ARTICLE:

SUMMARY:
The purpose of this study was to determine whether cases involving male and female victims of sexual abuse differed with regards to legal outcomes, and, if possible, to determine if there were any interactive effects between the sex of the child and whether or not the child was evaluated at a CAAC.

Subjects/Design:
172 children ranging from 1 to 17 years who were referred to the DA’s Office regarding sexual abuse crimes
CAAC group – 86 children average age was 9.55 years
Non-CAAC group – 86 children (case referred directly to DA office), average age was 9.45 years

Children in each group were matched based on the age of the child and the relationship of the child to the alleged perpetrator

Findings:
1. There were differences in filing rates depending on the sex of the child. Cases involving females were filed 67.44% of the time while cases with males were filed only 51.25% of the time
2. The highest filing rates occurred with females seen at the CAAC (78.57%)
3. Overall, there were significantly more counts charged for children in the CAAC group (2.942) than for children in the non-CAAC group (1.965)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Counts Charged</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CAAC Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female – 3.149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male – 1.667</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-CAAC Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female – 2.113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male – 1.591</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. Females had significantly more Rape I and Sexual Abuse I charges filed than males
5. There were no significant sex differences for whether or not defendants were found guilty or pled guilty.
6. Overall, 94% of alleged perpetrators either pled guilty or were found guilty.
7. For cases involving female victims, 56.5% of the guilty defendants pled guilty rather than go to trial, and 43.5% were found guilty at trial.
8. For cases involving male victims, only 36% of the guilty defendants pled guilty and 64% were found guilty at trial.
9. Average length of sentence for those found or pleading guilty:
   Female victim – 112.50 months
   Male victim – 87.69 months

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