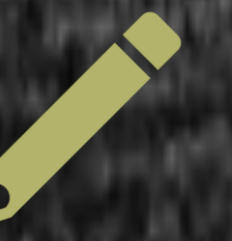




FAVORITE TEACHER OR WORST NIGHTMARE? TEACHERS WHO CROSSED THE LINE



MaryBeth Borreca, Matthew Brewer, Heather Brinker, Alison Leadley-Williams, Anastasia Pedersen, Kourtney Sellers & Tes Tuason, PhD
University of North Florida, College of Public Health, Clinical Mental Health Counseling
Jacksonville, FL USA 32224

Introduction

○ Current research on female sexual offenders is lacking

○ We know that the average female offender is typically thirty-two years old and of Caucasian race, but not much else has been found.

○ Media influence, gender perceptions, and attractiveness play a role regarding public opinions on female offenders and can even result in a reduced sentence.

Purpose
To identify common characteristics amongst female high school and middle school teacher sexual offenders in Florida, particularly their marital status, family dynamic, and school type in order to expand upon current research.

Hypothesis
Female high school teachers who sexually offend in the state of Florida will be of unmarried status with no children and will primarily be employed at public schools.

Method

○ The websites "South Florida Sun-Sentinel" and "Canadian Children's Rights Counsel" were utilized to gather our 18 participants.

○ Each participant was a high school teacher who was accused of sexually offending a student between the years of 2004-2018.

The following was identified for each woman:

- Name
- Age
- Ethnicity
- Marital Status
- Guardianship of child
- School type in which the offense occurred
- Victim's age
- Duration of the relationship
- Number of encounters with the student
- Sentence length and/or consequence

Information that could not be found was labeled as "unknown".

Results

○ The data found in relation to our three main constructs proved to not fully support our hypothesis. Only 22.2% of these women were married and 33.3% had children. Our hypothesis was correct regarding school type, as 72.2% were employed at a public school.

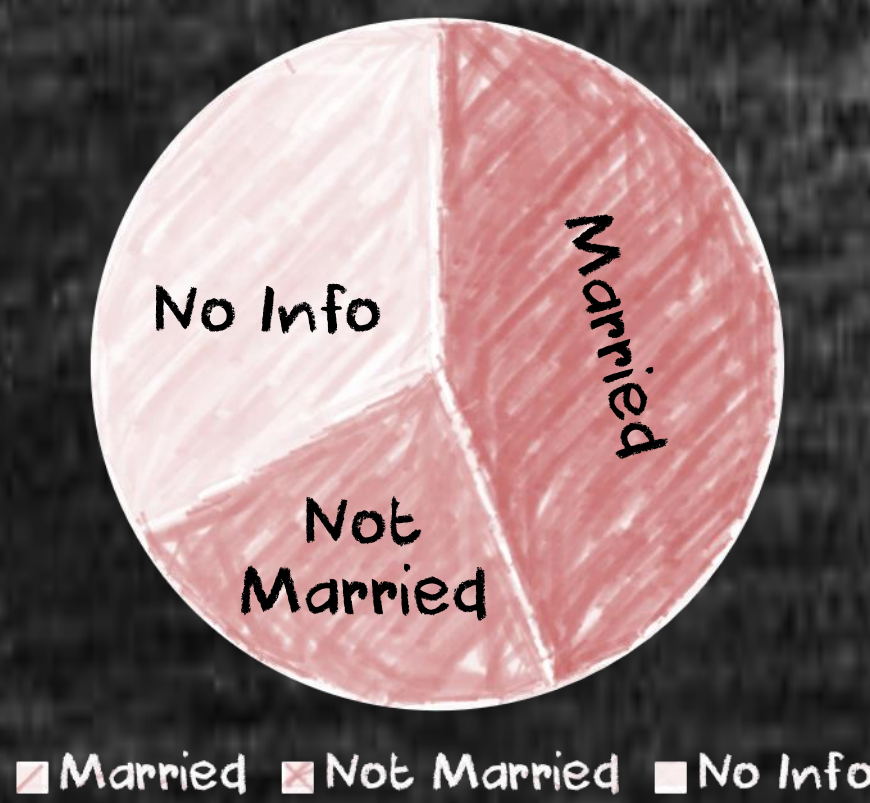
Additional Findings

- 15 women had 1 victim
- Most frequent offender age was 30
- Most frequent victim ages were 14, 16, and 17
- Most offenses occurred in 2008
- Most common prison sentence was 3 years, but ranged to 22 years
- The age difference between the offender and victim ranged from 6-38, with 13 years being the most common
- The women received varied sentences while others were solely revoked of their teaching license
- Most of these women appeared to be Caucasian

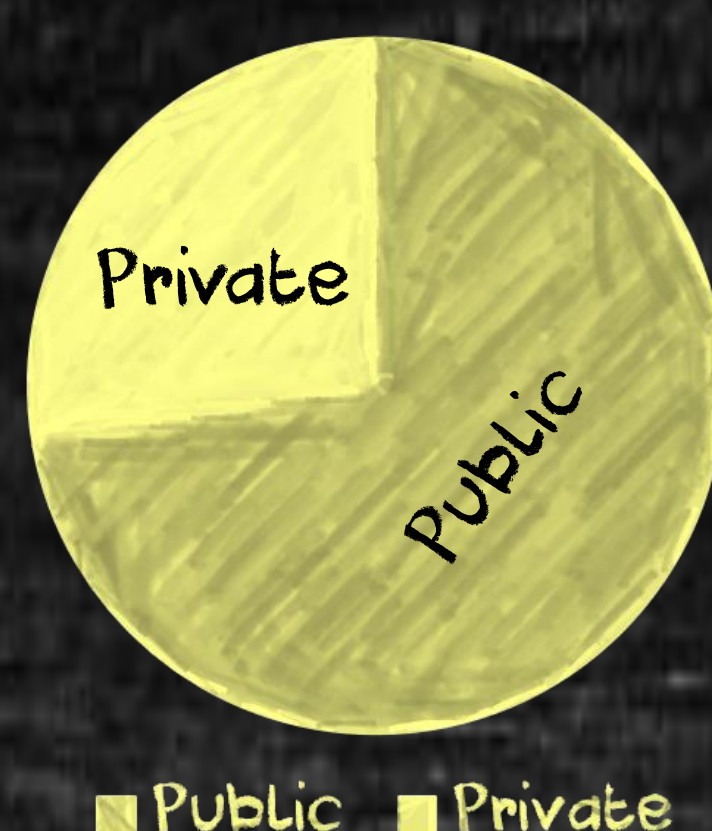
Did The Teachers Have Children?



Were The Teachers Married?



In Which Schools Did They Teach?



Discussion

Limitations

- The information contained in this study was extremely difficult to obtain due to lack of available resources.
- An all-inclusive database of sexual offenders in educator roles is nonexistent, prompting the researchers to manually search for the participants and their corresponding data.

Implications

- The material found in this study can be utilized for future research on female sexual offenders.
- Additional constructs to identify for future research include current mental health and childhood trauma.
- An analysis of male offenders with the constructs within this study can be developed and used as a comparison to female offenders.

Boyle, A. (2010, May 20). Tampa Assistant Principal Arrested Over Nude Photos Sent to 14-Year-Old. Retrieved March 9, 2020, from <https://www.theledger.com/article/20100520/News/608080351>
Darling, A. J., Hackett, S., & Jamie, K. (2018). Female sex offenders who abuse children whilst working in organisational contexts: offending, conviction and sentencing. *Journal of Sexual Aggression, 24*(2), 195-213. Retrieved March 10, 2020, from <https://doi.org/10.1080/15532600.2018.1476601>
Fernandez, F. (2018, December 19). NSB teacher Stephanie Peterson gets 3 years in prison for sex with student. Retrieved March 9, 2020, from <https://www.news-journalonline.com/news/20181219/nsb-teacher-stephanie-peterson-gets-3-years-in-prison-for-sex-with-student>

Knache, V. A., & Russell, K. N. (2019). Teacher-Student Sexual Relationships: The Role of Age, Gender, and Multiple Victims on Incarceration and Registration Outcomes. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 34*(1), 1-24. doi: 10.1177/0886260519856677152
Sun Sentinel. (2018, October 9). Florida teacher sexual misconduct cases a list. Retrieved March 9, 2020, from <https://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/fl-xpm-2018-10-09-fl-teacher-misconduct-profiles-20180916-story.html>
Sexual Offender and Predator System. (n.d.). Retrieved March 9, 2020, from <https://offender-fdc.state.fl.us/offender/soaps/river.js?personid=80630>