Prevalence and Determinants of Sexual Violence in Uganda

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Background

• increasing concern about sexual violence, more so against women, especially after the realization of its interface with reproductive health.

• In Zimbabwe and Ethiopia; 26.0% to 59.0% women are forced to have sex by intimate partners (Watts et al, 2004)
Consequences of sexual violence

- sexual violence also increases women’s risk of unwanted pregnancy, STI-HIV/AIDS and other consequences such as chronic pain, unsafe abortion, sexual dysfunction, trauma to reproductive organs and chronic infections including pelvic Inflammatory Diseases (PID) complications during pregnancy and chronic reproductive health problems.
Objective of the study

• To assess the prevalence and demographic and socio-economic determinant of sexual violence in Uganda.
Definition of sexual violence in the study

• Sexual violence in the study was defined as being physically forced to have sexual intercourse and or being forced to perform any sexual acts against one's volition.
The study was based on Uganda Demographic Health survey (UDHS) 2006 data.

Bivariate analysis, where the dependent variable was cross-tabulated against the explanatory factors. The Pearson Chi-square test statistic was run at a 95% level of confidence.

Odds ratio was used as a measure of association. A regression model was used to get the odds ratio with their 95% confidence intervals (CI).
Results

• A total of 3851 respondents aged 15-49 years for females and 15-54 years for males were enrolled in the study.
### Experience of sexual violence

Percentage of women and men who have ever experienced sexual violence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Men</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Never married</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married or living together</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divorced/widowed</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2006 UDHS
Force at sexual initiation

- Almost **one in four women (24 percent)** report that their first sexual intercourse was forced against their will compared with the less than 1 percent of men.
2006 UDHS

Experiences of Sexual Violence By Region

- North: 32%
- Eastern: 43%
- West Nile: 25%
- Western: 43%
- Central 1: 46%
- Central 2: 32%
- Southwest: 41%
- East Central: 53%
- Kampala: 28%
- IDP: 28%
- Kara moja: 33%

Percentage of women who have experienced sexual violence since age 15
Experiences of Sexual Violence By Region

Percentage of men who have experienced sexual violence since age 15.
Perpetrators of sexual violence

Among women and men 15-49 who have ever been married and have experienced sexual violence, percentage who have experienced sexual violence by:

- Current husband/wife/partner: Women 49%, Men 50%
- Former husband/wife/partner: Women 25%, Men 9%
- Current/former girlfriend/boyfriend: Women 8%, Men 5%
- Own friend or acquaintance: Women 5%, Men 6%
- Stranger: Women 5%, Men 7%
In total, **39 percent** of women and **11 percent** of men 15-49 experienced sexual violence since the age 15.
• Spousal/intimate partner violence

• Experience of physical and sexual violence
Sexual Spousal Violence

Percentage of ever-married women and men who ever have experienced sexual violence by their partner, by residence

- **Total**
  - Women: 36%
  - Men: 7.2%

- **Rural**
  - Women: 37%
  - Men: 7.4%

- **Urban**
  - Women: 27.5%
  - Men: 5.4%

2006 UDHS
### Spousal Violence against Women

**Percentage of ever-married women who have experienced physical violence by their current husband or partner, ever and in the last 12 months**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Ever</th>
<th>In the past 12 months</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pushed/shook, threw something</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slapped her</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twisted arm or pulled hair</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Punched with fist or object</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kicked, dragged or beat up</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tried to choke or burn on purpose</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Threatened or attacked with knife, gun, any weapon</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physically forced sex</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forced to perform sexual acts did not want to</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At least one of these acts</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2006 UDHS
Spousal Violence against Men

Percentage of ever-married men who have experienced physical violence by their current wife or partner, ever and in the last 12 months

- Pushed/shook, threw something: 10
- Slapped him: 8
- Twisted arm or pulled hair: 3
- Punched with fist or object: 8
- Kicked, dragged or beat up: 2
- Tried to choke or burn on purpose: 3
- Threatened or attacked with knife, gun, any weapon: 5
- Physically forced sex: 6
- Forced to perform sexual acts did not want to: 3
- At least one of these acts: 24

2006 UDHS
Results

- Women who have spent more years in their marriages are 1.6 times more likely to experience sexual Violence. Education level of respondent, residence of respondent, age of the household head and employment status of the respondents were not found to be significant predictors of gender based violence.
• Age of the respondent, sex of the household head, years spent in marriage, marital status and wealth quintile were found to be significant predictors of sexual violence. As one advanced in age the more likely they were to experience sexual Violence OR=1.1; CI (0.03, 0.22) Female headed households were 22 percent less likely to experience sexual Violence OR=0.6; CI(-0.6, -0.1)
Key Findings

• **11 percent** of men have experienced sexual violence.

• **Central** region had the highest levels of sexual violence

• **24 percent** of women report that their first sexual intercourse was forced against their will.
conclusion

• There is need to carry out both national and community level educational campaigns to promote human rights and challenge the view that sexual violence against women is acceptable.

• More research is also needed to understand what type of interventions could be most useful to the victims of sexual violence.