

2024 CARA SURVEY
SUMMARY OF DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024

The following data represents credible¹ reports received, and credible reports resolved, during the period July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024, alleging sexual abuse of minors by priests and deacons of the Diocese of Manchester.² This data was reported to the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA).

Under diocesan policy, all reports of sexual abuse of a minor by Church personnel are reported to the Office for Ministerial Conduct. The Delegate for Ministerial Conduct informs Bishop Libasci and the Office of the New Hampshire Attorney General of every report received, regardless of when the abuse occurred or whether the report has the semblance of truth. When Bishop Libasci determines that there is a “semblance of truth” to a report, he immediately offers pastoral care to the complainant through the diocesan Coordinator of Victim Assistance and Pastoral Care. The Diocese of Manchester cooperates with the civil authorities in the case of any investigations. The bishop initiates a preliminary investigation in accordance with Church law when cleared to do so by law enforcement. If the accused is alive and in ministry, the bishop places the accused person on precautionary leave pending the conclusion of the preliminary investigation.

The Church investigation is conducted using a professional lay investigator. For cases involving living clerics, all investigative material is provided to the Diocesan Review Board along with recommendations from the Delegate for Ministerial Conduct and the investigator as to whether or not the allegations are “probable.” The Diocesan Review Board then advises the Bishop of its findings regarding the probability of the report and makes a recommendation concerning the accused person’s suitability for ministry. As required by Church law, Bishop Libasci forwards to the Holy See all reports of sexual abuse of a minor against living priests or deacons that have the semblance of truth, along with his recommendation for a final disposition.

NEW ALLEGATIONS RECEIVED DURING THIS AUDIT YEAR (7/1/23-6/30/24)

During the period July 1, 2023, and June 30, 2024, the Diocese of Manchester received eighteen (18) new allegations of sexual abuse of a minor by priests.

Of these eighteen (18) reports, eight (8) investigations remained ongoing during the audit year.

Eight (8) of the reports were determined to be credible. One (1) report from the previous audit year was resolved as credible during the 2023-2024 audit period.

¹ “Credible” refers to an allegation that has been sufficiently substantiated by a preliminary investigation to bear a “semblance of truth.” In the case of a deceased perpetrator, the allegation is credible if it meets the criteria for forwarding the matter to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

² Data involving clergy that are members of religious institutes is not reported in this document because that information is reported to CARA by the religious institutes.

Two (2) individuals reported cases of abuse but were not able or they chose not to participate in an investigation.

These allegations were reported to the Office of the New Hampshire Attorney General, and outreach services have been offered through the Coordinator of Victim Assistance and Pastoral Care to those who reported having been abused.

ALL ALLEGATIONS DEEMED CREDIBLE DURING THIS AUDIT YEAR (7/1/23-6/30/24)³

The following data represents nine (9) reports noted above that were received during the previous audit year and determined to be credible and resolved as credible during this audit year.

Number of reports: 9

Dates when reported abuse of a minor began:

1954 or earlier	0	1985-1989	0
1955-1959	1	1990-1994	0
1960-1964	3	1995-1999	0
1965-1969	0	2000-2004	0
1970- 1974	1	2005-2009	1
1975-1979	2	2010-2020	1
1980-1984	1	Time period unknown	0

THOSE MAKING REPORTS

Victim Gender:	Male	7
	Female	2

Who made the report to the Diocese:

Victim	2
Family member	0
Friend of victim	0
Attorney	6
Law Enforcement	1
Bishop of official from another diocese	0
Other	0

Ages of victims when reported abuse began:

0 – 9 years	1
10 – 14 years	4
15 – 17 years	4
Age unknown	0

³ Numbers in this section refer to the total number of allegations (new and recently resolved) deemed credible during the audit year. Some allegations were reported in previous years but were resolved this year.

THOSE NAMED IN REPORTS

Number of priests named:	8
Deceased, already removed, or laicized:	7
Have had one or more previous allegations:	6
Were returned to ministry following resolution of the allegations:	0

FINANCIAL EXPENDITURES

Since 2002, the Diocese has responded to hundreds of requests for financial settlements by survivors of child sexual abuse and has reported annually the total amounts of these settlements. In making any such financial disclosure, the Diocese complies with all requests by victims that their identities and their individual settlement amounts not be disclosed to the public. Victims are not asked by the Diocese to observe any disclosure restrictions.

During the time period covering July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024, the Diocese entered into financial settlements with victims of sexual abuse by clergy for a total amount of \$1,120,000. Note that the settlement amount does not correlate with the number of individuals making reports in this time period because some of these settlements were related to reports made prior to July 1, 2023. In addition, not all persons making reports request financial support to assist in healing. Financial settlements are paid from the Diocesan Insurance Fund. No parish, Catholic school, or other diocesan funds have been used to pay these costs.

In addition to the foregoing payments, during this time period, the Diocese paid \$3,342 for mental health services for survivors of sexual abuse. The Office for Healing and Pastoral Care coordinates this care.