

Seasonal variation of sexual abuse in Santiago de Chile

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Background: Seasonal variations of sexual crime have been seldom studied in the world. Santiago, a city situated at 33° south latitude with a well defined four season climate, has a reliable forensic registry, providing a good opportunity for the assessment of seasonality in this type of crime.

Materials and Methods: After studying monthly records of sexual abuse from the registry of the Servicio Médico Legal of Santiago between 1990 and 2001, a ratio of observed to expected monthly frequency was obtained, allowing the assessment of the seasonal character of the phenomenon.

Results: A total number of 11,844 cases of sexual abuse were recorded during 12 years of the study. Statistically significant differences could be demonstrated between spring and autumn, with a peak in November and a nadir in June. **Conclusions:** A distinct seasonal pattern can be set forth for sexual abuse in Santiago, Chile. Copyright © 2006 S. Karger AG.