American Probation and Parole Association

The Scope and Nature of Sexual Violence in South Carolina

Austin, Texas
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Data Sources

- Reported crime – South Carolina Incident Based Reporting System.
- Victim services – client intake data from victim service providers.
SCIBRS Data

- SCIBRS consists of police incident reports
- SCIBRS tells us when and where sexual violence happens
- Provides information about victims & offenders
- Lets us talk about the relationship between victims and offenders
- Limitation – Reported crime only
Victim Service Intake Data

- Provided by victim service centers
- Maintained by SC Dept. of Health and Environmental Control
- Aggregate data, less detail than SCIBRS
- Includes victims who did not report the incident
How was sexual violence counted and defined?

- Sexual violence was defined as Rape, Forcible Sodomy, Sexual Assault with an Object and Forcible Fondling.

- All incidents of sexual violence were counted; the hierarchy rule was discarded.
Sexual violence rates have been relatively constant
Most victims of sexual violence were female

- Overall, 88% of sexual violence victims were women and girls.

- Forcible sodomy provided an exception to this rule: men and boys made up 56% of victims in this offense category.
The victimization rate for Non-Whites was 40% higher than for Whites.
Few reported sexual violence victims were Hispanic

- Less than 1% of reported sexual violence victims were Hispanic
- 2.4% of victims seeking services in 2003 were Hispanic
Most victims knew the offender. Sexual violence by strangers was uncommon.
Most sexual violence occurred in private residences

- School: 4.1%
- Highway, roads: 7.3%
- Private residence: 71.4%
Alcohol was a factor in 16% of sexual violence incidents

- Offender alcohol use was reported much more frequently than drug use.
- Offender alcohol and/or drug use was twice as likely as victim use.
- “Date rape” drugs were reported by 3.2% of victims.
Sexual violence generally happened late at night
Children made up 63.6% of reported sexual violence victims
After a large one year increase, sexual violence against children has remained fairly consistent.
Child sexual violence victims were mainly girls

- 83% of child sexual violence victims were girls
- The victimization rate for girls was 5.1 times the rate for boys
Among children, the victimization rate was higher for Whites.
Sex Offenders were usually much older than the victims.
Nearly half the sex offenders were 10 or more years older when children were the victim.
Children were victimized by people they knew and family members. Adults were victimized by people they knew and strangers.
When children knew the assailant, the offender was most often an acquaintance.
When children were sexually assaulted by a family member, it was most often by their parents.
Children were victimized at peak daytime hours, adults at night.
Research Questions

- SCIBRS - Who is assaulting children at specific times of day?
- SCIBRS – Do the time of day patterns change with the school year?
- Beyond SCIBRS – What are the circumstances of day-time child victimization?
- Beyond SCIBRS – What can we learn about sex offenders from criminal history records?
Community Supervision & Prevention Implications

- Officers should be aware of any offender contact with children.
- Officers need to be aware of children who are extended and immediate family members.
- Development of policies & training for monitoring children associated w/ offenders.
- Development of strategies based on peak victimization times for children.
Questions?