

PATTERN, DETERMINANTS AND MENTAL HEALTH CONSEQUENCES OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE AMONG FEMALE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS IN CALABAR, SOUTHERN NIGERIA.

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OUTLINE

- BACKGROUND
- OBJECTIVES
- METHODOLOGY
- RESULTS
- DISCUSSION
- CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

BACKGROUND

- Sexual violence is a worrisome global health issue
- Female undergraduates have been shown to be at higher risk due to increased interaction with young men
- Predisposing factors: social activities like parties, alcohol use
- Fraternities which promote male dominance are a common feature of Nigerian universities.
- Sexual harassment from lecturers have been speculated but not officially reported .

BACKGROUND

- Sexual violence is a psychological threat to conducive learning environment.
- Recognizing its existence and understanding the context in which they occur on Nigerian campuses is crucial for primary prevention

OBJECTIVES

- To determine the prevalence of sexual violence among female undergraduates in Calabar, Southern Nigeria
- To determine the pattern of sexual violence among female undergraduates
- To find out the determinants of sexual violence among female undergraduates
- To determine the mental health consequences of sexual violence among female undergraduates

METHODOLOGY

- ❑ **STUDY AREA:** Calabar is the capital city of Cross River State, an emerging tourism destination in Southern Nigeria. There are two Universities in Calabar; University of Calabar and Cross River University of Technology
- **STUDY POPULATION:** The study was conducted among female undergraduates in the two universities
- **STUDY DESIGN:** Cross-sectional descriptive

METHODOLOGY CONT'D

- Minimum sample size required was 246
- Sample size was calculated using the formula for single proportion taking the precision level of 0.05, standard normal deviate of 1.96 and 95% confidence level
- Sampling was done using multistage sampling method
- Tool used was a pre-tested, semi-structured, self-administered questionnaire

METHODOLOGY CONT'D

- Data was managed using the Epi-Info version 3.3.2
- Ethical approval was obtained from the joint institutional review committee of the University of Calabar and University of Calabar Teaching Hospital.
- Confidentiality was ensured
- Verbal informed consent was obtained before administering tool and only consenting respondents were recruited into the study

RESULT

- 271 questionnaires were administered, 6 were excluded from analysis because they were not properly filled.
- 50 (18.9%) were in 1st year, 75 (28.3%) in 2nd year, 61 (23.0%) were in 3rd year, 64 (24.4%) were in fourth year, 12 (4.5%) were in 5th year. 3 (1.1%) respondents did not volunteer information on their level of study

RESULT CONT'D

- Socio-demographic characteristics of respondents: Mean age of respondents was 22.3 ± 3.1 . Majority of the respondents (256, 96.6%) were Christians
- Out of the 265 respondents, 137 (51.7%) of respondents had suffered one form of sexual violence or the other
- Age at incidence ranged from 10 through 26 years with peak (mode) of 20 years. Mean age at violence was 19.7 ± 3.12 years

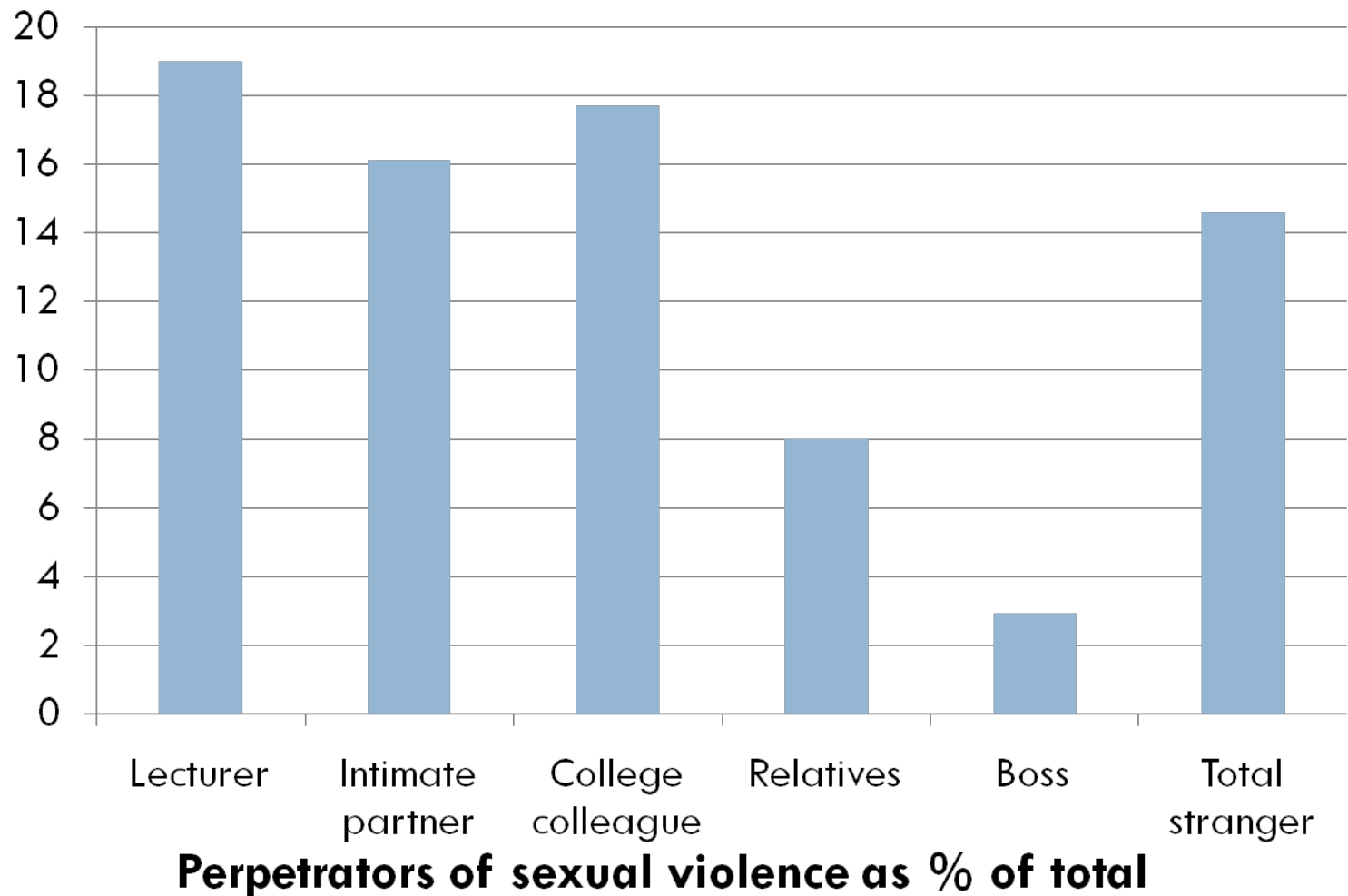
Spectrum of sexual violence

Form	No (%)
Rape	16 (11.7)
Sex for favours	45 (32.8)
Drugged	3 (2.2)
Fondling/grabbing sensitive parts	28 (20.4)
Unwanted sexual remarks	77 (56.2)
Unwanted sexual advances	63 (46.0)
Denial of right to use condoms during sexual intercourse	18 (13.1)

RESULT CONT'D

- 62.7% of victims were already admitted into higher institution before they experienced any act of sexual violence
- Most of the victims , 103 (75.2%) had a single episode, while 2 (1.5%) had 5 episodes. Mean number of episodes ever experienced was 1.8 ± 1.1
- Only 4.8% of victims reported their experience to law officers.

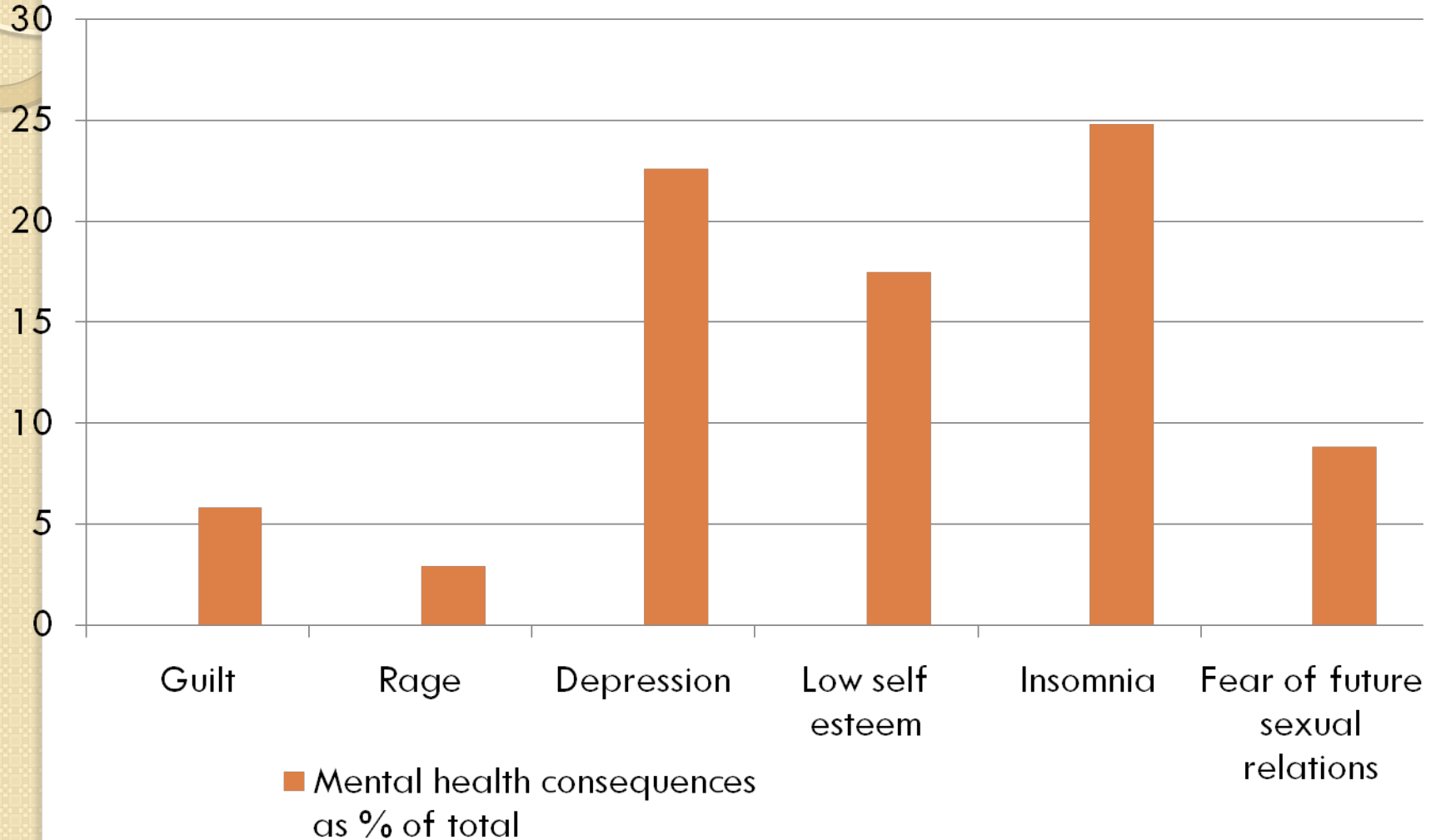
RESULT CONT'D



REPORTED LOCATION OF VIOLENCE

Location	frequency
Perpetrator's Office	35.9%
Victim's Home	16.0%
Male Hostel	9.3%
Bush	9.3%
Others	29.5%

RESULT CONT'D



DETERMINANTS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE

- Only age was significantly (P -value = 0.0034, at 95% confidence level) associated with experience of sexual violence
- Being an undergraduate and level of study was significantly associated with age at sexual violence (P -value = 0.0000 and 0.05 respectively at 95% confidence level)

DISCUSSION

- What we already know: Sexual violence is common in Universities elsewhere.
- Teachers perpetrate some of the acts
- Mental health problems are varied
- Help seeking is poor
- What this study highlights: an increased prevalence of sexual violence when used in a more elastic sense to include both contact and non contact forms of sexual violence.
- Establishes the active involvement of lecturers although the reasons are not obvious

DISCUSSION

- Fresh undergraduates appear more at risk perhaps owing to their naivety and likely increasingly reduced age at entry into university.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Undergraduates appear vulnerable especially where lecturers are involved
- Age and level specific interventions would be more appropriate.
- Avenues for confidential help seeking within the university may aid reporting.



Thank you!