

Do Those Who Engage In Homosexual Sex More Frequently Rape and Murder The Underage? A Test Of Traditional Morality

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Abstract: Traditionalists regard those who engage in same-sex sex (e.g., ‘homosexuals’) as immoral; psychiatric professional associations consider morality unrelated to participation in homosexuality. Frequency of committing a heinous crime – rape and murder of children -- was examined as one empirical test of this disagreement. For 1980-2005, 668 stories about the rape and murder of children (<18 yr.) in 50+ major newspapers in the USA, Australia, Great Britain, Canada, etc. indexed by Lexus-Nexus were found: 202 (30%) involved perpetrators who engaged in homosexual sex (35% of the 206 stories from 1980-1994; 28% of the 462 from 1995-2005). Males constituted 96% and boys (<18 yr.) 6% of the 714 perpetrators. The 209 perpetrators who engaged in homosexual sex accounted for 364 (40%) of the 914 victims – 53.5 (9%) of the 600 girls, and 310.5 (99%) of the 314 boys. About three-quarters of children victimized were <13 yr. In Britain, 30 (51%) of 59 stories involved homosexuality.

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Are those who engage in homosexual sex “criminal, immoral, and improper?” The issue currently roils the West. In 1997, in *Dale v. Boys Scouts of America*, concerning whether ‘gays’ must be allowed to supervise Scouts, New Jersey Supreme Court Justice Handler opined: “one particular stereotype that we renounce today is that homosexuals are inherently immoral. . . . a homosexual, is no more or less likely to be immoral than a person who is a heterosexual. . . . Such stereotypes, . . . reflect... a discredited view of homosexuality as criminal, immoral and improper [and] are discordant with current law and public policy.” While Handler’s opinion is shared with a number of professional associations, by 2005, 19 states had passed laws banning homosexual marriage, and supporters of the bans often cited the very stereotypes Handler deplored.

The words “criminal, immoral, and improper” are Judge Handler’s. In his majority opinion – later overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court – he forwarded these terms without definition, implying that they have objective meaning in the world of legal discourse. “Criminal” poses no problems. Everyone knows what the word means. At one time, a consensus in our society may have existed on what “immoral” and “improper” meant. Clearly that consensus has vanished. However, “criminal” remains a manageable category. But some crimes are ‘heinous’ – indicating extreme wickedness and harm. In the current debate, which is fierce and unrelenting, antagonists might disagree on whether or not a number of crimes constitute immoral conduct, but they would surely agree that the rape and murder of children is “heinous”.

This debate is as intense in Europe. At the January 2006 meeting in Strasburg, the European Union passed a resolution requiring member states to ban “homophobia” -- the “irrational fear and aversion of homosexuality and of lesbian, gay and bisexual and transgender people based on prejudice, similar to racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism, and sexism.” Franco Frattini, a high commissioner of the EU announced that member states that fail to eliminate all forms of discrimination against homosexuals -- including public criticism or denial of marriage -- are subject to expulsion from the EU. His threat was directed at Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, and Poland who ruled against legalizing homosexual marriage. Polish Parliamentarian Marian Pilka, retorted that homosexuality was so wicked the state “should statutorily ban making any positive remarks about homosexuality or promoting it” (Barlow, 2004). While Polish EU representative Jan Tadeusz Masiel, called the adoption of children by homosexual couples “repulsive” and “shocking” (*Catholic World News*, 2006).

Politics and opinions aside, is there a way to empirically test whether those who engage in same-sex sex (e.g., homosexuals) are less “moral” or more frequently “wicked” than those who do not? Establishing differences between homosexuals and nonhomosexuals in criminality partially answers the question. A number of major sexuality surveys have indexed criminality. Those that have -- from the original 1948 Kinsey survey, through the 1973 Saghir & Robins report, to the ongoing longitudinal Christchurch study (Ferguson, Horwood & Beautrais, 1999; Ferguson, Horwood, Ridder & Beautrais, 2005) to the U.S. government’s 1996 National Household Survey of Drug Abuse -- reported more frequent criminality among same-sex practitioners (Cameron, Landess & Cameron, 2005). Similarly, the U.S. 2002 National Survey of Family Growth

reported men who engaged in homosexual activity were 47% more apt to have been in “jail, prison, or a detention center” (Mosher, Chandra & Jones, 2005). But, this communality of findings does not settle the issue. In these studies, we generally don’t know the kinds of crimes disproportionately committed by homosexuals. Were they petty (such as trespass) or more serious? If their crimes were more frequently serious or heinous, that fact would bear more forcefully upon whether homosexuals are less moral/more wicked. Van den Aardweg (1986) noted “public opinion associates [same-sex] pedophilia with serious acts of aggression toward children” (p. 160). Although he cites no empirical studies to buttress it, he believed that a greater percentage of those attracted to children of their sex as opposed to those attracted to children of the opposite sex are apt to rape and murder them.

The rape and murder of children is universally considered a heinous crime. Those who victimize children in these ways are probably more despised than any other violators of our laws. Were homosexuals to more frequently rape and kill children that would bear upon their character and whether opposition to same-sex sex is “based on prejudice” or has some basis in fact. Fortunately for testing purposes, since the rape and murder of children is so universally condemned, it makes news. Indeed, nowadays few if any such atrocities escape media attention. So examination of news stories about the rape and murder of children across the world for a reasonable period of time ought to permit an objective test of the relative involvement in ‘heinous crimes’ or ‘extreme wickedness’ by those who engage in same-sex sex.

Method

Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, an on-line search service, scans the whole text in over 50 regional and national newspapers in English, largely in the USA, but also including major papers in Australia, England, Canada, New Zealand and more recently in Japan, Singapore and Malaysia (e.g., the *Baltimore Sun*, *Boston Globe*, *Independent* [London], *Ottawa Citizen*). For 1980 through 2005 inclusive, three filters were employed to examine every newspaper story that contained three words: “murder,” “child,” and “molestation;” “killed,” “child,” and “molestation;” and “murder,” “child,” “sex”. The first two filters generated a little over 8,000 newspaper articles, the last about 25,000. Stories gotten from the first two filters were mostly subsumed under the last. Only news stories and their contents were tallied, not editorials or opinion pieces. However, if a story brought up prior events in the write-up of a child’s rape and killing, the additional events were also included in the dataset as long as they occurred after 1950 (some stories, particularly in non-U.S. newspapers, included a mixture of reportage and opinion, and each event within such an article was counted). Victims and perpetrators were considered minors if under the age of 18 at the time of the murder. A given report’s details were only tallied once, though scores of stories were often written about a given event.

If a man and woman participated in raping and killing a girl it was counted as 0.5 a heterosexual victim (for the man) and 0.5 homosexual victim (for the women). A perpetrator was placed in the year he was first mentioned, however, besides first being mentioned when caught, perpetrators would sometimes get first mention at trial, and even their execution or release. Motives for the killings as depicted in the news story varied: some killed a minor because she was pregnant and they didn’t want the baby, others

killed because they thought he was going to report them for molestations. But most were either abductions or an action in the 'heat of the moment.' All were included in the tally. Most stories covered events fairly contemporaneous to the time the news story was published. If a rape and murder of a child was reported but a perpetrator was not caught, the event was counted as long as the sex of the perpetrator(s) and victim(s) were reported. A report was included in the database if there was any mention of sexuality or sexual activity unless 'no evidence' of rape or molestation was explicitly stated; if sexuality was not mentioned, it was regarded as 'only' the murder of a child and not included in the database. Perpetrators reported to have engaged in same-sex sexual activity with the victim or someone else or who had a same-sex partner were counted as homosexual, and all others were considered nonhomosexual.

The set of newspapers that were searched expanded over time. In 1980 only a handful of large metropolitan newspapers employed electronic composing that could be searched, but by 2005 it was near universal. Until the mid-to-late 1980s, stories were more apt to focus on events that occurred in large cities. By the 1990s events outside of metropolitan areas were being covered more completely. The results were separated to reflect this transition, so in Table 1 findings are divided into 1980-1994 and 1995-2005. Ages of victims were recorded during 1995-2005, when the database was more worldwide.

Results

During the 1980-2005 period, 4 mass-murderers of children appeared: 2 came from Columbia -- Garavito who raped and murdered over 200 boys and Lopez who raped and murdered perhaps 300 girls; Ighal and Sabir raped, murdered, and dissolved in acid 100 boys in Pakistan; and Chikatilo who raped and murdered 21 boys and 16 girls in Russia.

None of these killers performed in English-speaking countries so they are not included in Table 1. It was assumed that these were unusual events, and that many other less noteworthy events of child rape/murder simply didn't make the news in newspapers written in English. The addition of these would have modestly influenced the set of perpetrators (adding 4 homosexuals and one nonhomosexual [Lopez]), but substantially increased the number of child-victims. As the Belgian sex ring that resulted in the murder of 4 girls received so much attention in the English-speaking press, it was included in the totals.

Perpetrators were disproportionately from the lower classes -- unemployed (and often supported by the government) or on disability (often because of drug or alcohol dependence), and some with previous convictions had recently been released from prison for child molestation (see Table 1 where for 1995-2005, 54 had prior convictions for sexual offences, 3 men for having raped and killed children prior to their current offense). The employed were often janitors, gardeners, and in other relatively unskilled occupations, although a Priest and a Protestant Minister were among the perpetrators.

Of the 668 stories of the murder and rape of children, 202 (30%) concerned perpetrators who engaged in same-sex sexual activity. Most (96%) of the 714 perpetrators were male; 22 (88%) of the 25 female perpetrators engaged in same-sex sex (Table 1). Boys made up 6% of the male perpetrators (5% of the homosexual; 7% of the nonhomosexual). Nonhomosexuals victimized most of the 914 children. The 209 perpetrators who victimized their sex constituted 29% of the 714 perpetrators and accounted for 364 (39%) of the 914 victims – 53.5 (9%) of the 600 girls, and 310.5 (99%) of the 314 boys. The proportion of stories about homosexual perpetrators was greater in

1980-1994 (35%) than in 1995-2005 (28%). When victims' age (which could not be determined for about a third) for 1995-2005 was divided into those under the age of 13 and those aged 13 to 17, 118 (76%) of the 155 victims of male homosexuals were under the age of 13 yr. while 283 (71%) of the 401 victims of males who apparently only engaged in opposite sex sexual activity were under 13 yr. Likewise, most (11 or 69%) of the 16 victims of women who engaged in same-sex sex were under the age of 13 yr.

Ages of girl and boy victims under 15 yr. from 1995-2005 are displayed in Table 2. The specific age of victims was frequently obscured by terms such as 'teen,' 'teenager,' 'infant,' 'young child,' 'ranged in age from 6 to 16,' or 'toddler.' Almost all the boys were victimized by homosexual practitioners; and since so few boys were victimized by females, while the ages of girls victimized by males who engaged in homosexuality did not differ from the ages of girls victimized by males who did not, no breakdown of victims' ages by same-sex v. non-same-sex status of perpetrator is displayed.

Great Britain: The only nation with a press that covered the entire nation and contributed substantially to the database was Great Britain. Britain did not evidence a lower proportion of perpetrators who engaged in homosexuality in 1995-2005. For 1980-1994, there were 16 stories from Great Britain: in 8 stories, 11 men who engaged in same-sex sex raped and murdered 10 boys and a girl; and in 8 stories, 8 men raped and murdered 11 girls. There were 43 stories for 1995-2005: in 22 stories, 30 men who engaged in sex with males and a woman who engaged in sex with females raped and murdered 37 boys and 7 girls; and in 21 nonhomosexual stories, 20 men raped and murdered 27 girls and a girl sexually assaulted and murdered 2 boys. Since 30 (51%) of 59 British v. 172 (28%) of 609 non-British stories ($X^2 = 13$; $<.001$ were they random

samples); 42 (52%) of the 81 British v. 167 (26%) of the 633 non-British perpetrators engaged in homosexuality ($X^2 = 22.5$; $p < .001$); and 55 (58%) of the 95 British v. 309 (38%) of the 819 non-British children were victimized by those who engaged in same-sex sex ($X^2 = 14.5$; $p < .001$), homosexuality was more evident in the British stories.

Fathers v. boyfriends: For 1980-94, the numbers of fathers and boyfriends who raped and killed a child were almost equal (Table 1). By 1995-2005 boyfriend-perpetrators outnumbered father-perpetrators about 2:1. Often, newspaper reports did not say if the father was married to the mother, though a number of father-perpetrators were boyfriends rather than husbands, so the unmarried and boyfriends were undoubtedly even more apt to rape and murder a child than Table 1 indicates. Fathers constituted about 4% of male perpetrators, boyfriends 8%, and 'loners' accounted for most of the remainder -- although there was a smattering of babysitters, uncles and other relatives.

In the nonhomosexual column in Table 1, fathers outnumbered mothers 13:1, while in the homosexual column mothers outnumbered fathers. Males vastly outnumbered females (170:1) in the non-homosexual column, 9:1 in the homosexual column. Only one female perpetrator acted alone (and she murdered two boys), whereas most men acted alone. Three of the 4 instances of cannibalism, and the only removal of a sex organ (a penis) appeared in the homosexual column.

For 1995-2005, 21 (19%) of the 111 men who engaged in homosexuality and 33 (10%) of the 332 men who only engaged in heterosexuality had been convicted of a sex crime, almost always child molestation. As noted above, 3 of these had been convicted of rape and murder of a child, served their time, and repeated the offense.

Not included in the results were killings of a priest, a gay couple, an uncle, and a teacher by men who claimed they had been molested as children by the murdered. One woman attempted to have her father killed because, she claimed, he had molested her as a child. Also not included were an 11-year-old boy, who killed himself when his molestation by a man was discovered, and the non-lethal penile mutilations of a boy by Shriner in the U.S. and 2 boys by Gauthier in Canada.

Discussion

The rape and killing of a child would appear too wicked and rare (of late, about 35 such events/year) to escape news coverage. Many of these events led to scores of stories and editorials all around the world. With the exception of Britain, the database might be unbiased except in terms of over-coverage of urban areas. Because of the more heavily urban nature of the stories in the 1980-94 period, 1995-2005 – with a smaller homosexual footprint – may more accurately reflect ‘the way things recently have been’ over most of the industrialized world. However, that the homosexual footprint in Britain increased somewhat during this period argues against this notion.

From a traditionalist perspective, good citizens are supposed to: 1) marry and produce children, 2) obey customs and the law, and 3) be economically productive (e.g., make more than they consume so the surplus can be used both for general benefit and to help those unable to fully contribute). While some who engage in same-sex sex marry and have children (Black, Gates, Sanders & Taylor, 2000), most do neither. Since, from a traditionalist perspective homosexuals have chosen not to fulfill their duty to settle down and have children (e.g., have behaved selfishly instead of in the common interest), they are considered of inferior character. From a (mainly) psychiatric perspective,

‘actualizing’ your sexual desires is more important than producing children (e.g., people have to ‘meet’ their ‘sexual needs’) – and in any case, satisfying your homosexual desires does not morally differentiate you from nonhomosexuals since your primary duty is to ‘be’ yourself.

Is a person who engages in same-sex sex (e.g., a homosexual) more apt to commit a heinous crime than a person who does not so engage? The proportion of those who engage in same-sex sex in the general adult population appears to be between 2% to 4% (Black, Gates, Sanders & Taylor, 2000). Thus, as indexed by the proportion of the 714 perpetrators who raped and murdered children (209 [29%]) or the 364 (39%) of the 914 victims, the answer appears to be “yes.” While the fraction of homosexuals who committed this atrocity was tiny, it was significantly larger than the fraction of (apparently) exclusive heterosexuals who did the same.

Is a homosexual more apt to go beyond ‘just’ sexually molesting a child to murder him? To answer this question definitively we would have to know the proportion of all molestations committed by homosexuals. A definitive benchmark does not exist. The best dataset may be that for 60,991 sex crimes (excluding statutory rape) reported to the police in 12 states from 1991-1996. As only about 27% of these reports lead to an arrest, the uncertainties in dealing with samples of the imprisoned (e.g., those with counsel are infrequently convicted) are reduced. As with the newsstory database, 96% of the perpetrators were men, while about a quarter (~27%) of victims under the age of 12 were homosexually assaulted (Snyder, 2000). Since many crimes are not reported to the police, the representativeness of this sample regarding ‘all sexual crimes against children’ is uncertain. However, if about a quarter of child molestations are committed by

those who engage in same-sex sex, then homosexuals – who accounted for 39% of the victims in the newspaper stories about rape and murder -- were more apt to go beyond molestation to murder the child. This bears upon whether homosexuals are more apt to be immoral since raping a child is bad, but killing him in addition is worse.

Is the ‘ephebophile’ v. ‘pedophile’ distinction useful?

Some, usually interviewing and testing those incarcerated for child molestation, differentiate between those mainly interested in adolescents and/or young adults whom they term “ephebophiles” v. those mainly interested in children (“pedophiles”) (as Freund, 1963). Both therapists and advocates of child-adult sex see this distinction as reflecting the ‘mental world’ of adults who enjoy sex with the underage (e.g., André Gide contended that ‘boy-lovers’ lost interest as soon as boys exhibited a masculine physique). However, while between a quarter and a third of ‘homosexuals’ admit to ‘child molestation’ in sexual surveys, almost none claimed exclusive interest in children or teenagers, so detecting the pedophile/ephebophile distinction is difficult.

Kinsey’s 1940s large but sloppily-gotten sample of males who engaged in homosexual sex indicated that about 8% of his sample said the age of the youngest same-sex partner since the respondent was aged 18 yr. was under age 13. About another quarter said their youngest partner was aged 13 – 17 (Gebhard & Johnson, 1979, p. 512). Similar results were reported by Jay & Young for their sloppily-gotten sample of 4,329 men and 962 women who engage in same-sex sex (1977, p. 275). Jay and Young’s report suggests that the volume of sexual encounters with teens is higher than the volume of sexual encounters with children. Thus, 96% reported “never” having sex with boy partners under the age of 9 yr., 1% said “somewhat infrequently,” and none reported “somewhat

frequently” to “always” (actual numbers were not reported, and 0.5% is the lowest fraction reported). For boys aged 9-12 as sexual partners, 93% reported “never” and 1% “somewhat infrequently.” For boys aged 13-15, 77% said “never” and 1% “very frequently.” For boy partners 16-19, 2% said “always”, 6% said “very frequently,” and only 27% said “never.” The Kinsey and Jay & Young surveys might suggest that about three times as many homosexual men have sex with teens as with pre-teens. These findings are broadly consistent with Freund’s (1963) categorizing about 10% of his sample of homosexuals as pedophiles and 25% ephebophiles.

Yet almost all homosexuals who admitted to sex with the underage also reported sex with adults. Thus, in 1969-70 Bell & Weinberg (1978) asked 671 men and 288 women who engaged in same-sex sex about the proportions of their homosexual partners who “were 16 or younger when you were 21 or older” (p. 311). Of the men, 77% said “none,” 23% said “half or less,” and none said “more than half;” of the women, 94% said “none,” 4% said “half or less,” and none said “more than half.” While, 156 (23%) of the men and 11 (4%) of the women admitted to having had some sex with children, *none* was a “pedophile” in the sense of only having had sex with children. Indeed, each of these ‘child molesters’ said that children accounted for no more than half their sexual partners indicating sexual flexibility rather than sexual fixedness.

Jay and Young (1979) asked: “How often do you have sex with men or boys [for the lesbians “women or girls”] of the following ages?” [“always, very frequently, somewhat frequently, somewhat infrequently, very infrequently, once, never” {notice the present tense of the question}]. 26 of their male respondents (0.6% of their male respondents) and 10 of the female respondents (1% of their female respondents) were 14-17 years old,

so some of the answers might reflect sex between teens and other teens or between teens and children. 4% of gays said they engaged in sex with boys under the age of 9; 7% said they engaged in sex with boys aged 9-12; and 23% said they engaged in sex with boys aged 13-15. Even if we subtract the 0.6% of respondents aged 14-17, we are still left with 22% of gays 18 years or older who said they had sex with boys aged 15 or younger (v. 23% of gays with boys < 17 yr. from the Bell & Weinberg study). For lesbians: 1% said they had sex with girls under the age of 9; 2% said they engaged in sex with girls aged 9-12; and 6% said they had engaged in sex with girls aged 13-15. Even subtracting the 1% of lesbians who were aged 14-17, 5% of lesbians 18 years or older reported having sex with girls aged 15 or younger (v. 4% of lesbians from Bell & Weinberg).

No gays and 0.5% of lesbians reported only having sex with children. For gays, 1% said they engaged in sex with boys aged 13-15 “very frequently,” but none said “always.” None said “always” to boys aged 9-12 and boys under the age of 9, whereas 2% said they “always” had sex with those 16-19, 5% said they “always” had sex with 20-24 year-olds, and 4% said that they “always” had sex with 25-29 year-olds. For lesbians, none said they “always” engaged in sex with girls under 9 yr. (although 1% said they did “somewhat frequently”), none said that they “always” had sex with girls aged 9-12 (but 1% said “somewhat frequently” and another 1% said “once”). However, 0.5% said they “always” had sex with girls aged 13-15, 1% “very frequently,” 0.5% “somewhat frequently,” 2% said “very infrequently,” and 2% said “once.” Even adjusting for the 1% of lesbian respondents under the age of 17, it is clear that a small fraction of adult lesbians report engaging in sex with girls.

That about three quarters of rape/murders were perpetrated on pre-teens, could suggest that minority who have sex with pre-teens are considerably more apt to culminate their sexual offense against a child with his murder than adults who have sex with teenagers.

Are ‘pedophiles’ ‘sick’?

While age is an imperfect marker of physical development, those under the age of 13 yr. are considered ‘children’ and those who have sex with them are often considered ‘suffering’ from ‘pedophilia’ in the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual IV* of the American Psychiatric Association. Yet who is considered a ‘child’ for sexual purposes appears fairly arbitrary. Orthodox Jews permit a girl to marry at 3, but forbid consummation until she either has 2 pubic hairs or attains age 12. Mohammed consummated his marriage to a 9 year-old -- at her father’s insistence. Old English law permitted a girl to give consent at age 10 (or 12), and until late in the 1800s, states within the United States permitted marriage when a girl was 10 or 12 yr. Indeed, the U.S. Census Bureau counted married girls of 10 through the Census of 1920. In the late 1800s, the age of consent was shifted upward by legislative decree – usually toward 16 or 18 yr.

Is any of the setting of age of consent ‘natural’ – that is, are there clear breaks between the sexual tastes of those who rape and murder children that correspond to the various ‘age of consent’ customs? Likewise, is there some hint of the pedophile v. ephibophile distinction among these perpetrators? Examination of Table 2 offers little encouragement for either division – a child of any age appears to have about an equal chance of becoming a victim of rape and murder. The Catholic Priest molestation series of the John Jay Law School (Terry, 2006), where 81% of the perpetrators engaged in same-sex sex with the 8,956 victims, differs from Table 2 in the distribution of the ages of victims: 2%

of Priests' victims were under the age of 6. Otherwise, 21% were aged 6 – 10 yr., 23% were 11 or 12 yr., 26% aged 13 or 14 yr., and 27% aged 15-17 yr. So about a fifth of the Priest's victims were 6-10 yr., a quarter 11 or 12 yr., and a quarter 13 or 14 yr. – that is, fairly evenly distributed after age 10. This is in contrast to 146 of the rape/murder victims being 6-10 yr., 81 aged 11 or 12 yr., and 56 being aged 13 or 14 yr. – clearly tilted toward the younger. Of course, the children in Table 2 were victimized by unusual perpetrators and most perpetrators may belong to those who are either exclusively or predominantly inclined to either pre-pubertal children and/or adolescents with sufficient overlap to disguise any division. That a 'disease' under the 'mental health' rubric of psychiatry could appear arbitrary rather than 'scientific,' when legal actions of 100 years ago (e.g., desiring to have and having sex with a 10 year old girl [legal within marriage irrespective of the age of the husband]) are considered expressions of 'illness' today.

Other Traditional Beliefs: The database provides an opportunity to test the dispute between traditionalists and the psychiatric perspective about homosexuals as well as a number of other commonly held stereotypes. Traditionalist stereotypes favor nonhomosexuals over homosexuals, the married over the unmarried, fathers over boyfriends, the related over the unrelated, and women over men as guardians of children.

Support for all 5 stereotypes appears in Table 1. It is unlikely that the fraction of same-sex practitioners exceeded 4% of the population during the study-period (Black, Gates, Sanders & Taylor, 2000), yet over a quarter of perpetrators engaged in homosexuality and accounted for almost half the victims. Over the period studied, the proportion of children residing with married fathers declined and the proportion living with boyfriends increased in the U.S. and throughout the English-speaking world (e.g., in 1980 about 18%

of U.S. children were born outside of marriage, and the fraction doubled to over 35% by 2005 (National Center for Health Statistics, 2005). The numbers of fathers living with their children outnumbered resident boyfriends by a substantial factor in both time-periods (more so in 1980-94), yet proportionately more boyfriend perpetrators than father-perpetrators seem to have appeared in both time periods. The numbers of fathers living with their children during the study period substantially outnumbered the number of childless male ‘loners,’ but more ‘loners’ committed this heinous crime. That the numbers of fathers who victimized their child doubled, but the number of boyfriends who victimized their girlfriend’s children quadrupled appears supportive of the traditional disapproval of boyfriends as caretakers. Boyfriends have far fewer constraints placed upon them than the married – they have not pledged their loyalty before friends and family at a public ceremony, and the extended family is less apt to be involved in the couples’ day-to-day life. This distance may inhibit the extended family’s role in protecting children. Finally, more women than men lived with and thus had ready access to children, but male far outnumbered female perpetrators. On their face, the findings suggest that loners are more apt to be wicked than the married; fathers are more law-abiding than non-fathers; men who have sex with the mother outside of marriage (boyfriends) less law-abiding than men who are married to her; and males are more apt to engage in heinous acts than females do.

No obvious reason for the difference in the British as opposed to non-British news stories presented itself.

The difference in the size of the homosexual footprint in 1980-94 as compared to 1995-2005 may indicate a change. Alternatively, the difference may be due to the fact

that homosexuals are considerably more apt to live in central urban areas (Laumann, Gagnon, Michael & Michaels, 1994) and the additional newspapers included in the 1995-2005 dataset more completely reported on non-urban areas. If a change in society has occurred, 'gay rights' or some other phenomenon may have had some influence in reducing their more recent footprint. However, the proportion of the homosexual footprint in Britain stayed essentially constant across time, arguing against this possibility.

The homosexual footprint is not just oversized in the news stories of the past 27 years. Homosexual activity looms large in the history of the rape and murder of children. The most notorious child rapist-murderer appears to have been Gilles de Rais (the French Bluebeard), remembered for raping, torturing, and killing perhaps 800 boys in 15th century France. Gilles raped boys as they hung from a hook by the neck. Before he died, Gilles took each down, comforted him, repeated the act and either killed him himself or had him slain. Gilles testified that "when the children were dead he kissed them and those who had the most handsome limbs and heads he held up to admire them, and had their bodies cut open and took delight at the sight of their inner organs; and very often when the said children were dying he sat on their stomachs and took pleasure in seeing them die and laughed..." (www.crimelibrary.com). Cruelty is not confined to the homosexual column in Table 1, but it is of interest that cannibalism and mutilation, hallmarks of extreme depravity and evil, were disproportionately committed by homosexuals.

As of July 23, 2001, the Associated Press list of the worst serial killers in the United States was topped by Donald Harvey, followed by John Wayne Gacy, Patrick Kearney, Bruce Davis and Dean Corll in descending number of victims (www.crimelibrary.com).

These serial criminals of the 1970s' and 1980's engaged in homosexuality, and the majority of the victims of Gacy, Kearney, Davis and Corll were boys. So the findings from the 1980-2005 set of newspaper stories fit the pattern of child rape and murder in both more distal and recent history.

Whether one believes that those who engage in same-sex sex comprise 2%, 4%, or even as much as 6% of the general adult population, a significantly higher fraction of perpetrators who engaged in this heinous crime engaged in same-sex sex. This finding is consistent with Solnit's (1969) remarks indicating that those who engage in same-sex sex are more apt to be disturbed as well as more apt to be socially disruptive. It also fits the findings emerging from the longitudinal Christchurch (Ferguson, Horwood & Beautrais, 1999; Ferguson, Horwood, Ridder & Beautrais, 2005) investigation of ~1,000 children from birth to age 21 yr. indicating that those with same-sex sexual attractions are more apt to be criminal and disturbed.

The results from the survey of newspaper stories about the rape and murder of children bear upon Herek's (1991) assertion that the long-standing belief that those who engaged in homosexuality were more apt to be immoral was and is false. Indeed, he characterized this belief as a "myth." Yet it seems undeniable that some who engage in homosexuality are more likely to rape and murder children – a crime all societies consider "heinous."

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Table 1. Rape and Murder of Children, 1980-2005: Frequency of Homosexual v. Nonhomosexual Stories, Perpetrators, Victims; Notable Characteristics of Perpetrators and Events

1980-1994	Same-Sex Stories	Victims	Opposite-Sex Stories	Victims
206 Stories	72 (35%)		134	
perpetrators	67 men	136.5 boys, 3 girls	128 men	134.5 girls
	6 boys	8 boys	14 boys	10 girls
	7 females	4.5 girls	1 female	0.5 boy
	Notable Characteristics		Notable Characteristics	
	1 mother, 1 cannibalism		9 fathers, 2 stepfathers	
	1 child-sex ring		11 boyfriends	
1995-2005				
462 stories	130 (28%)		332	
perpetrators	111 men	162 boys, 32 girls	337 men	375 girls
	3 boys	3 boys	23 boys	27 girls
	15 females	1 boy, 14 girls	2 females	3 boys
	Notable Characteristics		Notable Characteristics	
	6 mothers, 2 unmarried fathers		17 fathers (6 married, 6 unmarried, 5 unknown), 2 mothers	
	1 girlfriend (of a boy)		6 stepfathers	
	1 uncle		4 uncles	
	2 cannibalisms		1 cannibalism	
	1 penis cut off			
	1 Catholic priest		1 Protestant minister	
	1 HIV+ perpetrator		1 policeman	
	2 child-sex rings		1 child-sex ring	
	1 male with a 'sex change'			
	9 boyfriends		33 boyfriends	
	19 prior convicted sex offenders		32 prior convicted sex offenders	
	+ 2 had previously killed		+ 1 had previously killed	

	and raped a child		and raped a child	
	4 male lovers			
	2 female lovers			
	1 S & M situation			
Totals				
668 Stories	202 (30%) same-sex		466 opposite sex	
	187 males victimized	309.5 boys, 35 girls	502 males victimized	546.5 girls
	9 boys victimized	11 boys	37 boys victimized	37 girls
	22 females victimized	1 boy, 18.5 girls	3 females victimized	3.5 boys

Table 2. Ages of Girl and Boy Victims

Age of victim	1-2 yr.	3-4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14 yr.
girl	36	25	25	14	33	11	32	24	34	28	20	19
boy	8	13	1	3	2	4	14	9	12	7	12	5