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**Robert Keller**

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**UNDERSTANDING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CHILD ABUSE AND  
DELINQUENCY**

**By**

**Robert Keller**

**A THESIS**

**Submitted to  
Michigan State University  
in partial fulfillment of the requirements  
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## **ABSTRACT**

### **UNDERSTANDING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CHILD ABUSE AND DELINQUENCY**

**By**

**Robert Keller**

The purposes of this research were to examine 1) the relationship between child abuse and delinquency; 2) the relationship between the type of child abuse, either physical or sexual, and the type of subsequent delinquency, either violent and aggressive or sexual; and 3) the effects of intervening variables such as race, age of onset, frequency of abuse, and intensity of abuse. The survey design method was used in this study, which was conducted at three juvenile facilities in Lower Michigan. Parental consent was obtained for each respondent prior to obtaining verbal assent. The data collection instrument was a questionnaire. The findings indicate that there is a relationship between child abuse and delinquency, however, there is no statistical relationship between type of abuse and the type of subsequent delinquency. Nevertheless, the relationship between type of abuse and type of delinquency was affected when controlling for respondents' race and the intensity of abuse.

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## INTRODUCTION

During the last decade, juvenile crime has risen nationwide to epidemic proportions. Crimes are being committed by an increasing number of children, and the crimes are increasingly more serious and violent offenses than hitherto. According to the FBI's Uniform Crime Report (UCR, 1992), the rate of violent juvenile crime has increased by 27% over the last decade. Also, the arrest rate for murder among black and white juveniles has risen by 145% and 48% respectively. During the past decade, there has been a 79% increase in the number of juveniles who commit murders with guns (UCR, 1992). In Michigan alone, during a three year period from 1988 to 1991, the juvenile arrest rate for murder increased by 70% (Detroit Free Press, 1992). To halt this increase in crime requires uncovering the reported determinants of this incredible increase in juvenile crime. Is there a single contributor to this social dilemma or are the determinants a combination of several factors?

Besides having an interest in abuse and delinquency as a research topic, the researcher had past job experience with juvenile delinquents. It was during this job experience that the researcher observed the number of residents who could recall abusive experiences. One resident spoke about the time his mother was a prostitute and her "pimp" beat him with a 2 by 4 to the point of his eye swelling shut. Another resident related an incident when his father was drunk and "whipped" him with a belt. During the time frame that the researcher worked with juvenile delinquents, the researcher observed that those residents who were physically abused were more abusive, either physically or verbally. The researcher also noticed that those residents who were adjudicated for sexual

crimes had been sexually abused as a child. It was these incidents and observations that peaked the researcher's curiosity to study abuse and its relationship with delinquency.

### Statement of the Problem

The National Council on Crime and Delinquency has identified four major contributors to the phenomenon of "the serious juvenile offender." These include: 1) the age of first referral to the juvenile court, 2) the lack of commitment by youth to school and corresponding existence of educational deficits, 3) the youth's involvement in and level of substance abuse, and 4) family disorganization including the presence of abuse and the absence of love.

Recent statistics report a significant increase in the incidence of reported child abuse both within and outside the immediate family circles. Gelles (1980) used a Child Abuse Index to study this phenomenon. He found that between 1.4 and 1.9 million children are vulnerable to physical injury by their parents (Gelles, 1980). In 1980, The National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect estimated that every year 250,000 children fall victims to physical child abuse. A decade later, child abuse figures increased to the millions. For example, the Michigan State Police (Michigan State Police, 1991) estimated that in 1990, 2.5 million children were victims of child abuse in the United States. For the State of Michigan, the State Department of Social Services reported that every year of the last decade, over 5,000 children fell victim to physical injury (Michigan Department of Social Services, 1992). With regard to sexual abuse, The National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect (1980) estimates that the annual incidence of child sexual abuse is between 60,00 and 100,000. According to the Michigan Department of Social Services (1992), 2,553 children were victims of substantiated sexual abuse in the State of Michigan (1992). These figures represent a significant proportion of the adolescent population that is exposed to either physical or sexual abuse.

There is evidence that most abuse occurs within the family environment, and that children exposed to an abusive family environment have a higher probability of becoming

abusive towards others than those children who are not exposed to such an environment. Theoretical and empirical evidence show that children learn behaviors vicariously through observation or through direct experience. When abuse is present in the family environment, children often learn that this abusive behavior is acceptable. Several theories explain how a child learns acceptable and unacceptable behavior within the family or quasi-family environments and other social contexts. Skinner's Operant Conditioning theory (1953) examines how behavior is learned and shaped by consequences that positively or negatively reinforce the learned behavior. Also, Sutherland's Differential Association theory (Sutherland, 1939) explains that criminal behavior is learned through associations with individuals or groups who engage in criminal behaviors. Bandura's Social Learning theory (Bandura, 1977) explains how behavior is acquired through observation, direct experience, and modeling.

#### Purpose of Study

This study proposes a theoretical framework for examining the alleged relationship between prior child abuse and subsequent delinquent activity, the nature of that relationship, that is if the type of delinquent activity varies according to the form of child abuse experienced by an adolescent, and if other reactions result from the prior abuse experience. Generally, the objectives of this study are to 1) determine if a relationship exists between prior child abuse experience and subsequent delinquency, 2) determine if a relationship exists between the form of abuse experienced and the type of manifested delinquent act, 3) determine if physical abuse propenses the abuse victim to violent, aggressive crimes, and if sexual abuse inclines the victim to sexual crimes, 4) determine if other responses to the abuse are apparent among abused children, 5) determine if there are protective factors which may prevent an abused child from acting out through delinquency, and 6) determine if there are factors which may affect the alleged relationship between prior child abuse and subsequent delinquency.

### Significance of Study

This study proposes to examine the relationship between prior child abuse and subsequent delinquency. A finding that such a relationship exists can have important policy implications especially in terms of prevention and treatment interventions for both the abused child and the family.

A major premise of this study is that a child who experiences child abuse will learn to become abusive. If this premise is found to be true then interventions will be identified to sever the learning of the abusive behavior and to re-direct the child's behavior into a socially acceptable one.

The family is a major agent for socialization and if abuse is experienced within the family there is significant possibility that the child may not be socialized properly. The abuse that the child experiences is a major influence on later behavior. If policy can be developed to target the whole family for treatment this may minimize any possible future victimization. The experienced child abuse has implications of being the cause of later delinquency. If this is substantiated then interventions will be identified to halt any future victimization by encompassing the whole family into treatment. By incorporating the family into treatment the cycle of abusive behavior can be broken.

### Research Questions

The research questions for this study are as follows:

- 1) Is there a relationship between prior child abuse and subsequent delinquency?
- 2) Is there a relationship between the form of child abuse the adolescent experienced and the type of subsequent delinquency?
- 3) Are those children who are physically abused more likely to commit violent, aggressive behavior than those children who are not physically abused?
- 4) Are those children who are sexually abused more likely to commit sexual crimes than those children who are not sexually abused?

- 5) Are there other delinquent or deviant responses to either prior physical or sexual abuse?
- 6) Are there protective factors which may prevent an abused child from acting out through delinquency?
- 7) Is the alleged relationship between prior child abuse and subsequent delinquency affected by demographic characteristics such as race and age of onset of abuse?
- 8) Is the alleged relationship between prior child abuse and subsequent delinquency affected by the frequency and/or intensity of the abuse?

### Definitions

prior physical child abuse: the exposure to physical abuse by either observation or direct experience including the intentional and non accidental infliction of physical harm or injury to a child through severe spanking, hitting, slapping, or beating with or without an object.

prior sexual abuse: the exposure to sexual abuse by either observation or direct experience which includes sexual touching, fondling, masturbation, molestation, or sexual intercourse.

subsequent delinquent activity: the adolescent's delinquent response to being a victim of abuse including violent, aggressive crimes, sexual crimes, or other delinquent or deviant responses.

violent, aggressive crimes: include crimes of murder, rape, assault, battery, robbery, arson, vandalism, and malicious destruction of property as defined under Michigan Compiled Laws (MCL - see Glossary).

sexual crimes: include criminal sexual conduct (csc) I, II, III, IV as defined under MCL. (see Glossary).

other delinquent or deviant reactions: include prostitution, running away from home, truancy from school, incorrigibility, petty theft, and drug or alcohol abuse.

counseling for child abuse: if the child received any professional counseling for the child abuse.

**frequency of the abuse:** number of times the abuse occurred.

**severity of the abuse:** extent of physical and psychological harm as a result of abuse.

**duration of the abuse:** how long the abuse occurred in months or years.

**gender of the abused:** whether the victim of the abuse was male or female.

**gender of the abuser:** whether the perpetrator of the abuse was male or female.

**identity of the abuser:** biological father or mother, step mother or father, sibling, foster or adoptive mother or father, grandmother or father, aunt or uncle, or non-family member.

**age of onset for abuse:** how old the child was when the abuse occurred.

**race:** the race of the adolescent which includes Black, White, Hispanic, and other races.

**protective services involvement or similar agency:** involvement of protective services or a similar agency after the child was victimized.

**criminal behavior:** any action which may be considered a crime including violent, aggressive crimes, sexual crimes, and deviant reactions as defined above.

**family:** traditional or quasi-family environment, that is, any environment in which a child is reared by an adult or parental figure, including biological, adoptive, foster, or step families, or an institution and in which the abuse occurred.

Section Two of this research contains the theoretical framework for this study. Section Three contains the literature review. Section Four discusses the methodology of this research. Section Five contains the analysis of the data collected and the presentation of the findings from the analysis of data. Section Six contains the conclusion of this study and recommendations for further research.



## THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Several theories have attempted to explain the determinants of delinquent or criminal behavior. Few of these theories have focused on the alleged linkage between child abuse and delinquency. The Social Learning theory is one of the theoretical perspectives which appear to be relevant to an understanding of the alleged relationship. Under this theory, most of the learning of behavior is related to dynamics within the family or similar social groups. Within the family parents act as role models for their children. Children learn by vicarious observation, by direct experience of behavior by parents or parental figures, and or by direct experience of forces impacting on life such as abuse experience. Once the learning occurs, children model the behavior observed and/or experienced. Several theories have been developed to examine how behavior is learned vicariously and experientially. This study proposes to adopt the Social Learning theory as the framework for understanding the learning and modeling of abusive behavior, and the relationship between past child abuse experience and subsequent delinquent or deviant conduct. The premise is that abuse begets abuse (Bandura). Accordingly, children who have experienced abuse are very likely to internalize and re-enact abusive or other forms of delinquent and deviant behavior. The Social Learning theory attempts to explain the chain of events that links prior abuse experience with future delinquent or deviant conduct.

In his operant conditioning theory Skinner (1953) examines how behavior is shaped through reinforcement. Skinner explains that an initial act or stimulus elicits a response or consequence. This act is reinforced by positive or negative consequences. Negative reinforcement can occur through scolding, loss of privileges, and so forth. It elicits a halt in that behavior. Positive reinforcement can occur through clapping, a smile,

and so forth, and will increase the likelihood that the initial action will be repeated. Also, the strength of an action is accomplished or increased by positively reinforcing the action. In addition, the action is strengthened by making the response very consistent and frequent. Therefore, where an action is strengthened through positive reinforcement, that is, through consistent and frequent positive consequences, it will reoccur. An action that is negatively reinforced will cease to exist or will be eliminated. According to the operant conditioning theory, when positive reinforcement occurs, the behavior is more likely to be repeated than when the behavior is negatively reinforced.

In a family environment that engages in physical or sexual abuse, the child may observe or directly experience the abuse. The child learns to associate the action, physical or sexual abuse, with the reinforcement. If there is positive reinforcement for the parent associated with the abuse then the child will become conditioned, learning that the abuse is an acceptable behavior. Positive reinforcement of the abuse achieves a desired response for the parent including power and control over the child, pleasurable feelings, frustration reduction, and so forth. These forms of positive reinforcement cause the child to learn to become abusive. Once the child learns that the abuse is an acceptable behavior then the child will act out or re-enact the abuse. For example, a child who is part of a physically abusive family learns to associate the physical abuse with the reinforcement of the action. In this situation, physical abuse may cause the child to behave in a certain manner. The child may perceive this power and control over behavior as rewarding for the parent. Thus, the child learns that physical abuse is an acceptable means of controlling behavior.

Similarly to physical abuse, a child who is part of a sexually abusive family becomes conditioned to sexual abuse. The child learns to associate the action, sexual abuse, with the type of reinforcement that is present. The reinforcement that is most likely present is pleasure. The child perceives the pleasure associated with the action as

positive reinforcement. Once the sexual behavior is learned through positive reinforcement the child will re-enact this behavior. The child becomes conditioned to achieve sexual pleasure through this abusive behavior. Therefore, the child has learned by the reinforcement of the sexual abuse, pleasure, that this sexual behavior is acceptable.

In his differential association theory, Sutherland (1939) explains how behavior is acquired or learned through associations with intimate primary groups and individuals. Predicated upon seven general principles, the theory holds that: 1) criminal behavior is a learned behavior, 2) the process of learning criminal behavior is the same as the process of learning lawful behavior, 3) criminal behavior is learned through a process of differential association, the primary association with people who engage in crime, 4) the learning of criminal behavior is also determined by the frequency, consistency, intensity, and duration of contacts with criminal behavior and criminal patterns, 5) certain factors exist which affect differential association or affect the consistency and frequency of criminal contact, 6) cultural conflict can cause differential association which causes criminal behavior, and 7) social disorganization is the basic cause of criminal behavior.

Differential association theory explains that criminal or delinquent behavior is learned in much the same fashion as the learning of conforming behavior. Whether conforming or criminal behavior is acquired will depend on whether the primary association occurs most frequently with law-abiding or criminal groups and individuals. When the primary association with criminal groups and individuals outweighs the association with conforming groups and individuals then the person will acquire criminal behavior. The process of acquiring criminal behavior through differential association is marked by four concepts: 1) priority, 2) frequency, 3) intensity, and 4) duration. Priority refers to the association of primary importance or the type of early learning exposure. Where early learning exposure is with criminal significant others, behavior will be fashioned in a criminal manner. Frequency, intensity, and duration refer to the amount of

time and the strength of exposure to criminal groups and individuals. Thus, the earlier the exposure to criminal groups and individuals, and the more frequent, intense, and durable the association, the more likely the individual will learn to act out delinquent or criminal behavior. An individual who associates on a consistent and frequent basis with people who engage in crime will learn criminal behavior and will begin to engage in similar criminal behavior.

Sutherland's analysis of learning in intimate primary groups and the accompanying attributes of priority, frequency, intensity, and duration, finds pertinent application to the phenomenon of child abuse as it unfolds within the family or similar social contexts in which the child grows. The family is one of the most significant intimate primary groups. What is learned within the family, and the negative quality and content of learning remain one of the most decisive forces in the outcome of socialization, emotional, and behavioral adjustment. An abusive family environment negatively socializes the child to learn and accept abuse as the conventional mode of behavior.

From differential association theory it may be deduced that a child who is exposed to physical abuse will learn physically abusive behavior. However, particularly significant in the child's future behavior are the frequency, consistency, intensity, and duration of the physical abuse. Frequent, persistent, severe, and long term exposure to physical abuse within intimate primary groups is likely to be internalized as normal behavior. It is also likely to translate itself into violent and aggressive behavior in such an abused child, who will be more likely to learn and act out physically abusive behavior than the child who was never physically abused. Therefore, the earlier the exposure to abuse, the more frequent, severe, intense, and durable that exposure, the more likely the child will learn and act out physically abusive behavior through violent and aggressive conduct.

Unlike the past two theories which explain how behavior is acquired through reinforcement or association, Bandura's social learning theory explains how behavior is

acquired through an interactional process of observation, direct experience, and modeling. According to Bandura (1977), when an individual observes others' actions, that person forms a concept of behavior performance. On a later occasion this individual models and re-enacts the behavior which was learned and retained from past observation or experience.

### Social Learning theory

An in-depth explanation of the social learning theory must include Rotter's basic developmental assumptions of the social learning theory. Rotter (1982) explains that the social learning theory was originally developed "to predict and change behavior of individuals more efficiently." The theory is founded upon several assumptions including the idea that:

- 1) The unit of investigation for the study of personality is the interaction of the individual and his or her meaningful environment.
- 2) Not all behavior of an organism may be usefully described with personality constructs. Behavior that may be usefully described by personality constructs appears in organisms at a particular level or stage of complexity and a particular level or stage of development.
- 3) A person's experiences (or a person's interactions with his or her meaningful environment) influence each other.
- 4) Behavior as described by any personality constructs has a directional aspect. It may be said to be goal directed. The directional aspect of behavior is inferred from the effect of reinforcing conditions.

Rotter's basic assumptions of the social learning theory added to Bandura's explanation of social learning theory, as applied to aggressive behavior, form the theoretical framework for this thesis. A complex theoretical framework examining the

learning of behavior requires investigation of how behaviors are learned, what provokes or instigates learned behaviors, and what maintains learned behaviors.

Behavior is developed through a complex learning process which entails the interaction with a significant environment including significant others. Rotter's first assumption of the social learning theory explains that an individual learns behavior through the interaction with a meaningful environment. The meaningful environment may include family, neighbors, peers, television, and so forth. Bandura refined Rotter's first assumption by examining how interaction with the environment occurs. According to Bandura, the learning of behavior through the interaction with the environment occurs as observation or direct experience. Direct experience may be defined as an individual having participation in a specific mode of behavior. Importantly, it is a learning mechanism which is engaged during the interaction with the environment, whether the interaction is through direct experience or observation. A learning mechanism maintains that the behavior will be cognitively retained and used in the future. Bandura's theory attempts to delineate the processes or stages through which behavior is learned, the mechanism for maintaining or retaining it, and finally how it is subsequently provoked or induced.

#### Bandura's Four Learning Processes

According to Bandura, learning of behavior occurs in four processes or stages: input, retention, output, and reinforcement. The first process is the attentional process or input stage. During this stage an individual pays attention, recognizing the important features of the observed or experienced behavior. It is those behaviors with important or rewarding characteristics which receive more attention than unrewarding behaviors. In addition to rewarding behaviors, an individual will pay closest attention to behavior exhibited by individuals who possess prestige and power. After observing behavior an

individual will selectively code the information into symbols which then act as a guide for subsequent behavior.

The selective input of symbolic information of observed or experienced behavior is influenced by certain factors such as the observers' personal characteristics (i.e. age, gender, and race), the modeled activity, and associations with other individuals. The associations with other individuals determine what type of behaviors an individual repeatedly observes or experiences and therefore learns most thoroughly. An individual who is repeatedly exposed to certain behaviors and who internalizes these behaviors as rewarding will code this behavior as effective, thus exhausting the selective coding and input stage.

The second process is the retention stage. During this stage, the information that was coded into symbols will be retained for future behavior. Behavior that is effective is more likely to be retained and used in the future than non-effective behavior. In addition to effective behavior, behavior that is exhibited by individuals whom the observer perceives as having power and prestige will be selectively coded and retained for future use. It is the retention of symbolic information that will be used as modeling cues to guide future behavior. Also, the repeated exposure to certain behaviors will increase the likelihood that retention of this behavior will occur. When an individual observes behavior, possibility exists that the behavior will be mentally rehearsed. When an individual mentally rehearses the observed behavior it is more likely than not that the behavior will be retained.

A successful retention process means that there is significant probability that the retained behavior will be modeled in the future and reproduced. The third process of learning through modeling is the reproduction or output stage. This stage involves converting retained symbolic information into action. The individual models the behavior that was once observed and mentally retained. The modeled behavior is perceived by the

individual as most effective. Since the output into action is rarely correct the first time, corrective adjustments must occur to refine the behavior. Modeled behavior most often is refined by informative feedback and consequences. If the initial behavior is not refined it will continue until it is refined.

The final process is the reinforcement process. The reinforcement process may take place at several times and in different forms. An individual may complete all the past processes: attention, retention, and reproduction, but if the behavior is negatively reinforced the learning of behavior may rarely be engaged, and the behavior will cease to exist. However, behavior which is positively reinforced will be put into action. As explained earlier, a behavior that is rewarding will have more attention than unrewarding behavior. The reinforcement of a rewarding behavior affects the attention to that particular behavior and thus the retention and reproduction of the behavior.

#### Provoking Behavior

After the learning of behavior occurs and an individual has completed all four processes there is a significant possibility that the observed or experienced behavior will be modeled. What requires explanation is how learned behaviors are maintained and provoked into action. After observed or experienced behavior has been mentally retained, a stimulus is required to instigate behavior into action. The social learning theory divides these stimuli into two broad classes: 1) biological based stimuli and 2) cognitively based stimuli.

Biologically based stimuli include external adverse stimuli such as threats, physical assaults, and verbal insults. These stimuli provoke an emotional response from an individual. The individual's behavioral response will depend upon the seriousness of the threat and the learned mode of response for coping with the threat. The mode of response, as well as the retention of symbolic information, is acquired through observed or experienced behavior. The symbolic information is then used as a predictive cue to



regulate and guide behavior. Therefore, these adverse stimuli provoke an emotional response which is dependent upon predictive cues gained from past experiences.

In reality, an individual's emotional response is distinct from another individual's response. This difference is due to an individual's predictive cues, which are situational. Predictive cues are a combination of past learning experiences retained for future uses. For example, one individual when provoked may withdraw from the situation rather than another individual who may use aggressive techniques.

The second broad class of stimuli is cognitively based. Cognitively based stimuli are considered when an individual has the mental capacity to recognize future consequences of a stimulus. The anticipated consequences may take several forms, such as positive or negative reactions, physical pain, pleasant stimulation. Anticipated consequences may be formed from past experiences and observations. An individual behaves in a certain manner due to the anticipated benefits that are derived from the stimuli. Therefore, behavior in this sense is based upon the intrigue of anticipated benefits.

The anticipated consequences of a stimulus is influenced by past experience and observing others' behavior, including the retention of symbolic information from observing individuals who possess power and prestige. When an individual observes or experiences behavior, there are modeling cues which are acquired. These modeling cues are similar to symbolic information in that they guide and regulate behavior. The modeling cues provide an individual the possibility to imitate the behavior that was once observed or experienced. Therefore, the modeling cues are stimuli which an individual acquires from observing or experiencing past behavior and encourages imitation of that behavior.

There are two important influences of a cognitively based stimulus. These influences are the anticipated consequences and the acquired modeling cues. Both influences are gained from past experiences and observing others' behavior. When an individual observes or experiences behavior there is a mental retention of the outcome and

the behavior. The cognitive component allows an individual to imitate past behavior when a similar stimulus instigates a response. For example, a child may behave aggressively after observing an adult behaving aggressively.

### Maintaining Behavior

The third component of behavior is what maintains learned behavior. This maintenance of behavior ultimately refers to the reinforcement of the behavior. According to Rotter, it is the directional aspect of behavior which is inferred from the effect of the reinforcing conditions. The reinforcement of the behavior may be positive or negative and it can increase, eliminate or reinstate a particular mode of behavior. The social learning theory examines three types of reinforcement: external, vicarious, and self-produced, their influence upon behavior.

The first type of reinforcement is external. External reinforcement refers to the anticipated benefits of a particular behavior. These benefits may include tangible rewards, power/control, status, prestige. It is the functional value of these rewards which regulates an individual's behavior to obtain the benefits. Conversely, it is the anticipated punishments which influence an individual to eliminate that particular mode of behavior. Therefore, a particular behavior will be increased if it is rewarded and decreased if it is punished.

The second form of reinforcement is vicarious or observed reinforcement. Vicarious reinforcement affects an individual in much the same way as external reinforcement. An individual observes behavior as well as the reinforcing consequence or outcome of the behavior. If the observed reinforcement is a reward then the individual will be more likely than not to imitate that behavior. Likewise, if the observed outcome is punished, the behavior will not be imitated. Seeing other people rewarded for their behavior functions as a motivator to produce similar behavior and thus be rewarded.

Thus, vicarious reinforcement, especially reward, influences an individual to model the observed behavior.

The last form of reinforcement is a self-produced mechanism. The reinforcement is cognitively developed by an individual. An individual will behave in a manner which gives him or her a feeling of self-satisfaction and self-worth. Conversely, behavior which results in self-criticism will be eliminated. Often times, an individual will also respond to their own behavior on the basis of how others have reacted. Thus, an individual judges how others have reacted to a particular behavior, whether it is self-worth or self-criticism, and behaves in accordance to these self-produced mechanisms.

Bandura's social learning theory (1977) is a powerful theoretical tool for understanding how behavior is acquired and modeled through direct experience and observational learning. A child learns by experiencing and observing the behavior of significant others. Within a family, the child perceives the parents in powerful, prestigious positions. It is those rewarding behaviors of a parent that a child pays closest attention to and subsequently will retain. If the parent's behavior is rewarding, such as having power and control over the child, winning an argument with a spouse, or obtaining some self-satisfaction, the child selectively codes this information and retains the information for future use. Once the symbolic information is retained a stimulus is needed to provoke the child to imitate the behavior. If this occurs, the child has converted the retained symbolic information into action, therefore modeling the behavior. If physical abuse is present within the family, the child has a significant probability of imitating the physically abusive behavior.

As applied to child abuse, Bandura's model provides a compelling explanation for the experiential learning of abuse, the mental retention of abuse symbols and the subsequent reproduction or re-enactment of those symbols through abuse, delinquent, or other deviant conduct. The child who directly experiences child abuse codes the

information into symbols and retains the symbolic information for future modeling or re-enactment.

Within a physically abusive family, the child may observe or directly experience this physically abusive behavior. The child may be the victim of abuse or may observe a parent or parental figure abusing the other parent, or a parent abusing a sibling. Regardless of the perceived or actual purpose of the physical abuse, it is the symbolic meaning of power, control, domination, and self-satisfaction associated with the abuse that will be symbolically coded and mentally retained for future re-enactment. The strength of the child's retention of the abuse will be determined by the repetition of the physical abuse. The more the physical abuse is repeated, the more likely the child will retain it as a model of behavior. After the child retains the concept that physical abuse is powerful and rewarding, particular stimuli will provoke the symbolic information into action, inducing the child to imitate the aggressive and violent behavior to obtain his or her desires.

Similar to the child within a physically abusive family, a child within a sexually abusive family either learns from direct experience of the sexual abuse or by observing a parent sexually abuse a sibling. Unfortunately, the child retains a concept that such sexual behavior is an effective, acceptable, rewarding sexual conduct with the undertones of power and control. Also, the acceptance of the inappropriate sexual behavior by the child will increase with the repetition of the sexual abuse. Once the child has retained the information that this form of sexual conduct is acceptable, then the child will re-enact the behavior when provoked by the appropriate stimuli, whether or not the abusive implication is appreciated by the child. Therefore, the child is modeling the sexual behavior that the parents or parental figures exhibited within the family environment.

### Review of Literature

Several past studies have examined the acquisition or learning of aggressive, physical behavior by the child and the different factors within the family, such as abuse,

which relate to the learning of aggressive or physical behavior. Most importantly, the studies have shown that the interaction between adult family members and children is a contributing factor in the acquisition of aggressive behavior. These studies include those of: Akers (1979), Bandura (1977), Brown (1982), Cernkovich and Giordano (1987), Fagan and Wexler (1987), Gelles (1987), Kratcoski and Kratcoski (1983), Kruschitt(1987), Paperney and Deisher (1983), Strauss (1991). Fagan & Wexler, 1987; Gillespie, Seaburg, & Berlin (1977); Kratcoski (1982); Kratcoski & Kratcoski (1982); Owens & Straus (1975); Ryan (1991). Bentovin (1988), Bentovin and Boston (1988), Browne and Finkelhor (1984), Finkelhor (1980), McDonald (1981), Mrazek (1981), Mrazek and Mrazek (1981), Topper and Aldridge (1981).

Several scholars (Fagan & Wexler 1987; Gillespie, Seaburg, & Berlin 1977; Kratcoski 1982; Kratcoski & Kratcoski 1982; Owens & Straus 1975; and Ryan 1991) have attempted to explain the relationship between child abuse and subsequent delinquency through application of the social learning theory. The social learning theory is a powerful theoretical explanation investigating how an individual acquires behaviors through observation or direct experience and models those acquired behaviors. Applied specifically to child abuse, the social learning theory may be a compelling explanation that explains how an individual learns abusive behaviors and imitates those abusive behaviors. In effect, the individual transmits from victim to victimizer.

Fagan & Wexler (1973) in their research study the family influences of violent delinquents. The researchers determine that the child learns violence within the home during early adolescence. Fagan & Wexler explain that it is the family process which establishes the reinforcement of behavioral norms. From these behavioral norms, a child will likely model the exhibited behavior. Therefore, it is the family as a socializing institution which influences adolescent behavior and contributes to violent delinquency.

Fagan & Wexler apply the social learning theory to explain that families of violent delinquents will be characterized by high incidence of family violence and child abuse.

Gillespie et al. (1977) examine the delinquent behavior of maltreated children. The researchers examine intra-familial behavior as a vehicle for the acquisition of aggressive behavior. Gillespie et al. explain that the frequency of occurrence will affect the acceptance of the behavior and the likelihood that the behavior will be imitated. The researchers also explain that the status of the person performing the maladaptive behavior affects the chances of the behavior being modeled; the higher the status of the person performing the behavior, as perceived by the learner, the more likely modeling will take place.

In his research, Kratcoski (1982) uses a social learning framework to explore the roots of violent juvenile behavior and the possible relationship between child abuse and violent behavior directed towards members of the immediate family or caretakers. Kratcoski explains that family violence emphasizes the parent-child relationship and early childhood experiences as linked to behavior patterns later in life. These early experiences shape the basic personality and the interaction with the individual's own child, therefore being transmitted to the next generation. Kratcoski explores the potential that children who are disliked or abused by their parents may turn out to be abusers. Also, those children who witness family members resort to aggressive behavior as problem or conflict resolution mechanisms are likely to incorporate aggressive behavior into their behavior patterns.

Kratcoski & Kratcoski (1982) explore a possible relationship of being a child abuse victim to aggressive delinquent behavior. The researchers examine the effects of early childhood experiences and the acquisition of aggressive behavior. A child who observes parental uses of aggressive behavior, either to solve family problems or to release frustrations, is likely to incorporate this behavior into personal behavior patterns. Thus, an

abused child may have a significant potential to incorporate aggressive behavior as a behavior mechanism.

Owens & Straus (1975) investigate the relationship between exposure to violence as a child to the approval of violence as an adult. The researchers explain that violence is a learned behavior and that much of the learning takes place in childhood through the actual experience or observation of violence. Exposure to violence in childhood has lasting and deep seated effects on later attitudes of violence. More importantly, the observation and experience of violence are powerful learning experiences which provide a road map of behavior, not just attitudes. Owens & Straus explain that, "the observation of violent behavior leads to the imitation of that violent behavior."

In her study, Ryan (1991) applies the social learning theory to the learning of deviant sexual behaviors. She explains that exposure to deviant models may result in the imitation of deviant behaviors. A child who is exposed to a deviant sexual model, such as through sexual victimization, may incorporate a reinforcement of the behavior which will lead to a pattern of deviant sexual response. Her major premise is that deviant sexual behaviors are learned behaviors and exposure through observation or experience is required for a child to learn deviant sexual behaviors.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Juvenile violent crime rate has reached an unprecedented high nationwide (UCR, 1992). The National Council of Crime and Delinquency (1987) has identified family disorganization, including the presence of abuse and the absence of love, as a contributing factor to the serious juvenile offender. In 1990, over 2.5 million children were abused in the United States (Michigan State Police, 1991). There is theoretical and empirical evidence that abuse victims develop serious behavior problems in later life. Unless attention is directed at severing the alleged link between child abuse and subsequent delinquent activity, the incidence of violent juvenile crime will continue to rise.

### Purpose

This study proposes a theoretical framework for examining the reported link between prior child abuse and subsequent delinquent activity. A survey design will be used to test the theoretical framework. The study will examine: 1) if a relationship exists between prior child abuse and subsequent delinquency, 2) if a relationship exists between the form of prior child abuse the adolescent experienced and the type of subsequent delinquency, 3) if physical abuse propenses the abuse victim to violent, aggressive crimes, 4) if sexual abuse inclines the victim of abuse to sexual crimes, 5) if other deviant or delinquent reactions to the abuse are prevalent among abused children, 6) if there are protective factors which may prevent an abused child from acting out through delinquency, 7) if the relationship between prior child abuse and delinquency is affected by demographic characteristics such as gender, race, and age of onset, and 8) if the relationship between prior child abuse and subsequent delinquency is affected by the frequency, and/or intensity of the abuse.



### Study Setting

This study will be conducted at three juvenile institutions in Lower Michigan. Two of the institutions are private treatment facilities. The institutions' resident population consist of 48 and 100 delinquent adolescent males, respectively. The third facility is a state run detention facility that houses 40 delinquent adolescents. One private facility and the state facility hold serious, violent offenders, some of whom have been adjudicated of murder, rape and criminal assault. The second private facility holds less serious offenders, who have typically been adjudicated of theft, status offenses, and drug crimes. All three institutions hold adolescents whose ages range from 13 to 18 years.

### Research Questions

The research questions for this research are as follows:

- 1) Is there a relationship between prior child abuse and subsequent delinquency?
- 2) Is there a relationship between the from of prior child abuse the adolescent experienced and the type of subsequent delinquency?
- 3) Are those children who are physically abused more likely to commit violent, aggressive crimes than those children who are not physically abused?
- 4) Are those children who are sexually abused more likely to commit sexual crimes than those children who are not sexually abused?
- 5) Are there other delinquent or deviant responses to either prior physical or sexual abuse?
- 6) Are there protective factors which may prevent an abused child from acting out through delinquency?
- 7) Is the alleged relationship between prior child abuse and subsequent delinquency affected by demographic characteristics such as race and age of onset of the abuse?
- 8) Is the alleged relationship between prior child abuse and subsequent delinquency affected by the frequency and/or intensity of the abuse?

### Population

The total population for this research is 148 delinquent adolescents housed in the three Lower Michigan juvenile facilities. The sampling frame for this study will be the residents' name list at the three institutions. The entire population of 148 residents will be included in this study. Thus, the population will not be sampled. The researcher will use the entire institutional population because of the unsuccessful attempt to obtain a non-institutional, non-delinquent comparison group.

### Research Design

The researcher proposes to investigate the alleged relationship between prior experience of child abuse and subsequent delinquent and deviant behavior among adolescents. The survey design will be used in this research. According to Hagan (1989), the survey design is most appropriate for collecting data that deals with sensitive issues such as child abuse and delinquent or deviant conduct. Also, a survey design is appropriate for collecting data about involvement in activities and attitudes and perceptions about events. Thus, the survey design will be used for this study. By using a survey design and guaranteeing confidentiality and anonymity, the respondent may be more likely to expose past involvement in abusive and delinquent situations than if a survey design had not been used.

### Data Collection Instrument

The data collection instrument will be a questionnaire including a self-report component. There will be Likert type questions addressing the adolescents' prior experience of abuse and their subsequent delinquent conduct. The researcher proposes to examine if there is a relationship between prior abuse and subsequent delinquency, the nature and extent of that relationship, and the effect of other intervening variables on that relationship.

### Variables

#### **Independent Variable**

The independent variable for this research is prior child abuse. The attributes for prior child abuse are as follow:

##### Variable

prior child abuse

##### Attributes

prior physical abuse

prior sexual abuse

#### **Dependent Variable**

The dependent variable for this research is subsequent delinquent activity. The attributes of the dependent variable include violent, aggressive crimes, sexual crimes, and other delinquent reactions.

##### Variable

subsequent delinquent activity

##### Attributes

violent aggressive crimes

sexual crimes

other delinquent reactions

#### **Intervening Variables**

Intervening variables are factors which may have an effect upon the alleged relationship between prior child abuse and subsequent delinquency. These intervening variables include frequency, intensity of the abuse, age of onset for abuse, race, and intervention by protective services or similar agency.

##### Variable

age of onset for abuse

frequency of the abuse

race

intensity of the abuse

intervention of protective services or similar agency

### Operational Definitions

**prior physical child abuse:** the exposure to physical abuse by either observation or direct experience including the intentional and non accidental infliction of physical harm or injury to a child through severe spanking, hitting, slapping, or beating with or without an object.

**prior sexual abuse:** the exposure to sexual abuse by either observation or direct experience which includes sexual touching, fondling, masturbation, molestation, or sexual intercourse.

**subsequent delinquent activity:** the adolescent's delinquent response to being a victim of abuse including violent, aggressive crimes, sexual crimes, or other delinquent or deviant reactions.

**violent, aggressive crimes:** include crimes of murder, rape, assault, battery, robbery, arson, vandalism, and malicious destruction of property as defined under Michigan Compiled Laws (MCL - see Glossary)

**sexual crimes:** include criminal sexual conduct (csc) I, II, III, IV as defined under MCL (see Glossary).

**other delinquent or deviant reactions:** include prostitution, running away from home, truancy from school, incorrigibility, petty theft, and drug or alcohol abuse.

**counseling for child abuse:** if the child received any professional counseling for the child abuse.

**frequency of the abuse:** number of times the abuse occurred.

**severity of the abuse:** extent of physical and psychological harm as a result of abuse.

**duration of the abuse:** how long the abuse occurred in months.

**gender of the abused:** whether the victim of the abuse was male or female.

**gender of the abuser:** whether the perpetrator of the abuse was male or female.

**identity of the abuser:** biological father or mother, step mother or father, sibling, foster or adoptive mother or father, grandmother or father, aunt or uncle, or non-family member.

**age of onset for abuse:** how old the child was when the abuse occurred.

**race:** the race of the adolescent which includes Black, White, Hispanic, and other races.

**protective services involvement or similar agency:** involvement of protective services or a similar agency after the child was victimized.

**criminal behavior:** any action which may be considered a crime including violent, aggressive crimes, sexual crimes, and deviant reactions as defined above.

**family :** traditional or quasi-family environment that is any environment in which a child is reared by an adult or parental figure including biological, adoptive, foster, or step families or an institution and in which the abuse occurred.

### **Data Collection**

The survey design will require the use of a self report questionnaire. The researcher will personally administer the questionnaire to participating adolescents at two of the facilities. Since the researcher is an employee at the third facility, the researcher will elicit the assistance of a graduate student, not affiliated with the facility, to administer the questionnaire. This student will be responsible for assigning ID code numbers to consenting residents at the facility where the researcher is an employee. After ID code numbers have been assigned, the resident name list will be destroyed. This graduate student has no affiliation or association with any of the three facilities, with the residents, or with the parents.

Because of the respondents' age and social circumstances, parental consent will be obtained prior to distributing the questionnaire to the adolescents. A copy of the parental consent form is attached in Appendix B. Only those adolescents whose parents return a signed consent form will participate in the study. On the introductory statement to the questionnaire is a sentence which explains that voluntary participation is indicated by completing and returning the questionnaire. Also, this writer guarantees that this study will be conducted in strict observance of confidentiality and anonymity. To assure anonymity the respondents will be instructed to omit their name or any identifying marks on the questionnaire. To assure confidentiality, respondents at each institution will complete the questionnaire at a designated time and place within the facility without the

presence or assistance of institutional employees. Respondents will also be instructed that participation is voluntary and that withdrawal is permitted at any time during the administration of the questionnaire. Also, the respondent will be allowed to leave blank any question that he does not want to answer. The respondent will be instructed to place the completed questionnaire in an unmarked, manila envelope distributed with the questionnaire, close the envelope, and place it into the designated box in the room. The session will last 40 - 45 minutes. The researcher will be the only person to see the data and the data will only be used for the purpose of this research.

#### Statistical Procedures

Statistical procedures for this research will attempt to answer the research questions and ultimately determine if there is a relationship between prior child abuse and subsequent delinquency. Statistical procedures will determine the nature of the relationship between variables and the extent of that relationship. Statistical procedures for this study include Chi-square, correlation coefficients, and measures of associations.

#### Limitations of Study

Limitations for this study include the lack of random sampling, the inexistence of a comparison group, and the use of a self-report questionnaire. The lack of random sampling does not allow for the use of inferential statistics. It limits the researcher to only answering the research questions. Due to the unsuccessful attempt to obtain a non-institutional or non-delinquent population there is an inexistence of a comparison group. The use of a non-delinquent comparison group would have allowed for comparisons to be statistically computed between the institutional and non-institutional groups. Also, the use of a self-report questionnaire is a limitation in this study. The use of a self-report questionnaire allows the respondent to be potentially inaccurate or deceitful when answering the questionnaire.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

Several researchers (Alfaro 1981, Benoit & Kennedy 1992, Brannon, Larson, & Doggett 1989, Fagan & Wexler 1987, Gillespie, Seaburg, & Berlin 1977, Kratcoski 1982, Kratcoski and Kratcoski 1982, Longo 1981, McCord 1983, Owen & Straus 1975, Pfouts, Schopler, & Henley 1981, & Widom 1989) have investigated the alleged relationship between child abuse and delinquency. Some researchers (Alfaro 1981, McCord 1983, Widom 1989) have focused on physical abuse and neglect, other researchers (Fagan & Wexler 1987, Gillespie et al. 1977, Kratcoski 1982, Owen & Straus 1975, & Pfouts et al. 1981) have focused on the physical abuse present within the family. Additionally, some researchers (Brannon et al. 1989, Benoit & Kennedy 1992, & Longo 1981) have investigated the effects of sexual abuse on delinquency. These researchers have consistently found this relationship to exist; however, they have cautioned that the relationship is not direct, but is mediated by the influence of other factors. Each researcher has offered differing explanations for the existence of the relationship between child abuse and delinquency. This review shall first concentrate on those studies which investigate the effects of physical abuse on delinquency and those factors which influence the relationship. Secondly, this review shall examine those studies which investigate the effects of sexual abuse on delinquency and those factors which mediate the alleged relationship.

### Physical Abuse

Alfaro (1981) conducted a 20 year longitudinal study to examine the possible linkage between child abuse and later subsequent delinquent behavior. Alfaro proposed to show that abused children have a greater likelihood of becoming delinquent than non-

abused children. The researcher collected official records from child protective service agencies and courts from the 1950's to determine the presence of abuse within a family. These statistics were compared and analyzed with court records from the 1970's that would indicate delinquent behavior or ungovernability exhibited by the adolescent. These two samples were then analyzed to determine the likelihood of delinquent behavior by an abused child.

Alfaro obtained data for this study by examining the case files from child protective service agencies and courts from the years 1952-53. The researcher was able to obtain information about 5,136 children and 1,423 families that were reported for suspected child abuse or neglect. Information was collected about the suspected abused child, the siblings, and the family history. These children that were indicated as possible abuse victims were traced through the records of the Family Court or the Children's Court for subsequent delinquency. From the 5,136 children that were suspected as abused, 3,705 or 72% had involvement with the court for delinquent behavior or ungovernable behavior.

A second set of information about adolescents was obtained from the court records or Probation Intake Unit during 1971-72. These records provided information about delinquent histories of 1,936 adolescents and 1,851 families. The histories of these adolescents and families were traced backwards to determine any prior involvement in child abuse or neglect cases. Therefore, Alfaro's research traced the direction of an abused child after contact with the child protective service unit as well as retroactively from contact with the juvenile court system.

The findings from Alfaro's research indicated that an empirical relationship between child abuse and delinquency does exist. Alfaro indicated that as many as 50% of the families that were reported for child abuse during the 1950's had at least one child who was involved in the court process for delinquency. However, it is not guaranteed that an abused child will always become delinquent or that a delinquent child will always have an abusive past.



From the 1970's data set collected from the juvenile intake unit, 21% of the males and 29% of the females who were reported as delinquent had been reported as abused or neglected children when they were younger. Additionally, Alfaro indicated that there is an association between those children who were reported as abused in that they tend to be more violent than non-abused children. From the 1970's sample, 28.6% of the adolescents who were adjudicated for homicide, rape, and assault had been reported as abused or neglected as children. Therefore, Alfaro determined that the relationship between child abuse and subsequent delinquency does exist and that abused children may be violent children.

However, Alfaro stated that the abuse cannot be used as a predictor of behavior. Alfaro indicated that a relationship between child abuse and delinquency does exist, however, not all child maltreatment, abuse or neglect always leads to delinquent behavior. Some factors may influence the strength or weakness of this relationship. Alfaro indicated that peer relationships or the neighborhood environments may help to strengthen the relationship. Fortunately, community services such as counseling, parenting classes, day care, and foster care may weaken the relationship between child abuse and delinquency. These community services may influence the child and the subsequent behavior by reducing stress and teaching appropriate parental behavior, thus weakening the relationship between child abuse and delinquency.

Alfaro's research does determine the existence of a relationship between child abuse and delinquency. However, the findings underestimated this relationship and indicated it to be a conservative relationship. Alfaro indicated that collecting the data was a problem due to the destruction of past records. The researcher indicated that using official records often causes an under reporting of actual child abuse cases. It is known that not all examples of child abuse are reported, hence this affected the actual cases used for the purpose of this study. Alfaro indicated that these reasons caused the conservative findings of the relationship.

Alfaro determined that abused and neglected children have a greater likelihood of becoming delinquent than non-abused or non-neglected children. Though the findings of the research showed that this relationship is conservative, Alfaro offered his opinion as to why this is true. Alfaro explained the use of official records and the loss of data are significant contributors to the conservativeness of the relationship. However, Alfaro indicated that the relationship does exist and that interventions and social policy must be created to reduce the effects of child abuse. He advised that community services such as counseling and parenting classes be used as interventions to sever the existence of the relationship between child abuse and delinquency.

Kratcoski and Kratcoski (1982) investigated the relationship between being the object of physical abuse as a child and later manifestations of violence directed toward members of the immediate family or caretakers. The purpose of this research was to examine the possible relationship between being a victim of physical abuse and later effects of acting violent toward family members or caretakers. The researchers defined violent behavior as "the illegal use or threat of force against persons." The acts that were included in this definition were: assault, aggravated assault, robbery, aggravated robbery, rape, arson, threatening behavior, menacing, kidnapping, injury to persons, burglary, breaking and entering, and murder. The researchers defined abuse as: "any non accidental physical injury inflicted on a child by a parent or other caretaker deliberately or in anger." Kratcoski and Kratcoski examined the case files of 863 adjudicated, male, juvenile offenders. Also, caseworkers or psychologists, who were familiar with a particular case, were interviewed to obtain information that was not provided with the case files. Occasionally, the researchers had to make a determination about abuse based upon situations that were described within the case files.

From the sample, 223 or 26% of the children had experienced some form of physical abuse. The researchers divided the sample into abused and non-abused delinquents and analyzed any possible differences between the groups. Both the abused

and non-abused groups had more than 75% of the youths who had committed at least one violent act. However, 25% of the abused delinquents directed the violence toward family members or significant others, whereas, 14% of the non-abused delinquents directed the violence toward family members or significant others. Therefore, the findings from the research indicated a slight difference between the frequency of violent acts committed by abused and non-abused delinquents. However, there was a difference where the violent act was directed. The abused delinquent was more likely than the non-abused to direct the violence toward family members or significant others.

For the purpose of this research Kratcoski and Kratcoski examined the case files of incarcerated male, juvenile offenders. However, the researchers often had to make a determination of abuse based upon the social workers' or psychological reports contained within the case files. The researchers may have been inaccurate and biased when abstracting information from the files. The possible inaccuracy by the researchers would affect the total number of abused adolescents and the findings of the study. The researchers needed an independent rater to abstract information from the case files. This would eliminate any possible miscalculations or biases by the researchers. Furthermore, the researchers stated that the violence directed at significant others did not always result in an official arrest. Therefore, this information had to be abstracted from the case files. This is a problem due to the possible biases of the researchers when abstracting information from the files.

Kratcoski (1982) conducted a study to determine if there is a relationship between child abuse and an adolescent's subsequent violent behavior directed toward family members or caretakers. Kratcoski incorporated the Social Learning theory which maintains that violence is a learned behavior often learned during early life experiences. To determine if there is a relationship, Kratcoski surveyed case files of delinquent adolescents at four facilities in Ohio. All subjects are incarcerated as serious, male, juvenile offenders. The researchers collected demographic information about the

adolescents as well as information about the nature of offense and number of offenses contained in the case files. Information about the family and possible child abuse was obtained from psychological reports in the files. Often, the researcher made a determination of abuse according to situations described in the records. For the purpose of this research, violent behavior was defined as "the illegal use or threat of force against people" and abuse was defined as "any non accidental physical injury inflicted on a child by a parent or other caretaker deliberately or in anger". Additionally, significant others included parents, stepparents, foster parents, adult relatives, siblings, close peer groups, and caretakers such as institutional staff, teacher, or youth leaders. In total, the sample consisted of 863 cases of which 223 offenders (26%) experienced some form of physical abuse.

Kratcoski compared the characteristics of the abused and non-abused offenders from the sample to determine the extent of violence directed toward family members and significant others. Analysis of violent behavior indicated that 26% of abused adolescents acted out violently toward significant others as compared to 14% of the non-abused offenders. Additional analysis of those adolescents who committed violent crimes against people indicated that 45% of the abused, adolescent offender directed the violence towards family members or caretakers as compared to 18% of the non abused offenders. Therefore, an abused adolescent is more likely than a non-abused adolescent to act out violently towards an individual and more importantly towards family members or significant others. Kratcoski concluded that those adolescents who abused their parents and acted violent towards significant others tended to come from families in which violence, disruption, and discord were everyday occurrences.

Kratcoski had to make determinations of possible child abuse based upon psychological reports contained within the case files of the incarcerated offenders. The findings of the research may be biased due to the researcher abstracting the information from the files. The researcher may have been biased when trying to abstract information

that would fit the purpose of this study. Also, the researcher indicated that the findings of the study may be distorted since some psychologists when interviewing the adolescents never brought up the subject of discipline. This would have possibly uncovered additional instances of abuse. Furthermore, the information about abuse was obtained from the psychological interviews with the adolescents. During these interviews, these adolescents may have been deceitful or exaggerated their relationship with their parents and the type of discipline used within the family environment. This also would distort the findings of the research. Also, Kratcoski did not examine any possible factors which may prevent an abused child from directing their violence toward family members. The researcher separated the abused offenders from the non abused offenders, however, the researcher did not investigate those factors which may be different between samples.

Alfaro (1981), Kratcoski (1982), and Kratcoski and Kratcoski (1982) examined the relationship between child abuse and subsequent delinquency. All three researchers concluded from their findings that abused delinquents have a greater likelihood of being violent than non abused delinquents. Kratcoski and Kratcoski et al. determined that those delinquents who were abused directed their violent actions toward family members or significant others more often than non-abused delinquents. Alfaro indicated that other factors such as peer relationships or community services may inhibit or strengthen the relationship between child abuse and subsequent delinquency. Other researchers investigated other factors which may mediate the relationship between child abuse and delinquency. Some researchers explained the effects of abuse by examining family violence and family criminality (Fagan and Wexler 1987) or by controlling for gender and race (Widom, 1989). Other researchers investigated the interaction between the child and the parent (Pfouts et al. 1981 and McCord 1983) and the role of the child within the family (Gillespie et al. 1977, Owen and Straus 1975, and Pfouts et al. 1981).

Fagan and Wexler (1987) examined the process of learning violence within the family environment. The purpose of this study was to examine the family interactions and

environments of chronic violent juvenile offenders and their influence on subsequent delinquency. Fagan and Wexler interviewed 98 violent, juvenile delinquents and their maternal caretakers. The adolescents were identified by the juvenile courts in different metropolitan cities: Memphis, Boston, Newark, and Phoenix. The adolescents were all adjudicated violent felons for murder, rape, armed robbery, aggravated assault, arson, and voluntary manslaughter. Data was collected from child protective service records, juvenile court records, and from family interviews. The interviews provided information about the family interaction of the violent juvenile offenders. The official data were used to validate delinquency, family child abuse and disturbances histories. Also, a self report delinquency scale was used to obtain information about the adolescents' involvement in criminal activities.

The researchers defined four norms to learning violence within a family environment. The four norms were: violence are 1) legitimacy, 2) usefulness for obtaining a goal, 3) authority, 4) dispute resolution through maintaining control. These four norms establish a framework within a family as to how violence was learned. Fagan and Wexler determined that violence was taught through the family interactions. They reported three types of family interaction: 1) "interactionist", which were families that exhibited a high degree of interaction and bonding, 2) "hierarchical", which were families characterized by parental dominance, and 3) "antisocial", which were families marked by criminality and family violence. Fagan and Wexler determined that these three family interactions were the means of how violence was taught within the family. The researchers argued that violence was reinforced within the family environment as well as outside the family by "social constructs" including schools, peers, and neighborhoods.

The results from the family interviews indicated that 45% of the families reported some form of violence occurring within the home environment and 38.4% of the violent youths responded that they were hit by their parent. Additionally, 37% of the adolescents and their siblings were hit with an object used by the parent. Official reports from child

protective service agencies indicated that 14% of the adolescents had been reported as physically abused and 11% of the adolescents were exposed to spousal abuse. Combined, these data indicate an overwhelming majority of the violent adolescents had been exposed to violence within their family environment.

Fagan and Wexler investigated several family variables that related to subsequent delinquency by the child. They reported that family violence among parents and by parents toward children contributed to the adolescents understanding of violence as an acceptable behavior. These violent adolescents observed or experienced violent behavior including physical abuse within the family. The pattern of family behavior that Fagan and Wexler reported was that violent delinquents viewed their parents as having frequent contact with the law and being violent. The researchers determined that family violence and family criminality exhibited strong associations with the juveniles' subsequent delinquency and violent behavior. The researchers indicated that these factors contributed to the adolescents' criminal involvement by providing negative role models.

Fagan and Wexler determined that the family interactions and environments have a direct effect on an adolescent's perception of violence. The researchers indicate that an adolescent who was raised in a violent family environment was more likely to be violent than an adolescent who was not raised in a violent family. However, the researchers failed to explain how each type of family interaction was related to subsequent delinquency. The types of family interactions were used to classify families but statistical analysis was not completed. Statistical analysis was completed only for those families that were considered violent, therefore, eliminating any comparison between types of family interaction.

McCord (1983) conducted a 40 year longitudinal study to examine the effects of child abuse and neglect. The researcher obtained information on the lives of 232 males from case files during the years 1939 through 1945 and from interviews conducted with counselors assigned to the various families. The researcher also developed a comparison group by matching a similar boy of similar background with subjects in this study group.

The study group was divided into four categories: abused, neglected, rejected, and loved. These categories were determined by the researcher according to how the males had been treated as children. McCord defined abused as those children "consistently subjected to punitive, physical punishments". Neglected were those children whose "parents interacted infrequently, showing neither affection nor rejection". Rejected were those children whose "parents demonstrated repeated displeasure with the child". Finally, loved were those children "who had at least one parent who showed concern and was pleased with the child's behavior". In total there were 49 abused, 48 neglected, 34 rejected, and 101 loved adolescents. These groups were traced forward forty years to determine the effects of child abuse and/or neglect.

Similarly, McCord classified the families according to the primary mode of discipline. From the interviews conducted with the families' counselors, parents were considered aggressive if "they threw objects, or attempted to injure someone in response to frustration or annoyance." Also, the parents were considered punitive if "corporal punishment was the primary mode of discipline." The researcher rated 92% of the mothers and 84% of the fathers as aggressive and determined that 88% of all the adolescents were raised in homes considered to be punitive.

McCord's analysis of the mode of discipline and parents' interaction with the children indicate that 35% of the abused and 44% of the rejected individuals had high rates of parents who were classified as aggressive, whereas, those children classified as loved were least likely of any group to have aggressive parents (15%). Those children who were classified as abused, 76% of the fathers were clearly dominant and most often punitive towards the child.

Between the years 1975 and 1979, the records of the study group were traced to determine the effects of abuse and/or neglect on criminal involvement. Court records were analyzed to determine an individual's criminal involvement. The effects of parental abuse, neglect, and rejection have a definite impact on criminal involvement. Among the



97 neglected or abused children, 74% had committed some form of serious crime. Serious crime was defined as theft, auto theft, breaking and entering, burglary, and assault. Furthermore, those children (29%) who had been rejected by their parents were found to have a higher rate for juvenile criminal behavior than those who were abused or neglected, 10% and 15% respectively.

McCord also investigated what factors mitigate the possible effects that abuse, neglect, or rejection may have upon a child. She determined that having an affectionate parent as well as a mother that was self confident made a child less vulnerable to delinquency. Surprisingly, McCord found that being held back in school had the highest mitigation rate (77%) overall. Additionally, she also determined that those children who returned to school were less vulnerable (70%) than those children who did not return to school.

McCord's longitudinal research is vital to the understanding of child abuse and neglect and its relationship with subsequent delinquency. This study examined the long term effects that are present within a sample of men who were abused, neglected, rejected, or loved by their parents. McCord determined that children who have been abused, neglected, or rejected have higher rates of delinquency than those children who were not abused, neglected, or rejected. McCord's findings indicate that the interaction between child and parent is a significant factor that affects the relationship between child abuse and subsequent delinquency. In fact, those children who had at least one loving parent were the least likely of all the groups to engage in delinquent or criminal behavior. Those children who comprised the abused, neglected, and rejected groups were subjected to parents who were aggressive, punitive, conflictual, and uncaring. These parental behaviors contributed to strengthening the relationship between child abuse and delinquency. However, McCord indicated that maternal self confidence and an individual's education are factors which may hinder the possible effects of child abuse.

Cathy Widom (1989) also examined the relationship between abuse and/or neglect and the propensity to engage in juvenile criminal behavior and/or violent criminal behavior. The purpose of the research was to determine if an abused child is at a higher risk to commit delinquent offenses than a non abused child, if certain factors such as gender and race increase the risk for delinquency, and if certain behaviors, sexual and/or violent, are a result of the past victimization. Widom compiled a large sample of 908 substantiated child abuse and neglect cases from the preceding 20 years and compared this sample with a non-abused matched comparison group. A comparison group was matched as closely as possible for similar sex, race, age, and appropriate socio-economic status. To obtain data about child abuse for this study, Widom used official reports from the juvenile court and probation department during the years 1967 through 1971 in a metropolitan area of the Midwest. She also used official arrest records to determine the presence and severity of delinquent or criminal behavior.

The results of this study indicated that abuse and neglect does put a child at an increased risk for future delinquency. Widom determined that 26% of the subjects in the abuse/neglect group committed delinquent act(s) compared to 17% of the non-abused group. She also found a significant difference in the number of offenses committed by the two groups: 370 total offenses in the abuse/neglect group compared to 197 total offenses in the non-abused group. These findings indicate an increase of risk to engage in delinquent offenses by an abused child.

Generally, Widom concluded the risk of delinquency involvement was 1.89 times higher among abused or neglected children than among non-abused children. Widom also investigated if there was an increase of risk for delinquency based on the child's gender. Widom reported that when gender was controlled for, being a male victim of abuse/neglect increased the risk from 22% to 33%, but for a female victim the risk increased from 11% to 19%. She determined that being a victim of abuse or neglect has a stronger delinquency effect upon black children than non black children and more so on

black males than black females. Specifically for black males, 50% of abuse/neglect group had arrests compared to 25% of non-abused black males. For black females, 26% of the abuse/neglect group had arrests versus 13% of non abused group. These differences for both black males and females were significantly more than the differences determined for white adolescents. The difference of delinquency involvement for white males was 26% of abuse/neglect group compared with 21% of the non abused white males. Also for females, the difference was 17% of the abuse/ neglect group had arrests versus 11% of the non abused white females.

Widom investigated if there are certain criminal behaviors that are a result of past childhood victimization. She concluded that an increase of risk for delinquency by those children who are abused and neglected was primarily associated with property crimes such as stealing and vandalism and status offenses including truancy and ungovernability. However, the effects of abuse and neglect are not restricted to only these certain behaviors. Widom also investigated if there was a relationship between criminal sexual conduct and past sexual victimization. She separated those children who had only been sexually victimized from the rest of the abuse/neglect sample to determine if this relationship does in fact exist. Widom determined for this sample that there was not a direct link between past sexual victimization and criminal sexual behavior, though she admits this is contrary to past research. Furthermore, Widom investigated if victims of physical abuse are more violent than non-physically abused children. Overall, those children who were physically abused did not differ in regards to violent offenses than non-physically abused children. However, those children that were neglected had the highest rates for violent crimes than any other group. This was especially true for neglected males.

Widom concluded that there is an increase of risk for delinquency by an abused or neglected child than a non-abused or neglected child. Unfortunately, Widom fails to report a distinction between those children who have been abused and those children who

have been neglected. She reported that there were similar effects for the abused and neglected groups. The only distinction that she reported was the difference for neglected children to be more violent than abused children. However, she admitted this was contrary to past research and explained the findings as an illustration of the complex nature of child abuse. Additionally, she investigated the effects of abuse and neglect when controlling for gender and race. Widom determined that black abused and neglected males had the highest increase of risk for delinquency than any other group. However using official data often over represents minority groups including black males and females. This over-representation may indicate a bias and discrimination of the findings of this research.

Gillespie, Seaburg, and Berlin (1977) use a social learning theoretical framework to investigate the learning of delinquent behavior through the exposure to abuse: physical, sexual, and/or emotional. The researchers proposed to examine the internal dynamics of family behavior and its relationship to the learning of aggressive behavior. Gillespie et. al. hypothesized that a child who experienced abuse either through observation or direct experience will be more likely to demonstrate delinquent behavior than a child who was not exposed to an abusive family. Specifically, the researchers explained that those children who were abused, having suffered from the aggression, will be more likely to not be aggressive, but engage in escape crimes such as truancy and running away in order to avoid further aggression. Gillespie et al. also explained that those children who are siblings of abused children, having observed high levels of abuse but not been the recipients of the aggression, will be more likely to exhibit aggressive and anti-social behavior due to modeling the aggressive behavior.

Gillespie et al. obtained data from the Arizona State Department of Economic Security for child abuse and from official juvenile court records. The total sample of adolescents that were included in both records was 774. The sample was divided into what type of abuse was present within the family environment. The categories were:

physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, and physical abuse neglect. The siblings of the abused adolescents who had not been directly abused but had observed the abuse, were also used for the purpose of this study to determine if the sibling did model the observed, abusive behavior. A comparison group of 900 reported juvenile offenders with no abusive family history were used for this study to validate or invalidate a modeling process of the familial abuse.

The researchers divided the crimes into 57 categories and analyzed two of these categories: escape crimes (running away, truancy, and missing juvenile) and aggressive crimes (disturbing the peace, fighting, assault, assault with deadly weapon, aggravated assault and battery, armed robbery, and strong arm robbery). Data analysis consisted of doing frequency tabulations and a three way chi-square test for escape crimes and aggressive crimes.

The results of the data analysis indicated that children who are physically abused are more likely to become involved in delinquent activities than those children who are not physically abused. Gillespie et al. compared the frequency rates of aggressive and escape crimes committed by physically abused children with the frequency rates for aggressive and escape crimes committed by the comparison group, the non-abused offender. The researchers found that the physically abused children had a lower frequency rate than the comparison group for aggressive crimes: 17.2% versus 23.5%, and a higher frequency for escape crimes: 92.2% versus 76.5%. However, the siblings of the physically abused juvenile offender had a frequency of 17.2% for aggressive crimes compared with a 7.8% frequency by the physically abused child. Furthermore, Gillespie et al conducted analysis of escape crimes. The abused children had a 92.2% frequency, whereas their siblings had an 82.2% frequency.

The findings of the analysis supported the researchers' hypothesis of observation and direct experience of abuse. Gillespie et al. hypothesized that the child who observed the parent abusing a sibling will be more likely to demonstrate aggressive behavior

through a modeling effect than a child who directly experiences the abuse. The researchers hypothesized that the parent is a person of status within the family and rarely receives a punishment for being abusive, therefore the child vicariously learns that the abusive behavior is an acceptable and possible rewarding behavior. Conversely, the researchers hypothesized that those children who were abused will experience the abuse as punishment and will have a reduced tendency to manifest aggressive behavior. The findings from the research indicated that there was a direct tendency for abused children, having directly experienced the abuse, to avoid further punishment and aggression by committing escape crimes such as truancy and running away. Also, those siblings of abused children, who observed abuse but had not been the direct recipient of the abuse, had a higher frequency to commit aggressive crimes. This supported the researcher's hypothesis that those children who observe aggressive behavior will be more aggressive than those children who are recipients of the abuse.

Gillespie et al. investigated the inter-familial patterns of behavior to demonstrate that aggression is learned through vicarious observation. Gillespie et al. separated the sample into four different categories but only conducted analysis on those children who either directly experienced physical abuse or observed physical abuse. The researchers failed to explain if sexual behavior as a result of sexual abuse was vicariously learned or what effects emotional abuse or neglect may have upon subsequent behavior. The researchers did not expand upon either type of abuse and possible effects of either abuse. Also, the findings from this research indicated that the observation of abuse is a more powerful learning tool of aggression than the direct experience of abuse. These findings are consistent with the findings of Owen and Straus (1975) and contrary to the findings of Pfouts et al. (1981).

Owen and Straus (1975) investigated the relationship of exposure to violence as a child with the approval or use of violence to achieve personal or political ends as an adult. The researchers defined exposure to violence as: 1) observing violence, 2) being a victim

of violence, and 3) committing violence or acts violently. The researchers stated that violence is a learned behavior and much of the learning takes place during childhood years through observation, direct experience, or acting violently. Therefore, the research hypothesis of this study is that the more a person is exposed to violence as a child through observation, victimization, or committing violent acts, the greater the approval or use of violence as an adult.

Data for this research is a re-analysis of data collected for The National Commission on the Causes and Prevention of Violence. The National Commission was a nationwide survey of a sample of 1,176 individuals. The surveys consisted of self-reported behaviors concerning the respondents' use and approval of violence. The respondents were 18 years of age or older and they were selected by means of cluster sampling. A cluster was operationally defined as a city block.

Owen and Straus conducted statistical analysis to examine the effects of exposure to violence as a child and its relationship to interpersonal violence. Correlation coefficients were computed for individuals who committed violence, who observed violence, and who were victims of childhood violence. Correlation coefficients were used to determine the strength of the relationship between exposure to violence as a child and involvement in interpersonal violence. The individuals who acted violently as children had the highest correlation coefficient (.31) for interpersonal violence. Additionally, those individuals who were victims of violence as children had a correlation coefficient of .21 and those individuals who observed violence as children had a correlation coefficient of .29. Therefore, the researcher found that all three aspects of exposure to violence, acting violently, observation, or victimization, produce correlations that support the research hypothesis, that is, that there is a relationship between exposure to violence as a child and the use or approval of interpersonal violence as an adult.

Owen and Straus investigated the relationship between exposure to violence as a child through acting violent, victimization, or observation and the use of violence as an

adult. The researchers concluded that those children who observed violence had a higher correlation to act violent than those children who were victimized by physical violence as a child. Consistent findings were reported by Gillespie et al. (1977). Gillespie et al. concluded that those children who observed physical violence within the family were more likely than physically abused children to be violent. Additionally, Gillespie et al. and Owen and Straus explained that children who were victims of physical abuse were more likely than non-victims of abuse to engage in escape crimes such as truancy and running away rather than violent, aggressive crimes. Inconsistent findings were reported by Pfouts et al. (1981). Pfouts et al. concluded that children who were victims of physical abuse were more violent than those children who observed violence. Pfouts et al. indicate that 48.9% of the adolescents who were victims of physical abuse engaged in severe delinquent behavior, as opposed to 20.4% of the adolescents who were bystanders to family violence.

Pfouts, Schopler, and Henley (1981) explored the extent of family violence and its association with childhood deviance. The researchers investigated if the variations in deviance are caused by the emotional climate of the family, the relationship between the child and the parent, and the role of the child in the structure of family violence. The role of the child in the structure of family violence was operationally defined as an observer or victim of the abuse. The researchers defined family violence as abuse, either paternal or maternal, and inflicted upon any member of the family. The researchers hypothesized that the relationship between the child and the parent and the role of the child in the structure of family violence will determine the extent of deviance. Specifically, children who were bystanders to family violence will exhibit minimal deviance if their relationship with their parents has some positive features and mild deviance if their relationship is characterized by parental rejection. Also, children who were victims of family violence will exhibit mild deviance if their relationship with their parents has some positive features and severe deviance if their relationship is characterized by parental rejection.



The researches examined the case files of 800 families investigated for abuse by the North Carolina Protective Service Workers during the years 1971 to 1977. From the total population of 800, a sample of 73 families were selected based upon past case histories of substantiated abuse, either involving a child or a spouse. Information was collected about these families from the initial reports of the abuse investigation. Also, the researchers conducted interviews with the social workers or supervisors responsible for each case. Based upon the interviews with the social workers, Pfouts et al. determined the relationship between the child and the parent and the extent of childhood deviance.

The researchers analyzed the characteristics of the abusive families to determine the frequency of victimization and the type of perpetrator of the abuse. From the sample of 73 families that have substantiated histories of abuse, 50% involved violence directed toward the child, 20% toward the wife, and 30% involved abuse of both the wife and the child. Analysis of the perpetrator showed that fathers and father figures were the sole abusers in 47.4% of the families while the mother was the sole abuser in 35.1% of the families. Therefore, 80% of the physical abuse was directed toward both the child and/or the mother and was committed (47.4%) by the father or father figure within the family environment.

Pfouts, Schopler, and Henley discovered a widespread amount of deviant behavior among those children who either observed the physical abuse or were victims of physical violence within the family. Pfouts et al. determined that the deviant behaviors that were exhibited most often were lying and cheating (45%), truancy (40.0%), assault (30.3%), stealing (29.9%), and vandalism (24.1%). Additionally, the researchers discovered physical effects such as depression (64%), and hyperactivity (31.1%) as results from physical violence that is present within the family environment.

The results of the research indicate that those children who are victims of family violence have a higher degree of deviancy than those children who are witnesses to family violence. The findings also indicate that 48.9% of the adolescents who were victims of

physical abuse engaged in severe delinquent behavior as opposed to 20.4% of the adolescents who were bystanders to family violence. Of the 99 children who manifested symptoms of abuse, 92 had engaged in some form of delinquent behavior. Additionally, the researchers determined that abuse victims exhibited the most extreme forms of delinquent behavior. These children were most often involved in delinquent behaviors such as assault, stealing, vandalism, and truancy.

Pfouts et al. examined the official investigation reports of child abuse from the Protective Service Unit in North Carolina to determine the emotional climate of the family and the role of the child in the structure of family violence. By using official reports, these data for the research tend to be biased toward those families from the lower socioeconomic scale and minority groups. Therefore, the sample may not be representative of the characteristics of the general population. Additionally, the researchers determined the presence of abuse and the emotional climate of the family from the Protective Service reports. These reports typically contain more information about those children who exhibit behavioral problems as opposed to those children who are withdrawn or who do not exhibit any behavioral problems. Therefore, this information provided contained a bias in the direction of deviancy and affected the findings of the research.

#### Sexual Abuse

Brannon, Larson, and Doggett (1989) explored the extent and the origins of sexual abuse perpetrated upon incarcerated male juvenile offenders. The purpose of this study is to investigate and further clarify the prevalence of sexual exploitation of youth who are entering the juvenile justice system. The authors investigated the extent and origins of abuse through analysis of structured, confidential interviews conducted by two staff psychologists within the setting of a residential program. These interviews were conducted with a population of 63 incarcerated, male, juvenile offenders. These adolescents have been adjudicated for a variety of offenses including crimes against property and persons. Additionally, eleven of the 63 participants were adjudicated for sex

related offenses. The authors conducted analysis of the psychological interviews using both chi-square and descriptive statistics. Initially, the authors differentiated between sexual abuse and molestation by operationally defining sexual abuse as occurring through the use of force, threat, or violence, and molestation as being tricked, seduced, or manipulated into sexual relations without being intimidated by verbal threats and/or physical coercion.

Overall, results of the study report 70% of the participants as having been victimized by either sexual abuse or molestation, 57% of the victimization having occurred through molestation. The authors also investigated the types of molestation or abuse experienced by these adolescents and the age at which the molestation or abuse occurred. The findings indicated that the majority of the molestation involved intercourse (50%) or fellatio (33%). Also, the authors discovered the mean age of the molested adolescents to be 9.3 years of age. However, the authors indicated that the mean age for those who were sexually abused was 8 years of age. The findings indicated that females consisted of 58% of the victims and males 42% of the victims.

Brannon, Larson, and Doggett also investigated the perpetrators of the molestation or abuse among those incarcerated, adolescent males. The mean age of the male perpetrator was 27 years of age compared to 17 years of age for the female perpetrator. An in depth investigation of the female perpetrator uncovered that those females may be friends of older siblings or baby-sitters who actively victimize young children.

Also, analysis of the identity of the perpetrator indicated that 60.8% of the perpetrators of molestation were a known individual to the adolescent and 26% were family members. Data analysis of the origins of sexual abuse indicate that the victims of sexual abuse were victimized in equal numbers (37.5) by either members of the immediate family or individuals who were known by the victims. Additionally, all the perpetrators of molestation were reported to have been males and the mean age was 21.8 years of age.

Brannon et al. conducted research to determine the extent and frequency of sexual abuse and molestation among incarcerated, juvenile offenders. The researchers obtained data by conducting psychological interviews with the subjects. These interviews may be problematic due to the subjects possibly being deceitful when answering the questions. Also, the subjects may have exaggerated the extent and details of the sexual abuse that was perpetrated upon them. By exaggerating the circumstances of the abuse, the adolescent rationalizes why the abuse occurred to him. Furthermore, the researchers did not make any comparisons between the type of abuse encountered and the form of crime the adolescent committed. The authors neglected to establish any form of relationship between abuse and crime. Within the research, the authors establish that 11 of the subjects had been adjudicated for a sexual related offense. However, the researchers never conducted any analysis to determine the severity of abuse of these sex offenders, or if there was a relationship between abuse and sexually offending. Though the research provides substantial information about the extent of abuse among incarcerated, juvenile offenders it does not provide any information about a linkage between sexual abuse and subsequent delinquent behavior.

Benoit and Kennedy (1992) examine the frequency and intensity of physical and sexual abuse among incarcerated adolescent sexual offenders within a secure residential treatment program in Florida. The researchers hypothesized that the incidence of sexual abuse will be more frequent and intense for adolescent sexual offenders and that the incidence of physical abuse will be more frequent and intense for the violent adolescent offenders. The researchers developed a control group of non-sexual offenders allowing for a comparison between sex offenders and non-sex offenders.

The total population for this study was 100 males ages 12-18 years of age. All subjects had been adjudicated for a felony crime and incarcerated within a secure residential setting. Data for this study was obtained through reviewing the records of those subjects who had been randomly selected. The records were reviewed by graduate

students, who had no investment in this study, and divided into four categories with 25 subjects in each category. The categories are: 1) non-aggressive offenders, and 2) aggressive offenders, (in both categories 1 and 2 the offenders had not committed any known sexual crimes), 3) female molesters and 4) male/female molesters. The researchers statistically computed chi-square to make comparisons between the experimental and control group in order to prove or disprove the research hypothesis.

The findings from the data indicate that there is a widespread amount of physical and/or sexual abuse that is prevalent across all four categories of offenders. Benoit and Kennedy determined that 34% of the population had been sexually victimized during their development. Additionally, 26% of the sexual offenders had been sexually victimized as a child. Eleven subjects who were sexually victimized as a child had been victimized by more than one individual. Additionally, the researchers determined that the mean age of victimization was 6.59 years of age. Furthermore, the researchers determined that 52% of the population had been exposed to physical abuse during their developmental years. Also, 10 of the subjects who had been physically abused received permanent physical injury as a result of the physical abuse.

Benoit and Kennedy determine that sexual and physical victimization is present across all categories of offenders and there is no difference in the frequency or intensity of past abuse. They also determine that an abusive past is not a sufficient reason for victimizing others. Furthermore, the relationship between being a victim of abuse and the subsequent offending is not a direct relationship and that other variables must be present. However, the researchers make no indication as to what these other factors may be. The researchers indicate that past victimization does not determine an individual's behavior and that others factors must combine with the abusive past to compel an individual to victimize others.

The researchers examine the frequency and intensity of sexual and physical abuse present among adolescent, sex offenders. The researchers determined that both forms of

abuse, sexual and physical, are present among all categories of offenders. The categories of offenders included sexual offenders and non-sexual offenders. However, the researchers failed to make any distinction of intensity of abuse between the categories of offenders. Also, the researchers did not report or analyze if any relationship existed between the abuse that was suffered and the form of crime committed. The researchers also stated that the relationship between being a victim of certain types of abuse and subsequent offending is not a direct relationship, that other factors must be present. However, the researchers failed to determine these other factors.

Longo (1981) researched the effects of early exposure to sexual activity among adolescent, sexual offenders. He employs the social learning theory for the purpose of this research, which provides a framework that the adolescent began to learn about sexual experiences at an early age and with individuals who were typically older than the adolescent. Longo explains that this early exposure to adult sex can be a traumatic experience whether or not coercion was involved. This traumatic experience may cause concerns by the adolescent over his sexuality and Longo hypothesized that the adolescent will act out sexually to overcome possible feelings of inadequacy.

Longo administered a confidential questionnaire to residents of a sexual offenders program in Florida. The total sample for the study is seventeen (17). All subjects are nineteen years of age or younger and have been tried and sentenced as adults. Of the total sample, eight (8) are black and nine (9) are Caucasians. Data based upon the adolescents' past sexual history and involvement was collected and presented by Longo. Data analysis determined that 47% of the adolescents were victims of sexual molestation as a child. Of those victims of child molestation, 76% reported that their first sexual experience was before age twelve. Data analysis also determined that the mean age of first sexual experience was 9.1 and it occurred on the average with an individual 8 years older. The data also indicates that the mean age when first learned about sex as 9.5 years of age.

The adolescents involved in this study are all sexual offenders and all have had an early exposure to sex and sexual experience. Also, almost 50% of the sample were victims of molestation or sexual abuse. The results indicated that these sexual offenders have had sexual experiences during their elementary school years and before the onset of puberty. The results of this study indicate an atypical sexual development by these adolescents. The researcher concluded that the inadequate development resulting from early sexual exposure and victimization from molestation form a traumatic experience in the lives of these offenders. Longo then concludes that this sexually traumatic experience is a learning experience and may be the primary cause of the adolescent sexually acting out.

The researcher obtained data for this study by administering a confidential questionnaire to the subjects. The use of a questionnaire allows the respondent to be potentially deceitful when answering the questions. Also, the research population for this study was 17; this is a small sample and limits the opportunity to make generalizations to the entire population. The researcher determined that those adolescents who were adjudicated for a sexual offense had a higher occurrence of sexual trauma during their childhood years. However, the experience of sexual trauma was not exclusive to only sexual offenders. There was the occurrence of sexual trauma among non-offending adolescents as well. Furthermore, the researcher indicated that other factors play a part in the relationship between abuse and subsequent offending, however, the researcher did not make any indication as to what these factors are.

## **DATA ANALYSIS AND PRESENTATION OF FINDINGS**

The purpose of this research is to provide a theoretical framework for understanding the learning and modeling of abusive behavior as it relates to the link between past child abuse experiences and subsequent delinquent activity. In this chapter, the findings of the data analysis as they relate to the research questions are presented.

The research questions are as follows:

- 1) Is there a relationship between prior child abuse and subsequent delinquency?
- 2) Is there a relationship between the form of child abuse the adolescent experienced and the type of subsequent delinquency?
- 3) Are those children who have been physically abused more likely to commit violent, aggressive behavior than those children who have not been physically abused?
- 4) Are those children who have been sexually abused more likely to commit sexual crimes than those children who have not been sexually abused?
- 5) Are there other delinquent or deviant responses to either prior physical or sexual abuse?
- 6) Are there protective factors which may prevent an abused child from acting out through delinquency?
- 7) Is the alleged relationship between prior child abuse and subsequent delinquency affected by demographic characteristics such as race and age of onset of abuse?
- 8) Is the alleged relationship between prior child abuse and subsequent delinquency affected by the frequency and intensity of the abuse?



The writer examined the data generated from the study using univariate, and bivariate descriptive statistics. No inferential statistical analyses were conducted due to the lack of random sampling. The researcher had to use the entire institutional population due to an unsuccessful attempt to obtain a non-institutional, non-delinquent comparison group. According to University guidelines on research ethics in any research involving juveniles, the researcher must obtain prior written parental consent and prior verbal assent by the juvenile. One hundred and forty-eight delinquents were contacted at three Lower Michigan juvenile facilities. Advance written notice was sent to parents together with a request for written parental consent. To participate in this study, each potential respondent had to submit prior verbal assent. The total number of actual respondents was 35, which is a 23.6% response rate. The researcher had difficulty obtaining parental consent partly because of the relationship between parent and prospective institutionalized respondent, partly because of fear that negative information may be divulged, and partly because of the lack of compensation for parental consent. The researcher acknowledges that having to obtain parental consent contributed to the low response rate.

In the next pages, the writer will first examine univariate demographic data presented in frequency tables and graphs. This will be followed by the presentation of bivariate data on the physical abuse and sexual abuse variables. Finally, findings on the respondents' delinquent involvement will be presented and examined. These findings will help determine if there is a relationship between prior child abuse and subsequent delinquency. The researcher will also examine the effects of age of onset of abuse, race, frequency, and intensity of the abuse on the alleged relationship between prior child abuse and subsequent delinquency.

### Demographic Characteristics

In total, forty parents provided consent for their children to participate in the study. During the data collection procedure five potential respondents refused to give

verbal assent for participation in the study. Therefore, the total research population was 35. All respondents were male and court mandated to a juvenile treatment facility in Lower Michigan.

**Table 1: Frequency Distribution of Respondents' Age**

<u>X. Age</u>	<u>f</u>	<u>%</u>
12	1	2.9
13	1	2.9
14	4	11.4
15	5	14.3
16	18	51.4
17	6	17.1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 1 presents the age distribution of the respondents. The respondents' ages ranged from 12 to 17 years old, with an average age of 15.6 years of age. However, 68.5% of these respondents were in the older age bracket of 16 and 17 years. The majority of the respondents, that is 51.4% , were 16 years of age. Figure 1 is a bar graph display that also illustrates the ages of respondents. Figure 1 shows the inequality of ages within the research population.

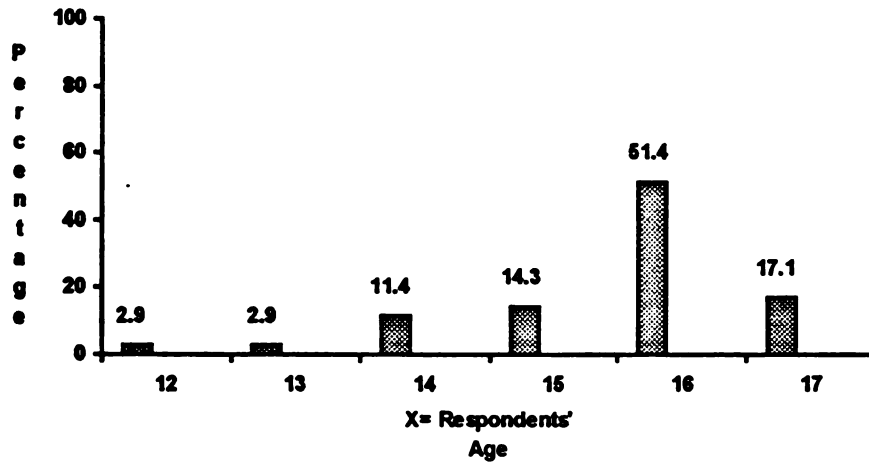
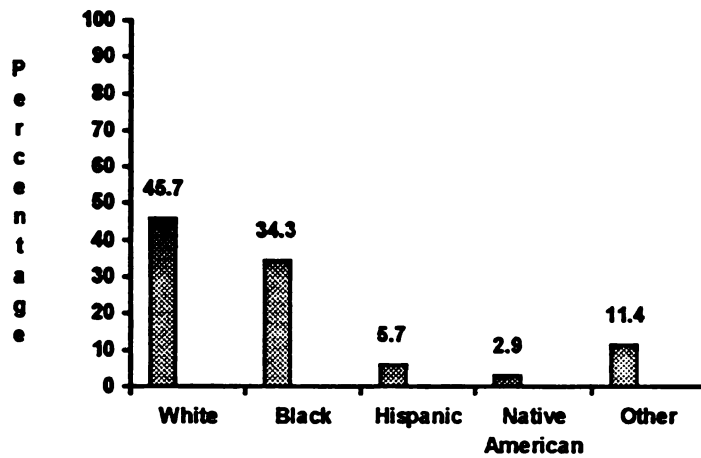


Figure 1: Bar Graph Display of Respondents' Age

Table 2 presents the race of the respondents. Sixteen of the respondents (45.7%) were White, 12 (34.2%) were Black, 2 (5.7%) were Hispanic, 1 (2.9%) was a Native American, and 4 (11.4%) indicated "other" as a response.

Table 2: Frequency Distribution of Respondents' Race

<u>X_RACE</u>	<u>f</u>	<u>%</u>
White	16	45.7
Black	12	34.3
Hispanic	2	5.7
Native American	1	2.9
Other	4	11.4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>100</b>



**Figure 2: Bar Graph of Respondents' Race**

Table 2 and Figure 2 present the race of the respondents. In total, sixteen of the respondents (45.7%) were White, 12 (34.2%) were Black, 2 (5.7%) were Hispanic, 1 (2.9%) was a Native American, and 4 (11.4%) indicated "other" as a response. According to the 1990 Michigan Census, the current Michigan population is about 81.4% White, 13.9% Black, 2.2% Hispanic, and .6% Native American. Comparison between the research data and census data shows that compared to the respective racial representation in the general population, there is a disproportionate representation of races in the three facilities. For example, Whites are underrepresented by 35.7% while Black youths are overrepresented by 20.3% and Hispanic youths are overrepresented by 3.5%. This leads the researcher to conclude that there is a disproportionate representation of race according to present day population trends. This finding of disproportionate representation is consistent with findings by other researchers such as Sabil (1989), Seidman (1978), and Velde 1977. These researchers concluded that there is a disproportionate number of

minority individuals, especially Black individuals, who are incarcerated or committed to institutions for delinquent behavior.

**Table 3: Prior Placement History**

<u>X</u>	<u>f</u>	<u>%</u>
yes	23	65.7
no	12	34.3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 3 is a frequency distribution of prior placement at a juvenile facility other than the current placement. The above table shows that 65.7% of the respondents had prior placement history while 34.3% of the respondents had no such history. In summary, a majority of these respondents had multiple placement history, ranging from 1 to 9 prior placements. Multiple placements usually occur as a result either of severe behavioral problems that required transfer to more secure facilities or subsequent delinquent acts committed by the juvenile which required further placement. This finding suggests that a majority (65.7%) of the respondents suffer from serious behavioral or criminal problems, which have resulted in multiple placements.

**Table 4: Frequency Distribution of Respondents' Parents' Marital Status**

<u>X, Marital Status</u>	<u>f</u>	<u>%</u>
Married	11	31.4
Separated	6	17.1
Divorced	13	37.1
Never Married	5	14.3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>99.9*</b>

\* due to rounding the result 99.9%

Table 4 presents the marital status of the respondents' parents. Thus, 31.4% of the parents were married, while 17.1% and 37.1% respectively were separated or divorced, and 14.3% of the parents were never married. This finding shows that over half (54.2%) of the respondents were raised in homes whose parents did not have a stable marriage which resulted in divorce or separation. The following bar graph, Figure 3, also displays the marital status of the respondents' parents.

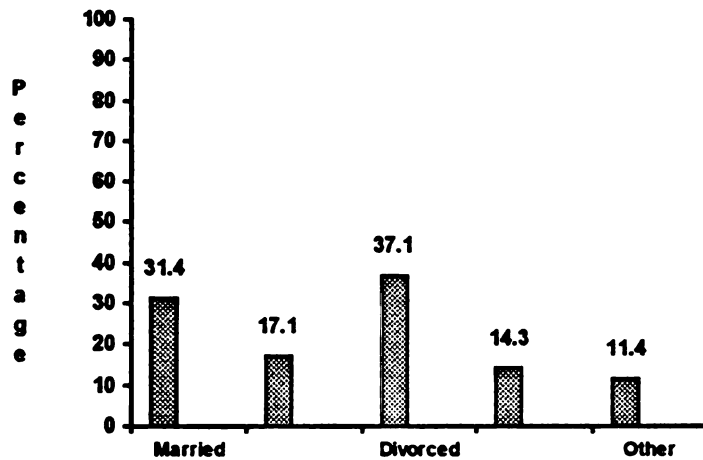


Figure 3: Bar Graph Display of Marital Status of Respondents' Parents

In summary, all respondents (35) for this research were male adolescents between the ages of 12 to 17 with an average age of 15.6 years of age. From the findings 45.7% of the respondents are White, 34.3% of the respondents were Black, 5.7% were Hispanic, and 2.9% were Native American. These figures indicate a disproportionality among the races. Very indicative is the finding that 65.7% of the respondents had multiple placement

history ranging from 1 to 9 prior placements. This finding suggests that over half of the research population are serious offenders or have behavior problems requiring multiple placements. While 31.4 % of the respondents came from two parent married families, over half (54.2%) of the respondents came from divorced or separated families. In summary, the findings indicate that over half of the respondents were raised in divorced or separated families and have a history of multiple institutional placements.

### Physical abuse

Specifically, the research questions focus on the presence of prior physical or sexual abuse experiences. The researcher will first present the findings on prior physical child abuse experiences followed by the presentation of the findings on prior child sexual abuse experiences. Prior physical abuse experience is defined for this research as: "the exposure to physical abuse by either observation or direct experience including the intentional and non accidental infliction of physical harm or injury to a child through severe spanking, hitting, slapping, or beating with or without an object."

For the purpose of this research, the researcher used two levels of physical abuse operationalizations. The first level is abuse that occurs under the guise of discipline and is accidental, meaning that the original intention was discipline. The second level is non-accidental and the original intention was to hurt the child. The term discipline was used because it is a word that is easily recognized by adolescents. The researcher surmised that because of antecedent conditions such as drinking, drugs, family frustrations, work stressors, or cultural norms, parents may react to the point of becoming abusive to their children even though their original intent was to discipline the child. The researcher was able to distinguish between pure discipline and abusive discipline by asking the respondents to indicate if they were ever injured during the course of being disciplined. The researcher then used injury during a disciplinary action as an indicator of physical abuse. The respondents were also asked specific questions about physical injury.

### Level I Discipline

**Table 5: Respondents who were disciplined**

<u>X</u>	<u>f</u>	<u>%</u>
yes	35	100
no	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>100</b>

Initially, the researcher investigated discipline among the respondents. Every respondent felt that they had been disciplined during their lifetime. Typically, an individual who cares about a younger child will respond with discipline to correct a misbehavior. The researcher was less concerned with pure discipline cases than with cases of injury during the course of discipline. However, before investigating the number of injuries that occurred during the course of discipline, the research will present some characteristics of the respondents' discipline. These characteristics include the person who disciplined, the reasons for , and the frequency of the discipline.

**Table 6: Frequency Distribution of Individuals who Disciplined Respondents**

<u>X, Individuals</u>	<u>f</u>	<u>%</u>
biological parents	25	71.4
adoptive or step parents	13	37.1
mother only	2	5.7
father only	0	0.0
step parent only	7	20.0
foster parent	2	5.7
other relative	17	48.5



Table 6 describes the individual who usually disciplined the respondents. Since, the respondents were allowed to identify different individuals, the total number of individuals is greater than 35. The findings in Table 6 show that 71.4 % of the respondents were disciplined by their biological parents while 37.1% were disciplined by adoptive or step parents. The fact that 71.4% of the respondents were disciplined by a biological parent leads the researcher to surmise that discipline is an intrafamilial act. However, only a small fraction of respondents (5.7%) indicated that they had been disciplined only by their mother and none of the respondents indicated that they had been disciplined only by their father. Furthermore, 20% of the respondents indicated that they were disciplined only by their step parent. This higher percentage for step parents may be due to a step parent's lack of attachment to a child as compared with a biological parent's attachment with that child. Furthermore, almost half of the population, 48.5%, indicated that they were disciplined by another relative such as aunt, uncle, or grandparent. This suggests that either parent of the respondents allowed extended family members to intervene with their child or that these respondents lived with family members other than their parents.

**Table 7: Frequency Distribution of Reasons Respondents were Disciplined by their Parents**

<u>X. Reason</u>	<u>f</u>	<u>%</u>
late for curfew	21	60
didn't complete chores	23	65.7
wet the bed	2	5.7
talked back to adult	28	80
other	7	20

Table 7 displays some of the reasons respondents gave for being disciplined by their parent. The respondents were allowed to select as many reasons that applied.

Therefore the total frequency of responses is greater than 35. Eighty percent (80%) of the respondents indicated that they were disciplined because they talked back to an adult, 65.7% indicated that they had been disciplined for failure to complete their chores. Sixty percent (60%) of the respondents indicated that they were disciplined because of being late for curfew, while 5.7% indicated that they were disciplined for wetting the bed. Other factors that were listed by the respondents included getting into a fight, lying to a parent, stealing, and smoking cigarettes.

The above actions are situations that can cause the parent to react to the respondent's behavior. This, creates an illusion to the parent and child that the parent is truly disciplining the child. However, it is the parents' overreaction to this misbehavior which inflicts an injury to the child that is being investigated.

**Table 8: Frequency Distribution of Parental Methods of Discipline**

<u>X. Methods</u>	<u>f</u>	<u>%</u>
spanking	28	80
hit by fists	13	37.1
hit by an object	14	40.0
loss of privileges	17	48.5
other	4	11.4

Table 8 and Figure 4 display the methods of discipline the respondents were exposed to as children. Similar to the reasons for discipline, the respondents were allowed to select as many methods of discipline that applied. Therefore, the total frequency of methods is greater than 35. Spanking and the loss of privileges were the two most common disciplinary methods reported by respondents.

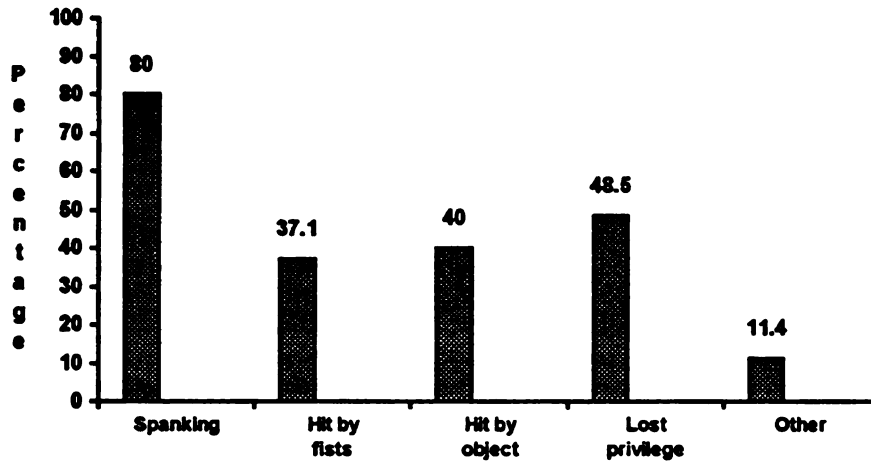


Figure 4: Bar Graph Display of Methods of Discipline

Table 8 and Figure 5 display the methods of discipline the respondents were exposed to as children. Eighty percent (80%) of the respondents reported to have been spanked while 48.5% of the respondents replied that they had privileges withheld. The final two listed methods of discipline, being hit with fists and being hit with an object, are violent and aggressive actions by the parent. Almost half, or 40%, of the respondents indicated that they had been hit with an object and 37.1% of the respondents indicated that they had been hit with fists. Both of these types of disciplines are physical actions against a child. Considering the situations in which these actions occurred, the child may learn to associate violent physical response as an appropriate form of response to a situation of confrontation.

Table 9: Frequency Distribution of Frequency of Discipline

<u>X. Frequency</u>	<u>f</u>	<u>%</u>
once a week	3	8.6
twice a week	13	37.1
once a month	4	11.4
twice a month	8	22.9
other	5	17.1
no response	1	2.9

The above table presents the frequency of discipline that the respondents were exposed to as children. The highest frequency was reported by respondents who were disciplined twice a week (37.1%) followed by respondents who reported being disciplined twice a month (22.9%). However, the weekly frequencies combined show that 45.7% of the respondents were subjected to weekly discipline. Furthermore, 11.4% of the respondents indicated being disciplined once a month. There were 5 respondents who selected the "other" category and explained this to occur "all the time."

Table 10: Received Injury as a Result of Discipline

<u>X. Injury</u>	<u>f</u>	<u>%</u>
yes	11	31.4
no	24	68.6
TOTAL	35	100

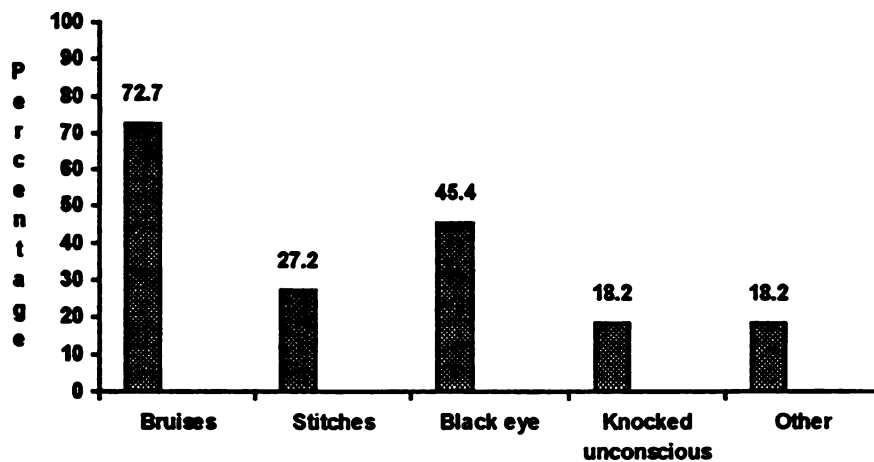
Table 10 shows that 31.4% of the respondents indicated that they suffered various types of injuries from the discipline experience. These injuries include receiving bruises, stitches, a black eye, or being knocked unconscious as evidenced from Table 11. The type of resulting injury is related to the methods of discipline. As previously reported, 37.1% of the respondents were hit with fists while 40% of the respondents indicated that they

were hit with an object. Such disciplinary methods undoubtedly have potential for inflicting different degrees of injuries on a young child.

**Table 11: Frequency Distribution for Type of Injury Received**

<u>X. Injury</u>	<u>f</u>	<u>%</u>
bruises	8	72.7
stitches	3	27.2
broken bones	0	0.0
black eye	5	45.4
knocked unconscious	2	18.2
other	2	18.2

Table 11 presents the types of injuries the respondents incurred in the course of being disciplined. The respondents were allowed to select a combination or multiple responses for injuries received. Figure 5 displays the percentages of respondents who were injured during the course of discipline



**Figure 5: Bar Graph Display of Injuries**

Table 11 and Figure 5 display the injuries received by respondents from a disciplinary action. From the eleven respondents who indicated injuries while being disciplined, 72.7% (8) had received bruises and 45.4% (5) received a black eye. Furthermore, 27.2% of the respondents received stitches and 18.2% (2) indicated that they had been knocked unconscious. Both individuals who replied "other" indicated that they had teeth knocked out. These injuries are not only serious but they can leave severe emotional scars, especially when administered by an adult whom the child looks up to. Some of the discipline that the respondents were exposed to by an adult are violent and aggressive. When a child is exposed to this type of violence and aggression, the parent or adult teaches and reinforces that violence and aggression are acceptable forms of behavior. Therefore, the child learns to behave aggressively.

In reviewing the findings on discipline, it may be noted that all the respondents (35) indicated that they had been disciplined as a child. The most frequent disciplinary methods included withholding privileges, grounding, spankings, hitting with fists, and hitting with an object. In fact, 40% of the respondents were hit with an object and 37.1% of the respondents were hit with fists by an adult. Furthermore, 31.4% of the sample indicated that they had been injured as a result of being disciplined. These experiences are traumatic for a child and they can shape what the child perceives as acceptable or unacceptable behavior.

### Level II Physical "Harm"

The first operational level of physical abuse was discussed in the previous section. The focus was an action by the parent that initially starts as discipline, but which resulted in unintentional or accidental injury to the respondent. In the following section, the researcher will examine the second operational level of physical abuse. The second level of abuse focuses on physically abusive or harmful actions by the parents independent of the child's behavior. These situations may have occurred due to the perpetrator being a violent person, wanting control over the child, being drunk or under the influence of drugs, or reacting to a stressful situation. Whatever the reason for the adult's action, the respondents were asked to identify if they had ever been physically "harmed" by an adult and, if so, what happened and who committed this action. The researcher used the term "harm" in place of "abuse" because believing that had the term "abuse" been used then the respondents would have been more reluctant to identify this as having occurred to them.

**Table 12: Frequency Distribution of Respondents who were Physically Harmed**

	f	%
yes	21	60
no	14	40
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>100</b>

An overwhelming 60% of the respondents (21) responded that they had been physically "harmed by an adult". The high percentage of respondents (60%) who were physically "harmed" indicates that a substantial number of respondents in this study were exposed to situations that were outright abusive. More enlightening than the numbers subjected to this abusive experience is the identity of the perpetrator as shown in Tables 13 through 15.

**Table 13: Frequency Distribution of Fathers as Perpetrators**

<u>X injuries</u>	<u>f</u>	<u>%</u>
spanked	15	100
beaten	5	33.3
punched	5	33.3
hit with an object	7	46.6

Table 13 presents findings on the father as the perpetrator of physical abuse. Out of 21 respondents who were physically "harmed", 15 respondents, or 71.4%, indicated that they had been "harmed" by their father. Surprisingly, this frequency of 15 was the same for physical harm administered by a mother. This suggests that among these respondents, physical abuse is an intra-familial act that is perpetrated with equal frequency by either parent. Table 13 also presents the abusive actions the father administered to the respondents. All 15 respondents who indicated that they were physically "harmed" responded that they had been spanked by their father. While 33.3% indicated that they had been beaten, 33.3% reported that they had been punched, and 46.6% indicated that they had been hit with an object.

**Table 14: Frequency Distribution of Mothers as Perpetrators**

<u>X injuries</u>	<u>f</u>	<u>%</u>
spanked	15	100
beaten	3	20
punched	2	13.3
hit with an object	4	26.6

Table 14 displays the findings on the mother as a perpetrator of physical "harm". Fifteen respondents (71.4%) indicated that they had been "harmed" by their mother. This percentage is equal to that of fathers as perpetrator. Table 14 also presents what abusive



actions the mothers inflicted on the respondents. All 15 respondents indicated that they had been spanked, while 20% indicated being beaten, 13.3% indicated being punched, and 26.6% as being hit with an object.

In summary, 71.4% indicated that they had been physically "harmed" by either their mother or father. The most common form of physical "harm" was spanking followed by hitting with an object. Also, the respondents' fathers were more likely than mothers to either hit with an object or punch their child. Comparing the two parents, the fathers were more likely than mothers to be violent and physical by beating, punching, or hitting with an object.

Unfortunately, a high frequency of respondents were exposed to physical abuse by their parents. Parents are supposed to be role models for their children. The parents who are physically abusive to their children teach them that physical behavior is appropriate. Overall, 71.4% of those respondents who indicated that they had been physically "harmed" indicated that the perpetrator was either their mother or father. This is a large proportion of respondents who were exposed to abuse within their immediate family environment.

The types of behavior that these respondents were exposed to as children were aggressive and violent. The parents punched their children and hit them with objects such as belts and boards. The theoretical framework is that a child's parent is expected to be a role model for the child, teaching the child behavior that is acceptable or unacceptable by societal standards. The theoretical framework also states that exposure of children to violent and aggressive behavior may result in an internalization of violent and aggressive behavior as acceptable and appropriate. It stands to reason that if a child internalizes violent behavior as acceptable behavior then the child is likely to exhibit violent and aggressive behavior, which may in turn manifest itself in delinquent acts.

Table 15: Frequency Distribution of Other Perpetrators of Physical Harm

<u>X, individual</u>	<u>f</u>	<u>%</u>
foster parent	1	4.7
aunt	7	33.3
uncle	4	19
step parent	5	23.8
other	6	28.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>65.7</b>

Respondents also indicated that other individuals, such as foster parents, aunts, uncles, step parents, and other family members inflicted physical "harm" on them, as seen in Table 15. Respondents were able to select as many individuals as applied to them for this category.

The largest percentage of respondents (33.3%) reported that an aunt inflicted physical "harm". Uncles and step parents were about equal, 19% and 23.8%, respectively. Furthermore, 28.5% indicated that other family members, such as grandparents, inflicted physical "harm" while only a small percentage, 4.7, indicated that they were "harmed" by foster parents.

Table 16: Frequency Distribution for Types of "Harm" by Other Perpetrators

<u>X, injuries</u>	<u>f</u>	<u>%</u>
spanking	20	90.9
beaten	7	31.8
punched	8	36.3
hit with object	11	50

Table 16 presents the types of abuse inflicted by individuals such as aunts, uncles, foster parents, and step parents. Similar to the injuries inflicted by parents, the highest percentage (90.9%) was for spanking, followed by being beaten (31.8%) and being

punched (36.3%). Additionally, 50% had been hit with an object such as a belt or a board of wood.

In summary, the above findings show that 60% of the respondents were physically "harmed" as children. The findings also show that respondents were most likely exposed to this abuse by either their father or mother. Seventy-one percent (71.4%) responded that the "harm" was inflicted by their father or their mother. This suggests the intrafamilial relationship of the physical abuse and the poor role modeling the parents exhibited. Also significant is the number of respondents who indicate that they were physically hit by an adult, including being punched or beaten or being hit with an object. Unfortunately, the respondents may internalize and learn that aggressive behavior is acceptable and consequently incorporate this behavior into their lifestyles.

### Sexual abuse

This research also investigated the relationship between child sexual abuse and subsequent delinquency. Before presenting the findings of this relationship, univariate presentations will be shown on the frequency of sexual abuse. Respondents were asked to indicate if they had been victims of sexual abuse. Respondents were asked if they had ever been sexually victimized by an adult or if they had ever been made to perform a sexual act on an adult. An affirmative response to either situation was coded as prior sexual abuse. Respondents were also asked to identify the perpetrators, the sexual act that took place, at what age, and with what duration.

**Table 17: Frequency Distribution of Respondents who were Sexually Victimized**

<u>X, Answer</u>	<u>f</u>	<u>%</u>
yes	10	28.5
no	23	65.7
<u>No response</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>5.7</u>
TOTAL	35	100

Table 17 shows that 28.5% or 10 respondents reported prior sexual abuse victimization while 65.7% of the respondents reported no such experience.

**Table 18: Frequency Distribution for Perpetrators of Sexual Abuse**

<u>X, Perpetrator</u>	<u>f</u>	<u>%</u>
uncles	3	27.2
step parent	3	27.2
mother	1	9.0
father	0	0
other	8	72.7

From the ten respondents who indicated prior sexual abuse, several combinations of individuals were indicated as the perpetrator. Therefore, the total number of perpetrators was higher than the number of victims. The "other" category provided the highest frequency (8) although there are several individuals who comprise this category, such as grandfather, friend, neighbor. The next highest frequency was for uncles and step parents with a frequency of 3 each. Surprisingly, none of the respondents indicated their fathers as perpetrator and only one respondent reported his mother as the aggressor.

An analysis of the respondents' age at the time of abuse revealed an age range of 4 to 13 years with a mean of 8.1 years of age. This finding suggests that although there are victims who were abused in their older years (12 and 13), the majority of the victims had been abused in the earlier years. In fact, well over half or 72.7% of the respondents had been victimized by the age of 8. Unfortunately, the child is still developing during these younger years and what results is a misconception of appropriate sexual behavior. These respondents may learn that sexual behavior is appropriate with little children or that it is an acceptable way of exerting control or expressing anger.

The respondents were also asked to indicate the duration of the sexual activities in months and the frequency of occurrence. With regards to duration three respondents or 30%, answered that the abuse occurred only once. However, two respondents answered that the abuse occurred over 5 and 7 years, respectively. The remainder of respondents (5) indicated that the abuse occurred for 2 to 6 months. Due to extreme values reported by respondents the median was calculated. Thus, the median value for duration was 2 to 6 months, suggesting that the sexual abuse did not occur for long periods of time.

Table 19: Frequency Distribution of Frequency of Sexual Actions

<u>X. Occurrence</u>	<u>f</u>	<u>%</u>
more than 1 a day	0	0
daily	1	9
weekly	5	45.5
other	4	36.4

With regards to the frequency of occurrence of sexual abuse, two respondents (18.2%) indicated that the abuse took place either more than once a day or daily, five (45.5%) responded that their abuse took place weekly. Those individuals who were victimized once in their lives (4) indicated "other" as an answer of frequency. The data suggest that the respondent either had a one time inappropriate sexual contact or a weekly recurrence of sexual abuse. Similar to the duration of abuse, reporting the mean frequency of occurrence would produce a skewed result based upon the four respondents who only had the action occur once. Therefore, the median frequency of sexual abuse was computed. The median frequency was weekly.

In summary, the findings show that 10 respondents responded that they were sexually victimized. Sexual victimization included either performing a sexual act to an adult or having an adult perform a sexual act to them. The findings show that there is an equal percentage, 27.2%, of uncles and step fathers as perpetrators. The mean age of onset is 8.1 years with a median value of 2 to 6 months for duration and a median value of weekly for the frequency occurrence. When a child is exposed to sexual behavior at such an early age and does not have a clear understanding of it, they are likely to internalize a poor conception of sexual behavior, causing the child to be overly sexual, sexually deviant, or predatory and manipulative towards sex.

### Delinquency Data

All the previously reported findings relate to the respondents' child abuse experiences. Prior to investigating the alleged relationship between child abuse and subsequent delinquency, the researcher will present findings on the respondent's delinquency as measured by reported adjudications. An adjudication in the juvenile justice system means that a juvenile has been found guilty of breaking the law. The respondents were asked to answer questions to indicate the crimes for which they had been adjudicated in the past and also crimes for which they were adjudicated at the time of the study. The respondents were also asked to identify the total number of crimes for which they were ever adjudicated.

Table 20: Frequency Distribution of Crimes for Current Adjudication

<u>X. Type of crime</u>	<u>f</u>	<u>%</u>
murder	2	5.7
criminal assault	16	45.7
robbery	12	34.2
theft	16	45.7
prostitution	5	14.2
rape/csc	6	17.1
Total	57	162

The above table is a frequency distribution of adjudications for which each respondents was in placement. The respondents were allowed to report as many adjudications as applied to them. Therefore, the total number of adjudications is over 35. The highest frequency of occurrence is 16, which was reported for both criminal assault and for theft. The second highest frequency, 12, was for robbery. There were also 6 respondents who were adjudicated for rape/csc, 5 respondents for prostitution, and 2 respondents for murder. The following table displays frequencies of prior adjudications.

Table 21: Frequency Distribution of Crimes for Prior Adjudications

<u>X. type of crime</u>	<u>f</u>	<u>%</u>
murder	1	2.8
criminal assault	7	20
theft	18	51.4
prostitution	0	0
rape/csc	3	8.5
truancy	21	60
Total	50	142.7

Again, respondents were able to report as many adjudications as applied to them. Therefore, the total number of adjudications is higher than 35. The highest frequency, 21, is for truancy, while the second highest, 18, is for theft, followed by criminal assault with a frequency of 7. There are also 3 respondents adjudicated for rape/csc and 1 for murder.

In this study, the crimes of murder, rape, assault, battery, robbery, and arson were grouped as violent, aggressive class of crimes while truancy, prostitution, and theft were classified as non-violent crimes. Subsequent analysis of the findings will explore the relationship between child abuse and subsequent delinquency. The highest frequency from Table 20 and 21 combined is 60%. This frequency was for truancy, which is a non-violent crime. However, the above tables also show that 47% of the adjudicated crimes were violent in nature. The next highest frequency of occurrence, 34%, is for theft. Generally, these findings are consistent with the delinquency literature that states that juveniles commit more crimes of theft than any other crime to attract attention towards themselves (Gillespie et al, 1977).

#### The Relationship Between Child Abuse and Delinquency

The purpose of this research was to investigate the relationship between prior child abuse and subsequent delinquency. For the purpose of this research, those respondents



who were injured during the course of being disciplined and those respondents who responded that they had been physically "harmed" by an adult were grouped as physically abused respondents. Furthermore, those respondents who indicated that they had performed inappropriate sexual acts on adults as well as children or adults had performed inappropriate sexual acts to the respondent were classified as sexually victimized respondents. The groups of respondents who were physically abused and those respondents who were sexually victimized were combined to form the group of abuse respondents. In the following pages, the researcher will present the results of the analysis of the alleged relationship between prior child abuse and subsequent delinquency.

**Research Question 1: Is there a relationship between child abuse and subsequent delinquency?**

Using univariate and bivariate analysis, the researcher examined the relationship between being abuse victims and having committed violent or non-violent crimes. Violent crimes were previously defined as murder, rape, assault, battery, robbery, and arson. Non-violent crimes were defined as truancy, prostitution, theft, incorrigibility, and drug abuse. It is also important to recall that this research population is composed of adolescents who are institutionalized and have been adjudicated for at least one criminal act. Unfortunately, the lack of a non-delinquent sample or comparison group limits the investigation of the effects of child abuse upon subsequent behavior. The researcher will first present the findings on respondents who are victims of either physical or sexual abuse, and then their relation to delinquent activities.

**Table 22: Frequency Distribution of Child Abuse Victims**

<u>X. Child Abuse Victim</u>	<u>f</u>	<u>%</u>
yes	23	65.7
no	12	34.3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 22 shows that 23 respondents, 65.7%, were victims of either physical or sexual abuse, whereas 12 respondents, or 34.3%, had no prior abuse experience. When comparing the percentages of abuse and non-abuse victims, there is a difference of 31.4% higher for child abuse victims. This factor coupled with the understanding that all the respondents were adjudicated for at least one crime indicates that there is a higher percentage of child abuse victims who are delinquent than non abused and delinquent respondents. Therefore, the difference of percentages between child abuse victims and non victims shows that there is a higher percentage of 31.4% for child abuse victims as compared to non-abuse victims.

**Table 23: Cross tabulation of Child Abuse and Type of Subsequent Delinquency**

	type of crime		
child abuse	violent	non - violent	totals
yes	16	7	(23) 65.7%
no	10	2	(12) 34.3%
<b>totals</b>	<b>(26) 74.3%</b>	<b>(9) 25.7%</b>	<b>(35) 100%</b>

Table 23 is a cross tabulation of physical or sexual abuse with violent or non-violent delinquency. The above table shows that 65.7% were abused while 34.3% (12) of

the respondents were not abused. Also, it shows that 26, or 74.3%, of the respondents were adjudicated for violent crimes while, 9 or 25.7%, of the respondents were adjudicated for non-violent crimes. These percentages show that 65.7% were victims of child abuse and 74.3% of the population were involved in violent crimes.

In the previous section, it was explained that 65.7% of the research population was abused and 34.3% was not abused. Combined with the factor that all the respondents were adjudicated for a crime, the differences of percentages was calculated to determine the extent of the relationship. The differences of percentages between child abuse victims and non-victims indicate that abuse victims have a 31.4% higher rate to engage in delinquent behavior.

Statistical analysis investigates the relationship between child abuse and subsequent delinquency to determine if these variables are dependent upon each other. The Chi square statistic was computed for the above cross tabulation of child abuse and type of subsequent delinquency. Fisher's Exact Test was employed due to one of the cells being less than the required value of five. The probability level for a two tail test is .685. Given this probability level, the relationship between child abuse and subsequent delinquency is not statistically significant, thus suggesting a lack of dependence between child abuse and type of subsequent delinquency. However, Chi square is affected by the sample size, therefore, had the sample size been larger, the level of probability may have decreased causing the relationship to be statistically significant. Thus a Phi value was computed to determine the strength of the relationship between child abuse and type of subsequent delinquency. The Phi value is .116, thus establishing that this relationship is a weak relationship within this sample. Further analysis of the relationship between child abuse and subsequent delinquency will examine control variables such as race, age of onset for abuse, frequency of abuse, intensity of abuse, and protective factors to determine if these control variables have any effect upon the relationship.

The researcher determined that there is a relationship between child abuse and delinquency when comparing the difference of percentages between child abuse victims' and non-victims' propensities to engage in delinquent behavior. Abuse victims have a 31.4% higher propensity for delinquency than non-abuse victims. This finding is consistent with the findings of Alfaro (1981), Fagan and Wexler (1987), Gillespie et al. (1977), Kratcoski and Kratcoski (1982), McCord (1983), Owen and Straus (1975), and Widom (1989). These researchers concluded that there is a relationship between child abuse and subsequent delinquency, that is, these two variables are dependent upon one another. However, the findings of this study indicate an independence between child abuse and type of subsequent delinquency, either violent or non-violent. This finding is inconsistent with the findings of Alfaro (1981) and Owen and Straus (1975). These researchers concluded that child abuse victims were more violent than non-abuse victims.

**Research Question 7: Is the alleged relationship between child abuse and subsequent delinquency affected by demographic characteristics such as race and age of onset of abuse?**

Research question 7 focuses on the effect of race on delinquency. Although previous analysis indicated that child abuse and type of subsequent delinquency are independent, the researcher surmised that certain control variables such as race and age of onset may affect this relationship. The following section will examine the effects of race on this relationship.

As previously stated, there is a disproportionate representation of races within the three facilities. Whites constitute 45.7% of the research population, while Blacks are 34.3%, Hispanics are 5.7%, Native Americans are 2.9%, and "others" are 11.4%. These percentages of the population compared with the current population from the 1990 Michigan Census indicates an under representation of Whites by 35.7% and an over representation of Blacks and Hispanics by 20.3% and 3.5%, respectively. Analysis of the

respondents' race may somehow affect the relationship between child abuse and the type of delinquency.

**Table 24: Cross tabulation of Child Abuse and Type of Subsequent Delinquency for White Respondents**

child abuse	type of crime		totals
	violent	non - violent	
yes	8	5	(13) 81.3%
no	3	0	(3) 18.8%
totals	(11) 68.8%	(5) 31.3%	(16) 100%

Out of the 16 White respondents, 13 (81.3%) were physically or sexually abused while 18.8% responded that they had not been abused. The above cross tabulation also shows that 68.8% of the White respondents were adjudicated for a violent crime and only 5 White respondents (31.3%) were adjudicated for a non-violent offense. To examine the dependence between child abuse and delinquency while controlling for White race, Fischer's Exact Test was used due to one cell of the cross tabulation equaling zero. The level of probability using Fischer's two tailed test is .508 which determines that the relationship is not statistically significant. A Phi value was computed to determine the strength of the relationship although the relationship is not statistically significant. The Phi value is .323 which indicates that there is some degree of strength between the variables of child abuse and delinquency when controlling for the White race. Although when controlling for White race the relationship between child abuse and delinquency is not statistically significant, there does appear to be some strength between them based upon the phi value of .323. The fact that the relationship is not statistically significant may be affected by the relatively small sample size.

**Table 25: Cross tabulation of Child Abuse and Type of Subsequent Delinquency for Black Respondents**

	type of crime		
child abuse	violent	non - violent	totals
yes	5	0	(5) 41.7%
no	5	2	(7) 58.3%
totals	(10) 83.3%	(2) 16.7%	(12) 100%

The above cross tabulation examines the relationship between child abuse and the type of subsequent delinquency for Black respondents. In total, there were 12 Black respondents (34.3%). The above table shows that 5 Black respondents (41.7%) responded that they were abused while 7 (58.3%) were not abused. The table also shows that 10 Black respondents were adjudicated for violent crimes and 5 of these violent respondents had been abused and 5 had not been abused. Again Fischer's Exact Test was employed due to cells of the cross tabulation being less than the required number of five. The probability level calculated by using Fischer's two tailed exact test is .469 which determines that the relationship is not statistically significant. The fact that the relationship is not statistically significant may be due to the sample size as it is proven that Chi square is affected by the sample size. Therefore, the probability level may have decreased had the sample size been larger. A Phi value was calculated to determine the strength of the relationship although it is not statistically significant. The Phi value is .377 indicating that there is some relative strength between child abuse and delinquency when controlling for Black race. This Phi value of .377 is slightly higher than the .323 Phi value calculated for the White race. Therefore, there is a slightly stronger relationship based upon Phi values

between child abuse and subsequent delinquency for Black respondents than for White respondents.

**Table 26: Cross tabulation of Child Abuse and Type of Subsequent Delinquency for "Other" Race Respondents**

child abuse	type of crime		totals
	violent	non - violent	
yes	4	2	(6) 85.7%
no	1	0	(1) 14.3%
totals	(5) 71.4%	(2) 28.6%	(7) 100%

Table 26 is a cross tabulation between child abuse and type of subsequent delinquency for the "other" category of race. As previously stated, Hispanics and Native Americans were combined into this category for the purpose of analysis. There is a total of 7 respondents who were either Hispanic, Native American, or "other". Six of the 7 (85.7%) indicated that they were abused. Investigating the type of subsequent delinquency, 5 respondents (71.4%) were adjudicated for a violent offense while 2 (28.6%) were adjudicated for a non-violent offense. Again, Fischer's two tail exact test was used to calculate dependence between child abuse and delinquency when controlling for "other" race. The level of probability from Fisher test is 1.00 which indicates that the relationship is not statistically significant, in fact, they are independent. A Phi value was also calculated to determine the strength of the relationship between the two variables. The Phi value is .258 which determines a very weak relationship between the variables of child abuse and delinquency when controlling for "other" race. The Phi value of .258 for "other" race is the smallest Phi value in comparison to White and Black.

Therefore, using race as a control variable has not shown dependence between child abuse and the type of subsequent delinquency at any level. However, the Phi value of .323 and .377 for the White and Black races, respectively, are comparable. These Phi values indicate that there is some degree of relationship between child abuse and subsequent delinquency when controlling for race for this sample, although the relationship is not statistically significant. The lack of statistical significance may be due to the small sample size. It is well known that Chi square is affected by the sample size. Thus had the sample been larger the findings may have shown a statistically significant relationship between child abuse and delinquency.

The above findings suggest that race does have a slight effect upon the relationship between child abuse and delinquency. This finding is inconsistent with the findings of Widom (1989). She concluded that there is a higher propensity among the Black race to be abused and subsequently violent. However, this research shows comparable values for both White and Black respondents when investigating the relationship between child abuse and subsequent delinquency.

Research Question 7 focused on the effect of age on subsequent delinquency. Although the present data shows a difference of percentages, indicating a relationship between child abuse and subsequent delinquency, the researcher introduced other control variables to examine any possible changes in the original relationship. The next section will investigate the effects that the age of onset for the abuse, either physical or sexual, may have upon the relationship between prior child abuse and subsequent delinquency.

It was assumed that the age of onset for the abuse could affect the relationship. This assumption is derived from theoretical framework which states that the earlier the exposure of a child to certain behavior, for example abusive behavior, then the higher the likelihood of internalizing and emulating that behavior. Although the researcher found no statistical relationship between child abuse and type of subsequent delinquency, the



researcher will still explore whether introducing variables such as age of onset will alter this picture.

**Research Question 7: Is the alleged relationship between child abuse and subsequent delinquency affected by demographic characteristics such as age of onset of abuse?**

**Table 27: Cross tabulation of Age of Onset for Abused Respondents and Type of Subsequent Delinquency**

	age of onset		
crime	1 thru 6	7 and older	totals
violent	8	7	(15) 68.2%
non - violent	4	3	(7) 31.8%
totals	(12) 54.5%	(10) 45.5%	(22) 100%

Table 27 presents the findings of the age of onset for abuse and the type of subsequent delinquency. In total, there were 23 respondents who reported being abused. There are a total of 22 respondents who responded to this question. One respondent who was abused did not indicate the age at which this began. Table 27 shows that 12 respondents (54.4%) were abused between the age of 1 and 6 while 10 (45.5%) were abused after the age of 6. The table also shows that 15 respondents (68.2%) were adjudicated for violent crimes while 7 (31.8%) were adjudicated for non-violent crimes. Of those 15 respondents who were violent delinquents, 8 (36.4%) were abused between 1 and 6 while 7 (31.8%) were abused after the age of 6. Of the 7 non-violent delinquents, 4 (18.2%) were abused between 1 and 6 years of age, while 3 (13.6%) were abused after 6 years of age.

Due to two of the cells being less than the required five respondents, Fischer's Exact test was used to determine if there is dependence between the age of onset for abuse and the type of delinquency. The probability level of Fischer's Exact Test using the two tail method is 1.00 which indicates that age of onset for abuse and type of delinquency are not dependent upon each other, in fact, they are independent of each other. Chi square results are affected by the sample size thus it is likely that had the sample size been larger than age of onset may have affected the original relationship. The Phi statistic was calculated to examine the strength of the relationship between child abuse and delinquency. The calculated Phi value is .035 indicating that the relationship is almost non-existent.

Although the researcher determined that there is no relationship between child abuse and type of subsequent delinquency, certain control variables have been examined to determine if these variables may have an effect upon the original relationship. These control variables have not changed the original lack of relationship between child abuse and type of subsequent delinquency. In the following pages, the researcher will examine the likely impact of frequency of prior abuse on the original relationship between child abuse and type of subsequent delinquency.

**Research Question 8: Is the alleged relationship between prior child abuse and subsequent delinquency affected by the frequency of the abuse?**

**Table 28: Cross tabulation for Frequency of the Abuse and the Type of Subsequent Delinquency**

	Frequency of abuse		totals
	more times than weekly	weekly or less	
crime			
violent	11	5	(16) 69.5%
non - violent	5	2	(7) 30.5%
totals	(16) 69.6%	(7) 30.4%	(23) 100%

The above table displays the findings on relationship of frequency of abuse and the type of subsequent delinquency. In total, there are 23 respondents who were abused and who indicated the frequency of occurrence for the abuse. The respondents were combined into two categories. These categories included the respondents who were abused "more times than weekly" and respondents who were abused "weekly or less frequently". Sixteen respondents (69.6%) were abused "more than weekly", whereas 7 (30.4%) were abused "weekly or less". From the 16 respondents who had the abuse occur "more times than weekly", 11 (68.8%) were adjudicated for a violent crime while 5 (31.3%) were adjudicated for a non-violent offense. Of the 7 respondents who were abused "weekly or less frequent", 5 (71.4%) were adjudicated for a violent crime and 2 (28.6%) were adjudicated for a non-violent crime.

Chi square statistic was computed to determine dependence between the frequency of occurrence of the abuse and the type of subsequent delinquency. Due to one of the cells being less than the required five, Fischer's Exact Test was calculated to determine

dependence between frequency of abuse and type of delinquency. Using the two tail result of Fischer's Exact Test the probability level is 1.00, which indicates that the relationship between frequency of abuse and delinquency is not statistically significant and the two variables are not dependent upon each other. This result may in part be due to the small sample size. Therefore, a Phi value was calculated to measure the degree of strength between these two variables. The Phi value is .026 which indicates that there is not much strength between the frequency of abuse and delinquency. This Phi value is lower than the original Phi value indicating that frequency of abuse does not affect the relationship of child abuse and subsequent delinquency.

The theoretical framework indicates that the learning of criminal or abusive behaviors is affected by the frequency of occurrence. However, the above finding that frequency of occurrence of abuse does not affect the relationship between child abuse and delinquency for this sample is contrary to the theoretical framework. This finding is also inconsistent with past research conducted by Fagan and Wexler (1987) and Gillespie et al. (1977). These researchers concluded that the frequency of occurrence increases the acceptance of the abusive behavior and its manifestation through delinquency.

**Research Question 8: Is the alleged relationship between prior child abuse and subsequent delinquency affected by the intensity of the abuse?**

Research question 8 also asks if the intensity of the child abuse affects the relationship between child abuse and type of subsequent delinquency. For the purpose of this research, the intensity of the abuse was determined as the number of perpetrators of abuse the adolescent was exposed to. Although the relationship between child abuse and subsequent delinquency for this sample is not statistically significant, the researcher will present analysis of the intensity of the abuse to determine the effects that this variable may

have upon the relationship. In the following section, the results of analysis for intensity of child abuse are presented.

**Table 29: Frequency Distribution of Intensity of Child Abuse**

<u>X. Number</u>	<u>f</u>	<u>%</u>
1	4	17.3
2	9	39.1
3	5	21.7
4	3	13.0
<u>5</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>8.6</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>100</b>

The above frequency distribution displays the number of abusers for each abused respondent. The range of abusers is 1 to 5 abusers with a modal value of 2 abusers. Similar to the age of onset for abuse and frequency of abuse, the intensity of abuse predisposes that the respondent was abused. Therefore, the non-abused cases are dropped from analysis. In order to examine if intensity has any effect, the researcher prepared a cross tabulation of intensity of the child abuse and delinquency, while computing Chi square and Phi for the cross tabulation.

**Table 30: Cross tabulation of Subsequent Delinquency and Intensity of the Child Abuse**

<b>crime</b>	<b>intensity of abuse</b>		<b>totals</b>
	<b>1 or 2 abusers</b>	<b>3 or more abusers</b>	
<b>violent</b>	8	8	(16) 69.5%
<b>non - violent</b>	5	2	(7) 30.5%
<b>totals</b>	(13) 56.5%	(10) 43.4%	(23) 100%

Table 30 is a cross tabulation of type of subsequent delinquency and the intensity of the child abuse for the 23 respondents in the abuse sub-sample. For the purpose of this analysis, the respondents were divided into two categories, 1 and 2 abusers or 3 and more abusers. There are 13 respondents (56.5%) who were abused by 1 or 2 individuals while 10 (43.4%) were abused by 3 or more abusers. Also from the above table, there are 16 respondents (69.5%) who were adjudicated for a violent crime while 7 (30.5%) were adjudicated for a non-violent crime. Of the 16 violent delinquents, 8 (34.7%) had 1 or 2 abusers while 8 (34.7%) were abused by 3 or more individuals. Of the 7 non-violent delinquents, 5 (71.4%) had 1 or 2 abusers while 2 (11.5%) were abused by 3 or more. Due to one cell being less than five, Fischer's Exact test was used to calculate the level of probability. The level of probability is .652 which indicates that this relationship is not statistically significant and the variables are not dependent. A Phi value was calculated to determine the strength of the two variables. The Phi value is .170 which is about equal to the Phi value of .116 for child abuse and delinquency. Thus, intensity of abuse has little effect upon the relationship between child abuse and subsequent delinquency for this research sample.

The findings indicate that the intensity of the abuse and delinquency are not dependent upon each other and that they are not statistically significant. However, this may have been different had the sample size been larger. The Phi value for intensity of abuse indicates that this variable has the strongest effect of the control variables upon the relationship than either the age of onset or the frequency of abuse.

As stated in the preceding pages both bivariate and multivariate analysis show no statistically significant effect of prior child abuse experience or subsequent delinquency. Nonetheless, this researcher surmised that failure to distinguish between types of abuse may have masked the possible effect of abuse on delinquency. Accordingly, the researcher proceeded to examine if children are likely to exhibit delinquent behavior depending on whether they had experienced physical or sexual abuse. Secondly, the researcher sought to determine if there is a variation in types of delinquent conduct depending on the variables on type of abuse. The results of these analyses will be presented in the next pages.

### Physical Abuse and Subsequent Delinquency

The first pertinent research question (#3) asked: " Are those children who are physically abused more likely to commit violent, aggressive behavior than those children who are not physically abused?" As previously stated, there are two operationalizations of physical abuse. The first level is accidental abuse which occurs under the guise of discipline, when a parent overreacts to the child's behavior, thus causing an injury to the child. The second level involves the classic case of abuse, that is, intentional or non-accidental infliction of physical injury. Delinquency included violent crimes and non-violent crimes. In this study, the crimes of murder, rape, assault, battery, robbery, and arson are considered violent crimes, whereas the crimes of prostitution, theft, incorrigibility, and drug abuse are considered non-violent crimes.

As previously stated, all the respondents have been adjudicated for a crime which eliminates the use of Chi square to determine dependence between physical abuse and delinquency. Therefore, when examining if physical abuse is related to delinquency, the difference of percentage between physical abuse victims and physical abuse non-victims is examined. There was 62.9% of the respondents who were physically abused compared to 37.1% of the respondents who were not physically abused. Thus, there is a difference of 25.8% higher for physical abuse respondents than non-physical abuse respondents. Therefore, there is a relationship between physical abuse and delinquency based on the percentages of respondents who were physically abused or not physically abused.

**Table 31: Cross tabulation of Physical Abuse and Type of Subsequent Delinquency**

	physical abuse		
crime	yes	no	totals
violent	17	9	(26) 74.3%
non - violent	5	4	(9) 25.7%
totals	(22) 62.9%	(13) 37.1%	(35) 100%

Table 31 shows that 62.9% of the respondents were physically abused while 37.1% were not abused. Also from the above table, 74.3% of the respondents were adjudicated for a violent crime, whereas 25.7% were adjudicated for a non-violent crime. In sum, 77.2% (17) physically abused respondents had a violent crime adjudication while 22.7% (5) of the physically abused respondents had a non-violent crime adjudication. In summary, 48% of the research population was physically abused and was later involved in violent crime. However, 34.6% of the research population that was not physically abused



had subsequent violent crime adjudication. There is 74.3% of the respondents who were adjudicated for violent crime, however 34% of these respondents were not physically abused. With to 34% of the respondents having not been physically abused but they have a violent crime adjudication, it is suggested that physical abuse does not lead an individual to be violent.

When Fischer's Exact test was run, it gave a probability level of .598, thus suggesting that the relationship is not statistically significant. In other words, there is no dependence between physical abuse and violent, aggressive crimes. A Phi value was calculated to determine the strength of this relationship between physical abuse and violent, aggressive crimes. The Phi value is .088 which indicates that the strength of the relationship is very weak. Although a statistically significant relationship was not established for physical abuse and violent, aggressive crimes, the researcher still controlled for the effects of race, age of onset for the physical abuse, frequency of the abuse, intensity of the abuse, and protective factors to determine if these variables have an effect on the relationship between physical abuse and violent, aggressive crimes. In the following pages, the results of analysis of the control variables will be presented.

**Research Question 7: Is the alleged relationship between prior physical abuse and violent, aggressive crimes affected by demographic characteristics such as race and age of onset of abuse?**

Research question 7 focused on the effect of race on the relationship between child abuse and subsequent delinquency. It has already been established in this research population that there is a disproportionality between the races. Although previous analysis has concluded that there is no relationship between physical abuse and violent, aggressive crimes, the researcher examined the effects of race upon the relationship between physical

abuse and violent, aggressive crimes to determine if there is a masking effect within the relationship.

**Table 32: Cross tabulation of Physical Abuse and Type of Subsequent Delinquency for White Respondents**

crime	physical abuse		totals
	yes	no	
violent	8	3	(11) 68.8%
non - violent	3	2	(5) 31.3%
totals	(11) 68.8%	(5) 31.3%	(16) 100%

The above table is a cross tabulation of physical abuse and violent, aggressive crimes when controlling for race. Table 32 is a cross tabulation for White respondents. In total, there are 16 White respondents. Eleven (68.8%) White respondents were physically abused and 5 (31.3%) were not physically abused. Eight physically abused White respondents (50%) were adjudicated for a violent crime whereas 3 respondents who were not physically abused were adjudicated for a violent crime. However, 3 physically abused White respondents (18.7%) were adjudicated for a non-violent crime and 2 respondents who were not physically abused were adjudicated for a non-violent crime.

The Fischer's Exact Test gave a probability level of 1.00 thus showing that the relationship between physical abuse and violent, aggressive crimes for White respondents is not statistically significant. The variables physical abuse and violent, aggressive crimes for White respondents are independent of each other. A Phi value was calculated to determine the strength of the relationship between physical abuse and violent, aggressive crimes for White respondents. The Phi value is .127 which indicates that the relationship

is a weak relationship. The fact that the relationship is not statistically significant may be due to the relatively small sample size which limits the use of Chi square. Therefore, when controlling for race, specifically White respondents, there was an effect to the relationship between physical abuse and violent, aggressive crimes. When comparing the original Phi value of .088 for physical abuse and violent, aggressive crimes with the Phi value of .127 for White respondents the relationship becomes somewhat stronger.

**Table 33: Cross tabulation of Physical Abuse and Type of Subsequent Delinquency for Black Respondents**

	physical abuse		
crime	yes	no	totals
violent	5	5	(10) 83.3%
non - violent	0	2	(2) 16.7%
totals	(5) 41.7%	(7) 58.3%	(12) 100%

Table 33 is a cross tabulation of physical abuse and type of subsequent delinquent involvement when controlling for race. The above table is for Black respondents. There is a total of 12 Black respondents. From the above table, 5 (41.7%) were physically abused while 7 (58.3%) were not physically abused. Five physically abused Black respondents (41.6%) were adjudicated for a violent crime and five Black respondents who were not physically abused were adjudicated for a violent crime. Finally, two Black respondents (16%) who were not physical abuse victims were adjudicated for a non-violent crime. Fischer's exact test gave a probability level of .469, thus suggesting that the relationship is not statistically significant. A Phi value was calculated to determine the degree of strength for this relationship. The Phi value is .377 which indicates that there is

some strength to the relationship for Black respondents. Furthermore, the Phi value of .377 is much higher than the original Phi value of .088 and the Phi value of .127 for White respondents. Therefore, the relationship between physical abuse and violent, aggressive crimes for Black respondents is stronger than for White respondents.

**Table 34: Cross tabulation of Physical Abuse and Type of Subsequent Delinquency for "Other" Race Respondents**

crime	physical abuse		totals
	yes	no	
violent	4	1	(5) 71.4%
non - violent	2	0	(2) 28.6%
totals	(6) 85.7%	(1) 14.3%	(7) 100%

Table 34 is a cross tabulation of physical abuse and violent, aggressive crimes for "other" race respondents. Hispanic and Native American respondents were combined with respondents who responded "other" for the purpose of analysis. In total, there are 7 respondents who fall within this category. Six of the 7 respondents (85.7%) were physically abused. In regards to criminal involvement, 5 respondents (71.4%) were adjudicated for a violent crime while 2 (28.6%) were adjudicated for a non-violent crime. Four of the physically abused respondents (57.1%) were adjudicated for violent offense while 2 physically abused (28.5%) were adjudicated for a non-violent crime. There was 1 respondent who was not physically abused but yet adjudicated for violent crime. Fischer's Exact test gave a probability level of 1.00 which suggests that there is no statistical significance for the "other" race. This determines that there is no dependence between physical abuse and violent, aggressive crimes when controlling for "other" race. A Phi

value was calculated to determine the strength of the relationship, although it is not statistically significant. The Phi value is .258 which indicates some strength for the relationship between physical abuse and violent, aggressive crimes for the "other" race. This .258 Phi value is not as high as the .377 Phi value for Black respondents although it is higher than the original Phi value of .088 and the .127 Phi value for White respondents.

The results of analysis indicate that controlling for race does have an effect upon the relationship between physical abuse and violent, aggressive crimes. The effect is most noticeable for the Black respondents for which the relationship becomes stronger based upon the original Phi value of .088 and the Phi value of .377 for Black respondents. The "other" race category also experienced a stronger relationship, although the increase in strength is not as strong; a Phi of .258 compared to a Phi of .088. However, none of the relationships were statistically significant. This may have resulted from the relatively small sample size. This finding of a stronger relationship for physical abuse and violent, aggressive delinquency for Black respondents is consistent with prior research conducted by Widom (1989). In her research, Widom concluded that there is a higher propensity among Blacks to be abused and subsequently violent.

Research Question 7 also indicates that the alleged relationship between prior physical abuse and violent, aggressive crimes may be affected by the age of onset for abuse. Although there is no statistical dependence between physical abuse and violent, aggressive crimes, the researcher still examined the effects of age of onset. The age of onset is when the child was first exposed to abusive behaviors.

This analysis was limited only to respondents who claimed to have been victimized and reported an age of onset. The following cross tabulation displays age of onset for physical abuse and subsequent delinquent involvement to help determine whether the age of onset of abuse is likely to incline the victim to delinquency.

**Table 35: Cross tabulation of Age of Onset for Physical Abuse and Type of Subsequent Delinquency for Abused Respondents**

	age of onset physical abuse for		
crime	1 thru 6	7 and older	totals
violent	9	6	(15) 75%
non - violent	2	3	(5) 25%
totals	(11) 55%	(9) 45%	(20) 100%

Twenty of twenty-two (22) physically abused respondents answered this question. Eleven respondents (55%) identified ages of 1 thru 6 as when the abuse began, while 9 (45%) were physically abused after the age of 7. The table also displays the type of subsequent delinquency for physically abused respondents. Fifteen respondents (75%) were adjudicated for a violent offense while 5 (25%) were adjudicated for a non-violent offense. Nine of the 15 violent offenders (60%) were physically abused between the ages of 1 thru 6 while 6 of the physically abused respondents (40%) were abused after the age of 7. Of the 5 non-violent delinquents, 2 (40%) had been abused between the ages of 1 and 6 while 3 (60%) had been abused after the age of 7.

The result of Fischer's Exact test gave a level of probability of .616 suggesting no statistical significance between physical abuse and violent, aggressive crimes when controlling for the age of onset. The lack of statistical significance may be reflective of the small sample size as the sample size affects the results of Chi square. A Phi value was calculated to determine the strength of the relationship even though there is not statistical significance. The Phi value is .174 which indicates a weak relationship. This Phi value of

.174 is slightly higher than the original Phi value of .088 for physical abuse and violent, aggressive crimes, thus indicating a small increase of strength of the relationship. Therefore for this sample, age of onset does have a slight effect upon the relationship between physical abuse and violent, aggressive crimes, although this relationship is not determined to be statistically significant.

**Research Question 8: Is the alleged relationship between prior physical abuse and subsequent delinquency affected by the frequency of the abuse?**

Research question 8 suggests that the frequency of the physical abuse may have an effect upon the relationship between physical abuse and subsequent delinquency. The response categories included: "everyday", "more than once a day", "more than once a week", or "other". These answers were combined to form "every day", "more than weekly", and "less than weekly" for the purpose of analysis. Therefore, in order to examine the effects that frequency has upon the relationship of physical abuse and violent, aggressive crimes a cross tabulation of frequency and subsequent delinquency was computed.

**Table 36: Cross tabulation of Frequency of Physical Abuse and Type of Subsequent Delinquency for Abused Respondents**

crime	Frequency of physical abuse			totals
	every day	more than weekly	less than weekly	
violent	2	9	5	(16) 76.2%
non - violent	0	3	2	(5) 23.8%
totals	(2) 9.5%	(12) 57.1%	(7) 33.3%	(21) 100%

Twenty-one (21) out of 22 physically abused respondents answered this question concerning frequency of abuse. There were 2 physically abused respondent who responded that they were physically abused "every day". Both these respondents had a violent crime adjudication. Twelve physically abused respondents (57.1%) replied they were abused "more than weekly". Of these 12, 9 (75%) had a violent crime adjudication. Finally, 7 physically abused respondents (33.3%) responded that they were abused "less than weekly". Of these 7 respondents, 5 (71.4%) had a violent crime adjudication.

The Chi square value was .721 with a probability level of .697, thus suggesting that there is no statistical significance among the variables. This indicates that the variables are independent of each other. Lambda was calculated to determine the level of association between frequency of physical abuse and subsequent delinquency. The lambda value is .000 which indicates that when knowing the frequency of physical abuse there is likelihood to make the same number of errors when trying to guess if the respondents were violent or non-violent, whether knowing or not knowing the attributes. This lambda value and the Chi square result indicate that there is independence between the frequency of abuse and violent, aggressive crimes.

This finding that frequency of abuse does not affect the relationship between physical abuse and delinquency is inconsistent with prior research conducted by Fagan and Wexler (1987). These researchers concluded that the frequency of occurrence of a



behavior causes an increased acceptance of the behavior by an individual. Thus, the more frequent the occurrence of abuse, the higher the acceptance of being abusive. Fagan and Wexler's research sample only interviewed violent juvenile delinquents as opposed to this research, which surveyed violent and non-violent. The researcher believes that the different subjects leads to the discrepancy between findings concerning frequency of abuse.

**Research Question 8: Is the alleged relationship between prior physical abuse and subsequent delinquency affected by the intensity of the abuse?**

Research question 8 indicates that the intensity of the physical abuse may have an impact upon the relationship between physical abuse and violent, aggressive crimes. For the purpose of this research, the intensity of the abuse was calculated as the total number of abusers for each physically abused respondent.

**Table 37: Cross tabulation of Intensity of Physical Abuse and Type of Subsequent Delinquency for Abused Respondents.**

crime	Intensity of physical abuse		totals
	1 or 2 abusers	3 or more abusers	
violent	3	14	(17) 77.3%
non - violent	3	2	(5) 22.7%
<b>totals</b>	<b>(6) 27.3%</b>	<b>(16) 72.7%</b>	<b>(22) 100%</b>

Table 37 is a cross tabulation of the intensity of the physical abuse and type of delinquent involvement for physically abused respondents. For the purpose of this

research, the intensity of the abuse was determined as the total number of abusers for each abused respondents. The range of abusers is 1 to 5 abusers with a modal value of 2 abusers. For the purpose of analysis, abusers were combined into two categories, 1 or 2 abusers and 3 or more abusers. Six physically abused respondents (27.3%) were abused by one or two individuals. Three of these six respondents were adjudicated for a violent crime while three were adjudicated for a non-violent crime. Sixteen physically abused respondents (72.7%) who were abused by 3 or more perpetrators. Of these 16, 14 (87.5%) were violent and 2 (12.5%) were non-violent offenders. The findings show that the majority of respondents (87.5%) with 3 or more abusers had a violent adjudication which lends support to the relationship between age of onset and violent, aggressive crimes.

The Chi square Fischer's Exact test gave a probability level of .100 which suggests a statistically significant relationship at the .10 alpha level. The Phi value was .398 which suggested a relatively strong effect of intensity on the relationship. The strength of the relationship is also evident by the difference of proportions among 1 or 2 abusers who were violent (50%) and 3 or more abusers who were violent (87.5%). These data suggest that abused children are likely to manifest violent subsequent delinquency if they were exposed to multiple abusers. In other words, the more abusers, meaning the more intense the abuse, the more likely the respondent was to become violent.

**Research Question 6: Are there protective factors which may prevent an abused child from acting out through delinquency?**

The intent here was to determine if certain protective factors are likely to prevent an abused child from acting out through delinquency. To determine the extent of these factors the researcher asked respondents to indicate if they ever saw a doctor, a therapist, or a protective service worker after the abuse experience. The researcher surmised that

such treatment interventions may mitigate the effect of abuse and minimize the chances of violent delinquency among abuse victims. Therefore, the researcher investigated the response to physical abuse by the respondents and compared these responses with the type of crime, that is, either violent or non-violent, the respondent was adjudicated for.

**Table 38: Frequency Distribution of Respondents who used Interventions after Physical Abuse**

<u>X. Intervention</u>	<u>f</u>	<u>%</u>
yes	7	31.8
no	15	68.2
TOTAL	22	100

Table 38 presents the number of respondents who benefited from some form of intervention through the courts or their personal physician. Only 7 respondents (31.8%) reported having had such interventions while 68.2% did not. The researcher also examined the type of crime that these 7 respondents were adjudicated for. Surprisingly, all 7 respondents were adjudicated for a violent offense. Therefore, obtaining help or intervention does not keep an adolescent from acting out through delinquency.

### Sexual Abuse and Delinquency

Previous analysis suggest no statistically significant relationship between child abuse and subsequent delinquency or physical abuse and violent, aggressive crimes for this research population. In the following section, findings of analysis are presented as they relate to the alleged relationship between child sexual abuse and subsequent sexual crimes.

**Research Question 3: Are those children who are sexually abused more likely to commit sexual crimes than those children who are not sexually abused?**

For the purpose of this research those respondents who indicated that they were sexually "harmed" by an adult were considered to be sexually abused. Additionally, those respondents who were adjudicated for criminal sexual conduct, csc I, II, III, or IV, were considered to be sexually delinquent. Analysis was then conducted for these two variables to determine if there is a relationship between child sexual abuse and sexual crimes based on recent adjudications.

**Table 39: Cross tabulation of Sexual Abuse and Sexual Delinquency**

sexual crime	sexual adjudication		totals
	yes	no	
yes	4	6	(10) 28.6%
no	3	22	(25) 71.4%
totals	(7) 20%	(28) 80%	(35) 100%

The above table shows that ten respondents (28.6%) were sexually victimized as children whereas 25 respondents were not victims of child sexual abuse. Also from the above table, 7 respondents (20%) were adjudicated for a sexual crime while 28 (80%) were not adjudicated for a sexual crime. Four of the ten sexual abuse victims (40%) were adjudicated for a sexual crime whereas 6 sexually victimized respondents (60%) were not adjudicated for any sexual crime. Three respondents (8.5%) were adjudicated for a sexual offense, however, they had not been sexually abused. There were 22 respondents who indicated they were neither sexually abused nor adjudicated for a sexual crime.

Fischer's Exact test gave a probability level of .171, thus showing that the relationship between sexual abuse and sexual delinquency is not statistically significant. A Phi value was calculated to determine the strength of the relationship although there is not any dependence between variables. The Phi value is .276 which indicates that there is a weak relationship between variables, although it is not very strong for this sample.

The researcher investigated the effects of certain control variables to determine if they have any effect upon this relationship which may have been masked in the original relationship. Control variables such as race, age of onset for sexual abuse, frequency of abuse, intensity of abuse, and protective factors were examined. In the following pages, the results of analysis of these control variables are presented to examine their effects upon the relationship between child sexual abuse and sexual delinquency.

**Research Question 7: Is the relationship between prior child abuse and subsequent delinquency affected by demographic characteristics such as race?**

**Table 40: Cross tabulation of Sexual Abuse and Sexual Adjudications for White Respondents**

sexual crime	sexual adjudication		totals
	yes	no	
yes	3	1	(4) 25%
no	4	8	(12) 75%
totals	(7) 43.8%	(9) 56.3%	(16) 100%

The above table is a cross tabulation of sexual abuse and sexual adjudication when controlling for race, specifically White respondents. There are 16 White respondents, 7

(43.8%) who were sexually abused and 9 (56.3) who were not sexually abused. Also, of those 16 White respondents, 4 (25%) were adjudicated for a sexual crime and 12 (75%) were not adjudicated for a sexual offense. Three sexually abused White respondents were adjudicated for a sexual crime, while 4 sexually abused respondents were not adjudicated for any sexual crime. Also, one White respondent was adjudicated for a sexual crime but yet was not sexually abused. There were 8 White respondents who were not sexually abused nor were they adjudicated for a sexual crime.

Fischer's Exact test gave a probability level of .261, thus suggesting that the relationship between sexual abuse and sexual adjudication for White respondents is not statistically significant. A Phi value was calculated to measure the degree of association between these two variables for White respondents. The Phi value is .363 which suggests a small amount of strength between these sexual abuse and sexual delinquency for White respondents. This Phi value of .363 is higher than the original Phi of .276 without controlling for race. Therefore, controlling for race does have a slight effect upon the relationship between sexual abuse and sexual delinquency.

**Table 41: Cross tabulation of Sexual Abuse and Sexual Adjudications for Black Respondents**

sexual crime	sexual adjudication		totals
	yes	no	
yes		1	(1) 8.3%
no	23	9	(11) 91.2%
totals	(2) 16.7%	(10) 83.3%	(12) 100%

Table 41 is a cross tabulation of sexual abuse and sexual adjudication when controlling for the race. Table 40 shows the result of the Black respondents. There are 12 Black respondents, 2 (16.7%) who were sexually abused and 10 (83.3%) who were not sexually abused. There was 1 respondent (8.3%) who was adjudicated for a sexual crime while 11 (91.7%) were not adjudicated. Zero Black respondents were sexually abused and adjudicated for a sexual crime however there was one respondent who was adjudicated for a sexual crime but was not sexually abused. Two sexually abused Black respondents (16.6%) were not adjudicated for a sexual crime. The remaining 9 Black respondents (75%) indicated not being sexually abused and no adjudication for a sexual crime.

Fischer's Exact test gave a probability level of 1.00 thus suggesting that the relationship is not statistically significant. In fact, there is independence between the two variables. A Phi value was calculated to determine the degree of strength between sexual abuse and sexual crimes for Black respondents. The Phi value is .134 which indicates a weak relationship for Black respondents.

**Table 42: Cross tabulation of Sexual Abuse and Sexual Adjudications for "Other" Race Respondents**

sexual crime	sexual adjudication		totals
	yes	no	
yes	1	1	(2) 28.6%
no	1	4	(5) 71.4%
totals	(2) 28.2%	(5) 71.4%	(35) 100%

As explained earlier, Hispanics and Native Americans were combined into one category of race, "other", for the purpose of analysis. The above cross tabulation displays the results of those "other" respondents who were sexually victimized and adjudicated for a sexual crime. There are 7 respondents considered as "other", 2 (28.2%) were sexually abused and 5(71.4%) were not sexually abused. Of the 7 respondents, one was both sexually abused and adjudicated for a sexual crime and one was adjudicated for a sexual crime, however, was not sexually abused. Also, one respondent was sexually abused but not adjudicated for a sexual crime. The remaining 4 respondents had neither been sexually abused nor been adjudicated for a sexual crime.

Again, Fischer's Exact test gave a probability level of 1.00 thus suggesting that the relationship is not statistically significant. This indicates that the variables sexual abuse and sexual delinquency for the "other" race are independent of each other. The Phi value is .300 with a probability level of 1.00 suggest a weak relationship.

Therefore, race does have an effect on the relationship between prior sexual abuse and sexual delinquency. The relationship between sexual abuse and sexual delinquency is not statistically significant. However, the relationship does become a stronger relationship for specific races. This strength is based upon comparing Phi values with the original Phi value of .276. The Phi value for the White race is .363 and the Phi value for the "other" race is .300, both are higher than the original Phi value. Therefore, controlling for race does have an impact upon the relationship between sexual abuse and sexual delinquency.

**Research Question 7: Is the relationship between prior child abuse and subsequent delinquency affected by demographic characteristics such as age of onset?**

Past research by Longo (1981) concluded that the earlier the exposure to the sexual behavior the increased likelihood to be sexually deviant. Also, the theoretical



framework explains that the earlier the exposure the child has to a behavior the more likely the child is to acquire and internalize the behavior. The age of onset is the child's first exposure to the sexual abuse.

**Table 43: Cross tabulation of Age of Onset for Sexual Abuse and Type of Subsequent Delinquency for Sexually Abused Respondents**

	age of onset for	sexual crime	
sexual crime	1 thru 6	7 and older	totals
yes	2	2	(4) 40%
no	3	3	(6) 60%
totals	(5) 50%	(5) 50%	(10) 100%

Table 43 presents the findings on the effect of the age of onset on the relationship between sexual abuse and sexual delinquency. Ten respondents (28.6%) were sexually abused. The age range for respondents was 4-13 years. The mean value for the age of onset was 8.3 years of age. Of the 10 who were sexually abused, 5 (50%) were abused between the ages of 1 thru 6, while 5 (50%) were abused from 7 and older.

Fischer's Exact test gave a probability level of 1.00 thus suggesting that age of onset of abuse and sexual delinquency is not statistically significant. The Phi value is .069 which indicates that the relationship between age of onset and sexual delinquency is very weak. This finding is inconsistent with the findings of Longo (1981). Longo concluded that the earlier the exposure to sexual abuse and greater the likelihood to be sexually deviant. One reason for the discrepancy is Longo interviewed only sexually delinquent individuals who were residents of a sexual offender treatment program.

**Research Question 8: Is the alleged relationship between prior physical abuse and subsequent delinquency affected by the frequency and intensity of the abuse?**

In the following section the researcher will present analysis of the frequency and intensity of the sexual abuse to determine if these variables affect the relationship between prior child sexual abuse and subsequent sexual delinquency. As previously defined, the frequency of the abuse is the number of times the abuse occurred, that is, "every day", "more than once a day", "more than once a week", or "other". For the purposes of analysis, frequency was combined into three categories, every day, more than weekly, and less than weekly. The intensity of the sexual abuse was determined as the number of abusers to which the respondent was exposed. Therefore, the more the number of abusers the higher the intensity of the abuse.

**Table 44: Cross tabulation of Sexual Crimes and Frequency of Sexual Abuse for Sexually Abused Respondents**

crime	Frequency of sexualabuse			totals
	every day	more than weekly	less than weekly	
violent	1	2	1	(4) 40%
non - violent	0	3	3	(6) 60%
totals	(1) 10%	(5) 50%	(4) 40%	(10) 100%

Table 44 is a cross tabulation of sexual crimes and the frequency of sexual abuse for those respondents who were sexually abused. In total, 10 respondents were sexually abused. Four of these respondents (40%) were adjudicated for a sexual crime while 6 (60%) were not. One respondent (10%) replied that the sexual abuse occurred "every day", while 5 respondents (50%) indicated they were abused "more than weekly". Finally,

4 respondents (40%) indicated "less than weekly" as a response. The one respondent who indicated "every day" as a frequency was adjudicated for a sexual crime. From the five respondents who indicated "more than weekly", 2 respondents were adjudicated for a sexual crime while 3 were not. Finally, only one of the four respondents who replied "less than weekly" was adjudicated for a sexual crime.

The Chi square value was 1.87 with a probability level of .391. Given the probability level of .391, the relationship is not statistically significant. Lambda was calculated to measure the degree of association between sexual delinquency and frequency of abuse. The Lambda value is .250 which suggests that knowing the frequency of sexual abuse one could predict the likelihood of a sexual crime only 25% of the time. Therefore, frequency of sexual abuse has a weak effect on the relationship between sexual abuse and sexual delinquency for this sample.

**Research Question 8: Is the alleged relationship between prior physical abuse and subsequent delinquency affected by the intensity of the abuse?**

**Table 45: Cross tabulation of Sexual Delinquency and Intensity of Sexual Abuse for Sexually Abused Respondents**

	Intensity of sexual abuse		
sexual crime	1 or 2 abusers	3 or more abusers	totals
yes	2	2	(4) 40%
no	0	6	(6) 60%
totals	(2) 20%	(8) 80%	(10) 100%

Table 45 is a cross tabulation of sexual crimes and the intensity of the sexual abuse. The intensity of the sexual abuse is measured by the number of perpetrators, which are in categories of 1 or 2 abusers or 3 or more abusers. Ten respondents were sexually abused. The range of perpetrators was 2 to 5 with a modal value of 2. From the above table, 4 respondents (40%) committed sexual crimes while 6 (60%) did not. Of the four sexually delinquent respondents, 2 (50%) had 2 perpetrators while 2 (50%) had 3 or more perpetrators.

Fischer's Exact test gave a level of probability of .13 which indicates that there is slight statistical significance between sexual delinquency and intensity of abuse. In fact, had the sample size been larger than 10 it is quite possible that the level of probability would have decreased. The Phi value is .612 which indicates a moderate strength between sexual delinquency and intensity of abuse. This Phi value is also much higher than the original Phi value of .276 which was calculated for sexual abuse and sexual delinquency.

Therefore, intensity of abuse does have an effect upon the relationship of sexual abuse and sexual delinquency within this research sample. This finding of intensity is similar to the findings of intensity for physical abuse. Therefore, the higher the number of abusers the greater the likelihood to become delinquent.

### Other Delinquent Responses by Abused Respondents

**Research Question 5: Are there other delinquent or deviant responses to either prior physical or sexual abuse?**

In this section, the researcher examines the self report delinquency questions with a response scale of 1-5. The self report questions are Likert scored questions. The response categories are: "never", "1 or 2 times", "several times", "often", and "very often". The self report questions required the respondents to reveal crime information about themselves. The crimes included real crimes such as property crimes and drug involvement and status offenses such as vandalism and truancy. Property crimes included stealing or theft, stealing money from parents, stealing large amounts (\$50+), stealing cars, and joy riding. Vandalism involves defacing public or private property. The drug crimes consisted of drug use and sales by respondents. Analysis is conducted on the above mentioned crimes for both physically and sexually abused respondents.

**Table 46: Frequency of Respondents' Involvement with Property Crimes**

	<b>f</b>	<b>%</b>	
<b>1 or 2 times</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>14.3</b>	
<b>several times</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>22.9</b>	
<b>often</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>31.4</b>	
<b>very often</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>28.6</b>	<b>*1 missing case</b>
<b>totals</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>100</b>	

Table 46 examines the frequency of theft including stealing property or money. One respondent did not choose to answer the question. Twenty-one respondents indicated an involvement in a high number of these crimes as indicated by their answers of either "often" or "very often". The researcher examined those respondents who were physically abused and their involvement in property crimes. Of the 22 respondents who were physically abused, all 22 indicated that they committed at least one crime against property. Nineteen of the 22 respondents (86.3%) indicated that they were involved in property crimes at least "several times". When the responses for sexually abused victims were examined, the researcher found that most respondents indicated a low involvement of property crimes. These findings suggest that property crimes were more frequent among physically abused respondents than respondents who were sexually abused.

The researcher also examined the data for those respondents who admitted committing the status offense of vandalism. These crimes involve destroying or defacing public or private property such as breaking windows or street lights or throwing objects at others' property.

**Table 47: Frequency of Respondents' Involvement with Vandalism**

	<b>f</b>	<b>%</b>	
<b>1 or 2 times</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>28.6</b>	
<b>several times</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>31.4</b>	
<b>often</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>17.1</b>	
<b>very often</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>*1 missing case</b>
<b>totals</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>100</b>	

Table 47 shows that one respondent did not answer this question. Of 34 who answered, twenty-one respondents (60%) indicated that they committed some type of vandalism, however, the findings indicate a frequency of occurrence of either "1 or 2 times" or "several times". The remaining 37% indicate a high frequency of occurrence for vandalism crimes.

The researcher also examined data for respondents who were physically and sexually abused and the frequency of their involvement in vandalism. Of the 22 respondents who were physically abused, all indicated that they were involved in vandalism at least once. Furthermore, 18 physically abused respondents (81.8%) indicated that they were involved in vandalism "several times" or more. "Several times" was defined as more than 5. This is a high percentage of respondents who committed the offense of vandalism. Of the sexually abused respondents (10), all reported some involvement with vandalism. However, the majority of sexually abused respondents (70%) indicated a low frequency of occurrence, by answering either "1 or 2 times". In summary, there was a high number of respondents who were physically abused and had frequent involvement with vandalism as compared to sexually abused respondents who had less frequent involvement with crimes of vandalism. Therefore, physically abused respondents (81.8%) were more likely to have involvement with crimes of vandalism than sexually abused respondents (70%).

The other status offense that is investigated is truancy. Current day adolescents believe that it is acceptable to skip school and "hang out". However, skipping school is considered a status offense for adolescents and they can be adjudicated for this action.

**Table 48: Frequency of Respondents' Involvement with Truancy**

	f	%	
1 or 2 times	5	14.3	
several times	13	37.1	
often	8	22.9	
very often	8	22.9	*1 missing case
totals	35	100	

Table 48 presents the respondents' answers to how often they either ran away from home or they skipped school. Again, one respondent chose not to answer either question pertaining to truancy. Almost half of the respondents, that is, 45.8% indicated a frequency of either "often" or "very often" for truancy. There is also 37.1% who indicated that they were truant "several times".

When comparing the responses for physically or sexually abused respondents, 10 physically abused respondents replied "often" or "very often". Four sexual abuse respondents replied "often" or "very often", whereas 6 replied "several times". Therefore, the physically abused respondents were involved in being truant from home or school more often than those respondents who were sexually abused.

The researcher also investigated the findings of respondents' answers to drug use and sales. The drugs in question were marijuana, cocaine, LSD, and crack both for use and sales.



**Table 49: Frequency of Respondents' Involvement with Substances, either usage or sales**

	<b>f</b>	<b>%</b>	
<b>1 or 2 times</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>14.3</b>	
<b>several times</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>22.9</b>	
<b>often</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>31.4</b>	
<b>very often</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>28.6</b>	<b>*1 missing case</b>
<b>totals</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>100</b>	

The above table examines the respondents' answers to their involvement with either drug use or drug sales. One respondent did not answer this question. There are 34 respondents who indicated some type of involvement with substances. Twenty-one respondents (60%) indicated that they were involved either "often" or "very often". When examining the results of respondents who were physically or sexually abused, there was a relatively equal distribution of respondents for each category, meaning that there is no difference between physical abuse or sexual abuse respondents to engage in substance abuse crimes. Therefore, the type of abuse did not predispose a respondent to engage in drug use or sales.

The fifth research question asked if there were other delinquent responses for either prior physical or sexual abuse victims. The respondents answered affirmatively and indicated these responses include property crimes, vandalism, truancy, and substance abuse crimes. The physically abused respondents had a greater likelihood and frequency of occurrence for property crimes, vandalism, and truancy. However, there was an equal chance for physically or sexually abused respondents to be involved in substance abuse crimes, including either usage or sales.

## SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The purpose of this research was to examine the relationship between prior child abuse and subsequent delinquency. The study incorporated a theoretical framework for examining the learning and modeling of abusive behaviors and for understanding the alleged relationship between prior child abuse and subsequent delinquency. Several past researchers ( Fagan & Wexler (1987), Gillespie, Seaburg, and Berlin (1977), Kratcoski (1982), Kratcoski and Kratcoski (1982), Owen and Straus (1975), and Ryan (1991) have attempted to explain the relationship between child abuse and subsequent delinquency through the application of the social learning theory. The social learning theory is a powerful theoretical tool for explaining how an individual acquires behaviors through direct experience or observation and then models those acquired behaviors. In effect, the individual turns from victim to victimizer. These past researchers determined that a relationship between child abuse and subsequent delinquency exists. However, they also cautioned that the relationship is not direct, but is affected by other factors.

Thus, the researcher developed a theoretical explanation based on the social learning theory to examine the learning and modeling of abusive behaviors. The theoretical explanation examines how behaviors are learned, what provokes or instigates learned behaviors, and what maintains these learned behaviors. This theoretical framework provides the background for understanding why abused children have a propensity to become involved in delinquent activity.

In theory, behaviors are learned through direct experience or observation within an individual's environment. An individual pays attention to behaviors that appear to be rewarding or important. These rewarding behaviors are retained or internalized for future

use. These behaviors are invoked into action based on an outside stimulus which is either biological or cognitive. Biological stimuli include external threats, physical assaults, and verbal insults. These stimuli induce an emotional response by the individual to cope with the stimuli. Cognitive stimuli are when the individual has the mental capacity to recognize future consequences of a stimuli. These future consequences are influenced by observing others and observing past experience. Finally, the behaviors are maintained due to the reinforcement of the behavior. If the behavior is perceived as having positive results then ultimately it will be maintained. However, if the behavior is perceived as being negatively reinforced then it will cease to exist or be extinguished.

Therefore, the researcher proposed to use the social learning theory to examine the learning and modeling of abusive behaviors. The purpose was to determine if the type of delinquent activity varies according to the form of child abuse experienced by an adolescent. The researcher studied 35 delinquent adolescents at three Lower Michigan juvenile treatment facilities to examine the relationship between prior child abuse and subsequent delinquency. Specifically, the research questions included:

- 1) Is there a relationship between prior child abuse and subsequent delinquency?
- 2) Is there a relationship between prior child abuse the adolescent experienced and the type of subsequent delinquency?
- 3) Are those children who have been physically abused more likely to commit violent, aggressive crimes than those children who have not been physically abused?
- 4) Are those children who have been sexually abused more likely to commit sexual crimes than those children who have not been sexually abused?
- 5) Are there other delinquent or deviant responses to either prior physical or sexual abuse?
- 6) Are there protective factors which may prevent an abused child from acting out through delinquency?

7) Is the alleged relationship between prior child abuse and subsequent delinquency affected by demographic characteristics such as race and age of onset?

8) Is the alleged relationship between prior child abuse and subsequent delinquency affected by the frequency and intensity of the abuse?

The researcher used a survey design and a questionnaire instrument to gather data which address the respondents' prior abuse experience and their involvement in delinquency. The total population was 148 delinquent adolescents at three Lower Michigan juvenile facilities. Due to the University's ethical rules regarding juveniles, parental consent had to be obtained prior to obtaining a respondent's verbal assent to participate. Advance written notice was sent to prospective respondents' parents together with a request for consent to participate. Many parents failed to submit their consent. It can only be speculated that these parents were uninterested in the study, were apprehensive of what might be disclosed, or just did not care. Thus only 35 respondents for whom there was parental assent and respondent assent could be included in the study. The researcher did not randomly sample due to an unsuccessful attempt to obtain a non-delinquent population. Therefore, the entire population was used for statistical procedures.

After data were collected, frequency distributions, chi square , and Phi values were used to analyze the data. The data show an age range of 12 to 17 with an average age of 15.6 years of age. In regards to race, 45.7% of the respondents were White, 34.3% were Black, 5.7% were Hispanic, and 2.9% were Native American. Over half, 54.2%, of the respondents came from divorced or separated families and 31.4% were from married families. Furthermore, 65.7% of the respondents had multiple placement histories ranging from 1 to 9 facilities. The results of the data also indicate that 23 (65.7%) of the respondents were abused as children while 12 (34.3%) were not abused. Similarly, the

data show that 26 (74.3%) of the respondents were adjudicated for violent offenses and 9 (25.7%) were adjudicated for non-violent offenses.

The results of the research show some findings that are significantly different from findings from past studies. Yet, there are also some consistent findings. Therefore, the interpretation of the findings will be presented followed by a discussion of the limitations and significance of this study.

### Interpretation of the Findings

In this study, the researcher examined the relationship between child abuse and subsequent delinquency and the relationship between the type of child abuse suffered and type of subsequent delinquency. The researcher sought to determine if there is relationship between physical abuse and violent, aggressive crimes and if there is a relationship between sexual abuse and sexual crimes. The findings show that there is a higher percentage of child abuse victims who are delinquent than non-victims and a higher percentage of physical abuse victims who are delinquent than non-physical abuse victims. These higher percentages suggest that there is a relationship between child abuse and delinquency and a relationship between physical abuse and delinquency. This finding is consistent with prior research by Alfaro (1981), Fagan & Wexler (1987), Gillespie, Seaburg, & Berlin (1977), Kratcoski & Kratcoski (1982), McCord (1983), and Widom (1989). These researchers determined that there is dependence between either child abuse and delinquency or physical abuse and violent delinquency. However, the results show that there is no statistical relationship between child abuse and type of delinquency, nor is there a relationship between physical abuse and violent, aggressive crimes or sexual abuse and sexual delinquency for this sample. The findings are inconsistent with past research conducted by Alfaro (1981), Benoit & Kennedy (1992), Fagan & Wexler (1987), Gillespie, Seaburg, & Berlin (1977), Kratcoski and Kratcoski (1982), Longo (1981), McCord (1983), and Widom (1989). These researchers found that a relationship exists between child abuse and type of subsequent delinquency. Widom (1989) found a



relationship to exist and also explained that the relationship is affected by control variables such as race and gender. Fagan & Wexler (1987), Gillespie, Seaburg, & Berlin (1977), and Kratcoski & Kratcoski (1982) explained that the process of learning violence occurs specifically within the family environment. Longo (1981) and Benoit & Kennedy (1992) determined that a relationship between sexual abuse and sexual delinquency does exist.

Alfaro (1981) examined child protective service case files and court records from 1952-53 and 1971-72, respectively, to obtain data concerning a child's exposure to violence and later involvement with delinquent behavior. Alfaro determined that there is a relation between child abuse and delinquency. Specifically, Alfaro concluded that those children who were abused are more likely to be violent than non-abused children. This finding is consistent with the findings of Fagan & Wexler (1987). Fagan & Wexler also determined that a relationship between child abuse and delinquency exists.

The results of the present research are inconsistent with research conducted by Alfaro and Fagan & Wexler. The results of this study show no statistical difference between abused and non-abused respondents' propensity to engage in violent offenses. Although there was a high number of abused respondents who were violent (17), there were 9 non-abused respondents who were violent. Fischer's Exact Test gave a probability level of .598 suggesting that the relationship is not significant. Therefore, there is no statistical relationship or difference for abused, violent respondents and non-abused violent respondents for this research.

The lack of statistical significance between child abuse and delinquency is also inconsistent with the findings of McCord (1983). McCord investigated the case files of 232 males and interviewed the families to determine interactional patterns. McCord determined that those children who were abused or neglected had a high rate of serious crime involvement. McCord's research also indicated that the interaction between a child and parent is a significant factor that affects the relationship between child abuse and delinquency. A statistical relationship between child abuse and delinquency was found for

the present research; there was a significant number of respondents who reported being severely disciplined or abused by their parents. Seventy-one percent of the respondents were disciplined or "physically harmed" by their parent. There is indication that these respondents were significantly affected by their parents' behaviors based upon the number of respondents who were "physically harmed" by their parents and who were later delinquent.

This research also examined the relationship between physical abuse and violent, aggressive crimes and found no statistically significant relationship among variables. Contrary to this research, Fagan & Wexler (1987), Kratcoski & Kratcoski (1982), and Pfouts et al. (1981) found that there is a relationship between physical abuse and violent actions. Fagan & Wexler (1987) and Kratcoski & Kratcoski (1982) found a relationship to exist and that the violence is directed by the abused individual towards family members. Pfouts et al. concluded that children who are victims of family violence have a higher degree of deviancy than family members who are witness to family violence. What is significant is the understanding that violence is learned within the family environment and that a relationship exists between physical abuse and violent actions. The findings of this study are inconsistent with those of past researchers. Past researchers conclude that there is a relationship between physical abuse and type of delinquency.

The results of this research did not investigate the recipient of violent actions, however, the research did examine the relationship between physical abuse and violent, aggressive crimes. The findings of the study are inconsistent with those of past researchers, Fagan & Wexler (1987), Kratcoski & Kratcoski (1982), and Pfouts et al. (1981). However, the lack of relationship between physical abuse and violent, aggressive behavior is consistent with Widom (1989). Widom concluded that those physically abused children did not differ in regards to violent offenses than non-physically abused children. Widom concluded that there is increased risk of delinquency for abused children. This risk is for engaging in property crimes and status offenses such as truancy and incorrigibility.



Although this research did not investigate the difference between being the recipient of family violence or observing family violence, the findings of this research show that there is some difference in frequencies between respondents who were abused and committed violent crimes and respondents who were abused and committed non-violent crimes. Gillespie et al. (1977) and Owens & Straus (1975) found that children who were victims of family violence engaged in more non-violent or escape crimes such as truancy and theft than children who witnessed family violence. The children who observed family violence were more likely to engage in violent behavior. The findings of this research are consistent with the results found by Gillespie et al. (1977), Owens & Straus (1975), and Widom (1989), who concluded that abused children will engage in escape crimes in order to avoid further aggression.

Another finding of this research that is consistent with past research is the determination that Black respondents have a stronger relationship between physical abuse and violent crime than White respondents. This finding is consistent with the results of Widom (1989). She concluded that being a victim of child abuse has a stronger affect upon Black children, especially Black males, than non Black children. The finding of this research determined that there is no statistical relationship between physical abuse and type of delinquency. However, there is a stronger relationship between physical abuse and violent crime for Black respondents as opposed to White respondents. The strength of the relationship was determined by comparing the Phi values of .377 for Black respondents and the Phi value of .127 for White respondents. In regards to sexual abuse and sexual delinquency, White sexually abused respondents had a Phi value of .363 compared to a Phi value of .134 for Black sexual abuse respondents. Therefore, White respondents had a higher likelihood than Black respondents to be a sexual abuse victim and engage in sexually delinquent behavior.

This research also investigated the relationship between child sexual abuse and subsequent sexual delinquency. This research concluded that there is no statistical

relationship between child sexual abuse and sexual delinquency. This finding is consistent with the results of Widom's research. She concluded that there was no direct linkage between past child sexual abuse and sexual delinquency. However, Widom admitted that this result is contrary to past research. Past research conducted by Benoit & Kennedy (1992) and Longo (1981) concluded that there is a relationship between sexual abuse and sexual delinquency. These researchers reasoned that there was an atypical sexual development by sexual offenders which is a primary cause for an individual to sexually act out.

The research questions also consider if the frequency, the intensity, or the age of onset of abuse has any affect upon the relationship between child abuse and delinquency or affect the relationship between physical abuse and violent crime or sexual abuse and sexual delinquency. The rationale for investigating these factors is based upon the theoretical framework that holds that the more exposure to the behavior, the more likely the individual will internalize this behavior and model its use. The theoretical framework also explains that the more repeated the frequency of exposure a child has to a particular behavior the more likely the behavior will be retained. Furthermore, the younger the child is exposed to abuse, the more likely the child will be unable to determine that this behavior is unacceptable.

The research examined the effects that age of onset has upon the relationship between abuse and delinquency. According to the theoretical framework, the earlier a child was abused the more likely the child is to become violent or sexually delinquent. When examining the age of onset for abuse, either physical or sexual, this variable did not affect the relationship between abuse and delinquency. The relationship was determined to have no statistical significance and therefore no dependence between variables.

The researcher also did not find any statistical relationship between frequency of the abuse and subsequent delinquency. This finding is inconsistent with the findings of Gillespie et al. (1977). Gillespie et al. determined that the frequency of occurrence for

abusive behaviors leads to a higher acceptance and likelihood of modeling these behaviors. However, the frequency of occurrence for this sample did not affect the relationship between abuse and subsequent delinquency.

However, the results of this research are consistent with the findings by Benoit & Kennedy (1992). Benoit & Kennedy (1992) examined the frequency and intensity of sexual abuse. These researchers determined that there is no difference in the frequency or intensity of past sexual abuse when investigating the relationship. In this study, there was no affect upon the relationship between sexual abuse and sexual delinquency when controlling frequency or intensity of the sexual abuse which is consistent with the findings of Benoit & Kennedy (1992).

This research also examined the effects that protective factors may have on the relationship between abuse and delinquency. The results of this research are inconsistent with the findings of Alfaro in regards to protective factors. The results of this research do not indicate a difference in relationship when controlling protective factors such as counseling or therapy. There were 31.8% of the respondents who utilized some type of protective factor. However using a protective factor did not prevent a respondent from becoming delinquent, nor did it show that it prevented a respondent from becoming violent. Alfaro (1981) states that the relationship between abuse and delinquency is not direct and may be affected by certain factors. Alfaro continued to explain that factors such as community services including parenting classes, counseling, and foster care may help to weaken the relationship between child abuse and delinquency. The findings of this study do not support Alfaro's argument.

In conclusion, the findings of this research have been determined to be mostly inconsistent with the findings of previous research. Past research has determined that there is a relationship between physical abuse and violent crime and a relationship between sexual abuse and sexual delinquency. However, the results of this study show that there is no relationship between child abuse and type of delinquency. Specifically there is no

relationship between physical abuse and violent crime or sexual abuse and sexual delinquency. However, there has been some consistency with past research. This research is similar to research by Widom (1989). She concludes as does this research that there is an effect to the relationship between abuse and delinquency when examining race, especially for the Black race. This research is also consistent with past research which shows that there is an intrafamilial relationship of abuse. The majority of abused respondents within this sample suffered the abuse at the hands of their parents. Although the findings of this research are not completely consistent with findings of past research, they show some results which call for further inquiry in future research.

#### Limitations of Research

As previously mentioned, a significant limitation of this study is the small sample size. This relatively small sample size has limited the use of statistical procedures which in turn has limited the results of the study. Although statistical significance was not found for any relationship, this result may have changed had the sample size been larger. Chi square, which determined dependence, is affected by the sample size, thus suggesting that had the sample been larger then the results of Chi square would have been different. The small sample size also limited the statistical use of control variables. It was difficult to conduct statistical procedures for control variables because the sample would be subdivided into very small cells which limits the usefulness of statistical procedures. Therefore, the sample size had a direct impact upon the results of this study.

The researcher strongly suggests for future researchers to expand the sample size. This could be accomplished by adding additional facilities to broaden the number of potential respondents. It is recommended that future researchers not undertake a study of this magnitude without a sample of at least 100 respondents. Any sample size smaller would be an attempt of futility. The sample size affected what statistics could be used and affected the results of the statistics that were used. Had the sample size been larger the researcher could have used an analysis of variance (ANOVA) statistics. The researcher



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could have also used more comprehensive combinations of control variables. Unfortunately, with a small sample size any combination of control variables proved too small to conduct statistics. Finally, a larger sample size would have affected the results of Chi square which was used to determine dependence.

One explanation of the small sample size is the requirement to obtain parental consent. The parents of prospective respondents were reluctant to provide consent partly because of the relationship between parent and prospective respondent, partly because of fear that negative information may be divulged, and partly because of lack of compensation for the parent. These feelings caused a small number of parents to provide consent.

Another limitation of this study is the lack of any comparison group. The researcher tried unsuccessfully to obtain a non-delinquent sample. However, the attempts were futile. The researcher believes that when administrators of potential non-delinquent populations were made aware of the content of the study, specifically child abuse, they decided to not be involved. The research is also limited by not randomly selecting cases for statistical procedures. The lack of random selection limited the researcher from being able to conduct any inferential statistical analysis. Therefore, any result of the study applies only to the research sample and not to the general public.

Future researchers should also be conscious of the time and monetary commitment that a study such as this requires. The number of parental consent forms that were mailed on three separate occasions is a large financial undertaking due to the postage of the consent forms and the self-addressed stamped envelope, and the copying fees required to distribute the number of consent forms needed to obtain a sample of over 100. Future researchers should also be conscious that there is a large gap of time between mailing consent forms and receiving them back from parents. It is recommended that future researchers try to obtain funding in order to provide some financial assistance to the demands.

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## **GLOSSARY**

**750.520b. First degree criminal sexual conduct**

Sec. 520b. (1) A person is guilty of criminal sexual conduct in the first degree if he or she engages in sexual penetration with another person and if any of the following circumstances exists:

- (a) That other person is under 13 years of age.
- (b) That other person is at least 13 but less than 16 years of age and any of the following:
  - (i) The actor is a member of the same household as the victim.
  - (ii) The actor is related to the victim by blood or affinity to the fourth degree.
  - (iii) The actor is in a position of authority over the victim and used this authority to coerce the victim to submit.
- (c) Sexual penetration occurs under circumstances involving the commission of any other felony.
- (d) The actor is aided or abetted by 1 or more other persons and either of the following circumstances exists:
  - (i) The actor knows or has reason to know that the victim is mentally incapable, mentally incapacitated, or physically helpless.
  - (ii) The actor uses force or coercion to accomplish the sexual penetration. Force or coercion includes but is not limited to any of the circumstances listed in subdivision (f)(i) to (v).
- (e) The actor is armed with a weapon or any article used or fashioned in a manner to lead the victim to reasonably believe it to be a weapon.
- (f) The actor causes personal injury to the victim and force or coercion is used to accomplish sexual penetration. Force or coercion includes but is not limited to any of the following circumstances:
  - (i) When the actor overcomes the victim through the actual application of physical force or physical violence.
  - (ii) When the actor coerces the victim to submit by threatening to use force or violence on the victim, and the victim believes that the actor has the present ability to execute these threats.
  - (iii) When the actor coerces the victim to submit by threatening to retaliate in the future against the victim, or any other person, and the victim believes that the actor has the ability to execute this threat. As used in this subdivision, "to retaliate" includes threats of physical punishment, kidnapping, or extortion.
  - (iv) When the actor engages in the medical treatment or examination of the victim in a manner or for purposes which are medically recognized as unethical or unacceptable.
  - (v) When the actor, through concealment or by the element of surprise, is able to overcome the victim.

"Assault" is any intentional, unlawful offer of corporal injury to another by force or force unlawfully directed to person of another under such circumstances as create a well-founded fear of imminent peril, coupled with apparent present ability to effectuate attempt if not prevented. *People v. Bryant* (1978) 264 N.W.2d 13, 80 Mich.App. 428; *People v. Carlson* (1910) 125 N.W. 361, 160 Mich. 426, 136 Am.St.Rep. 447.

#### 5. Battery—Nature and elements of offense

"Battery" is the willful touching of person of another by aggressor or by some substance put in motion by him; a "battery" is the consummation of the assault. *People v. Bryant* (1978) 264 N.W.2d 13, 80 Mich.App. 428.

#### 750.316. First degree murder

Sec. 316. Murder which is perpetrated by means of poison, lying in wait, or other wilful, deliberate, and premeditated killing, or which is committed in the perpetration, or attempt to perpetrate arson, criminal sexual conduct in the first or third degree, robbery, breaking and entering of a dwelling, larceny of any kind, extortion, or kidnapping, is murder of the first degree, and shall be punished by imprisonment for life.

#### 750.317. Second degree murder

Sec. 317. SECOND DEGREE MURDER—All other kinds of murder shall be murder of the second degree, and shall be punished by imprisonment in the state prison for life, or any term of years, in the discretion of the court trying the same.

#### 750.529. Armed robbery; aggravated assault

Sec. 529. Any person who shall assault another, and shall feloniously rob, steal and take from his person, or in his presence, any money or other property, which may be the subject of larceny, such robber being armed with a dangerous weapon, or any article used or fashioned in a manner to lead the person so assaulted to reasonably believe it to be a dangerous weapon, shall be guilty of a felony, punishable by imprisonment in the state prison for life or for any term of years. If an aggravated assault or serious injury is inflicted by any person while committing an armed robbery as defined in this section, the sentence shall be not less than 2 years' imprisonment in the state prison.

#### 750.448. Soliciting and accosting

Sec. 448. Any person, male or female, 17 years of age or older, who shall accost, solicit or invite another in any public place, or in or from any building or vehicle, by word, gesture or any other means, to commit prostitution or to do any other lewd or immoral act, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

#### 750.71. Definitions

Sec. 71. DEFINITION OF "BURN"—The term "burn" as used in this chapter shall mean setting fire to, or doing any act which results in the starting of a fire, or aiding, counseling, inducing, persuading or procuring another to do such act or acts.

#### 750.377a. Malicious destruction of personalty

Sec. 377a. Any person who shall wilfully and maliciously destroy or injure the personal property of another, by any means not particularly mentioned or described in the preceding section, if the damage resulting from such injury shall exceed \$100.00, shall be guilty of a felony. If the damage done shall be \$100.00 or less, such person shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

**750.520c. Second degree criminal sexual conduct**

Sec. 520c. (1) A person is guilty of criminal sexual conduct in the second degree if the person engages in sexual contact with another person and if any of the following circumstances exists:

- (a) That other person is under 13 years of age.
- (b) That other person is at least 13 but less than 16 years of age and any of the following:
  - (i) The actor is a member of the same household as the victim.
  - (ii) The actor is related by blood or affinity to the fourth degree to the victim.
  - (iii) The actor is in a position of authority over the victim and the actor used this authority to coerce the victim to submit.
- (c) Sexual contact occurs under circumstances involving the commission of any other felony.
- (d) The actor is aided or abetted by 1 or more other persons and either of the following circumstances exists:
  - (i) The actor knows or has reason to know that the victim is mentally incapable, mentally incapacitated, or physically helpless.
  - (ii) The actor uses force or coercion to accomplish the sexual contact. Force or coercion includes but is not limited to any of the circumstances listed in sections 520b(1)(f)(i) to (v).<sup>1</sup>
- (e) The actor is armed with a weapon, or any article used or fashioned in a manner to lead a person to reasonably believe it to be a weapon.
- (f) The actor causes personal injury to the victim and force or coercion is used to accomplish the sexual contact. Force or coercion includes but is not limited to any of the circumstances listed in section 520b(1)(f)(i) to (v).
- (g) The actor causes personal injury to the victim and the actor knows or has reason to know that the victim is mentally incapable, mentally incapacitated, or physically helpless.
- (h) That other person is mentally incapable, mentally disabled, mentally incapacitated, or physically helpless, and any of the following:
  - (i) The actor is related to the victim by blood or affinity to the fourth degree.

**750.520d. Third degree criminal sexual conduct**

Sec. 520d. (1) A person is guilty of criminal sexual conduct in the third degree if the person engages in sexual penetration with another person and if any of the following circumstances exists:

- (a) That other person is at least 13 years of age and under 16 years of age.
- (b) Force or coercion is used to accomplish the sexual penetration. Force or coercion includes but is not limited to any of the circumstances listed in section 520b(1)(f)(i) to (v).<sup>1</sup>
- (c) The actor knows or has reason to know that the victim is mentally incapable, mentally incapacitated, or physically helpless.
- (2) Criminal sexual conduct in the third degree is a felony punishable by imprisonment for not more than 15 years.

Amended by P.A.1983, No. 158, § 1, Eff. March 29, 1984.

<sup>1</sup> Section 750.520b(1)(f)(i) to (v).

**750.520e. Fourth degree criminal sexual conduct**

Sec. 520e. (1) A person is guilty of criminal sexual conduct in the fourth degree if he or she engages in sexual contact with another person and if any of the following circumstances exists:

(a) Force or coercion is used to accomplish the sexual contact. Force or coercion includes but is not limited to any of the circumstances listed in section 520b(1)(f)(i) to (iv).<sup>1</sup>

(b) The actor knows or has reason to know that the victim is mentally incapable, mentally incapacitated, or physically helpless.

(c) That other person is under the jurisdiction of the department of corrections, and the actor is an employee or a contractual employee of, or a volunteer with, the department of corrections who has knowledge that the other person is under the jurisdiction of the department of corrections.

(2) Criminal sexual conduct in the fourth degree is a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for not more than 2 years, or by a fine of not more than \$500.00, or both.

Amended by P.A.1983, No. 158, § 1, Eff. March 29, 1984; P.A.1988, No. 86, § 1, Eff. June 1.

<sup>1</sup> Section 750.520b(1)(f)(i) to (iv).



**APPENDIX A**  
**QUESTIONNAIRE**

**Hello,**

**My name is Robert Keller. I am a graduate student at Michigan State University. In most cases, the university requires that students who want to get a graduate degree must go out to the real world and study real life problems, and propose solutions to them. As part of the requirements for my Master's degree, I am conducting a study at some youth facilities in this area. The purpose of this study is to determine what makes young people get in trouble with the law. It is expected that the findings of the study will not only give us some understanding of this problem. I hope that they will also help us develop effective intervention programs for youth in trouble, and proper programs to prevent others from getting in trouble. Your participation in this study and your honest answers are extremely important. First, they will help us understand things that happen to young people that may be unpleasant. Second, they will help us understand youths' point of view on why they get in trouble with the law, they types of trouble youths get into and how best to prevent such occurrences.**

**This study is not conducted by your youth facility or for your youth facility. It is not conducted by or for the court or any agency or person connected with your adjudication. It will not affect your placement, level, status or privileges at this facility or with the court or other agencies or persons involved in your adjudication or treatment. It will not affect the length of time you will stay at this facility. It is not part of any treatment**

**Your participation in this study is voluntary. Your answers will be held strictly confidential and nobody, including me the investigator, will be able to trace the questionnaire to you. The numbers on the questionnaire are Code numbers. They will be used only to keep count of the questionnaires. Nobody, including me will be able to use them to identify you. Therefore, DO NOT put your name or other identifying marks on your questionnaire. I assure you that your answers will be kept strictly confidential and anonymous.**

**You may be wondering if your completed questionnaires will be shown to the staff at your facility. No, they will not be shown to anybody. I will be the only person handling the questionnaires once you have completed them. I will be glad to share the final reports with you, the staff at your facility or any other interested person. The reports will not contain your name or anything that will identify you.**

**Please answer all questions honestly and to the best of your knowledge. However, you may omit or leave blank any questions that you do not wish to answer. Also you are free to withdraw from participation at any time during this session. You indicate your voluntary agreement to participate by completing and returning your questionnaire. Once you complete the questionnaire, please place it in the unmarked brown envelope in which the questionnaire will be distributed. Close the envelope and place it in the designated box in the room. Do not put your name or any other identifying mark on the envelope.**

**Thank you very much for your participation. If you wish to obtain a copy of the final reports, you may indicate so to your treatment director who will inform about how many copies are requested at your facility. I will send the copies to the director for distribution to those who requested them.**

Please check the correct box with the answer you feel is correct.

1. Sex: ☐ 1. male ☐ 2. female

2. Your race: ☐ 1. Black ☐ 2. Hispanic ☐ 3. Native American ☐ 4. Oriental  
☐ 5. White ☐ 6. other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_.

3. Age \_\_\_\_\_ years.

4. How long have you lived in this facility? \_\_\_\_\_ months.

5. Have you lived in other facilities?

☐ 1. yes ☐ 2. no (if no go to question 6)

if yes, how many facilities? \_\_\_\_\_

6. Before coming to this facility, what city were you living in? \_\_\_\_\_.

7. Who were you living with?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1. mother                      | <input type="checkbox"/> 2. mother and stepfather or boyfriend  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3. mother and father           | <input type="checkbox"/> 4. father and stepmother or girlfriend |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5. grand mother / grand father |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3. step parent(s)              | <input type="checkbox"/> 6. aunt or uncle                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4. foster parent(s)            | <input type="checkbox"/> 7. other _____                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 8. adoptive parents            | (please tell who)   |

8. Parents are: ☐ 1. Married ☐ 2. Separated ☐ 3. Divorced ☐ 4. Never married  
☐ 5. Other \_\_\_\_\_

9. Have you ever been disciplined?

☐ 1. yes ☐ 2. no (if no go to question 16)

10. If yes, who would discipline you? (check all that apply)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1. mother          | <input type="checkbox"/> 5. step mother  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2. father          | <input type="checkbox"/> 6. grand mother |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3. step father     | <input type="checkbox"/> 7. grandfather  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4. foster parent   | <input type="checkbox"/> 8. other _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 9. adoptive parent |  |

11. For what reasons were you disciplined? (if more than one check all that apply)

- ☐ 1. late for curfew
- ☐ 2. did not complete my chores.
- ☐ 3. wet the bed
- ☐ 4. talked back to an adult
- ☐ 5. other \_\_\_\_\_.  
(please tell what)

12. How were you disciplined? (if more than one check all that apply).

- ☐ 1. spanking
- ☐ 2. hitting with fists
- ☐ 3. hitting with an object (belt, board)
- ☐ 4. loss of privileges
- ☐ 5. other \_\_\_\_\_.

13. How often were you disciplined?

- ☐ 1. once a week
- ☐ 2. twice a week
- ☐ 3. once a month
- ☐ 4. twice a month.
- ☐ 5. other \_\_\_\_\_

14. Did you ever receive any injuries when you were disciplined?

- ☐ 1. yes      ☐ 2. no (if no go to question 16)

15. If yes, what type of injuries? (check all that apply)

- ☐ 1. bruises
- ☐ 2. stitches
- ☐ 3. broken bone(s)
- ☐ 4. black eye
- ☐ 5. knocked unconscious
- ☐ 6. other \_\_\_\_\_

16. Do you have any sisters?

- ☐ 1. yes      ☐ 2. no (if no go to question 17)

if yes, how many? \_\_\_\_\_.

17. Do you have any brothers?

- ☐ 1. yes      ☐ 2. no (if no go to question 18)

if yes, how many? \_\_\_\_\_.

18. Were your brother(s) or sister(s) ever hit by the people they lived with?

- ☐ 1. yes
- ☐ 2. no

When people live together they often have arguments for several reasons. Arguments are part of living closely with one another. The next set of questions asks about those arguments between people you were living with before being put in placement.

19. Did the people you live with ever argue with each other?

- ☐ 1. yes
- ☐ 2. no (if no go to question 21)

20. If yes, how often?

- ☐ 1. always
- ☐ 2. sometimes
- ☐ 3. never

21. Did the people you were living with ever hit each other when they were arguing?

- ☐ 1. yes, always
- ☐ 2. yes, sometimes
- ☐ 3. no, never

This group of questions asks about why you are in placement and what kind of trouble with the police you have been involved in. Remember that these questions are only for the purpose of this study and in no way will answering them affect your placement, level or status at this facility.

22. Type of offense leading to your present adjudication?

- ☐ 1. murder
- ☐ 2. criminal assault
- ☐ 3. vandalism
- ☐ 4. robbery
- ☐ 5. theft
- ☐ 6. prostitution
- ☐ 7. rape (csc I, II, III, or IV)
- ☐ 8. truancy
- ☐ 9. other (please specify)\_\_\_\_\_.

23. This adjudication was your \_\_\_\_\_ being adjudicated.

- ☐ 1. first time (if first time, go to question 25)  
☐ 2. second time  
☐ 3. third time  
☐ 4. fourth time  
☐ 5. more than four times (please tell how many times\_\_\_\_\_)

24. Apart from the present adjudication, what other types of crimes have you been adjudicated for? (if more than one check all that apply).

- ☐ 1. theft  
☐ 2. vandalism  
☐ 3. criminal assault  
☐ 4. murder  
☐ 5. criminal sexual conduct (csc)  
☐ 6. prostitution  
☐ 7. truancy  
☐ 8. other \_\_\_\_\_  
 (please tell what)

25. How old were you when adjudicated for your first time? \_\_\_\_\_ years.

Many children have adults do wrong stuff to them. These questions may get very personal. Please try to answer them the best way possible. Again, these questions will only be used for this study and they will be kept only by the researcher and not given to anyone else. There will be no way of placing your name with any of your answers.

26. As a child did an adult ever physically hurt you?

1. ☐ yes      2. ☐ no (if no go to question 31)

27. If yes, please indicate who physically hurt you and in what way by putting a check ( ) in the boxes below. You may fill as many boxes that applies

	spanked	beaten	punched	hit with object	hot water poured on body	other (please write)
1. father	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2. mother	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3. foster parent	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4. aunt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5. uncle	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6. step parent	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
7. other people (please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

28. How old were you when you were first physically hurt by an adult? \_\_\_\_\_ years.

**29. How often did an adult physically hurt you?**

1. ☐ every day  
2. ☐ more than once a day  
3. ☐ more than once a week  
4. ☐ other \_\_\_\_\_  
(please indicate)

30. How long did an adult physically hurt you? \_\_\_\_\_ months

**31. Concerning being physically hurt by an adult when you were a child, which of these following statements is true for you?**

(if more than one is true check all that is true)

1. ☐ I told somebody about it.
2. ☐ I did not tell anybody about it.
3. ☐ Somebody found out about it.  
(state who \_\_\_\_\_ and how \_\_\_\_\_).
4. ☐ I saw a doctor who treated the injuries I  
received when I was spanked.
5. ☐ I saw a therapist.
6. ☐ I saw a social worker.
7. ☐ I saw a protective service worker
8. ☐ Nobody ever found out.
10. ☐ police came and took me from my home
9. ☐ I was placed in a foster home.
11. ☐ other \_\_\_\_\_.

**33. Did anyone ever make you do inappropriate sexual stuff TO THEM?**

1. ☐ 1. yes      2. ☐ no (if no go to question 38)

34. If yes, please indicate who and what happened by putting a check ( ) in the correct box below. You may fill as many boxes as applies?

touched private parts	masturbated	fondled private parts	had sex	other (please indicate what)
-----------------------------	-------------	-----------------------------	---------	------------------------------------

- |                  |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |
|------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. father        | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. mother        | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. foster parent | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. aunt          | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. uncle         | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. step parent   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. other people  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (please specify) |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |

35. How old were you when this first happened? \_\_\_\_\_ years old.

36. How often did this occur?

☐ 1. every day

☐ 3. more than once a week

☐ 2. more than once a day

☐ 4. other \_\_\_\_\_  
(please indicate)

37. How long did this occur? \_\_\_\_\_ months.

38. Did anybody ever do inappropriate sexual stuff TO YOU?

1. ☐ yes      2. ☐ no (if no go to question 43)

39. If yes, please indicate who and what happened by putting a check ( ) in the correct box.  
You may check as many boxes as applies.

	touched private parts	masturbated	fondled private parts	had sex	other (please indicate what)
1. father	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. mother	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. foster parent	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. aunt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. uncle	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. step parent	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. other people (please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

39. How old were you when this first happened? \_\_\_\_\_ years old.

40. How often did this occur?

☐ 1. every day

☐ 3. more than once a week

☐ 2. more than once a day

☐ 4. other \_\_\_\_\_  
(please indicate)

41. How long did this occur? \_\_\_\_\_ months.



42. Concerning the inappropriate sexual stuff by or with an adult when you were a child, which of these following statements are true for you?

(check all that apply)

- ☐ 1. I told somebody about it.
- ☐ 2. I did not tell anybody about it.
- ☐ 3. Somebody found out about it.  
state who \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ 4. I saw a doctor who treated the injuries I received.
- ☐ 5. I saw a therapist.
- ☐ 6. I saw a social worker.
- ☐ 7. I saw a protective service worker.
- ☐ 8. Nobody ever found out.
- ☐ 9. Placed in a foster home.
- ☐ 10. Police came.

43. Many children do things that the law prohibits. The following are some of those things. Please check the correct box for the number of times that you may have been involved in these activities. It is important to make sure that the correct answer box matches with the question that you are answering. Also, if more than one box applies check all the appropriate boxes.

	<u>never</u>	<u>1 or 2</u>	<u>several</u> <u>times</u>	<u>often</u>	<u>very</u> <u>often</u>
1. drunk so much that I could not remember afterward some of the things you had done.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. used alcohol excessively	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. gone for a ride in a car someone had stolen	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. taken part in a "gang fight"	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. carried a switchblade or other weapon.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. bought or drank beer, wine, or other liquor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. used narcotics other than marijuana.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. smoked marijuana	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	<u>never</u>	<u>1 or 2</u>	<u>several</u> <u>times</u>	<u>often</u>	<u>very</u> <u>often</u>
9. sold hard drugs such as heroin, coke, LSD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. sold marijuana to someone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. taken part in a robbery involving the use of physical force.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. taken part in a robbery involving the use of a weapon.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. taken part in a robbery.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. resisted arrest or fought with an officer trying to arrest me.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. hit a teacher or another adult.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16. attacked or fought an officer trying to arrest someone.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17. thrown eggs, tomatoes, garbage, or anything else like this at a person, house, or building.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18. broken out any windows.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19. put paint on anything I wasn't supposed to be painting.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20. broken out any light bulbs on the street or anywhere else.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21. taken things of value(\$2 to \$50) that I was not supposed to take.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
22. taken a car for a ride without the owner's permission.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
23. taken things of large value (over \$50).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	<u>never</u>	<u>1 or 2</u>	<u>several</u> <u>times</u>	<u>often</u>	<u>very</u> <u>often</u>
24. skipped school without a legitimate excuse.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
25. taken money from home without the intention of returning it.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
26. stolen or tried to steal a motor vehicle such as a car or a motorcycle.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
27. ran away from home.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
28. attacked someone with the idea of seriously hurting/killing them.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
29. been paid for having sexual intercourse with someone.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
30. Had or tried to have sex with someone against their will.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**APPENDIX B**  
**CONSENT FORM**

## MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCE • SCHOOL OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE  
BAKER HALL

EAST LANSING • MICHIGAN • 48824-1118

Dear Parent

My name is Robert Keller. I am a graduate student at Michigan State University. In most cases, the university requires that the students who want a graduate degree must go out to the real world and study real life problems, and propose solutions to them. As part of the requirements for my Master's degree, I am conducting a study at some youth facilities in this area including the facility where your child is a resident. The purpose of the study is to determine what makes young people get in trouble with the law. It is expected that the findings of the study will not only give us some understanding of this problem. I hope that they will also help us develop effective intervention programs for youth in trouble, and proper programs to prevent others from getting in trouble.

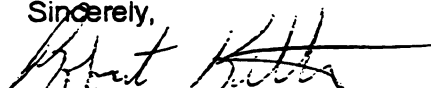
This study is not conducted by your child's youth facility or for your child's youth facility. It is not conducted by or for the court or any agency or person connected with your adjudication. It will not affect your child's placement, level, status, or privileges at their facility or with the court or other agencies or persons involved in your child's adjudication or treatment. It will not affect your child's length of stay at this facility. It is not part of any treatment. Your child's participation in this study is voluntary. Your child's answers will be held strictly confidential and nobody, including me, the investigator, will be able to trace the questionnaire to your child.

You may be wondering if your child's completed questionnaire will be shown to the staff at your facility. NO, they will not be shown to anybody. I will be the only person handling the questionnaires once your child has completed them. I will be glad to share the final reports with you, the staff at your child's facility or any other interested person. The reports will not contain your child's name or anything that will identify him or her.

The reason I am writing is to ask your consent so that your child may participate in this study by answering a questionnaire. Your child must also agree to participate in the study. However, he has a choice to participate or not to participate. Should your child decide to participate in the study, he or she will not be asked his or her name or to identify themselves in any way. Also, your child will be able to withdraw at any time without any penalty, and he or she can decline to answer any specific question(s). It may require 45 minutes total time for your child to complete the questionnaire. As indicated above, this study is part of my degree requirements. It is not part of any treatment. Whether your child participates or not, there will be no negative consequences to your child's privileges, level, status, or program placement at the child's facility. Your child will remain anonymous in any report of the findings from the study.

Thank you for reading this letter and for your support of this study. Please sign the attached consent form and place it into the enclosed self-addressed, stamped envelope and send it to me in the mail. Please contact me, Robert Keller, or Dr. Rosy Ekpenyoung at (517) 355-0765 if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Robert Keller

## PARENT CONSENT FORM

My son, \_\_\_\_\_ (name and Date Of Birth) who is in placement at \_\_\_\_\_ has my authorization to participate in a study conducted by Robert Keller, a graduate student of Michigan State University. I understand that my child has the option to participate but first my consent and signature are needed. I also understand that my child can withdraw at any time and that all answers will be kept confidential. I understand that there will be no harm or penalty to my child. I understand that this study will not affect in any way my son's level, status, placement, treatment, or length of stay.

"I give my consent that my child may agree to participate in this study. I know that the results of the study will be kept in strict confidentiality and not harm my child in any way."

---

(your signature and date)

**APPENDIX C**

**LETTERS FROM INSTITUTIONS AND UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON  
RESEARCH INVOLVING HUMAN SUBJECTS**

STATE OF MICHIGAN



JOHN ENGLER, Governor

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

235 South Grand Avenue, P.O. Box 30037, Lansing, Michigan 48909

GERALD H. MILLER, Director

March 11, 1993

To Whom it May Concern:

This letter confirms that Robert Keller has received the necessary approval from the MDSS Division of Planning and Evaluation to proceed with his proposed study.

Further he has discussed both his methodology and intended use of the collected data with the local GVRC administrator. We are supportive of his efforts and will be interested in reviewing the results.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Judy Arthur".

Judy Arthur,, Director  
Genesee Valley Regional Center  
4287 W. Pasadena Avenue  
Flint, MI 48504



## STATE OF MICHIGAN



JOHN ENGLER, Governor

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

235 South Grand Avenue, P.O. Box 30037, Lansing, Michigan 48909

GERALD H. MILLER, Director

March 4, 1993

Robert Keller  
c/o Dr. Rosy Ekpenyoung  
560 Baker Hall  
E. Lansing, MI 48864

Dear Mr. Keller:

This letter is to inform you that your request to do a study using Genesee Valley Regional Center inmates as research subjects has been approved. This approval is contingent on the following conditions:

1. As required under section 7(1)(i) of the Child Protection Law, the Department of Social Services (DSS) cannot release any identifying information on any person named in the case record without first getting their written consent and no personal interview may be conducted without a written consent.

The consent form for the personal interview must specify what the client is expected to do.

2. Information on individual clients must be kept confidential.
3. Any problems or complaints involving DSS clients or staff must be reported promptly to the local office director and to this office.
4. Any changes in the project design must be submitted to this office. this includes expansion to other counties, inclusion of other program areas and/or client groups, an increase in the sample size, etc.
5. A copy of the study results must be submitted to this office.

If you are unable to begin the study within the next six months or need to continue the project beyond eighteen months, please let me know.

If you need any further assistance or have any questions, please contact Alan Labovitz at (517) 335-3943.

Sincerely,

Bob Lovell, Director  
Planning and Evaluation Division

CC: Nancy Duncan    Alan Labovitz    Judi Arthur



*Where people grow.*

22 March 1993

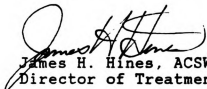
To whom it may concern,

Mr. Robert Keller has requested my permission to survey students currently in residence at Camp Highfields. He has reviewed the survey with me and explained how it will be administered and the information used.

He has my permission to conduct this survey with the students at Highfields under the following conditions:

1. that he gain written authorization from the parent or guardian of each student to be surveyed,
2. that he inform all students in Camp Highfields of the nature and purpose of this survey, and that participation in it is completely voluntary,
3. that he survey only those students who agree to participate and whose parent/guardian has given written authorization for this participation, and
4. that the identity of the students participating in this survey be kept strictly confidential.

Mr. Keller is aware of these conditions, and I know he will insure that they are met. He is also aware that I am interested in seeing a copy of his thesis once it has been completed.

  
James H. Hines, ACSW, BCD  
Director of Treatment

# boysville of michigan

## INCORPORATED

### BOYSVILLE CAMPUS

8744 Clinton-Macon Road  
Clinton, Michigan 49236  
(517) 423-7451

March 11, 1993

Administrative Offices  
Clinton, Michigan

Community Resources Offices  
Southfield, Michigan

Boysville Campus  
Clinton, Michigan

Cabrini House  
Redford, Michigan

Holland House  
Saginaw, Michigan

Huron House  
Alpena, Michigan

King House  
Mt. Clemens, Michigan

St. Cecilia House  
Detroit, Michigan

St. Vincent Home  
Saginaw, Michigan

Xavier Center  
Ecorse, Michigan

Dr. Rosy Ekpenyoung  
Michigan State University  
560 Baker Hall  
East Lansing, MI. 48864

Dear Dr. Ekpenyoung,

Please be advised that Mr. Robert Keller, a graduate student in your program, has been in contact with me regarding his graduate thesis.

Mr. Keller is considering the use of some Boysville Campus clients as part of his research population for his thesis. We have discussed the particulars of such an endeavor several times and are now making plans to administer the questionnaire in early April, 1993, with any interested clients.

Currently, we are finalizing the mechanism for securing parental permission of those clients who might partake in the study. It is my understanding that Mr. Keller has shared these procedures with you.

At this time, Boysville is pleased to assist Mr. Keller in this research study and we are open to allowing our clients to participate, given the involvement is voluntary, and parental permission is received.

If you have any questions about the above information or need further details, please contact me at the Clinton Campus Program, (517) 423-7451.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

*Br. Chester Freel, csc*

Br. Chester Freel, csc, ACSW  
Regional Director  
Boysville of Michigan

cc: Robert Keller

# MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

June 9, 1993

TO: Robert Keller  
2375 Club Meridian #B11  
Okemos, MI 48864

RE: IRB #: 93-186  
TITLE: UNDERSTANDING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CHILD ABUSE  
AND DELINQUENCY  
CATEGORY: Full Review  
REVISION REQUESTED: N/A  
APPROVAL DATE: May 3, 1993

The University Committee on Research Involving Human Subjects' (UCRIHS) review of this project is complete. I am pleased to advise that the rights and welfare of the human subjects appear to be adequately protected and methods to obtain informed consent are appropriate. Therefore, the UCRIHS approved this project including any revision listed above.

UCRIHS approval is valid for one calendar year, beginning with the approval date shown above. Investigators planning to continue a project beyond one year must seek updated certification. Request for renewed approval must be accompanied by all four of the following mandatory assurances.

1. The human subjects protocol is the same as in previous studies.
2. There have been no ill effects suffered by the subjects due to their participation in the study.
3. There have been no complaints by the subjects or their representatives related to their participation in the study.
4. There has not been a change in the research environment nor new information which would indicate greater risk to human subjects than that assumed when the protocol was initially reviewed and approved.



OFFICE OF  
**RESEARCH  
AND  
GRADUATE  
STUDIES**

University Committee on  
Research Involving  
Human Subjects  
(UCRIHS)

Michigan State University  
225 Administration Building  
East Lansing, Michigan  
48824-1046  
517/355-2180  
FAX: 517/336-1171

There is a maximum of four such expedited renewals possible. Investigators wishing to continue a project beyond that time need to submit it again for complete review.

UCRIHS must review any changes in procedures involving human subjects, prior to initiation of the change. Investigators must notify UCRIHS promptly of any problems (unexpected side effects, complaints, etc.) involving human subjects during the course of the work.

If we can be of any future help, please do not hesitate to contact us at (517) 355-2180 or FAX (517) 336-1171.

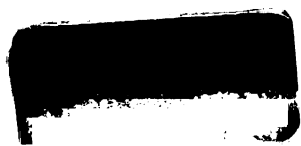
Sincerely,

*David E. Wright*  
David E. Wright, Ph.D.  
UCRIHS Chair

DEW:pjm

cc: Dr. Rosy Ekpenyong-Rowan





MICHIGAN STATE UNIV. LIBRARIES



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