

# THIS IS WHAT THE ABOLITIONISTS QUOTE, NEGLECTING THE FACT THAT THIS IS OF JUVENILE PROSTITUTES:

## H.6 *Ages of First Intercourse and Entry Into Juvenile Prostitution*

Average age of first intercourse for the children we interviewed was 12 years for the boys (N=63) and 13 years for the girls (N=107). The age range of entry into prostitution for the boys, including gay and transgender boys, was somewhat younger than that of the girls, i.e., 11-13 years vs. 12-14 years, respectively. The average age of first intercourse among minority boys and girls was younger than that of the non-minority youth we interviewed, i.e., 10-11 years of age for minority boys and 11-12 years of age for minority girls. These patterns are consistent with race-adjusted average ages for first intercourse (Abma et al., 1997; CDC, 2000; Ku et al., 1993; Zabin et al., 1986) and for entry into prostitution reported by other investigators (Boyer, 1993; Lowman, 1992; Nadon, 1998; Silbert, 1984).

### I. Profiles of Child Sexual Exploiters

From our interviews with children and focus group meetings with law enforcement and human service professionals we have been able to identify a number of groups of persons who are closely associated with the SEC. While the membership of these groups consist primarily of men not all child sexual exploiters are men. Indeed, some sex crimes against children are committed by juveniles and women, especially sexual assaults against children in their own homes. The discussion that follows is divided into two parts: 1) the identification of sexual exploiters of children living in their own homes; and 2) the identification of sexual exploiters of runaway, throwaway and otherwise homeless children. A third category of sexual exploiters of children, those more closely associated with the on-line sexual victimization of children, also will be discussed.

## 96% of ALL child sexual assaults are perpetrated by persons known to the child

### I.1. *Sexual Exploiters of Children Living in Their Own Homes*

As reported above, some 105,000 *substantiated* or *indicated* cases of child sexual assault occur in the U.S. each year (NCCAN, 1996). The bulk of these assaults are perpetrated against children 12 years of age or younger and nearly all (84%) occur in the privacy of the child's own home. Sadly, 96% of all child sexual assaults are perpetrated by persons known either to the child or the child's family-- 96% by acquaintances (e.g., neighbors, teachers, coaches, physicians), or by members of the child's own family (e.g., fathers, step-fathers, uncles, older siblings). Contrary to widely held belief, only a small number of substantiated child sexual assault are committed by strangers (DoJ, 2000b:29).

The NIBRS data summarized in Exhibit 3.14 reflect child sexual assault patterns for a sample of 1,000 "typical" cases for each of the three age groups. The patterns reported in the exhibit are comparable to those we observed in our own field work:

1. most sexual assaults against children in their own homes are committed by acquaintances, i.e., by friends of the family, neighbors, sport coaches, tutors (49%); the risk of sexual assault to children by acquaintances is high for all age groups but peaks as children enter puberty, i.e., 474/1000 incidents for children age 6 years and younger, 510/1000 incidents at ages 7-11 and 694/1000 incidents at ages 12-17;

2. family members--father, step-fathers, uncles, older siblings--commit 47% of all reported sexual assaults against children in their own homes; the risk of sexual assault to children by family members is highest when children are younger than 11 years of age (441/1000 incidents), but especially when children are younger than 6 years (498 /1000 incidents);
3. strangers commit fewer than 4% of all sexual assaults against children; though never at a high level vis-à-vis the number of sexual assaults committed against children by acquaintances and family members, the risk of child sexual assaults by strangers increases with child age from 29/1000 incidents for children ages 6 and younger, to 47/1000 incidents for children ages 7-11, to 71/1000 incidents for children 12-17 years.