

PRESS KIT

VictimsSpeakDB.org

The SACCADAS Database

Survivor **A**ccounts of **C**atholic **C**lergy **A**buse,
Denial, **A**ccountability and **S**ilence

April 26, 2017

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Overview/Introduction

The [VictimsSpeakDB](#) ([DataBase](#)) website was created to provide statistical information about the abuse of children and vulnerable adults by Roman Catholic clergy. Also known as the [SACCADAS](#) ([S](#)urvivor [A](#)ccounts of [C](#)atholic [C](#)lergy [A](#)buse, [D](#)enial, [A](#)ccountability and [S](#)ilence) database, it is derived exclusively from the first-hand accounts and experiences of the victims, or alleged victims. It is the only database which provides comparative information about abuse internationally, divided into five, not necessarily contiguous, regions: the United States, Australia/New Zealand, Canada, Developed Countries and LDCs (less-developed countries). The United States is considered a separate region due to the vast number of victims who have sued their molester(s) and/or the Catholic Church. Australia/New Zealand and Canada are also classified as regions due to the significant number of victims who have come forward in those countries. The United States, Canada and Australia/New Zealand are the only three country/regions where a large number of victims have made public their experiences, primarily through civil lawsuits against the offender and/or the Church. In most countries, such as Ireland, individual records of abuse are few and generally not in the public domain. Thus they could not be included in the [SACCADAS](#) database. Studies, such as the [Report of the Ryan Commission](#) in Ireland, and the [John Jay Report](#) in the United States, only provide aggregate statistics. The [SACCADAS](#) database is compiled from alleged victims' individual stories and lawsuits. These sources are catalogued and reside on the [BishopAccountability.org](#), [BrokenRitesAustralia.org](#) and [Silvia's Site](#) websites. Founded in 2003, BishopAccountability.org tracks abuse of individual Catholic clergy, primarily in the United States. BishopAccountability.org also aggregates news stories daily from [Kathy Shaw's Abuse Tracker](#), a digest of links to media coverage of clergy abuse. Since 1993, [BrokenRitesAustralia.org](#) has been researching the cover-up of sexual abuse in the Australian Catholic Church. [Silvia's Site](#) is based in Canada and tracks abuse primarily in Canada. However it catalogues an extensive number of news stories and lawsuits from foreign countries. These three websites offer individual victims' accounts of abuse including copies of actual victim lawsuits. They provide the requisite detail necessary to create database records. These records are based solely on the accounts of the individual alleged victims, substantiated or not.

I would like to expand upon the last sentence of the last paragraph. In the reports to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), alleged victims are typically classified into substantiated versus unsubstantiated claims. I do not make such a distinction. Most, if not all, attorneys represent alleged victims of clergy sex abuse on a contingency basis. The attorneys fund the expense of filing a lawsuit against the alleged perpetrator and/or the Catholic Church. The attorneys are not compensated for their time or out-of-pocket expenses unless they prevail in their suits against the perpetrator or the Church. (In the FAQs on [Jeff Anderson & Associates'](#) website, a hypothetical victim asks, "If I engage Jeff Anderson & Associates will it cost me anything out of my pocket? [Answer] No, if you call us we will provide a free and confidential consultation, explain what an *Abuse Survivor Proof of Claim* is, fill it out, file it and continue to handle everything on your behalf." Jeff Anderson & Associates is a prominent law firm specialized in representing victims of

clergy and child sex abuse.) I therefore assume that since attorneys are in the business of not only representing clients but also of making a profit through that representation, they are not going to represent clients, or alleged victims, they do not believe have been actually molested. In some cases, the victim loses the suit. Since many of these lawsuits are filed years, if not decades, after the abuse, it is quite possible that victims and their lawyers cannot corroborate or provide a “preponderance of the evidence” of the alleged abuse. Memories fade, and sometimes the alleged perpetrators have died. In such cases, it is quite possible that the victim will not be able to demonstrate that he was abused and convince a judge, jury, or an attorney representing the Catholic Church to that effect.

Since lawyers are in the business of making money, I am assuming that they have thoroughly vetted their clients before they file a lawsuit. If an attorney is willing to invest his time and money representing an alleged victim of abuse, I have assumed that the abuse actually occurred. [Between 2006 and 2012](#), the USCCB has indicated that 490 of the 4,291 sexual abuse allegations that were made in the U.S. Catholic church—a little over 11%—were unsubstantiated or false. The [John Jay Report](#) claims that about one and a half percent of claims are false. Since it is impossible for me to determine how many victims’ claims are baseless, I have deferred to the legal community. If an alleged victim has convinced an attorney to invest his time and money in a lawsuit involving abuse, then I have assumed that the abuse most likely occurred. Since many alleged victims were abused years or decades before filing suit, the [SACCADAS](#) database also does not consider whether or not alleged victims prevailed in court or failed to obtain an out-of-court settlement with the Church.

The use of the [BishopAccountability.org](#) presents a problem of partial incompleteness. [It states](#), “BishopAccountability.org maintains a Database of Accused Priests and other accused clergy. As of May 20, 2016, there were 4,220 names in that database, including 3,733 priests, 26 bishops, 58 deacons, and 23 seminarians, for a total of 3,840 accused clerics in those categories. But the USCCB’s counts now total 6,528 accused priests, bishops, deacons, and seminarians. This means that there are at least 2,688 accused clerics whose names are still not public. In other words, of the current 6,528 total, at least **41 percent of the names are still being kept secret** by bishops and superiors of religious orders.” This statement acknowledges that the [BishopAccountability.org](#) database does not include every offender known to the Church. Thus I do not have access to as many victims as the [John Jay Report](#), which gets its data directly from Church records. And even the [John Jay Report](#) is incomplete. [It states](#), “It is impossible to determine from our surveys what percent of all actual cases of abuse that occurred between 1950 and 2002 have been reported to the Church and are therefore in our dataset. Allegations of child sexual abuse are made gradually over an extended time period and it is likely that further allegations will be made with respect to recent time periods covered in our surveys. Less than 13% of allegations were made in the year in which the abuse allegedly began, and more than 25% of the allegations were made more than 30 years after the alleged abuse began.”

Speakers and “experts” often recite statistics about Catholic clergy sex abuse without providing the source of their data. Usually the “expert” writer or speaker cites data as if it were static, i.e. never changing. One news story describing repressed memories said it takes an average of 24 years for a victim to come forward. To which time frame was he referring? According to the data in the **SACCADAS** database, victims took an average of about 30 years to come forward in the 21st century but 15 years or less in the 20th. The **SACCADAS** database was created to provide a publically available source of precise data. It can then provide a reasonable basis for such statements as the one made by the writer or speaker described in the aforementioned example. The **SACCADAS** database is compiled principally from the victims’ personal, first-hand accounts of abuse reported in nearly 50 countries, some of which date back to the 1920s. The database contains approximately 5,600 records (victims’ accounts) of alleged abuse perpetrated by Roman Catholic clergy.

Webpage Views

Gender of Victims

Table 1 - Gender of Victims							
Sex of Abused	John Jay Report-2004*	SACCADAS DataBase (DB) Total	United States	Australia/ New Zealand	Canada	Developed Countries	LDCs
Female	1,918	1,080	851	79	43	59	48
Male	8,369	4,522	3,611	342	274	189	106
Total	10,287	5,602	4,462	421	317	248	154
Female	18.6%	19.3%	19.1%	18.8%	13.6%	23.8%	31.2%
Male	81.4%	80.7%	80.9%	81.2%	86.4%	76.2%	68.8%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
# of Catholics (in millions)**			67.700	6.588	13.843	NA	NA
# of Records per million Catholics			65.9	63.9	22.9	NA	NA
% of SACCADAS DB		100.0%	79.7%	7.5%	5.7%	4.4%	2.7%
* Table 3.5.4--Alleged Victims of Sexual Abuse Incidents, Grouped by Gender and Age - pg.53							
* THE NATURE AND SCOPE OF SEXUAL ABUSE OF MINORS IN THE UNITED STATES 1950-2002 BY CATHOLIC PRIESTS AND DEACONS IN THE UNITED STATES 1950-2002, THE JOHN JAY COLLEGE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE							
** U.S. Catholics (2016), Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate, Georgetown University							
Victims from United States in the SACCADAS database represent about one quarter of the 17,651 victims identified by the USCCB (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops).							
Source: VictimsSpeakDB.org © 2017 VictimsSpeakDB.org Current as of: 4/16/2017							

Breakdown of Victims by Type of Abuser



Victims Speak DB
The SACCADAS DataBase
Survivor Accounts of Catholic Clergy Abuse, Denial, Accountability and Silence

abused are, in the aggregate, known and identifiable. Below is a count of victims by type of abuser contained in the *Profiles of the Abusers* subsection of the SACCADAS database, as of April 2017:



Count of Victims	Type of Abuser				Total
	Bro	Nun	Other	Priest	
Sex of Victims					
Female	25	47	37	1,097	1,206
Male	489	39	105	5,971	6,604
Male/Female	183	7	11	1,312	1,513
Grand Total	697	93	153	8,380	9,323

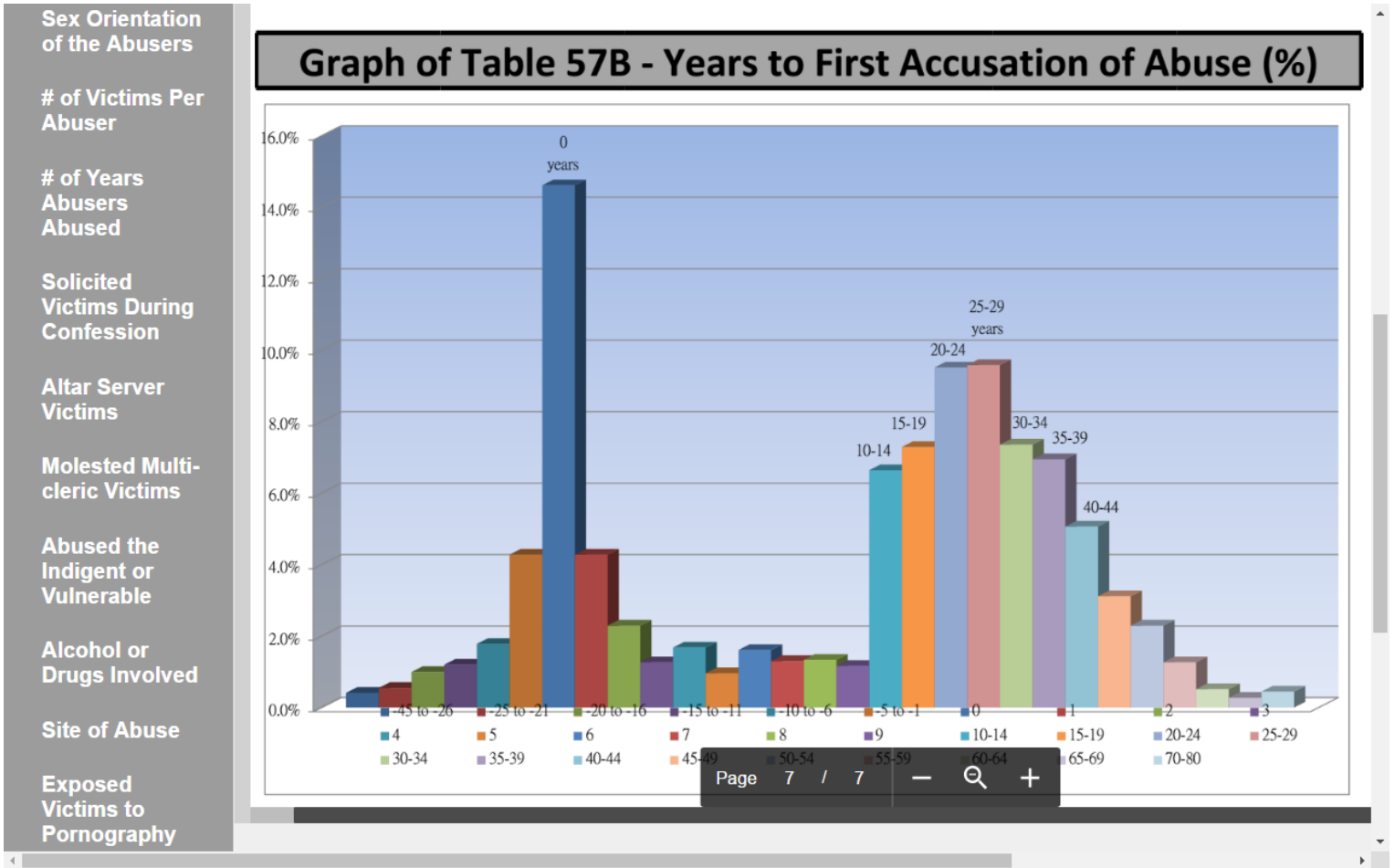
Victim Breakdown	Type of Abuser				Total
	Bro	Nun	Other	Priest	
Sex of Victims					
Female	3.6%	50.5%	24.2%	13.1%	12.9%
Male	70.2%	41.9%	68.6%	71.3%	70.8%
Male/Female	26.3%	7.5%	7.2%	15.7%	16.2%
Grand Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Count of:	Type of Abuser				Total
	Bro	Nun	Other	Priest	
Victims	697	93	153	8,380	9,323
Offenders	245	80	78	2,517	2,920
Average # of Victims/Offender	2.84	1.16	1.96	3.33	3.19

Over 1,200 victims were molested by abusers who only abused females. Over 6,600 victims were molested by abusers who only abused males. Over 1,500 victims were molested by abusers who abused both males and females. Note that over half of the nuns' victims were females abused by

Male/Female represents victims who were molested by abusers who molested both males and females, i.e. bisexual abusers.

Years to First Accusation of Abuse (Clerics)



Clerics were most often accused of abuse in the year the abuse occurred, or were most often first accused 10-39 years after the abuse ended.

Victims Speak DB

The SACCADAS DataBase

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Average # of Years and Age to First Report

Time Span and Origin of Source

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Age When First Molested

Age When Last Molested

The Abusers and How They Abused

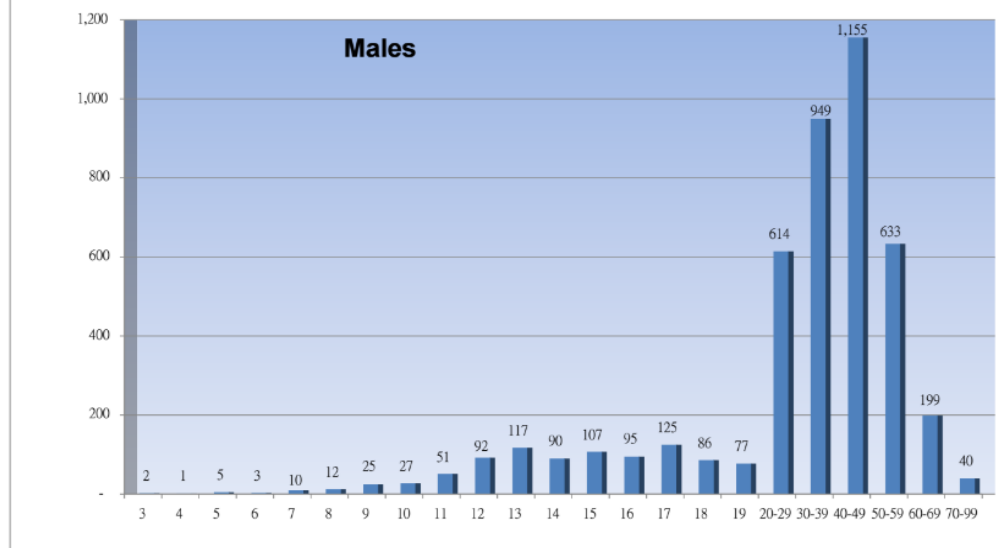
Abuse in the 21st Century

Impact on Victims

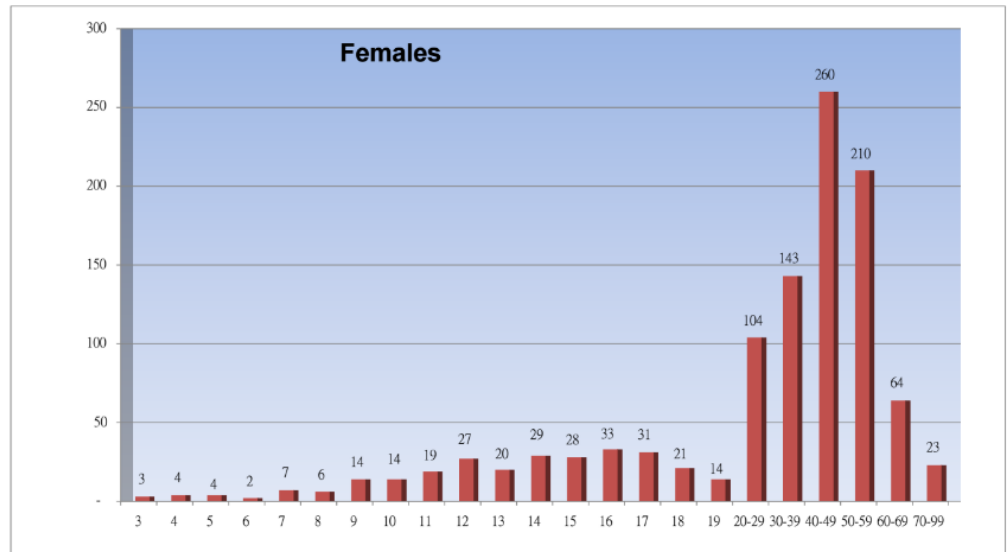
Offender Profiles

Sound Bites

Graph of Table 62A - Age When First Reported Abuse



Graph of Table 62A - Age When First Reported Abuse



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The Abusers and
How They Abused

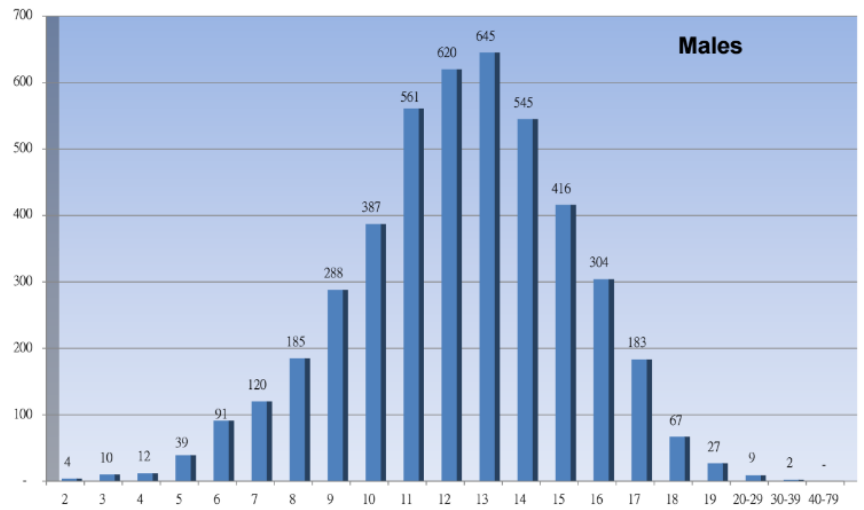
Abuse in the 21st
Century

Impact on Victims

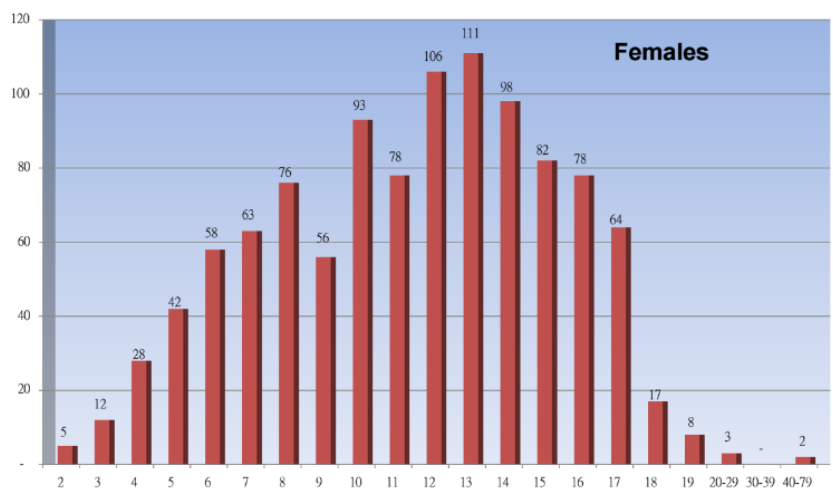
Offender Profiles

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Graph of Table 13A - Age When First Molested



Graph of Table 13A - Age When First Molested



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Alcohol or
Drugs Involved

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Exposed
Victims to

Table 44A				
Abusers' Choice of Victim				
	Total	Female	Male	M/F
Priests	2,518	538	1,863	117
Brothers	246	19	219	8
Nuns	80	43	35	2
Other*	78	18	57	3
Total	2,922	618	2,174	130
Priests	100.0%	21.4%	74.0%	4.6%
Brothers	100.0%	7.7%	89.0%	3.3%
Nuns	100.0%	53.8%	43.8%	2.5%
Other*	100.0%	23.1%	73.1%	3.8%
Total	100.0%	21.1%	74.4%	4.4%

Table 44B				
Sexual Orientation of the Abusers				
	Total	Hetero	Homo	Bisex
Priests	2,518	538	1,863	117
Brothers	246	19	219	8
Nuns	80	35	43	2
Other*	78	18	57	3
Total	2,922	610	2,182	130
Priests	100.0%	21.4%	74.0%	4.6%
Brothers	100.0%	7.7%	89.0%	3.3%
Nuns	100.0%	43.8%	53.8%	2.5%
Other*	100.0%	23.1%	73.1%	3.8%
Total	100.0%	20.9%	74.7%	4.4%
<p>Observation: Tables 44A and 44B display essentially the information except that for nuns hetero is abuse of males while homo is abuse of females; vice versa for priests, brothers and other. Interestingly, nuns seem to molest males and females nearly equally while brothers abuse males almost exclusively.</p>				
<p>* Deacons and Seminarians Current as of: 4/13/2017</p>				
<p>Source: VictimsSpeakDB.org Copyright © 2017 VictimsSpeakDB.org</p>				

Number of Abusers by Type

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of Victims Per
Abuser

of Years

Table 47 - Number of Abusers by Type

Sex of Abused	SACCADAS DataBase (DB) Total	United States*	Australia/ New Zealand	Canada	Developed Countries	LDCs
Priests	2,517	2,015	109	148	151	94
Brothers	245	141	65	20	16	3
Nuns	80	77	1	1	1	-
Other**	78	59	7	4	6	2
Total	2,920	2,292	182	173	174	99
Priests	86.2%	87.9%	59.9%	85.5%	86.8%	94.9%
Brothers	8.4%	6.2%	35.7%	11.6%	9.2%	3.0%
Nuns	2.7%	3.4%	0.5%	0.6%	0.6%	0.0%
Other**	2.7%	2.6%	3.8%	2.3%	3.4%	2.0%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
*2,015 U.S.-based priests in the SACADDAS database represent nearly one third of the 6,528 priests credibly accused of sexually abusing minors in the United States. 6,528 is the total compiled from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' data. Brothers represent over one third of abusers in Australia/New Zealand. This is primarily due to the high percentage of victims who were molested in Catholic boarding schools.						
** Other (Deacons and Seminarians)				Current as of: 4/13/2017		
Source: VictimsSpeakDB.org				Copyright © 2017 VictimsSpeakDB.org		

Altar Server Victims

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Table 19			
Altar Server Victims			
	Total	Female	Male
No	4,484	1,068	3,416
Yes	1,118	12	1,106
ALL	5,602	1,080	4,522
No	80.0%	98.9%	75.5%
Yes	20.0%	1.1%	24.5%
ALL	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
<p>Observation: One out of five abuse victims were altar servers. This should not be too surprising. Altar servers are in close proximity to priests. They are the proverbial low-hanging fruit on a tree. However, note that only one out of hundred abused females were altar servers while nearly one out of four abused males were altar servers.</p>			
Source: VictimsSpeakDB.org		Copyright © 2017 VictimsSpeakDB.org	
Current as of: 4/16/2017			