



Applying Theory to Crime: **FEMALE SEX OFFENDERS**

According to the UCR, a total of 2,290 females were arrested for sex offenses in 2014 (excluding rape and prostitution).¹⁰² Sex offenses were defined as “[o]ffenses against chastity, common decency, morals, and the like. Incest, indecent exposure, and statutory rape are included. Attempts are included.” Below are a few reports of female teachers who were arrested for sexually abusing their students:

- Joy Morsi, a 40-year-old Queens, New York, gym teacher was charged with having sex with two underage students. She pled guilty to one count each of rape and criminal sexual act charges. She was ordered to attend an outpatient program for a diagnosed depressive disorder followed by 10 years of probation.¹⁰³
- In Texas, a middle school English teacher was accused of sexually abusing a 13-year-old boy; she later turned herself in to

authorities. The 24-year-old teacher, Alexandria Vera, was charged with the continuous sexual abuse of a child. Vera claims that she and the 13-year-old are in love.¹⁰⁴

- Brianna Altice, a 35-year-old English high school teacher in Utah was accused of having sexual relationships with three of her students; one boy was 16 years old and the other two boys were 17 years old. She pled guilty to three counts of forcible sexual abuse in exchange for prosecutors dropping an additional eleven counts, some including first-degree felonies.¹⁰⁵

Robert Tanner from the *Associated Press* wrote the following:

A 17-year-old girl in upstate New York is forced into sex by a male teacher. Instead of sympathy, the student gets harassed for causing trouble for a popular teacher, threatened and pushed around by

other girls. Just six weeks before graduation, she quits school.

A 17-year-old boy in Colorado is seduced by his attractive female teacher. A neighbor tells the teen's mom it was a sexual conquest like “climbing Mt. Everest.” He has to hide from the crush of media attention.

They are crimes and abuses, but often they're treated as entertainment. Girls are pressed into the role of seducer or naive victim. Boys are seen as studs. Sexual misconduct by teachers is remarkably common in American schools, an Associated Press investigation found. But how Americans react to it is deeply split depending on the victim's gender.¹⁰⁶

THINK ABOUT IT

1. Some would argue that these women do not fit the stereotype of a sex offender. Do you think they are sex offenders?
2. Do some people view male sex offenders differently than they view female sex offenders?