

Overview of Sexual Violence Against Minors: Prevalence, Risks and Consequences for Reproductive Health

Presented by
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Family Violence Prevention Fund

- U.S.-based NGO founded in 1980 initially to focus on ending domestic violence; now much broader mandate
- Based in San Francisco with offices in Boston and Washington, D. C.
- Done international work in Mexico, India, Russia and China; currently working with ICRW on intervention in India focusing on men.
- Work has focused largely on the health sector and prevention and social norm change focused on children/youth and how to engage men
- Working with UNICEF and FIFA on World Cup 2010 to integrate Coaching Boys into Men

Definitions: Sexual Abuse, Violence and Coercion

- Important to understand what it is we're talking about
- Most of us understand concept of rape, but most sexual violence doesn't fit that definition
 - Mostly committed by people known to victim
 - Mostly committed against children/young women
 - Often committed within context of IPV
 - Often committed within marriage
 - Often "force" hard to define (children, unequal power)
 - Has led us to think more about notion of "coercion"

WHAT WE KNOW



1 in 4 (25%) U.S. women
and

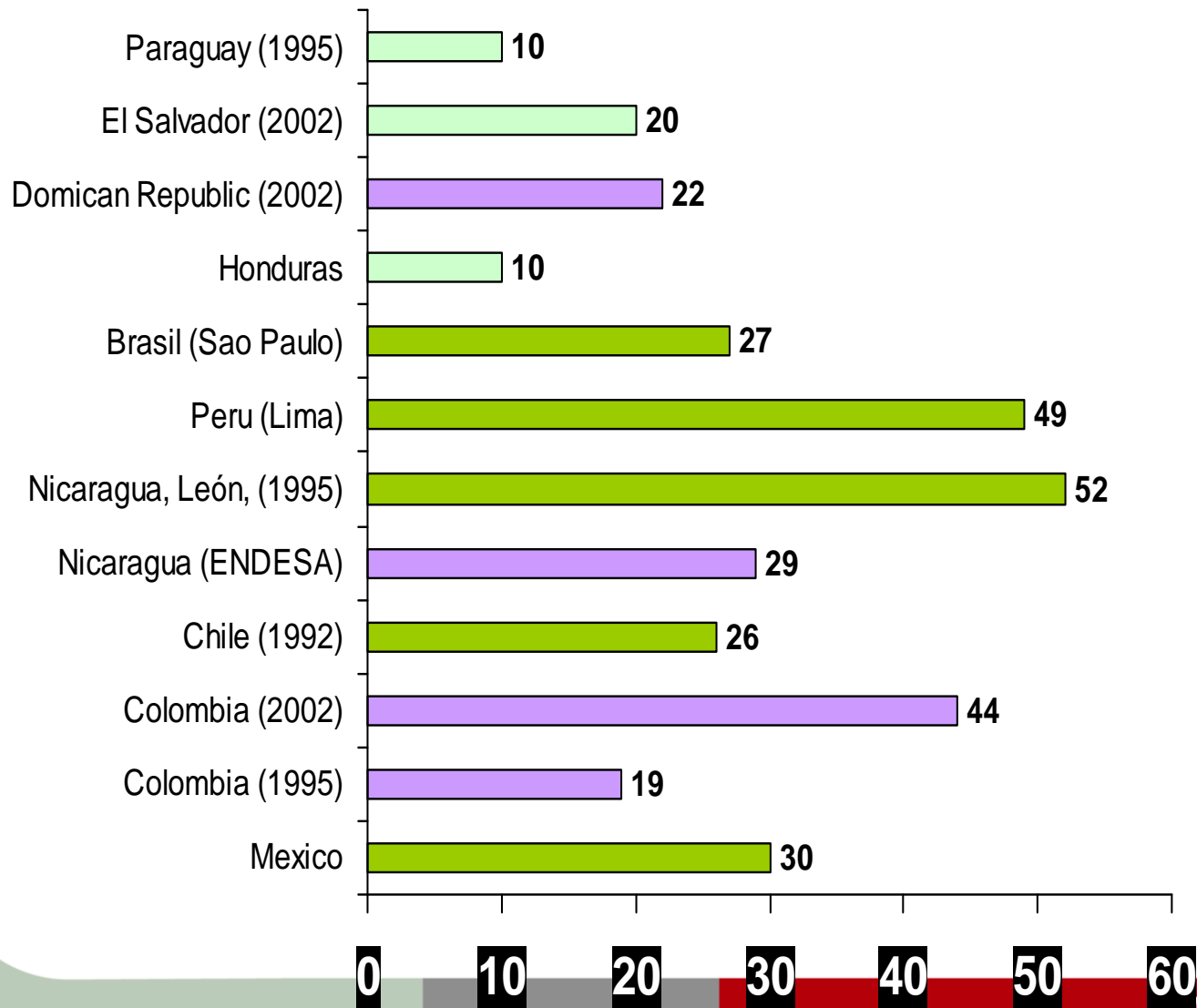
1 in 5 (20%) U.S. teen girls
report ever experiencing physical
and/or sexual IPV.

*CDC Morbidity and Mortality Weekly
Report. February 2008. ;Silverman et
al, 2001*

Sexual violence against minors majority in US as well

- Between 1 in 4 and 1 in 5 Americans report being victims of child sexual abuse
- Translates to almost 500 women a day being sexually assaulted
- Majority of victims are under 18; about half are under 12
- --- methodological differences and definitional differences make it hard to compare (e.g. DOJ stats on what's reported to law enforcement vs. retrospective studies, ACE study, Fellitti)

Evidence for policy: Prevalence studies on violence



Specific Population Samples also show high rates:

Data from the 2006 Uganda Demographic Health Survey show that 21% of all 15- to 19-year-old Ugandan women and 36% of married 15- to 19-year-old women reported having ever experienced sexual violence (Uganda Bureau of Statistics & Macro International, 2007)

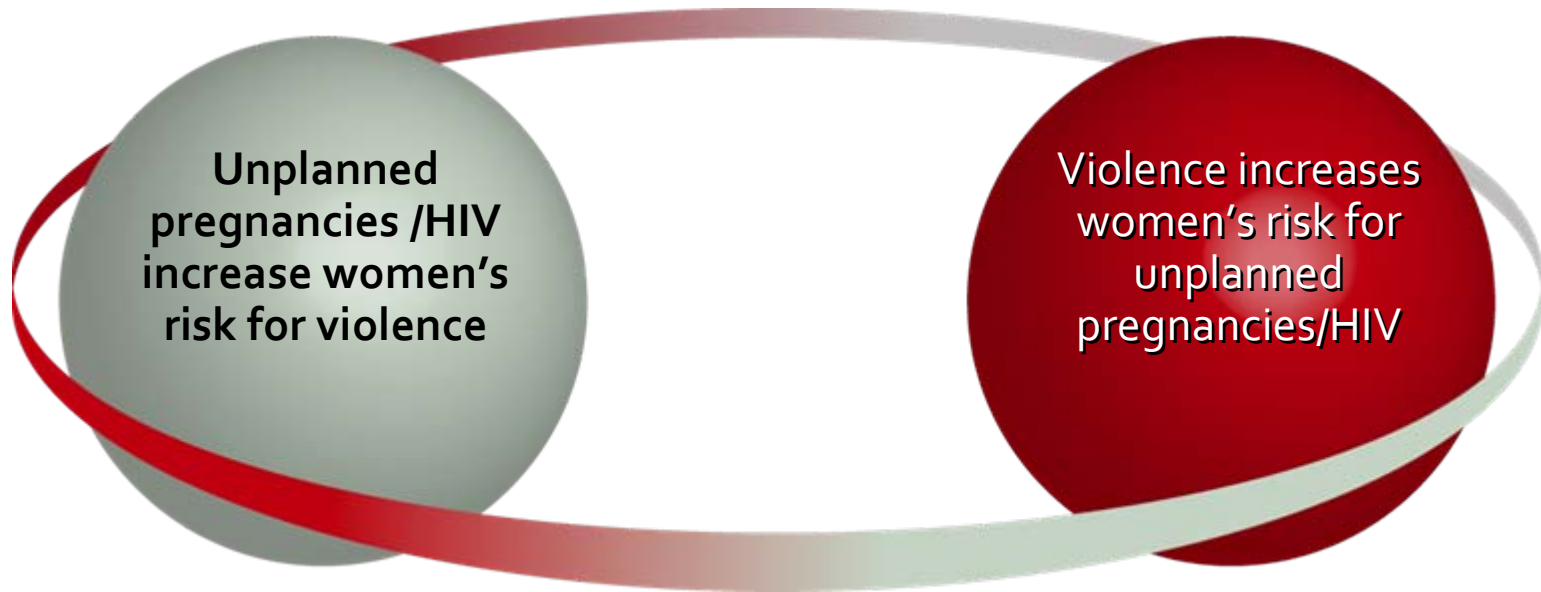
-Wagman, 2008

About half of all reported cases of sexual violence are for children

- In Copperbelt, Zambia, of the 612 survivors reporting to the police, **49%** were under 14 and **85%** were under 19.
- In Limpopo, South Africa, of 556 cases presenting at a trauma centre, **56%** were minors and **31%** pre-teens. Of 284 survivors examined at a rural hospital in Limpopo, **44%** were children aged 17 years and younger.
- In Malawi, a national study found that **50%** of child sexual assault cases were aged 2-13 yrs.
- In South Africa, police records indicate that **41%** of all reported cases of rape are against children.

Slide courtesy of Ian Askew, Population Council

VIOLENCE AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH ARE STRONGLY LINKED



Adolescent IPV and unintended pregnancy

Adolescent girls in physically abusive relationships were **4-6 times more likely** to become pregnant than non-abused girls.



IMPACT OF VIOLENCE ON CONDOM USAGE



Women who were *sexually abused as children* are more than **twice as likely** (58.6% vs. 24.9%) to have unprotected sex compared to women who did not experience CSA.

Fergusson et al, 1997

ADOLESCENT IPV AND CONDOM USE

Girls who experienced physical dating violence were 2.8 times more likely to fear the perceived consequences of negotiating condom use than non-abused girls

Wingood et al, 2001

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TEEN BIRTH CONTROL SABOTAGE

Among teen mothers on public assistance who experienced recent IPV:

- **66%** experienced birth control sabotage by a dating partner
- **34%** reported work or school related-sabotage by their boyfriend.

Raphael, 2005

Women experiencing physical and emotional IPV are more likely to report **not using their preferred method of contraception** in the past 12 months (OR=1.9).



Williams et al. 2008

Pregnancy, Sexual Violence, & Early Sexual Debut

Nearly two-thirds (62%) of pregnant adolescent females disclosed childhood sexual abuse and/or rape prior to their first pregnancy and abused pregnant teens initiated sex two years earlier than non-abused pregnant teens (Boyer et al, 1992)

Fellitti (ACE Study) found that about 22 percent of HMO patients in sample experienced child sexual abuse; tied to obesity, smoking, now have data linking it to chronic heart disease and Medicare prescriptions. Tended to cluster with other issues.

Early Sexual “debut” and increased repro health risks consistent cross-culturally

Risk of coercive sex was found to increase with younger age at first intercourse (Koenig, Zablotska, et al., 2004).

Sexual coercion among adolescents in Rakai has been linked to indicators of risky sexual behavior and a range of adverse reproductive health outcomes.

Young women who reported forced first sex were significantly more likely to report at least one genital tract symptom and more likely to report both unwanted and mistimed pregnancies (among women who had ever been pregnant).

Consequences of young, forced first sex (Wagman, et al. Rakai, Uganda Study 2008 cont.)

- Furthermore, women who reported forced first sex were less likely to be current users of modern contraception and less likely to have used condoms either at last intercourse or consistently during the preceding 6-month period (Koenig, Zablotska, et al., 2004).
- Sexual coercion in this population has also been associated with elevated levels of prevalent HIV infection (Paxton, Ssengonzi, Nalugoda, Sewankambo, & Wawer, 1998).

ADOLESCENT RAPID REPEAT PREGNANCY

Adolescent mothers who experienced physical abuse within three months after delivery were **nearly twice** as likely to have a repeat pregnancy within 24 months.

Raneri & Wiemann, 2007

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS AND INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

**More than one-third (38.8%)
of adolescents girls tested for
STI/HIV have experienced IPV.**

DECKER ET AL, 2005

Partner Violence and STI/HIV

- Teen girls who are abused by male partners are **3x** as likely to become infected with STI/HIV
- Women and girls who are victims of IPV are **4x** as likely to be infected with HIV
- Men and boys who are abusive to female partners are **3x** as likely to have an STI

(Decker, 2005; Silverman, 2007)

Sexual violence and HIV linked even more closely in LDCs

- Rape leads to infection, majority of new cases now are young women
- Marriage not protective, in fact likely a risk factor
- CSA causes increase in risk behaviors, more likely to have multiple sexual partners, more likely not to use condoms, more likely to use drugs and alcohol

Sexual Violence Against Adolescents...

CAUSES AND
INTERVENTIONS

What Causes Sexual Violence Against Minors/children:

- Power (age, income, gender equality)
- Sex, sense of entitlement
- Trauma/Mental Illness
- Genocide/Destruction of communities in times of conflict
- Important to understand role of poverty and role of culture, often assumed to go together and don't
- Important to distinguish how violence against children different but also critical to understand that in the majority of situations it is part of continuum of all violence against women and children

Because it's learned... it can be unlearned and never learned...

PREVENTION

- Children are not responsible for stopping or preventing their own victimization – Adults are and communities are.
- Consequences are so severe, particularly in resource-poor settings must focus even more on prevention
- Poverty doesn't cause or excuse sexual violence against children, though it may increase risks for some.
- Alcohol not cause or excuse, though may increase risk for some perpetrators.
- Transactional sex and sexual coercion need to be recognized as existing on continuum of abuse.



CARTA ABIERTA

a los Diputados y Diputadas de la Asamblea Nacional:

Por este medio, solicito que la Asamblea Nacional priorice la discusión y aprobación, durante el presente periodo legislativo, del Anteproyecto de Reformas al Código Penal para la Prevención y Sanción de la Violencia Intrafamiliar presentado por la Red de Mujeres contra la Violencia. Considero urgente aprobar este proyecto de ley porque:

- ▼ Una de cada dos mujeres ha sido maltratada físicamente alguna vez por el hombre con quien convive.
- ▼ Una de cada cuatro está siendo maltratada actualmente.
- ▼ Son miles de niñas y niños que también son víctimas de violencia a manos de las personas con quienes conviven.
- ▼ Las hijas e hijos de mujeres maltratadas sufren hasta 5 veces más problemas emocionales, de aprendizaje, de comportamiento y de abuso físico que hijas e hijos de mujeres no maltratadas.
- ▼ Actualmente, sólo 2 de cada 10 mujeres maltratadas hacen denuncias. Esto significa que hay muchísimos más casos que los que están registrados en la Policía.
- ▼ Existe consenso entre amplios sectores de la población, y entre expertos y expertas en materia penal y de salud, sobre la importancia de tipificar y sancionar la violencia psicológica y no sólo las lesiones físicas.
- ▼ Sólo con las medidas preventivas contempladas en el anteproyecto se podrá fomentar que más víctimas denuncien las agresiones que han sufrido y evitar más violencia.
- ▼ La Red de Mujeres contra la Violencia ha recogido más de 35 mil firmas de mujeres, hombres, jóvenes, niñas y niños para apoyar esta iniciativa.

Por todas estas razones, solicito se apruebe esta ley de reformas al Código Penal lo más pronto posible.

ATENTAMENTE Blanca Estela Pérez Cuba (firma)

Nombre: Blanca E.P. Cuba Domicilio: Mulukukui

Para imprimir lo antes, firmé la carta, metíla en un sobre no abollado y pusele pegote y envíela por correo a la Asamblea Nacional. También podrá enviarse por fax al 238-8039, o bien, depositarla en el buzón más cercano. Para más información sobre la ubicación de los buzones y sobre esta campaña, contacta a la Red de Mujeres contra la Violencia de Plaza España, 4r. abajo, Tel. al lago, Tel. 238-3143.

“You have to know just how to beat your wife...you need to use the flat part of the machete, and do it where it doesn't show”

In Her Shoes...(an exercise for health care providers to understand victims)



Violence can and must be prevented!

- Program H **Homem com H** 
Assume. Compartilha. Cuida.



Finishing thought: If I had a \$10 million to do research...

- Men and perpetration, what do perpetrators look like, what works to prevent and/or change their behavior
- Interventions that work, need to evaluate and scale up
- Need to view ending CSA as a process; there is no one size fits all model, can't just translate the brochure and think you've got it
- Positive Deviants --- who are the men that despite every other influence in their lives don't perpetrate

THANK YOU!

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