

## Trial Description

### Title

**Sexual abuse of minors by priests, deacons, and clergymen in the Roman Catholic Church in Germany**

### Trial Acronym

[---]\*

### URL of the trial

[---]\*

### Brief Summary in Lay Language

**The aim of the research project is at first to expose the nature and scope of sexual abuse, and at second to highlight the causes and context of abuse of minors within the Catholic Church in Germany. Beside a comprehensive survey of all cases of abuse (taken place between 1945 and 2014) there will also be a scientific analysis of the archives of the dioceses. Also, external records are used to carry out comparative analysis with other institutions (e. g. state youth welfare institutions, schools). Experiences of the victims will be used for development of research instruments and for the interpretation of results. An advisory board will accompany and examine the project. The diverse facets of the topic will be explored by semi-structured interviews with victims and offender.**

### Brief Summary in Scientific Language

**The project requires an interdisciplinary approach, which includes criminological, psychological, sociological, psychiatric and forensic-psychiatric expertise. Key figures will be determined regarding quantitative extent of abuse (assess annual clerical staff size since 1945, analyse personnel records). Interviews with abused persons and the offenders will be used to work out structural aspects of the institution that foster abuse.**

**Following sub-projects are included:**

- 1. Assessment of data location and data management practices in terms of sexual abuse cases in the area of the German Bishops' Conference**
- 2. Qualitative biographical analysis of interviews with people concerned (victims and offenders)**
- 3. Institutional comparisons**
- 4. Analysis of aspects of prevention**
- 5. Secondary analysis of national and international empirical evidence of abuse**
- 6. Quantitative analysis of random samples of personnel records of the clerical staff**

## Organizational Data

- DRKS-ID: **DRKS00006769**
- Date of Registration in DRKS: **2014/09/24**
- Date of Registration in Partner Registry or other Primary Registry: [---]\*
- Investigator Sponsored/Initiated Trial (IST/IIT): **yes**
- Ethics Approval/Approval of the Ethics Committee: **Approved**
- (leading) Ethics Committee Nr.: [---]\*, **Ethikkommission der Fakultät für Verhaltens- und Empirische Kulturwissenschaften der Universität Heidelberg, Voßstr. 2**  
**dekanat@verkult.uni-heidelberg.de**

## Secondary IDs

## Health condition or Problem studied

- ICD10: **T74.2 - Sexual abuse**

## Interventions/Observational Groups

- Arm 1: **Epidemiological, observational study; Key figures will be determined regarding quantitative extent of abuse (assess annual clerical staff size since 1945, analyse personnel records). Interviews with abused persons and the offender will be used to work out structural aspects of the institution that foster abuse.**

## Characteristics

- Study Type: **Non-interventional**
- Study Type Non-Interventional: **Epidemiological study**
- Allocation: **Single arm study**
- Blinding: [---]\*
- Who is blinded: [---]\*
- Control: **Uncontrolled/Single arm**
- Purpose: **Prevention**
- Assignment: **Single (group)**
- Phase: **N/A**
- Off-label use (Zulassungsüberschreitende Anwendung eines Arzneimittels): **N/A**

### Primary Outcome

**Quantitative assessment of the extent of abuse in the Roman Catholic Church in Germany (2015/2016); semi-structured interviews with victims and offenders (2014/2015/2016)**

### Secondary Outcome

**[---]\***

### Countries of recruitment

- **DE Germany**

### Locations of Recruitment

- other **Bistümer, Deutschland**

### Recruitment

- Planned/Actual: **Planned**
- (Anticipated or Actual) Date of First Enrollment: **2014/12/01**
- Target Sample Size: **200**
- Monocenter/Multicenter trial: **Multicenter trial**
- National/International: **National**

### Inclusion Criteria

- Gender: **Both, male and female**
- Minimum Age: **no minimum age**
- Maximum Age: **no maximum age**

### Additional Inclusion Criteria

**Abused Person: being a minor at time of abuse;  
Offender: each person who give consent.**

### Exclusion criteria

**Not being contractually capable**



## Addresses

### ■ Primary Sponsor

**Verband der Diözesen Deutschlands, Deutsche Bischofskonferenz**  
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### ■ Contact for Scientific Queries

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### **Sources of Monetary or Material Support**

■ **Private sponsorship (foundations, study societies, etc.)**

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E-mail: [---]\*

URL: [---]\*

### **Status**

■ Recruitment Status: **Recruiting ongoing**

■ Study Closing (LPLV): [---]\*

### **Trial Publications, Results and other documents**

\* This entry means the parameter is not applicable or has not been set.

\*\*\* This entry means that data is not displayed due to insufficient data privacy clearing.