

Testing the feasibility and effectiveness of a
comprehensive SGBV prevention project for in-school
girls in Swaziland

A Presentation by
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to the
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CONTEXT AT A GLANCE

Swaziland is facing a grave fiscal crisis

According to the VAC 2007, 69% of the population is living in poverty- majority are women

Acute patriarchy and gender inequality

By 2007, 26% of people aged 15-49 yrs were living with HIV

ANC data (2008) showing 42% of pregnant women are HIV positive from 39.2%



Women face the disproportionate burden of both SGBV and HIV in Swaziland.

- 31% lifetime prevalence of SGBV among women 15-49 (SDHS 2007)
- 33% HIV prevalence among young women compared to 17% among male counterparts
- 48% of girls (13-24) had experienced any form of sexual violence (UNICEF-CDC 2007)
- 25% of girls (13-24) had experienced physical violence, typically by a male relative
- Only 37% said that their first sexual experience was voluntary

Schools are not entirely safe places for girls

- About 10% of girls reported sexual violence at school (UNICEF 2007) .
- 2% of 13-17 year olds reported sexual violence by a teacher.
- Nearly half of girls who had experienced sexual violence said they had told “someone,” yet only 1 in 7 actually sought legal, health, or social services.
- Primary reason for not getting help: not realizing that what occurred was sexual violence

SWAGAA Focus Under This Programme

- SIDA and NORAD support through Population Council ushered in development of the country's first ever National Multisectoral Guidelines for Management of Sexual Violence Cases
- Second part of programme : **Testing the feasibility and effectiveness of a comprehensive SGBV prevention project for in-school girls in Swaziland**

The Girls Empowerment Clubs- Plus

Purpose of the Project:

- Seeks to test the feasibility of school-based girls empowerment clubs to build girls' social assets, using the Population Council's 'Safe Spaces' approach.
- Overall project goal: to help prevent SGBV and increase reporting among in-school girls.

Expected Results

- Expanded and pilot tested Safe Spaces curriculum adapted for GEC-‘Plus’
- Establishment of a cohort of trained mentors to lead GEC Plus (adolescent girls between 18 – 25 years)
- Improved knowledge and attitudes about the causes and consequences of SGBV
- Increased social assets (i.e. friends, social networks) among GEC-Plus participants
- Increased reporting of SGBV cases among GEC-Plus participants
- Feasibility of implementing GEC-PLUS in Swaziland established through SWAGAA’s existing school-based programs and in new sites

Methods

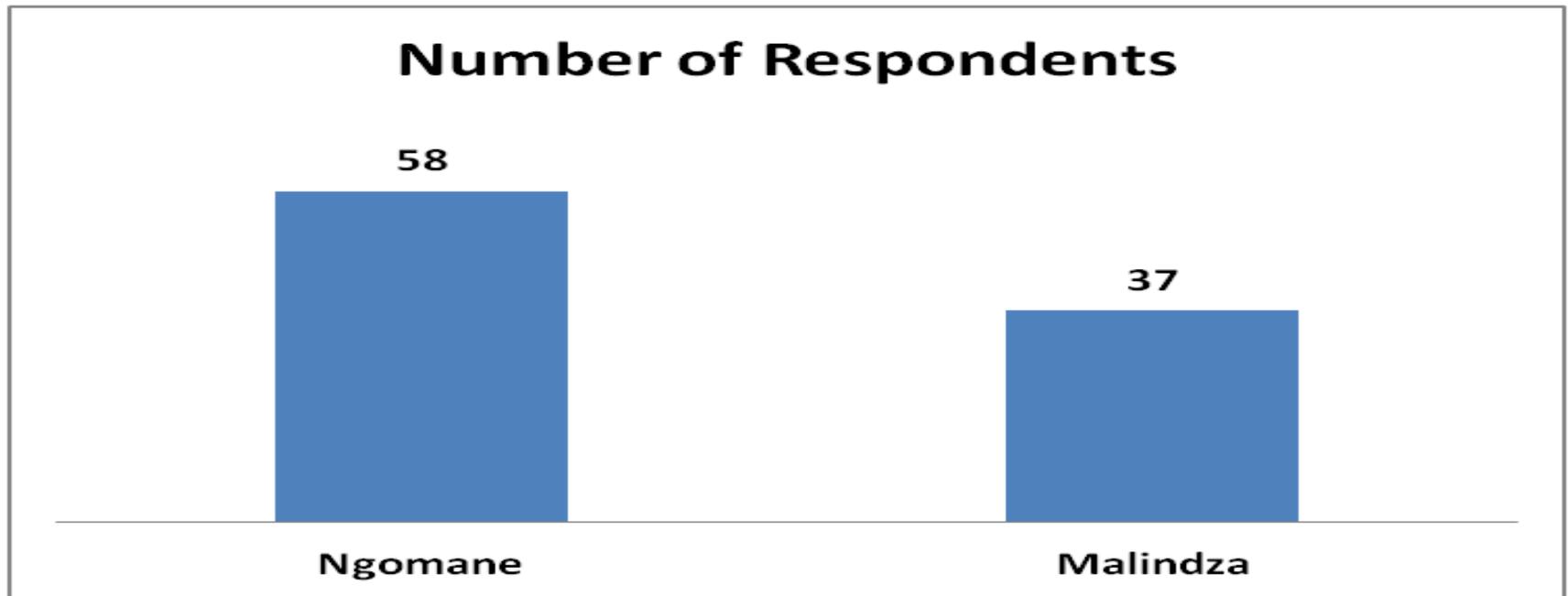
- A pre and post-intervention survey conducted in two intervention sites, and one comparison site
- Endline key informant interviews (intervention site) and focus group discussions (intervention and comparison sites)
- Collation of routinely collected data from project activities at the two intervention sites



PRESENTATION OF FINDINGS FROM BASELINE SURVEY

The Baseline Survey

- This exercise has been carried out in the two intervention schools with a total reach of 95 girls participating out of the 200 that were targeted for this project.



Key Findings of Baseline Survey

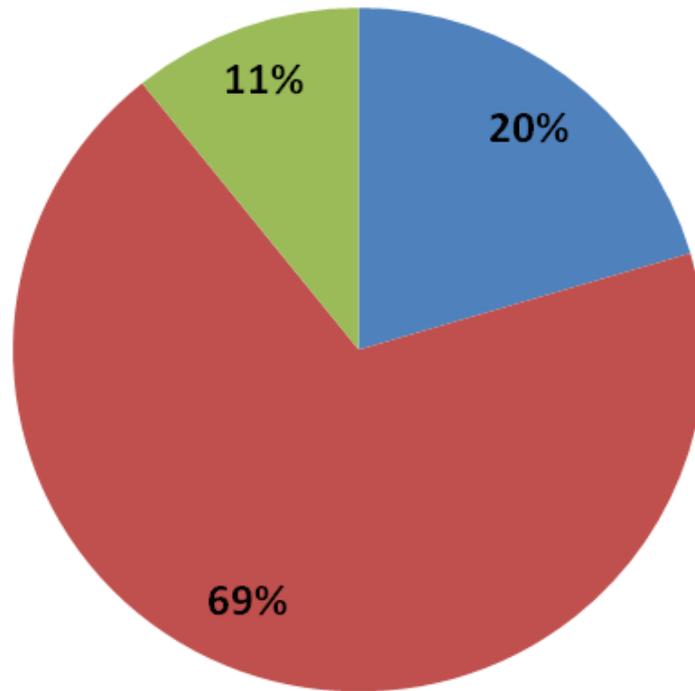
- 59% of the girls have no partners, 29% have steady partners and 12% have non-steady partners.
- 60% have friends in their neighborhood and 40% do not.
- 87% have someone to turn to during difficult times and 13% do not.
- 37% responded that a pregnant girl should be allowed to stay in school whilst 56% disagreed and 7% did not know.

Findings Cont....

- 43% responded that it is a women's responsibility to avoid being raped
- whilst 40% disagreed and 17% did not know.
- 76% responded that men and boys can play a role in prevention of sexual violence against the girl child
- 9% disagreed and 13% did not know.
- 46% of the respondents live with only male parent
- 16% live with grandparents

Is there fighting or violence in your school?

N= 93



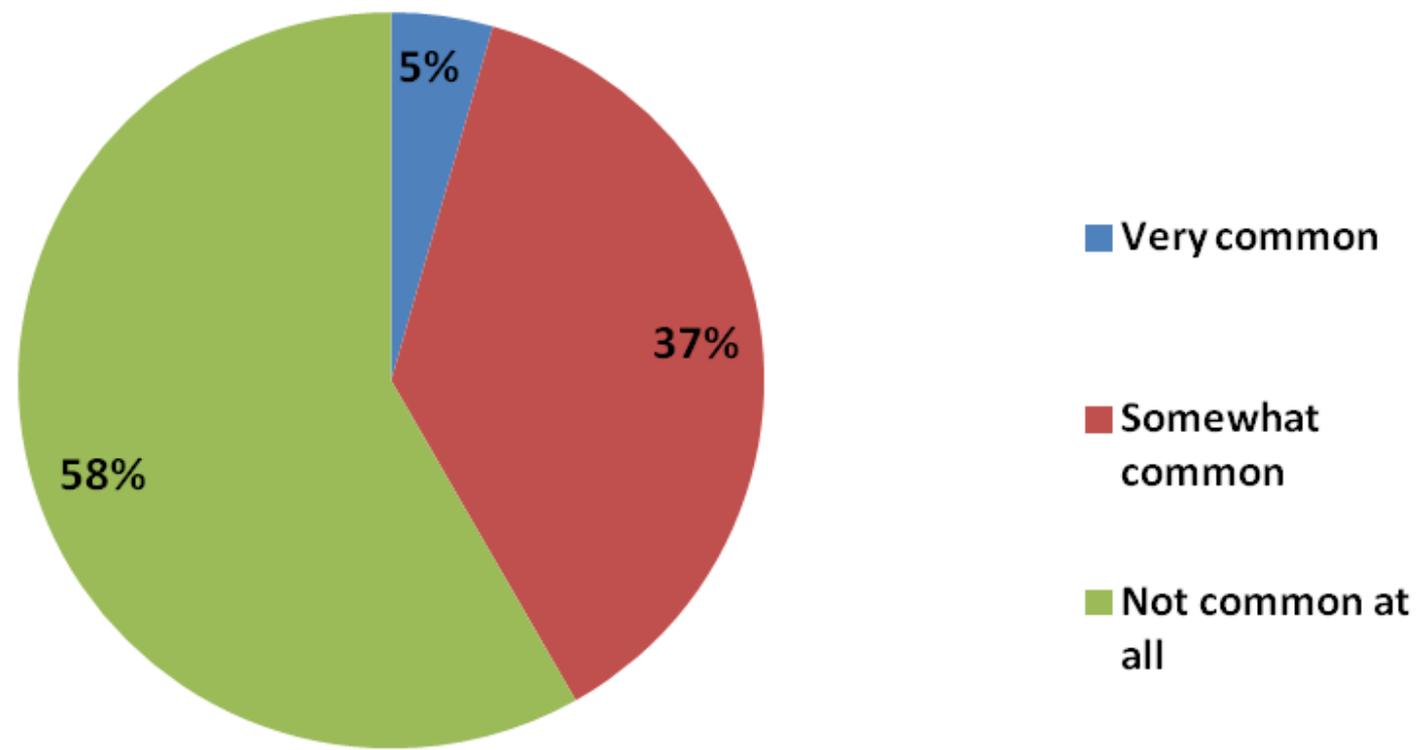
■ Yes

■ No

■ Don't know

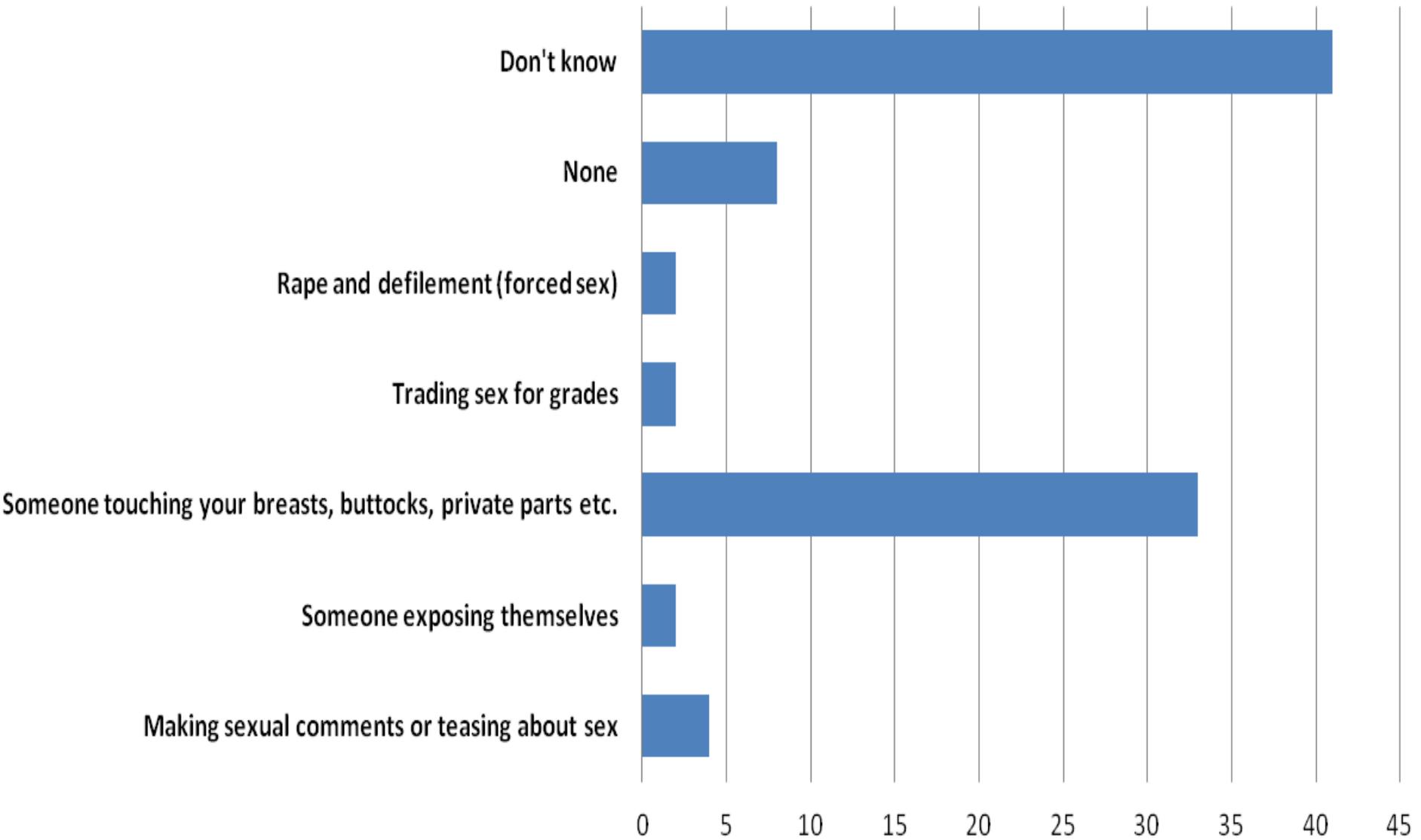
N= 91

How common do you think sexual abuse is in your school?

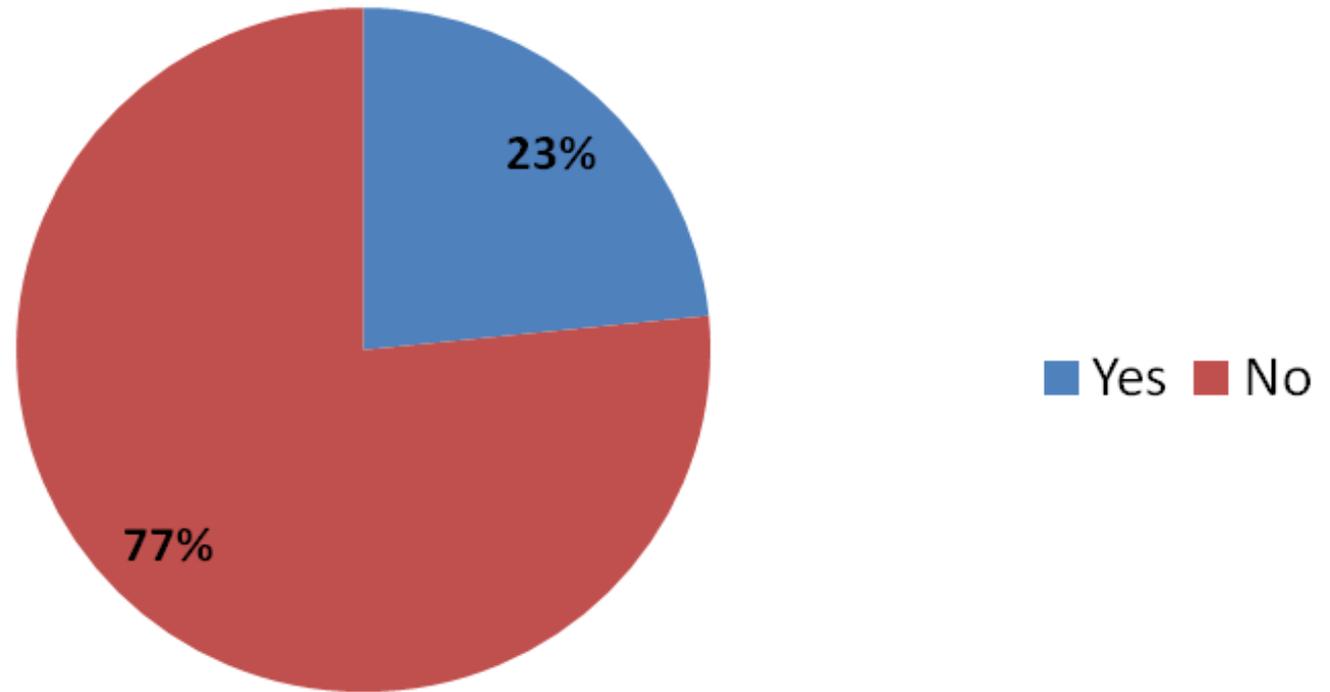


N=92

In your school, what type of sexual violence against girls is most common? (pick one)

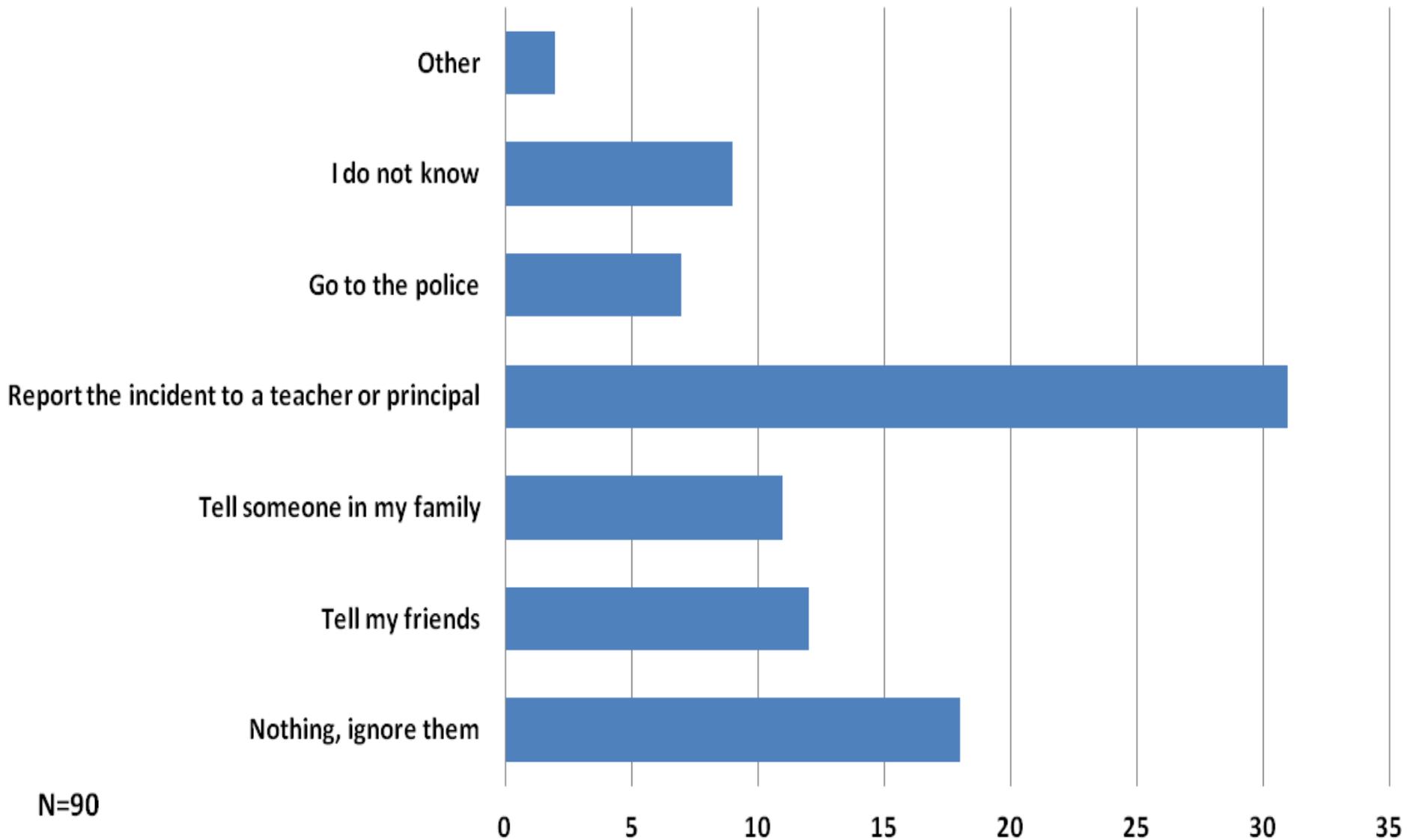


Have you ever heard of a school girl who has been forced to have sex with a teacher?

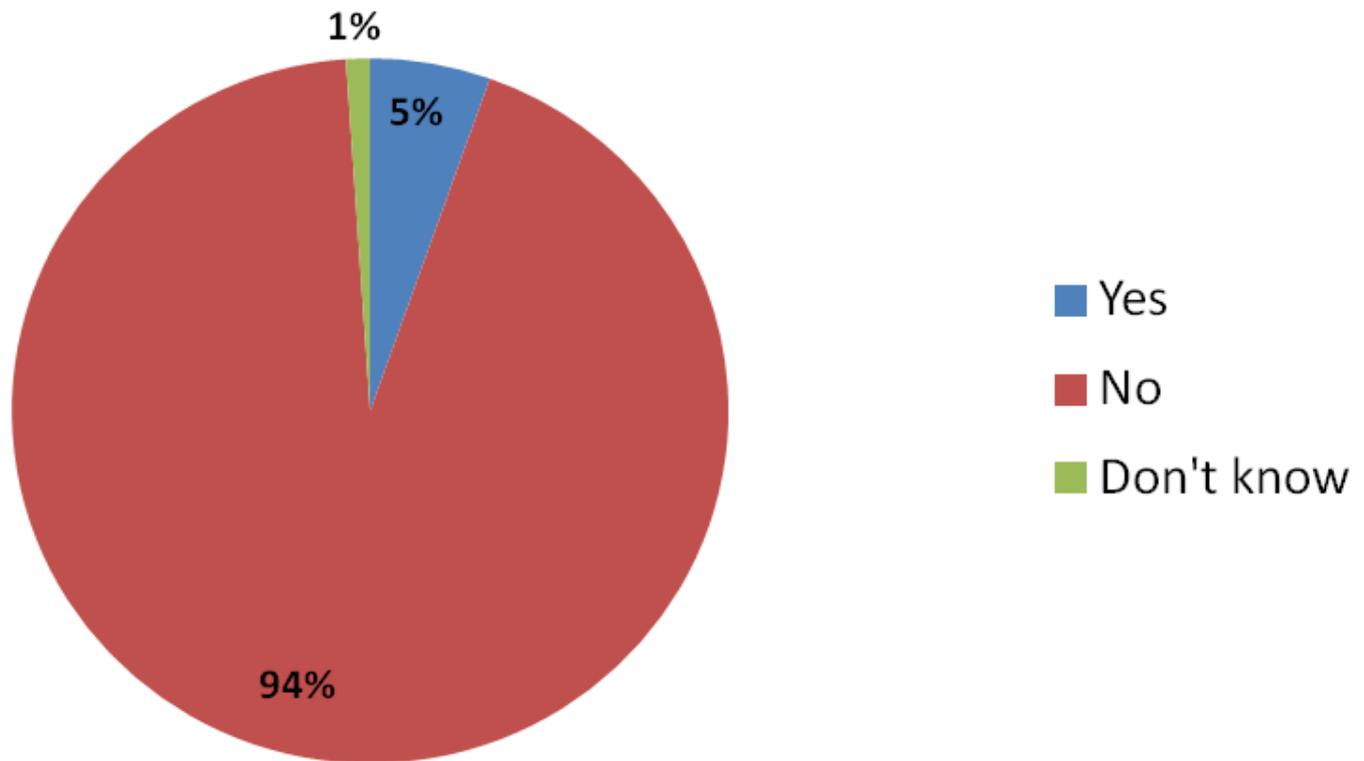


N=94

If another student made sexual comments to you at school, what would you do?

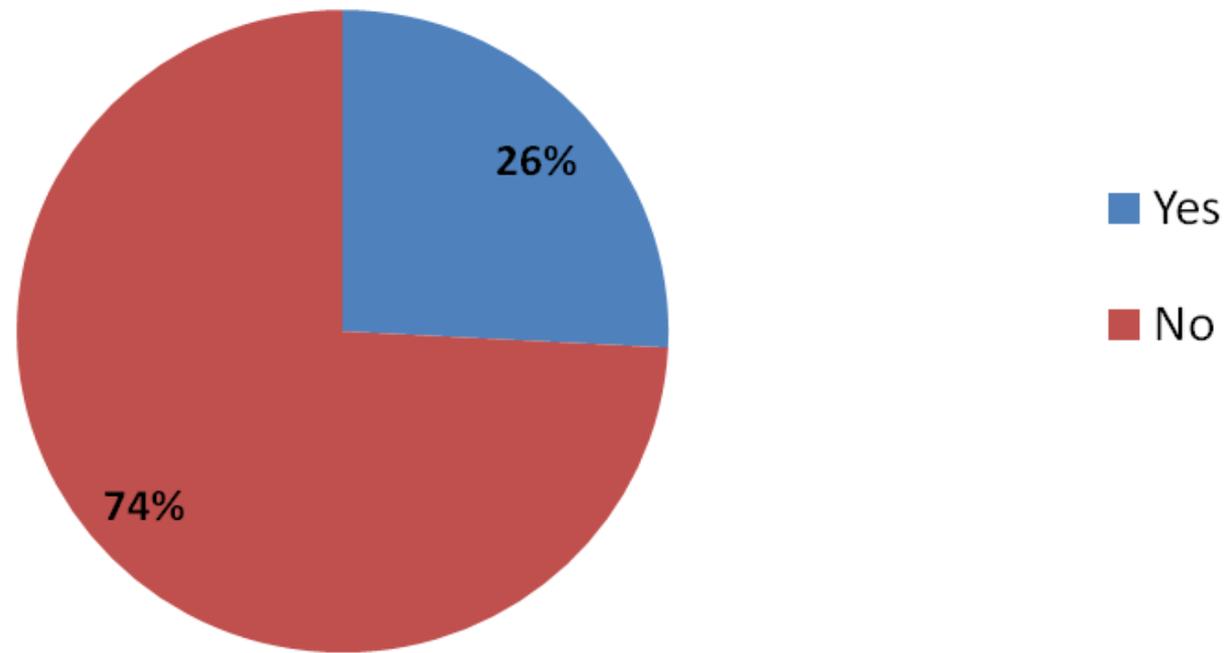


As a student, have any of your schoolmates forced you to have sex when you did not want to?



N=92

In your community (not at school), have you ever been touched in a sexual way that did not make you feel comfortable?



N=93

Observations Made During Data Collection

- Difficulty in ensuring informed consent/assent
- Very low self concept among the girls – socialization a key factor here
- Peer pressure
- Student dishonesty about age
- Substance abuse
- Early pregnancy

Opportunities

- Exciting possibility of influencing MoE policy with the study results
- Materials development underway to address the findings of the survey.
- The report on the findings will be shared with the National Response Network and National Surveillance network partners for improved response and strengthened reporting at national level.

Opportunities

- The findings will be used to provide evidence to support Advocacy for the enactment of the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Bill.
- Lobbying government to take ownership and expand the program to all schools.
- Advocate for the review of guidance teachers job descriptions

Opportunities

- Dissemination of the findings at the launch of the National Multisectoral Guidelines on Management of SGBV Cases

THANK YOU

