PATTERNS OF CHILDHOOD SEXUAL VICTIMIZATION IN MICHIGAN: MICR 2014 AND 2015 REPORT

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Michigan Justice Statistics Center

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About the Author

Jason Rydberg is an assistant professor of criminology and justice studies at the University of Massachusetts Lowell, where he is also an associate with the Center for Program Evaluation. His research interests concern the evaluation of criminal justice program and policies, particularly in the areas of prisoner reentry, community supervision, and sex offender policy. His research has recently appeared in the *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*, the *Journal of Experimental Criminology*, and *Sexual Abuse*.

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Executive Summary

This report describes childhood sexual victimization in Michigan by using data from the 2014 and 2015 Michigan Incident Crime Reports (MICR) to compare child victims (under 13), minor victims (under 18), and adult victims (18 and older). Descriptive analyses focus on the offenders, victims, and contexts of sexual assault. Key results can be summarized as follows:

- Approximately half of sexual victimizations against minors reported in 2014 and 2015 were committed against children under the age of 13, and about 32% were committed against victims over age 17.

- The number of unique victims, offenders, and offenses increased between 2014 and 2015, with offenses against minors increasing 3% and offenses against adults increasing 8%.

- The characteristics of victims, offenders, and offenses were consistent between 2014 and 2015.

- Offenders against child and minor victims tended to be relatively young, with about half under the age of 25. Offenders against adults tended to be slightly older.

- Most victims of sexual offenses are female, and those victims are at the highest risk of victimization between ages 12 and 17. Male victims are less common, but are at their highest risk of victimization at younger ages than females, between 3 and 11 years.

- Offenses involving female victims and male offenders were most prevalent, followed by male victims with male offenders.

- Relative to offenses with adult victims, offenses involving children or minors tended to involve acquaintances or blood relatives.

- Overall trends in the Michigan data are largely consistent with national trends, notably that young persons are at a disproportionately high risk of sexual victimization, and young persons are overrepresented among the offenders of such crimes.

Purpose of this Research

The sexual victimization of children has presented a premier concern for public policy and research, particularly since the 1980s. This research has suggested that child sexual abuse was more prevalent than once thought (Finkelhor, 1984), but has also been decreasing nationwide since the 1990s (Finkelhor & Jones, 2004). Further, among the general public and policy makers, misperceptions concerning the characteristics of sex abuse victims and perpetrators persist, producing ineffective policy responses which are unlikely to improve public safety (Duwe, Donnay & Tewksbury, 2008; Socia & Rydberg, 2016). To this extent, it is important to utilize detailed criminal justice data systems to describe the nature and extent of child sexual victimization in order to inform potential interventions. As previous research has examined child sexual abuse as a nationwide trend (Snyder, 2000), this research builds on an earlier report (Drake & McGarrell, 2015) detailing the characteristics of child sexual abuse victims and offenders in Michigan, focusing on calendar years 2014 and 2015.

In order to provide context to the patterns exhibited by child sexual victimization, this research expands on the previous report by providing additional breakdowns based on victim age. In this report, three age groups for victims are focused on:

- **Child Victims:** These are victims under the age of 13. In Michigan, this age is an important legal designation for differentiating forms of Criminal Sexual Conduct (CSC). Analyses for this group pertain to the youngest victims of child sexual abuse.
- **Minor Victims:** These are victims under the age of 18. Analyses pertaining to this group help to differentiate patterns for victims in adolescence. This group includes child victims (as defined above), and those between the ages of 13 and 17, and is most comparable to the definition of victims in the earlier report (Drake & McGarrell, 2015).
- **Adult Victims:** These are victims over the age of 17. Analysis pertaining to this group help to differentiate what makes minor or child sexual victimization different from that of adult sexual victimization.

The inclusion of each of these groups in the data enables this report to consider the aspects of child sexual victimization that are distinguishable from other forms of sexual abuse. In other words, the question of "compared to what?" is addressed by including child, minor, and adult victims in these analyses.

Methods for Studying Child Sexual Abuse in Michigan

This research draws on data from the Michigan Incident Reporting System (MICR), an incident-level crime database maintained by the Michigan State Police. Representing Michigan's contribution to the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS), the MICR data detail information on the victims, offenders, and context of crimes reported in the State of Michigan. Relative to other states, MICR enjoys a high participation rate among law enforcement agencies. For instance, 529 law enforcement agencies are equipped to submit data to MICR, and between 2014 and 2015, 525 agencies (99.2%) reported at least one of the sex offenses detailed in this report.

Specifically, this report focuses on the following 13 crimes reported to MICR (Table 1):

Table 1. MICR Offense Codes and Labels for Sexual Offenses

MICR Code	Offense Label
11001	CSC 1 (Penetrate Penis/Vagina)
11003	CSC 1 (Penetrate Oral/Anal)
11005	CSC 1 (Penetrate Object)
11007	CSC 2 (Forcible Contact)
11002	CSC 3 (Penetrate Penis/Vagina)
11004	CSC 3 (Penetrate Oral/Anal)
11006	CSC 3 (Penetrate Object)
11008	CSC 4 (Forcible Contact)
36001	Penetration (Non-Forcible)
36002	Penetration (Non-Forcible, Other)
37000	Obscenity
36003	Peeping Tom
36004	Other Sex Offense

Note: CSC = Criminal Sexual Conduct

The MICR data for 2014 and 2015 were provided to the Michigan Justice Statistics Center in the form of raw, unlinked files pertaining to different segments of the criminal incident (e.g., victim, offender, offense, etc.). These files were linked according to common IDs (see Rydberg [2016] for a description of the file linking process), which produced a dataset in which each row represented a victim by offender by offense triad. In other words, each row of the data represented an offense committed against a victim by an offender. As opposed to the hierarchy rule imposed by the Uniform Crime Reports (UCR), where only the most serious offense in a given criminal incident is counted, it is possible under this data structure to allow for multiple offenses to be committed against one or more victims by one or more offenders. To this extent, the analyses in this report utilize unique IDs applied to each offense, offender, victim, and victim/offender pairing to avoid overcounting data.

Table 2 details the frequency of unique entities in the 2014 and 2015 MICR data, with a comparison of how much those entities change between the two years. There were 6,380 and 6,590 unique sex offenses against minors in 2014 and 2015, respectively – an increase of 3.3%. Of these, approximately 49% were against victims under the age of 13. These offenses against child victims increased by 5.1% between 2014 and 2015. Approximately 32% of the unique offenses were committed against adult victims over the age of 17. These offenses saw the largest increase between 2014 and 2015, increasing by 7.6%. These increases are consistent with a nationwide increase in rape/sexual assault between 2014 and 2015 (Truman & Morgan, 2016). However, the comparison across groups underscores the importance of understanding the nature and prevalence of child sexual assault. Although individuals under the age of 18 make up about one-quarter of the Michigan population, they make up about 68% of sex offense victims in the MICR data.

Table 2. Unique Offenses, Offenders, Victims, and Pairings

	2014 Frequency	2015 Frequency	Difference (2014 to 2015)
Child Victims (< 13 years old)			
Unique Offenses	3,103	3,262	+5.1%
Unique Offenders	3,366	3,469	+3.1%
Unique Victims	3,551	3,690	+3.9%
Unique Victim/Offender Pairs	3,933	4,019	+2.2%
Minor Victims (< 18 years old)			
Unique Offenses	6,380	6,590	+3.3%
Unique Offenders	6,918	7,050	+1.9%
Unique Victims	7,132	7,249	+1.6%
Unique Victim/Offender Pairs	7,913	7,954	+0.5%
Adult Victims (> 17 years old)			
Unique Offenses	3,365	3,622	+7.6%
Unique Offenders	3,643	3,891	+6.8%
Unique Victims	3,442	3,729	+8.3%
Unique Victim/Offender Pairs	3,765	4,032	+7.1%

Who commits Child Sexual Victimization?

The following tables detail the offenders of child sexual victimization, focusing on the age of the offender. Age has historically been one of the strongest predictors of violent criminal behavior, where offending peaks around age 18 and decreases as offenders get older (Farrington, 1986). However, research on sexual violence has suggested potentially different patterns for offending based on the age of the victim, where there is some evidence that older offenders are just as likely as younger offenders to sexually assault young victims (Felson & Cundiff, 2012; Felson, Cundiff, & Painter-Davis, 2012).

Table 3 (below) breaks down the ages of the offenders of sexual offenses in the MICR data, omitting offenders under the age of 7. This table differentiates child victims (under 13) and minor victims (under 18) from adult victims (18 and older), and compares prevalence between 2014 and 2015. Shaded boxes are provided to highlight the most prevalent offender age categories across the different victim ages. For both child and minor victims, offenders tended to be relatively young, with age 7 to 17 and the most prevalent category, making up between 37 and 41% of offenders. This same category of minor offenders is not as highly represented among offenders against adult victims. For this group, approximately 70% of offenders were between the ages of 18 and 44, with 25-34 as a most prevalent category. To this extent, minor offenders were most prevalent for child and minor victims, and adults were targeted by older offenders on average. It is also important to note that the prevalence of these offender age groups was consistent between 2014 and 2015.

Table 3. Offender Age Distribution (Unique Offenders)

Offender Age Category	Child Victims		Minor Victims		Adult Victims	
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015
7 - 17	1,119 (38.8%)	1,318 (40.9%)	2,339 (36.5%)	2,497 (37.8%)	85 (2.6%)	92 (2.6%)
18 - 24	357 (11.6%)	362 (11.2%)	1,414 (22.1%)	1,361 (20.6%)	773 (24.0%)	814 (23.1%)
25 – 34	614 (19.9%)	629 (19.5%)	997 (15.6%)	1,061 (16.1%)	876 (27.2%)	910 (25.9%)
35 – 44	446 (14.4%)	414 (12.9%)	837 (13.1%)	821 (12.4%)	619 (19.2%)	706 (20.1%)
45 – 54	239 (7.7%)	254 (7.9%)	448 (7.0%)	480 (7.3%)	504 (15.7%)	535 (15.2%)
55 – 64	167 (5.4%)	166 (5.2%)	263 (4.1%)	271 (4.1%)	239 (7.4%)	295 (8.4%)
65 – 74	50 (1.6%)	64 (2.0%)	81 (1.3%)	91 (1.4%)	88 (2.7%)	109 (3.1%)
75 – 84	16 (0.5%)	8 (0.2%)	26 (0.4%)	15 (0.2%)	29 (0.9%)	41 (1.1%)
85 +	0 (0.0%)	5 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	13 (0.2%)	7 (0.2%)	16 (0.5%)

Note: Shading identifies three highest percentages (darker = higher)

Minor offenders make up a sizable proportion of sexual offenders nationwide (Finkelhor, Ormrod, & Chaffin, 2009). Table 4 breaks down the age distribution for this group further to better depict which offender ages are most prevalent for this group. Between the three groups of victims, younger offenders were more prevalent for child victims than for minor or adult victims. The most prevalent age for an offender against child victims was 13, and about 42% of offenders were between ages 12 and 14. Once minor victims are accounted for, offenders tended to be slightly older at 16 or 17.

Table 4. Minor Offenders (< 18) Age Distribution (Unique Offenders)

Offender Age	Child Victims		Minor Victims		Adult Victims	
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015
7	48	63	48	63	0	0
	(4.0%)	(4.8%)	(2.1%)	(2.5%)	(0.0%)	(0.0%)
8	63	93	65	93	0	1
	(5.3%)	(7.1%)	(2.8%)	(3.7%)	(0.0%)	(1.1%)
9	84	97	84	97	1	1
	(7.0%)	(7.4%)	(3.6%)	(3.9%)	(1.2%)	(1.1%)
10	85	80	86	82	0	5
	(7.1%)	(6.1%)	(3.7%)	(3.3%)	(0.0%)	(5.4%)
11	121	109	131	115	2	1
	(10.1%)	(8.3%)	(5.6%)	(4.6%)	(2.4%)	(1.1%)
12	148	180	165	205	0	8
	(12.3%)	(13.7%)	(7.1%)	(8.2%)	(0.0%)	(8.7%)
13	196	192	271	256	4	2
	(16.3%)	(14.6%)	(11.6%)	(10.3%)	(4.7%)	(2.2%)
14	160	189	315	342	12	5
	(13.3%)	(14.3%)	(13.5%)	(13.7%)	(14.1%)	(5.4%)
15	103	141	325	359	15	13
	(8.6%)	(10.7%)	(13.9%)	(14.4%)	(17.6%)	(14.1%)
16	117	95	428	409	23	20
	(9.8%)	(7.2%)	(18.3%)	(16.4%)	(27.1%)	(21.7%)
17	74	79	421	476	28	36
	(6.2%)	(6.0%)	(18.0%)	(19.1%)	(32.9%)	(39.1%)

Note: Shading identifies three highest percentages (darker = higher)

Table 5 breaks down the offender age distribution across male and female offenders. The age distributions between male and female offenders were relatively similar to one another, where the offenders aged 7 to 17 were most prevalent for child and minor victims, and offenders with adult victims tended to be slightly older. One notable difference between male and female offenders of child and minor victims is that minor offenders tended to make up a larger proportion of female offenders, with nearly one-half of female offenders falling into this age group.

Table 5. Offender Age Distribution by Offender Gender (Unique Offenders, 2014-2015 Combined)

Offender Age Category	Child Victims		Minor Victims		Adult Victims	
	Female Offenders	Male Offenders	Female Offenders	Male Offenders	Female Offenders	Male Offenders
7 - 17	305 (45.9%)	2,209 (39.2%)	536 (44.8%)	4,296 (36.4%)	12 (3.9%)	165 (2.6%)
18 - 24	80 (12.0%)	638 (11.3%)	205 (17.1%)	2,567 (21.7%)	80 (25.8%)	1,503 (23.4%)
25 – 34	121 (18.2%)	1,121 (19.9%)	197 (16.5%)	1,857 (15.8%)	76 (24.5%)	1,705 (26.6%)
35 – 44	82 (12.3%)	778 (13.8%)	147 (12.3%)	1,510 (12.8%)	68 (21.9%)	1,253 (19.5%)
45 – 54	42 (6.3%)	451 (8.0%)	72 (6.0%)	856 (7.3%)	47 (15.2%)	992 (15.5%)
55 – 64	27 (4.1%)	304 (5.4%)	29 (2.4%)	503 (4.3%)	22 (7.1%)	511 (8.0%)
65 – 74	8 (1.2%)	106 (1.9%)	10 (0.8%)	162 (1.4%)	4 (1.3%)	192 (3.0%)
75 – 84	0 (0.0%)	24 (0.4%)	0 (0.0%)	41 (0.3%)	1 (0.3%)	69 (1.1%)
85 +	0 (0.0%)	5 (0.1%)	0 (0.0%)	14 (0.1%)	0 (0.0%)	23 (0.4%)

Note: Shading identifies three highest percentages (darker = higher)

The Victims of Child Sexual Abuse

The next several tables describe the victims of child sexual abuse in Michigan. Table 6 covers the distribution of sexual victimization across individual years of age, from under 1 year to 17 years, and then a separate category for 18 years and older. Between 2014 and 2015 there were consistent age distributions for victims, where victimization appears to become more prevalent around age 13 (~6%), and the highest individual year for victimization is age 15 (~10% of victims). As a category, approximately 33% of victims were over the age of 17. These trends are consistent with earlier national estimates based on available NIBRS data (Snyder, 2000).

Table 6. Victim Age Distribution (Unique Victims)

Victim Age	2014	2015
Under 1 Year	62 (0.6%)	68 (0.6%)
1 Year	32 (0.3%)	42 (0.4%)
2 Years	127 (1.2%)	121 (1.1%)
3 Years	337 (3.2%)	304 (2.8%)
4 Years	425 (4.0%)	417 (3.8%)
5 Years	362 (3.4%)	433 (3.9%)
6 Years	344 (3.2%)	373 (3.4%)
7 Years	299 (2.8%)	368 (3.3%)
8 Years	293 (2.8%)	281 (2.6%)
9 Years	301 (2.8%)	305 (2.8%)
10 Years	283 (2.7%)	274 (2.5%)
11 Years	272 (2.6%)	316 (2.9%)
12 Years	414 (3.9%)	388 (3.5%)
13 Years	668 (6.3%)	641 (5.8%)
14 Years	936 (8.8%)	923 (8.4%)
15 Years	1,008 (9.6%)	1,070 (9.7%)
16 Years	577 (5.4%)	542 (4.9%)
17 Years	392 (3.7%)	383 (3.4%)
18 + Years	3,442 (32.6%)	3,729 (33.9%)

Note: Shading identifies three highest percentages (darker = higher)

When victim age is split across male and female victims, differential patterns emerge (Table 7). For instance, males between the ages of 3 and 11 are appear at approximately double the rate of female victims at the age. In other words, although males make up a smaller frequency of victims, males between the ages of 3 and 11 are more likely to be sexually victimized than females of the same age. However, females between the ages of 13 and 17 make up a relatively larger proportion of victims, relative to males of the same age. Additionally, adults make up a larger proportion of female victims relative to male victims, with 36% of female victims being over the age of 17 compared to only 21% of male victims. These patterns are also consistent with previously reported trends in NIBRS (Snyder, 2000).

Table 7. Victim Age Distribution by Victim Gender (Unique Victims, 2014-2015 Combined)

Victim Age	Female Victims	Male Victims
Under 1 Year	87 (0.5%)	28 (0.8%)
1 Year	47 (0.3%)	26 (0.7%)
2 Years	178 (1.0%)	70 (1.9%)
3 Years	460 (2.6%)	180 (4.9%)
4 Years	571 (3.2%)	271 (7.4%)
5 Years	543 (3.0%)	252 (6.9%)
6 Years	452 (2.5%)	265 (7.2%)
7 Years	421 (2.4%)	245 (6.7%)
8 Years	416 (2.3%)	158 (4.3%)
9 Years	432 (2.4%)	172 (4.7%)
10 Years	392 (2.2%)	165 (4.5%)
11 Years	442 (2.5%)	146 (4.0%)
12 Years	679 (3.8%)	122 (3.3%)
13 Years	1,156 (6.5%)	153 (4.2%)
14 Years	1,655 (9.3%)	240 (5.6%)
15 Years	1,837 (10.3%)	241 (6.6%)
16 Years	990 (5.5%)	129 (3.5%)
17 Years	693 (3.9%)	82 (2.2%)
18 + Years	6,421 (35.9%)	750 (20.5%)

Note: Shading identifies three highest percentages (darker = higher)

The previous tables (Tables 6 and 7) report raw totals and prevalence for the distribution of victim ages. An important consideration is adjusting those estimates for the representation of those age groups in the Michigan population. For instance, according to the 2010 US Census, approximately 76% of the Michigan population was over the age of 18. If sexual assaults occurred at random, then we would expect that 76% of sexual assault victims would be over the age of 18. However, as the previous tables suggest, sexual victimization is relatively more prevalent among persons under the age of 18. In order to provide a more accurate picture of risk for sexual victimization, it is necessary to adjust the data for the size of the population that actually falls into each of those age groups.

Figure 1 adjusts the prevalence of specific victim ages across male and female victims for the size of the Michigan population that falls into each of those groups (see the Technical Appendix for details). Correcting for population size, Figure 1 reinforces the picture of differential risk between young male and female victims. Males between the ages of 3 and 11 make up a larger relative proportion of victims than females of the same age. This is especially the case for males between the ages of 4 and 7. On the other hand, compared to male victims, the ages of 12 to 17 are relatively higher risk for sexual victimization for females. Because persons over the age of 18 make up such a large proportion of the Michigan population, the larger proportion of sexual victimizations for this group reported in Table 6 and 7 is shrunk down in the age-adjusted numbers in Figure 1, reinforcing the pattern that young persons are at a disproportionately high risk of sexual victimization, relative to adults.

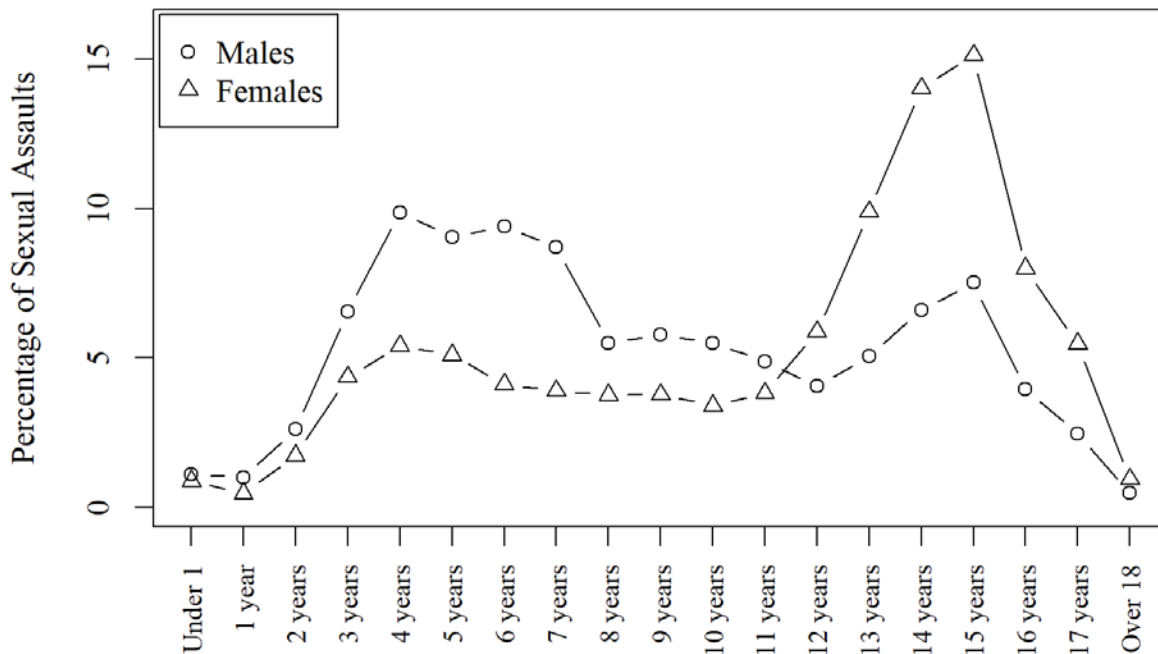Figure 1. Age Distribution of Sexual Assault Victims across Males and Females (Age-Adjusted)

Figure 2 expands on the analysis in Figure 1 by comparing these patterns across different categories of offender age. In other words, does the pattern of victim age for sexual victimization vary between younger and older offenders? The top panel of Figure 2 displays age-adjusted victim prevalence for male victims. Although the trends appear somewhat "busy," the clumping of the points suggests that there is relative consistency in prevalence of victim age across younger and older offenders. There are two exceptions to this. First, male victims ages 4 and 5 were slightly more prevalent among offenders age 25-29, and male victims ages 14 and 15 were slightly more prevalent among offenders aged 18-24.

The bottom panel of Figure 2 displays the same analysis for female victims. Similar to male victims, the patterns across different offender ages were relatively consistent, with all offender groups usually within 3-5% of one another. The major exception is for female victims between the ages of 14 and 15. Figure 2 suggests that female victims of this age (14-15) are disproportionately represented among offenders age 18-24, making up nearly half of this groups' victims.

Figure 2. Victimization Rates by Victim Age, across different Offender Ages (Age-Adjusted)
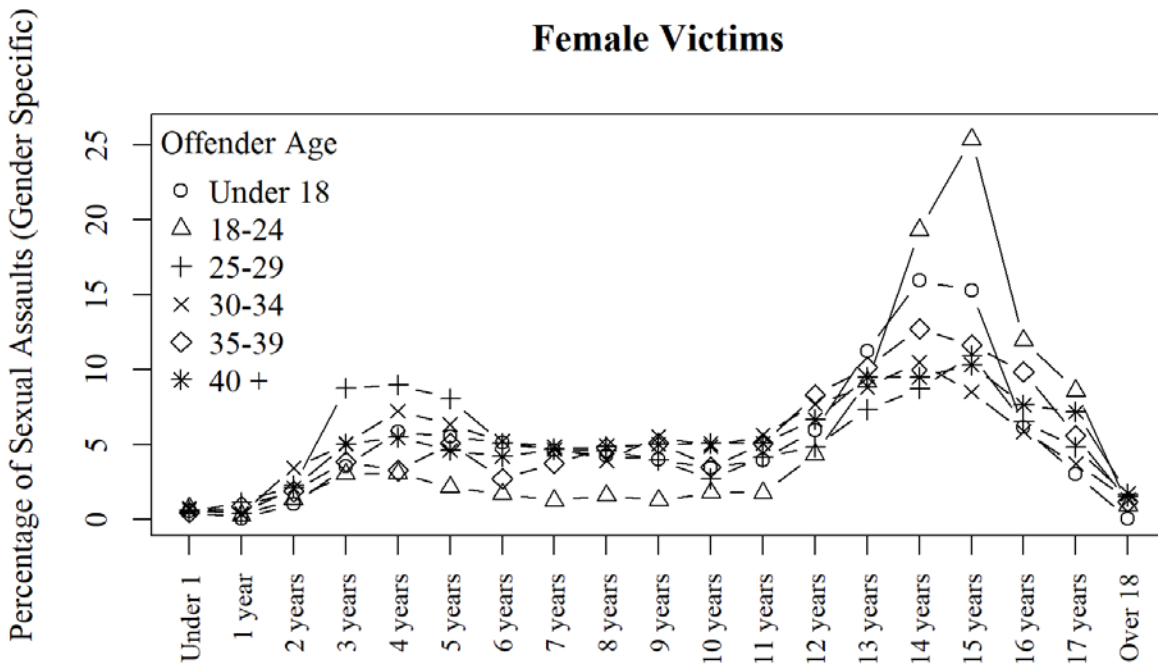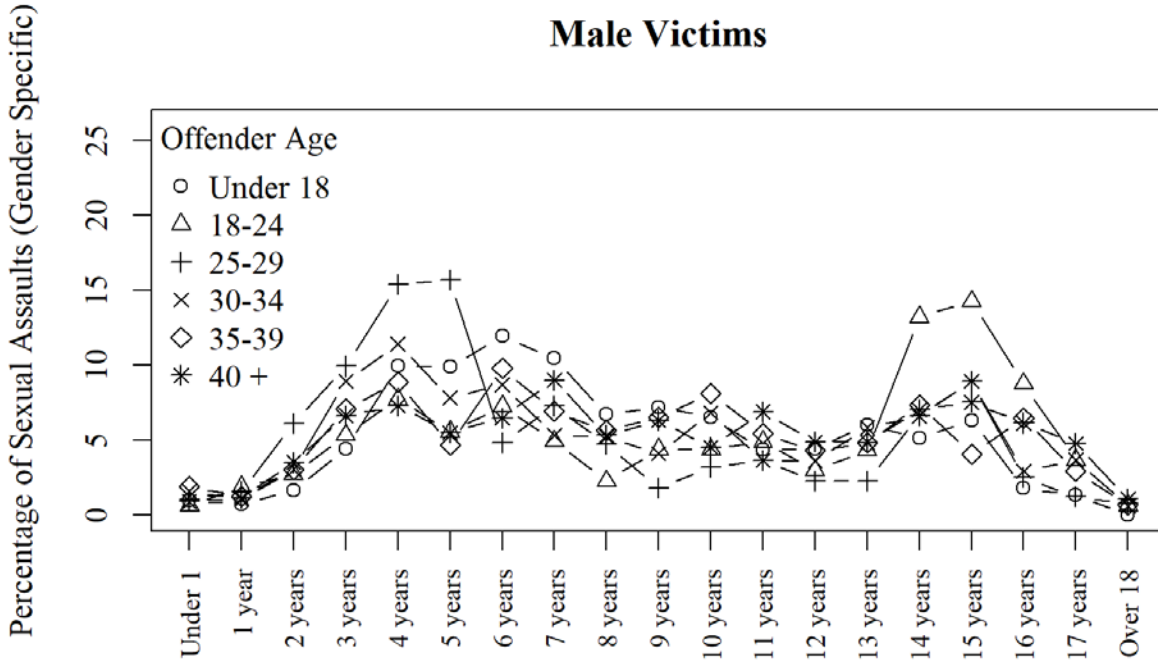
The Relationship between Victims and Offenders

Tables 8 through 10 examine the relationships between victims and offenders of sexual offenses. The first table (Table 8) examines age differences between victims and offenders, defined as how much older the offender was than the victim (i.e., [offender age] – [victim age]). These differences are compared across child, minor, and adult victims, as well as between male and female offenders in each group. For child victims, the most prevalent age difference was 6-10 years (~17% of offenders), followed by 3-5 years older (~12%), and 21-25 years older (~11%). These patterns were consistent between male and female offenders. For minor victims, there were some differences between male and female offenders. The most prevalent category for males was 3-5 years older (16% of offenders), and for female offenders the most prevalent difference was to be younger than the victim (21%). For adult victims, nearly half of the offenders were younger than the victim, reflective of the fact that younger offenders commit sexual offenses more frequently.

Table 8. Victim-Offender Age Difference by Offender Gender (Unique Victim-Offender Pairs; 2014-2015 Combined)

Age Difference	Child Victims		Minor Victims		Adult Victims	
	Female Offenders	Male Offenders	Female Offenders	Male Offenders	Female Offenders	Male Offenders
Off. Younger	107 (12.0%)	566 (8.1%)	318 (20.7%)	1,794 (12.7%)	190 (54.4%)	2,990 (40.9%)
0 - 2	71 (8.0%)	435 (6.2%)	163 (10.6%)	1,743 (12.3%)	26 (7.4%)	712 (9.7%)
3 - 5	129 (14.5%)	808 (11.6%)	225 (14.7%)	2,286 (16.2%)	27 (7.7%)	801 (11.0%)
6 - 10	133 (15.0%)	1,186 (17.0%)	190 (12.4%)	2,006 (14.2%)	30 (8.6%)	839 (11.5%)
11 - 15	41 (4.6%)	506 (7.3%)	71 (4.6%)	887 (6.3%)	17 (4.9%)	517 (7.1%)
16 - 20	83 (9.3%)	532 (7.6%)	134 (8.7%)	944 (6.7%)	23 (6.6%)	410 (5.6%)
21 - 25	109 (12.3%)	758 (10.9%)	159 (10.3%)	1,221 (8.6%)	20 (5.7%)	363 (5.0%)
26 - 30	60 (6.8%)	599 (8.6%)	85 (5.5%)	938 (6.6%)	9 (2.6%)	271 (3.7%)
31 - 35	39 (4.4%)	409 (5.9%)	58 (3.8%)	665 (4.7%)	4 (1.1%)	179 (2.4%)
36 - 40	32 (3.6%)	323 (4.6%)	45 (2.9%)	509 (3.6%)	1 (0.3%)	102 (1.4%)
41 - 45	24 (2.7%)	268 (3.8%)	26 (1.7%)	405 (2.9%)	1 (0.3%)	58 (0.8%)
46 - 50	26 (2.9%)	206 (3.0%)	26 (1.7%)	275 (1.9%)	0 (0.0%)	32 (0.4%)
50 +	34 (3.8%)	374 (5.4%)	38 (2.4%)	474 (3.4%)	1 (0.3%)	36 (0.5%)

Table 9 compares victim and offender gender for each of the unique victim and offender pairs. The majority of sexual victimization victim-offender pairs involve a female victim and a male offender. This is the case for child, minor, and adult victims. However, this pairing makes up a large majority of the pairs for the adult victims (87%), and relatively smaller majorities for minor victims (74%) and child victims (64%). The next most prevalent pairing involved male victims and male offenders. This pairing made up one-quarter (25%) of child victimizations, and relatively fewer minor (16%) and adult victims (9%).

Table 9. Victim and Offender Gender Combinations (Unique Victim-Offender Pairs, 2014-2015 Combined)

Victim – Offender Combination	Child Victims	Minor Victims	Adult Victims
Female Victim – Male Offender	5,021 (64.1%)	11,578 (73.9%)	6,660 (87.0%)
Female Victim – Female Offender	532 (6.8%)	889 (5.7%)	206 (2.7%)
Male Victim – Male Offender	1,931 (24.6%)	2,551 (16.3%)	650 (8.5%)
Male Victim – Female Offender	354 (4.5%)	647 (4.1%)	143 (1.9%)

The next table describing victim and offender pairings considers the association between the offender and the victim, compared across child, minor, and adult victims, as well as male and female offenders. Although popular myths suggest that strangers figure prominently among those who commit sexual offenses against children (Pickett, Mancini, & Mears, 2013), for both child and minor victims, offenders tended to be either acquaintances to the victim or blood relatives. However, both male and female offenders against child victims were most often blood relatives (~26%), and those against minor victims were most often acquaintances (~33%). Further, for both child and minor victims, female offenders were more likely than male offenders to be blood relatives of the victim. Concerning offenses committed by strangers, approximately 3% of victim-offender pairs involving child or minor victims were committed by such individuals. However, for adult victims, about 17% of male offenders were strangers to their victim, highlighting that child sexual assault is prominently committed by individuals known to the victim.

Table 10. Victim-Offender Relationship across Victim Age Categories (Unique Victim-Offender Pairs; 2014-2015 Combined)

Offender Role	Child Victims		Minor Victims		Adult Victims	
	Female Offenders	Male Offenders	Female Offenders	Male Offenders	Female Offenders	Male Offenders
Acquaintance	244 (27.5%)	1,068 (26.4%)	484 (31.5%)	4,685 (33.1%)	138 (39.5%)	2,648 (36.2%)
Blood Relative	322 (36.3%)	2,080 (29.8%)	416 (27.0%)	2,818 (20.0%)	28 (8.0%)	228 (3.1%)
Current Intimate Partner	4 (0.5%)	22 (0.3%)	86 (5.6%)	816 (5.8%)	14 (4.0%)	589 (8.1%)
Former Intimate Partner	0 (0.0%)	15 (0.2%)	6 (0.4%)	204 (1.4%)	6 (1.7%)	384 (5.3%)
Non-Blood Relative	201 (22.6%)	1,699 (24.4%)	254 (16.5%)	2,530 (17.9%)	17 (4.9%)	341 (4.7%)
Other	66 (7.4%)	740 (10.6%)	166 (10.8%)	1,590 (11.2%)	79 (22.6%)	1,008 (13.8%)
Stranger	7 (0.8%)	176 (2.5%)	16 (1.0%)	505 (3.6%)	26 (7.4%)	1,235 (16.9%)
Unknown Relationship	44 (5.0%)	397 (5.6%)	110 (7.2%)	999 (7.1%)	41 (11.7%)	877 (12.0%)

Note: Shading identifies three highest percentages (darker = higher)

The Contexts of Child Sexual Victimization

Table 11 displays the different sex offense codes as they were committed against child, minor, and adult victims, splitting out male and female offenders. Across all groups, CSC 1 offenses involving genital penetration were the most frequent, but there were noticeable differences across victim and offender groupings. For child victims, CSC 2 offenses involving forcible sexual contact were most frequent for both male and female offenders. However, for the child victims the next most frequent offense for males was CSC 1 with genital penetration, but for females it was CSC 4 with forcible contact. Similar offenses were prevalent for minor victims, with CSC 1 genital penetration being the most prevalent offense for male offenders, and CSC 2 with forcible contact being the most prevalent offense for female offenders.

It is important to note that some of the differences across victim age groups may be legally defined, as having a child or minor victim can be an aggravating circumstance that distinguishes a CSC 3 from a CSC 1, among other factors including use of force, weapons, or relationships of authority.

Table 11. Offense Type by Victim Sex (Unique Offenses; 2014-2015 Combined)

Offense Code	Child Victims		Minor Victims		Adult Victims	
	Female Offnd.	Male Offnd.	Female Offnd.	Male Offnd.	Female Offnd.	Male Offnd.
CSC 1 (Penetrate Penis/Vagina)	78 (12.8%)	1,167 (20.6%)	154 (14.7%)	3,074 (26.1%)	43 (16.8%)	2,295 (34.7%)
CSC 1 (Penetrate Oral/Anal)	72 (11.8%)	864 (15.2%)	103 (9.8%)	1,235 (10.5%)	18 (7.0%)	487 (7.4%)
CSC 1 (Penetrate Object)	52 (8.5%)	256 (4.5%)	61 (5.8%)	389 (3.3%)	10 (3.9%)	148 (2.2%)
CSC 2 (Forcible Contact)	195 (31.9%)	1,954 (34.4%)	256 (24.5%)	2,721 (23.1%)	48 (18.8%)	442 (6.7%)
CSC 3 (Penetrate Penis/Vagina)	11 (1.8%)	83 (1.5%)	95 (9.1%)	1,111 (9.4%)	15 (5.9%)	811 (12.3%)
CSC 3 (Penetrate Oral/Anal)	23 (3.8%)	148 (2.6%)	50 (4.8%)	424 (3.6%)	16 (6.3%)	293 (4.4%)
CSC 3 (Penetrate Object)	11 (1.8%)	45 (0.8%)	31 (3.0%)	157 (1.3%)	11 (4.3%)	102 (1.5%)
CSC 4 (Forcible Contact)	140 (22.9%)	859 (15.1%)	220 (21.0%)	1,886 (16.0%)	70 (27.3%)	1,564 (23.7%)
Penetration (Non-Forcible)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	3 (0.3%)	17 (0.1%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Penetration (Non-Forcible, Other)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	10 (1.0%)	132 (1.1%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Obscenity	1 (0.2%)	7 (0.1%)	8 (0.8%)	40 (0.3%)	4 (1.6%)	10 (0.1%)
Peeping Tom	0 (0.0%)	6 (0.1%)	0 (0.0%)	15 (0.1%)	1 (0.4%)	60 (0.9%)
Other Sex Offense	28 (4.6%)	283 (5.0%)	56 (5.3%)	569 (4.8%)	20 (7.8%)	394 (6.0%)

Note: Shading identifies three highest percentages (darker = higher)

The final table (Table 12) displays three additional contextual factors, including injuries to victims, weapon usage, and the location of offenses. Concerning victim injury, most often the sexual victimizations did not lead to a discernable physical injury, with about 85% of offenses against child or minor victims resulting in no recorded injury. Injuries appeared to be more frequent among adult victims, notably minor injuries (~19%).[1]

Sexual offenses involving child or minor victims were also unlikely to include the use of a weapon by the offender, with approximately 87% of offenses involving an unarmed offender. Offenses against adults were slightly more likely to include a melee weapon or firearm.

More sizable differences emerge for the location of offenses. Offenses involving child victims were most likely to occur in a residence (85%). However, relatively smaller proportions of offenses involving minor victims (78%) or adult victims (62%) were committed in such locations. Relative to offenses involving child victims, offenses against minor or adult victims were more likely to occur in public spaces, businesses, or government buildings such as schools or bus stops.

Table 12. Offense Context (Unique Offenses; 2014-2015 Combined)

	Child Victims	Minor Victims	Adult Victims
Injury Severity			
None	5,445 (85.5%)	10,978 (84.6%)	4,851 (69.4%)
Minor	422 (6.6%)	841 (6.5%)	1,304 (18.7%)
Severe	161 (2.5%)	295 (2.3%)	349 (5.0%)
Unknown	337 (5.3%)	856 (6.6%)	482 (6.9%)
Weapon Used			
Unarmed	5,588 (87.8%)	11,273 (86.9%)	5,806 (83.1%)
Melee Weapon	19 (0.3%)	42 (0.3%)	139 (2.0%)
Firearm	6 (0.1%)	40 (0.3%)	168 (2.4%)
Other Weapons	71 (1.1%)	145 (1.1%)	117 (1.7%)
Unknown	681 (10.7%)	1,470 (11.3%)	757 (10.8%)
Offense Location			
Residence	5,431 (85.3%)	10,163 (78.4%)	4,322 (61.9%)
Public (Outdoors)	322 (5.1%)	995 (7.7%)	933 (13.4%)
Business	95 (1.5%)	289 (2.3%)	737 (10.5%)
Govt/School/Transport	352 (5.5%)	1,019 (7.9%)	717 (10.3%)
Other Location	82 (1.3%)	264 (2.0%)	215 (3.1%)
Unknown	83 (1.3%)	240 (1.8%)	63 (0.9%)

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[1] Here severe injuries are defined as broken bones, internal injuries, severe lacerations, loss of teeth, or loss of consciousness.

Technical Appendix: Calculating Age-Adjusted Victimization Prevalence

The age-adjusted prevalence of sexual victimizations for each of the victim age groups is based on the formula used by Felson, Cundiff, and Painter-Davis (2012), which they adapted from the demography literature (Rowland, 2003). The formula for the age-adjusted prevalence of sexual victimizations for an individual victim age group is defined as:

$$\alpha_i = \frac{(O_i/E_i)}{\Sigma(O_{ij\ldots n}/E_{ij\ldots n})} \times 100$$

Where:
- i refers to an individual victim age group for which the adjusted prevalence is being calculated.
- j refers to an individual victim age group out of n total groups.
- α_i refers to the age-adjusted percentage of offenses against victim age-group i.
- O_i refers to the observed number of sexual victimizations against age group i in the MICR data.
- E_i refers to the expected number of sexual victimizations for age group i if the MICR offenses followed statewide census trends.

The expected numbers of sexual victimizations are based on the population estimates for Michigan from the 2010 census.

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