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Source of Kinsey's data on child sexuality disputed

Interview with one child molester may have provided data on children, director says

Associated Press

The source of data on child sexuality reported by pioneering researcher Alfred Kinsey was apparently at odds with Kinsey's files on the topic, the new director of the Kinsey Institute says.

In the 1948 book, *Sexual Behavior in the Human Male*, Kinsey claimed to document multiple orgasms in 317 pre-adolescent and infant children.

Ambiguous language used in the book suggested to some that Kinsey had drawn the data from up to nine pedophiles and possibly other sources.

But institute director John Bancroft said his own review of Kinsey's files indicates the findings are likely based on one unidentified

source.

"I have looked at the data on which these tables appear to be based, and I am fairly confident that the data for all 317 cases appears to be based on the observations of one man," said Bancroft, appointed in May to head the Kinsey Institute for Research in Sex, Gender and Reproduction.

The source for the data was likely an elderly scientist who claimed to have had sex with hundreds of men, women, children and animals from 1917 to 1947, Bancroft said.

Kinsey conducted 17 hours of interviews with the man, who is identified in Kinsey files only by a pseudonym. Bancroft would not reveal the pseudonym, but said the man apparently was real and was an American.

Bancroft said Kinsey probably talked to other pedophiles for anecdotal evidence, as well as parents who had observed their children masturbating.

Kinsey, who died in 1956, shocked the world when his books on human sexuality

provided the first publication of scientific data on sexual activity. The book was enormously influential in shaping modern American attitudes about human sexuality.

Last year, the Family Research Council, a Washington-based, pro-family research and lobbying organization headed by Robert H. Knight, released a video critical of the Kinsey data on child orgasms.

A charge by Knight that Kinsey and his associates may have participated in illegal child sex experiments is based in part on a reference to a stopwatch or second hand being used to time children's orgasms.

Bancroft said the stopwatch or second-hand alluded to in Kinsey's book simply came from the files of the elderly man in question. There is no evidence Kinsey or his associates trained anybody to bring children to orgasm, Bancroft said.

"I don't blame (the critics) for their interpretation, but I'd like them to accept the assurance that that was not the case," he said.



John H.J. Bancroft