

3-17-2023

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Jolliffe, Leah M.; Wentzlof, Chloe A.; and Stinson, Philip M., "An Exploratory Study of Police Officers Arrested for Sex-Related Crimes, 2005-2017" (2023). *Criminal Justice Faculty Publications*. 136.
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Sex-Related Crimes, 2005-2017

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Support for this project was provided by the Wallace Action Fund of Tides Foundation. This research was also supported in part by the Center for Family and Demographic Research, Bowling Green State University, which has core funding from the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (P2CHD050959).

INTRODUCTION

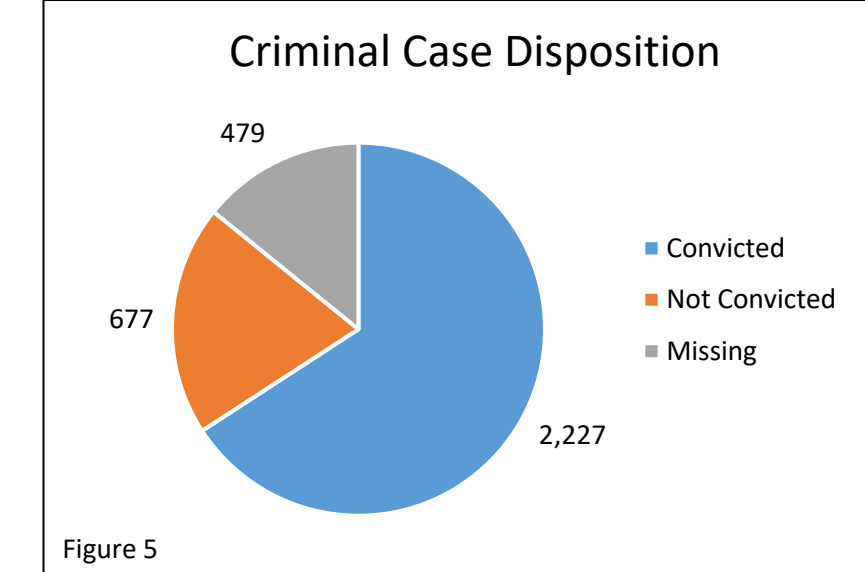
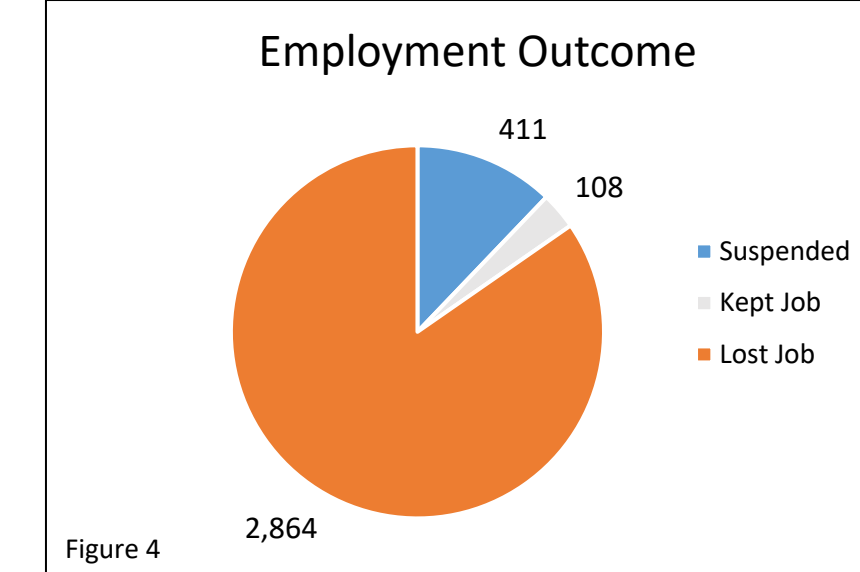
Sex-related police crime is a widespread issue throughout the United States, yet it often goes unreported. Law enforcement officers may use their police authority to prey on the most vulnerable populations – such as children, sex-workers, or those being detained by the officers. Examining sex-related police crime on the national-level is important to inform the public of these wrongdoings and acknowledge the vulnerabilities associated with victims of law enforcement.

CURRENT STUDY

This poster investigates 3,383 criminal arrest cases of sex-related police crime in years 2005-2017. It is important to note our data do not capture unreported cases nor cases that do not bring forth criminal charges. This exploratory study aims to inform the public of case details, officer and victim demographics, and criminal and employment outcomes in hopes of shedding light on a vastly understudied issue. Additional methodology can be found on the Henry A. Wallace Police Crime Database website.

Table 2. Sex-Related Police Crime: Victim Demographics, 2005-2017 (n = 3,383)

	n	(%)		n	(%)
Victim Age			Victim Sex		
0-9	164	(4.8)	Male	336	(9.9)
10-12	189	(5.6)	Female	2,648	(78.3)
13-15	610	(18.0)	Missing	399	(11.8)
16-18	399	(11.8)	Relationship to Officer		
19-21	111	(3.3)	Current Spouse	27	(0.8)
22-24	89	(2.6)	Ex-Spouse	8	(0.2)
25-27	62	(1.8)	Current Romantic Partner	22	(0.7)
28-30	45	(1.3)	Former Romantic Partner	35	(1.0)
31-33	29	(0.9)	Child or Stepchild	113	(3.3)
34-36	40	(1.2)	Other Relative	126	(3.7)
37-39	21	(0.6)	Unrelated Child	1,428	(42.2)
40-44	42	(1.2)	Stranger or Acquaintance	1,384	(40.9)
45 or Older	26	(0.7)	Victim Injury		
Missing	1,556	(46.0)	No Injury	1,268	(37.5)
Child Victim			Minor Injury	73	(2.2)
Yes	1,721	(45.0)	Serious Injury	1,461	(43.2)
No	1,521	(50.9)	Fatal Injury	4	(0.1)
Missing	141	(4.2)	Missing	577	(17.1)



RESULTS

- Criminal arrest cases involving officers arrested for sex-related crimes span a wide array of demographics. Most of these cases involve male, lower ranking officers but age and years of service varies greatly (Table 1).
- The majority of these sex-related police crime cases occur when the arrested officer was off-duty (Table 1).
- Victim age is often unknown, but we were able to identify nearly half of the cases involved a child victim (Table 2).
- The majority of these cases involved an unrelated child or an adult stranger or acquaintance (Table 2).
- The most common offenses of sex-related police crime are forcible fondling, forcible rape, other sex crimes, official misconduct, and forcible sodomy (Figure 1).
- Nearly half of these cases involve the officer using the police authority to commit these crimes (Figure 2).
- We identified 1,355 cases of police sexual violence – when a police officer uses their police authority to commit a violent sexual act against a female victim (Figure 3).
- We identified 171 criminal arrest cases with sex worker victims (Table 3).
- Cases of sex-related violence were often occurred in a public place or in/near the victim's home (Table 3).
- The majority of the officers charged with sex-related offenses lost their job (Figure 4).
- The arrested officers were convicted in 2,227 criminal cases (Figure 5).

Table 1. Sex-Related Police Crime: Officer Demographics, 2005-2017 (n = 3,383)

	n	(%)		n	(%)
Age			Sex		
19-23	78	(2.3)	Male	3,353	(99.1)
24-27	332	(9.8)	Female	30	(0.9)
28-31	436	(12.9)	Function		
32-35	463	(13.7)	Patrol and Street Level	2,854	(84.4)
36-39	512	(15.1)	Line/Field Supervisor	364	(10.8)
40-43	535	(15.8)	Management	195	(4.9)
44-47	397	(11.7)	Agency Type		
48-51	232	(6.9)	Primary State Police	141	(4.2)
52-55	126	(3.7)	Sheriff's Office	723	(21.4)
56 or Older	138	(4.1)	County Police Dept.	114	(3.4)
Missing	134	(4.0)	Municipal Police Dept.	2,236	(66.1)
Years of Service			Special Police Dept.	129	(3.8)
0-2	453	(13.4)	Constable	27	(0.8)
3-5	520	(15.4)	Tribal Police Dept.	11	(0.3)
6-8	399	(11.8)	Regional Police Dept.	2	(0.1)
9-11	346	(10.2)	Geographic Region		
12-14	253	(7.5)	Northeastern States	493	(14.6)
15-17	242	(7.2)	Midwestern States	586	(17.3)
18-20	187	(5.5)	Southern States	1,598	(47.2)
21-23	85	(2.5)	Western States	706	(20.9)
24-26	107	(3.2)	Arresting Agency		
27 or More Years	100	(3.0)	Own Employer	1,008	(29.8)
Missing	691	(20.4)	Not Own Employer	2,375	(70.2)
Officer Duty Status					
On-Duty	1,343	(39.7)			
Off-Duty	2,040	(60.3)			

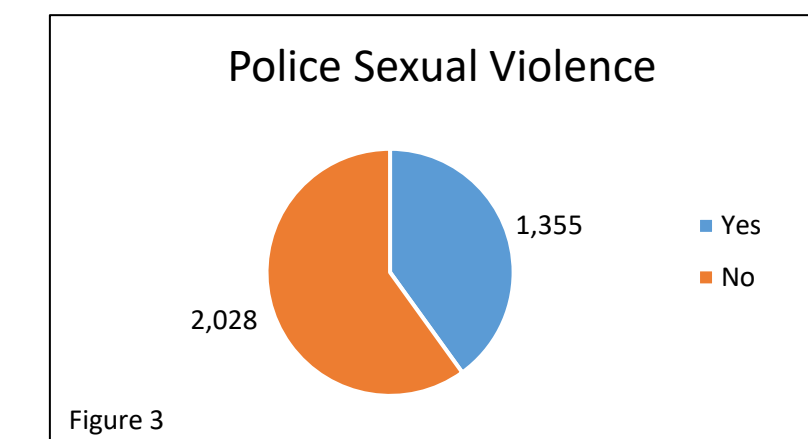
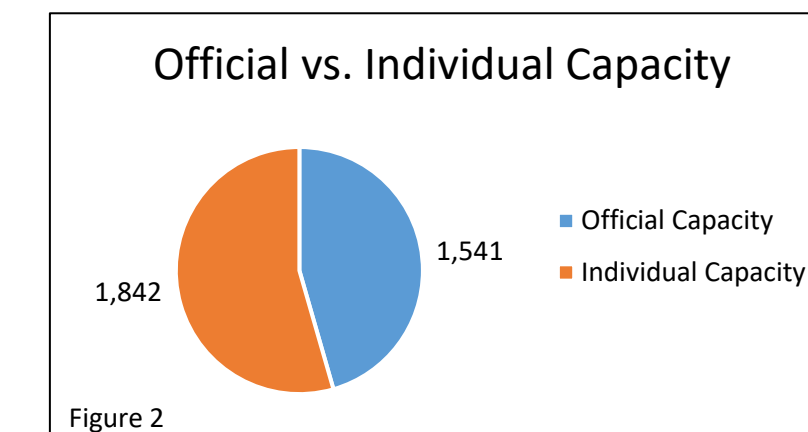
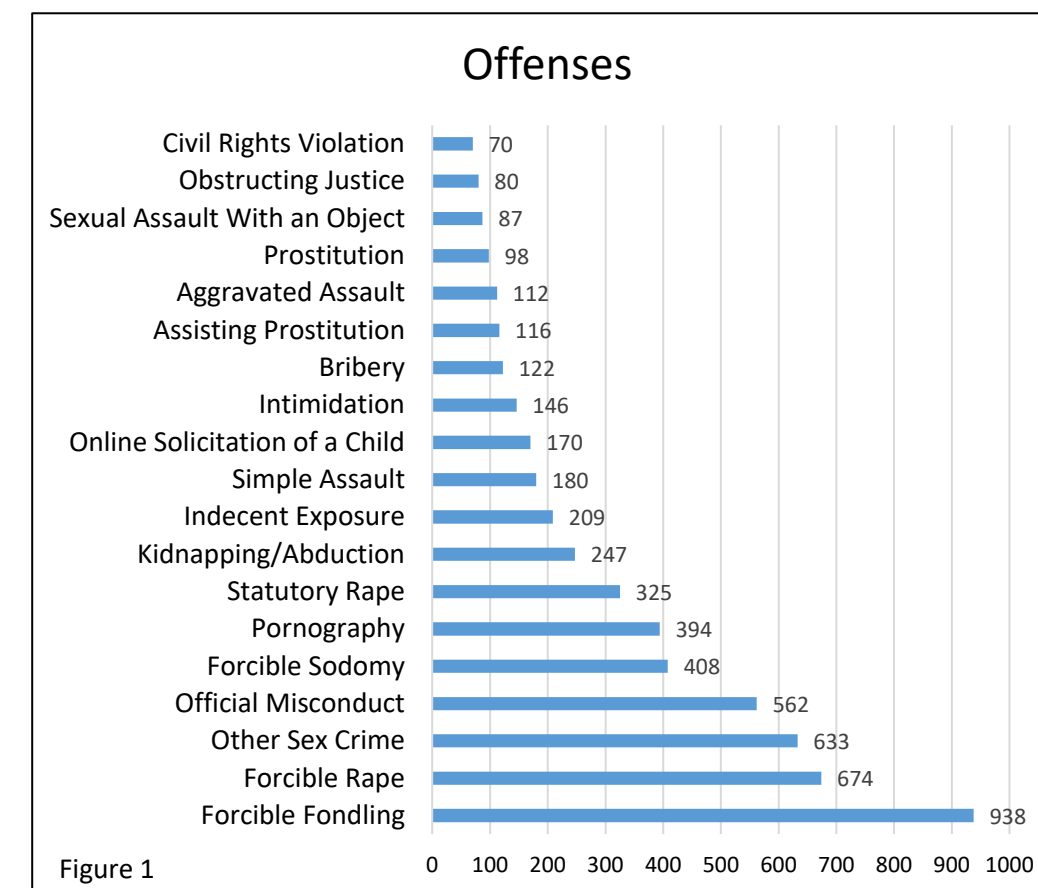


Table 3. Case Characteristics (n=3,383)

	n	%		n	%
Victim is a Police Officer	56	(1.7)	Violence-Related Crime	2,422	(71.6)
Victim is a Sex Worker	171	(5.1)	Drug-Related Crime	80	(2.4)
Location of Violence: In/Near Victim Home	547	(16.2)	Alcohol-Related Crime	185	(5.5)
Location of Violence: Other Home	379	(11.2)	Profit-Motivated Crime	73	(2.2)
Location of Violence: Public Place	749	(22.2)	Known Victim Race	182	(5.4)
Location of Violence: Commercial Property	303	(8.9)	Threats of Gun	97	(2.9)

DISCUSSION AND DIRECTIONS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

- We have identified 3,383 criminal arrest cases of sex-related police crimes throughout the United States in years 2005-2017. We believe there further exists a prominent amount of sex-related police crime which goes unreported. This would suggest that sex-related police crime is a nationwide problem which demands future research and attention.
- We found several cases of assault, bribery, obstructing justice, and other crimes which may not be overtly sex-related. Case details suggested these cases were still sex-related despite their potentially deceiving charges. An oversimplification of details may present misleading findings if researchers do not have full information about cases.
- Missing demographics associated with the victims of sex-related police crime suggest that the victims' identities are often protected. While this is important to maintain protection for the victims, it limits the implications of our findings. We still are able to identify children, sex workers, and other particularly vulnerable populations may be at an elevated risk of police victimization. Any crime perpetrated by those sworn to uphold the law is a grave risk to public safety and security.