

Statistical Analysis of Personnel Records by the Archdiocese of San Francisco

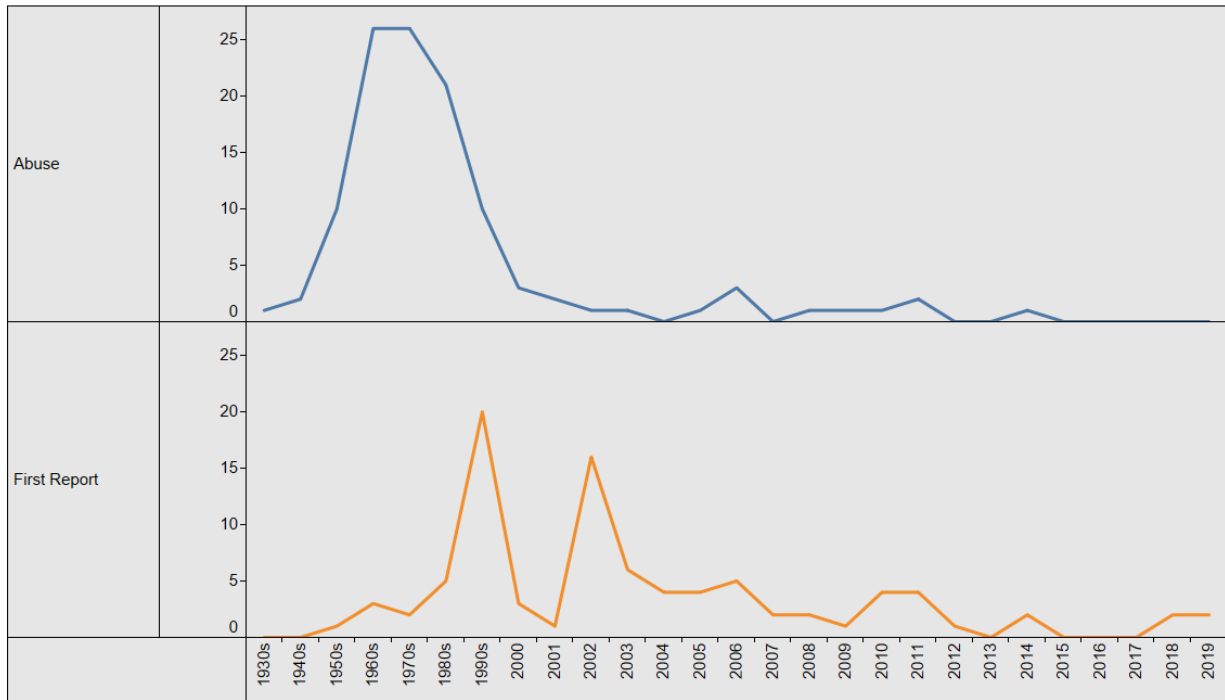
All personnel files held by the Archdiocese of San Francisco for priests in Archdiocesan ministry from 1950 through December 31, 2019, a total of 3,832 files, have been examined to determine whether those priests were ever accused of sexual abuse of minors, whether or not those reports would later be deemed sustained. For those who were accused, information about the dates of first alleged abuse as well as the dates of first reports received has been independently audited and statistically analyzed. The purpose of this report is to present the findings of that analysis.¹

In summary, the key takeaways from this analysis are that 2.3% of priests in Archdiocesan ministry after 1950 (90 of 3,832) were accused of child abuse. **Nearly 90% of that abuse was alleged to have occurred prior to 2002** (the date of institution of the United States Bishops charter for the prevention and reporting of sexual abuse of minors).

Overall, although nearly 90% of first-reported abuse was experienced prior to 2002, 55 of the 90 accused priests (61%) were first reported to the Archdiocese after 2002. Since 2002, the number of new reports received (not necessarily associated with new alleged incidents of abuse) has been 3-4 per year. These totals include all reports, whether sustained or not. Below is a further breakdown of the data.

The first part of the analysis is a time horizon to better understand the time distribution of alleged acts of abuse as well as the flow of reports received. The second part is a heat map to show the percentage distribution breakdown by alleged abuse and reports in separate time periods.

Figure 1: Timeline of abuse overlapped with time of first report



Notes: 1. For the purposes of this graphic, there are groups of 10-year increments up until the year 2000 to 2019. 2. The first report (blue line) is the date of alleged abuse, and the second (orange line) is the date of first report of abuse with respect to an accused priest. 3. (1) report can include multiple occurrences.

¹ Note that the Dioceses of Oakland, Santa Rosa, San Jose and Stockton were created from the Archdiocese of San Francisco between 1961 and 1981, respectively, and the Archdiocese of San Francisco transferred the personnel files for priests who were assigned to the new dioceses to those dioceses, and so these could not be included in this study. Those dioceses have publicly disclosed information about accused priests separately. While inclusion of these would increase the *number* of priests accused (by double-reporting those who have been disclosed through other dioceses) there is no evident statistical reason that the *rate* of accusations would be substantially different if they were included here.

Observation 1: First reports of child abuse begin as early as 1953 with the first peak occurring from 1992-1994. Following this spike, there were between 1-3 reports per year until 2002. (These reports relate both to new reports of new alleged abuse and new reports of old abuse.) In 2002, a record spike in reports (16) were given in one year compared a high of 4 in any year before or after. (It is not part of this analysis to guess at causation, but it may be noted that in 2002 a large increase in publicity, especially related to accusations in the Archdiocese of Boston, was experienced, and in that same year, the California legislature opened a one-year window in the state's statute of limitations for 2003, allowing older claims to be pursued in court.) Since 2002, there has been an average of 3-4 reports per year.

Observation 2: As depicted in Figure 2, there is a significant lag between abuse occurring and reports given. Prior to the establishment of the 2002 Charter, 79 priests were accused of committing child abuse between 1950-2001, but the submission of claims came in with an average reporting lag of 24 years between the first reported occurrence and the first report. From 2002 to present, the average time between abuse and first report received was within 1-2 years.

Figure 2: Percentage breakdown by combined eras (i.e. 1960s, 70s, 80s)

	Abuse (%)	First Report (%)
1930s, 1940s, 1950s	12%	1%
1960s, 1970s, 1980s	65%	11%
1990s & 2000-2001	13%	27%
2002 to present	11%	61%

Notes: 1. 2000-2001 was combined with 1990s to demonstrate the effects of the 2002 charter.

Observation 3: Nearly 90% of alleged abuse occurred prior to 2002 with the majority (65%) occurring during a 30-year period beginning in 1960 and ending in 1989. By decade, the 1970s saw the highest numbers of abuse followed by the 1960s and 1980s.

Observation 4: Most reports of alleged child abuse (61%) were given from 2002 to present followed by (27%) from 1990 to 2001. Prior to 1990, there were intermittent reports from 1960 to 1989 (with one report in 1953).

National Comparison (*United States only*)

Observation 5: According to a 2011 study conducted by John Jay College, in the United States, the average number of priests accused of abuse is 4% of the total population of priests since 1950. That average is further broken down into regions with a range between 3-6%. In comparison, the Archdiocese of San Francisco has a rate of 2.3% of total priests (90 of 3,832) accused of child abuse.