

Contents

Introduction		<i>Page</i> 1
	Genesis of the study	1
	Prevalence or incidence?	1
	Current prevalence estimates	2
	Aims and scope of the study	3
	Design and conduct of the study	3
	Structure of this report	6
Section One	Key Issues to be Addressed	8
	Case definition	8
	Context and approach	11
	Response	13
	Sample	13
	Questionnaire design	14
	Mode of administration	15
	Memory and recall	15
	Interviewer training and preparation	16
	Confidentiality and ethics	16
Section Two	Context and Approach	18
	General issues	18
	Setting the study in context: childhood and the family	19
	Introducing the survey: an oblique approach	20
	Introducing the survey: direct approaches	21
Section Three	Response and Response Bias	28
	Overall response	28
	Will people who have had sexual experiences in childhood take part?	31
	What are the reasons for non-response?	35
	Conclusions: implications for response, and strategies for minimising bias	36
Section Four	Sampling	39
	Defining the population under study	39
	Sampling frames	42
	Sample size	44

Section Five	Questionnaire Design	46
	General issues of design and approach	46
	Questionnaire design	50
	Establishing context	52
	Asking about childhood sexual experience	53
	Collecting information on effects and outcomes	60
	Interview length	63
Section Six	Mode of Administration	64
	Self-completion methods	64
	Telephone interviewing	65
	Face-to-face interviewing	66
Section Seven	Accuracy, Reliability and Validity	68
	Memory and recall: facts	68
	Memory and recall: perceptions	68
	Reliability and validity	70
Section Eight	Interviewer Training and Deployment	73
	Preparation and training	73
	Assessment	75
	Deployment	75
Section Nine	Confidentiality and Ethics	77
	Preserving the anonymity of respondents	77
	Privacy during the interview itself	77
	Ethical considerations: the impact on respondents	78
	Disclosure of information about possible criminal activity	80
Section Ten	Conclusions and Recommendations	81
	Approach and presentation	82
	Response	82
	Questionnaire	83
	Case definition	84
	Sample	85
	Fieldwork	86
	Memory and recall	87
	Ethics	88
	Implications for the future	89
References		91