

NARTH Notes

New Study Refutes Prior Claim That Pedophilia Results in Little or No Harm

The American Psychological Association has published in its *Psychological Bulletin*, a new study which examines and refutes a study published in the same journal in 1998 which found that child sexual abuse is not necessarily harmful for children.

The new study in the November issue of the *Psychological Bulletin* reveals numerous problems in the 1998 Rind, et al study. Among other criticisms, the authors of the new article say the Rind report misrepresented data.

Cybercast News Service (CNS) reported that Joyanna Silberg, Ph.D., co-author of the new Rind study critique, said Rind's conclusion that most men did not suffer negative effects from childhood sexual abuse is in fact not supported by Rind's own data.

Silberg, a child psychologist at Sheppard Pratt Hospital in Baltimore, Md., said Rind "failed to note that the men's subjective perceptions did not correlate with their results on objective measure." For example, compared to their non-abused peers, more than twice as many abused men said they had used illegal drugs, three times as many had sought therapy for emotional problems and five times as many said they had attempted suicide, reports CNS.

The November issue of the APA publication also carried an article by Rind, et al. In that article, the authors—Bruce Rind, Phillip Tromovitch and Robert Bauserman—defended their explosive 1998 study against Silberg's criticisms.

The 1998 study was hailed by pedophilia groups such as the

North American Man/Boy Love Association (NAMSLA) and has been used in defense of convicted pedophiles in court cases. Stephanie J. Dallam of the Leadership Council for Mental Health, Justice and the Media, was a co-author of the study critiquing the Rind report. She noted that the Rind study was used by an Arizona elementary school teacher who was convicted of abusing young boys as grounds to argue for a reduced sentence.

--Dallam, S., A. Cepeda-Benito, Kraemer, D. Gleaves, J. Silberg and D. Spiegel, "The Effects of Child Sexual Abuse: Comment on Rind, Tromovitch, and Bauserman" (1998), *Psychological Bulletin* 127, No. 6, 715-733.