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Prevalence rates of male and female sexual violence perpetrators in a national sample of adolescent

Michele Ybarra MPH PhD
Kimberly Mitchell PhD

* Thank you for your interest in this presentation. Please note that analyses included herein are preliminary. More recent, finalized analyses can be found in: Ybarra, M. L., & Mitchell, K. J. (2013). Prevalence rates of male and female sexual violence perpetrators in a national sample of adolescent. JAMA Pediatrics, 167(12), 1125-1134.

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BACKGROUND

- Sexual violence (SV) is associated with more than one million victims and associated costs of almost \$127 billion each year.¹
- The impact on the individual can be high, including increased rates of post-traumatic stress disorder,² physical health problems,³ and suicidal threats and attempts.⁴
- Sexual violence emerges in adolescence,⁵⁻⁷ making it a critical period of inquiry.
- Most of the prevention focus has been on the victims. As such, little is known about perpetrators. Gaps include:
 - A lack of nationwide estimates for adolescent perpetrators of SV⁸
 - Data are sparse for adolescent female perpetrators of SV⁹⁻¹²

GROWING UP WITH MEDIA SURVEY METHODOLOGY

- Baseline data collected August-September, 2006. Wave 4 data (the focus of today's talk) were collected October 2010 – February 2011
- Participants were recruited from Harris Poll On Line
- 1,586 households (one caregiver, one child) were randomly recruited and subsequently surveyed online
- Youth eligibility:
 - Aged 10-15 years
 - Use the Internet at least once in the last 6 months
 - English speaking

WEIGHTING AND RESPONSE RATES

- Weighting:
 - Data were weighted to match the US population of adults with children between the ages of 10 and 15 years;
 - Propensity scoring was applied to adjust for self-selection into the HPOL; and in subsequent waves, the propensity to respond versus not
- Response rates:
 - Initial, Wave 1 response rate was 28%
 - At Wave 4, 56% ($n = 888$) of baseline respondents responded; 77% of Wave 3 participants responded at Wave 4

MEASURING SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Sexual violence perpetration was queried using four items:

1. In the last 12 months, how often have you kissed, touched, or done anything sexual with another person when that person did not want you to?
2. How often have you ever tried, but was not able, to make someone have sex with me when I knew they did not want to?
3. How often have you ever made someone have sex with me when I knew they did not want to; and
4. How often have you ever gotten someone to give in to sex with me when I knew they did not want to.

The first item was included in the survey since Wave 1. It was drafted specifically for this study. The other 3 items were added at Wave 4 and were modified from the Sexual Experiences Survey.^{13,14}

To more closely align the timeframes, youth who reported forced sexual behavior at any of the four waves were included as perpetrators.

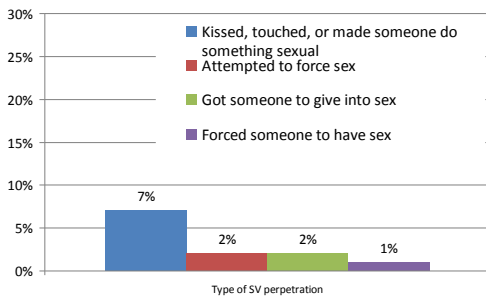
Twenty-two youth reported past-year perpetration at Wave 4; 57 reported perpetration at least once since Wave 1.

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF WAVE 4 RESPONDERS VERSUS NON-RESPONDERS*

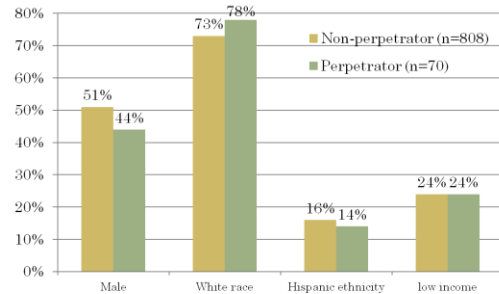
Demographic characteristics	Wave 4 responder (n=878)	Wave 4 non-responder (n=708)	P-value
Average age at W1	12.7	12.7	.93
Male sex	50%	49%	.70
White race	71%	74%	.36
Hispanic ethnicity	17%	19%	.65
Low household income (<\$35,000 py)	25%	27%	.70
Caregiver is married	73%	74%	.69
Sexual violence (Q1)	2%	3%	.23

*Weighted data

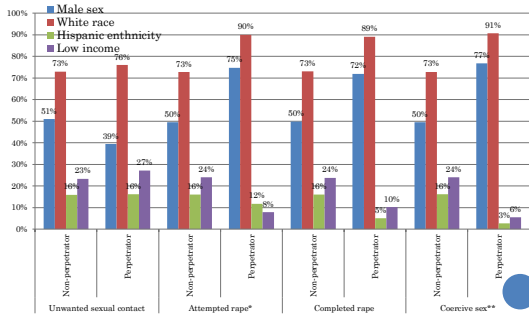
NATIONAL, LIFETIME SEXUAL VIOLENCE PERPETRATION RATES AMONG 13-20 YEAR OLDS



DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS BASED UPON SEXUAL VIOLENCE PERPETRATION (N=878)

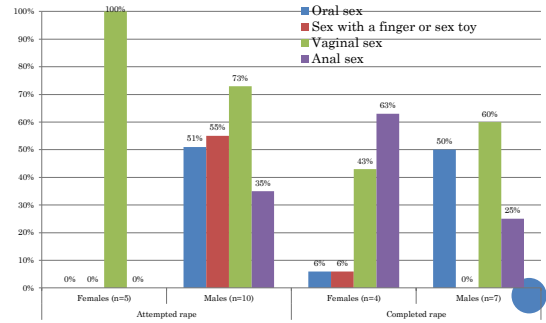


DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS BASED UPON TYPE OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE PERPETRATION (N=878)



**All differences statistically significant; * All differences except Hispanic ethnicity statistically significant

TYPE OF SEX ATTEMPTED OR FORCED BY PERPETRATOR BIOLOGICAL SEX



Sex Differences in Penetration Perpetration

Specific detail about the perpetrator and the experience	Female perpetrators (n=9)	Male perpetrators (n=17)
Age at first perpetration (p<.05)	17.3 (0.6)	15.6 (0.4)
Difference between current age and age at first perpetration (ns)	1.8 (0.3)	1.4 (0.3)
More than 1 victim (ever) (ns)	24%	33%
Most recent perpetration event		
Victim age		
Older (p<.05)	50%	6%
Same age (p<.05)	0%	20%
Younger (p<.05)	50%	75%
Where the perp met victim		
School (ns)	70%	54%
Online (ns)	0%	3%
Somewhere else (e.g., at a party) (ns)	30%	43%
Victim romantic partner (ns)	63%	68%

Tactics Used And Consequences of Attempted or Completed Penetration Perpetration

Specific detail about the perpetrator and the experience	Female perpetrators (n=9)	Male perpetrators (n=17)
Tactics used against victim		
Arguing and pressuring	52%	32%
Guilt	42%	51%
Alcohol	29%	14%
Threat of force	3%	0%
Use of force	19%	11%
Consequences of perpetration		
Got in trouble with parents	0%	14%
Got in trouble at school	0%	0%
Police contact	0%	0%
Arrested	0%	3%
Someone found out but youth did not get in trouble	29%	15%
No one found out	71%	71%

SUMMARY

- 8.5% of 13-20 year olds report perpetrating sexual violence at least once in their lives:
 - 9.5% of males and 7.5% of females
- Where differences were noted, perpetrators were significantly more likely to be White and less likely to be Hispanic, and to be from middle- or higher-income households compared to non-perpetrators of SV.

SUMMARY

- Male perpetrators were more likely than female perpetrators to report attempted rape and coercive sex, with similar trends noted for completed rape.
- Females were older than males when they first perpetrated and they were more likely to victimize people older than them, whereas males victimized people younger or the same age.
- Disclosure of sexual violence experiences is very uncommon: Few perpetrators report someone finding out about the event. Only 1 male reports being arrested.

LIMITATIONS

- Because of the level of detail and number of questions asked of perpetrators, the survey was designed to minimize participant burden where possible. As such, information for each type of sexual violence was not available in many cases. It is possible, for example, that age at first perpetration for completed rape is older than age at first attempted rape. The current data reflect more simply the age of any sexual perpetration.
- Given the sensitivity of the subject, observed rates may be underestimates of the true prevalence rates of sexually violent behavior.

CONCLUSIONS

- As one of the first reports of national rates of sexual violence in adolescence, findings should be interpreted cautiously.
- Results need to be replicated, particularly intriguing differences between male and female perpetrators.
- These data suggest that efforts to encourage victims to report their experiences need to be invigorated.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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