negative life experiences is extremely valuable.

Bagley and McDonald (1984) reported that, among non-Native victims of different forms of abuse experienced in childhood, those who were sexually abused suffered greater trauma than those who endured physical or emotional abuse.

The exploration of these matters was considered to be a necessary first step toward obtaining some basic knowledge concerning the nature of CSE within the Native population. The purpose of the study was two-fold: (a) to examine, retrospectively, the self-perceived emotional effects of childhood sexual experiences, and (b) to identify a number of antecedent elements as risk factors to child sexual victimization of Native women residing in the province of Alberta. Specifically, the foregoing concerns were dealt with in the form of the following research questions:

1. What are the recollected, immediate, and current, self-perceived, emotional effects of both single and multiple childhood sexual relationships on Native women in Alberta?
2. How do the following 17 characteristics (variables), directly related to a sexual partnership, influence the recollected, self-perceived, immediate effect on Native women: age of respondent; age, gender, and identity of partner; respondent drinking alcohol; partner drinking; type of sexual activity; which partner started the activity; respondent wanting the sexual relationship; force or threats by the respondent; force or threats by the partner; frequency and duration of activity and partnership; respondent's reaction during activity; strength of reaction; whether or not respondent

disclosed the activity; and, if activity disclosed, was disclosure helpful? In addition, how does an 18th independent variable, "current effect," relate statistically to the self-perceived, immediate, emotional effect of CSE?

3. Do factors such as number of placements, identity of guardian(s), and quality of relationship(s) with guardians discriminate between those Native women who had been sexually victimized as children and those who had not been victimized?

4. According to the respondent's recollection, was the most negative sexual partnership worse than, equal to, or not as traumatic as some other specified negative life experience?

Importance of the Study

Meeting the objectives of the present study was important for three major reasons. First, it was the first known effort to examine childhood sexual experiences (CSEs) in the Native population by means of a large, non-clinical sample of women. Since there were no published data resulting from examined CSEs and the emotional effects on the Native population, it was hoped that this pioneer study would provide knowledge that was not previously available.

Second, the study could identify certain background

factors such as multiple placements, specific guardians, and negative relationships with guardians that might place Native female children at risk for sexual exploitation.

Third, the results of the study could have implications for education, clinical practice, and preventative programming.

Definitions of Terms

The following definitions of terms are applicable to this study:

Child Sexual Abuse (CSA). The negative, self-perceived, emotional effects of CSA, as recalled by respondents, which resulted from childhood sexual experiences. [This "definition" does not comply with many other definitions, or with those definitions used by researchers investigating CSE. See further definitional issues in Chapter 2, Review of Research Literature.]

Childhood Sexual Experience (CSE). Any relationship of a sexual nature with a person of either gender reported to have occurred in childhood. [Types of CSE include exposure, sexually motivated observation of a child, lingering or passionate kissing, manipulation of the genitals, fellatio, cunnilingus, penile penetration of the rectal orifice, penile penetration of the vagina, attempted intercourse, and "dry" intercourse (Finkelhor, 1979; Sgroi,

Porter, & Blick, in Sgroi, 1982; Tsai et al., 1979).]

Child Sexual Partnership (CSP). The sexual relationship or encounter between a female child and one other person of any age or of either gender. [At the outset, the term "partnership" is used in this study in an attempt to prevent bias; that is, no "partnership" was pre-judged by the researcher as being "abusive."]

Native Indian. A member of a group of aboriginal peoples of North America.

Negative CSE (NCSE). Any relationship of a sexual nature with another person of either gender, as recollected by respondents, which resulted in a self-perceived, negative, emotional effect.

Non-Negative CSE (NNCSE). Any relationship of a sexual nature with another person of either gender, as recollected by respondents, which resulted in a self-perceived, neutral or positive, emotional effect.

Clinical studies. Any investigation/survey conducted for research for which the subjects/respondents were drawn from a population engaged in an assessment/treatment process.

Non-clinical studies. Any investigation/survey conducted for research for which the subjects/respondents were drawn from the general population, as opposed to a clinically derived population.

Partner/perpetrator (offender). Terms employed to described the (usually male) individual who participated in the childhood sexual experience with the female, study respondents. "Partner" connotes a sexual relationship which may or may not have been abusive. "Perpetrator" (offender) connotes a sexually abusive partner.

Organization of the Study

Following this introductory chapter, the work continues with a review of the research literature in Chapter 2, and the research methodology and treatment of the data are dealt with in Chapter 3. Statistical results are set out in Chapter 4. Chapter 5 provides a discussion of the study findings and concludes with summary and conclusions, implications, theoretical considerations, and suggestions for future research.

Chapter 2

REVIEW OF RESEARCH LITERATURE

Many personnel in the "helping" professions (e.g., Grossman & Goodluck, 1985) have expressed the view that child sexual abuse is a serious problem within the Native population. Unfortunately, there is a dearth of non-clinical studies dealing with the problem, and only three have been located. The first is Russell's (1986) random sample of 930 female respondents in San Francisco which included 11 Native women, four of whom indicated that they had been sexually victimized by a father or stepfather. The second is a study conducted by Silbert and Pines (1983), who found that 2% of their sample of 200 prostitutes were American Native Indians reporting previous child sexual abuse. The Silbert and Pines (1983) study was replicated by Bagley and Young in 1987. Their sample included six Native Albertan Indian women who were formerly engaged in prostitution. Findings of this study indicated a link between prostitution and child sexual abuse among these women.

While generalizations obviously cannot be made based on the exceedingly small number (2%) of respondents in the Silbert and Pines (1983) research, Grossman and Goodluck

(1985) did conclude that sexual victimization of children within the Native population is extensive and extremely damaging. In contradiction with these findings, Fischler (1985) has asserted that Native North American populations strongly prohibit sexual activity between children and adults, and that such activity is considered taboo, just as it is within non-Native populations.

More specifically, within the Blackfoot and Cree populations of Alberta, members of which comprised a large proportion of the sample of volunteers in the present research, sexual activity between children and adults has been forbidden. This practice is not only unacceptable in contemporary Native society, but also has been condemned historically. In the past, within these populations, female children, sometimes in infancy, were betrothed to male children. The actual union, however, did not take place until both children had reached their mid-teens. The children remained with their respective families until the time of "marriage," at which time the two betrothed moved into their own tepee (Hugh A. Dempsey, acting director, Glenbow Alberta Institute, personal communication, Summer, 1989).

Prior to the arrival of the Europeans, polygamy was practiced by Native tribes (Miller, 1989). The concept of multiple brides was thought to be socially useful and

sensible. Pre-marital chastity and post-marital fidelity were culturally demanded, and adulterous behaviour on the part of any of the wives could be severely punished by the husband. A typical punishment, apparently, was to cut off the nose of the accused.

In line with the expectation of chastity before "marriage," sexual activity between male adults and female children was condemned (Hugh A. Dempsey, acting director, Glenbow Alberta Institute, personal communication, Summer, 1989). The taboo existed, therefore, not only with respect to blood relatives, but also extended to extrafamilial sexual relationships. If a child were subjected to sexual abuse, the perpetrator of the activity was banished and/or severely punished or put to death by the female child's family. It is evident, then, that sexual activity involving female children was forbidden, whether or not the perpetrator was a blood relative.

In the absence of empirical data concerning child sexual victimization within the Native population, information related to this problem has, heretofore, been obtained from cases of identified victims reported to professionals. The number of reported cases is increasing, according to Grossman and Goodluck (1985), and they have concluded that, in all probability, such numbers continue to represent a very small percentage of actual cases of child sexual abuse

in the Native population.

Data relating to subsequent psychological effects of this kind of sexual exploitation within the Native population have been based on psychological/psychiatric assessments of identified victims (for example, those found in clinical and court samples). Many of these victims have been reported to suffer long-term negative effects such as attempted and completed suicide, psychosis, and epilepsy (Devereaux, 1939; Levy, 1979). It was not possible, from these findings, however, to discern the degree to which the previous sexual victimization was responsible for the reported effects, nor can one generalize to the entire Native population. Thus, reliance has centred on data obtained from the non-Native population. In this chapter, hence, a selected review of the literature dealing with non-Native research is discussed. The review is divided into four sections: (a) definitional criteria, (b) prevalence, (c) effects and characteristics of child sexual abuse, and (d) empirically researched factors which may influence the occurrence of child sexual abuse.

Definitions of Child Sexual Abuse

The term "child sexual abuse" has no universally accepted definition in the literature that would lend itself to theory-making and empirical investigation. This lack of

universality seems to lie in operationally defining the concept; for example, discrepancies have arisen with respect to three major definitional criteria.

The first of these definitional criteria deals with defining the upper age limit of a "child." Several age limits were found in the research literature, for example: 13 years of age (Kinsey et al., 1953), no upper age limit (Landis et al., 1940), 16 years of age (Finkelhor, 1979; Fromuth, 1986), and 17 years of age (Russell, 1983; Wyatt, 1985).

The second criterion relates to whether or not a sexual activity can be described as being "abusive." In this respect, definitions varied widely; for instance, the use of force or threats by the perpetrator must be present, or that there be an age discrepancy of five years (Wyatt, 1985); that there be an age discrepancy of five years when the victim is 12 years or younger, and 10 years when the victim is between 13 and 16 years of age (Finkelhor, 1979; Fromuth, 1986); that there be an age discrepancy of five years and that the victim perceive the activity as being "abusive" (Finkelhor, 1984); that there be a three-year age difference between the perpetrator and the victim, or that there be threats/force used in touching the victim's genital area (Bagley & Ramsay, 1986; Sorrenti-Little, Bagley, & Robertson, 1984).

Badgley et al. (1984), in defining child sexual abuse, based their definition on whether or not the victim wished to participate in the sexual activity. That is, only those sexual acts which had occurred in childhood and were recalled by the victim as being "unwanted" were considered as sexually abusive.

The third criterion deals with the inclusion of non-contact sexual activities. Again, the literature revealed lack of agreement in definition; on one hand, according to Finkelhor (1979), Fromuth (1986), and Wyatt (1985), any type of contact or non-contact sexual activity constitutes child sexual abuse. On the other hand, Russell (1983) used both narrow and broad definitions of sexual abuse, the narrow definition meaning intrafamilial childhood sexual activity encompassing all types of contact. In her view, extrafamilial childhood sexual activity can include all types of sexual contact up to victim's age of 13 years, whereas from ages 14 to 17 years, only attempted or completed forcible rapes are included. Russell's broad definition of childhood sexual abuse incorporates the addition of all types of non-contact childhood sexual activity.

Because authors/researchers have employed a variety of definitions of child sexual abuse, any comparison of studies is obviously difficult, if not impossible. For present

purposes, therefore, only those studies which met the following definitional criteria are reported here: (a) when some form of coercion or force was used in engaging a child victim in the sexual activity, or (b) when the perpetrator of the activity was at least three years older than the abused victim.

Prevalence of Child Sexual Abuse

As well as the above-noted problems connected with operationally defining the concept of child sexual abuse (CSA), further difficulties have arisen in attempting to estimate the prevalence of CSA. In addition to using various definitions of CSA, researchers have also employed different sample types and a variety of sample sizes, all of which have resulted in a variety of prevalence figures (see comparative data in Table 1).

In a number of prevalence studies, attempts were made to delineate the findings as they related to intra- and extrafamilial child sexual victimization. Until recent times, the nature of this type of CSA was misunderstood. Intrafamilial CSA, whether involving blood relatives or not, has been shown to be more common than previously thought. In addition, the notion that extrafamilial victimization is perpetrated almost exclusively by strangers is now deemed by most researchers to be a myth. In fact, the findings of

Table 1

ESTIMATED PREVALENCE OF CSA IN THE FEMALE
POPULATION OBTAINED FROM NON-CLINICAL
STUDIES USING VARIOUS RESEARCH METHODS

Sample Type and Size	Upper Age Limit (yrs)	D e f i n i t i o n	Estimated Prevalence %
<u>Volunteer</u>			
Kinsey et al. (1953); 4444 women	13	Contact with older man prior to adolescence	24
Landis et al. (1940); 295 women	none	Molestation prior to puberty	24
<u>College Student</u>			
Finkelhor (1979); 530 women	17	Contact & non-contact; age difference of 5 yrs for victim under 12 yrs; age difference pf 10 yrs for victim aged 13-16 yrs.	19
Fromuth (1986);	17	Same as Finkelhor's (1979) definition; plus perpetrator must be aged 16 yrs or older	22
Sorrenti-Little et al. (1984); 117 women	17	Threats/force used in touching victim's genitalia, and perpetrator must be 3 yrs older than victim	28
<u>Community (random)</u>			
Badgley et al. (1984); 1006 women	18	Contact & non-contact; unwanted sexual experience	34
Bagley & Ramsay (1986); 401 women	17	Perpetrator at least 3 yrs older, or of any age using threat or force in touching child's genital area	22

Table 1 (cont'd.)

Sample Type and Size	Upper Age Limit (yrs)	D e f i n i t i o n	Estimated Prevalence %
Community (random) (cont'd.)			
Finkelhor (1984); 334 women	17	Contact & non-contact; age difference of 5 yrs; victim said experience was abusive	15
Russell (1983); 930 women	18	Contact & non-contact	54
Wyatt (1985); 248 women	18	Contact & non-contact	62

most studies have shown that 20% or fewer of the victims are sexually abused by strangers (Pettis & Hughes, 1985).

Two recent studies have been published in which random samples were employed to assess the prevalence of intra- and extrafamilial CSA. Russell (1983) reported that 16% of respondents in her sample of 930 women had experienced intrafamilial CSA prior to the age of 18 years, perpetrated almost exclusively by male offenders. The findings also revealed that sexual abuse by uncles was most prevalent (4.9%), followed by abuse perpetrated by a father figure (4.5%). First cousins, brothers, and grandfathers were also named (3.0%, 2.2%, and 0.9%, respectively).

Similarly, Wyatt (1985), studying a sample of 122 white women, found that of the 158 sexual encounters reported to have occurred in childhood, 19% of these incidents were of an intrafamilial nature. Father figures and uncles were each named in 6% of the cases, male cousins were reported in 4% of the cases, and brothers or stepbrothers accounted for 3% of the intrafamilial abusers.

Wyatt (1985) also examined a sample of 126 black women, who recalled 147 incidents of childhood sexual abuse. Of the total, 29% reported the victimization to be intrafamilial. The most frequently named perpetrator was a father figure (10%), followed by an uncle (7%). A male cousin and a brother or stepbrother were reported in 8% and

3% of the cases, respectively. Grandfathers were identified by the victims in 1% of the cases.

Extrafamilial sexual abuse was seen to be higher than intrafamilial abuse. In Russell's (1983) sample, 31% of the total number of respondents recalled being abused by non-family members, and these perpetrators, for the most part, were known to the respondents. Only 15% of the male perpetrators were strangers.

With respect to Wyatt's (1985) white, female sample, for those participants reporting victimization, 81% of the perpetrators were said to be extrafamilial. Of these abusers, 51% were reported to have been strangers; the remaining 30% were known to the respondents (victims). Of the abusers in Wyatt's (1985) black, female sample, 71% were extrafamilial. Of these, 37% were reported to have been strangers, and 34% of the abusers were known to the victims.

In sum, intrafamilial child sexual abuse occurs with greater frequency than previously thought, although extrafamilial victimization is estimated to be more prevalent. In addition, despite Wyatt's (1985) finding that a large percentage of abusers were strangers, most researchers have concurred that the majority of perpetrators are familiar to the child victim of sexual abuse.

Effects of Child Sexual Abuse

During the last decade there have been heated debates among researchers as to whether or not adult-child sexual activity is always abusive, or whether the effects can be neutral or even enhancing to the child's sexual development. Indeed, some interventionists have advocated adult-child sexual practices as a "natural" way of introducing children to sexual adjustment. Two such writers--Askwith (1982) and Yates (1978)--have claimed that sexual activity between an adult and a child (especially in the case of incest) can be tender, affectionate, consensual, and without exploitation, fear, or force. Some writers have quoted histories of children who have benefitted from long-lasting sexual relationships. In fact, Densen-Gerber (1981) has taken an even more radical view, and has suggested that laws governing such activity be abolished. Concurring with this view have been writers who have proposed that it is a right of the child to experience satisfying sexual relationships with adults (Constantine & Martinson, 1981).

In contrast to these views, Herman (1981), Renvoize (1982), and Sgroi (1982) have argued that all such sexual activity can be termed "abusive." The opinions of these writers parallel those of many professionals who come from clinical backgrounds. For the most part, these

professionals encounter children who have suffered varying degrees of damage from the effects of such abuse.

Considering the available evidence, Finkelhor's (1984) argument is, perhaps, the most realistic in the literature to date. As long as there is a wealth of evidence to support the contention that some children are significantly and lastingly hurt by engaging in sexual activity with an adult, it behooves the clinician as well as the theoretician and the researcher to continue to assume that this kind of interaction is potentially damaging to all children.

Initial Effects

The initial effects, that is, those effects occurring within two years following the experience, have been investigated by several authors. The major non-clinical studies with adult populations have been undertaken retrospectively, primarily using college student samples (Finkelhor, 1979; Fromuth, 1986; Landis, 1956; Sorrenti-Little, 1984).

In a more definitive study, Russell (1986) used a face-to-face, individual, structured interview procedure with a randomly selected community sample to assess immediate effects of child sexual abuse. In retrospective recall, women in these studies reported that their initial feelings about the experience were negative. Similarly, in the

Landis (1956) study, 76% of the women said they had been frightened, shocked, or emotionally upset.

Finkelhor (1979), by means of a self-administered questionnaire, measured immediate effects on a 5-point scale (positive, mostly positive, neutral, mostly negative, and negative). He, too, noted that 66% of the women's sexual experiences in childhood with much older partners were recalled as negative.

Using a methodology akin to Finkelhor's (1979), Sorrenti-Little (1984) examined a sample of 416 Canadian female college students. She found that approximately 60% of the women remembered a negative immediate effect when the sexual experience had taken place before the age of 12 years with a partner who was at least 5 years older than the subject. Of those respondents who had a sexual experience in adolescence with a partner 10 years older, 90% recalled the immediate effect as negative.

Similar findings were reported by Russell (1986). She identified 152 women in her random sample of 930 women as victims of incestuous abuse, most (92.5%) of whom recalled some degree of emotional upset with respect to the experience. However, caution must be taken in interpreting both Russell's (1986) and Sorrenti-Little's (1984) findings, as the response rates were low: 50% and 55%, respectively.

In addition to studies which dealt with retrospective

recollections by adults of the initial effects of child sexual abuse, a number of clinical studies have been conducted with children to assess these effects shortly after disclosure (Conte & Schuerman, 1987; DeFrancis, 1969; Lindberg & Distad, 1985; Mannarino & Cohen, 1986). The results of the studies with children as subjects were reported to coincide with those using adult respondents; that is, there was indication of at least some detrimental initial effects of sexual experience involving adult partners. These detrimental effects included poor self-esteem, depression, guilt, anxiety, school problems, running away, eating and sleeping disorders, inappropriate sexual behaviour, and bedwetting. Unfortunately, these researchers did not include matched control groups or standardized outcome measures, and the results should be interpreted with caution.

The results of two recent research studies conducted by Gomez-Schwartz, Horowitz, and Sauzier (1985) and Friedrich, Urquiza, and Beilke (1986) also revealed negative initial effects in sexually abused children. Both Gomez-Schwartz et al. (1985), who used the Louisville Behavior Checklist, and Friedrich et al. (1986), who used the Achenbach and Edelbrock Behavioral Checklist, reported that findings from their clinical samples of sexually abused children revealed more overall psychopathology than results of published norms provided with the tests. Although these researchers used

standardized outcome measures, they did not include matched control groups, so it was not possible to discern the degree of disturbance attributable to the sexual abuse.

Recent follow-up studies of sexually abused children provided further evidence of detrimental effects. Two research groups--Oates, Forrest, and Peacock (1985) and Tong, Oates, and McDowell (1987)--studied individually matched control groups of sexually abused youngsters using a standardized measure known as the Piers-Harris Self-Concept Scale. These researchers found significantly lower self-esteem among the victimized children in their studies.

In summary, the researchers described above who addressed adults' retrospective recall of the effects of childhood sexual experiences, and the initial effects in children shortly after disclosure, indicated that the majority of their subjects/respondents experienced negative effects. Adult female respondents remembered such effects as fear, shock, and emotional upset. Child female respondents displayed symptoms of depression, inappropriate sexual behaviour, bedwetting, poor self-esteem, and problems in school. Although the studies differed with respect to the researchers' sampling techniques and their use of control groups and standardized outcome measures, the findings were generally the same; that is, the initial trauma of child sexual abuse perpetrated by significantly

older partners resulted in at least some detrimental effects.

Long-Term Effects

The literature was found to contain reports of several studies conducted by researchers who investigated the long-term effects of child sexual abuse. The authors of these clinical studies suggested that child sexual abuse can result in trauma that may well continue throughout a victim's lifetime (Bagley & McDonald, 1984; Fields, 1981; Herman et al., 1986; Meiselman, 1978). Although the authors of these clinical studies have concluded that the effects of child sexual abuse are negative, the results of non-clinical studies are obviously more generalizable to the population at large and are, therefore, discussed here in more detail. A number of different sampling procedures have been used in the non-clinical studies of long-term effects, namely, college student subjects, selected volunteers from the community, and randomly selected subjects from the community. Data obtained from studies which employed these various sampling procedures are presented below.

In an effort to establish the extent to which prostitutes had been sexually victimized before the age of 16 years, Silbert and Pines (1983) recruited, through advertisements, 200 prostitutes living in the San Francisco Bay area. Of the prostitutes who volunteered for the study, 60% indicated they had previously been sexually abused. From

this report, it was obvious that a high percentage of prostitutes had been subjected to sexual abuse in childhood. However, because the study did not include a matched control group of non-prostitutes, the degree to which prior sexual abuse contributed to the subsequent prostitution could not be discerned.

Although prostitution is evidently one of the possible negative effects of child sexual abuse, there are clearly others. For example, in 1979, C. A. Courtois assessed a group of 31 self-selected volunteers who had been victims of incest in their childhood. She found that over 70% of these women experienced feelings of isolation, alienation, sexual dysfunction, and problems with relationships.

Similar findings were reported by Tsai et al. (1979), who had studied three, 30-member, self-selected groups of female adults. Group 1, the clinical group, comprised women who had sought therapy for sexual victimization they had experienced in childhood. Group 2, a non-clinical group, comprised women who had been sexually abused but who felt "well-adjusted." Group 3, the control group, comprised women who had not been sexually victimized as children. The Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI) and a non-standardized measure of self-perceived, overall adjustment were used in the study. The resulting scores revealed no significant difference between the non-clinical and

control groups. The subjects in the clinical group, however, reported experiencing significantly more sexual problems and were generally less well-adjusted than the control group, as measured by the MMPI.

Clearly, it is very difficult to draw any firm conclusions from the studies described above. Because samples were composed of self-selected respondents and were made up of members from special populations, it is not possible to generalize the results.

In his seminal contribution to the field of child sexual abuse, Finkelhor (1979) surveyed a large sample of female college students in New England. He used a non-standardized measure of sexual self-esteem and found that those respondents who had been victims of child sexual abuse scored significantly lower than non-victims. Some years later, Fromuth (1986), in a study similar to Finkelhor's work, investigated a college student sample of 383 women. Using both standardized and non-standardized measures of current sexual adjustment, she reported that respondents who had been sexually victimized as children showed a greater likelihood of sexual revictimization. Fromuth concluded that there was no correlation between the participants' reports of child sexual abuse and their current sexual self-esteem. This finding directly contradicted those of the majority of studies. However, as

Fromuth pointed out, because her sample was composed of very young subjects, their sexual difficulties may not yet have become evident at the time of testing.

Findings similar to those of Fromuth (1986) were published by Sorrenti-Little, Bagley, and Robertson in 1984. They administered to their subjects a standardized measure of self-concept known as the Tennessee Self-Concept Scale and a non-standardized measure of sexual functioning called the Sexual Activities Questionnaire. As was expected, significantly lower scores were obtained from the victimized group than from the non-victims on both these scales.

Further indication of detrimental effects associated with child sexual abuse was published following a study conducted by Sedney and Brooks (1984). These researchers surveyed a sample of 301 female college students and found that those respondents who said they were sexually abused as children showed a significantly greater number of symptoms indicative of anxiety, depression, and self-destructive behaviour than did the study control group.

These non-clinical studies of large samples of college students were also important efforts in revealing the long-term effects of child sexual abuse. Again, however, college students comprise a special population in that they may very well have been a higher functioning group than their age mates in the general population.

In order to reduce or eliminate bias created by surveying self-selected volunteers from the community or samples of college students, the more sophisticated technique of random sampling was recently introduced. Using this system, researchers have attempted to assess the long-term effects of CSA.

One such study conducted by Peters (1984) included a random sample of women in Los Angeles. The results showed that women who recalled having been sexually abused as children were more likely to have higher depression scores than non-abused subjects. The abused subjects were also more often hospitalized with diagnosed depression than were women in the control group. Furthermore, victimization was seen to be not only a correlate but also a strong predictor of depression in a multiple-regression equation.

Similar detrimental effects of CSA were evidenced in research reported by Bagley and Ramsay (1986), when they surveyed a randomly selected sample of 387 Canadian women. Resulting data obtained by means of individual, structured interviews indicated that a significant proportion of these subjects who had recalled having been sexually victimized as children or adolescents suffered mental health problems. For example, victims were twice as likely to have higher depression scores than the control groups as measured by two standardized scales: the Centre for Environmental Studies Depression Scale, and the Middlesex Hospital Questionnaire.

A significant relationship was also found between poor self-esteem, as measured by Coopersmith's (1981) Adult Self-Esteem Scale, and a history of CSA.

Russell (1986) also reported negative effects in adult women who said they were sexually abused in childhood. Russell employed a stratified probability sample procedure and found that women who recalled having been sexually victimized as children were significantly more likely to be revictimized later on in life than were the non-victimized subjects. Almost 50% of Russell's sample of incest victims reported that the sexual abuse they experienced as children had some degree of negative, long-term effect, such as negative feelings about themselves and about men, and had difficulty with intimate relationships in general, as well as sexual problems and feelings of distrust and anxiety.

In summary, a number of researchers have conducted studies which addressed the long-term effects of CSA. Despite the different methods employed in executing the studies, results indicated that many of the women who reported being sexually victimized in childhood experienced long-term negative effects. These negative effects were reported to include sexual dysfunction, anxiety, depression, and feelings of isolation and alienation.

Effects by Characteristics of Child Sexual Abuse

On the one hand, many victims of CSA appear to suffer

long-term and often devastating negative effects as the result of CSA. On the other hand, some do not seem to be traumatized, on a long-term basis, by the experience. Obviously, a variety of characteristics can impinge upon victims of CSA which may influence the subsequent effects of the experience.

Among researchers in the field, there is disagreement as to the differential effects of the characteristics of the sexual experience itself. Inconsistency has been found to arise among studies concerned with relating the type of sexual activity to the outcome. Herman et al. (1986), Russell (1986), and Bagley and Ramsay (1986) found a direct relationship between the degree of physical intrusiveness of the sexual activity and subsequent victim reports about being traumatized by the CSE. Both Finkelhor (1979) and Fromuth (1986) were unable to obtain evidence of such a relationship. Others, including Landis (1956) and Peters (1984), observed some relationship at the less intrusive end of the scale. It is apparent, therefore, at the present state of knowledge, that questions remain as to whether quantity of intrusiveness relates to subsequent traumatization.

Similarly, not all authors agreed as to whether or not a child initiates the sexual activity. Research evidence has clearly indicated that the older partner is always

the initiator of sexual activity with children. One such writer was Finkelhor (1986) who did not consider the possibility of the child initiating the sexual activity. In his earlier study in 1979, he reported that 98% of his respondents said the older partner initiated the experience. In agreement with this position was Sorrenti-Little (1984) who found that 95% of the time, the CSE was initiated by the older partner. On the other hand, Browning and Boatman (1977) and Summit and Kryso (1978) did allow for child-initiated sexual activities although the effects were not known.

In addition, the evidence needed to assess the influence of the frequency and duration of sexually abusive experiences on subsequent perceived trauma is not clear. Several researchers reported a positive relationship, that is, the higher the frequency and duration, the greater the trauma (Bagley & Ramsay, 1986; Briere & Runtz, 1986; Friedrich et al., 1986; Herman et al., 1986; Peters, 1984; Russell, 1986; Tsai et al., 1979). Other authors did not find a significant correlation between frequency and duration as related to trauma (Conte & Schuerman, 1987; Finkelhor, 1979; Langmade, 1983). Surprisingly, an inverse relationship was evident in a study conducted by Courtois (1979), who concluded there was less trauma associated with CSE when duration increased.

Following his own review and analysis of most of the published studies dealing with CSEs, Finkelhor (1986) pointed out that all community-based studies, those with good outcome measures, and those which used multivariate analyses, did show positive findings, that is, a relationship between frequency and duration of the CSE with respect to trauma. He has concluded, therefore, that the evidence supports a strong connection between these variables.

There appears to be more agreement among authors who assessed the association of certain characteristics of the perpetrator of sexual abuse and subsequent negative effects on the victim. The age of the perpetrator at the time of the sexual activity, and the use of threats or force, were viewed as influencing the victim's psychological outcome. With respect to age, there is general consensus in the literature that the older the partner the more negative is the effect on the victim (Briere & Runtz, 1986; Finkelhor, 1979; Fromuth, 1986; Herman et al., 1986; Russell, 1986). For example, Russell (1986) found less negative effects on the victims of CSEs when the partner was younger than 26 years of age or older than 50 years of age. Finkelhor (1986) also concluded that "experiences with younger perpetrators are less traumatic" (p. 173).

Similarly, there has been strong support for the

notion that the use of force is significantly related to subsequent trauma for victims of CSEs. An exception is noted in the writing of MacFarlane (1978). She theorized that force may, in fact, decrease the damaging effect of child sexual abuse because it allows the victim to blame the abuser, thus eliminating guilt the victim may have felt due to the activity. However, the majority of studies since then, using both adults and children, have not supported MacFarlane's notion.

The use of force or threats was reported by the majority of Sorrenti-Little's (1984) CSE survey respondents. Likewise, Finkelhor (1979) and Fromuth (1986), who used the same methodology, found that most of the trauma experienced by the victims of CSEs was a result of force having been used. Similar findings were published by Russell (1986). Of the victims who stated that force had been used during the sexual activity, 76% assessed themselves as traumatized by the experience, compared to 47% of respondents who were not subjected to force.

A study of subsequent effects of child sexual abuse was published by Friedrich et al. (1986). The results of their study of children were parallel to those using adults: negative effects on these children were strongly associated with the use of physical force.

In contrast, researchers were uncertain with regard to

establishing a relationship between the partner's identity and the effect on the victim of CSE. A problem with the evidence presented in the literature centred around the failure of researchers to distinguish clearly between perpetrator familial genetic closeness. In their reports, Friedrich et al. (1986) and Landis (1956) suggested that sexual activity in childhood which involved close relatives was more "traumatic" than if non-relatives were involved. However, the conclusions in three other studies conducted by Finkelhor (1979), Peters (1984), and Russell (1986) failed to show any difference in victim trauma when abusers were relatives or non-relatives. Finkelhor (1986) suggested that, on the one hand, child sexual abuse may be more traumatic if it is perpetrated by a stranger, but, on the other hand, betrayal by a family member may lead to a worse outcome. Feelings of trust appear to be the important issue here, and, in studies completed by Briere and Runtz (1986), Finkelhor (1979), and Russell (1986) sexual abuse perpetrated by a father or stepfather was found to be more traumatic than any CSE that had occurred with other family members or non-family perpetrators.

An additional finding in relation to perpetrator characteristics has been the frequent use of alcohol by the perpetrator. Finkelhor (1986) suggested that alcohol may act as a disinhibitor, thereby enabling the perpetrator to

disregard the taboo against adult-child sexual activity.

An additional perpetrator characteristic has been studied. Researchers have investigated the differential effects of gender of the adult partner in child sexual victimization. Because the majority of abusers have been reported to be men, very few studies have examined the differential effect of female perpetrators. However, the results of two studies, conducted by Finkelhor (1984) and Russell (1986), did show that sexual activity in childhood which involved male abusers led to greater trauma for the child than did sexual activity involving female perpetrators.

As well as characteristics of the perpetrator, those of the child have also been studied as they relate to subsequent effects. The differential effect of the child victim's age at the onset of the sexual relationship has met with some disagreement among the research reviewed. Some authors, for example Courtois (1979) and Meiselman (1978), found a more detrimental outcome for younger children. Others suggested worse outcomes when the child was older at onset (Adams-Tucker, 1982; Simrel, Berg, & Thomas, 1979; Tsai et al., 1979). In the majority of studies, however, no significant relationship was reported between age and outcome of the sexual encounter (Bagley & Ramsay, 1986; Briere & Runtz, 1986; Finkelhor, 1979; Langmade,

1983; Russell, 1986).

Furthermore, there has been some controversy concerning whether or not the child wanted the sexual relationship. Russell (1983) in particular, and, to a lesser extent, Finkelhor (1979; 1984), investigated sexual experiences in childhood assuming that none of their respondents could have wanted to participate in the experience. Evidence was found in the literature that some youngsters do want to be involved in the sexual encounter (Askwith, 1982; Constantine & Martinson, 1981).

With respect to a number of other characteristics, however, there was, generally, agreement among authors. Gagnon (1965) and Finkelhor (1979) reported that the majority of respondents reacted with fear to the sexual experience. Finkelhor (1979) discovered shock to be the second most frequently stated reaction. Sorrenti-Little (1984) indicated that the majority of subjects in her study reacted with a great amount of fear, shock, and surprise, and only a very small number of them rated the experience as pleasurable or interesting.

Also, it is commonly thought that the disclosure of child sexual abuse has been grossly under-reported, whether to the authorities (Gagnon, 1965; Landis, 1955), or to family members or friends (Finkelhor, 1979; Herman, 1981; Russell, 1983; Sorrenti-Little, 1984). Interestingly, as

Porter et al. (1982) suggested, it may not be the sexual experience itself which is damaging to the victim but rather the harm that results from negative social reaction to the disclosure. Finkelhor (1979) did not include the outcome of disclosure in his questionnaire. However, in a re-analysis of the data reported by Finkelhor (1986), a multivariate analysis failed to show a significant difference in trauma when "disclosure" data were compared with "non-disclosure" data. According to Bagley and Ramsay (1986), the association between non-disclosure and increased trauma became insignificant when other factors were held constant.

Finkelhor (1986) appeared uncertain about the significance of present evidence regarding the outcome of the disclosure of child sexual abuse. He indicated that many factors interact, making an assessment of the effects of outcome of disclosure, by themselves, very difficult.

In summary, the variety of characteristics which likely influence the subsequent effects of child sexual abuse are not, at present, amenable to study. However, the different effects of a number of characteristics directly related to the experience itself, and also to the characteristics of the perpetrator and child, have been surveyed. There is some disagreement in the literature as to the differential impact of characteristics such as degree of intrusiveness, frequency and duration of the activity,

identity of the perpetrator, and age of the child victim. Authors seemed to agree, however, that the older the partner, the more negative the effect on the victim. There was seen, as well, strong support for the belief that the use of force is significantly linked to the subsequent negative effect on the victim.

Risk Factors to Child Sexual Abuse

In addition to the research dealing with the characteristics and the effects of the sexual experience, researchers have recently attempted to identify, through retrospective recall, factors associated with the occurrence of child sexual abuse. The factors reported to correlate most strongly with child sexual abuse are those associated with the child's parents (Finkelhor, 1986). Although these correlates are frequently identified as risk factors (e.g., Finkelhor, 1984) to sexual victimization, they may in fact have followed the abusive situation.

For purposes of this study, three factors related to parenting have been selected for review: (a) quality of the child's relationship with parent(s), (b) parental absence, and (c) the presence of a stepfather.

A poor relationship between the child and the parent(s) has been found to be a strong correlate of child sexual abuse. According to Landis (1956), a significantly greater

percentage of victims in his study reported distant relationships with their mothers when compared to non-victims. Similarly, Herman and Hirschman (1981) found differences in the characteristics of mothers of incest victims and mothers of children who were not victimized; for example, mothers in families where father-daughter incest had occurred were observed to be significantly emotionally absent from their daughters--often as a result of the mother's chronic physical and/or emotional illness, disability, or alcoholism. By comparison, the group of non-victimized respondents said they enjoyed a much closer relationship with their mothers. Correspondingly, the analysis of the data obtained from Finkelhor's (1979) college student sample indicated that girls from families in which mothers were frequently ill, emotionally distant, or unaffectionate, were more likely to have suffered child sexual abuse.

The child's relationship with the father has also been viewed as indicative of victimization. Fromuth (1986) found a strong association between a child's poor relationship with the father and the occurrence of sexual abuse. In a similar vein, Parker and Parker (1986) presented evidence of a relationship between the quality of fathering during the first three years of the daughter's life and the likelihood of subsequent father-daughter incest. When low quality fathering was present, it was seen to increase the

likelihood of incest.

In sum, therefore, there appears to be consensus among studies that a lack of emotional involvement and support on the part of mother and/or father is strongly associated with child sexual abuse. In accordance with these results, Bagley and Ramsay (1986) reported that punitive, unsupportive, and cold parenting correlated significantly with sexual victimization in childhood. Based on a small clinical sample, but without the use of a control group, Smith and Israel (1987) published similar findings. They concluded that a physically and emotionally distant parenting style was present in an extremely high percentage of parents where sibling incest occurred in families.

As well as the finding that poor relationships with parents are significantly linked to child sexual abuse, there is evidence in the non-Native research literature that parental absence or separation from parent(s) are also factors associated with sexual victimization. In dealing with the issue of father-absence, Miller (1976) presented the finding that female adolescents were at much greater risk for sexual abuse if their biological fathers were absent from the home. Likewise, Peters (1984), in comparing samples of black women vs. white women, observed that girls who had lived apart from their natural fathers at any time showed a higher risk for sexual abuse. Interestingly, this

finding was true only for white women in her study. Parallel results were published by Russell (1986) following her discovery that female children in father-absent (natural mother present) homes were more likely than the control group to be subjected to extrafamilial victimization.

Corresponding results were obtained by Finkelhor (1984) in his assessment of the contribution that mother-absence makes to child sexual abuse. He concluded that "girls who ever lived without their natural mother were three times more vulnerable to sexual abuse than the average girl" (p. 26). Further evidence that parental absence links significantly with sexual abuse was offered by Bagley and Ramsay (1986) and by Bank and Kahn (1982). The former indicated that a separation from a parent (mother or father) for six months or more was strongly related to the occurrence of child sexual abuse. The latter, in a study of a small clinical sample, found increased risk of the occurrence of sibling incest in families where children were abandoned or neglected.

The literature pertaining to the concept of attachment indicates that young children, following separation from a primary caregiver, can transfer their attachment to a new caregiver, provided the new relationship is of high quality; ultimately, the child can recover from the trauma of separation. In addition, young children can form attachments

to several caregivers in a hierarchical manner (Maccoby, 1980).

Until about one century ago, traditional child-rearing practices among Natives involved multiple caregivers within the extended family system which apparently allowed healthy child development. Unfortunately, as Dismang et al. (1974) stated, as a result of white man's intrusion, the Native culture and extended family structure became disorganized. In many cases, Native children are no longer afforded the security of a familial placement. Several authors have commented on damage to many Indian children following sometimes permanent separation from parents, resulting in the destruction of primary relationships and ties within the family system (Ishisaka, 1978; Stickel, 1987; Sullivan, 1983). As well, many Native children have been placed in non-Native foster homes or boarding schools, both of which are culturally alien to these children (Ishisaka, 1978; Stickel, 1987).

As well as the link between parent-child separation and child sexual abuse described in the non-Native literature, another factor--presence of a non-biological father (step-father)--appears to be a significant correlate of child sexual abuse. In Finkelhor's (1980) report that dealt with a college student sample, data showed that girls who had stepfathers while growing up were significantly more likely to have suffered both intra- and extrafamilial sexual

victimization. Similar results were published by Gruber and Jones (1983) and by Miller (1976). Russell (1986) also found that the presence of a stepfather greatly increased the likelihood of child sexual abuse; for example, of women who had been raised with a stepfather, 17% said they had been sexually abused by the stepfather. In contrast, only 2% of the women who had grown up with a biological father had been victimized by the biological father.

In sum, factors associated with the child's parents appear to be strong correlates of child sexual victimization. A parenting style which is marked by lack of support and emotional distance has been linked with sexual abuse. In addition, the absence of mother and/or father in the home seems to increase the likelihood of victimization occurring. Finally, the presence of a stepfather appears to be significantly related to child sexual abuse.

Chapter 3

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter contains a description of the procedures used to carry out the research. The material includes the design of the study, the sample, research instruments, data collection procedures, and treatment of the data.

Design of the Study

The respondents who volunteered to participate in the study were interviewed once only, and were asked to recall experiences which had occurred earlier in their lives. Because of this single-interview approach, the design of the study could be termed "the One-Shot Case Study" (Campbell & Stanley, 1963).

Study Sample

An attempt was made to contact by various means (see Research Procedure) as many Native women as possible in southern Alberta. The majority of the sample was drawn from the following Indian Reservations in Alberta: the Blackfoot at Gleichen, the Sarcee adjacent to Calgary, and the Ermine-skin, Samson, Louis Bull, and Montana, all at Hobbema.

Also invited to participate were Native women living in Calgary. A convenience sampling approach was used (see

Research Procedure later in this chapter).

Because participants were self-selected volunteers they made up a special population; hence, the degree to which they were representative of the general population of Native women is unknown. The number of participants totaled 203, ranging in age from 18-57 years, with a mean age of 30.3 years ($SD = 8.25$). All 203 women completed the interview process; that is no one terminated the session early.

Eligibility requirements for study participants were minimal; they were required to be of Native Indian ethnicity and to have reached at least 18 years of age. Socio-demographic characteristics of volunteer participants were recorded by the researcher on a data sheet (Appendix A) and are shown in Table 1.

As the data in Table 1 show, of the 203 women who participated in the study, 135 (65%) were under 33 years of age. With respect to level of education, 57 (28%) had obtained elementary school standing, 65 (32%) had secondary school standing, and 81 (40%) had achieved post-secondary school education. The data for employment show 71 (35%) of the women were employed, 46 (23%) were unemployed, and 86 (42%) were full-time students. Current spousal (or cohabitation) relationship status of the sample indicated that 46 (23%) were single, 79 (39%) were married, 40 (20%) were separated or divorced, 4 (2%) were widowed, and 34 (17%) were cohabiting. In addition, 85 (42%) of the study sample

Table 2
RESPONDENTS' DEMOGRAPHICS

Description	Number	Percentage of Total
<u>Age (in years)</u>		
18-22	30	14.7
23-27	64	31.5
28-32	41	20.0
33-37	28	13.8
38-42	20	10.0
43-47	13	6.5
48/-52	4	2.0
53-57	3	1.5
<u>Education Attained</u>		
Elementary	57	28.1
Secondary	65	32.0
Post-secondary	81	39.9
<u>Employment Status</u>		
Employed	71	34.9
Unemployed	46	22.7
Full-time student	86	42.4
<u>Marital Status</u>		
Single	46	22.7
Married	79	38.9
Separated or divorced	40	19.7
Widowed	4	2.0
Cohabiting	34	16.7
<u>Place of Residence</u>		
Urban	85	41.9
Reservation	118	58.1

N = 203

resided in urban centres and 118 (58%) lived on Indian Reservations in Alberta.

Research Instruments

In addition to the demographic information obtained from all respondents, two non-standardized instruments were employed for the face-to-face, individual, structured interviews conducted by the researcher for this study.

Personal History Questionnaire

In the absence of an existing instrument comprised of questions directly relevant to this study, the researcher designed the Placement History and Guardian Relationship Form (PHGRF) (see Appendix B). The PHGRF included questions posed by the researcher to obtain certain background information about each respondent. Specifically, the form included open-ended questions pertaining to the number of placements, identity of guardian(s) (e.g., biological parents, aunt, foster parents, boarding-school staff), and quality of relationship(s) with guardian(s) during the respondent's childhood and adolescence before reaching the age of 17 years.

In order to determine the respondent's perception of the quality of the relationship with a particular guardian or guardians, the question was asked "How did you get along

with him/her/them?" The descriptor as given by the respondent was then inserted into the next question "What was _____ about it?" The latter was included for the purpose of elaborating on the descriptor and, hence, allowing the researcher to define the quality of the relationship with the guardian(s). More specifically, the latter question was asked in an effort to clarify ambiguous descriptors.

Childhood Sexual Experience Questionnaire

In the absence of a standardized instrument developed to assess the occurrence and characteristics of child sexual experiences, the Childhood Sexual Experience Survey (CSES) was adapted by this researcher from the self-administered "Family and Sexual Experiences Questionnaire (FSEQ)" used by Sorrenti-Little (1984). A number of authors (e.g., Sorrenti-Little, 1984; Fromuth, 1986) have used Finkelhor's (1979) FSEQ after making minor revisions.

For the present study, an adapted version of the FSEQ was employed in order to compare results with those of previous authors who used the FSEQ. There were, however, no reliability or validity data available for the instrument.

Only Part C of the FSEQ was employed in the present study as it was the only section of the four-part questionnaire relevant to meeting the objectives of this research. Specifically, Part C (Questions 39-102) was designed to

collect data pertaining to childhood sexual experiences.

The FSEQ contains closed-ended questions dealing with characteristics of a sexual partnership. Following the questions, the respondent is asked to indicate the self-perceived, immediate, and current effects of the partnership using a five-point Likert-type scale.

Sorrenti-Little (1984) retained the original FSEQ format developed by Finkelhor (1979). That is, the sexual partnerships were separated into four categories: (a) information related to CSEs (before the age of 12 years) with other children; (b) CSEs (before the age of 12 years) with an adult (a person over the age of 16 years); (c) CSEs after the age of 12 years with a guardian, family member, or close friend of a parent; and (d) non-consensual CSEs after the age of 12 years. Respondents were asked to report up to three sexual partnerships, in order of descending significance, for each of the four categories.

The categories described above were not used in the present study. Instead, to simplify the questionnaire and to eliminate the restrictions observed in the FSEQ, the respondent was asked to report childhood sexual partnerships (no age restriction) in descending order of impact, and the age and identity of the partner. However, the content of Sorrenti-Little's adapted version of the FSEQ was retained, intact, with two additions. The respondent was asked if she

had wanted the sexual partnership, and if she had disclosed the relationship, was disclosure helpful (see Appendix C).

In place of the self-administered format used by Finkelhor (1979), Fromuth (1986), and Sorrenti-Little (1984), the CSES was presented by means of a structured, individual interview by the researcher in the present study.

In addition to the survey instruments described above, two further questions were added to the study. Each respondent was asked to recall the most emotionally upsetting childhood experience. The researcher recorded responses on a form entitled Most Emotionally Upsetting Experience Question (MEUEQ) (Appendix D). If the respondent had experienced a negative CSE, a second question was posed and, again, the answer was recorded on a form, this one entitled Relative Negativity of Abusive CSE Question (RNAQ) (Appendix E). This question required the respondent to compare the most negative CSE with the most emotionally upsetting experience encountered before the 17th birthday. In other words, since child sexual abuse can result in devastating effects for some victims, it was important to assess the impact of child sexual abuse as compared to other negative life situations in childhood.

Research Procedure

The research was carried out in four stages from 1986 through 1987, as follows:

1. Procuring acceptance and endorsement of the project.
2. Assessing the appropriateness of the survey questions through pre-study screening evaluation.
3. Soliciting respondents.
4. Collecting the data.

Project Endorsement

As the first step in determining the feasibility of the project, this researcher met with the executive committee of the Alberta Native Women's Association (ANWA), who accepted the project as potentially beneficial to the Native community. Members of the ANWA then facilitated personal contact with the appropriate leaders in three Native communities (the Gleichen Reserve, the four Reservations located at Hobbema, and the Sarcee Reservation), and in the city of Calgary.

Instrument Screening

To ensure that the survey questions were appropriate for use with Native women, the interview package was screened by administering it to six members of the ANWA. The purpose of this procedure was to obtain comments on the

time required for the individual interview, and the comprehensibility of the language used in the survey questions.

Solicitation of Respondents

In order to solicit participants, a network of professionals was engaged to promote the project. These professionals included community college administrators and instructors, nurses, Native counsellors, administrators of women's shelters, day-care administrators, public health unit administrators, and social service personnel.

Professionals employed by various agencies working with Native clientele only were contacted on the Reservations. These agencies included community college administrators and instructors, public health unit administrators, Native counsellors, day-care administrators, and social service personnel. Agencies in the city of Calgary, providing service to Natives only, included Native Counselling Services, units in social services working with Natives, and the Indian Friendship Centre. Agencies providing services to all women in Calgary included three women's shelters, the Alberta Vocational Centre, the YWCA, and the Calgary Sexual Assault Centre.

The volunteer sample was obtained through advertising the project by word of mouth and through distribution of pamphlets which provided an explicit description of the

project and the interview process. A copy of the circulated pamphlet is reproduced in full in Appendix F and, in part, urged participation by stating:

The purpose of the study is to find out about different situations experienced in childhood and how you feel about them. The ultimate goal . . . is to establish programs to help prevent circumstances which may lead to problems later on.

Ms. Rundle will conduct an interview taking no longer than one hour. Each interview will be conducted on an individual basis, in private. First you will be asked [itemized list re age, education, occupation, etc.] . . . You will then be asked questions about your childhood . . . and about any sexual experiences you may have had as a child.

Each volunteer's identity will remain anonymous. . . . [and everything] will remain confidential.

Any Native woman 18 years of age or older can participate. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT FOR WOMEN WHO CONSIDER THEMSELVES TO FEEL MENTALLY HEALTHY TO VOLUNTEER, AS WELL AS THOSE WOMEN WHO FEEL THAT THEY HAVE PROBLEMS.

Each volunteer, who must be at least 18 years of age, will be paid \$15.00

Each volunteer was asked to contact a designated person in her area, anonymously, and make an appointment to be interviewed by the researcher. The interviews were conducted in four different geographical regions in Alberta. The number of respondents and the interview sites are listed in Table 3. The data (in rounded figures) show that 41% of the volunteers were seen in the city of Calgary, 31% on the Blackfoot Reservation at Gleichen, 8% on the Sarcee Reservation adjacent to the city of Calgary, and 19% (drawn from

Table 3
RESPONDENT INTERVIEW SITES AND ORIGINAL
LOCATION OF RESPONDENTS

Description	Number	Percentage of Total
<u>Interview Site</u>		
City of Calgary	83	40.99
Blackfoot Reservation at Gleichen	64	31.50
Sarcee Reservation adjacent to Calgary	16	7.90
Ermineskin, Samson, Louis Bull, and Montana Reservations at Hobbema	40	19.70
<u>Original Location of Respondents</u>		
City of Calgary	4	2.0
City of Edmonton	4	2.0
Blackfoot Reservation	80	39.4
Morley Reservation	17	8.4
Sarcee Reservation	21	10.3
Hobbema Reservation	35	17.2
Blood Reservation	27	13.3
Elsewhere	15	7.4

N = 203

the Ermineskin, Samson, Louis Bull, and Montana Reservations, were interviewed at Hobbema.

These volunteer respondents originally came from a variety of locations: 2% first lived in Calgary and 2% in Edmonton, while most of them came from various Reservations: 39% Blackfoot, 2% Morley, 10% Sarcee, 17% Hobbema, 13% Blood, and 7% from elsewhere (see Table 3).

The interviews were conducted in space provided by the following institutions and agencies: Old Sun College at Gleichen, Maskwachees Cultural College and the Hobbema Indian Health Services in Hobbema, and the Community Centre on the Sarcee Reservation. In Calgary, respondents were seen at the YWCA and in three women's shelters. All interviews took place in complete privacy.

Data Collection

In order to obtain permission to proceed with the study, a number of conditions were negotiated with ANWA, Native administrators (including Band Council members), and agency professionals who dealt with Native women. Spokespersons for the Native communities in which the research was conducted indicated that several previous experiences with researchers, both Native and non-Native, had violated matters of confidentiality and trust. Assurances, therefore, had to be given that the project would

be carried out professionally and ethically. In addition, because of the very personal and sensitive nature of the questions, assurance had to be given that crisis management would be provided for the respondents, if necessary, and a referral made to a mental health agency if need be. The Native leaders accepted the present (and sole) researcher as qualified to fulfill these conditions as the researcher is a Chartered Psychologist in the province of Alberta and had 15 years of prior interviewing experience at the outset of the project.

Preliminary Interview

Prior to conducting the structured interview, the researcher read aloud to each volunteer respondent a statement outlining the general purpose of the study, the content of the survey, the measures taken to ensure anonymity and confidentiality, and the possible risks to the volunteer (see Appendix G). The \$15. remuneration was given to each respondent prior to the signing of the consent form. It was necessary to pay each participant before the consent form was signed so as to preclude any interpretation of entrapment.

All volunteer participants were told, individually, that they could leave at that time, if they wished, and that they could terminate the interview at any time if they

felt uncomfortable. None of the volunteers left before the interview was completed.

Each respondent was then asked to make a check mark as an indication of consent to be interviewed. At the close of each session, all respondents were offered a list of counselling agencies in the region to enable them to seek help if they required the services of a professional (see Appendix H).

Structured Interview

The individual, structured interview method was used as the means of data collection for two reasons. The first reason relates to ethical considerations and the second to the quality of the data. Because the subject matter was potentially upsetting to the respondents, it was deemed necessary that the interviewer be able to provide crisis management while continuing to maintain confidentiality. In addition, according to Mangione, Hingson, and Barrett (1982), this survey method yields the most valid results. This is particularly true with sensitive questions such as those asked in the present study. Furthermore, the structured interview method eliminates the problems that may arise due to respondents' different reading, attentional, and motivational levels, and the need for emotional support, especially in such sensitive areas of study as CSE (Finkelhor, 1986; Russell, 1983).

After the respondent's consent was secured, the demographic questions and the PHGRF were administered orally. The Most Emotionally Upsetting Experience Question (MEUEQ) was then posed. Following the MEUEQ, a statement concerning sexual experiences before the age of 17 years was read aloud to the respondent, who was then asked, "Can you remember having had any sexual experience or experiences before the age of 17 years?" If the respondent's answer was "No," the interview was closed. If the answer was "Yes," the Childhood Sexual Experiences Survey (CSES) was administered orally. The reporting of a possible total of 12 experiences, decreasing in order of perceived significance, was permissible within the framework of this study. This was in keeping with Finkelhor's (1986) allowance for three sexual partnerships for each of four categories.

The final question, the Relative Negativity of Abusive CSE Question (RNAQ), was asked, but only if: (a) the respondent had recalled one or more of the CSEs to have had a negative effect at the time of the experience; (b) the experience was said by the respondent to have a current negative effect; and (c) the respondent had not already stated that the worst CSE had also been the most upsetting situation ever experienced. The total interview package was completed with each respondent in approximately one-half hour to one hour's time.

TREATMENT OF THE DATA

This portion of the study deals with the preparation of the raw data for statistical analyses, the operationalization of the variables, and the methods of analyses. Each of these three procedures applies to Research Questions 1, 2, and 3, and to "Other Data Analysis." Research Question 4 required tabulation of frequencies and percentages only. Since no test of significance was applied to Question 4, it was excluded from further analysis here. Questions 1 and 2 are addressed together in the sections dealing with operationalization of the variables and methods of analysis. The summary data and the results of the statistical analyses were obtained by means of the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) computer program (Nie, Hull, Jenkins, Steinbrenner, & Bent, 1977).*

Preparation for Analysis

This part deals with preparing Research Questions 1, 2, and 3 for analysis and concludes with "Other Data Analysis" not related directly to the research questions.

* A statistical consultant was employed to compute the analyses using the SPSS.

Research Question 1

Question 1 reads:

What are the recollected, immediate, and current, self-perceived, emotional effects of both single and multiple childhood sexual partnerships on Native women in Alberta?

Up to five different partnerships were reported by respondents in descending order of emotional impact. That is, the partnership of greatest emotional impact was declared first, and the partnership of least emotional impact was reported last. The five groups were not mutually exclusive; rather, the first group was comprised of respondents who reported at least one partnership, the second, at least two partnerships, the third and fourth, at least three and four partnerships, respectively. The final group contained a single respondent who reported having had five sexual partnerships in childhood.

A five-point Likert-type scale was used to assess the recollected, immediate and current, self-perceived, emotional effects of each of the five sexual partnerships experienced in childhood. The frequencies of the responses (positive, mostly positive, neutral, mostly negative, negative) were tabulated. For each of the five partnerships, the distributions were strongly skewed in favour of "mostly negative" effects. Hence, responses denoting some degree of negativity were grouped together and labelled the

"Negative Partnership" (NP) group. The remaining responses were either "neutral," "mostly positive," or "positive," and these were grouped under the label "Non-Negative Partnership" (NNP) group.

Separate sets of NP groups were formulated for the immediate, self-perceived effect, and for the current, self-perceived effect. The NP group referring to the immediate effect was labelled the Negative Partnership-Immediate (NP-I) group. Similarly, the NP group referring to the current effect was labelled the Negative Partnership-Current (NP-C) group. The Non-Negative Partnership group referring to the immediate effect was labelled the Non-Negative Partnership Immediate (NNP-I) group, and the NNP group referring to the current effect was labelled the Non-Negative Partnership-Current (NNP-C) group. Since the study was focused on exploring the variables related to childhood sexual abuse, only the negative partnerships were considered for statistical treatment.

Only the NNP-I group of respondents declared having a non-negatively perceived sexual partnership in childhood. This partnership was reported to have been the sexual partnership of greatest impact. It was not, however, by definition, assessed to be traumatic in emotional effect, and is, therefore, excluded from further discussion here. This NNP-I group was included in the No Abuse group and is

referred to later in the section entitled "Operationalization of the Variables." The current effect is also referred to in the same section, and is included as one of the 18 independent variables which characterized the childhood sexual partnerships.

In preparation for analysis, the following three operations were applied to the five partnership groups, based on the negative, self-perceived, immediate effect:

1. The five groups were made mutually exclusive. The group of respondents that reported one and only one abusive partnership was labelled the Negative Partnership-Immediate 1 (NP-I₁) group. The group that declared two and only two partnerships was named the Negative Partnership-Immediate 2 (NP-I₂) group. In like fashion, the groups comprised of respondents who reported only three and only four partnerships were labelled, respectively, the Negative Partnership-Immediate₃ (NP-I₃), and the Negative Partnership-Immediate 4 (NP-I₄) groups. The group comprised of one respondent who reported having experienced five abusive partnerships was termed the Negative Partnership-Immediate 5 (NP-I₅) group.

2. The single, most traumatic partnership reported by each of the respondents was selected within each of the five mutually exclusive groups.

3. The NP-I₃, the NP-I₄, and the NP-I₅ groups were combined into one group and labelled the NP-I₃₊ group.

In sum, three mutually exclusive groups--NP-I₁, NP-I₂, and NP-I₃₊--were derived and were used in subsequent analyses.

Research Question 2

Question 2 reads:

How do the following 17 characteristics (variables), directly related to a sexual partnership, influence the recollected, self-perceived, immediate effect on Native women: age of respondent; age, gender, and identity of partner; respondent drinking alcohol; partner drinking; type of sexual activity; which partner started the activity; respondent wanting the sexual relationship; force or threats by the respondent; force or threats by the partner; frequency and duration of activity and partnership; respondent's reaction during activity; strength of reaction; whether or not respondent disclosed the activity; and, if disclosed, was disclosure helpful? In addition, how does an 18th independent variable "current effect" relate statistically to the self-perceived, immediate, emotional effect of CSE?

The frequencies of each of the 18 independent variables named above were tabulated for the NP-I₁, NP-I₂, and the NP-I₃₊ groups, respectively. Of these variables, 11 were retained for statistical analyses. Six of the 18 were excluded from analyses because the relative frequencies with which they occurred in the three groups (NP-I₁,

NP-I₂, and NP-I₃₊) would not have, according to preliminary inspection, led to a statistically significant association between partnerships and each of the six variables.

A seventh variable, help/not help (referring to the respondent's disclosure of the sexual partnership) was excluded from analysis because the cell frequencies comprised of respondents who did disclose the partnership were insufficient for analysis.

Research Question 3

Question 3 reads:

Do factors such as number of placements, identity of guardian(s), and quality of relationship(s) with guardian(s) discriminate between those Native women who had been sexually victimized as children and those who had not been victimized?

Data obtained in response to the open-ended questions pertaining to placements, guardians, and relationships with guardians, were categorized, post hoc. The maximum number of different placements reported was nine (all groups were mutually exclusive). The groups of respondents who reported six, seven, eight, and nine placements were combined with the group of respondents who reported five different placements; hence, the upper limit was five placements.

The responses to the question of identity of guardian(s) in each of the placements were grouped into six categories: [residing with] mother and father, mother only, mother and stepfather, foster home, boarding school, and another placement. The variable "another placement" was comprised of 11 guardians: grandparents, grandmother, aunt and uncle, aunt, uncle, adoptive parents, father, father and stepmother, hospital, older brother, and older sister. The data showing a placement with any of these 11 guardians are presented in Appendix I for the No Abuse group (1-17 years) and the Abuse group (1-17 years). A single category, "another placement," included these 11 guardians because the number of respondents who reported having lived with any one of these guardians was insufficient for meaningful statistical analysis.

In addition, the quality of the relationship with each guardian (male and/or female) was assessed post hoc, and six categories emerged:

1. Positive relationship with female guardian.
2. Positive relationship with male guardian.
3. Negative relationship with female guardian.
4. Negative relationship with male guardian.
5. Ambiguous response.
6. Did not remember.

The "negative relationship(s)" with male and female

guardian(s) was used in subsequent analyses since the vast majority in the Abuse group was categorized as having had negative relationship(s) rather than positive relationships with guardian(s). The remaining four categories were, then, excluded from further treatment; hence, nine independent variables were retained for analysis.

The raw data from eight of the independent variables were transformed into "number of years" to account for variations over the respondent's entire childhood (1-17 years), and to render the data continuous. The following eight variables were, therefore, transformed into "number of years with": mother and father, mother only, mother and stepfather, boarding school, foster home, another placement, negative relationship(s) with female guardian(s), or negative relationship(s) with male guardian(s). No transformation was necessary for a ninth independent variable "number of placements." As well, for each of the nine independent variables, the group of respondents who reported being sexually abused sometime during childhood (the "Entire Childhood Abuse" group) was split into two age groups, that is, pre-puberty (ages 1-12 years) and post-puberty (ages 13-17 years), each for comparison with the No Abuse group.

In addition, in order to determine risk factors to the occurrence of childhood sexual abuse, only those data pertaining to the period prior to the first abusive

partnership were retained for analysis of the nine independent variables. Data obtained subsequent to the first abusive experience were not included as they could be interpreted as resulting from the abuse.

Other Data Analysis

Thus far, the treatment of the data has dealt with the preparation of the data for analysis in directly assessing the research questions. Additional data were obtained which did not relate directly to the research questions. These data were also prepared for analysis in order to make the following comparisons:

1. Abuse group and No Abuse group with respect to six demographic variables: current age, education, employment, marital status, and residence, and two age groups (18-28 years/29 years or older).
2. Pre-Puberty Abuse group and Post-Puberty Abuse group with respect to the identity of the perpetrator, identity of the guardian(s), and relationship with the guardian(s), at the time of the first abusive partnership.
3. Number of placements and number of sexually abusive partnerships.

OPERATIONALIZATION OF THE VARIABLES

The dependent and independent variables are defined below.

The dependent variable used in the present study was dichotomous and was operationalized in two parts: (a) (a) "childhood sexual abuse" was defined as the negative, immediate, self-perceived effect of a childhood sexual partnership; (b) "no abuse" was defined as the absence of a negative, immediate, self-perceived effect of a childhood sexual partnership (see Appendix C, Childhood Sexual Experiences Survey, Question 15).

Two groups of respondents emerged in correspondence to the definition of "no abuse." One group reported the absence of any childhood sexual partnership, and the other group (NNP-I) reported the presence of a childhood sexual partnership. This partnership, however, was not abusive, by definition. These two groups were combined to form the "No Abuse" group. The "No Abuse" group was then split to form two age groups: (1) the pre-puberty group (ages 1-12 years) comprised respondents who had been sexually abused for the first time before the age of 13 years; (2) the post-puberty group (age 13-17 years) comprised respondents abused for the first time during this period of childhood.

In sum, the presence of CSA and the absence of CSA denoted the dichotomous dependent variable. These groups

were labelled the "Abuse" group and the "No Abuse" group, respectively. In addition, the No Abuse group was split into two age groups: pre- and post-puberty.

Independent variables are identified under each of three headings below: characteristics of sexual partnerships, risk factors, and other data analysis.

Characteristics of Sexual Partnerships

The frequencies of 18 independent variables directly related to each reported childhood sexual partnership were tabulated. As stated earlier, only 11 of these independent variables (see Appendix C, CSE Survey) were included in subsequent analyses, and they are as follows:

1. Age of respondent (Q.1)
2. Age of partner (Q.2)
3. Identity of partner (family, foster family, non-family (Q.4)
4. Alcohol use by partner (yes, no) (Q.5a)
5. Alcohol use by respondent (yes, no) (Q.5b)
6. Type of sexual activity (intercourse, non-intercourse) (Q.6)
7. Partner's use of force/threats (yes, no) (Q.9)
8. Frequency of sexual encounters (once, 2-20, 21+ times) (Q.11)

9. Duration of sexual partnership (minutes, 1-6 months, 1 year+) (Q.12)
10. Disclosure of sexual partnership (yes, no) (Q.14)
11. Current effect (non-negative, negative) (Q.15)

Risk Factors

The following nine independent variables were included for subsequent analyses as a means of determining risk factors to CSA (see Appendix B, PHGRF Form):

1. Number of placements
2. Years with mother and father
3. Years with mother only
4. Years with mother and stepfather
5. Years in a boarding school
6. Years in a foster placement
7. Years in another placement
8. Years of negative relationship
with female guardian
9. Years of negative relationship
with male guardian

Other Data Analysis

Other data analyses are dealt with in three parts: demographic variables, first abusive partnership and

placement/guardian-relationship variables, and sexual partnerships and placements.

Demographic Variables

The following six independent variables were included in order to compare the Abuse group and the No Abuse group demographically (see Appendix A, RDD):

1. Age at interview (Q.1)
2. Education (elementary, secondary, post-secondary) (Q.2)
3. Employment (employed, unemployed, full-time student) (Q.3)
4. Marital status (single; married/common-law, separated/widowed/divorced) (Q.4)
5. Residence (urban, Reservation) (Q.5)
6. Age (18-28 years, 29 years+) (Q.1)

First Abusive Partnership and Placement/Guardian-Relationship Variables

The following four independent variables were included for subsequent analysis for comparison with age (pre-/post-puberty) at the time of the first abusive partnership (see Appendix C, CSE Survey):

1. Identity of the perpetrator (family, foster family, non-family) (Q.4)

2. Identity of the guardian (family, foster family, non-family) (see Appendix B, PHGR form)
3. Relationship with female guardian (positive, negative) (See Appendix B, PHGR form)
4. Relationship with male guardian (positive, negative) (see Appendix B, PHGR form)

Sexual Partnerships and Placements

The relationship or association was assessed between the two variables, number of childhood sexual abuse partnerships and number of different placements in childhood (0-17 years). That is, the bivariate relationship was determined between number of placements and number of childhood sexual partnerships.

METHODS OF ANALYSIS

The various methods used in analysing the data are discussed below under three headings: characteristics of sexual partnerships, risk factors, and other data analysis.

Characteristics of Sexual Partnerships

Each of the three mutually exclusive groups (NP-I₁, NP-I₂, and NP-I₃₊) was comprised of the single, most traumatically perceived childhood partnership, as recalled by

the respondent(s). Group comparisons were made for each of the 11 independent variables which characterized each of the partnerships. A one-way analysis of variance was used to test the significance of the difference of group means in two respects: first, age of respondent, and second, age of perpetrator. This parametric test is appropriate for use as it is assumed that the variable "age" is normally distributed in the population from which the sample is drawn.

In order to determine the source of statistical significance with respect to age of perpetrator, the Scheffé method of multiple comparisons was used (Ferguson, 1966). Group comparisons were made for the nine remaining independent variables by means of a chi-square analysis. This non-parametric test of statistical significance was appropriate here because the variables compared were at the nominal level of measurement.

Risk Factors

In order to identify those independent variables which best predict the occurrence of CSA, two stepwise discriminant function analyses were employed: (1) to determine risk factors to the occurrence of CSA during pre-pubescence (1-12 years); (2) to identify risk factors during post-pubescence (13-17 years). It is appropriate to emphasize here that the

frequency tabulations of each of the nine independent variables, for both Pre- and Post-Puberty Abuse groups, were made using data pertaining to these independent variables prior to the first abusive partnership.

The No Abuse group (1-17 years) was used as the comparison group in both discriminant function analyses. That is, a comparison was made between each of the nine independent variables comprising the Pre-Puberty Abuse group and the No Abuse group. Similarly, a comparison was made of each of the nine independent variables comprising the Post-Puberty Abuse group and the No Abuse group. Two stages of analysis were needed to assess the relative contribution of the independent variables to the occurrence of CSA.

The first stage involved the use of univariate analyses to determine those independent variables which statistically separated the No Abuse group from the Pre-Puberty Abuse group, and the No Abuse group from the Post-Puberty Abuse group. The independent variables which statistically separated the No Abuse Group from each of the two Abuse groups were retained for further analysis.

The second stage involved entering those independent variables found to differentiate the No Abuse group from the Pre-Puberty Abuse group into a stepwise discriminant function analysis. In like fashion, those independent variables found to separate statistically the No Abuse group from the

Post-Puberty Abuse group were also entered into a discriminant function analysis.

The stepwise discriminant function analysis is appropriate for use with a dichotomous dependent variable such as employed in the present study. This procedure selects the independent variable which best differentiates the groups (No Abuse/Pre-Puberty Abuse; No Abuse/Post-Puberty Abuse). A second independent variable is selected because of its superior ability to improve the discriminative power, in combination with the first independent variable. Subsequent independent variables are selected as they are able to add to further group discrimination. The process is discontinued when the remaining variables fail to improve further discrimination (Nie et al., 1977).

Other Data Analysis

Other data analyses are dealt with in three parts: demographic variables, first abusive partnership and placement/guardian-relationship variables, and sexual partnerships and placements.

Demographic Variables

A t test, appropriate for testing the significance of the difference between the means of two groups, was employed to test the difference in mean ages between the groups.

Each of the five remaining demographic variables was compared, with respect to the No Abuse and Abuse groups, by means of a chi-square analysis. This non-parametric analysis, which tests for association (or, conversely, independence), was appropriate here because the variables studied were measured at the nominal level.

First Abusive Partnership and Placement/Guardian-Relationship Variables

A chi-square analysis was employed to determine statistical association between age (pre-puberty/post-puberty) and each of four independent variables: identity of perpetrator, identity of guardian(s), quality of relationship with female guardian, and quality of relationship with male guardian. Again, this test was appropriate because the variables studied were measured at the nominal level.

Sexual Partnerships and Placements

Spearman's rank-order correlation was employed to determine the degree of association, or the relationship, between number of placements and number of sexually abusive partnerships. Again, this non-parametric procedure was appropriate here because the two variables (placements, partnerships) were measured at the ordinal level.

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

Some of the limitations inherent in child sexual abuse research, in general, also apply to this study and can be said to include: (a) ethical considerations, (b) sampling procedure, (c) the cross-sectional, retrospective nature of the study design, (d) the generalizability of the results, (e) the validity and reliability of the research instruments, and (f) experimenter bias.

Ethical considerations do not allow the direct investigation of the problem of child sexual abuse; that is, questioning a random sample of children from the general population about their sexual experiences. This restriction forces the researcher into retrospective studies using adult respondents. All researchers appear to agree that a number of limitations arise from the use of this investigative method. Factors such as normal forgetting over time, memory distortion, repression, and deliberate and inadvertent falsification of experiences may interfere with the accuracy of the reported information. In addition, because the sample was not chosen randomly, results of the study are not generalizable to the Native population as a whole; for example, the victim/non-victim proportions in the general population may differ from those in the sample. An added limitation stems from sampling only a limited number of

Indian Reservations and the city of Calgary, further restricting generalizability of the findings.

While every effort was made by this researcher to assume a neutral stance during the interviews, it is conceivable that inadvertent, subtle cues could have influenced some of the respondents' answers. This possible limitation may have been counter-balanced, however, by the ease of the researcher's general clinical "neutrality," a skill which could not be assumed to be present in a naïve interviewer.

Although Finkelhor's (1986) "Family and Sexual Experiences Questionnaire," or an adaptation of the instrument, has been employed by a number of researchers, it is not standardized, nor are the other data-gathering instruments used in the present study. The validity and reliability of each of the instruments, therefore, is unknown.

The present study was exploratory in nature, and designed to provide some helpful knowledge regarding child sexual abuse among Native women. It was hoped that the findings of this pioneering effort would provide useful suggestions for future research in this area.

Chapter 4

STATISTICAL RESULTS

In the previous chapter, the methods were described by which the data were manipulated for the application of various statistical analyses. The present chapter includes the results of the statistical analyses pertaining to Research Questions 1 and 2 (combined) under the heading "Characteristics of Sexual Partnerships." Second, under the heading "Risk Factors," the results of the analyses are addressed to show the manner in which nine independent variables (Research Question 3) influenced the occurrence of CSA. Third, the results of the analysis of Research Question 4, which was included as a means of assessing the relative negativity of CSA compared to other negative life situations, are presented under the heading "Relative Negativity of CSA." Finally, the results of tests of statistical significance are reported under the heading "Other Statistical Analysis" as the analyses apply to these data. Descriptive presentations (means and standard deviations) are reported, as well as the frequency tabulations, where appropriate. A significance level of $p < .05$ was selected as the cutoff for statistical significance.

Characteristics of Sexual Partnerships

In order to assess characteristics of sexually abusive partnerships, statistical analyses were applied to the grouped data obtained in dealing with Questions 1 and 2. Question 1, which was used to address the emotional effects of CSE, reads:

What are the recollected, immediate, and current, self-perceived, emotional effects of both single and multiple childhood sexual partnerships on Native women in Alberta?

Question 2, which was used to assess the statistical link between a number of directly related, independent variables and the immediate emotional effect, reads:

How do the following 17 characteristics (variables), directly related to a sexual partnership, influence the recollected, self-perceived, immediate effect on Native women: age of respondent; age, gender, and identity of partner; respondent drinking alcohol; partner drinking; type of sexual activity; which partner started the activity; respondent wanting the sexual relationship; force or threats by the respondent; force or threats by the partner; frequency and duration of activity and partnership; respondent's reaction during activity; strength of reaction;

whether or not respondent disclosed the activity; and, if activity disclosed, was disclosure helpful? In addition, how does an 18th independent variable, "current effect," relate statistically to the self-perceived, immediate, emotional effect of CSE?

The results of three statistical tests, that is:

(a) one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA), (b) the Scheffé method of multiple comparisons, and (c) chi-square analyses, used in dealing with Questions 1 and 2, are presented below. Summary statistics and frequencies of variables are included where appropriate.

A total of 110 respondents (54% of the sample of 203 Native women) reported having had at least one sexual partnership in childhood before they had reached their 17th birthday. Of the 110 respondents, 13 reported having had one, and only one, non-negative childhood sexual partnership (the NNPI group), and 97 respondents reported having had at least one negatively perceived partnership.

Non-Negative Partnerships

For the 13 respondents comprising the NNPI group (reporting one and only one non-negative partnership), the mean age at the onset of the partnership was 14.69 years (SD = 2.02). The mean age of the partners was 16.85 years (SD = 3.13), and the mean difference was 2.16 years;

therefore, these 13 partnerships were denoted as peer relationships. The partners were, by and large, men (85%). Two (15%) of the relationships were with female partners. All partners were identified as friends; 11 (85%) men and two (15%) women. While the majority of respondents reported that neither they nor their partners had used alcohol at the time of the sexual encounter, 31% said they did so.

Most respondents (77%) said the sexual activity was vaginal intercourse. Three reported sexual contact without intercourse--one as sexual fondling, one as touching partner's genitalia, and a third as partner touching respondent's genital area with mouth. The sexual activity was initiated by both the respondents and the partner 85% of the time, and 12 (92%) of the 13 respondents wanted the sexual partnership at the time. Force or threats were not used by any of the respondents or by the majority of the partners (92%). Seven (54%) stated the sexual activity had occurred with a frequency between 2 and 20 times. Three (23%) respondents reported the activity to have occurred 21 times (or more), and the same number said it had taken place only once.

The duration of the sexual partnership was reported primarily to have been long term. Eight (62%) respondents stated it had lasted for one year or more; two (15%) stated from one to six months; and three (23%) said it had lasted from minutes to one hour.

The majority of respondents (69%) declared the strength of the reaction to have been strong, and four (31%) felt it to have been weak. Most respondents (77%) did not disclose the sexual relationship to anyone and, of those who did, two said they were not criticized for the activity. The relationship was judged as either pleasurable or interesting for all 13 respondents in the NNPI group.

These respondents comprising the NNPI group were not, by definition, sexually abused; in other words, they did not recall the partnership to have been negative in immediate effect. As well, the partners, for the most part, were peers (close in age). Only those partnerships defined as abusive are described further, and their characteristics analysed.

Negative Partnerships

As previously stated, "child sexual abuse" is defined in this study as the negative, self-perceived, emotional effect of a sexual partnership which had occurred in childhood. Respondents who reported a negative emotional effect as the consequence of such a childhood sexual partnership were designated as having been sexually abused.

A total of 97 respondents reported having had at least one negative sexual partnership; 46 recalled having had at least two; 16 recalled at least three; two reported at least

four; and one respondent reported having had five abusive (negative) sexual partnerships in childhood.

The five groups of partnerships were reported in descending order of negative emotional impact and were, as a result, inter-dependent. The initial operation of deriving mutually exclusive groups produced the following groupings: 51 respondents recalled only one negative partnership; 27 respondents only two partnerships; 17 respondents only three; one respondent only four; and, finally, one respondent recalled having five negative partnerships.

The second operation involving the selection of the partnership of greatest negative impact from each of the five groups resulted in the following mutually exclusive groups: NP-I₁ (n = 51); NP-I₂ (n = 27); NP-I₃ (n = 17); NP-I₄ (n = 1); and NP-I₅ (n = 1).

The third operation involved combining the latter three groups. This combined group, labelled NP-I₃₊, comprised 19 respondents.

In sum, three mutually exclusive groups were derived, each comprised of the most traumatic partnership experienced by the respondents in respect to each of the groups. Hence, the differential effects of each of the 11 independent variables retained for analysis were assessed in terms of both single and multiple abusive partnerships.

As stated previously, of the 18 independent variables selected for study, six were omitted from analyses because the relative frequencies with which they occurred in the three partnership groups were judged, by inspection, not to be statistically significant. The frequencies with which each of these six variables occurred in each of the three partnership groups are discussed below.

The gender of the perpetrator was almost exclusively male in all three groups ($NP-I_1 = 100\%$; $NP-I_2 = 96\%$; and $NP-I_{3+} = 95\%$). The perpetrator started the sexual activity ($NP-I_1 = 100\%$; $NP-I_2 = 96\%$; and $NP-I_{3+} = 89\%$). The respondent did not want the partnership ($NP-I_1 = 100\%$; $NP-I_2 = 93\%$; and $NP-I_{3+} = 89\%$). For all three groups, no victims responded with any type of force or threat. The respondent reacted with fear and/or shock ($NP-I_1 = 100\%$; $NP-I_2 = 93\%$; and $NP-I_{3+} = 95\%$). The strength of the reaction was "great" or "very much" ($NP-I_1 = 96\%$; $NP-I_2 = 96\%$; and $NP-I_{3+} = 95\%$).

In addition, a seventh variable (disclosure: helpful/not helpful) was not statistically analysed across the three groups because the cell frequencies comprised of respondents who actually did disclose were insufficient for analysis. With respect to those 17 respondents in the $NP-I_1$ group who did disclose the sexual partnership, 41% were helped. Of the four respondents in the $NP-I_2$ group who disclosed, none

were helped. Similarly, the one member of the NP-I₃₊ group who disclosed the sexual activity was not helped.

The results of the analyses used to test the group effect, regarding each of the 11 independent variables retained, are presented below. The means and standard deviations of respondents' ages at time of encounter by partnership group are given in Table 4.

Table 4
MEANS AND STANDARD DEVIATIONS OF RESPON-
DENT AGE AT TIME OF ENCOUNTER

	NP-I ₁ ^a (n = 51)	NP-I ₂ ^b (n = 27)	NP-I ₃₊ ^c (n = 19)
<u>M</u>	10.76	9.12	9.58
<u>SD</u>	3.70	4.1	3.96

^aOne negative partnership, immediate effect

^bTwo negative partnerships, immediate effect

^cThree+ negative partnerships, immediate effect

As Table 5 data reveal, the results of the ANOVA failed to establish a group effect in respect to age of respondent at the onset of the partnership ($F[2, 94] = 1.06$; $p = .35$).

Table 6 data show the means and standard deviations

of partnership groups and age of perpetrators.

Table 5
ANALYSIS OF VARIANCE OF RESPONDENT AGE

Source of Variance	SS	DF	MSS	F	P
Between groups	49.52	2	24.76	1.06	.35
Within groups	2,202.12	94	23.42		
Total	2,251.64	96			

Table 6
MEANS AND STANDARD DEVIATIONS
OF PERPETRATOR AGE

	NP-I ₁ ^a (n = 51)	NP-I ₂ ^b (n = 27)	NP-I ₃₊ ^c (n = 19)
<u>M</u>	36.02	29.58	21.88
<u>SD</u>	12.53	14.56	11.74

^aOne negative partnership, immediate effect

^bTwo negative partnerships, immediate effect

^cThree+ negative partnerships, immediate effect

The results of the ANOVA, given in Table 7, show a significant group effect with respect to the age of perpetrator ($F[2, 94] = 5.74$; $p = .004$). Using the Scheffé method of multiple comparisons, a significant difference was revealed between NP-I₁ and NP-I₃₊ ($p < .05$).

Table 7
ANALYSIS OF VARIANCE OF PERPETRATOR AGE

Source of Variance	SS	DF	MSS	F	P
Between groups	3,005.25	2	1,502.98	5.74	.004
Within groups	24,623.14	94	261.95		
Total	27,628.39	96			

These results indicate, therefore, that the age of the perpetrator in one abusive partnership was shown to be significantly older than the perpetrator in the three + partnership.

The data in Tables 8 to 16 include the frequencies and percentages with which each of the remaining 9 independent variables occurred in each of the three partnership groups. They also include the cumulative frequencies of each of the independent variables across all groups, and the results of the chi-square analyses performed to test statistical significance.

In addition, for two of the independent variables, "identity of perpetrator" and "type of sexual activity," a further breakdown is given in Appendices J and K for each of the three partnership groups.

As the data in Table 8 indicate, the cumulative frequency of the independent variables, across the three partnership groups, identified a family member as the perpetrator by nearly half (47%) of the respondents. As illustrated in Appendix J, 13% of all perpetrators were identified as stepfathers, followed by uncles (12%) and biological fathers (8%). Eleven (11%) of the respondents reported sexual abuse by a member of the foster family. Of all perpetrators reported, 5% were foster brothers and 6% were foster fathers. Non-family members were named as perpetrators in 41% of all cases. Of all the perpetrators identified, 27% were acquaintances of the respondents. A friend of the respondent was declared in 8% of the cases, and a friend of the respondent's parent(s) in 1% of the cases. Only 4% of the perpetrators were identified as strangers by the respondents.

Also revealed in Table 8 are the results of the chi-square analysis which indicate a statistically significant association between number of partnerships and identity of the perpetrator ($\chi^2 = 24.39$; $p < .001$).

Table 8
IDENTITY OF PERPETRATOR

Perpetrator		NP-I ₁ ^a	NP-I ₂ ^b	NP-I ₃₊ ^c	Total
Family	n	34	7	5	46
	%	67.	26.	26.	47
Foster family	n	0	5	6	11
	%	0.	19.	32.	11
Non-family	n	17	15	8	40
	%	33.	56.	42.	41
Total	N	51	27	19	97
	%	100.	100.	100.	100

^aOne negative partnership, immediate effect

^bTwo negative partnerships, immediate effect

^cThree+ negative partnerships, immediate effect

$$\chi^2 = 24.39$$

$$df = 4$$

$$p = < .001$$

As the data in Table 9 show, the cumulative frequency indicates that alcohol had been used by the majority (72%) of perpetrators. In addition, a statistically significant association was found between alcohol use and number of partnerships reported by respondents ($\chi^2 = 11.37$; $p = < .01$).

Table 10 data show that most respondents (86% overall) had not used alcohol at the time of the sexual encounter. As well, no significant relationship was found between alcohol use by respondents and number of partnerships ($\chi^2 = .97$; $p = .62$).

Type of sexual activity was categorized for analysis into two groups--intercourse and non-intercourse. The majority (59%) of respondents, overall, reported the sexual activity to have been non-intercourse (see data detailed in Table 11). As the data in Appendix K reveal, however, the single most frequently reported sexual activity was intercourse (41%). Sexual fondling of the clothed body of the respondent was the next most frequently reported activity, overall (21%). The data in Table 11 also indicate there was no significant relationship between the type of sexual activity and the number of partnerships recalled by respondents ($\chi^2 = 4.23$; $p = .12$).

With respect to the use of force/threats by the perpetrator, most (85%) respondents reported that, for the

Table 9
ALCOHOL USE BY PERPETRATOR

Alcohol Use		NP-I ₁ ^a	NP-I ₂ ^b	NP-I ₃₊ ^c	Total
Yes	n	44	14	12	70
	%	86.	52.	63.	72.
No	n	7	13	7	27
	%	14.	48.	37.	27.
Total	N	51	27	19	97
	%	100.	100.	100.	100.

^aOne negative partnership, immediate effect

^bTwo negative partnerships, immediate effect

^cThree+ negative partnerships, immediate effect

$\chi^2 = 11.37$

df = 2

p = < .01

Table 10
ALCOHOL USE BY RESPONDENT

Alcohol Use		NP-I ₁ ^a	NP-I ₂ ^b	NP-I ₃₊ ^c	Total
Yes	n	6	4	4	14
	%	12.	15.	21.	14.
No	n	45	23	15	83
	%	88.	85.	79.	86.
Total	N	51	27	19	97
	%	100.	100.	100.	100.

^aOne negative partnership, immediate effect

^bTwo negative partnerships, immediate effect

^cThree+ negative partnerships, immediate effect

$\chi^2 = .97$

df = 2

p = .62

Table 11
TYPE OF SEXUAL ACTIVITY

Sexual Activity		NP-I ₁ ^a	NP-I ₂ ^b	NP-I ₃₊ ^c	Total
Intercourse	n	26	8	6	40
	%	51.	30.	32.	41.
Non-intercourse	n	25	19	13	57
	%	49.	70.	68.	59.
Total	N	51	27	19	97
	%	100.	100.	100.	100.

^aOne negative partnership, immediate effect

^bTwo negative partnerships, immediate effect

^cThree+ negative partnerships, immediate effect

$$\chi^2 = 4.23$$

$$df = 2$$

$$p = .12$$

most traumatic partnership, overall, the perpetrator used some degree of force or threat (see Table 12). As the data also indicate, the number of partnerships was not statistically associated with the use of force or threats ($\chi^2 = 5.03$; $p = .08$).

Most (55%) of the respondents reported that the number of sexual encounters for the most abusive partnership, overall, had a frequency of 2 to 20 encounters, followed by only one sexual encounter (36%), and 21 or more encounters (9%) (see Table 13). In addition, the relationship between frequency of sexual encounters and number of partnerships was statistically significant ($\chi^2 = 10.10$; $p = < .05$).

The majority (51%) of respondents reported the most traumatic partnership, of all experienced, to have been endured on a long-term basis (one or more years). Only 36% of the respondents reported a one-time occurrence which lasted a very short period of time. No statistical relationship was established between duration and partnerships ($\chi^2 = 3.10$; $p = .54$) (see Table 14).

With respect to the most traumatic partnership of all, the majority (78%) of respondents did not disclose the sexually abusive partnership (see Table 15). The data also show that no significant association was found between disclosure and number of partnerships ($\chi^2 = 8.68$; $p = .07$).

Inspection of the results indicates that most (77%)

Table 12
USE OF FORCE/THREATS BY PERPETRATOR

Use of Force/Threats		NP-I ₁ ^a	NP-I ₂ ^b	NP-I ₃₊ ^c	Total
Yes	n	46	23	13	82
	%	90.	85.	68.	85.
No	n	5	4	6	15
	%	10.	15.	32.	15.
Total	N	51	27	19	97
	%	100.	100.	100.	100.

^aOne negative partnership, immediate effect

^bTwo negative partnerships, immediate effect

^cThree+ negative partnerships, immediate effect

$\chi^2 = 5.03$

df = 2

p = .08

Table 13
NUMBER OF SEXUAL ENCOUNTERS

Sexual Encounters		NP-I ₁ ^a	NP-I ₂ ^b	NP-I ₃₊ ^c	Total
One	n	19	10	6	35
	%	37.	37.	32.	36.
2 to 20	n	23	17	13	53
	%	45.	63.	68.	55.
21 or more	n	9	0	0	9
	%	18.	0.	0.	9.
Total	N	51	27	19	97
	%	100.	100.	100.	100.

^aOne negative partnership, immediate effect

^bTwo negative partnerships, immediate effect

^cThree+ negative partnerships, immediate effect

$\chi^2 = 10.10$

df = 4

p = < .05

Table 14
DURATION OF SEXUAL PARTNERSHIP

Duration		NP-I ₁ ^a	NP-I ₂ ^b	NP-I ₃₊ ^c	Total
Minutes to 1 hour	n	19	10	6	35
	%	37.	37.	32.	36.
1 month to 6 months	n	4	5	4	13
	%	8.	19.	21.	13.
1 or more years	n	28	12	9	49
	%	55.	44.	47.	51.
Total	N	51	27	19	97
	%	100	100.	100.	100.

^aOne negative partnership, immediate effect

^bTwo negative partnerships, immediate effect

^cThree+ negative partnerships, immediate effect

$$\chi^2 = 3.10$$

$$df = 4$$

$$p = .54$$

Table 15
DISCLOSURE OF PARTNERSHIP

Source		NP-I ₁ ^a	NP-I ₂ ^b	NP-I ₃₊ ^c	Total
No-one	n	34	23	18	75
	%	67.	85.	95.	78.
Parent(s)	n	12	2	0	14
	%	24.	7.	0.	14.
Other(s)	n	5	2	1	8
	%	10.	7.	5.	8.
Total	N	51	27	19	97
	%	100.	100.	100.	100.

^aOne negative partnership, immediate effect

^bTwo negative partnerships, immediate effect

^cThree+ negative partnerships, immediate effect

$$\chi^2 = 8.68$$

$$df = 4$$

$$p = .07$$

respondents, overall, currently continued to perceive the sexual partnership as having been abusive (Table 16). The data also indicate that the current effect was not statistically associated with number of partnerships ($\chi^2 = 4.61$; $p = .10$). There was, however, a significant association found, through the chi-square test, between the two mutually exclusive groups of respondents who reported one and only one partnership and those who reported having more than one partnership ($\chi^2 = 16.00$; $p < 0.01$).

Risk Factors to Child Sexual Abuse

In an attempt to identify certain antecedent variables as risk factors to CSA, Research Question 3 was addressed, which reads:

Do factors such as number of placements, identity of guardian(s), and quality of relationship(s) with guardian(s) discriminate between those Native women who had been sexually victimized as children and those who had not been victimized?

In order to determine the contribution of the independent variables to the occurrence of CSA, three stages of analysis were conducted:

1. Summary statistics were tabulated up to the first abusive partnership of the Pre-Puberty and Post-Puberty Abuse groups.

Table 16
CURRENT EFFECT OF PARTNERSHIP

Effect		NP-I ₁ ^a	NP-I ₂ ^b	NP-I ₃₊ ^c	Total
Non-negative	n	15	6	1	22
	%	29.	22.	5.	23.
Negative	n	36	21	18	75
	%	71.	78.	95.	77.
Total	N	51	27	19	97
	%	100.	100.	100.	100.

^aOne negative partnership, immediate effect

^bTwo negative partnerships, immediate effect

^cThree+ negative partnerships, immediate effect

$$\chi^2 = 4.61$$

$$df = 2$$

$$p = .10$$

2. Univariate analyses were employed to test statistical significance between the No Abuse group and the Pre-Puberty Abuse group, and between the No Abuse group and the Post-Puberty Abuse group.

3. The independent variables, which statistically separated the No Abuse group from each of the Pre-Puberty and Post-Puberty Abuse groups, were entered into two separate, stepwise discriminant function analyses.

Quality of Relationship(s)
with Guardian(s)

The respondent's perception of the quality of the recollected childhood relationship with a specific guardian was determined by the respondent's answer to two questions. The descriptor given in response to the first question of the "Placement History and Guardian Relationship Form" ("How did you get along with him/her/them?") was inserted in the second question of the PHGRF ("What was _____ about it?"). [For specific descriptors see Appendix L.] The second question was included as a means of elaborating upon the description offered by the respondent in the first question. Specifically, the second question was posed in an effort to clarify ambiguous descriptors. The responses to this question, and the frequency with which each response occurred, are listed in Appendix M.

Each descriptor offered in response to the first

question was assigned to one of four categories: (a) Positive Relationship, (b) Negative Relationship, (c) Cannot Remember, and (d) Ambiguous. Frequencies of responses are also listed in Appendix L. As the data indicate, for the Positive Relationship category, the response "good" or "good relationship" was made most often. For the Negative Relationship category, the response "bad" or "badly" was stated most frequently. In total, 909 different responses were received from respondents. A breakdown of these 909 responses for positive and negative relationships with guardian(s) is also given in Appendix M. Thirty responses were assigned to the "Cannot Remember" category. In addition, 10 descriptors were assigned to the "Ambiguous" category; that is, they could not be judged as denoting a positive or a negative relationship and were, therefore, dropped from the analysis.

Statistical Correlates of Child Sexual Abuse

The data in Tables 17 to 25, inclusive, represent the breakdown of the nine independent variables for the "No Abuse" and the two "Abuse" groups (Pre-Puberty and Post-Puberty).

In order to provide data regarding risk factors contributing to CSA, it was necessary to assess the variables as they applied prior to the occurrence of a first

childhood sexual abuse situation. Two age groups were formed for this purpose: the Pre-Puberty Abuse group (ages 1-12 years) and the Post-Puberty Abuse group (ages 13-17 years); thus, for the 73 respondents who recalled experiencing their first sexual victimization between the ages of 1 and 12 years (the Pre-Puberty group), only data applicable to these respondents were used. Similarly, for the 24 respondents who recalled experiencing a first abusive partnership between the ages of 13 and 17 years (the Post-Puberty group), only data applicable to these specific respondents were assessed.

Table 17
MEANS AND STANDARD DEVIATIONS
OF RESPONDENT PLACEMENTS

Group	n	Number of Placements					M	SD
		1	2	3	4	5+		
No abuse	106	62	14	21	6	3	1.82	1.15
Abuse (1-12 yrs)	73	3	16	22	11	21	3.98	2.23
Abuse (13-17 yrs)	24	8	4	4	6	2	2.58	1.41

Table 18
MEANS AND STANDARD DEVIATIONS
OF RESPONDENT YEARS WITH
MOTHER AND FATHER

Group	n	N U M B E R O F Y E A R S							M	SD
		0	1-3	4-6	7-9	10-12	13-15	16-17		
No abuse	106	17	7	9	6	9	5	53	11.07	6.84
Abuse (1-12 yrs)	73	25	11	27	9	1	0	0	3.29	3.02
Abuse (13-17 yrs)	24	2	3	4	3	3	8	1	8.79	5.30

Table 19
MEANS AND STANDARD DEVIATIONS
OF RESPONDENT YEARS WITH
MOTHER ONLY

Group	N U M B E R O F Y E A R S								M	SD
	n	0	1-3	4-6	7-9	10-12	13-15	16-17		
No abuse	106	98	7	1	0	0	0	0	0.14	0.58
Abuse (1-12 yrs)	73	65	3	3	2	0	0	0	0.48	1.63
Abuse (13-17 yrs)	24	19	2	2	1	0	0	0	1.50	3.23

Table 20

MEANS AND STANDARD DEVIATIONS
OF RESPONDENT YEARS WITH
MOTHER AND STEPFATHER

Group	n	N U M B E R O F Y E A R S							M	SD
		0	1-3	4-6	7-9	10-12	13-15	16-17		
No abuse	106	102	3	0	0	1	0	0	0.15	1.02
Abuse (1-12 yrs)	73	56	3	6	4	4	0	0	1.59	3.28
Abuse (13-17 yrs)	24	23	1	0	0	0	0	0	0.08	0.41

Table 21
MEANS AND STANDARD DEVIATIONS
OF RESPONDENT YEARS IN
FOSTER PLACEMENT

Group	n	N U M B E R O F Y E A R S							M	SD
		0	1-3	4-6	7-9	10-12	13-15	16-17		
No abuse	106	102	3	1	0	0	0	0	0.09	0.48
Abuse (1-12 yrs)	73	61	8	2	2	0	0	0	0.58	1.64
Abuse (13-17 yrs)	24	22	1	1	0	0	0	0	0.29	1.23

Table 22
MEANS AND STANDARD DEVIATIONS
OF RESPONDENT YEARS IN
A BOARDING SCHOOL

Group	N U M B E R O F Y E A R S								M	SD
	n	0	1-3	4-6	7-9	10-12	13-15	16-17		
No abuse	106	79	4	4	15	4	0	0	1.79	3.34
Abuse (1-12 yrs)	73	61	8	3	1	0	0	0	0.52	1.33
Abuse (13-17 yrs)	24	17	2	1	3	1	0	0	2.00	3.71

Table 23
MEANS AND STANDARD DEVIATIONS
OF RESPONDENT YEARS IN
ANOTHER PLACEMENT

Group	N U M B E R O F Y E A R S								M	SD
	n	0	1-3	4-6	7-9	10-12	13-15	16-17		
No abuse	106	73	4	4	7	2	5	11	3.41	5.91
Abuse (1-12 yrs)	73	51	6	11	4	1	0	0	1.49	2.67
Abuse (13-17 yrs)	24	16	4	2	1	1	0	1	2.04	4.30

Table 24

MEANS AND STANDARD DEVIATIONS OF RESPONDENT
YEARS IN A NEGATIVE RELATIONSHIP
WITH FEMALE GUARDIAN

Group	n	N U M B E R O F Y E A R S							M	SD
		0	1-3	4-6	7-9	10-12	13-15	16-17		
No abuse	106	70	6	5	18	2	2	3	2.63	4.34
Abuse (1-12 yrs)	73	10	6	17	21	19	0	0	6.38	3.81
Abuse (13-17 yrs)	24	9	0	2	2	1	9	1	7.25	6.99

Table 25

MEANS AND STANDARD DEVIATIONS OF RESPONDENT
YEARS IN A NEGATIVE RELATIONSHIP
WITH MALE GUARDIAN

Group	n	N U M B E R O F Y E A R S							M	SD
		0	1-3	4-6	7-9	10-12	13-15	16-17		
No abuse	106	63	4	4	13	2	5	15	5.59	6.93
Abuse (1-12 yrs)	73	4	5	24	21	19	0	0	6.86	3.33
Abuse (13-17 yrs)	24	5	0	1	3	1	11	3	10.00	5.99

For each independent variable, each table includes three sets of data: the frequencies for (a) the No Abuse group ($n = 106$); (b) the Pre-Puberty Abuse groups (ages 1-12 years; $n = 73$); and (c) the Post-Puberty Abuse group (ages 13-17 years; $n = 24$).

In addition, for the purpose of presenting subsequent statistical analyses, Tables 17 to 25 include the means and standard deviations of each independent variable for the three sets of data.

Tables 26 and 27 data include the means and standard deviations, as well as the results of the univariate analyses, for the nine independent variables with respect to the No Abuse group and the two Abuse groups. The results of univariate analyses shown in Table 26 indicate a significant difference between the Pre-Puberty and the No Abuse groups with regard to eight variables: number of placements ($F[1, 177] = 72.55$; $p < 0.001$); years with mother and father ($F[1, 177] = 8.12$; $p < 0.01$); years with mother only ($F[1, 177] = 7.26$; $p < 0.01$); years with mother and stepfather ($F[1, 177] = 22.57$; $p < 0.001$); years in a foster placement ($F[1, 177] = 13.03$; $p < 0.001$); years in a boarding school ($F[1, 177] = 4.21$; $p < .05$); years of negative relationship with female guardian ($F[1, 177] = 186.00$; $p < 0.001$); and years of negative relationship with male guardian ($F[1, 177] = 99.90$; $p < 0.001$).

Table 26

MEANS, STANDARD DEVIATIONS, AND UNIVARIATE
F FOR THE NINE INDEPENDENT VARIABLES BY
NO ABUSE GROUP AND PRE-PUBERTY
ABUSE GROUP

Variable	No Abuse (n=106) Y e a r s		Abuse (n=73) Y e a r s		Univariate F(1, 177)
	M	SD	M	SD	
Number of place- ments	1.82	1.15	3.98	2.23	72.55 ^c
With mother and father	11.07	6.84	3.29	3.02	8.12 ^b
With mother only	0.14	0.58	0.48	1.63	7.26 ^b
With mother and stepfather	0.15	1.02	1.59	3.28	22.57 ^c
In foster placement	0.09	0.48	0.58	1.64	13.03 ^c
In a boarding school	1.79	3.34	0.52	1.33	4.21 ^a
In another placement	3.41	5.91	1.49	2.67	0.04
<u>Negative Relationship</u>					
With female guardian	2.63	4.34	6.38	3.81	186.00 ^c
With male guardian	5.59	6.93	6.86	3.33	99.90 ^c

^a_p < 0.05

^b_p < 0.01

^c_p < 0.001

As shown in Table 27, four independent variables significantly separate the Post-Puberty Abuse and the No Abuse groups. The univariate analyses indicate a significant group difference among the following four independent variables: number of placements ($F[1, 128] = 7.94$; $p < 0.01$); years with mother only ($F[1, 128] = 17.91$; $p < 0.001$); years of negative relationship with female guardian ($F[1, 138] = 29.63$; $p < 0.001$); and years of negative relationship with male guardian ($F[, 128] = 16.31$; $p < 0.001$). Those variables which separated the No Abuse group from each of the two Abuse groups were entered into a stepwise discriminant function analysis.

For the Pre-Puberty Abuse group (see Table 28), seven of the eight independent variables were retained in the discriminant function analysis. Wilks' Lambda was 0.34; the canonical correlation was 0.81; and 90.5% of "grouped" cases were correctly classified. The strongest contributing variable was years of negative relationship with female guardian (standardized coefficient [SC] = 0.84). The next best predictor of CSA was fewer years in a boarding school (SC = -0.62), followed by number of placements (SC = 0.41), and years of negative relationship with male guardian (SC = 0.26). The fifth strongest contributor was years in a foster placement (SC = 0.12). The weakest discriminators were fewer years with mother and father (SC = -0.17),

Table 27

MEANS, STANDARD DEVIATIONS, AND UNIVARIATE
F FOR THE NINE INDEPENDENT VARIABLES BY
NO ABUSE GROUP AND POST-PUBERTY
ABUSE GROUP

Variable	No Abuse (n=106) Y e a r s		Abuse (n=24) Y e a r s		Univariate F(1, 128)
	M	SD	M	SD	
Number of place- ments	1.82	1.15	2.58	1.41	7.94 ^a
With mother and father	11.07	6.84	8.79	5.30	0.35
With mother only	0.14	0.58	1.50	3.23	17.91 ^b
With mother and stepfather	0.15	1.02	0.08	0.41	0.04
In foster placement	0.09	0.48	0.29	1.23	2.48
In a boarding- school	1.79	3.34	2.00	3.71	0.47
In another placement	3.41	5.91	2.04	4.30	0.76
<u>Negative Relationship</u>					
With female guardian	2.63	4.34	7.25	6.99	29.63 ^b
With male guardian	5.59	6.93	10.00	5.99	16.31 ^b

^a_p < 0.01

^b_p < 0.001

Table 28
STANDARDIZED DISCRIMINANT FUNCTION COEFFICIENTS
AND MEANS FOR THE RETAINED VARIABLES BY NO
ABUSE AND PRE-PUBERTY ABUSE GROUPS

Variable	SC	M e a n s	
		No Abuse (n=106)	Pre-Puberty Abuse (n=73)
Yrs negative relationship with female guardian	0.84	2.63	6.38
Yrs in a boarding school	-0.62	1.79	0.52
Number of placements	0.41	1.82	3.98
Yrs negative relationship with male guardian	0.26	5.59	6.86
Yrs in foster placement	0.12	0.09	0.58
Yrs w/mother & father	-0.17	11.07	3.29
Yrs w/mother & stepfather	0.11	0.15	1.59

SC = standardized coefficient

Eigen value = 1.91

Canonical correlation = 0.81

Cases correctly qualified = 90.5%

Wilks' λ = 0.34

χ^2 = 185.27

df = 7

p = < 0.0001

and years with mother and stepfather ($SC = 0.11$).

A second stepwise discriminant function analysis was used to determine the contribution of the four independent variables to the occurrence of post-puberty child sexual abuse. As indicated in Table 29, three of the four variables were retained in the analysis. Wilks' Lambda was 0.70; the canonical correlation was 0.54; and 85% of the "grouped" cases were correctly classified. The strongest contributing variable was, again, years of negative relationship with female guardian ($SC = 0.98$). The second strongest predictor was years with mother only ($SC = 0.66$). The third (weakest) contributor in the analysis was number of placements ($SC = 0.29$).

In summary, those independent variables which statistically differentiated the No Abuse group from the Pre- and Post-Puberty Abuse groups were entered into two separate stepwise discriminant function analyses, in an attempt to determine risk factors to child sexual abuse.

For the group of respondents who had recalled being sexually abused for the first time before the age of 13 years (Pre-Puberty), and for the group aged 14 to 17 years (Post-Puberty), the most powerful predictor of sexual abuse was the number of years spent in a negative relationship with a female guardian. For both of these age groups, therefore, the quality of the relationship with a mother

Table 29
STANDARDIZED DISCRIMINANT FUNCTION COEFFICIENTS
AND MEANS FOR THE RETAINED VARIABLES BY NO
ABUSE AND POST-PUBERTY ABUSE GROUPS

Variable	SC	M e a n s	
		No Abuse (n=106)	Post-Puberty Abuse (n=24)
Yrs negative relationship with female guardian	0.98	2.63	7.25
Years with mother only	0.66	0.14	1.50
Number of placements	0.29	0.09	0.29

SC = standardized coefficients

Eigen value = 0.42

Canonical correlation = 0.54

Cases correctly classified = 84.62%

Wilks' λ = .70

χ^2 = 44.22

df = 3

p < .0001

figure seemed to be a major determinant in the sexual abuse of female children.

For the Pre-Puberty group, two residence situations were strong contributors to CSA. The first was years living in a boarding school, which appeared to be very important in discriminating the No Abuse group and the Pre-Puberty group. The second was number of placements, also a significant contributor to CSA. Hence, it would appear that the boarding school situation provided protection from CSA, whereas having multiple placements put the respondents at greater risk for CSA.

A second relationship variable, years of negative relationship with male guardian, was the fourth strongest contributor to CSA. From the results of the present study, it would seem that, although important, negative relationships with male guardians were not as important as negative relationships with female guardians in placing a child at risk for CSA. Three additional residence variables discriminated between the No Abuse and the Pre-Puberty Abuse groups. More years in a foster home was the fifth strongest contributor to CSA. The two remaining variables--years with mother and father, and years with mother and stepfather--were the weakest discriminators. That is, fewer years with mother and father as well as more years with mother and stepfather also increased the risk of CSA.

In addition to the strongest contributor to CSA (i.e., negative relationship with female guardian) with respect to both the Pre-Puberty and Post-Puberty groups, two additional variables were found to be discriminators of CSA between the Post-Puberty and No Abuse groups. Years with mother only was the second most powerful contributor, and number of placements was the third and weakest group discriminator.

Relative Impact of Child Sexual Abuse

Research Question 4 posed the following query:

According to the respondent's recollection, was the most negative sexual partnership worse than, equal to, or not as traumatic as some other specified negative life experience?

The majority (60%) of the respondents recalled that the most negative sexual partnership was the worst experience of their childhood. Only 5% of those who were sexually abused remembered the sexual victimization to be equally as traumatic as some other negative life experience. Some (34%) of the respondents, however, recalled that the sexual abuse had not been as traumatic in comparison with some other emotionally upsetting experience in their childhood.

Other Statistical Analysis

Results that are not directly related to the four research questions are presented in the following order: demographic variables, sexual partnerships and placements, and first abusive partnership and placement/guardian relationship variables.

Demographic Variables

A post hoc comparison of the six demographic variables was conducted between the No Abuse group and the Abuse group. At the time of interview, the current mean age of the respondents in the No Abuse group was 30.17 years (SD = 7.32), and in the Abuse group was 31.44 years (SD = 8.81). Using a t test, no significant difference was found between the two groups ($t = 1.89$; $df = 201$; $p = 0.07$).

The data for the remaining five demographic variables are presented in Table 30 to Table 24, inclusive. Chi-square analyses were employed to test the statistical association between CSA and each of these five demographic variables. The results of each of the chi-square analyses are given below.

A significant relationship was found between CSA and respondent's current level of education attained at the time of interview ($\chi^2 = 42.27$; $p < 0.001$) (see Table 30).

In addition, the chi-square analysis which tested the

Table 30
CURRENT LEVEL OF EDUCATION

Education		No Abuse Group	Abuse Group	Total
Elementary	n	10	46	56
	%	9.	47.	28.
Secondary	n	34	29	63
	%	32.	30.	31.
Post-secondary	n	62	22	84
	%	58.	23.	41.
Total	N	106	97	203
	%	100.	100.	100.

$$\chi^2 = 42.27$$

$$df = 2$$

$$p = < .001$$

association between CSA and current employment status was also significant ($\chi^2 = 30.49$; $p < 0.001$) (see Table 31).

As Table 32 and 33 data show, two further analyses indicated a significant relationship between CSA and marital status ($\chi^2 = 14.77$; $p = .001$), as well as CSA and place of residence ($\chi^2 = 4.46$; $p = .04$). A final chi-square analysis, used to test association between CSA and younger/older respondents, was not significant ($\chi^2 = 1.34$; $p = .25$).

First Abusive Partnership and Placement/Guardian Relationship Variables

Data pertaining to the Pre-Puberty Abuse group and the Post-Puberty Abuse group were obtained with regard to the identity of the perpetrator, the identity of the guardian(s), and the quality of the relationship(s) with guardian(s) at the time of the first abusive partnership. These data are presented in Table 35 to Table 38, inclusive. Chi-square analyses were performed so as to assess age of victimization (Pre- and Post-Puberty) and each of these three variables.

As is shown in Table 35, most (62%) of the perpetrators, overall, were family members. As Appendix N data indicate, the most often-named specific abusers were either acquaintances of the respondent (18%), fathers (16%), stepfathers (16%), and uncles (16%). The chi-square analysis used to test the relationship between the age of the respondent and

Table 31
CURRENT EMPLOYMENT STATUS

Employment		No Abuse Group	Abuse Group	Total
Employed	n	41	26	67
	%	39.	27.	33.
Unemployed	n	8	39	47
	%	8.	40.	23.
Full-time student	n	57	32	89
	%	54.	33.	44.
Total	N	106	97	203
	%	100.	100.	100.

$$\chi^2 = 30.49$$

$$df = 2$$

$$p = < .001$$

Table 32
CURRENT MARITAL STATUS

Marital Status		No Abuse Group	Abuse Group	Total
Single	n	29	15	44
	%	27.	15.	21.
Married/common-law	n	64	49	113
	%	60.	51.	56.
Separated/widowed/divorced	n	13	33	46
	%	12.	34.	22.
Total	N	106	97	203
	%	100.	100.	100.

$$\chi^2 = 14.771$$

$$df = 2$$

$$p = .001$$

Table 33
CURRENT RESIDENCE

Residence		No Abuse Group	Abuse Group	Total
Urban	n	38	50	88
	%	36.	52.	44.
Reservation	n	68	47	115
	%	64.	48.	56.
Total	N	106	97	203
	%	100.	100.	100.

$$\chi^2 = 4.46$$

$$df = 1$$

$$p = < .04$$

Table 34
CURRENT AGE

Age		No Abuse Group	Abuse Group	Total
18 - 28 years	n	61	47	108
	%	58.	48.	53.
29 years +	n	45	50	95
	%	42.	52.	47.
Total	N	106	97	203
	%	100.	100.	100.

$$\chi^2 = 1.34$$

$$df = 1$$

$$p = .25$$

Table 35
IDENTITY OF PERPETRATOR AT TIME OF
FIRST ABUSIVE PARTNERSHIP

Perpetrator		Pre- Puberty Group	Post- Puberty Group	Total
Family	n	52	8	60
	%	71.	33.	62.
Foster family	n	7	0	7
	%	10.	0.	7.
Non-family	n	14	16	30
	%	19.	67.	30.
Total	N	73	24	97
	%	100.	100.	100.

$$\chi^2 = 19.66$$

$$df = 2$$

$$p = < .001$$

identity of perpetrator was statistically significant ($\chi^2 = 19.66$; $p < .001$).

At the time of the sexually abusive partnership, the majority of the respondents' guardians were, overall, also family members (see Table 36). Appendix O data indicate that most (40%) guardians were the biological parents of the respondents at the time of the sexual abuse. There was no significant association between age at first abusive partnership and the guardian(s) at the time ($\chi^2 = 2.73$; $p = .26$).

With respect to the relationship with the female guardian, at the time of the respondent's first victimizing partnership, most (73%) respondents, overall, reported a negative relationship with the "mother figure" (see Table 37). Similarly, most (75%) had a negative relationship with the "father figure" at that time (see Table 38). In addition, the chi-square analyses revealed no significant relationships between age and quality of relationship with the female guardian ($\chi^2 = .04$; $p = .85$), and age and quality of relationship with male guardian ($\chi^2 = .04$; $p = .85$).

These results suggest that more perpetrators were family members in the Pre-Puberty Abuse group, whereas most perpetrators were non-family members in the Post-Puberty Abuse group. In both groups, the guardians were primarily family members and were usually parents. Of interest is the result that those respondents victimized before puberty were

Table 36
IDENTITY OF GUARDIAN AT TIME OF
FIRST ABUSIVE PARTNERSHIP

Guardian		Pre- Puberty Group	Post- Puberty Group	Total
Family	n	49	19	68
	%	67.	79.	71.
Foster family	n	13	1	14
	%	18.	4.	14.
Non-family	n	11	4	15
	%	15.	17.	15.
Total	N	73	24	97
	%	100.	100.	100.

$$\chi^2 = 2.73$$

$$df = 2$$

$$p = .26$$

Table 37

QUALITY OF RELATIONSHIP WITH FEMALE GUARDIAN
AT TIME OF FIRST ABUSIVE PARTNERSHIP

Quality of Relationship		Pre-Puberty Group	Post-Puberty Group	Total
Positive	n	20	5	25
	%	28.	23.	27.
Negative	n	52	17	69
	%	72.	77.	73.
Total	N	72	22	94 ^a
	%	100.	100.	100.

^aNote: N is not = 97; three responses
were ambiguous and not included.

$$\chi^2 = .04$$

$$df = 1$$

$$p = .85$$

Table 38

QUALITY OF RELATIONSHIP WITH MALE GUARDIAN
AT TIME OF FIRST ABUSIVE PARTNERSHIP

Quality of Relationship		Pre-Puberty Group	Post-Puberty Group	Total
Positive	n	20	3	23
	%	26.	20.	25.
Negative	n	56	12	68
	%	74.	80.	75.
Total	N	76	15	91 ^a
	%	100.	100.	100.

^aNote: N is not = 97; six responses were either ambiguous or no male was present in home.

$$\chi^2 = .04$$

$$df = 1$$

$$p = .85$$

typically victimized by family members, and, in addition, they reported negative relationships with both their female and male guardian(s). Those victimized after puberty were more often abused by non-family members and, also more often, reported a negative relationship with both female and male guardians.

Sexual Partnerships and Placements

Spearman's rank-order correlation was applied to assess the relationship between number of placements and number of sexually abusive partnerships. The coefficient of rank correlation, ρ , was found to be 0.53. This coefficient is significant at the 0.001 level of probability, indicating that, as the number of placements increased, so did the number of abusive partnerships.

Summary of Results

Of the 110 women who recalled childhood sexual partnerships, 97 reported at least one negative sexual partnership. Thirteen respondents recalled one non-negative partnership. A total of five negatively perceived partnerships were reported. Three mutually exclusive groups were derived, and comprised respondents reporting one, two, and three (or more) partnerships, respectively. With regard to all three partnership groups, overall, virtually all partners

(perpetrators) were male persons, considerably older than the respondents, and were also known to them. Typically, most abusers were family members identified as biological fathers, stepfathers, or uncles. Alcohol use by the abuser, and forced intercourse, predominated. These partnerships, often of a long-term nature, continued against the wishes of the respondents, whose reactions to the sexual encounters were shock and fear. In addition, despite the trauma experienced, very few respondents said they disclosed the situation to another person. Furthermore, most of the respondents, at the time of interview, said they still perceived the childhood sexual partnership(s) to be negative.

Statistical analyses used to compare number of partnerships with each of 11 independent variables revealed that there was no statistical association in number of partnerships and age of respondents. A significant association in age of the perpetrator was found, however, between the "one-partnership" group and the "three-partnerships" group. The perpetrators in the latter group were significantly younger than in the former group. A significant relationship was found between partnerships and identity of perpetrator, alcohol used by perpetrator, and number of sexual encounters. No significant relationship was found between partnership and alcohol use by respondent, type of sexual

activity, use of force or threats by perpetrator, duration, disclosure of the partnership, or current effect.

In addition to assessing the statistical relationship between specific variables directly related to the CSA and number of abusive partnerships, an attempt was made to establish risk factors to the victimization. The strongest contributing factor to CSA, for both the Pre- and Post-Puberty groups, was found to be the number of years the respondent spent in a negative relationship with a female guardian; that is, the quality of the relationship with a "mother figure" appeared to play a prime role in determining the occurrence of CSA for both pre- and post-pubescent children. Those abused during pre-pubescent years also appeared to be more "at risk" for CSA with respect to number of placements, years of negative relationships with male guardians, years in a foster home, and years spent with mother and stepfather.

In contrast, years in a boarding school and years with mother and father appeared to provide protection against CSA for pre-pubescent, female children. In addition to years of negative relationship(s) with female guardian(s), years with mother only appeared in the present study to be the second best predictor of CSA in post-pubescent, female children. The third variable retained in the analysis was number of placements, a variable found to be an additional

and important predictor of CSA.

As well as establishing risk factors to the first occurrence of sexual abuse of pre- and post-pubescent children, an additional result was found to be significant. The number of placements correlated strongly with the number of sexually abusive partnerships in childhood. The findings would appear to indicate, therefore, that the more a child was moved from home to home, the more victimizing partnerships the child would be forced to endure.

In addition to determining risk factors to CSA, respondents who had been victimized as children were asked to compare the abuse with other negative life situations. The majority of respondents recalled that the only--or the most abusive--partnership had engendered a greater degree of emotional trauma than any other upsetting childhood situation they could remember.

The data reported thus far have dealt with sexual abuse and risk factors to sexual abuse in childhood. The current circumstances of the respondents, as adults, were also reviewed in regard to the six demographic variables included in the study. A number of differences were evident when the No Abuse group was compared with the Abuse group. The adult respondents who recalled being sexually victimized as children had received less formal education and were more likely to be unemployed. Fewer respondents in the Abuse

group were, at the time of the interview, in a spousal or common-law relationship, and, of interest, this group was more likely to be residing in an urban area than on a Reservation. No group difference was found with respect to age at interview, nor with respect to the younger/older respondents.

Chapter 5

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

This chapter contains a discussion of the research findings of the study, the purpose of which was to explore the self-perceived, emotional effects, retrospectively, of childhood sexual experiences as reported by Native women living in Alberta. Also assessed were the characteristics (variables) directly related to the CSEs, in order to determine their influence on the recollected, immediate, self-perceived effect. To estimate their present emotional reaction, respondents were asked to report the current, self-perceived effect of the sexual experience(s) they recalled. In addition, it seemed important to enquire about the relative negativity of an abusive CSE compared to other negative life experiences. Perhaps the most important part of the study was to develop risk factors to CSA so that some basic knowledge would be obtained in order to address the prevention of child sexual abuse. The discussion presented below is grouped under general considerations, characteristics of sexual partnership, risk factors, other data analysis, conclusions, implications, theoretical considerations, and suggestions for further research.

General Considerations

This study was not designed for the purpose of assessing the prevalence of childhood sexual abuse among Native women. It would, obviously, have been preferable to obtain a representative sample of Native women; however, from the outset Native leaders strongly opposed such an approach. Since the subject matter studied was extremely sensitive, the only sampling procedure allowed was one which could be carried out on a strictly self-selected, volunteer basis; hence, the figure of 48% (those women who reported having been sexually abused in childhood) must be interpreted in this context. In addition to possible bias resulting from the selection procedure, the actual study sample was obtained from a special population; that is, a high percentage was made up of college students. In all likelihood, therefore, these respondents did not represent a true reflection of the degree to which CSA has existed among Native women. A very small number of the respondents reported only elementary-school levels of education, a questionable degree of representativeness. Because the sample was very likely comprised of women who were functioning reasonably well, it is possible to speculate that many Native women suffered even greater damage than those abused women who volunteered to participate in this study. In any

case, it is likely that the occurrence of child sexual abuse among the Native population in Alberta is quite high.

Perhaps, by chance, the figure of 48% corresponds to some degree to estimates of prevalence figures obtained from random sampling techniques; for example, Badgley (1984) reported an estimated prevalence figure of 34%, Wyatt (1985) reported a figure of 62%, and Russell (1983) obtained a figure of 54%. Although it is very difficult to compare these studies because of differences in definitions, methodology, and sampling procedures, it does seem that child sexual abuse in the United States and Canada is a very serious problem among both Native and non-Native families alike. In the next section, specific characteristics are addressed which are directly related to the partnerships reported by the study respondents.

Characteristics of Sexual Partnerships

Several authors have maintained that certain characteristics related to sexual partnerships differentially influence the emotional/psychological outcome for the female child-participant in the sexual activity (e.g., Finkelhor, 1979; Sorrenti-Little, 1984). In the present study, 88% of those who reported a childhood sexual experience recalled the activity to have been abusive in its initial effect. A minority (12%) reported having CSE(s) of a non-negative

or non-abusive nature. It became evident that, for the various characteristics associated with childhood-sexual partnerships, there was, indeed, a marked difference in this study between non-negative CSE and negative (abusive) CSE groups.

As expected, respondents involved in non-abusive partnerships (based on the immediate effect) typically reported the partner to have been a male, extra-familial peer who was a friend. No force was involved, and the respondent wanted the relationship and reacted to the experience with pleasure and interest. Furthermore, the activity was initiated by both partners.

In contrast, respondents involved in abusive partnerships (again based on the negative, immediate effect) typically reported the partner to have been much older, that is, an adult male perpetrator. Force was used by the perpetrator in the majority of cases, and the partnerships were "unwanted" by the respondents and initiated by the perpetrator. In these cases (the negative group), the respondents reacted with fear and/or shock. Alcohol was frequently used by the abuser, but not by the respondent. The abuse was initiated, for the most part, by a family member, often a "father figure." Although a number of characteristics did not, on inspection, differentiate the groups, those that did so were markedly distinct from one

another; that is, there was very little overlap of these particular characteristics between the two groups.

In the present study, those characteristics which seemed to separate the respondents whose immediate, self-perceived effect had been negative, from those whose immediate, self-perceived effect had not been negative, were for the most part parallel to the findings of other researchers. The involvement of an older, male perpetrator in the adult-child sexual activity, force used by the perpetrator, and alcohol (probably) used as a disinhibitor by the perpetrator to initiate the sexual activity, have all been included as major components in the sexually abusive childhood experiences as recalled by women (Finkelhor, 1979, 1986; Landis, 1956; Russell, 1983; Sorrenti-Little, 1984). A higher percentage of these characteristics, overall, was found in this study. Respondents comprising the negative CSE group recalled that the perpetrator who initiated the activity had been drinking (alcohol) at the time of the sexual abuse in 72% of the cases, force was used by the perpetrator in 85% of the cases, the number of encounters were frequent, and the relationship, in 51% of the cases, was endured for one year or more.

Previous researchers had not addressed the issue of whether or not the sexual experience was "wanted" by the respondent. Certainly, in the present study, respondents

reported the negatively-perceived relationship to be "unwanted." Sexual intercourse, by itself, did not seem to differentiate the non-negative and negative CSE groups. It may be, however, that in combination with the above-mentioned characteristics of negative CSE, sexual intercourse increased the degree of perceived trauma. In essence, many of the situations reported by the respondents included forcible rape.

In addition, an extremely important factor, in regard to emotional outcome for the victim, relates to the identity of the perpetrator. In contrast to the results published by Russell (1983) and Wyatt (1985), the present study yielded a much higher percentage of intra-familial sexual abuse compared to extra-familial sexual abuse. In this study, overall, family members--primarily fathers, stepfathers, and uncles--were responsible for the childhood sexual abuse of these now adult respondents. If foster fathers (6%) were to be included as part of the "authority, trust, caregiving" network in childhood, a figure of 53% would identify family members, primarily father-figures, as sexual abusers. In contrast, a minority of intra-familial abusers and, hence, a majority of extra-familial sexual abusers, were reported by Russell (1983) and Wyatt (1985).

Also of interest is the finding that none of the respondents in the present study reported an adult-child

sexual experience of a "positive" nature, contrary to previous findings of such authors as Askwith (1982) and Constantine and Martinson (1981).

The very striking results were derived in this study by defining abuse as "the negative, immediate, self-perceived effect of a childhood sexual partnership." The two groups which emerged using this definition--the negative and the non-negative CSE groups--could also have been derived using many of the definitional criteria employed by other researchers. The results obtained by means of the present "subjective" definition of abuse would have been equivalent had more "objective" criteria been used, similar to other recent studies; for example, respondents in the negative CSE group reported perpetrators who were at least three years older than the respondent, that the perpetrator touched the unclothed genital area of the child (Bagley & Ramsay, 1986; Bagley & Robertson, 1984; Sorrenti-Little, 1984), and that the sexual relationship was "unwanted" by the respondent (Badgley et al., 1984).

Presumably, the negative initial effect of adult-child sexual activity would, under certain circumstances, diminish over time. Unfortunately, many of these circumstances remain a mystery at present. Additional factors to those that have been studied might be, for example, factors such as the pre-incident personality of the child-victim,

availability of support systems, and relationship(s) with parent(s), all of which would very likely play an extremely important role in influencing the long-term emotional/psychological outcome of the victim. In the present study, 76% of sexually abused respondents reported that the current effect of the childhood experience remained negative. As a very small percentage of respondents in this study said they had disclosed the abuse and had found the disclosure helpful, it is not surprising that most of the victims had not, to the present, resolved the trauma. In support of this finding, of course, is an extensive list of research efforts whose authors have described the often devastating, long-term effects of child sexual victimization (e.g., Bagley & Ramsay, 1986; Bagley & McDonald, 1984; Finkelhor, 1979, 1984, 1986; Russell, 1986; Sedney & Brooks, 1984).

In addition to the long-standing negative effects of CSA, a large number of respondents in this study reported not only one abusive partnership but multiple sexual partnerships of an abusive nature. Of the 97 respondents who recalled at least one abusive partnership, 47% reported multiple abuse. In other words, approximately one half of the respondents victimized once were victimized again, and, indeed, as many as four and five times. These findings indicate a higher rate of multiple victimization when compared with samples of non-Native women. Sorrenti-Little

(1984), for example, reported that 21% of the non-Native respondents in her sample were revictimized.

Other authors such as Bagley and Ramsay (1986), Herman and Hirschman (1981), and Russell (1986) reported revictimization rates of 27%, 18%, and 20%, respectively, in their CSA recall studies. The amount of CSA revictimization in the present sample may be high among the Native respondents for many reasons. Given that, overall, the perpetrators were most often parent-figures, one might speculate that these (perpetrating) figures hold a position of authority, trust, and care-giving, so that sexual abuse at their hands would increase vulnerability in the child. It is reasonable to conjecture that the abused child sexualizes affection and learns that sexual activity is a way to obtain affection/attention from adults. Since the partnerships in this study were shrouded in secrecy and fear, respondents in childhood were likely unable to obtain feedback as to the appropriateness of the activity, or help in dealing with its inappropriateness.

As well, several studies comprised of non-Native samples have indicated that CSA can, and often does, reduce the self-esteem of the child. Sgroi (1982) and Russell (1986) described children as thinking of themselves as "damaged goods" or "soiled goods." Reduced self-esteem may increase vulnerability to revictimization because the child

is not confident enough to resist the sexual attack. Finkelhor (1984) developed a four-factor model in which he theorized that the ability of the child to resist sexual advances influences the occurrence or vulnerability to CSA. In the present study, the initial abusive relationships were reported by respondents to have begun, primarily, on a Reservation, implying a tightly knit community. It may be that knowledge of adult-child sexual activity is widespread in such communities, with the result that predatory male abusers are more likely "encouraged" to exploit a vulnerable child. Modelling by parents may also influence the occurrence of revictimization. Dealing with a male-dominated society, women are taught to be submissive. Children who do not see the mother as assertive, but "obeying" the husband, imitate this submissive behaviour. Childhood sexual activity may also sexualize a child so that the child views relationships with men/boys as necessitating sexual behaviour to gain attention and affection.

The preceding may explain to some extent why a child may be vulnerable to multiple sexual abuse. On the other hand, what protected the 51 respondents (53% of those abused) in the present study from being subjected to further victimization? The "protection" does not seem to stem from the characteristics related to the abuse itself. It may be because 51 respondents were removed from home

following the first victimizing experience. These children may have been placed in a boarding school which, as the results of this study seemed to indicate, protected them from any CSA; thus, boarding school residence may have protected children from further abuse. A percentage of these children may have found protection elsewhere; for example, in a "good" foster home, or with a family member outside the nuclear family. Some of these children, however, may have been victimized outside of the family, for instance, date rape. That is, the sexually abusive partnership may have occurred despite a positive relationship and protective environment provided by the family.

As previously mentioned, about one half of those respondents in this study who said they were victimized once were revictimized, and three distinct partnership groups were derived. The following characteristics, which were statistically analysed with respect to those three partnership groups, yielded non-significant results: age of respondent at onset of sexual partnership, alcohol use by respondent, type of sexual activity, perpetrator using force/threats, duration of partnership, and current effect. A statistically significant association was found among the three partnership groups regarding identity of perpetrator, alcohol use by perpetrator, and number of encounters. A statistical difference was found between perpetrator's

age in the NP-I₁ (one partnership group) compared with the NP-I₃₊ (three partnership+) group. The speculative interpretation of the findings is based on the result that the majority of respondents in the NP-I₁ group were abused within the family setting, primarily by stepfathers, uncles, and biological fathers. Hence, respondents in this group were subjected to sexual abuse by older, male, parent-figures, including uncles about one half of whom were reported to have been parent-figures. It does, therefore, make sense that the perpetrators were older in the NP-I₁ group than those in the NP-I₃₊ group. One can speculate, furthermore, that the disinhibiting effect of excessive alcohol consumption in the family setting is more likely to lead to victimization due to the continual availability of the victim. It is, perhaps, for the same reason that the only respondents who experienced 21+ sexually abusive encounters were found in the one partnership group. In other words, victim availability (proximity) within the home may have allowed a greater number of sexual encounters for some respondents (n = 9).

The analyses of the relationship between current effect and number of partnerships showed no statistically significant association. A significant association was revealed, however, between current effect, reported by respondents in the NP-I₁ group, and the combination of the NP-I₂ and the

NP-I₃₊ groups. That is, those respondents who reported only one sexually abusive partnership tended to shift more toward non-negativity, in regard to the current effect, as compared with those who reported more than one such partnership. Surprisingly, the three partnership groups were not statistically associated with several characteristics, that is, type of sexual activity, application of force by perpetrator, and duration of relationship. The number of abusive sexual partnerships, however, did influence the current effect (maintaining negativity). One may speculate, therefore, that number of partnerships has an additive and, probably, a qualitative effect of "enhancing" the negativity of respondents who are subjected to revictimization.

In the next section, issues are addressed concerning risk factors to CSA.

Risk Factors

The findings in this study which identified a number of antecedent variables as risk factors to childhood sexual abuse have been supported by previous research studies. The importance of good relationships with parental figures, and the stability of the family situation seem not only to be necessary ingredients for healthy development of children in general, but also seem to influence the occurrence of child sexual abuse. Several factors, discussed below, are

not only defined as correlates of CSA, but also assessed, through the use of a multivariate model, is the relative ability of these factors to predict CSA. In addition, for those respondents who did report the occurrence of at least one abusive partnership, the various antecedent variables studied were assessed as they occurred prior to the first abusive experience. It will be recalled that the comparison group comprised respondents who did not report an abusive partnership.

In this study, the findings indicated that a considerably larger number of respondents had reported being sexually abused before the age of 13 years than the number who had reported being abused over the age of 13 years. These data support the findings of several other authors who described a decline in frequency of sexual abuse among children after puberty (Finkelhor, 1979; Russell, 1983; Sedney & Brooks, 1984). One might speculate, then, on the basis of the present research findings, and those published by other researchers, that female children, Native or non-Native, are more "at risk" for sexual victimization during the prepubescent years.

In addition to determining risk factors to victimization, it seemed important to establish with whom the respondent (as a child) was living at the time of the initial abuse, the quality of the relationship(s) with the

guardian(s), and the identity of the perpetrator. The present findings revealed that, during prepubescence, respondents were, by and large, sexually abused for the first time by a family member. This intra-familial abuser was usually an authority figure in the respondent's childhood, such as the father, stepfather, or uncle. As well, a surprising finding was that a number of pre-pubescent children were sexually abused for the first time in a foster home. Presumably, these children were removed from their own families possibly because of other forms of child abuse (physical/emotional/neglect). Hence, not only was betrayal of trust evident within their own families, but, in addition, some children placed in foster homes were betrayed by the very people who were expected to provide a place of safety. On the other hand, the study results indicated that none of the 24 respondents comprising the post-pubescent group were sexually abused for the first time in a foster home. As well, this group of adolescents was typically abused by extra-familial perpetrators rather than by family members.

Both groups of children--pre- and post-pubescent--at the time of the initial abusive experience, were, for the most part, living with one or both parents, and usually the relationship with the parent(s) was negative in quality. It was important to determine the identity of the perpetrator and the guardian(s), and the relationship with those

guardians when the respondent, as a child, was sexually abused for the first time. It was necessary, however, to combine these data with those that were relevant prior to the first sexually victimizing experience, that is, those antecedent variables which operated as risk factors to the sexual abuse of the respondents in childhood.

An additional variable--"years of negative relationship with male guardians"--was also a predictor of CSA in the pre-puberty group, although weaker in predictive power than "negative relationship with female guardian." A main finding of the study with respect to risk factors to CSA signifies the importance of the relationship of the child to the female guardian. Actually, the most striking finding and the most significant predictor of CSA with regard to both pre- and post-puberty groups was years of negative relationship(s) with a female guardian. Negativity of relationships with female and male guardians was based on the adjectives (or descriptors) provided by the respondents when they described these relationships. By far, the most frequent negative descriptors referred to physical abuse and violence on the part of the guardian, followed by references to drunkenness and alcoholism, and feelings of rejection and lack of acceptance. The respondents also used the terms "unwanted" and "neglected," and called the relationship "cold."

These findings agree with previous results reported by Finkelhor (1979), Herman and Hirschman (1981), and Landis (1956). These authors portrayed the mother of the sexually abused child as distant, emotionally absent, and unaffectionate. Findings in regard to the importance of the father-figure's relationship to the child have also been supported in the literature (Bagley & Ramsay, 1986; Fromuth, 1986; Parker & Parker, 1986; Smith & Israel, 1987). For one, Fromuth (1986) found a strong link between a poor relationship with the father and CSA. Parker and Parker (1986) reported a significant relationship between the quality of fathering during the early years of a child's life and subsequent child sexual victimization.

Residency variables were also found to be predictive of CSA. For both the pre- and post-puberty groups, multiple placements were found to put the child at risk for sexual abuse. Also of interest are the findings that not only do multiple placements predict the occurrence of CSA, but they link significantly to the number of sexually abusive partnerships in childhood. Furthermore, for the pre-puberty group, the number of years in a foster home was a predictor of victimization. Although to the writer's knowledge there are no published data regarding multiple placements, or placements in foster homes, as risk factors to the sexual abuse of children, it seems reasonable to assume that these

situations would be predictive of CSA. For pre-pubescent children, two variables were found to lend a "protective" feature; that is, number of years in a boarding school and number of years with mother and father seemed to contribute to the "prevention" of sexual victimization.

Although number of years with mother and biological father during pre-puberty seemed to protect the child from sexual abuse, number of years with mother and stepfather before adolescence appeared to place the child at risk. As well, absence of biological father during adolescence was found to be a risk factor for sexual abuse; that is, years with mother only appeared to be a predisposing factor to victimization.

The foregoing findings are consistent with data published previously by several authors. Peters (1984) found that white female children who had lived apart from their biological fathers were more "at risk" of CSA than non-white children. The results of the present study are, therefore, in line with Peters's data in two respects: first, the "protection" provided to young children residing with mother and biological father and, second, "risk" for the adolescent child living alone with the mother. Further support for the findings of this study with respect to "father-absence" was published by Miller (1976). According to Miller, female adolescents were at greater risk of sexual

abuse if their natural fathers were absent. Russell (1986) reported similar results in her work on extra-familial sexual abuse. She found that the majority of adolescent girls were abused for the first time by extra-familial perpetrators. In addition, data published by Bagley and Ramsay (1986) and Bank and Kahn (1982) are consistent with present findings; that is, that separation from either parent was shown to link significantly with victimization. The finding that the presence of a stepfather is also a risk factor to CSA accords with results published by several researchers, all of whom reported an increased likelihood of CSA for the child living in a home where a stepfather is present (Finkelhor, 1980; Gruber & Jones, 1983, Miller, 1976; Russell, 1986). The foregoing conclusions have dealt with the findings of this study and how they compare with those reported in the literature. The following section contains speculative reasons for, and implications of, this study's findings.

The quality of the relationship between female children and their parents appears to be of great importance vis á vis the occurrence of child sexual abuse, for several reasons. One would assume, from reference to the literature, that the influence of a child's secure attachment to the parents is a necessary condition for healthy development. Successful parental bonding to the child is highly

significant for the protection of the child. Judging from the relationship descriptors provided by the majority of victimized respondents in this study, their attachments were not secure and, apparently, healthy bonding of parent to child did not occur. This lack of secure environment perhaps left these children with low self-esteem, and, in turn, may have created greater vulnerability to sexual victimization. One may conjecture that healthy parental bonding did not occur for the majority of the victimized respondents, thus depriving them of maternal protection and exposing them to a potential paternal predator.

Historically, it was possible for Native children to form hierarchies of attachments to extended family members, an arrangement that offered additional security. With the breakdown of the extended Native family over the last century, this resource has decreased sharply. Native children are often placed outside of their own community, and outside of their culture, where re-attachment is made very difficult.

Furthermore, negative relationships with female and/or male guardians frequently occurred, on an ongoing basis, for many of the victimized respondents. Many of them experienced physical and emotional abuse and neglect, thereby, perhaps, increasing the likelihood of sexual victimization.

Two additional risk factors, apparently important predictors of CSA, related to father-absence: mother only (mother living without a steady partner), and mother and stepfather. Presumably, the respondent was deprived in childhood of the protection of the natural father and was subjected to a potentially predatory stepfather or one or more casual male friends of the mother. It seems possible that stepfathers are more likely to be perpetrators in the absence of bonding during the child's early years. In addition, because the stepfather is not a blood relative of the child, it allows the stepfather to rationalize that a sexual relationship with the child is "permissible" since it is not incestuous.

Despite the absence of evidence in the literature regarding the negative developmental influences of multiple placements, it is reasonable to assume that multiple moves/changes in guardians can negatively influence a child's development. One might speculate that the insecurity engendered would result in the kinds of emotional and self-esteem problems that are documented in the literature as correlates of child sexual abuse.

Interestingly, years spent in boarding school was found in this study to be a protective factor. In other words, such a placement prior to sexual victimization seemed to protect the child from intra-familial sexual abuse.

Similarly, and seemingly obvious, was that years spent with natural father and mother also were found to be protective. It makes sense, in view of the extent of intra-familial victimization of pre-pubescent girls in the present study, that either continued placement with "positive" parents (mother and father), or removal from an environment which includes a potential male abuser to a "safe" boarding school, would provide protection for the child.

Other Data Analysis

Several interesting relationships emerged between those respondents who had been sexually abused in childhood and those who had not, with regard to a number of demographic variables. Respondents who had not been victimized were more likely than the victims to have attained a higher educational level, to be currently employed, or to be full-time students. Non-victims were also more likely to be single, or "married," rather than separated or divorced. There was no association found between the two groups with respect to younger/older respondents and child sexual abuse. In addition, non-victims were more likely to be living on a Reservation than were victims--who most often lived in urban areas at the time of interview.

It seems reasonable that the non-victims may very well be less likely to be separated or divorced, and more likely

to have attained a higher degree of education, and to be employed or attending school. In light of the documented evidence associating child abuse, and the sometimes devastating emotional/psychological effects as a result, one might assume that many victims do not have the personality resources needed to function well in these areas.

With regard to the relative increase/decrease of CSA over time, Bagley (1988) re-analysed data reported in the recall study carried out by Badgley et al. (1984). Bagley found that sexual abuse in childhood was linked to age in one respect, that is, respondents aged 18-20 years at interview reported significantly more abuse than did older interviewees. Russell (1986), on the other hand, reported an increase in sexual abuse after analysing data relevant to older respondents and younger respondents. The findings of the present study did not reveal a greater or reduced frequency for younger/older respondents and, therefore, did not support an increase (or a decrease) in CSA over the years.

Of interest, as well, is the finding that respondents who were not victimized were, at the time of interview, more likely to have been residing on a Reservation. It may be that those who were not abused, and had been raised in a stable and close family situation, were more likely to have remained in the community. Perhaps many of the victims were

removed from the Reservations and placed in urban areas where they remain today.

Summary and Conclusions

The emotional responses to the experiences reported by the respondents--that is, the immediate and current effects--appeared to include more negative responses than have been published from previous studies. In fact, most respondents, by far, said they had retained their negative perceptions up to the present. It is suggested that this negative effect, at least in part, is due to the high frequencies with which certain characteristics, directly related to the sexual partnership, were reported by the respondents: intra-familial perpetrators who were father-figures, the application of force, alcohol use by the abuser, the unwanted nature of the experience, and physical intrusiveness in combination with the above-mentioned characteristics. These characteristics, in and of themselves, did not necessarily lead to maintenance of the negative effect (immediate vs. current). In other words, the "abusive" characteristics of the experience, in combination with multiple partnerships, may have led to an even greater "long-term" or current, self-perceived effect. In addition, not only did the respondents report a high frequency of negative effect, but the majority rated

childhood sexual victimization as their worst life experience, possibly indicating an even greater degree of traumatization.

If a comparison were to be made between victimized and non-victimized respondents, a "victim profile" might emerge. The profile, based on the life-circumstances of the pre-pubescent child prior to abuse, may be described as follows: more years spent with mother-figure and/or father-figure in a poor relationship; more placements outside of the home (including foster homes), fewer years with mother and (biological) father together, and, hence, more years perhaps with mother and stepfather, or mother alone. Similarly, the profile of an adolescent victim might show: more years of poor relationship with mother-figure; more years spent with mother only; and multiple placements outside of the home. As well, not only do the number of placements appear to increase the chance of CSA occurring, but number of placements appear also to be linked to multiple CSA experiences.

Implications of the Study

Some significant implications have emerged from this study, namely, the prevention of and education about child sexual abuse and its clinical intervention. Perhaps the most fundamental issue involves changes needed within the Native community itself. Although the existence of CSA is

known within the Native community, it has rarely been a topic for public discussion. For the most part, CSA has been kept hidden and has not been pursued as a social problem in need of eradication. In this study, the vast majority of the female, adult respondents who reported being sexually abused in childhood had told no one about the abuse until disclosing it for this research. Indeed, many said they had felt for years they were to blame for the abuse they suffered.

The Native Reservation functions as a tightly knit community where most people know one another's identity, a likely factor in the victim's reluctance to report CSA. Hence, denial of the problem is fostered, and the offender, rather than the victim, is protected.

While conducting this research, the writer gained the impression that Native communities were male-dominated, and that women and children were not as highly valued as they should be. Women need to learn, and to be supported in endeavours, to assert themselves. Important beginnings in this direction have been made through the formation and work of the Alberta Native Women's Association (ANWA). There is, however, the need to involve the whole Native community in a program to increase awareness of CSA, to educate all levels of the community about the problem, and to make available clinical interventions for victimized families. In order to begin to achieve these goals, it is clearly necessary to

involve community leaders, Native elders, educators, and health and human resources personnel. One of the aims of such an approach would be to intervene in the multi-generational transmission of the abuse pattern. Traditionally, within the Native community, parental modelling has been used as the primary means of teaching children appropriate behaviour. Unfortunately, at present, many Native children model negative and inappropriate behaviour. In order to break the "vicious circle," children need to be helped to protect themselves against future child sexual abuse. Parents, particularly mothers, need to learn how better to protect their children. Perhaps, most significantly, as part of a "family-life" program, young people need to be taught about the importance of their future positive relationships with their own children.

In addition to and in line with the necessary changes in attitudes toward women and children--both their own attitudes toward themselves and the attitudes of men toward women and children--it seems important that the issue of "legal sanction" against the sexual offender should emphasize rehabilitation. The offender may do best with a suspended sentence which calls for mandatory treatment, and concurrent mandatory treatment for the victim and the family. (It is crucial, however, that the legal sentence for the offender not be used as "mere" punishment, but

rather as a lever for treatment.)

In this connection, for example, most authors appear to agree that alcohol abuse among Native Indians is both common and devastating in its effects. In addition, as Stickel (1987) reported, alcohol abuse has often been linked with violence perpetrated by Native men against Native women and children. Certainly, the high frequency of offender alcohol misuse, in relation to CSA in this study, suggests that alcohol abuse predisposes offenders to CSA. One could speculate, therefore, that successful treatment for alcohol abuse would have a beneficial impact on reducing the incidence of CSA. Furthermore, members of the community, particularly the women, need to be made more aware that marital separation, divorce, re-marriage, mother cohabitating with male friend(s), may lead to increased risk of CSA for a female child.

The study findings indicate that the relationship with the mother-figure, especially, is a critical variable in preventing CSA, and, for the pre-adolescent child, the relationship with both parents appears to be very important. For those respondents who said they were not victimized, the descriptors of the relationships with guardians were entirely different, for the most part, from those given by CSA victims. When the descriptors are clustered, the "positive" relationships can be characterized by support,

nurturing, protection, good communication, supervision, and the absence of alcoholism.

On the other hand, the descriptions of the relationships with parent figures, offered primarily by those who had been abused, can be seen to cluster around neglect issues, physical abuse, rejection, emotional distance from parents, and alcoholism. Recognizing the limitations of correlational data, the implication is that CSA could be reduced if female Native children are provided with a caring, nurturing, protective environment in which to grow through childhood and adolescence. The findings also indicate, however, that removal of children from an abusive home does not guarantee for them the avoidance of abuse in the future. As a matter of fact, the evidence gathered in this study has suggested that multiple placements, including those in foster homes, may add to the risk of sexual abuse. Furthermore, multiple placements appear to be related or correlated to the probability of multiple victimization.

Many of the respondents who had experienced CSA gave personal accounts of their lives as adults. A large number of them reported subsequent prostitution, suicide attempts, drug and alcohol problems, failed heterosexual relationships; and further physical and sexual abuse, after they reached adulthood. The obvious implications of these accounts are that the Native population needs to become

aware of the high rate of CSA which occurred among their cohorts, and that may very well be occurring with their children.

Further data revealed that the majority of study respondents said their CSA experience was the worst experience they had endured in their childhood. Many of those who had been engaged in a treatment process explained they had not disclosed the CSA because the appropriate questions had not been asked; hence, an extremely important element of the psychological/emotional problem was not addressed during treatment. For this reason, investigation of CSA occurrence should be part of the assessment process.

Although it is the opinion of this writer that the occurrence of CSA should be addressed in the clinical interview, caution must prevail in using the "risk factor" data reported in this study. It must be emphasized that these data apply only to the groups of respondents who volunteered to participate in the study. Furthermore, the sample was not representative of the Alberta Native population of women; hence, the results cannot be generalized. As well, in respect to the sample studied, there were more factors--in addition to those selected for research--which seemed to place children at risk of sexual abuse; that is, the factors selected for study accounted for only a portion of the variance. Keeping these limitations in mind, however, those

factors which were derived from the study sample may serve as useful tools in developing awareness of "risk," especially for the use of professionals dealing with Native families.

The findings of this exploratory research are offered to sensitize the clinician further, in a rudimentary way, to the possible occurrence of CSA. Any clinical application to an individual client must be carefully balanced among all the data obtained from a clinical assessment. The list of risk factors, however, for pre- and post-pubescent children could be helpful in further theorizing about, and conducting research in, the field of child sexual abuse. In this study, the CSA perpetrators were almost exclusively male offenders. One might speculate (as future research might show) that this finding is due to many factors, for example, the male socialization process which may relate to male-domination, and perhaps child sexual abuse perpetrated by the offender. A further possibility may also be considered. One could speculate that a decreased valuation of children by perpetrators has taken place as a result of the progressive disintegration of the Native extended and nuclear family cohesion (Dismang, 1974; Stickel, 1987). It seems possible, therefore, that the prevention of CSA in the future may result from power equality between male and female children, and male and female adults. One might also speculate that the restoration of many of the traditional values concerning

the welfare of children would be an important step in the prevention of child sexual abuse among Native peoples.

Theoretical Considerations

Finkelhor (1986) provided a theoretical framework in an attempt to explain the "traumatization" phenomenon. This theoretical approach is promising, not only in grouping CSA-effect data in a meaningful fashion, but also in setting the stage for meaningful future research.

There is no question that the present findings support Finkelhor's (1986) theory. "Traumatic Sexualization," "Stigmatization," "Betrayal," and "Powerlessness," all provide a conceptual framework for victimization that can be translated into viable, scientific hypotheses. The data from the present study support these theoretical notions. It is suggested that the very high intensity of negative, emotional reaction to CSA relates to the findings that the majority of the sexually abused respondents in this study have experienced all four of Finkelhor's "Traumagenic Dynamics" (listed above) and they appear to be, unfortunately, the "lot" endured by these respondents.

Suggestions for Future Research

Suggestions for future research are geared toward the acquisition of data which would allow a more direct

interpretation of causality of CSA. In this writer's opinion, the only way to establish causative factors scientifically would be to carry out a longitudinal study which would follow up a large random sample of newborns (with their families) throughout childhood. A multitude of measures of the child's progress would need to be applied, including: attachment/bonding, general development, family relationships, and emotional, academic, and social adjustment. If sexual abuse were disclosed prior to "adulthood," assessment, at that time, would obviously be necessary. If no such situation was revealed, assessment regarding CSA would have to occur retrospectively. This suggestion is, however, an ideal which is not likely to be implemented.

Nevertheless, there are some realistic suggestions for future research based on the results of the present study. It would be useful to expand the scales which measure the level of respondent's negative/positive relationships with guardians. Based on the descriptors provided by the present respondents, Likert-type scales could be developed using the descriptors of highest frequencies. This procedure would allow relationships of all respondents to be measured on the same scales, thereby refining the operational definitions of the quality of the relationships. Other measuring scales could be added which would improve upon the quantitative assessment of some descriptors, for example,

"emotional support," "taught good values," "love," "distant (relationship)," and "mean," and "unkind."

Finally, future research needs to be derived from theoretical models. As mentioned earlier, Finkelhor (1986) has published such a model. Hypotheses derived from Finkelhor's model ought to lead to metric assessments of such variables as "Traumatic Sexualization," "Stigmatization," "Betrayal," and "Powerlessness." These measured variables could then be related to the kinds analysed in the present study. In other words, the "negative effect" of CSA could be investigated in a broader perspective with increased definition. For example, intra-familial victimization could be analysed with respect to "Betrayal" and "Powerlessness," on the one hand, and extra-familial victimization with respect to "Traumatic Sexualization" and "Stigmatization," on the other, without these variables being exclusive to either group.

Finally, in Finkelhor's (1986) words:

If the implications of what we have accomplished [in child sexual abuse research] up until now can be fully assimilated and utilized, we believe they can form the foundation for major new developments in our understanding of, and intervention into, this profound and troubling problem. (p. 14)

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

Respondent's Demographic Data

Respondent's Demographic Data

I am going to ask you some questions about your present situation.

1. What was your age at your last birthday? _____
2. What is the highest level of education
you received? _____
3. Are you employed? Yes _____ No _____
4. What is your relationship status?
Circle one number:
 1. single
 2. married
 3. separated or divorced
 4. widowed
 5. cohabiting
 6. remarried
5. Where are you living now? _____

APPENDIX B

Placement History and Guardian
Relationship Form

Placement History and Guardian
Relationship Form

Now I would like to ask you some questions about your earlier life.

Where did you first live?

Urban/rural/reserve _____ To what age? _____

Who looked after you? _____

How did you get along with her/him/them? _____

What was _____ about it?

Where else did you live?

Urban/rural/reserve _____ To what age? _____

Who looked after you? _____

How did you get along with her/him/them? _____

What was _____ about it?

Where else did you live?

Urban/rural/reserve _____ To what age? _____

Who looked after you? _____

How did you get along with her/him/them? _____

What was _____ about it?

Where else did you live?

Urban/rural/reserve _____ To what age? _____

Who looked after you? _____

How did you get along with her/him/them? _____

What was _____ about it?

[Add additional sheets if necessary]

APPENDIX C

Childhood Sexual Experiences Survey

Childhood Sexual Experiences Survey

It is now generally realized that most people have sexual experiences as children and while they are still growing up. Some of these are with friends and playmates, some with relatives and family members, and some with strangers. Some influence people's later lives, and some are practically forgotten. Although these are often important events, very little is actually known about them.

I would like you to remember the sexual experiences you had while growing up. By "sexual" I mean a broad range of things, anything from "playing doctor" to sexual intercourse—in fact, anything that might have seemed "sexual" to you.

Can you remember having had any sexual experience or experiences before the age of 17 years?

Yes ____ No ____

[If "no," close interview.

If "yes," continue to next page]

Childhood Sexual Experiences Survey

Now I would like you to tell me about the sexual experience that had the greatest impact on you; that is, the sexual experience that seemed the most major, or significant, before you turned 17.

1. About how old were you at the time? _____ years
2. About how old was the other person? _____ years
3. What sex was the other person? M _____ F _____
4. Was the other person:
 - a. a stranger
 - b. a person you knew, but not a friend
 - c. a friend of yours
 - d. a friend of your parents
 - e. an uncle or aunt
 - f. a grandparent
 - g. a brother or sister
 - h. a parent
 - i. a step-parent
 - j. a guardian
5. Had the other person been drinking? Yes _____ No _____
 Had you been drinking? Yes _____ No _____
6. What happened?
 - a. An invitation or request to do something sexual
 - b. Kissing or hugging in a sexual way
 - c. Other person showing his/her sex organs to you
 - d. You showing your sex organs to the other person
 - e. Other person fondling you in a sexual way
 - f. You fondling the other person in a sexual way
 - g. Other person touching your sex organs
 - h. You touching the other person's sex organs
 - i. Other person touching your sex organs with mouth
 - j. You touching other person's sex organs with mouth
 - k. Intercourse, but without attempting penetration
 - l. Intercourse
 - m. Other _____
7. Who started this? You _____ Other person _____
8. At the time, did you want the experience to happen? Yes _____ No _____

CSE (cont'd.)

9. Did the other person threaten or force you? Yes A little No

10. Did you threaten or force the other person? Yes A little No

11. About how many times did you have sexual experience
with this person? times

12. Over how long a time did this go on? (days/months/years)

13. Which of the following would best describe your reaction at the
time of the experience? How strong was the reaction?

- | | |
|-------------|-------------------|
| a. pleasure | a. very much |
| b. interest | b. a great amount |
| c. surprise | c. a fair amount |
| d. shock | d. a little |
| e. fear | e. none at all |

14. Who did you tell about this experience at the time, and did
this person help?

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| a. no one | Yes <u> </u> No <u> </u> |
| b. mother | Yes <u> </u> No <u> </u> |
| c. father | Yes <u> </u> No <u> </u> |
| d. other adult | Yes <u> </u> No <u> </u> |
| e. brother/sister | Yes <u> </u> No <u> </u> |
| f. friend | Yes <u> </u> No <u> </u> |
| g. police | Yes <u> </u> No <u> </u> |
| h. pastor/minister | Yes <u> </u> No <u> </u> |
| i. social worker | Yes <u> </u> No <u> </u> |
| j. psychologist | Yes <u> </u> No <u> </u> |
| k. psychiatrist | Yes <u> </u> No <u> </u> |
| l. physician | Yes <u> </u> No <u> </u> |
| m. nurse | Yes <u> </u> No <u> </u> |

15. How did this sexual experience affect you?

At the time:

- a. positive
- b. mostly positive
- c. neutral
- d. mostly negative
- e. negative

At present:

- a. positive
- b. mostly positive
- c. neutral
- d. mostly negative
- e. negative

Now, I would like you to tell me about the next most significant
or major sexual experience you have had before the age of 17 years.

[Add additional sheets if necessary]

APPENDIX D

Most Emotionally Upsetting
Experience Question

Most Emotionally Upsetting
Experience Question

What was the most emotionally upsetting experience or situation that happened to you before you turned 17?

APPENDIX E

Relative Negativity of Abusive
CSE Question

Relative Negativity of Abusive
CSE Question

[This question to be asked only if respondent
considered one or more CSEs to be negative]

Do you feel the negative (or most negative) sexual experience
is worse than, the same as, or not as bad as the _____
experience (situation)?

APPENDIX F

Circular Letter Inviting Volunteers
to Participate in Study

Childhood Placement, Relationships,
and Sexual Experiences in
Native Albertan Women

YOU ARE INVITED to participate in a research project carried out by Gillian Rundle, doctoral student in the Department of Educational Psychology, University of Calgary.

Purpose

The purpose of the study is to find out about different situations experienced in childhood and how you feel about them. The ultimate goal of the project is to establish programs to help prevent circumstances which may lead to problems later on.

The Interview

Ms. Rundle will conduct an interview taking no longer than one hour. Each interview will be conducted on an individual basis, in private. First, you will be asked certain information about your present situation, that is, your age, your level of occupation, whether or not you are employed, and whether you are, for example, single, married, or divorced. You will then be asked questions about your childhood in respect to your relationships with parents or guardians. You will also be asked about childhood placements, the most upsetting experience you had, and about any sexual experiences you may have had as a child.

Anonymity and Confidentiality

Each volunteer's identity will remain anonymous. That is, the researcher will not know your name. All information provided to the researcher will remain confidential.

Who Should Volunteer

Any Native woman who is 18 years of age or older can participate. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT FOR WOMEN WHO CONSIDER THEMSELVES TO FEEL MENTALLY HEALTHY TO VOLUNTEER, AS WELL AS THOSE WOMEN WHO FEEL THAT THEY HAVE PROBLEMS.

Payment

Each volunteer, who must be at least 18 years of age, will be paid \$15.00.

How to Volunteer

If you would like to participate in the project, please contact:
[the name, address, location, and phone number of one of four relevant agencies was inserted here, depending on the geographical area where these invitations were distributed]

Invitation to Participate (cont'd.)

Please do not give your name. Simply request an appointment time.

Gillian Rundle, M.A.
Graduate Student
University of Calgary

APPENDIX G

Preliminary Interview

Preliminary Interview

I would, first of all, like to thank you for your interest in coming here today. My name is Gillian Rundle and I am a doctoral student in the Department of Educational Psychology at the University of Calgary. My supervisor is Dr. Prem Fry. I am doing this research for my thesis toward the completion of my degree.

Before we go on, I need to make sure that you are 18 years of age or older. Are you? [If respondent is under 18 years: I am sorry but I am not including anyone under 18 years of age in this research project.]

The purpose of the study is to find out about different situations experienced in childhood and how you feel about them. The most important thing for you to know, right now, is that I don't know your name, and that your name will not be known to anyone connected with this study. Therefore, no one will be able to find out who gave your answers.

Now, I will ask you some questions regarding your present situation. Then, I will try to find out, from you, in how many places you lived as a child and with how many people, and some information about your parents or guardians.

This research is also interested in finding out whether you have had any sexual experiences when you were a child or an adolescent. A lot of professionals agree that many children and adolescents have sexual experiences with other people, and also that very few of these experiences are ever reported. It is very important for us to learn more about these experiences and particularly about how women feel about them.

The entire interview will take no longer than one hour.

Some of the information you will be giving here may be embarrassing or painful; please be assured that you do not have to answer any questions you don't wish to answer, that we can stop the interview at any time, and that you can leave if you are uncomfortable. As stated in the pamphlet, there is a \$15. payment. You will receive \$15. whether you participate or not. I will also give you a list of counselling agencies and a phone number where you can reach me at the university. Here is your payment of \$15.

Because of the sensitive nature of the research, it is important that I have your fully informed consent to use the anonymous information that you are going to give. If you still choose to participate in the study, please make a check mark here, indicating your consent.

I agree to participate: _____

APPENDIX H

Post-Interview Remarks to Respondent

Post-Interview Remarks to Respondent

Thank you very much for your participation and your contribution of valuable information. Some of the questions were sensitive and private, and you may feel some understandable discomfort after having responded to them. I urge you, if you have any problems related to any aspect of the study, to contact the counselling service listed below:

[the name, address, location, and phone number of one of three relevant agencies was inserted here, depending on the geographical area where these respondents were interviewed; i.e., Hobbema, Ponoka, or Wetaskiwin, Alberta]

APPENDIX I

Frequency Distribution of Type of
Guardian in "Another Placement,"
by No. Abuse/Abuse Groups

FREQUENCY DISTRIBUTION OF TYPE OF
GUARDIAN IN "ANOTHER PLACEMENT,"
BY NO ABUSE/ABUSE GROUPS

Guardian	No Abuse	Abuse
Grandparents	9	12
Grandmother	5	8
Aunt and uncle	6	9
Aunt	0	1
Uncle	0	2
Adoptive parents	8	4
Father	0	6
Father and Stepmother	0	3
Older brother	1	3
Older sister	0	3
Hospital	1	4
Total	30	55

APPENDIX J

Identity of Individual Perpetrators

IDENTITY OF INDIVIDUAL PERPETRATORS

Perpetrator		NP-I ₁ ^a	NP-I ₂ ^b	NP-I ₃₊ ^c	Total
<u>Family Perpetrator</u>					
Father	n	8	0	0	8
	%	16.	0.	0.	8.
Stepfather	n	12	1	0	13
	%	24.	4.	0.	13.
Grandfather	n	5	1	0	6
	%	10.	4.	0.	6.
Uncle	n	8	2	2	12
	%	16.	7.	11.	12.
Brother	n	1	2	3	6
	%	2.	7.	16.	6.
Male cousin	n	0	1	0	1
	%	0.	4.	0.	1.
Subtotal	n	34	7	5	46
	%	68.	26.	26.	47.
<u>Foster Family Perpetrator</u>					
Father	n	0	2	4	6
	%	0.	2.	4.	6.
Brother	n	0	3	2	5
	%	0.	3.	2.	5.

^aOne negative partnership, immediate effect

^bTwo negative partnerships, immediate effect

^cThree + negative partnerships, immediate effect

APPENDIX J (cont'd.)

Perpetrator		NP-I ₁ ^a	NP-I ₂ ^b	NP-I ₃₊ ^c	Total
Foster Family (cont'd.)					
Subtotal	n	0	5	6	11
	%	0.	5.	6.	11.
<u>Non-Family</u> <u>Perpetrator</u>					
Stranger	n	4	0	0	4
	%	8.	0.	0.	4.
Acquaintance	n	10	10	6	26
	%	20.	35.	32.	27.
Friend	n	3	4	1	8
	%	6.	14.	5.	8.
Friend of parents	n	0	1	0	1
	%	0.	7.	0.	1.
Priest	n	0	0	1	1
	%	0.	0.	1.	1.
Subtotal	n	17	15	8	40
	%	34.	56.	37.	41.
Total	N	51	27	19	97
	%	100.	100.	100.	100.

APPENDIX K

Breakdown by Type of Sexual Activity

BREAKDOWN BY TYPE OF SEXUAL ACTIVITY

Activity		NP-I ₁ ^a	NP-I ₂ ^b	NP-I ₃₊ ^c	Total
<u>Intercourse</u>	n	26	8	6	40
	%	51.	30.	32.0	41.
Subtotal	n	26	8	6	40
	%	51.	30.	32.	41.
<u>Non-Intercourse</u>					
Invitation/request	n	1	0	0	1
	%	2.1	0.	0.	1.
Kissing in a sexual way	n	0	1	0	1
	%	0.	4.	0.	1.
Partner showed genitalia	n	3	1	0	4
	%	6.	4.	0.	4.
Partner fondled respondent sexually	n	9	9	2	20
	%	18.	33.	11.	20.
Resp. fondled partner sexually	n	0	2	1	3
	%	0.	7.	5.	3.
Partner touched respondent's genitalia	n	8	5	5	18
	%	16.	19.	26.	18.
Resp. touched partner's genitalia	n	0	0	3	3
	%	0.	0.	16.	3.

(cont'd.)

Note: These figures apply to the most physically intrusive sexual activity reported by the respondents.

^aOne negative partnership, immediate effect

^bTwo negative partnerships, immediate effect

^cThree + negative partnerships, immediate effect

APPENDIX K (cont'd.)

Activity		NP-I ₁ ^a	NP-I ₂ ^b	NP-I ₃₊ ^c	Total
Partner touched respondent's genitalia with mouth	n	3	1	2	6
	%	6.	4.	11.	6.
Resp. touched partner's genitalia with mouth	n	1	0	0	1
	%	2.	0.	0.	1.
Subtotal	n	25	19	13	57
	%	50.	70.	68.	59.
Total	N	51	27	19	97
	%	100.	100.	100.	100.

APPENDIX L

Frequency Distribution of Respondent's
General Descriptors of Relationship
with Guardians

FREQUENCY DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENT'S
GENERAL DESCRIPTORS OF RELATIONSHIP
WITH GUARDIANS

Descriptor	Number
<u>Positive</u>	
Very (really well)	73
Good (relationship)	174
Pretty good	10
Okay	11
Great	44
Terrific	7
Fine	6
Excellent	7
Total	332
<u>Negative</u>	
Mostly bad	12
No (not good)	81
Bad (badly)	205
Not very well	19
Awful	23
Okay	5
It was rough	12
Didn't get along (w/them)	51
Terrible	139
Hated him/her/them	15
Horrible	4
Rotten	8
Miserable	2
Total hell	1
Total	577

APPENDIX M

Frequency Distribution of Respondent's
Detailed Descriptors of Relationship
with Guardians

FREQUENCY DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENT'S
DETAILED DESCRIPTORS OF RELATIONSHIP
WITH GUARDIANS

Descriptor	Number
<u>Positive</u>	
Supportive, understanding	45
Gave guidance	1
Love, loving	46
Kind, nice	53
Emotional support, there for me	40
Attended church	1
Stable environment (family, home)	4
Concerned about me	6
Helped me with my problems	10
Good relationship	4
Encouraged education	29
Encouraged Indian culture	29
Didn't drink (alcohol)	40
Felt close (to guardian)	49
Not abusive	5
Strict	21
Felt safe	1
Felt secure	2
Could talk to (guardian)	10
Good interaction	1
Helped me	3
Warm	2
Attention (had time for me)	4
Protected me	12
(Guardian)hard-working	15
Good supervision	4
Cared about me	25

Appendix M (cont'd)

Descriptor	Number
<u>Positive (cont'd)</u>	
Good marriage	6
Good to talk to	5
Taught good values	26
Nurturing	6
Good communication	6
Taught respect	7
Trustworthy	2
Looked after me	4
Believed in Golden Rule, helped others	3
Fair	2
Good sense of humour	3
Did activities with me	6
Total	538
<u>Negative</u>	
Physical abuse, violence	178
Not supportive (emotionally)	30
No good to talk to; couldn't talk to them	12
Drunk, alcoholic	101
Crowded house; too many kids	5
Felt rejected, felt unaccepted, never felt wanted	75
Didn't like me	9
Didn't feel close; distant	31
No real relationship	1
Felt alone; lonely	10
Mother not there for me	1

Appendix M (cont'd)

Descriptor	Number
<u>Negative</u> (cont'd)	
Not kind	4
Cruel	7
Mean, unkind	29
Bad feeling	1
Not enough attention	1
Felt depressed	2
Sexual abuse	35
Got paid to keep us	8
Mother had lots of other men at home	3
Not cared for	10
No love	6
Called me a bastard	1
Emotionally abusive; looked at bad things in me, not good	6
Didn't care about me	4
Cold	12
Not involved	1
Scared, frightened	3
Too strict	24
(Guardian) sick	5
Mother/father/guardian not around	28
Had to look after brothers and sisters	6
Neglectful; didn't take care of us	12
Had to look after her (guardian)	1
No food in house	8
Religious	5
Didn't feel wanted	11

Descriptor	Number
<u>Negative</u> (cont'd)	
Used like slave (by guardian)	17
Rigid (guardian)	12
Favoured other kids over me	1
Bastard (guardian)	1
Hated Indians	15
Didn't trust (guardian)	6
Punished unfairly	1
Unstable	1
Punished for speaking Cree or Blackfoot language	7
Taught us sex was bad or evil	5
Total	752

APPENDIX N

Identity of Individual Perpetrators at
Time of First Abusive Partnership

IDENTITY OF INDIVIDUAL PERPETRATORS AT
TIME OF FIRST ABUSIVE PARTNERSHIP

Perpetrator		Pre- Puberty Group	Post- Puberty Group	Total
<u>Family</u>				
Father	n	12	3	15
	%	16.	13.	16.
Stepfather	n	14	1	15
	%	19.	4.	16.
Grandfather	n	9	0	9
	%	12.	0.	9.
Uncle	n	12	3	15
	%	16.	13.	16.
Brother	n	3	1	4
	%	4.	4.	4.
Male cousin	n	2	0	2
	%	3.	0.	2.
Subtotal	n	52	8	60
	%	70.	33.	63.
<u>Foster Family</u>				
Father	n	4	0	4
	%	6.	0.	4.
Brother	n	3	0	3
	%	4.	0.	3.
Subtotal	n	7	0	7
	%	10.	0.	7.

(cont'd.)

APPENDIX N (cont'd.)

Perpetrator		Pre- Puberty Group	Post- Puberty Group	Total
<u>Non-Family</u>				
Stranger	n	2	5	7
	%	3.	21.	7.
Acquaintance	n	10	7	17
	%	14.	29.	18.
Friend of respondent	n	0	4	4
	%	0.	17.	4.
Friend of parent(s)	n	2	0	2
	%	3.	0.	2.
Subtotal	n	14	16	31
	%	20.	67.	30.
Total	N	73	24	97
	%	100.	100.	100.

APPENDIX O

Identity of Individual Guardian(s) at
Time of First Abusive Partnership

IDENTITY OF INDIVIDUAL GUARDIAN(S) AT
TIME OF FIRST ABUSIVE PARTNERSHIP

Guardian		Pre- Puberty Group	Post- Puberty Group	Total
<u>Family</u>				
Mother and father	n	25	14	39
	%	34.	74.	40.
Mother only	n	4	5	9
	%	6.	26.	9.
Mother and step- father	n	15	0	15
	%	21.	0.	16.
Aunt	n	5	0	5
	%	7.	0.	5.
Subtotal	n	49	19	68
	%	67.	79.	70.
<u>Foster Family</u>				
Foster parents	n	13	1	14
	%	18.	4.	14.
Subtotal	n	13	1	14
	%	18.	4.	14.
<u>Non-Family</u>				
Boarding school	n	11	4	15
	%	15.	17.	16.
Subtotal	n	11	4	15
	%	15.	17.	16.
Total	N	73	24	97
	%	100.	100.	100.