

INTRODUCTION

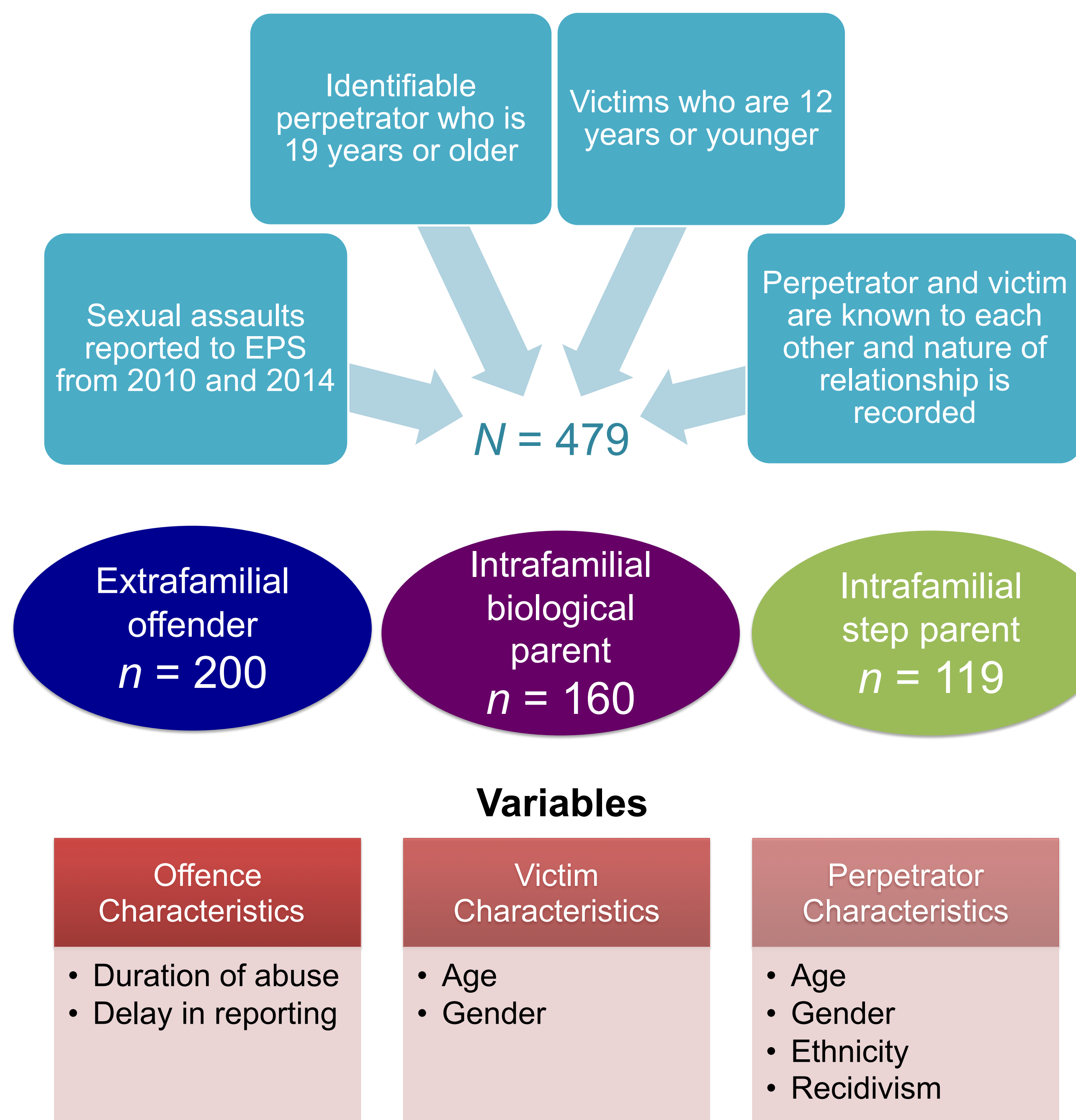
- Misperceptions about child sexual abuse (CSA)¹
 - Rarely occurs
 - Most victims are females
 - Most offenders are male strangers
- Facts about CSA¹
 - Very common occurrence
 - Perpetrated against boys and girls alike
 - Offenders include men and women
 - Ratio of CSA by family members is significantly higher than CSA by relatives or strangers²

CURRENT STUDY

For all occurrences of sexual abuse against children ages 12 and younger reported to Edmonton Police Service from 2010-2014, perpetrators who were biological parents, step parents, and unrelated (extrafamilial) to the victims were compared a series of variables.

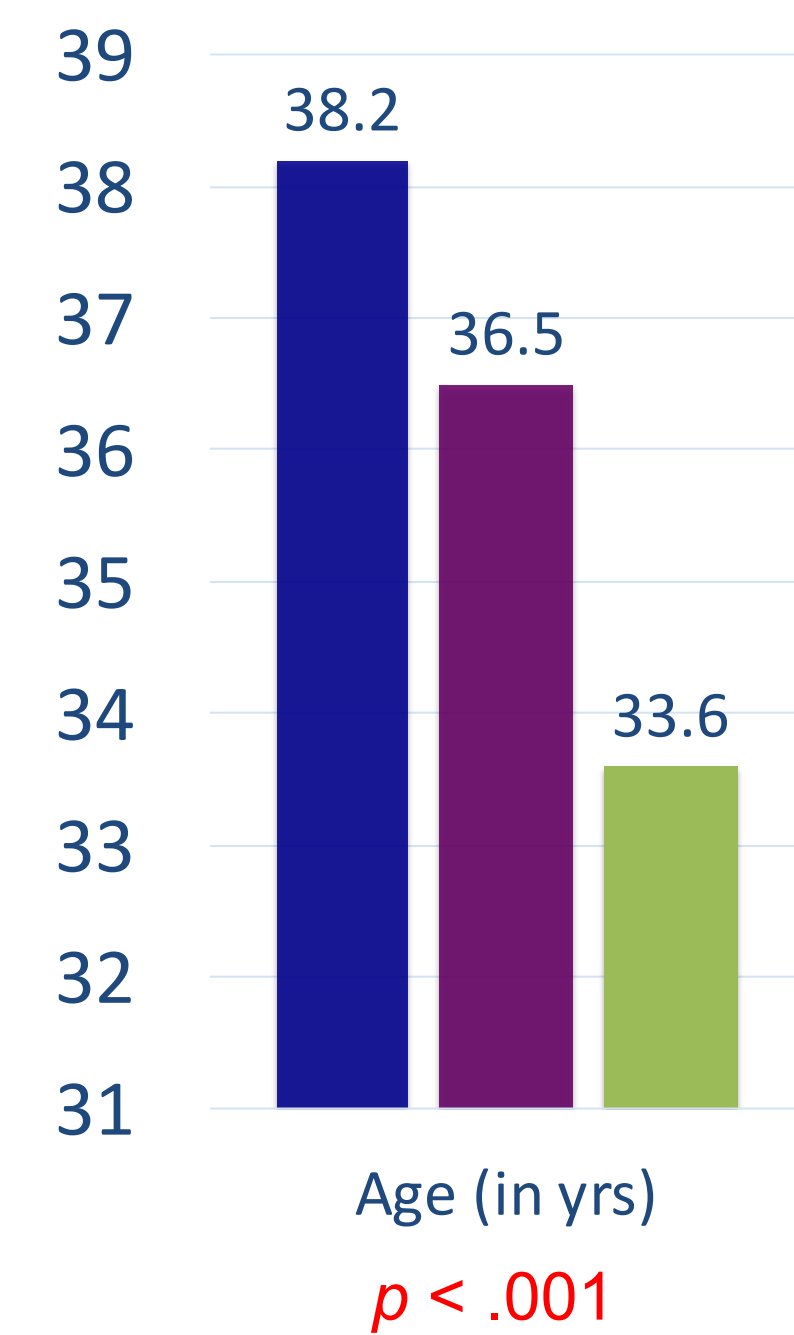
METHODS

Data Reduction

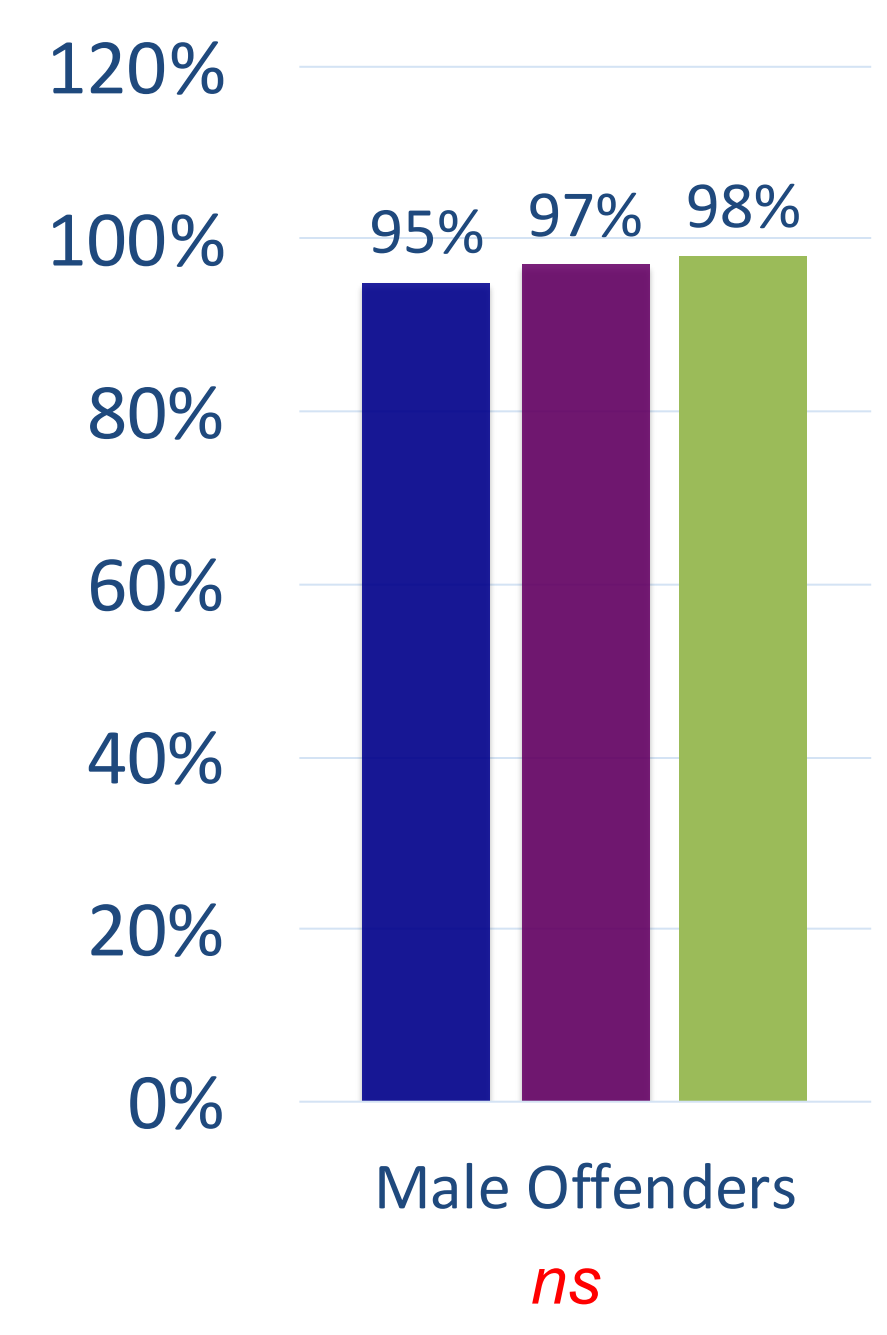


RESULTS

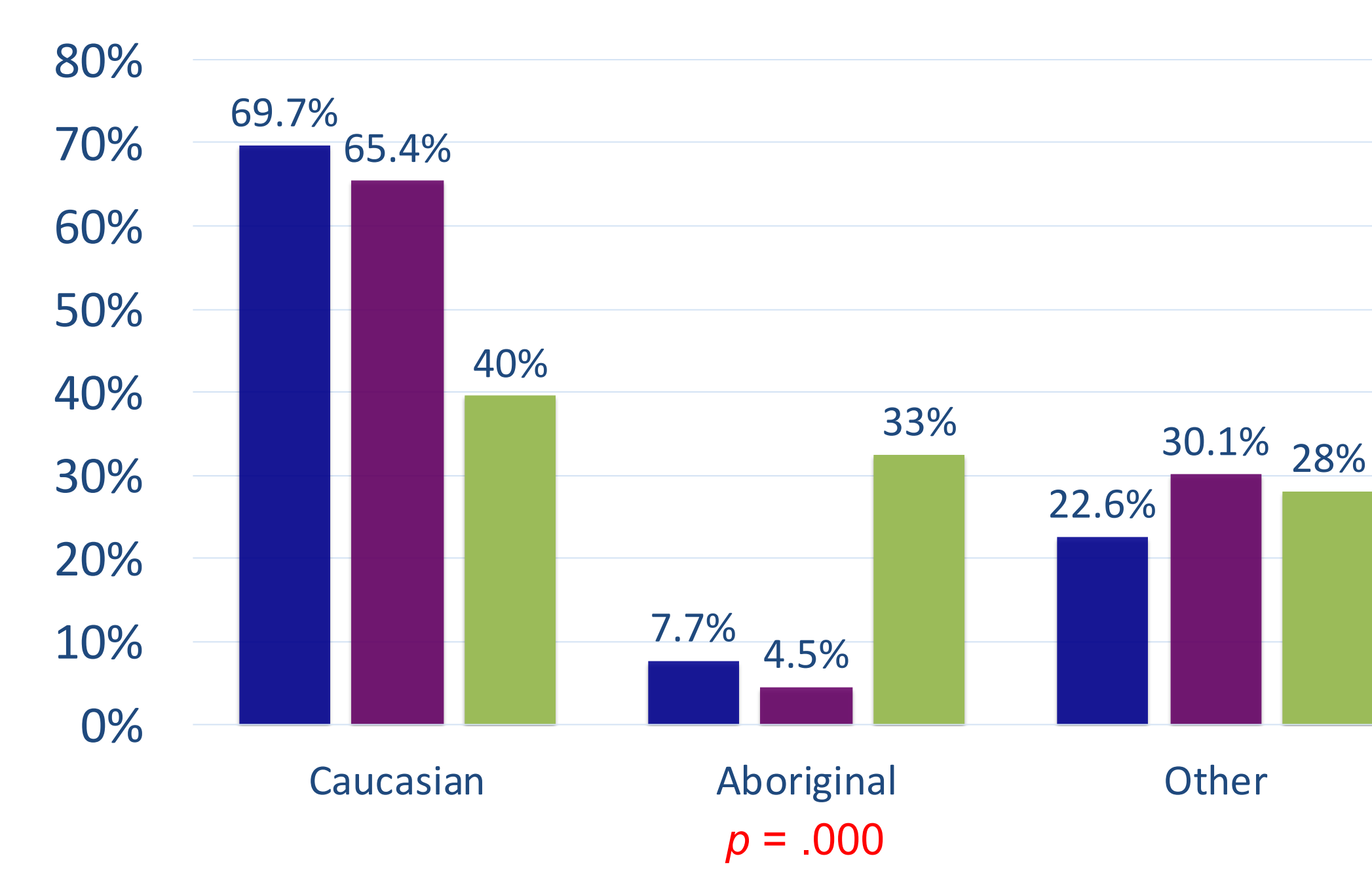
Age of Offender



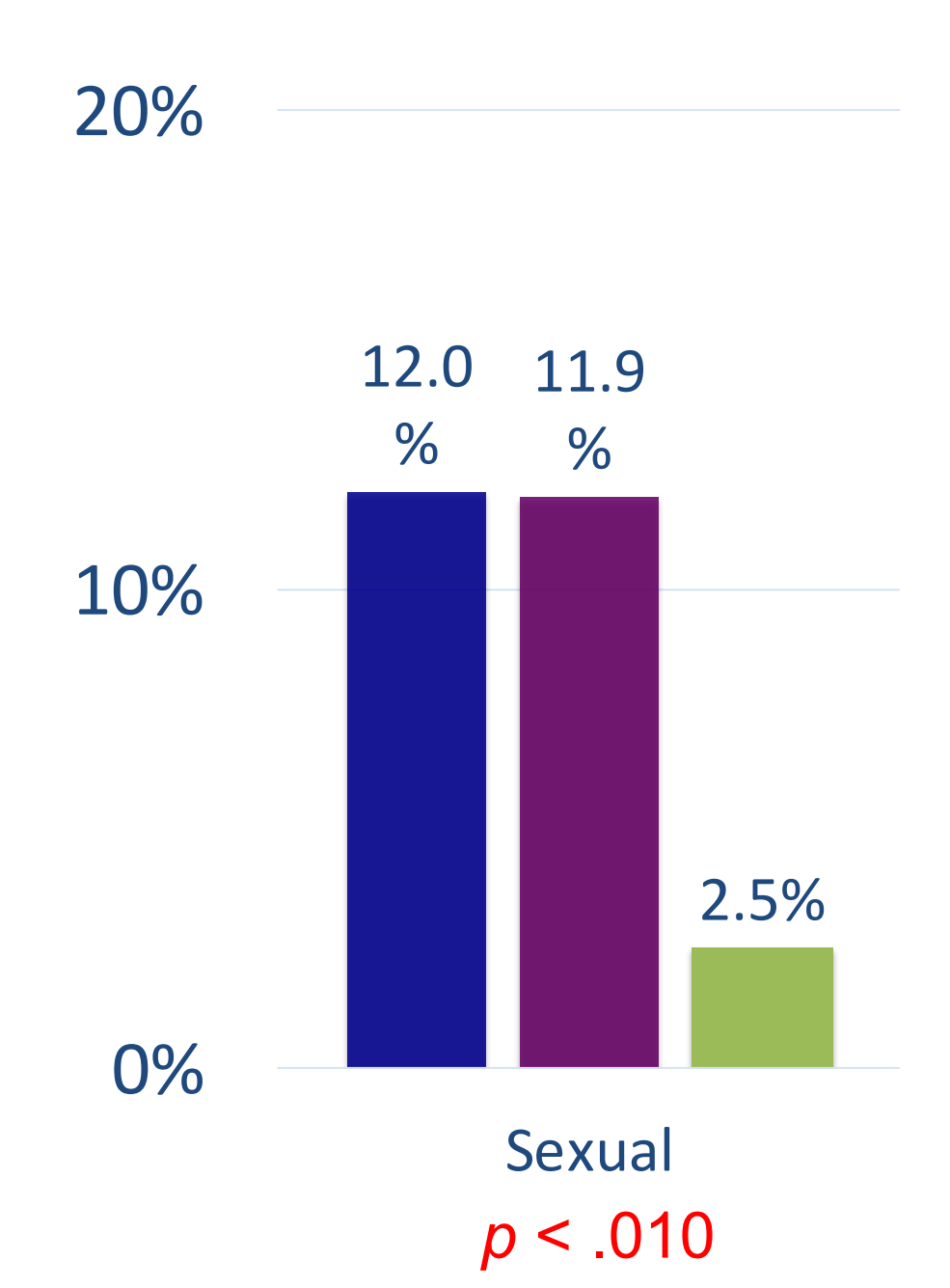
Gender of Offender



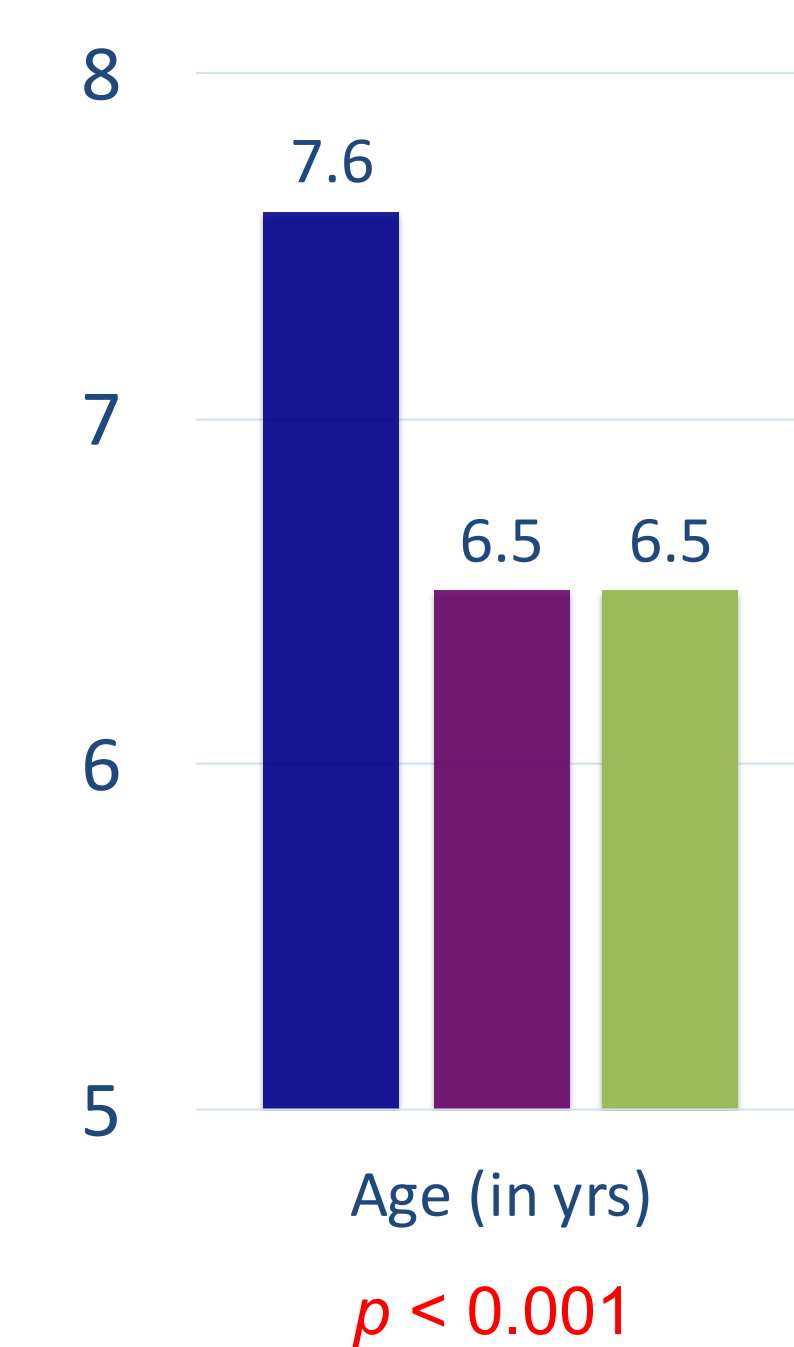
Ethnicity of Offender



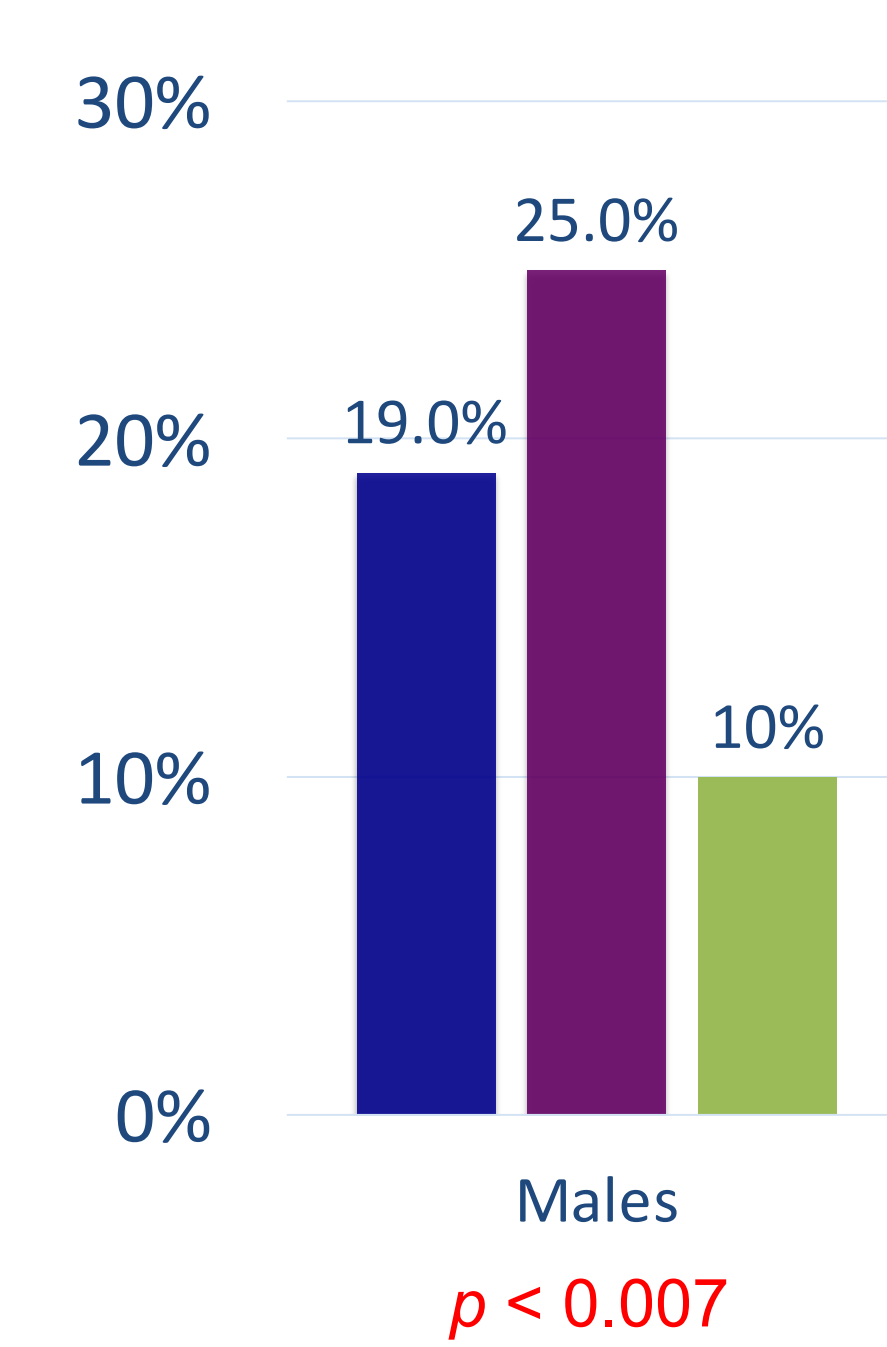
Sexual Recidivism Rate



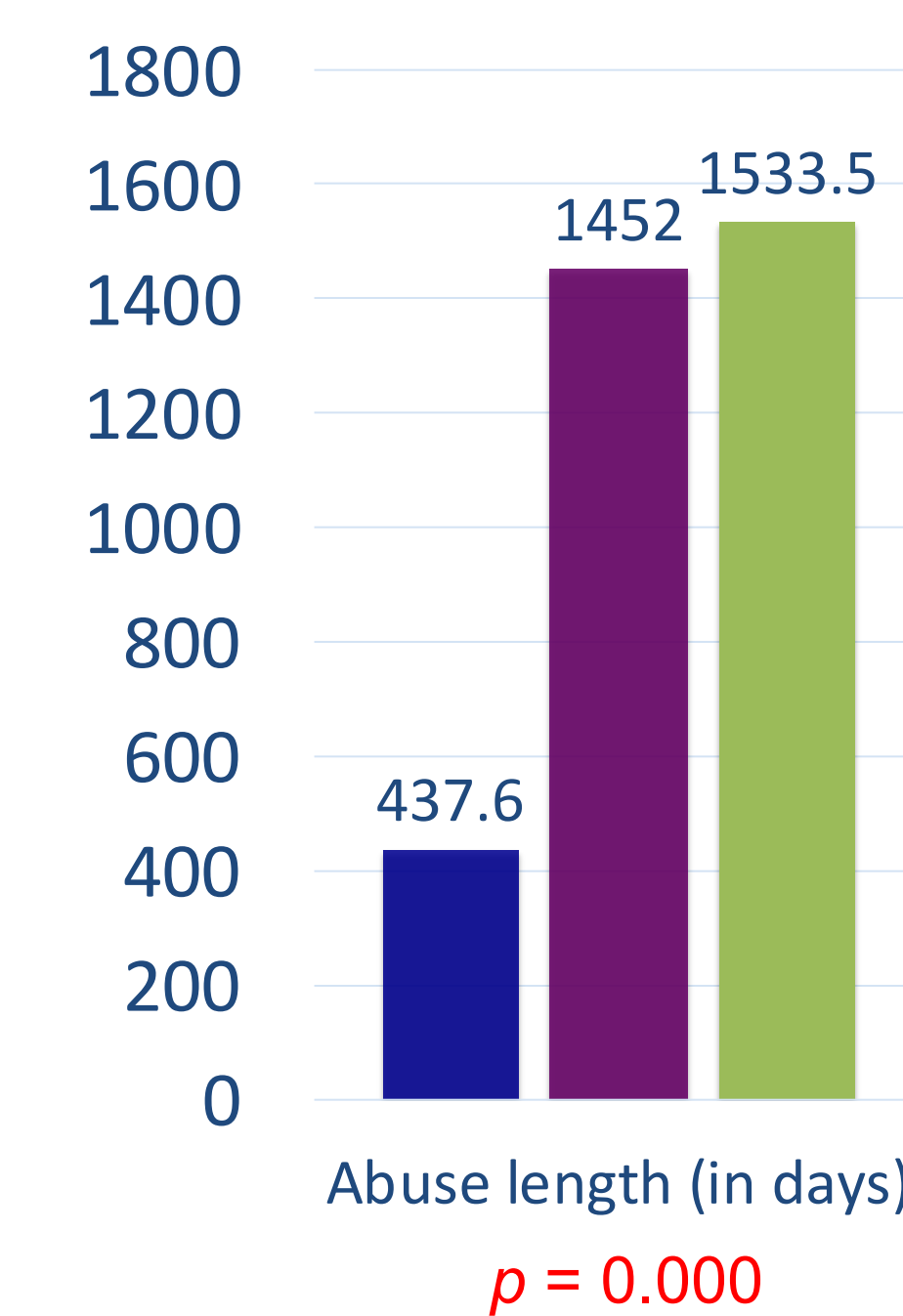
Age of Victim



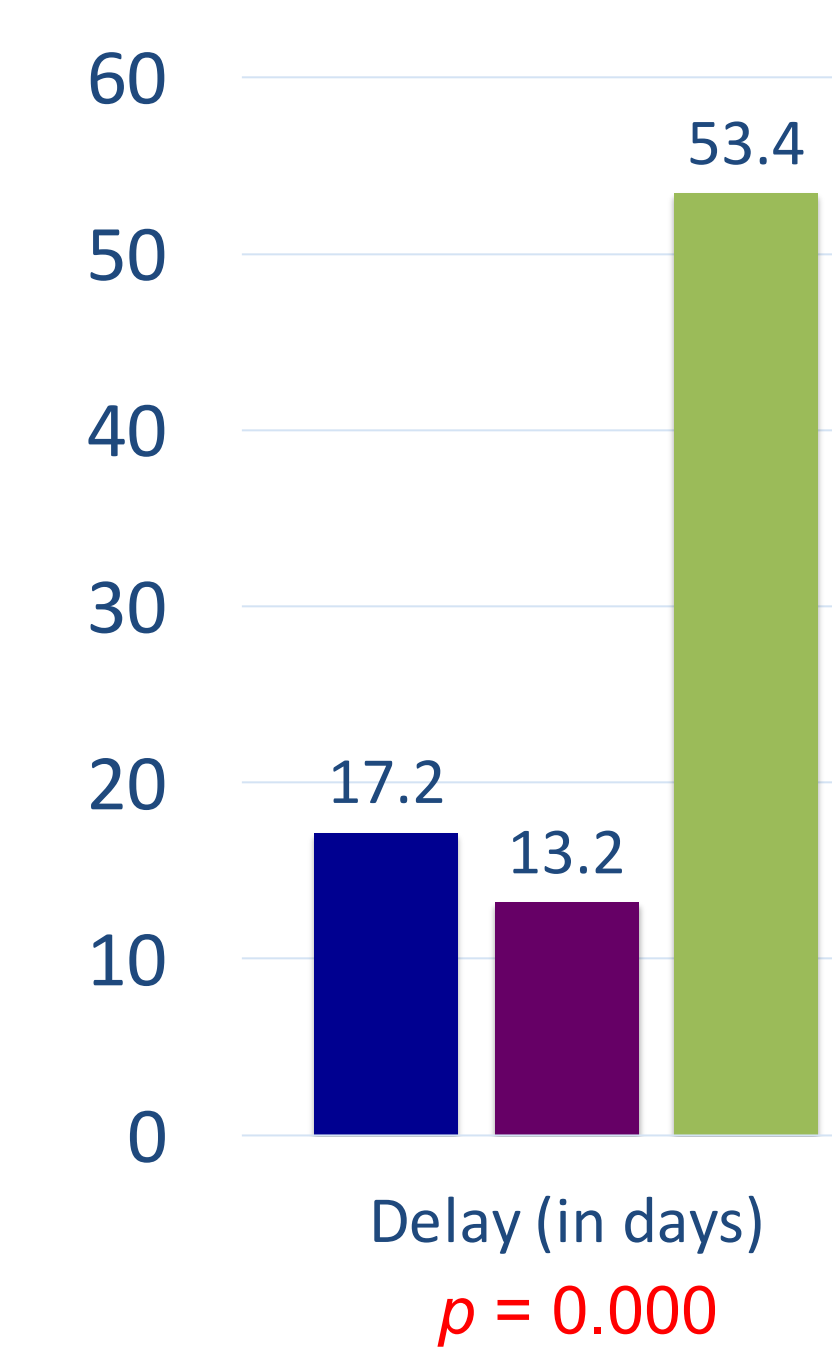
Gender of Victim



Duration of Abuse



Time to Report Abuse



■ Extrafamilial offender
■ Intrafamilial biological parent
■ Intrafamilial step parent

DISCUSSION

Key findings

- **Extrafamilial offenders:**
 - Were older than step parent offenders
 - Had older victims than intrafamilial offenders
 - Step parent offenders were younger
 - Were shorter in length of time that they abused
- **Intrafamilial step parent offenders:**
 - Had more female victims than biological parents
 - Were more likely Aboriginal (1/3) than other groups who comprised of < 10%
 - Were less likely to sexually reoffend
 - Had longer delay in reporting to police
- **No differences emerged regarding:**
 - Offenders' gender (nearly all were males)

- **Limitations:** Unsure of accuracy of variable coding, selection bias, short recidivism follow-up
- **Future research should**
 - Study biological and step parents separately when examining incestual sexual abuse, as findings in this study show that they are not homogeneous
 - Examine more comprehensive series of variables that go beyond the demographic variables included in this study

AUTHOR NOTE

The authors express deep appreciation to the following bodies, for without them, this research would not have been possible.



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The points of view expressed in this study do not necessarily represent the views of the Edmonton Police Service.

Why Does Incest Occur? A Distinction Between Genetic and Sociolegal Incest

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Abstract

The present study compares and contrasts intrafamilial biological parent, intrafamilial step parent, and extrafamilial sex offenders who are ages 19 and older and have sexually offended against victims ages 12 and under, on several variables of interest. Sexual assaults reported to the Edmonton Police Service from 2010 to 2014 were included in the sample. The aim of this study was to explore whether there were distinct differences among the three groups. Based on past literature, we hypothesized the following: (a) Intrafamilial offenders will likely be older than their extrafamilial counterparts; (b) There is likely to be no difference in perpetrators' sex; (c) Any difference in perpetrator's ethnicity is uncertain; (d) The likelihood to reoffend will likely be greater for extrafamilial offenders; (e) Intrafamilial victims will likely be younger than extrafamilial victims; (f) There is likely to be no difference in victims' sex; (g) Intrafamilial sexual abuse will likely last longer than extrafamilial sexual abuse; and (h) There will be greater delay in time to report abuse by intrafamilial offenders than extrafamilial offenders. We further expected to find that intrafamilial step parent sex offenders would reoffend more than biological parent sex offenders. The findings will be presented in this poster presentation.

Acknowledgements

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- ² Wohab, A.M., & Akhter, S. (2010). The effects of childhood sexual abuse on children's psychology and employment. *Procedia – Social and Behavioral Sciences, 5*, 144-149.