

## COMPARATIVE STUDY OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE ON MALE AND FEMALE SUBJECTS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE. PERPETRATORS

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### ABSTRACT

Sexual violence is of continuously increasing incidence during the last years. Due to the discomfort of revealing such accidents, it is rather hard to discuss sexual abuse issues with victims. The perpetrator usually employs physical or emotional violence over victims to abuse them sexually. The purpose of this survey is to compare the sexual perpetrators over boys and girls under 18 years of age. A total of 174 cases of male persons and 2227 cases of female persons who reported that they had been the victims of sexual violence, were included. Patients were divided into 3 age groups: up to 6 years old, 7–13 years old, 14–17 years old. The perpetrators' data were organised in groups: familiar people, unfamiliar people, relatives and combinations. According to results, sexual violence against both genders was committed by a familiar person in 71.32% of cases.

*Key words: sexual violence, male, woman, perpetrator*

### INTRODUCTION

Sexual violence is of continuously increasing incidence during the last years. Despite the considerable number of victims, professionals working in the field of sexual crimes report that victims rarely report such acts to the police, especially when a person close to the family environments is involved. Due to the discomfort of revealing such accidents, it is rather hard to discuss sexual abuse issues with victims. Victims are afraid to reveal the perpetrator due to shame or fear from losing a close person, or because of constant threatening. The perpetrator usually employs physical or emotional violence over victims to abuse them sexually. Smaller children are not initially aware becoming sexual abuse victims, especially when only fornication is attempted. They realise it at a later stage of their life and only then could confess the incident.

### AIM

The aim of the present study is to compare the most common perpetrators of sexual violence over boys and girls under 18 years of age.

### MATERIAL

A total of 174 cases of male persons and 2227 cases of female persons who reported that they had been the victims of sexual violence, were included.

### METHODS

The described cases were processed through the documental method and statistically in Excel.

The patients were divided into 3 age groups: up to 6 years old, 7–13 years old, 14–17 years old. The perpetrators' data were organised in groups: familiar people, unfamiliar people, relatives and combinations.

### RESULTS

A total of 174 cases of male persons and 2227 cases of female persons who reported that they had been the victims of sexual violence, were included. In 194 cases, girls were inspected for status of the hymen, and in 7 cases, no data for the abuser could be provided. The distribution of violence acts per age groups was as followed: boys - < 6 years of age – 24 cases (13.78%); 7-13 years of age – 114 cases (65.52%) and 14-17 years of age – 36 cases (20.70%); girls - < 6 years of age – 41 cases (2.02%), 7–13 years of age – 473 cases (23.35%) and 14–17 years of age – 1512 cases (74.63%).

Finkelhor D, et al., 1990 reported that 33% of female and 42% of male subjects to sexual abuse during the childhood did not report such an act. Arata, C. , 1998 indicates that rougher and more traumatic acts reduced the possibility for victims to reveal the perpetrator.

As could be seen from Figure 1, sexual violence is most commonly committed by familiar people – 71.32%, with small variations between genders: 70.38% in women and 82.18% in men. Similar data are reported in the available literature. Evard and Domagalski, 1994; Kevin, 2004, Miteva, 2008 observed that most of questioned children have declared a familiar person as perpetrator. Each fifth victim of sexual abuse was violated by unfamiliar people – 20.95%. For male victims of sexual crimes, this percentage was significantly lower – 13.22%. The data in the present survey showed a markedly lower incidence compared to those of Elbedour S. et al, (2006) and Alikasifoglu M. et al, 2006, which reported unfamiliar people as perpetrators of female victims.

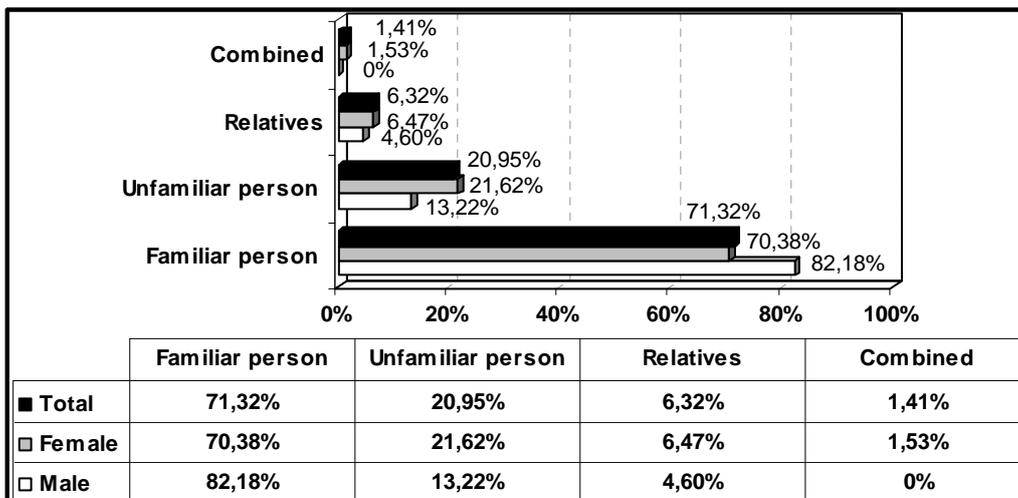


Fig. 1 Distribution of male and female persons who claimed to be the victims of sexual violence, according to the perpetrators.

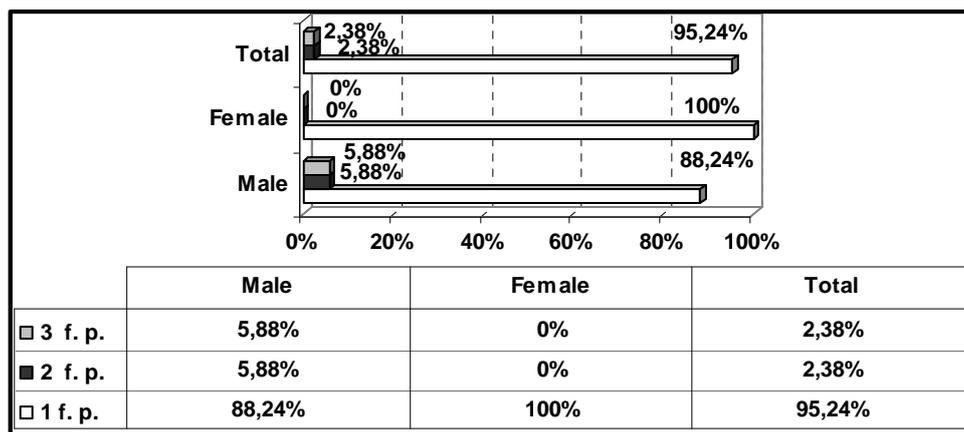


Fig. 2 Distribution of male and female persons in the age group < 6 years who claimed to be the victims of sexual violence from the part of a familiar person. (f. p. - familiar person)

Figures 2, 3 and 4 present the distribution of sexual victims of familiar perpetrators. Most commonly, the crime was committed by one familiar person: 95.24% of cases in the age group < 6 years of age; 86.70% in the age group 7–13 years and 83.27% in the age group 14–17 years. It should be noted that all sexual crimes in the youngest age group of girls were done by a single familiar person.

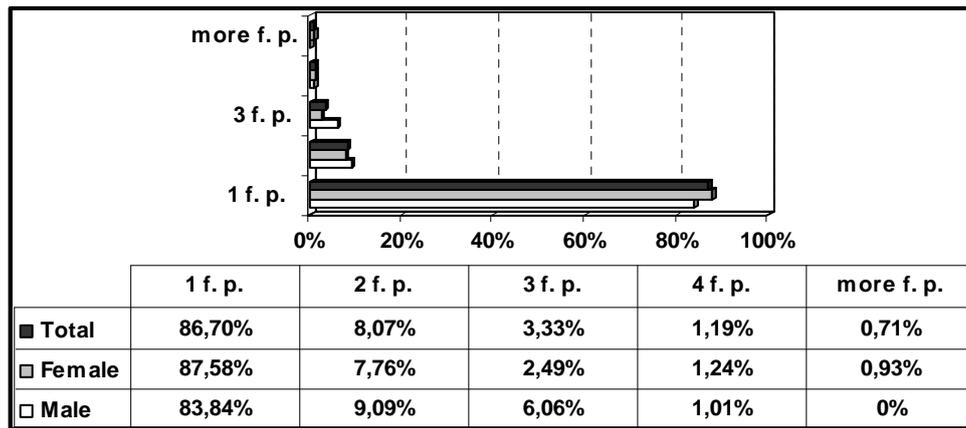


Fig. 3 Distribution of male and female persons in the age group 7-13 years who claimed to be the victims of sexual violence from the part of a familiar person (f. p. - familiar person)

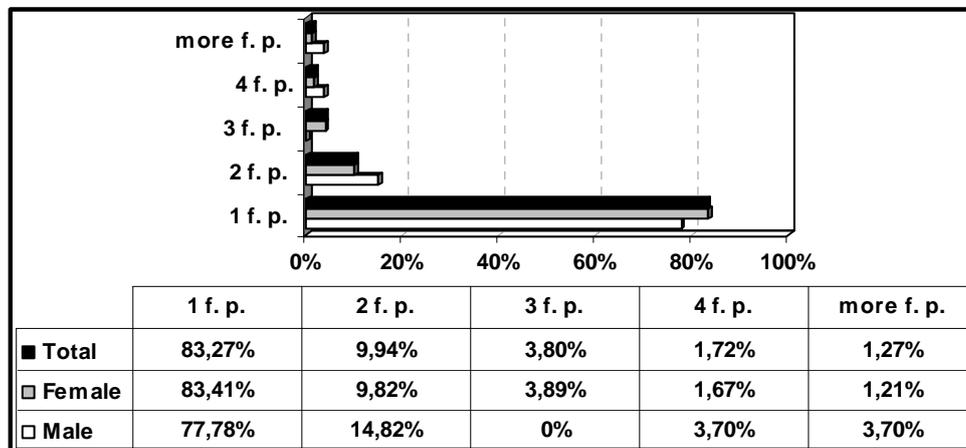


Fig. 4 Distribution of male and female persons in the age group 14-17 years who claimed to be the victims of sexual violence from the part of a familiar person (f. p. - familiar person)

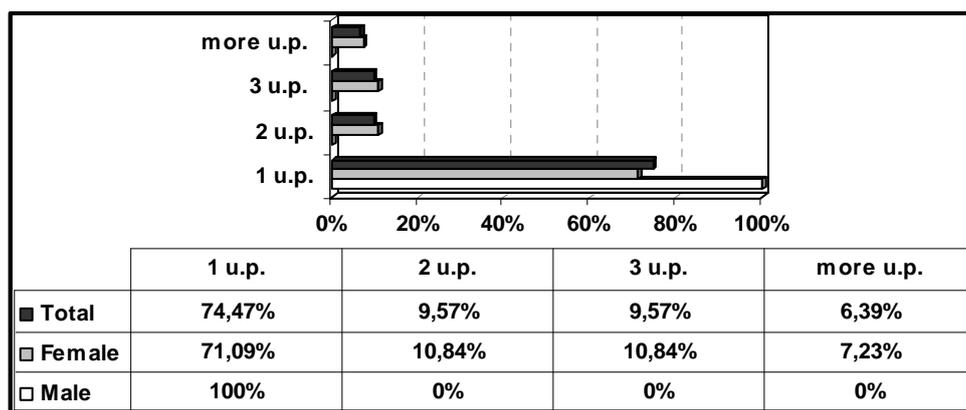


Fig. 5 Distribution of male and female persons in the age group 7-13 years who claimed to be the victims of sexual violence from the part of an unfamiliar person. (u.p. – unfamiliar person)

In the age group < 6 years of age, all violence acts were committed by a single perpetrator in both genders. Over 7 years of age, the act was most commonly done by a single unfamiliar person (74.47% for children 7-13 years of age – Fig. 5 and 65.56% for children 14-17 years of age – Fig. 6). All boys aged 7-13 years were victims of a single unfamiliar person.

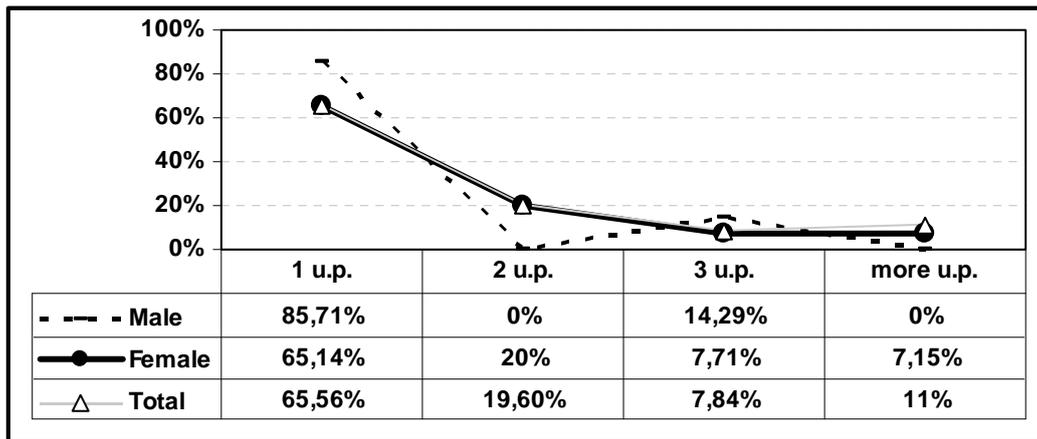


Fig.6 Distribution of male and female persons in the age group 14-17 years who claimed to be the victims of sexual violence from the part of an unfamiliar person (u.p.–unfamiliar person)

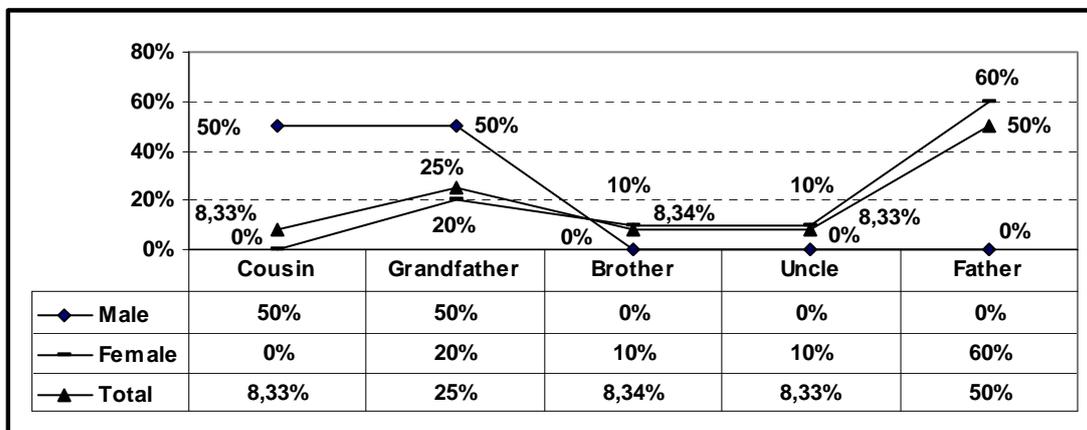


Fig.7 Distribution of male and female persons in the age group < 6 years who claimed to be the victims of sexual violence from the part of a relative.

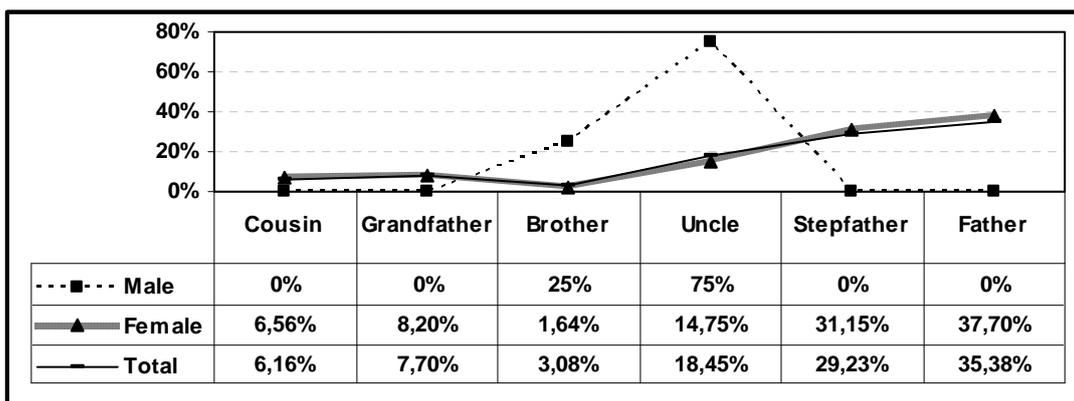


Fig. 8 Distribution of male and female persons in the age group 7-13 years who claimed to be the victims of sexual violence from the part of a relative.

The commonest perpetrator in girls < 6 years of age from the circle of relatives was the father – 60%, and for boys – a cousin or grand-father with 50% (Fig. 7). Similar data were observed by Miteva, 2010, Miteva, 2009. In the present survey, none of boys in this age group was violated by the father. For the age group 7–13 years (Fig. 8), most commonly the sexual abuse of boys was performed by close relatives – father, uncle in 75% of cases, whereas in girls – by the father –

37.70% and stepfather – 31.15%. In teenagers, fathers were most commonly perpetrators of girls – 41.67%, whereas stepfathers – in boys (100%).

According to the present survey, in 1.53% of cases of sexual crime against girls, the violence was performed by more than one perpetrator. The incidence of group sexual crimes in the USA as reported by Swart et al., (2000), was one out of ten cases. In most cases, the perpetrators were unfamiliar to the victim.

### **CONCLUSIONS:**

The present survey allowed concluding that:

1. Sexual perpetrators against both genders – 70.38 % in girls and 82.18 % in boys, 71.32% in average were familiar persons.
2. In the age group < 6 years of age, the familiar perpetrator was only one in all cases with boys (100%) and in 88.24% of cases with girls.
3. When the perpetrator was unfamiliar to the victim in the age group < 6 years of age, the crime was committed by a single person in all cases. For the male victim age group 7-13 years of age, the perpetrator was always one, and in the age group 14-17 years of age – in 85.71% of cases. The unfamiliar perpetrator of female victims aged 7 to 13 years was only one in 71.09% and 65.14% of cases for the age groups of 7-3 and 14-17 years of age.
4. When the crime was committed by a family member, he was most commonly a close relative of male victims – uncle in 75% of cases, whereas for female victims – father (37.70%) or a stepfather (31.15%).

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