

# SVRI Forum 2009

Sexual violence is a global issue  
that requires coordinated evidence-based responses

6-9 JULY 09

MISTY HILLS  
JOHANNESBURG  
SOUTH AFRICA



# SVRI – an overview

- Initiative of the Global Forum for Health Research
- Launched in 2003 to create a network of committed researchers, policy makers, donors and activists
- Initially hosted by WHO before moving to the Gender and Health Research Unit, Medical Research Council, South Africa (2006)
- Funders: World Bank/GFHR, Ford Foundation, CDC/PEPFAR, William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, UNFPA, Oxfam Novib
- Secretariat: Secretary, Programme Officer, Snr Trainer, Researcher, Administrator
- Coordinating Group: 10 experts from around the world. Selection based on technical expertise, nomination from networks, geographical representation
- Rules and regulations
- Monitoring and evaluation: Monthly meetings & reports; Quarterly meetings exec; Annual meeting & report; SVRI eSurvey

# Aims and Objectives

The SVRI aims to promote research on sexual violence and generate empirical data to ensure sexual violence is recognised as a priority public health problem

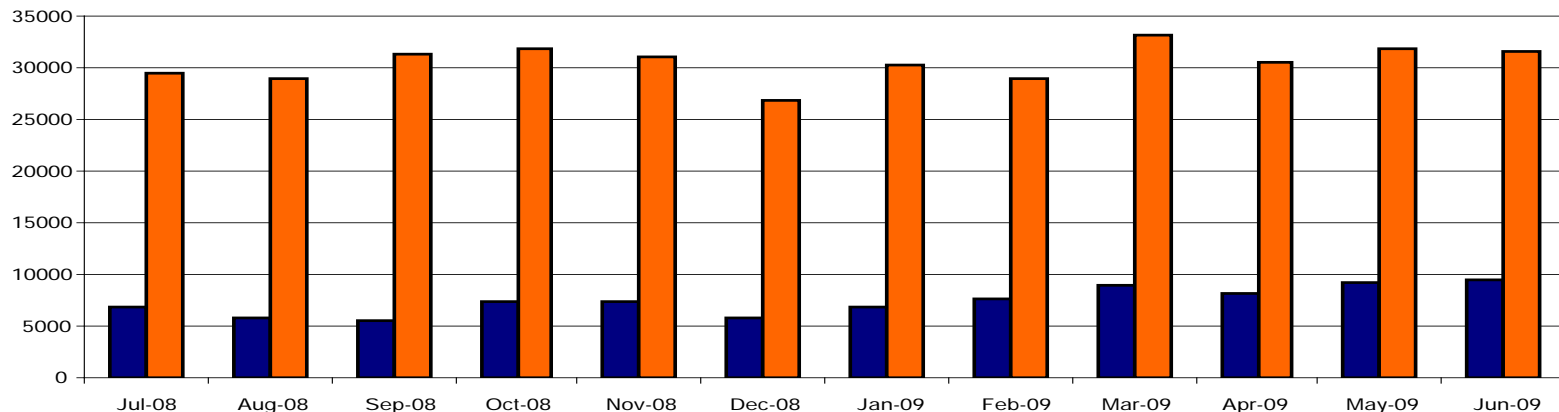
- Increase awareness of sexual violence as a priority public health problem through evidence based communication and information
- Strengthen the support and funding base for research on sexual violence
- Build capacity in sexual violence research
- Improve knowledge of sexual violence internationally to influence policy and service delivery

# SVRI Website

*"So far it has exceeded my expectations and should continue on in the same trend"*

## Central resource for SVRI members / website visitors:

- Activities, Issues, funding links, events, tools, and more....
- Country Pages: 171 country pages - resources, publications, links, news articles
- Top pages visited May 09: funding, forums, calendar, tools (scales), about
- Evaluation of website: visit on a weekly basis; very satisfied
- Health on the Net accreditation
- Ave hits/mth: 8100; Ave. no pages: 30149



	Jun-09	May-09	Apr-09	Mar-09	Feb-09	Jan-09	Dec-08	Nov-08	Oct-08	Sep-08	Aug-08	Jul-08
■ No Hits	9504	9142	8088	8857	7707	6795	5911	7383	7353	5457	5842	6848
■ No Pages	31545	31714	30646	33278	28844	30168	26715	30922	31808	31221	28863	29394

# SVRI Listserv

*"So far it has exceeded my expectations and should continue on in the same trend"*

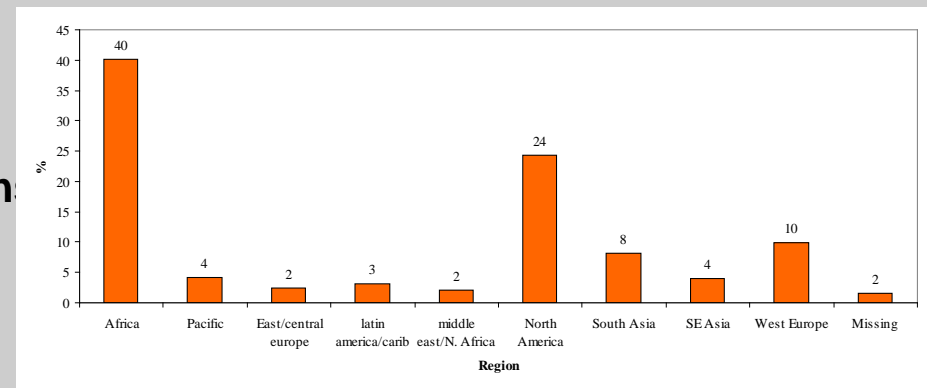
## SVRI Listserv:

*"The updates are so informative. Many I also archive and save for future reference. It is the most useful and well constructed list I have ever belonged to."*

- **1764 members from 80 different countries (70% LMIC)**
- **Two updates circulated weekly: SVRI Update and SV in the News (Networking, sharing resources; funding info; assist with proposal development; ref academic reports; vacancies)**
- **Long serving loyal membership (6mth+)**
- **Forward updates 1-5 people**

## Discussion Forum

- **Platform for online discussion**
- **Currently 13 discussions**
- **Not moderated**



# Evidence Based Communication

- **Sexual Violence Research Agenda**

- Translation: Spanish/Chinese (2007-8); Portuguese/French (2008-9): <http://www.svri.org/agenda.pdf>

- **Desk Reviews**

- Review of Models & Best Practice for Integrated Mental Health Care Services in Resource Poor Settings, Freeman M & Lazarus R, Ford Foundation, SVRI 2009
- Sexual Violence against Women and Children in China by Chan K.L., Sexual Violence Research Initiative, 2007 – *Sexual Violence Against Women and Children in Chinese Societies*. Chan KL. *Trauma Violence Abuse* 2008; ePub
- The uses and impacts of medico-legal evidence in sexual assault cases: a global review. Du Mont, J. & White, D., Sexual Violence Research Initiative, World Health Organisation, 2007: <http://www.svri.org/medico.pdf>
- Women Victim's Perceptions and Responses to Rape, Sexual Violence Research Initiative, World Health Organisation, 2007

- **Briefing notes and fact sheets**

- Research summaries of desk reviews
- Research Priorities for Strengthening the Medico-Legal Response to Sexual Violence in Eastern, Central and Southern Africa, SVRI/LVCT 2008
- Fact sheet on sexual violence and HIV

# Building Capacity

- **Research Support:**

- **Assessment Instruments Used To Study Healthcare-Based Interventions for Women Who Have Experienced Sexual Violence, Martin S.L., Young S., Billings D.L., IPAS, SVRI, 2007.**  
<http://www.svri.org/evaluation.htm>
- **How to Conduct a Situation Analysis of Health Services for Survivors of Sexual Assault: a guide, SVRI, 2006:**  
<http://www.svri.org/analysis.htm>
- **Background Paper on Ethics and research on perpetration of sexual violence:** Existing guidelines/papers focus on doing research with survivors with little work in the area of ethics of research on perpetration.

# Building Capacity

- SVRI Help Desk (svri@mrc.ac.za)
- Facilitate access to tools / information via website
- Multi-country study proposal development project: 2 concept papers selected:
  - multi-country study in Kenya, South Africa, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe => proposal fully funded for research on strengthening the health sector response to sexual violence in East and Southern Africa
  - a study between partners based in India and Pakistan
- Regional workshops: India 2007; Kenya 2008
- Ethics Workshop
- Global Forum for Health Research Annual Meeting
  - Forum 10 Cairo - roundtable on sexual violence in Arabic nations
  - Forum 11 Beijing - roundtable on sexual violence in China
  - Forum Havana Cuba - roundtable on sexual violence in LAC

# Policy & Service Delivery

- **Strengthening Responses to Rape - Africa region:**
  - Need for a reorientation of health care for SV survivors towards meeting their psychological, social and physical health needs in services staffed by appropriately trained providers.
  - Aim is to shift the orientation and perceptions of the role of post rape care from a predominant focus on the collection of medico-legal evidence to the provision of holistic care to the meet the short, medium and long term mental and physical health needs of survivors.
- **Project Framework: partnership, policy, research and training:**
  - promote the development of working multi-disc partnerships.
  - promote the development of appropriate national policy.
  - promote the conduct and use of research.
  - promote the development of new models of training.
- **Key Activities**
  - Meeting in Kenya – Country plans
  - Regional training of multi-disc teams on best practice for caring for survivors of sexual assault - Malawi, Kenya, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Rwanda; Uganda
  - Technical support adaptation of curriculum, policy development and research at country level

# Partnerships / Networks

- Members of the SVRI Coordinating Group represent the SVRI internationally and advocates for more research and funding in the area of sexual violence in the many meetings they are invited to attend.
- Other partnerships
- SVRI Forum 2009

Name	Institution	
Prof Jill Astbury	School of Psychology, Victoria University	Oceania
Sylvie Olifson-Houriet	Global Forum for Health Research	Funder
Dr Claudia Garcia-Moreno	WHO Department of Gender, Women and Health	Global
Alessandra Guedes	Consultant	LAC
Dr M.E. Khan	FRONTIERS Programme, for the Population Council	Asia
Dr Nduku Kilonzo	Liverpool VCT, Care & Treatment (LVCT) Kenya	East and Southern Africa
Professor Mary Koss	Restore Programme, University of Arizona	North America
Dr Tandiari Samir	Centre for Development Services, Near East Foundation, Egypt	North Africa
Dr Ia Verulashvili	Women's Center, Georgia	Eastern Europe
Dr Gary Barker	ICRW	LAC
Prof Rachel Jewkes	Medical Research Council	Secretary

# SVRI

***Sexual violence is a global issue that requires coordinated evidence based responses***

**[www.svri.org](http://www.svri.org)**

**svri@mrc.ac.za**