

POSTER

Who is Prosecuted for Statutory Rape?

Michael F. Caldwell, Psy.D., University of Wisconsin – Madison
Jill Klotzman, Mind Research Network

Strict liability offenses are those that are illegal solely because of the age of the victim. Many States include a close – in – age exception to these laws that applies to mutual sexual activity between older children who are under the age of consent, and older teen or young adult partners. However, in all States older teens or young adults can be prosecuted for mutual sexual relationships with certain teens. To date, there has been little study of how commonly these prosecutions occur, or whether local jurisdictional policies affect the incidence of these prosecutions. This study examined a subset of all sexual offense prosecutions in 10 county jurisdictions over a 10 – year period; approximately 900 prosecutions. Data were analyzed to determine the degree to which the prosecution of no force and close – in – age cases is attributable to the jurisdiction in which the offense occurred. In addition, the predictive utility of the Static – 99R was examined with these cases.