



RENATA

gtz

Rape and Incest in Cameroon

Flavien Ndonko¹

Olivia Bikoe²

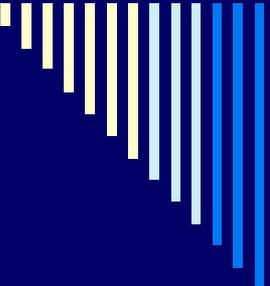
Gerd Eppel¹

Marquise Kouo Ngamby³

1. GTZ - 2. RENATA – 3. Ministry of Health

July 2009





Survey

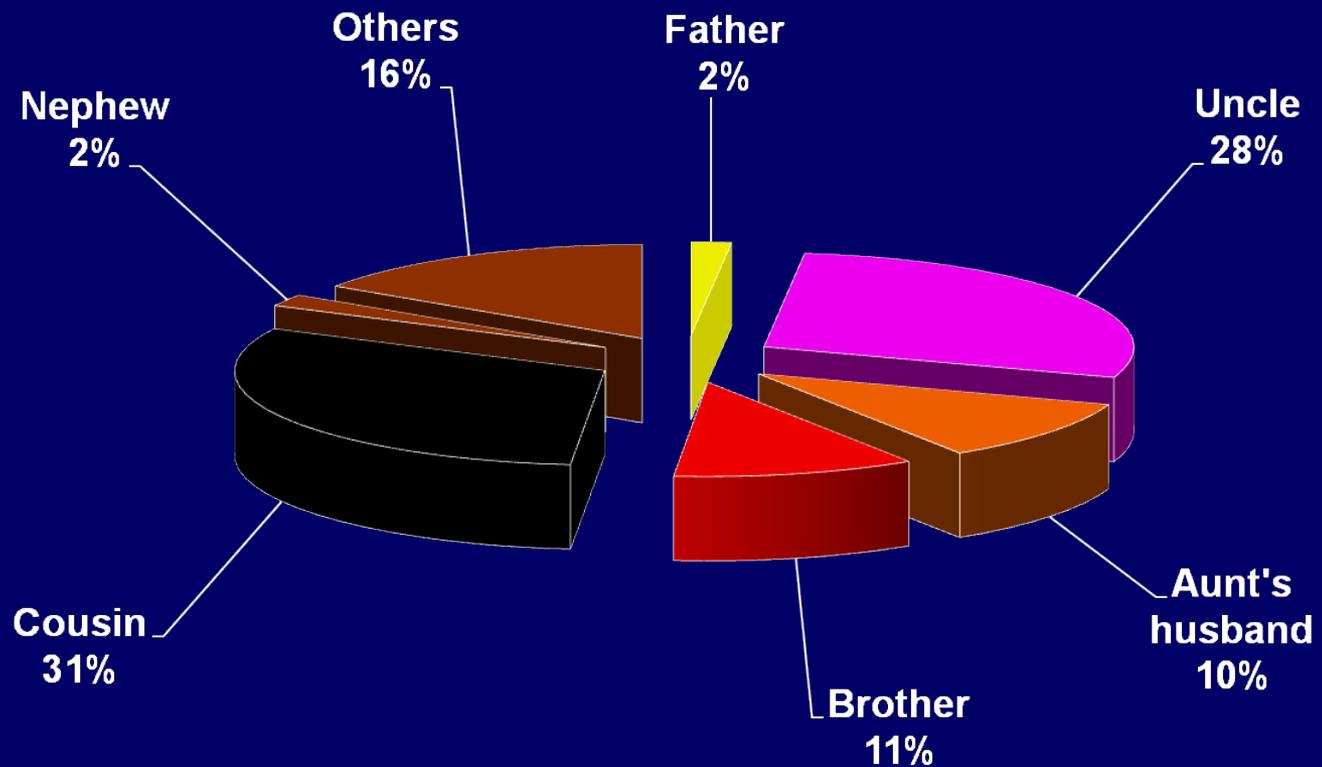
- ❑ Realised between November 2008 and January 2009
 - ❑ Participation of 37 interviewers
 - ❑ The interview took place in the 10 regions of the country (30 towns in total)
 - ❑ 37.719 girls/women interviewed
 - ❑ Aged between 15 and 49 years ($A_v=25$ years)
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Prevalence of Rape and Incest in Cameroon

- **5,2%** of girls and women have been raped
- About **432.833** girls and women are victims of rape in Cameroon
- And **18%** of cases of rape were perpetrated by a family member
- **77.909** girls and women are thus victims of incest

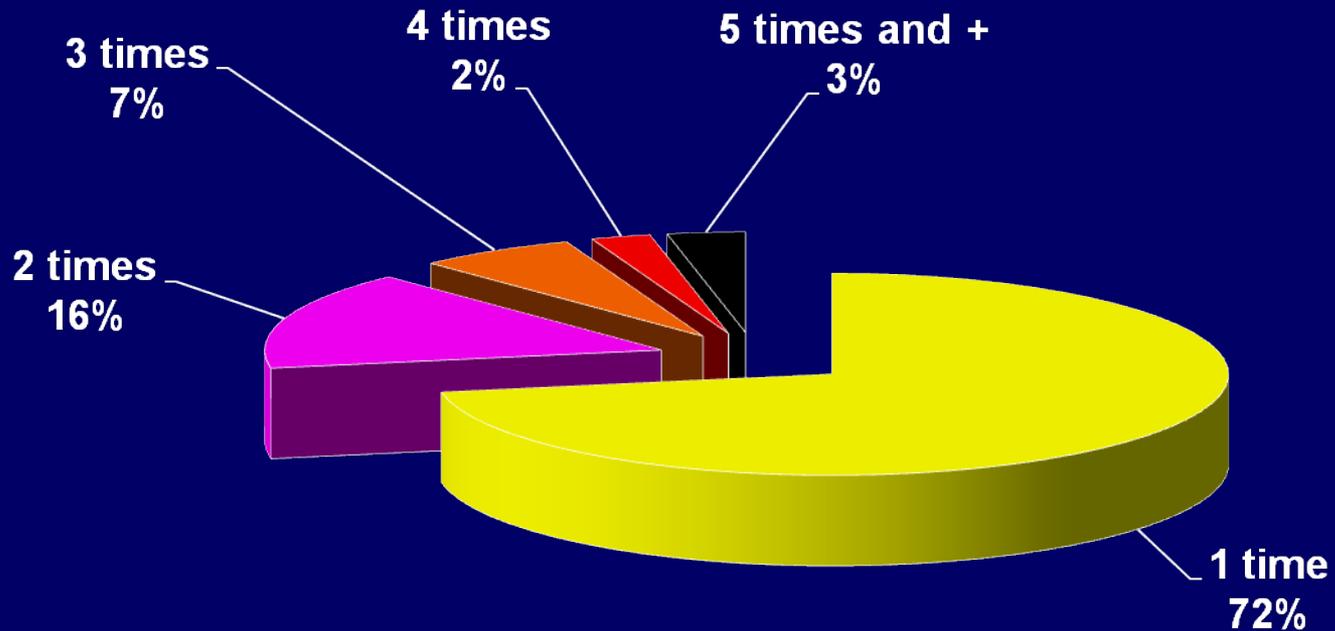


Relationship between the victim and the perpetrator of incest



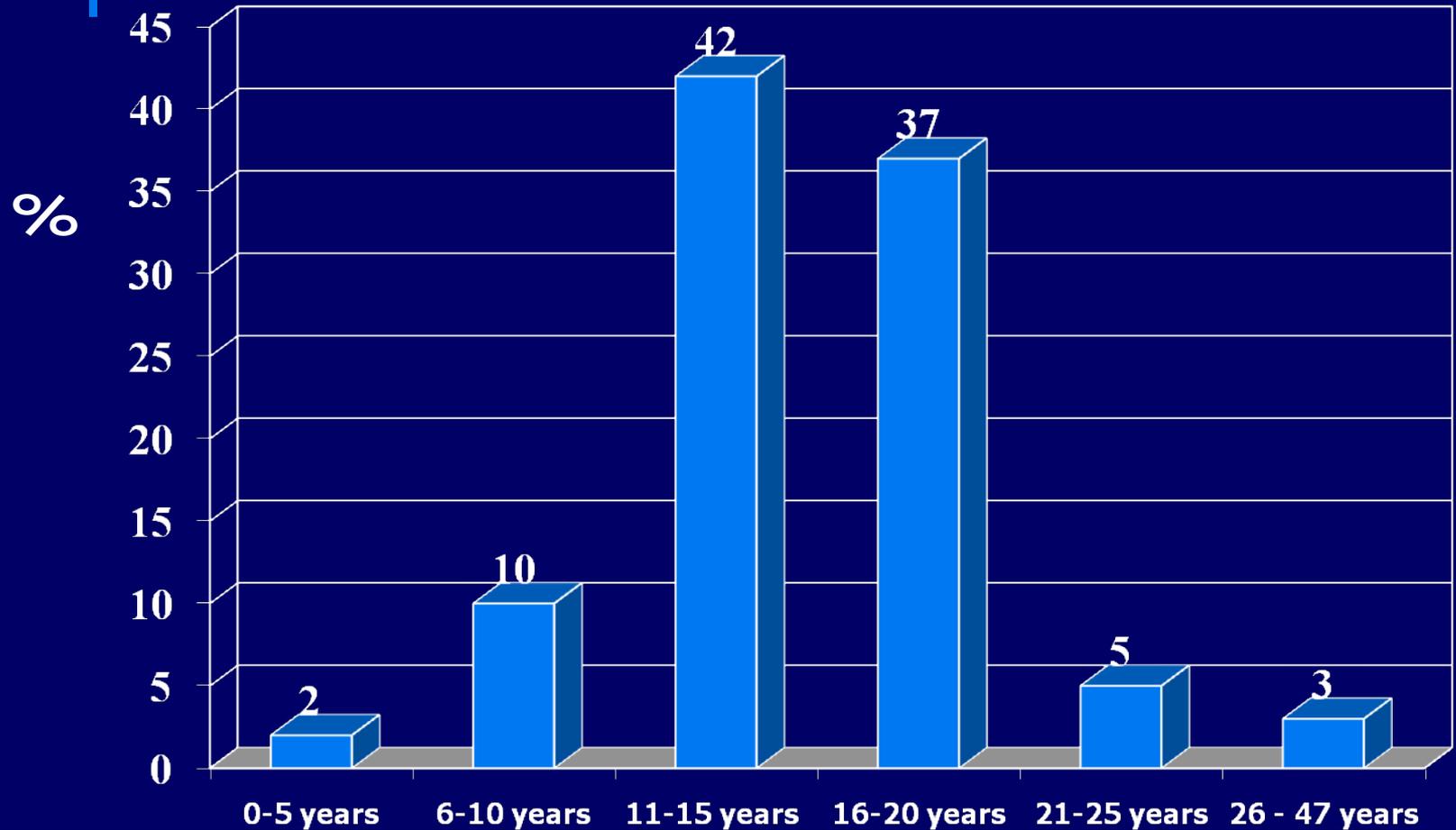
NB: The category Others include brothers in-law, aunt's nephews or brothers in-law, grandfathers, etc.

Number of times that the victims were raped



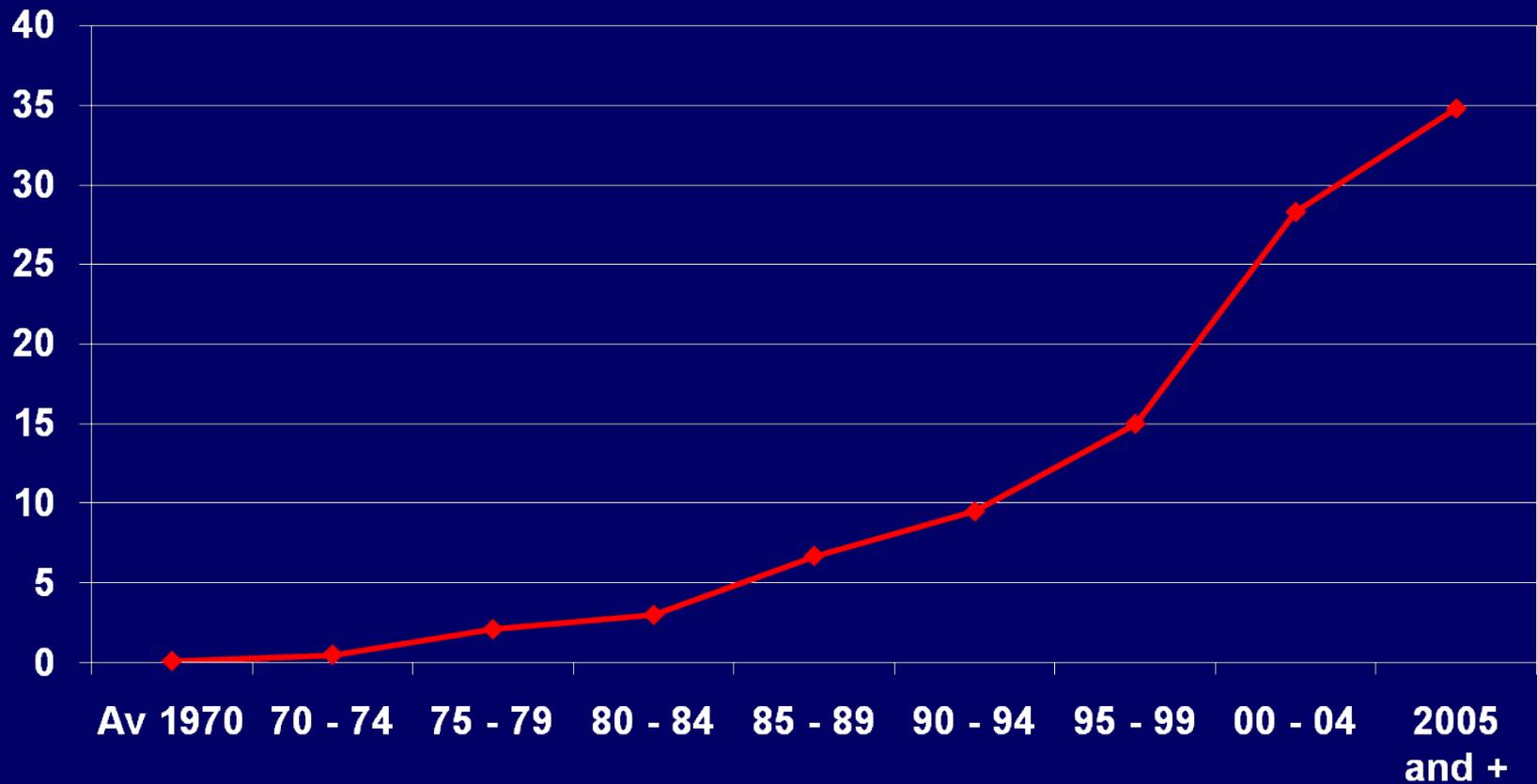
9,4% of victims have experienced collective rape, i.e. by many rapists at a time.

Average age of victims at the moment of rape

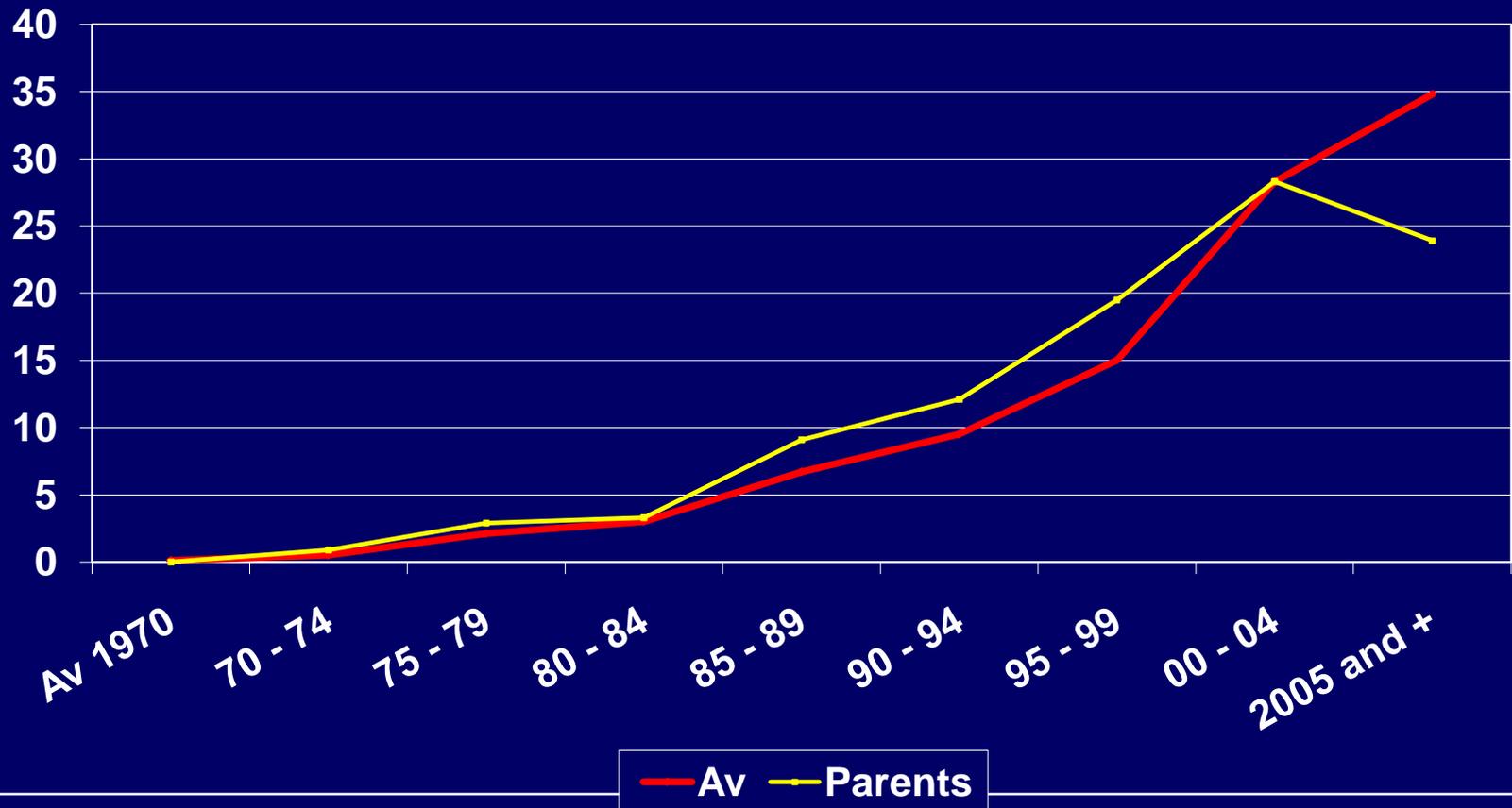


Average age = 15 years

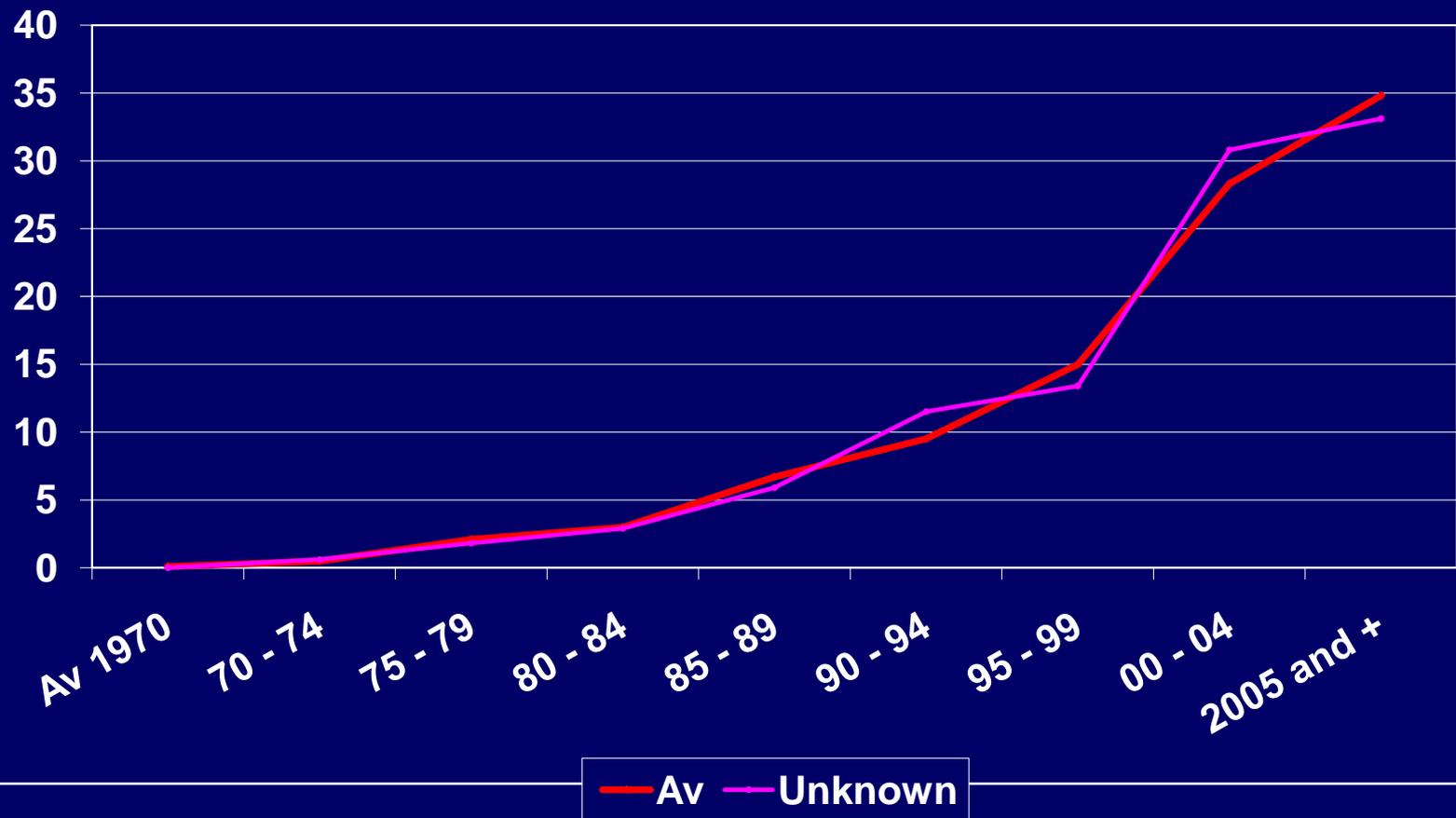
Evolution of rape and incest



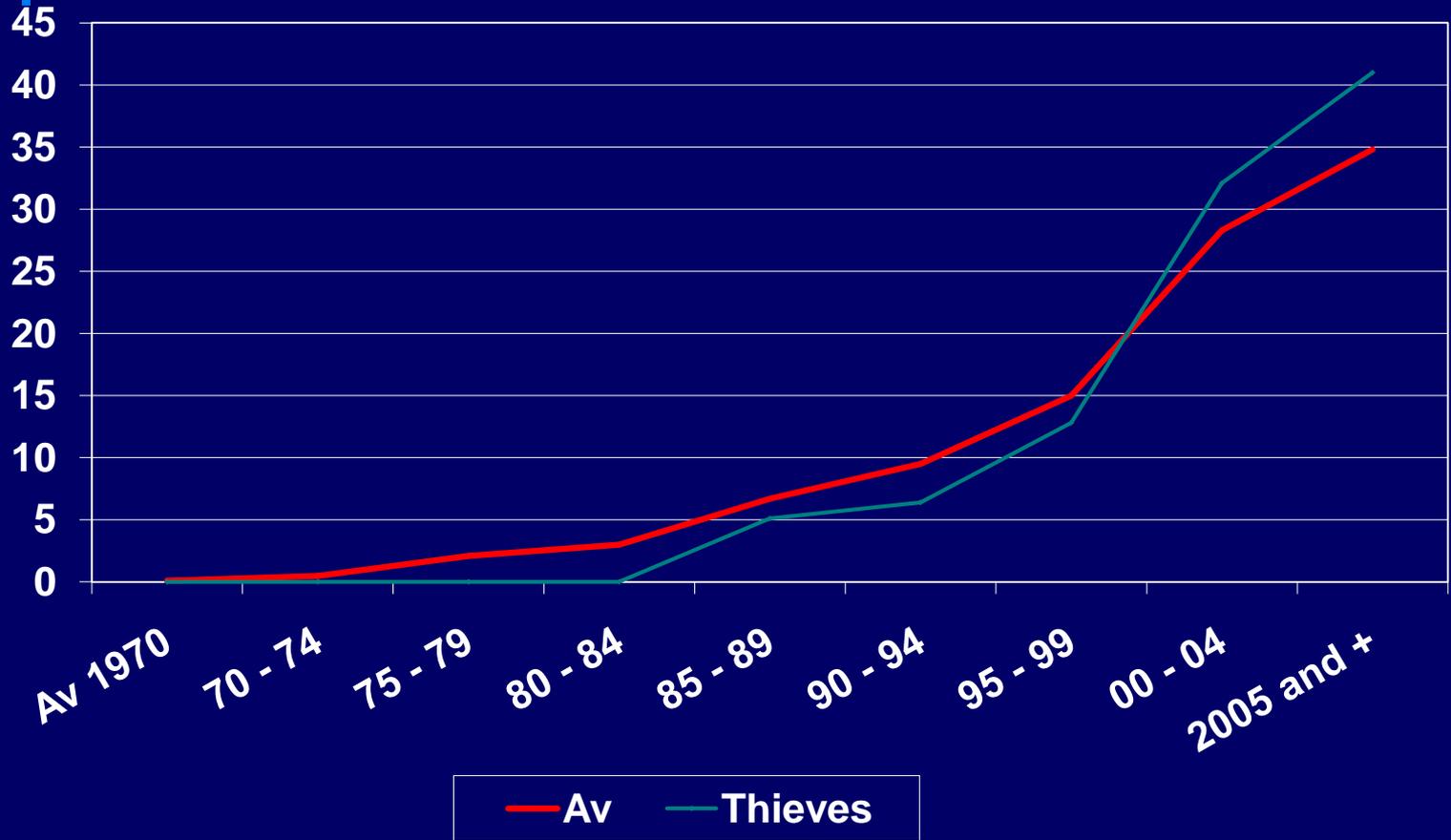
Evolution of rape and incest cases committed by parents (%)



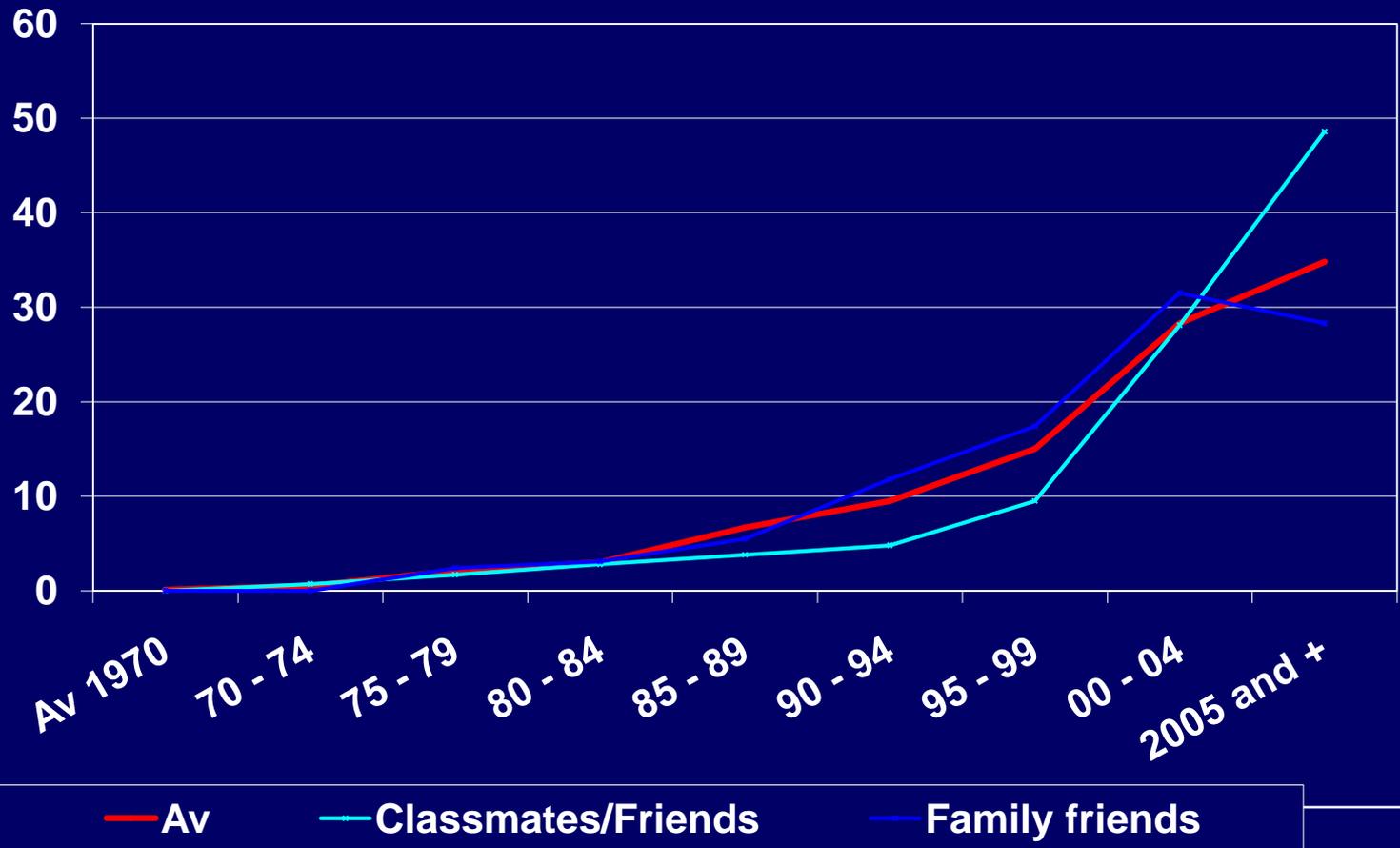
Evolution of rape cases committed by unknown persons (%)

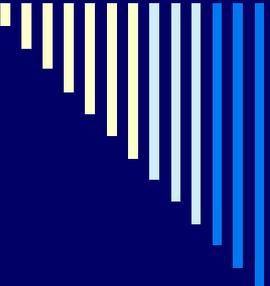


Evolution of rape cases committed by thieves (%)



Evolution of rape and incest cases committed by classmates and friends of the victim and family friends (%)

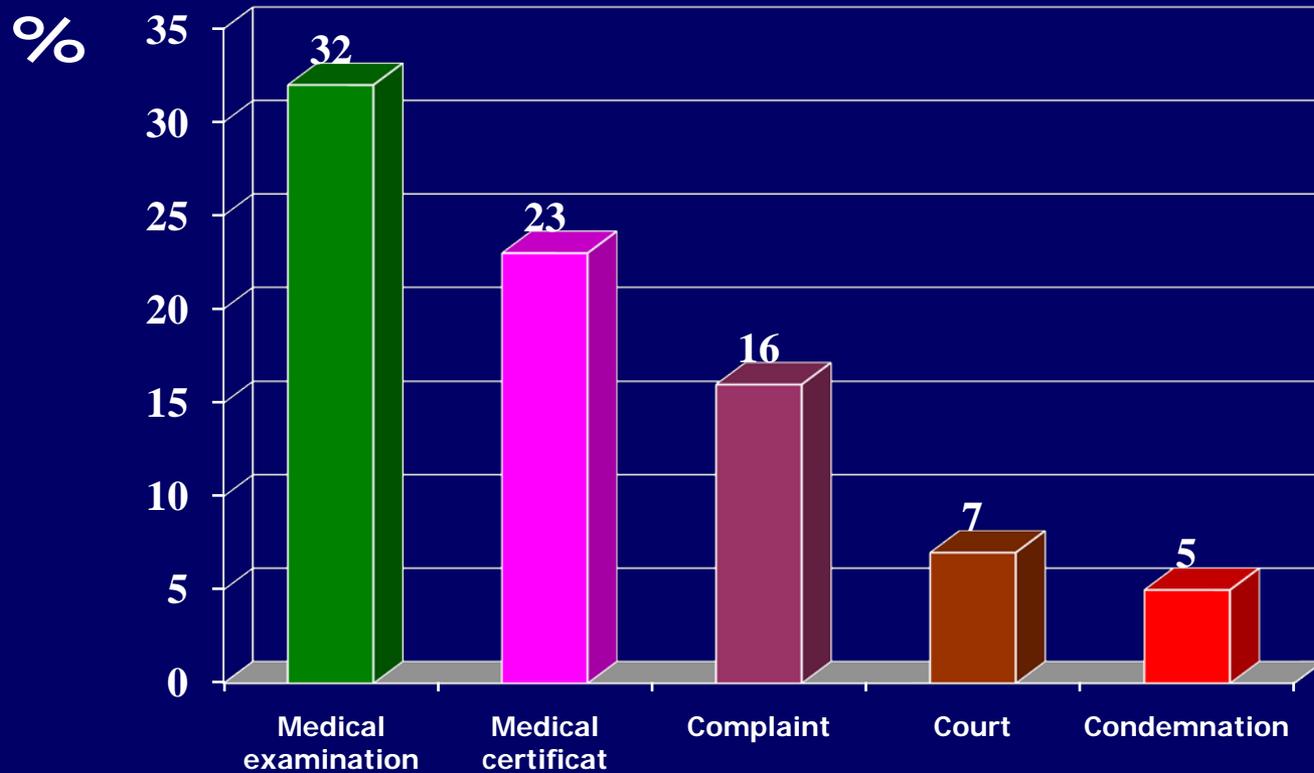




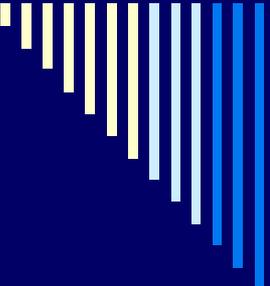
Observation

- The incidence of rape has increased from 0,1% before 1970 to almost 35% in 2008
 - The evolution of rape in Cameroon has a preoccupying and alarming tendency, because it grows in an exponential way
 - Moreover, 14% of girls and women in the sample escaped an attempted rape (with 42% of them who have experienced at least 2 attempts)
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Reactions after being raped

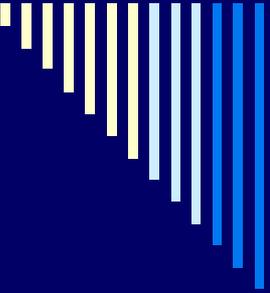


Only 1 rapist out of 20 was condemned by justice.



Cameroonian Penal Code

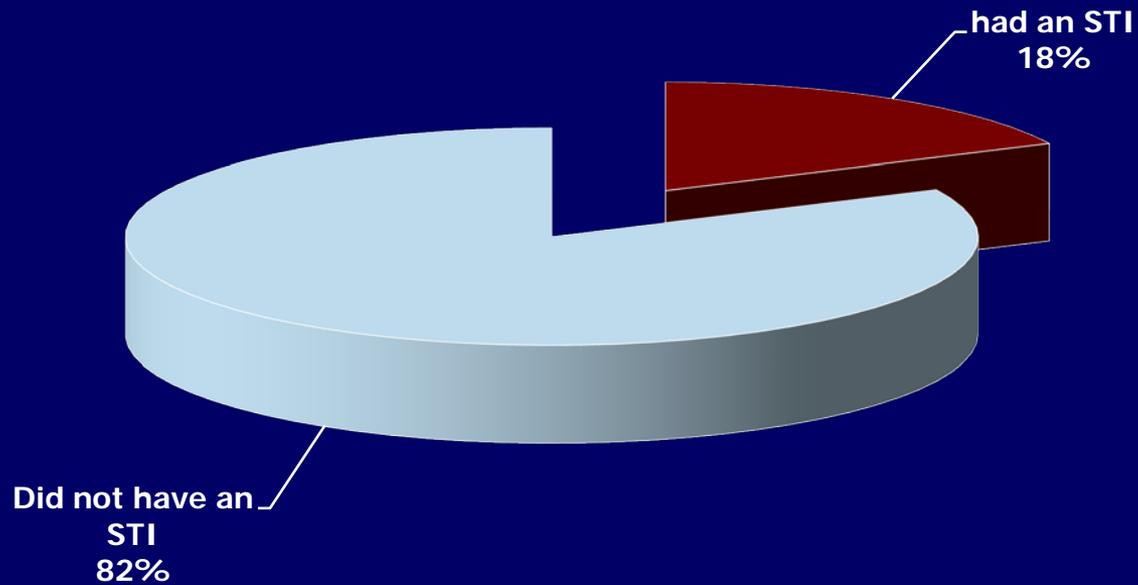
- 'Whoever by force or moral ascendancy compels any female whether above or below the age of puberty to have sexual intercourse with him shall be punished with imprisonment for from five to ten years' (Section 296)
 - The penalties [...] shall be doubled where the offender:
 - a) Has authority over the victim, or custody of him by law or by custom; or
 - b) Is a public servant or minister of religion; or
 - c) Is helped by one or more others (Section 298)
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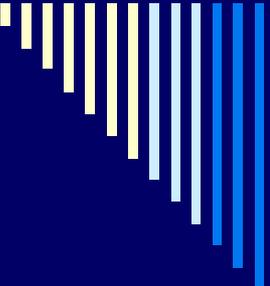


In case of incest:

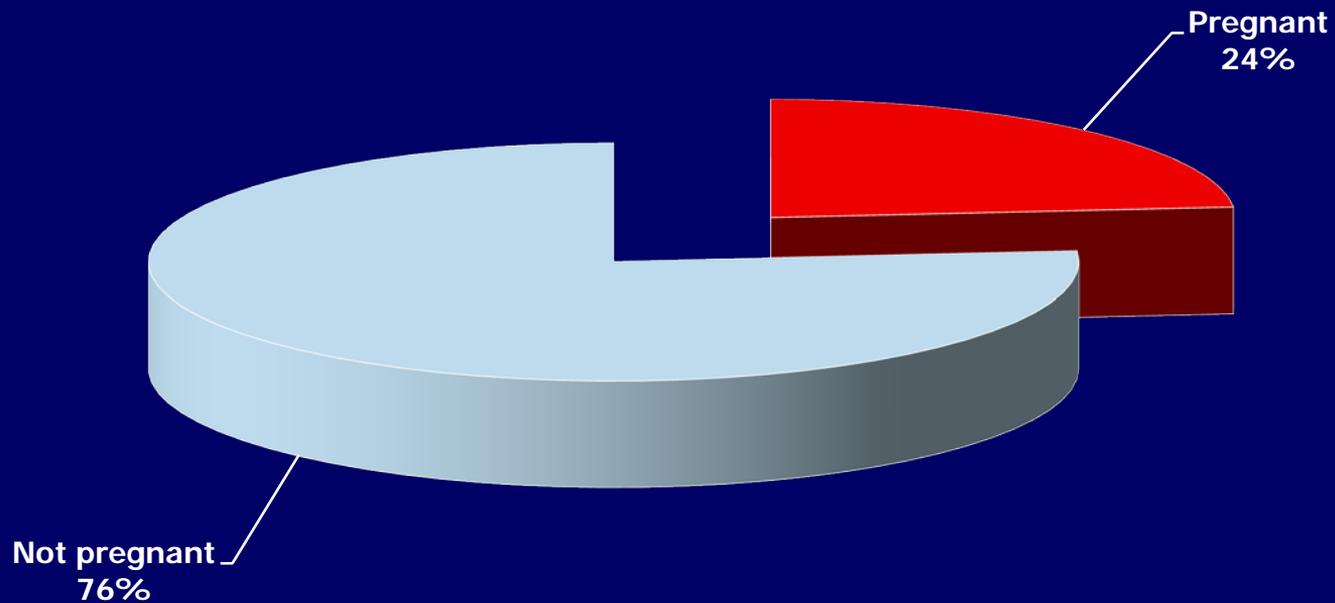
- [...] the imprisonment shall be from fifteen to twenty-five years, or for life where the offender is one of the persons described by section 298 (Section 346,4)
 - The consent of the victim is not considered
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Proportion of girls raped who declare to have contracted an STI

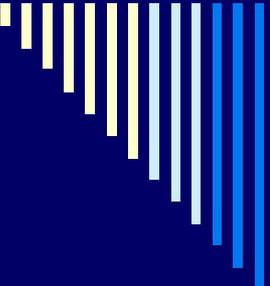




Proportion of girls raped who declare to have become pregnant as a result of the rape



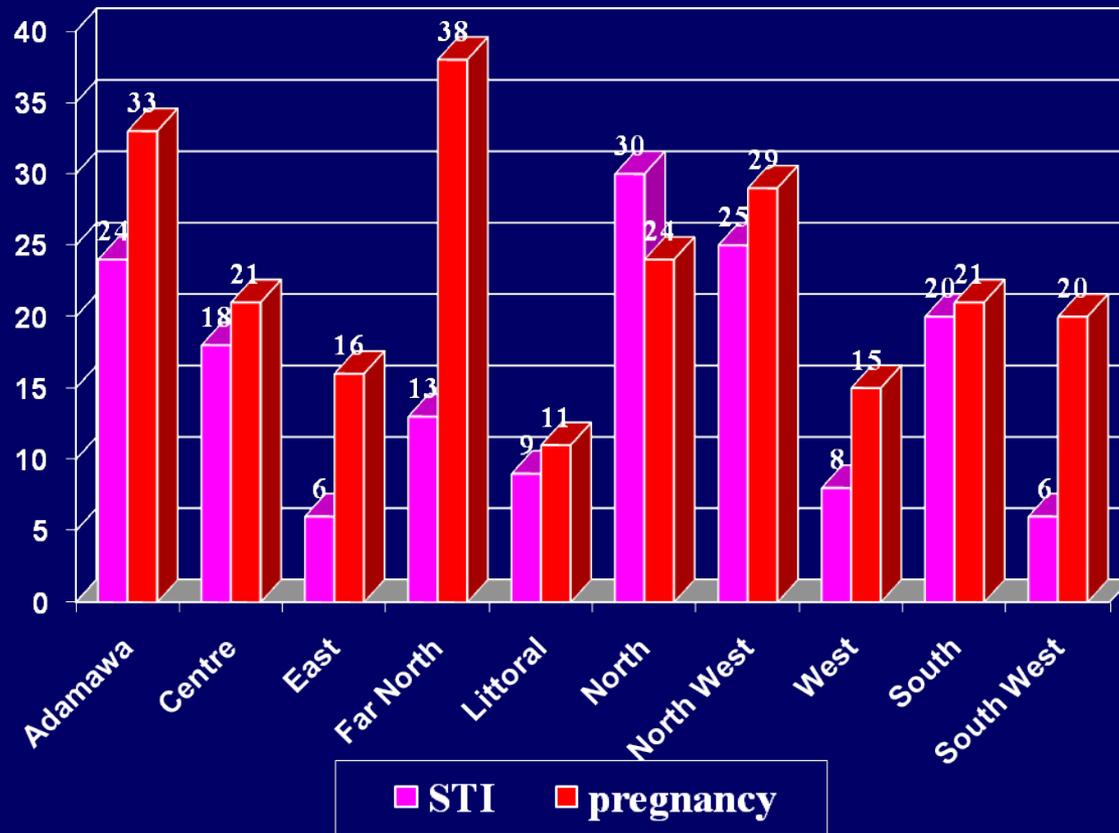
Among the girls who become pregnant as a result of rape, only 1/3 (31%) aborted



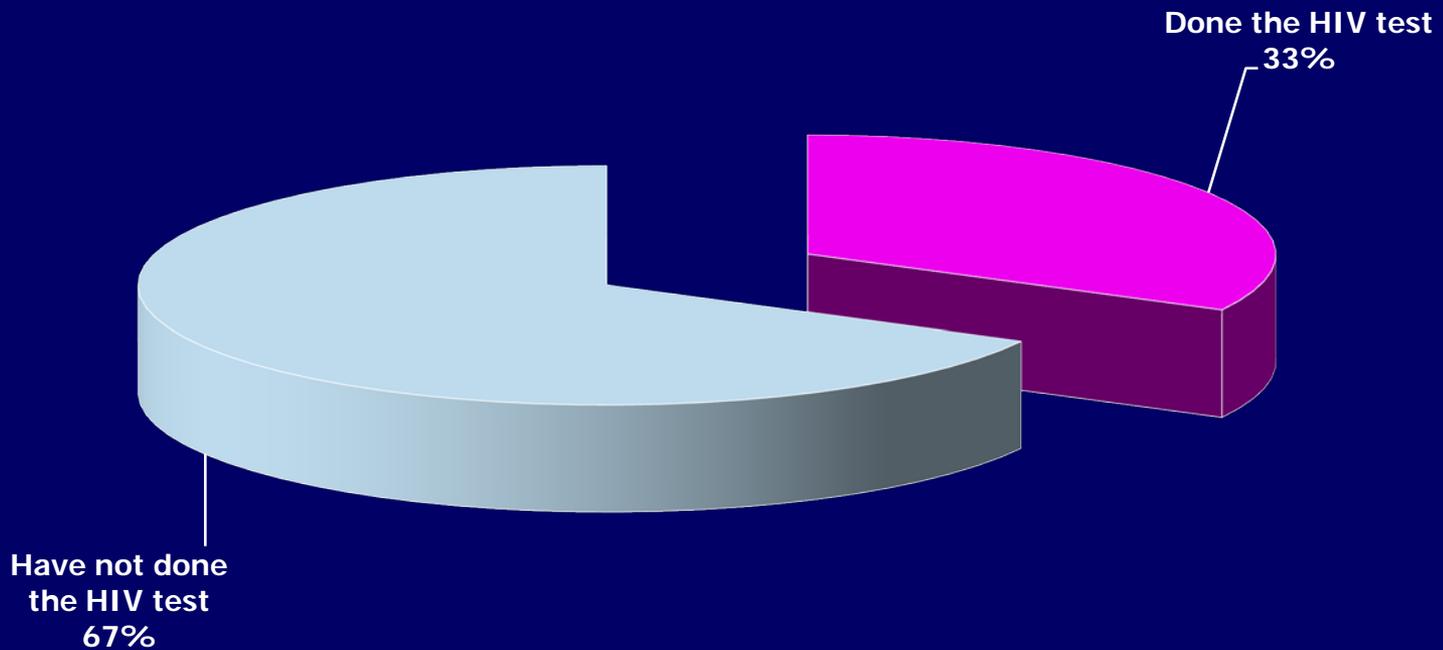
What the law says in case of pregnancy after rape

- 'In a case of pregnancy resulting from rape, abortion by a qualified medical practitioner after certificate by the prosecution of a good case shall constitute no offence' (Section 339, 2 – Exceptions)
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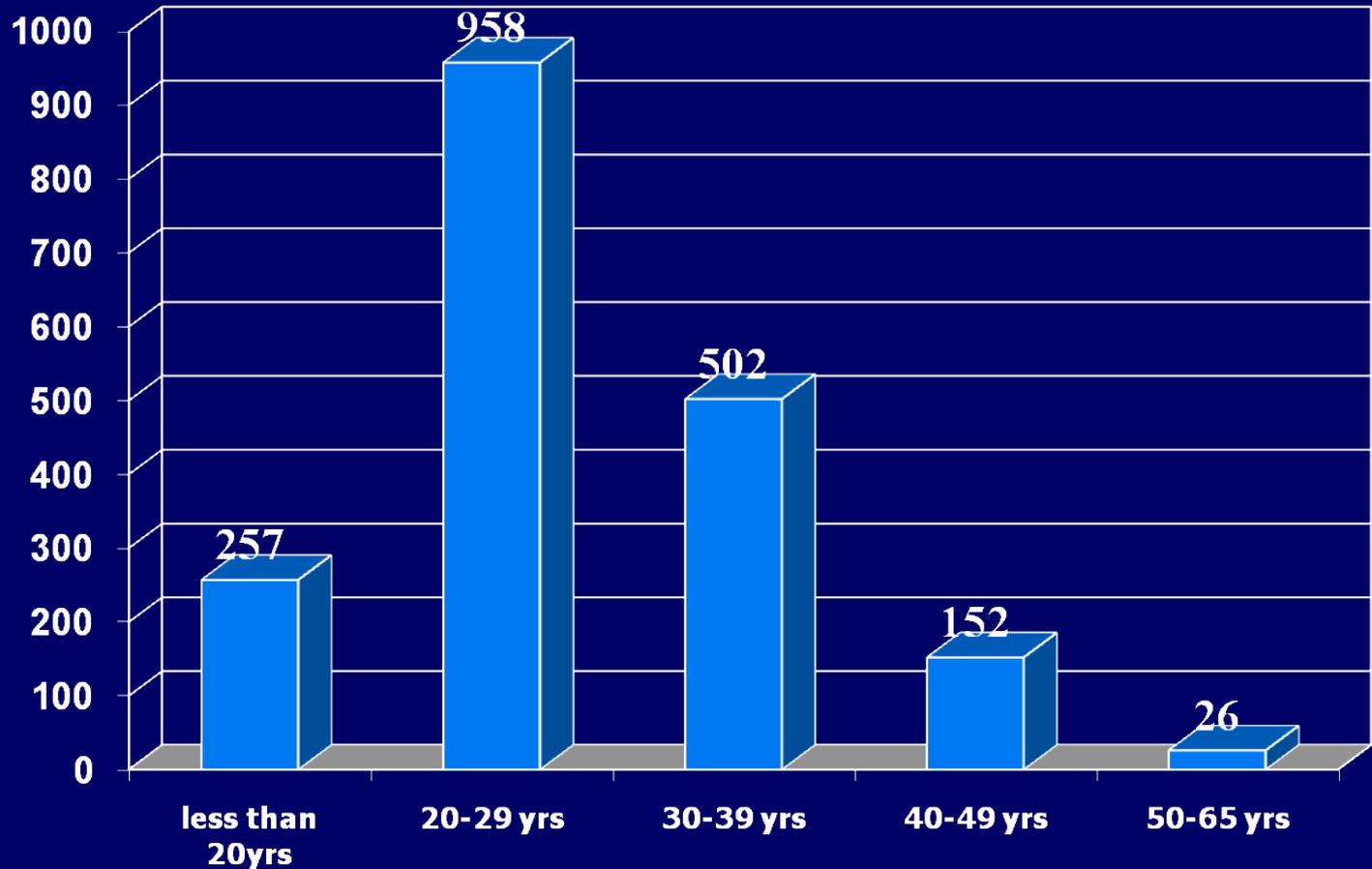
Distribution of rape victims who had an STI or were pregnant as a result of rape by region (%)



Proportion of girls raped who declare to have done the HIV test

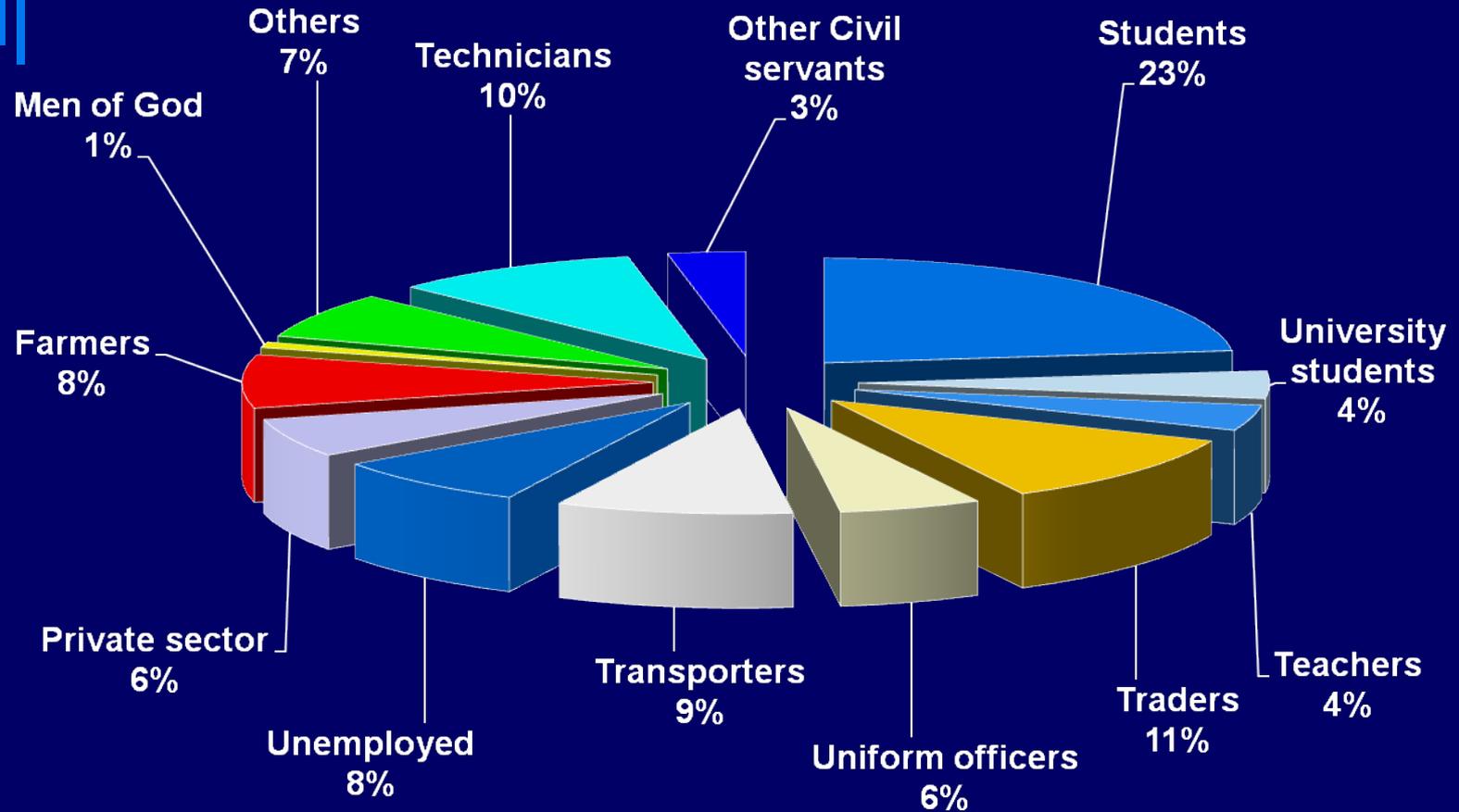


Distribution of rapists according to age range

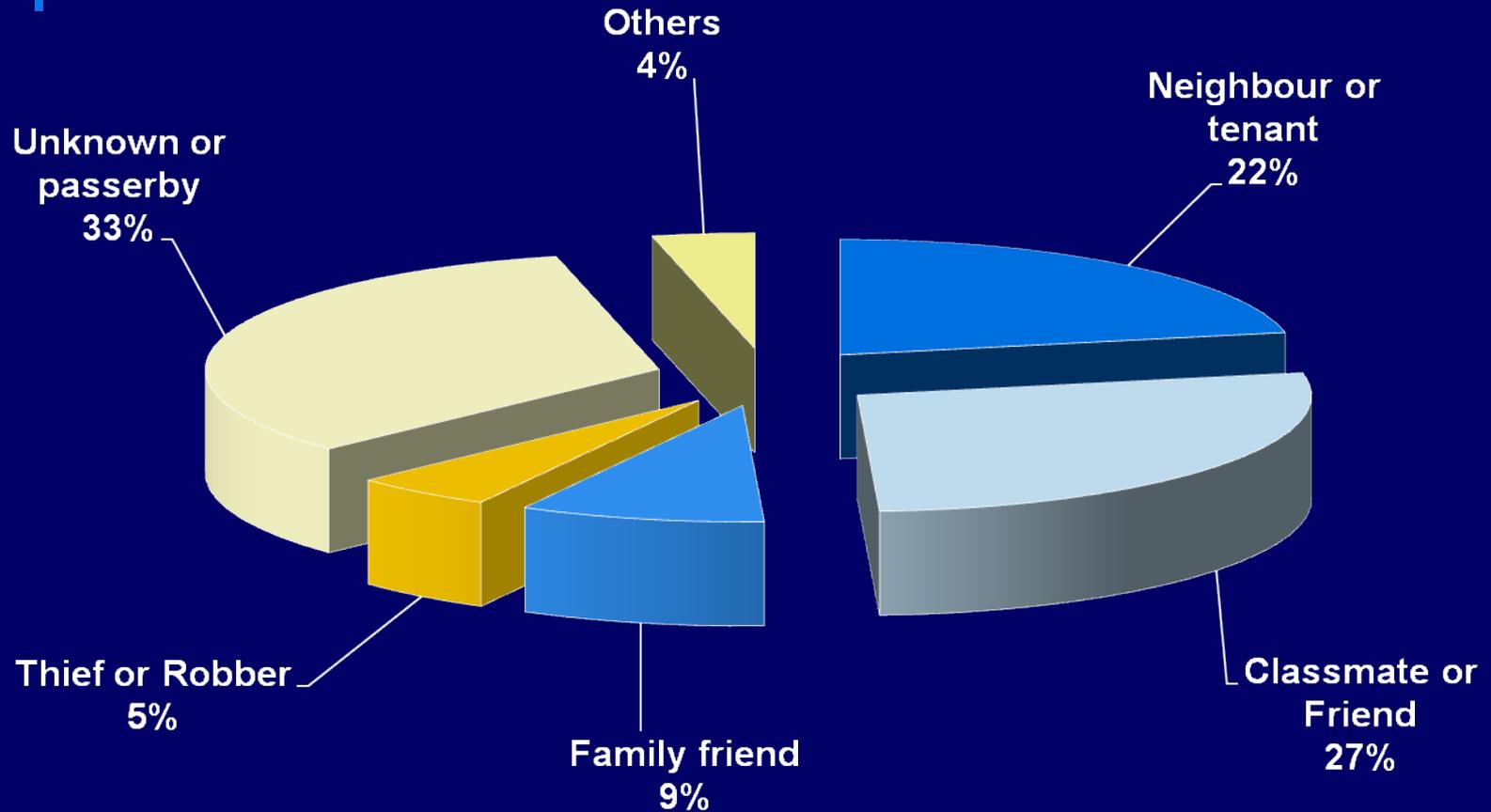


Average age of rapists= 26 years

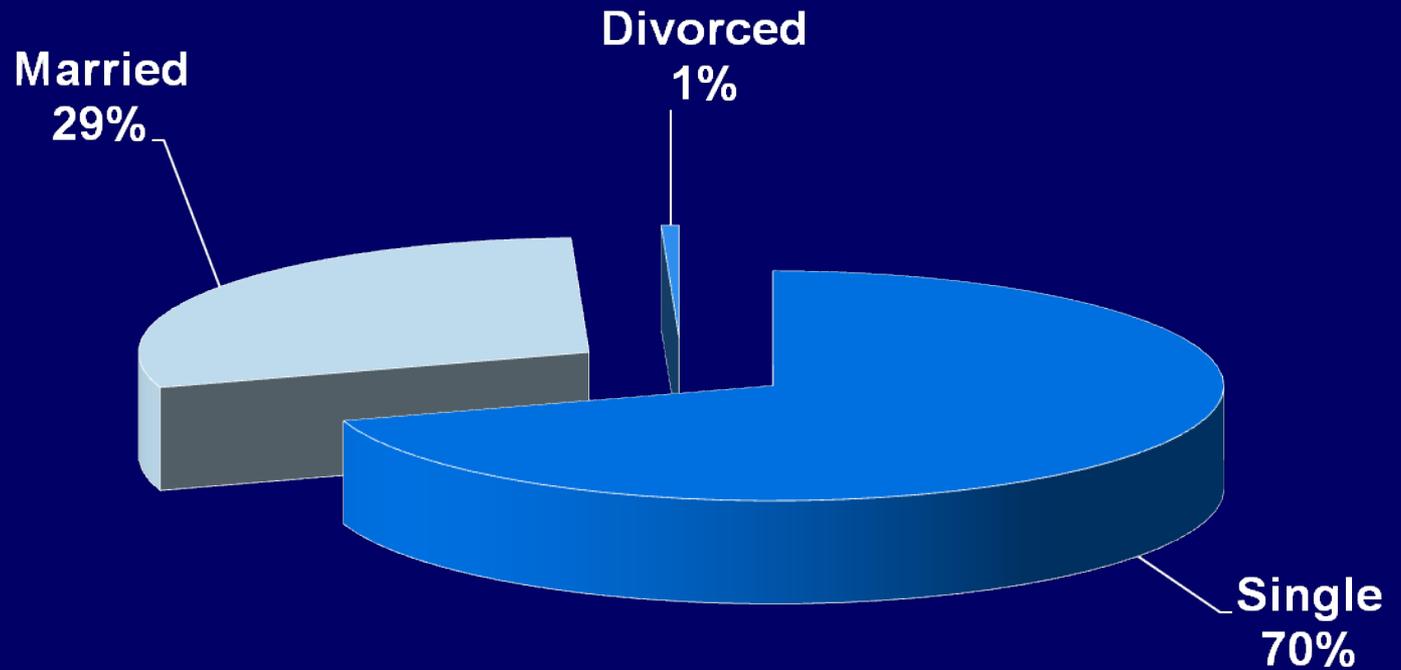
Profession of perpetrators of rape

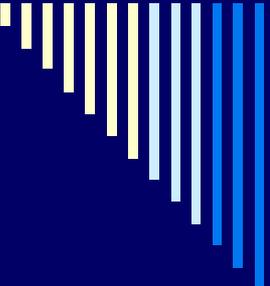


Relationship between the rapist and the victim



Marital status of perpetrators of rape

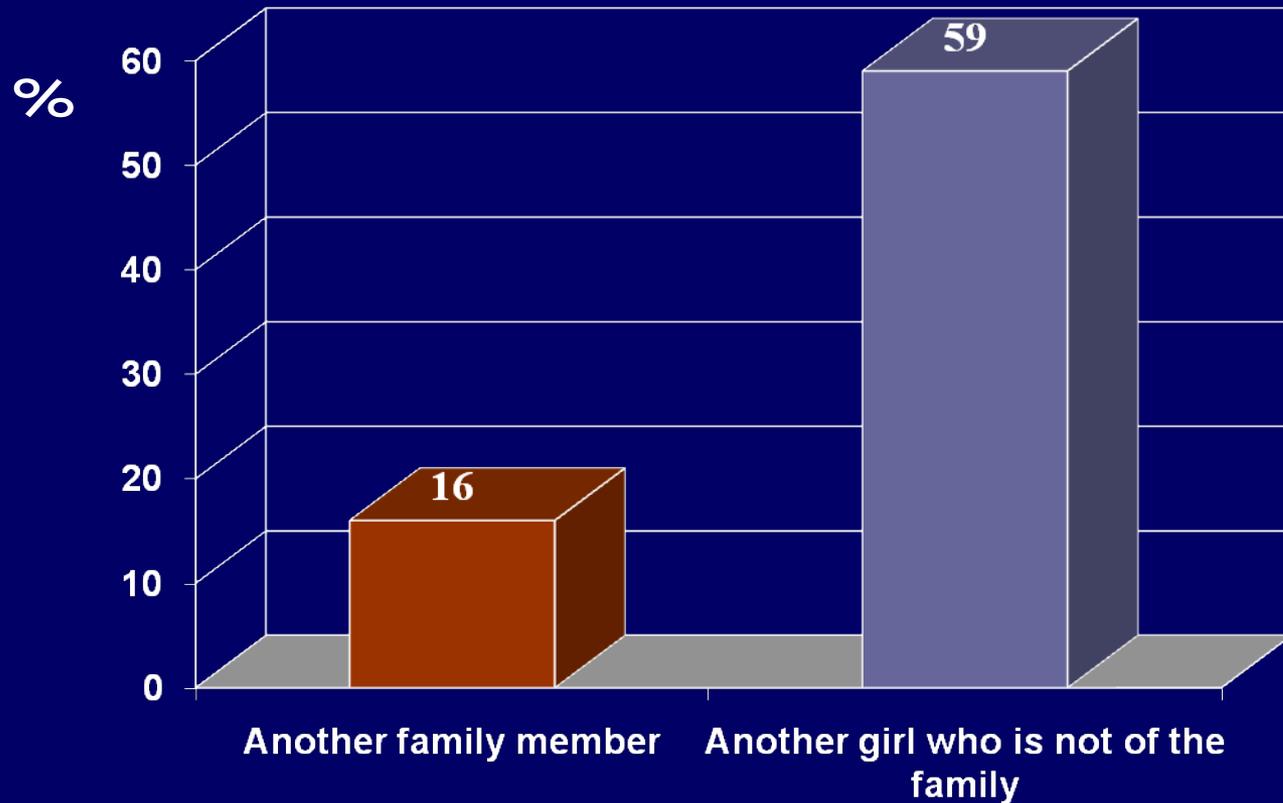




Talked to someone about being raped

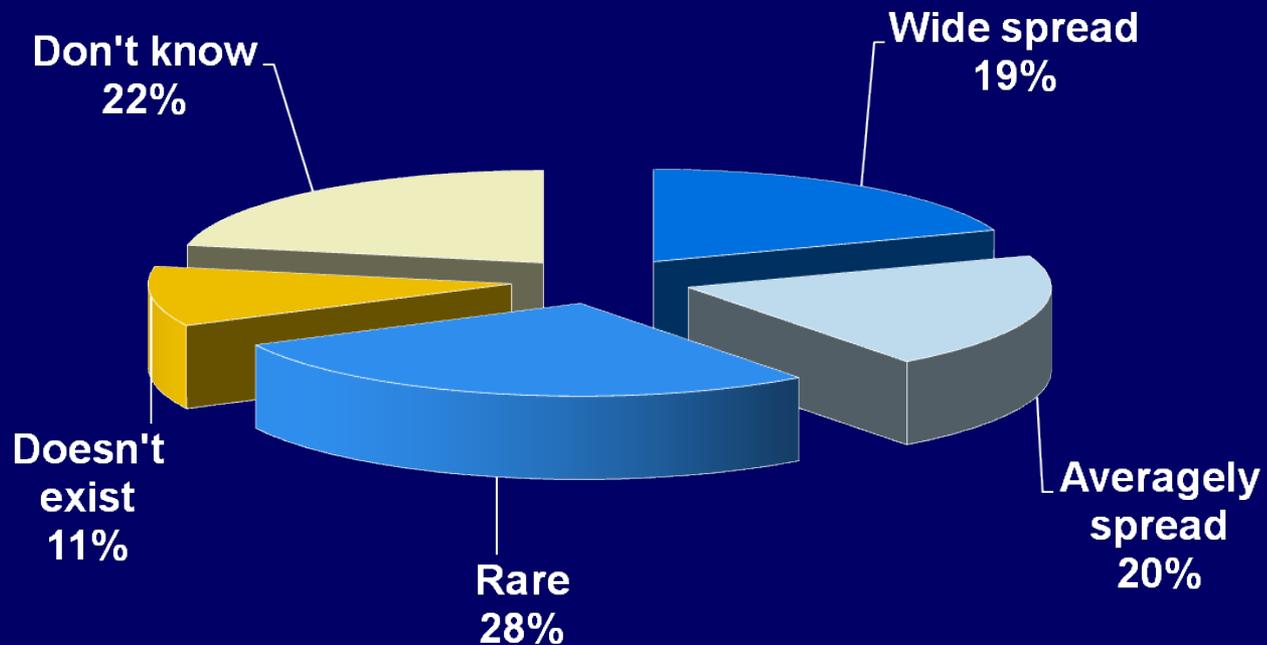
- More than half of the rape victims (56%) talked to someone
 - The persons to whom they confided in are:
 - Family members (64%)
 - Friends or classmates (24%)
 - Lovers or boyfriends (9%)
 - Others being health personnel, agents of forces of law and order, men of God, neighbours (2%)
 - During public testimonies (1%)
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Have heard of a rape case

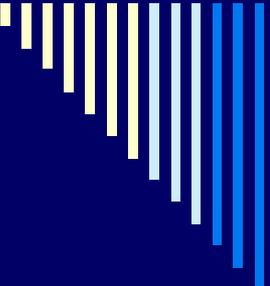


People talk more about cases of rape that occur outside the family than those within the family.

Judgement of the frequency of rape by women in Cameroon

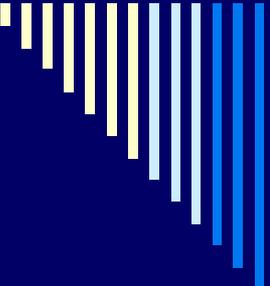


More than 1/3 of women acknowledge that rape is widespread in Cameroon. Among them, 24% have heard of a rape case in the family and 91% outside the family.



Conclusions

- Rape is a phenomenon or a crime that is on the rise in Cameroon.
 - Victims have difficulties in finding justice (medical certificate, support groups, etc). They are abandoned to themselves and even in the family, they do not find much support.
 - Rapists are hardly denounced or punished, this could explain the increase in rape cases.
 - Launching of a multidimensional campaign and interventions touching victims, potential perpetrators, forces of law and order, health personnel, agents of justice (magistrates, court registrars, lawyers), the community (for details on the campaign: www.tantines.info)
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Thanks for your attention

