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Perpetrators and context of child sexual abuse in Kenya

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Abstract

Child sexual abuse (CSA) interventions draw from a better understanding of the context of CSA. A survey on violence before age 18 was conducted among respondents aged 13–17 and 18–24 years. Among females (13–17), the key perpetrators of unwanted sexual touching (UST) were friends/classmates (27.0%) and among males, intimate partners (IP) (35.9%). The first incident of UST among females occurred while traveling on foot (33.0%) and among males, in the respondent's home (29.1%). Among females (13–17), the key perpetrators of unwanted attempted sex (UAS) were relatives (28.9%) and among males, friends/classmates (31.0%). Among females, UAS occurred mainly while traveling on foot (42.2%) and among males, in school (40.8%). Among females and males (18–24 years), the main perpetrators of UST were IP (32.1% and 43.9%) and the first incident occurred mainly in school (24.9% and 26.0%), respectively. The main perpetrators of UAS among females and males (18–24 years) were IP (33.3% and 40.6%, respectively). Among females, UAS occurred while traveling on foot (32.7%), and among males, in the respondent's home (38.8%); UAS occurred mostly in the evening (females 60.7%; males 41.4%) or afternoon (females 27.8%; males 37.9%). Among females (18–24 years), the main perpetrators of pressured/forced sex were IP and the first incidents occurred in the perpetrator's home. Prevention interventions need to consider perpetrators and context of CSA to increase their effectiveness. In Kenya, effective CSA prevention interventions that target intimate relationships among young people, the home and school settings are needed.

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Disclaimer

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Keywords

Children; Child sexual abuse; Sexual violence; Perpetrators; Violence against children survey; Kenya

Introduction

Sexual abuse of children is a major global public health and child rights issue. Although few countries have conducted population-based surveys on child sexual abuse (CSA), the magnitude of the problem in Africa (Andersson et al., 2012; Lalor, 2004a,b; Moore, Awusabo-Asare, Madise, John-Langba, & Kumi-Kyereme, 2007; Pitche, 2005; World Health Organization –WHO, 2013) and the developed world (Gilbert et al., 2009) is alarming.

Several studies and meta-analyses have identified numerous adverse health, behavioral and social outcomes of CSA (Agardh, Odberg-Pettersson, & Östergren, 2011; Chan, Yan, Brownridge, Tiwari, & Fong, 2011; Exner-Cortens, Eckenrode, & Rothman, 2013; Reza et al., 2009). In settings with a generalized HIV epidemic, child sexual abuse is associated with HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (Andersson, Cockcroft, & Shea, 2008). Owing to the stigma, fear and threats associated with CSA, many child survivors rarely report the abuse (Erulkar, 2004; Moore et al., 2007), making it difficult for them to access health, psycho-social and other services that would minimize the negative outcomes of CSA.

The design of effective CSA prevention programs and policies depends on a better understanding of the perpetrators and context of CSA. In recent years, countries in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) and elsewhere have begun to collect systematic and nationally representative data on violence against children (UNICEF, 2007; United Nations Children's Fund Tanzania, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences, 2011) to inform and evaluate national responses to CSA. These and other studies of child sexual abuse in SSA show that it occurs at all levels of society and perpetrators are typically men and older boys who are known to the child (Lalor, 2004a,b; Reza et al., 2009; Yahaya, Soares, Ponce De Leon, & Macassa, 2012). Although the main perpetrators of CSA vary by country and sex of the victim, findings from these studies indicate that CSA is primarily perpetrated by intimate partners (e.g., boyfriends, girlfriends, husbands) and other male relatives (Erulkar, 2004; Reza et al., 2009; UNICEF, 2007). In Tanzania, the main perpetrators of CSA reported by 13–24 year old females were neighbors and strangers, and dating partners and strangers for 13–24 year old males (UNICEF et al., 2011). In both Swaziland and Tanzania, a substantial proportion of perpetrators were at least 5 years older than their female victims (Reza et al., 2009; UNICEF et al., 2011). Additionally, in Swaziland the first incident of CSA for females most often occurred in the respondent's home or neighborhood (Reza et al., 2009).

In 2010, Kenya conducted the first Violence against Children (VAC) survey. In this paper, we examined and describe the perpetrators and context of different types of CSA among respondents aged 13–17 years and 18–24 years and discuss implications for CSA prevention and response in Kenya. In examining the perpetrators and context of CSA we focus on first

incidents. Information on the first incident of various types of CSA is useful in enhancing our understanding of risk factors and could inform primary prevention efforts.

Methods

Design

A nationally-representative cross-sectional household VAC survey was conducted in Kenya in 2010. A three-stage cluster sample survey design was used. First, 238 clusters were randomly selected from the National Sample Survey and Evaluation Program (NASSEP) IV frame. The selected clusters were then randomly assigned for either male or female survey administration as an ethical measure to protect the confidentiality of respondents and eliminate possibility of retaliation that would occur if a male perpetrator and a female survivor in the same cluster or household were to be interviewed. In the second stage, an equal probability systematic sampling method was applied in each cluster to select a uniform sample of households per cluster (an average of 35 households per cluster). In the third stage, we randomly selected one female or one male participant in each selected household that had at least one person aged 13–24 years living in the household using the Kish Method (Kish, 1949).

We used a three-stage consent process; for respondent ages 17 years and below, we sought permission from the parent or guardian to interview the eligible minor. To protect respondents from potential retaliation in the household or community, parents/guardians were told that the survey would focus on the “health, education and life experiences” of Kenyan children and youth without any reference to experiences with violence. Upon obtaining permission from a parent/guardian to interview the eligible minor, the interviewer sought initial consent from the respondent after presenting the survey as one on “children’s health and education.” If the eligible respondent agreed to learn more about the study, the interviewer met with the respondent in a private space, provided full disclosure about the content of the survey (including sexual violence related questions) and obtained verbal informed consent. Potential respondents were informed that participation in the survey was voluntary and that they could stop the interview at any time or skip any questions that elicited discomfort. For respondents ages 18 or older, the same process was followed except for stage one.

We adapted the standardized questionnaires used in the 2009 Tanzania VAC survey (UNICEF et al., 2011). Interviewers conducted interviews primarily in Kiswahili and English but the survey was translated into an additional 11 commonly spoken vernacular languages. Thirty-two interview teams with 3–5 trained interviewers administered a structured questionnaire to eligible participants (ages 13–24 years). The questionnaire included information on socio-demographic characteristics, sexual, physical and emotional violence. In this paper, we focus on sexual violence. Respondents were asked questions about experience of sexual violence before age 18 years and in the year before the survey, perpetrators of child sexual abuse and the context in which they experienced the first incident of each type of child sexual abuse.

Measures

Child Sexual Abuse—We adopted the legal definition of a child. Section 8 of the Kenya Sexual Offences Act of 2006 (The Sexual Offences Act, 2006) defines a child as “anyone below the age of 18 years.” Child sexual abuse was defined as having ever experienced (i) unwanted sexual touching (e.g., touching in a sexual way, kissing, grabbing or fondling), (ii) attempted unwanted sexual intercourse (perpetrator attempted intercourse but the act was not completed), (iii) pressured intercourse (unwanted sex was completed through use of threats or non-physical pressure), and (iv) physically forced sex (unwanted intercourse completed through physical force). Respondents were asked questions about their lifetime experience of sexual abuse, experiences of sexual abuse in the year before the survey, as well as details on the first incident of sexual abuse. For this analysis, we limited reported sexual abuse to the first incident of each type of sexual abuse for respondents between 13 and 17 years, and first incident before age 18 for respondents aged 18–24 years.

Perpetrators of CSA—Respondents who said they had experienced any of the four types of child sexual abuse were asked to state if more than one perpetrator was involved, if they knew the perpetrator, their relationship to the perpetrator (e.g., family/relatives, neighbor, stranger, boyfriend/girlfriend/partner [the term intimate partner is used to refer to all three], authority figure) and the relative age of the perpetrator (older, younger, same age as the respondent). Respondents who said the perpetrator was older were asked if the perpetrator was 10 or more years older.

Context of CSA—The context of CSA is defined by two measures related to the first incident of each type of CSA (i) location where it occurred, and (ii) time when it occurred.

Ethical Review

We adhered to the WHO guidelines on ethics and safety in studies that address violence against women (WHO, 2001) with adaptation for males and to the context of children. The survey protocol was reviewed and approved by the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) institutional review boards. We provided referral services for confidential and free counseling to willing participants who met specified criteria for service referral, including respondents who experienced violence in the 12 month period before the survey, those who became upset during the interview or those who asked for help related to violence. Professional counselors offered confidential counseling to distressed participants in a safe location after the interview.

Data Analysis

Data were entered into Epi Info version 3.5.1 and all analyses were performed in SAS 9.3 (SAS Institute Inc., Cary, North Carolina, USA) using the SURVEYFREQ procedure to take into account the stratified cluster design of the survey. All estimates were weighted to account for sampling probability and to adjust for non-response. Where possible, we conducted separate bivariate analysis on perpetrators and the context of the first incident of the four types of CSA before age 18 among male and female respondents in the two age groups (13–17 and 18–24). We present separate proportions and respective 95% confidence

intervals (CI) for male and female respondents in the two age groups. The older age group (18–24 year olds) was examined to provide the nature of perpetration and context for an adult cohort that had fully experienced childhood. The younger age group (13–17 year olds) was examined separately due to the fact that the cohort had not yet completed childhood and the violence reported was more recent than reported by the older age group.

Results

Socio-Demographic Characteristics and Experience of Sexual Violence before Age 18

Overall, 2,683 respondents aged 13–24 years completed the survey (1,227 females and 1,456 males). Of these, 1,292 were aged 13–17 years (546 females and 746 males) and 1,391 were aged 18–24 years (681 females and 710 males).

Respondents Ages 13–17—Overall, 85.7% of respondents aged 13–17 years were currently attending school (84.0% females and 87.3% males) and 59.0% were in primary school, while 39.9% had completed primary education (Table 1). A large majority of the respondents in this age group (99%) were not married or cohabiting at the time of the survey (female 98.1%, male 99.8%). About one in every four females (23.1%) and 11.8% of males reported they had experienced some type of sexual abuse during their lifetime (unwanted sexual touching, unwanted attempted sex, pressured or physically forced sex). Unwanted sexual touching was the most commonly reported type of lifetime child sexual abuse (females 16.9%; males 6.9%) followed by unwanted attempted sex and pressured sex (Table 1).

Respondents Ages 18–24—Among respondents aged 18–24 years, 22.7% of females and 35.0% of males were attending school and a large majority had completed primary education (72.9% and 79.2%, respectively). Over half (55.8%) of female and 86.1% of male respondents were single or had never been married. More women (31.9%, CI 27.0–36.8) than men (17.5%, CI 12.9–22.1) reported that some form of child sexual abuse occurred before the age of 18 – unwanted sexual touching (20.7%, CI 16.2–25.1 vs. 10.8% CI 7.0–14.5), unwanted attempted sex (15.3%, CI 11.5–19.1 vs. 7.2% CI 4.6–9.9), physically forced sex (7.1%, CI 4.1–10.0 vs. 1.4% CI 0.2–2.6) and pressured sex (9.6%, CI 6.8–12.4 vs. 3.6% CI 1.6–5.6).

Perpetrators and Context of the First Incident CSA among Respondents Aged 13–17 Years

Unwanted Sexual Touching—Among female respondents, the most commonly reported perpetrators of the first incident of unwanted sexual touching were friends/classmates (27.0%), strangers (21.2%), and neighbors (19.2%). The most commonly reported perpetrators among males were intimate partners (35.9%) and neighbors (26.1%) (Table 2). Only a small proportion of respondents (females 9.5% and males 8.9%) reported perpetrators were family members or relatives. Most of the respondents reported that the perpetrator of the first incident of unwanted sexual touching was someone they knew (females 78.8% and males 88.8%). A large majority of female and male respondents who reported unwanted sexual touching indicated that the first incident was carried out by a single perpetrator (88.9% and 90.8%, respectively). Over half of females (56.1%) and 40.2%

of males reported the perpetrator of the first incident was older than themselves and of these, 29.5% of females and 42.4% of males reported the perpetrator was 10 or more years older. Among females, the first incident occurred while traveling on foot (33.0%) and in school (25.2%) while among males, it occurred in the respondent's home (29.1%) and in school (15.6%). A large majority of female and male respondents reported that the first incident occurred in the afternoon (43.9% and 40.4%) or evening hours (39.8% and 28.5%), respectively.

Unwanted Attempted Sex—Eight percent of females and six percent of males reported unwanted attempted sex (Table 1). Most of the respondents who reported unwanted attempted sex knew the perpetrator (female 73.7% and male 78.8%) (Table 2). Among females, the most common perpetrators were family/relatives (28.9%), strangers (26.3%) and neighbors (21.7%) while the most common perpetrators among males were friends/classmates (31.0%), intimate partners (28.7%), and strangers (21.2%). A large majority of females and males reported that the first unwanted attempted sex was carried out by one perpetrator (92.9% and 79.8%, respectively). Three out of every four females (75.7%) and about half of the males (49.4%) reported the perpetrator of the first incident of unwanted attempted sex was older than them. Of those who reported the perpetrator was older, 38.8% of females and 33.2% of males reported the perpetrator was 10 or more years older than them. A large majority of females reported that the first incident of unwanted attempted sex occurred while traveling on foot (42.2%), in the respondent's home (33.9%), and in the afternoon (47.75%) or evening hours (37.3%). Among males, the first incident occurred mainly in school (40.8%) and in the respondent's home (21.7%) and during the afternoon (32.9%) or evening hours (30.0%).

Physically Forced Sex—Four percent of females and one percent of males aged 13–17 years reported physically forced sex (Table 1) that was carried out by one perpetrator (Table 4). Over ninety percent of females and all males knew the perpetrator. Among females, the key perpetrators were intimate partners (47.6%) and family/relatives (24.9%) and among males, intimate partners (54.0%) and friends/classmates (22.5%). For both female and male respondents, the first incident of physically forced sex occurred in the respondent's home or in school during evening hours (Table 4).

Pressured Sex—Five percent of females and three percent of males aged 13–17 years reported pressured sex (Table 1). A large majority of females (97%) and 67.2% of males reported that one perpetrator was involved in the first incident (Table 4). Female respondents were more likely to know the perpetrator (100%) compared to male respondents (67.5%). The key perpetrators of pressured sex among females were intimate partners (72.5%); and among males, strangers (32.5%), intimate partners (23.8%) and friends/classmates (20.9%). The first incident of pressured sex among females mainly occurred in the afternoon while traveling on foot (40.1%) and in the perpetrator's home (37.1%) and among males in the respondent's home (34.5%) mainly in the evening (Table 4).

Perpetrators and Context of the First Incident of CSA before Age 18 among Respondents Aged 18–24 years

Unwanted Sexual Touching—Among females aged 18–24 years, the most commonly reported perpetrators of the first incident of unwanted sexual touching before age 18 were intimate partners (32.1%) and neighbors (24.1%). The most commonly reported perpetrators among males were intimate partners (43.9%) (Table 3). A large majority of female and male respondents knew the perpetrator of the first incident (91.0% and 98.6%, respectively) and one in ten reported multiple perpetrators were involved in the first incident (12.4% and 14.3%, respectively). Nearly three-quarters of female respondents (72.1%) reported that the perpetrator was older than them compared with one-third of male respondents (32.7%). Among respondents who reported the perpetrator was older than them, 53.5% of females and 28.7% of males reported the perpetrator was 10 or more years older (Table 3). Among females, the first incident of unwanted sexual touching occurred mainly in school (24.9%), while traveling on foot (20.8%), in the perpetrator’s home (17.2%) and in the evening (47.2%) or afternoon hours (41.1%). Among males, the first incident mainly occurred in school (26.0%), in the respondent’s home (24.1%), and occurred mainly in the evening (46.5%) or afternoon hours (32.3%) (Table 3).

Unwanted Attempted Sex—The main perpetrators of unwanted attempted sex among female and male respondents were intimate partners (33.3% and 40.6%) and neighbors (25.3% and 19.8%), respectively. A large majority of females (92.6%) and males (87.2%) who reported unwanted attempted sex before age 18 knew the perpetrator and reported a single perpetrator was involved (89.2% and 92.9%, respectively) (Table 3). A large majority of females (73.4%) and half of males (51.3%) reported the perpetrator was older than them. Of these, 46.5% of females and 40.3% of males reported the perpetrator was 10 or more years older than themselves. The first incident of unwanted attempted sex among females occurred while traveling on foot (32.7%), in the respondent’s home (24.7%) or in the perpetrator’s home (21.9%) while among males, it occurred in the respondent’s home (38.8%) and while traveling on foot (18.1%). The first incident of unwanted attempted sex before age 18 occurred mainly in the evening (females 60.7% and males 41.4%) or afternoon hours (females 27.8% and males 37.9%).

Physically Forced Sex—Due to the small number of male respondents aged 18–24 years who reported physically sex, discussion of perpetrator characteristics and context of physically forced sex is limited to females aged 18–24 year-olds. A large majority of the perpetrators of the first incident of physically forced were known to female respondents (95.3%) and nearly all respondents (98.2%) reported that only one perpetrator was involved in the first incident (Table 5). The main perpetrators of the first incident were intimate partners (50.1%). Close to two-thirds of females who reported physically forced sex before age 18 reported that the perpetrator of the first incident was older than the respondent (68.5%). The first incident of physically forced sex mainly occurred in the perpetrator’s home (41.7%) and while traveling on foot (24.2%) and mostly in the afternoon (40.2%) and evening (37.9%) (Table 5).

Pressured Sex—A large majority of female (97.8%) and male (98.5%) respondents knew the perpetrators of the first incident of pressured sex (Table 5). Over ninety percent of female and male respondents reported that only one perpetrator was involved in the first incident (Table 5). The main perpetrators of the first incident of pressured sex among females and males were intimate partners (55.9% and 57.7%, respectively). More than half of females who reported pressured sex before age 18 reported the perpetrator of the first incident was older than the respondent (60.2%). For males, perpetrators of the first incident of pressured sex were mainly older (46.1%) or of the same age as the respondent (41.8%). The first incident of pressured sex among females mainly occurred in the perpetrator's home and among males in the respondent's home mostly during the afternoon and evening (Table 5).

Uptake of Survey Counseling Services—Twenty-six participants (18 females and 8 males) who had experienced violence received counseling sessions during and after the survey.

Discussion and Conclusions

We found remarkable consistency in the type of perpetrators of CSA before age 18 years among 18–24 year olds across different forms of CSA and among male and female respondents. The perpetrators of the first incident of unwanted sexual touching were largely people known to the respondent and were most likely to be intimate partners, friends/classmates, and neighbors. This pattern was similar for girls and boys. A similar pattern was evident for unwanted attempted sex. Key perpetrators of the first incident were again largely known to the respondents and were primarily intimate partners and neighbors. In addition, for both forms of CSA, among both girls and boys, a substantial proportion of perpetrators were 10 or more years older than the respondents who had experienced CSA (28.7–53.5%).

A similar pattern emerges for males and females aged 18–24 years who reported physically forced and pressured sex. The main perpetrators of the first incident of both types of CSA among female and male respondents were intimate partners and the first incident of either type of CSA among females occurred in the perpetrator's home while for males, the first incident occurred in the respondent's home.

The type of CSA perpetrators among 13–17 year olds was somewhat different and more varied than for 18–24 year olds. For both unwanted sexual touching and unwanted attempted sex, intimate partners remained the predominant type of perpetrator for boys, but not for girls. For girls, neighbors and strangers accounted for a substantial proportion of perpetrators for both of these forms of CSA. For unwanted attempted sex, however, family members or relatives accounted for the highest proportion of perpetrators among girls. About a third of the perpetrators were 10 or more years older than the respondents who had experienced CSA.

The context of child sexual abuse varied across forms of CSA, age and sex. Most 18–24 year old female respondents reported that the first incident of unwanted sexual touching before age 18 occurred in school, while traveling on foot and in the respondent's home. Among 18–24 year old males their own homes and schools were the most common locations. The most

common location for unwanted attempted sex before age 18 was traveling on foot for girls and in their own home for boys. For 13–17 year old girls the most common location was traveling on foot for both forms of CSA, while for boys their homes were the most common location for unwanted sexual touching and school for unwanted attempted sex. Regardless of the form of CSA, age, or sex, afternoon and evening hours were the most common times in which CSA occurred. The characteristics of perpetrators and context of the first incident of pressured and physically forced sex among females age 18–24 years were similar to those for the first incident of unwanted sexual touching and unwanted attempted sex before age 18.

These findings suggest that effective CSA prevention interventions need to be multifaceted to address different perpetrators and settings where various forms of CSA occur. They also suggest that the perpetrators and context of CSA may be changing over time as the involvement of strangers and a greater variation in types of perpetrators and context is evident for 13–17 year olds compared to 18–24 year olds.

Our findings are similar to those in other SSA countries (Pitche, 2005; Yahaya et al., 2012) and emphasize the need to formulate policies and interventions that target children, parents/caregivers, schools and child transportation. The Kenya National AIDS and STI Control Program (NAS COP) has recently integrated sexual violence prevention skills in *Healthy Choices for a Better Future* (an evidence-based HIV prevention intervention targeting youth ages 10–14 years) and in the *Families Matter!* Program (an HIV prevention intervention for parents of children ages 9–12 years that emphasizes sexual abstinence, effective parent–child communication and child monitoring skills) (NAS COP, 2013). Interventions that target parents/caregivers and schools need to emphasize the importance of child monitoring especially in the afternoon and evening hours when most incidents of child sexual violence occur. Given that children spend most of their time in school and walking to and from school is the main mode of transportation in Kenya, enforcement of safe school policies and promotion of affordable and safe travel options for children are needed to prevent CSA. These options include encouraging parent/care giver escort, group walks, and subsidized school transportation.

The prevention of CSA in Kenya can be strengthened by scaling up evidence-based and promising prevention strategies that address intimate partner violence among youth and adults. Kenya is currently implementing Stepping Stones, an HIV prevention program that aims to improve sexual health through building stronger, more gender equitable relationships with better communication and less violence between partners (Jewkes, Nduna, & Jama, 2002). A randomized controlled trial of the program found that in addition to reducing HIV infection the men in the program disclosed lower rates of perpetrating severe intimate partner violence at 12 and 24 months post intervention (Jewkes et al., 2006).

Our analysis has some limitations. We relied on retrospective self-reports of child sexual abuse that are subject to recall bias. Also, the analysis for respondents aged 13–17 years was limited to unwanted sexual touching and unwanted attempted sex due to the small number of respondents who reported pressured and physically forced sex most probably because many of the respondents had not completed their childhood. Similarly, we do not present

perpetrator and context of CSA data for males aged 18–24 years who reported physically forced and pressured sex before age 18. Our analysis of perpetrators by type of sexual violence masks the possibility that children may experience multiple types of sexual violence over time and often by the same perpetrator. The survey did not collect data on the sex of the perpetrators of CSA, limiting our description of perpetrators and recommendations for addressing CSA. In spite of these limitations, our findings provide comprehensive data on the perpetrators and context of various forms of CSA by sex and age group that can be used to provide specific guidance in the design of CSA prevention and response programs.

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Socio-demographic characteristics and child sexual abuse experience before age 18 among respondents aged 13–24 years by age group and sex.

Table 1

Characteristic	13–17 years			18–24 years		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
	<i>n</i> ^a	% (95% CI) ^a	<i>n</i>	% (95% CI)	<i>n</i>	% (95% CI)
Total	546	–	746	681	–	710
Education						
Never attended school	8	1.5 (0.0–3.5)	5	0.8 (0.0–1.6)	50	6.0 (3.3–8.7)
Primary incomplete	310	55.5 (49.9–61.1)	436	62.4 (56.2–68.7)	169	21.1 (15.5–26.7)
Complete primary	224	43.0 (37.1–49.0)	298	36.8 (30.5–43.1)	457	72.9 (66.5–79.3)
Currently attending school	453	84.0 (79.1–88.9)	655	87.3 (83.7–90.8)	111	22.7 (18.0–27.4)
Marital status						
Ever been married/cohabited	20	3.6 (1.3–5.9)	8	0.6 (0.1–1.1)	403	51.1 (45.1–57.1)
Single/never married	529	98.1 (96.4–99.8)	735	99.8 (99.7–100.0)	320	55.8 (49.8–61.8)
Married/cohabitating	14	1.9 (0.2–3.6)	3	0.2 (0.0–0.3)	357	43.9 (38.0–49.9)
Separated	0	–	0	–	1	0.3 (0.0–1.0)
Self-reported CSA						
Any type of sexual abuse	114	23.1 (17.3–29.0)	78	11.8 (8.8–14.9)	206	31.9 (27.0–36.8)
Sexual touching	83	16.9 (12.6–21.2)	49	6.9 (4.8–9.1)	126	20.7 (16.2–25.1)
Attempted sex	47	8.1 (5.2–11.0)	31	6.0 (3.6–8.4)	94	15.3 (11.5–19.1)
Physically forced sex	17	4.4 (0.6–8.1)	7	0.8 (0.1–1.5)	53	7.1 (4.1–10.0)
Pressured sex	19	5.1 (1.3–8.9)	17	2.8 (1.3–4.4)	66	9.6 (6.8–12.4)

^a All the *n*s presented are unweighted but the proportions and respective 95% CI are weighted. Due to missing responses, totals vary between variables/

Perpetrator characteristics and context of the first incident of unwanted sexual touching and unwanted attempted sex among children aged 13–17 years.

Table 2

	Unwanted sexual touching				Unwanted attempted sex			
	Female		Male		Female		Male	
	<i>n</i> ^a	% (95% CI) ^a	<i>n</i>	% (95% CI)	<i>n</i>	% (95% CI)	<i>n</i>	% (95% CI)
Total	83		49		47		31	
Number of perpetrators								
One	75	88.9 (80.8–97.0)	43	90.8 (81.4–100.0)	43	92.9 (84.6–100.0)	26	79.8 (63.4–96.2)
2+ persons	7	10.3 (2.3–18.2)	6	9.2 (0.0–18.6)	4	7.1 (0.0–15.4)	4	17.6 (0.8–34.3)
Knew perpetrator								
Yes	69	78.8 (63.7–93.9)	44	88.0 (77.1–98.9)	37	73.7 (56.8–90.6)	24	78.8 (61.8–95.8)
No	14	21.2 (6.1–36.3)	5	12.0 (1.1–22.9)	10	26.3 (9.4–43.2)	7	21.2 (4.2–38.2)
Perpetrator								
Stranger/unknown	14	21.2 (6.1–36.3)	5	12.0 (1.1–22.9)	10	26.3 (9.4–43.2)	7	21.2 (4.2–38.2)
Boy/girlfriend/partner	16	16.8 (7.6–26.1)	17	35.9 (16.7–55.0)	7	16.6 (4.4–28.9)	8	28.7 (7.7–49.7)
Family/relative	7	9.5 (0.4–18.5)	8	8.9 (0.9–16.9)	11	28.9 (12.3–45.5)	2	3.3 (0.0–8.8)
Neighbor	20	19.2 (10.1–28.4)	12	26.1 (10.9–41.2)	14	21.7 (7.9–35.6)	1	7.2 (0.0–21.0)
Friend/classmate	18	27.0 (13.7–40.4)	5	7.6 (0.0–15.1)	4	4.6 (0.0–11.3)	10	31.0 (11.9–50.1)
Other	8	6.2 (0.5–11.9)	2	9.5 (0.0–22.3)	1	1.8 (0.0–5.4)	3	8.5 (0.0–19.2)
Perpetrator age								
Older	45	56.1 (41.5–70.6)	24	40.2 (23.5–56.8)	36	75.7 (61.6–89.8)	16	49.4 (26.3–72.4)
Younger	0	–	4	2.6 (0.0–5.7)	0	–	2	3.6 (0.0–8.7)
Same	34	40.1 (26.1–54.0)	21	57.3 (40.3–74.2)	10	21.2 (7.7–34.7)	13	47.1 (23.9–70.2)
Don't know	3	3.8 (0.0–9.2)	0	–	1	3.1 (0.0–9.1)	0	–
Relative age of perpetrator^b								
10 years or older	20	29.5 (14.9–44.2)	10	42.4 (17.9–66.8)	14	38.8 (18.7–58.9)	5	33.2 (6.4–60.0)
Less than 10 years old	22	61.5 (46.1–77.0)	12	41.2 (17.4–65.0)	22	61.2 (41.1–81.3)	10	64.4 (37.8–91.1)
Don't know	2	8.9 (0.0–20.5)	2	16.4 (0.0–37.2)	0	–	1	2.4 (0.0–7.3)
Location of first incident								
My home	10	14.5 (3.0–26.0)	16	29.1 (12.4–45.7)	13	33.9 (15.0–52.9)	8	21.7 (6.7–36.6)
Perpetrator's home	11	11.3 (2.7–19.8)	5	15.4 (0.0–32.6)	5	9.8 (0.5–19.1)	4	17.2 (0.0–36.7)

	Unwanted sexual touching				Unwanted attempted sex			
	Female		Male		Female		Male	
	<i>n</i> ^a	% (95% CI) ^a	<i>n</i>	% (95% CI)	<i>n</i>	% (95% CI)	<i>n</i>	% (95% CI)
School	18	25.2 (11.6–38.8)	9	15.6 (2.8–28.4)	4	6.6 (0.0–14.3)	11	40.8 (18.1–63.5)
Traveling on foot	26	33.0 (18.3–47.8)	5	12.4 (1.5–23.3)	20	42.2 (24.5–59.9)	1	0.8 (0.0–2.3)
Other location	18	16.0 (7.1–24.9)	14	27.6 (12.7–42.4)	5	7.4 (0.0–18.0)	7	19.6 (0.0–39.6)
Time incident occurred								
Morning	9	11.5 (2.8–20.2)	7	14.3 (1.5–27.1)	6	13.7 (1.7–25.8)	6	20.0 (1.1–38.8)
Afternoon	33	43.9 (28.5–59.2)	18	40.4 (22.4–58.5)	21	47.7 (31.8–63.5)	8	32.9 (12.1–53.7)
Evening	36	39.8 (25.5–54.2)	19	28.5 (12.9–44.0)	18	37.3 (21.1–53.4)	12	30.0 (11.4–48.6)
Late	5	4.8 (0.0–10.2)	5	16.8 (3.2–30.4)	2	1.3 (0.0–3.5)	5	17.1 (0–35.3)

^aAll the *ns* presented are unweighted but the proportions and respective 95% CI are weighted. Due to missing responses, totals vary between variables.

^b Among respondents who said the perpetrator was older than themselves.

Perpetrator characteristics and context of the first incident of unwanted sexual touching and unwanted attempted sex before age 18 among respondents aged 18–24 years.

Table 3

	Unwanted sexual touching				Unwanted attempted sex			
	Female		Male		Female		Male	
	<i>n</i> ^a	% (95% CI) ^a	<i>n</i>	% (95% CI)	<i>n</i>	% (95% CI)	<i>n</i>	% (95% CI)
Total	126		73		94		56	
Number of perpetrators								
One person	111	87.6 (78.5–96.6)	65	85.7 (74.9–96.4)	84	89.2 (81.3–97.2)	48	92.9 (86.6–99.2)
2+ persons	14	12.4 (3.3–21.4)	8	14.3 (3.6–25.1)	10	10.8 (2.8–18.7)	7	6.0 (0.1–11.9)
Knew perpetrator								
Yes	109	91.0 (85.6–96.4)	70	98.6 (96.6–100.0)	86	92.6 (86.1–99.0)	49	87.2 (74.9–99.4)
No	17	9.0 (3.6–14.4)	3	1.4 (0.0–3.4)	8	7.4 (1.0–13.9)	5	12.8 (0.6–25.1)
Perpetrator								
Stranger/unknown	17	9.0 (3.6–14.4)	3	1.4 (0.0–3.4)	8	7.4 (1.0–13.9)	5	12.8 (0.6–25.1)
Boy/girlfriend/partner	40	32.1 (20.1–44.1)	28	43.9 (27.5–60.3)	31	33.3 (19.4–47.2)	20	40.6 (24.5–56.7)
Family/relative	12	12.7 (3.3–22.1)	8	13.1 (0.0–27.5)	8	18.0 (0.9–35.1)	5	7.7 (0.0–15.7)
Neighbor	30	24.1 (14.6–33.6)	13	14.9 (5.9–23.8)	29	25.3 (13.6–37.1)	11	19.8 (7.3–32.3)
Friend/classmate	15	10.7 (4.9–16.5)	12	18.6 (8.0–29.2)	7	7.3 (1.6–13.0)	5	7.8 (1.2–14.5)
Other	10	8.4 (0.90–15.8)	9	4.6 (8.2–2.0)	11	8.6 (2.4–14.9)	10	11.4 (2.6–20.1)
Perpetrator age								
Older	82	72.1 (62.6–81.6)	29	32.7 (15.7–49.7)	66	73.4 (62.0–84.8)	31	51.3 (34.2–68.4)
Younger	1	0.6 (0.0–1.8)	8	11.9 (2.4–21.4)	0	–	6	11.1 (0.0–22.3)
Same	42	27.0 (17.7–36.3)	35	54.6 (38.8–70.3)	26	24.6 (13.4–35.8)	19	37.5 (21.1–53.9)
Don't know	1	0.3 (0.0–1.0)	1	0.8 (0.0–2.3)	2	2.0 (0.0–5.1)	0	–
Relative age of perpetrator^b								
10+ years older	44	53.5 (40.7–66.4)	11	28.7 (9.0–48.4)	30	46.5 (28.3–64.7)	14	40.3 (14.9–65.8)
Less than 10 years older	38	46.5 (33.6–59.3)	15	67.5 (46.0–88.9)	32	52.5 (34.3–70.6)	14	57.8 (32.3–83.3)
Don't know	0	–	1	3.8 (0.0–11.5)	1	1.0 (0.0–3.0)	2	1.9 (0.0–5.2)
Location of first incident								
My home	21	11.2 (5.0–17.5)	19	24.1 (7.2–41.0)	21	24.7 (8.3–41.1)	18	38.8 (22.9–54.8)

	Unwanted sexual touching				Unwanted attempted sex			
	Female		Male		Female		Male	
	<i>n</i> ^a	% (95% CI) ^a	<i>n</i>	% (95% CI)	<i>n</i>	% (95% CI)	<i>n</i>	% (95% CI)
Perpetrator's home	20	17.2 (10.0–24.3)	3	3.5 (0.0–7.9)	16	21.9 (10.4–33.4)	6	8.5 (0.7–16.3)
School	28	24.9 (15.5–34.2)	18	26.0 (11.9–40.1)	10	10.1 (3.6–16.7)	9	10.3 (3.3–17.3)
Traveling on foot	26	20.8 (12.3–29.4)	5	8.1 (0.1–16.2)	32	32.7 (18.8–46.6)	8	18.1 (7.2–28.9)
Other location	30	25.9 (14.7–37.1)	28	38.3 (20.8–55.8)	14	9.2 (3.1–15.3)	15	8.5 (0.7–16.3)
Time incident occurred								
Morning	7	5.7 (0.0–12.0)	4	5.5 (0.0–11.3)	5	6.4 (0.0–12.9)	5	10.7 (0.0–23.2)
Afternoon	56	41.1 (29.9–52.2)	22	32.3 (13.8–50.9)	31	27.8 (16.2–39.3)	19	37.9 (24.1–51.8)
Evening	54	47.2 (34.3–60.1)	34	46.5 (27.6–65.4)	53	60.7 (46.8–74.6)	27	41.4 (35.9–56.9)
Late	7	5.3 (0.4–10.2)	12	15.7 (0.8–30.5)	5	5.1 (0.0–10.4)	5	9.9 (0.0–20.1)
Don't know	1	0.7 (0.0–2.2)	0	–	0	–	0	–

^a All the *ns* presented are unweighted but the proportions and respective 95% CI are weighted. Due to missing responses, totals vary between variables.

^b Among respondents who said the perpetrator was older than themselves.

Perpetrator characteristics and context of the first incident of physically forced sex and pressured sex before age 18 among female and male respondents aged 13–17 years.

Table 4

	Physically forced sex				Pressured sex			
	Female		Male		Female		Male	
	<i>n</i>	% (95% CI)	<i>n</i>	% (95% CI)	<i>n</i>	% (95% CI)	<i>n</i>	% (95% CI)
Total	17		7		19		17	
Number of perpetrators								
One person	17	100 (-)	7	100 (-)	18	97.0 (90.7–100.0)	14	67.2 (36.8–97.6)
2+ persons	0	-	-	-	1	3.0 (0.0–9.3)	3	32.8 (2.4–63.2)
Knew perpetrator								
Yes	14	93.0 (82.3–100)	7	100 (-)	19	100 (-)	13	67.5 (36.7–98.3)
No	3	7.0 (0.0–17.7)	0	-	0	2.2 (0.0–5.6)	4	32.5 (2.4–63.2)
Perpetrator								
Stranger/unknown	3	7.0 (0.0–17.7)	0	-	0	-	4	32.5 (1.7–63.3)
Boy/girlfriend/partner	3	47.6 (1.0–94.2)	3	54.0 (7.6–100)	11	72.5 (43.0–100)	5	23.8 (0.3–47.2)
Family/relative	3	24.9 (0.0–57.6)	2	15.1 (0.0–41.4)	0	-	3	8.6 (0.0–20.0)
Neighbor	5	12.9 (0.0–29.3)	1	8.5 (0.0–25.8)	2	6.3 (0.0–16.5)	1	6.1 (0.0–18.0)
Friend/Classmate	2	5.0 (0.0–13.9)	1	22.5 (0.0–61.9)	2	13.7 (0.0–38.1)	3	20.9 (0.0–47.5)
Other	1	2.7 (0.0–8.5)	0	-	4	7.5 (0.0–17.0)	1	8.1 (0.0–23.7)
Perpetrator age								
Older	11	48.2 (3.6–92.8)	3	33.2 (0.0–74.8)	10	25.4 (0.2–50.6)	9	52.0 (21.9–82.0)
Younger	0	-	2	24.8 (0.0–59.3)	0	-	1	3.5 (0.0–10.5)
Same	6	51.8 (7.2–96.4)	2	42.0 (0.0–91.6)	9	74.6 (49.4–99.8)	7	44.6 (14.4–74.7)
Don't know	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-
Relative age of perpetrator^b								
10+ years older	6	39.7 (4.0–75.4)	2	32.3 (0.0–90.0)	6	58.0 (25.7–90.3)	3	41.4 (0.0–87.1)
Less than 10 years older	4	60.3 (24.6–96.0)	1	67.7 (10.0–100.0)	4	42.0 (9.7–74.3)	5	52.8 (8.4–97.2)
Don't know	0	-	0	-	0	-	1	5.8 (0.0–17.7)
Location of first incident								
My home	4	15.8 (0.0–35.4)	3	22.7 (0.0–53.3)	3	19.3 (0.0–45.9)	6	34.5 (5.3–63.7)

	Physically forced sex				Pressured sex			
	Female		Male		Female		Male	
	<i>n</i>	% (95% CI)	<i>n^a</i>	% (95% CI)	<i>n</i>	% (95% CI)	<i>n^a</i>	% (95% CI)
Perpetrator's home	3	7.9 (0.0–19.1)	0	–	11	37.1 (5.1–69.0)	1	3.9 (0.0–11.7)
School	1	15.5 (0.0–44.6)	1	22.5 (0.0–61.9)	0	–	3	14.0 (0.0–32.6)
Traveling on foot	2	2.5 (0.0–6.6)	1	12.8 (0.0–38.3)	2	40.1 (0.0–84.2)	4	24.3 (0.0–49.1)
Other location	7	58.4 (18.1–98.7)	2	42.0 (0.0–91.6)	3	3.5 (0.0–9.5)	3	23.3 (0.0–52.7)
Time incident occurred								
Morning	0	–	1	12.8 (0.0–38.3)	1	4.9 (0.0–15.1)	4	13.9 (0.0–28.6)
Afternoon	6	22.2 (0.0–46.1)	2	24.8 (0.0–64.1)	10	63.4 (28.0–98.9)	5	26.2 (0.8–51.5)
Evening	7	67.3 (34.1–100)	2	42.0 (0.0–91.6)	5	26.7 (0.0–58.8)	6	51.8 (21.7–81.9)
Late	3	7.0 (0.0–17.3)	1	8.5 (0.0–25.8)	3	4.9 (0.0–11.9)	2	8.2 (0.0–20.8)
Don't know	1	3.5 (0.0–10.8)	1	12.0 (0.0–35.6)	0	–	0	–

^a All the *ns* presented are unweighted but the proportions and respective 95% CI are weighted. Due to missing responses, totals vary between variables.

^b Among respondents who said the perpetrator was older than themselves.

Perpetrator characteristics and context of the first incident of physically forced sex and pressured sex before age 18 among female and male respondents aged 18–24 years.

Table 5

	Physically forced sex				Pressured sex			
	Female		Male		Female		Male	
	<i>n</i>	% (95% CI)	<i>n</i> ^a	% (95% CI)	<i>n</i>	% (95% CI)	<i>n</i> ^a	% (95% CI)
Total	53	–	12	–	66	–	28	–
Number of perpetrators								
One person	52	98.2 (94.6–100)	9	82.0 (56.3–100)	61	90.6 (81.4–99.8)	25	93.2 (83.7–100)
2+ persons	1	1.8 (0.0–5.4)	3	18.0 (0.0–43.7)	5	9.4 (0.2–18.6)	3	6.8 (0.0–12.3)
Knew perpetrator								
Yes	47	95.3 (90.7–99.8)	12	100 (–)	63	97.8 (94.4–100)	27	98.5 (95.4–100)
No	5	4.7 (0.2–9.3)	0	–	2	2.2 (0.0–5.6)	1	1.5 (0.0–4.6)
Perpetrator								
Stranger/unknown	6	9.3 (0.6–18.0)	2	18.8 (0.0–43.8)	2	2.2 (0.0–5.6)	1	1.5 (0.0–4.6)
Boy/girlfriend/partner	24	50.1 (26.1–74.2)	6	60.6 (30.0–91.1)	33	55.9 (39.9–71.9)	15	57.7 (35.3–80.1)
Family/relative	5	16.0 (0.9–31.8)	2	6.8 (0.0–18.3)	1	1.1 (0.0–3.3)	2	9.4 (0.0–22.1)
Neighbor	7	6.4 (0.1–12.7)	1	3.8 (0.0–11.5)	9	15.8 (4.0–27.6)	3	20.3 (0.0–41.5)
Friend/classmate	4	6.2 (0.0–14.9)	1	3.8 (0.0–11.5)	5	9.5 (0.0–21.1)	2	3.9 (0.0–10.4)
Other	8	12.0 (0.6–23.4)	0	–	16	15.5 (4.5–26.6)	5	7.1 (0.3–14.0)
Perpetrator age								
Older	39	68.5 (51.2–85.8)	4	54.7 (11.5–97.9)	38	60.2 (43.8–76.7)	9	46.1 (24.2–68.1)
Younger	2	3.4 (0.0–9.1)	2	10.8 (0.0–27.8)	0	–	3	12.1 (0.0–27.2)
Same	11	27.4 (13.2–41.7)	6	34.5 (0.0–73.4)	27	39.3 (22.8–55.8)	16	41.8 (21.8–61.7)
Don't know	1	0.6 (0.0–1.9)	0	–	1	0.5 (0.0–1.4)	0	–
Relative age of perpetrator^b								
10+ years older	16	41.6 (15.3–68.0)	2	26.7 (0.0–76.2)	16	40.7 (21.6–59.9)	2	20.3 (0.0–48.7)
Less than 10 years older	22	58.4 (32.0–84.7)	2	73.3 (23.8–100)	19	59.3 (40.1–78.4)	6	77.0 (47.7–100)
Don't know	0	–	0	–	0	–	1	2.8 (0.0–8.7)
Location of first incident								
My home	9	13.3 (3.7–22.9)	6	62.9 (24.1–100)	18	17.2 (8.1–26.3)	8	30.4 (3.3–57.4)

	Physically forced sex				Pressured sex			
	Female		Male		Female		Male	
	<i>n</i>	% (95% CI)	<i>n^a</i>	% (95% CI)	<i>n</i>	% (95% CI)	<i>n^a</i>	% (95% CI)
Perpetrator's home	21	41.7 (24.2–59.6)	1	3.2 (0.0–10.2)	28	44.4 (28.0–60.8)	5	17.2 (0.0–35.5)
School	2	3.0 (0.0–8.2)	1	18.5 (0.0–52.2)	2	3.0 (0.0–8.5)	5	20.6 (3.7–37.4)
Traveling on foot	11	24.2 (10.2–38.2)	1	3.4 (0.0–10.6)	7	17.4 (4.2–30.7)	2	3.7 (0.0–9.0)
Other location	10	17.8 (7.7–28.0)	3	11.9 (0.0–28.2)	11	17.9 (4.1–31.6)	8	28.1 (7.2–49.0)
Time incident occurred								
Morning	3	4.6 (0.0–12.0)	1	12.0 (0.0–35.6)	1	1.7 (0.0–5.0)	1	4.5 (0.0–13.5)
Afternoon	18	40.2 (24.0–53.4)	2	44.2 (0.0–92.0)	22	36.3 (20.7–51.9)	5	31.2 (4.3–58.2)
Evening	20	37.9 (22.2–53.6)	7	37.7 (0.0–76.8)	31	47.2 (31.2–63.8)	15	43.3 (23.3–63.2)
Late	12	17.3 (5.0–29.6)	2	6.0 (0.0–15.1)	11	14.4 (4.4–24.4)	7	21.0 (3.1–38.8)
Don't know	0	–	0	–	1	0.4 (0.0–1.3)	0	–

^a All the *ns* presented are unweighted but the proportions and respective 95% CI are weighted. Due to missing responses, totals vary between variables.

^b Among respondents who said the perpetrator was older than themselves.