



Rape Crisis Network National Statistics 2007

Authors:

Dr Maureen Lyons and Margaret Crean, UCD
(www.ucd.ie/esc)

Editors:

Dr Susan Miner and Dr Cliona Saidlear, RCNI (www.rcni.ie)



Context for 2007 Report



- Rape Crisis Network Ireland (RCNI) is the umbrella body for RCCs in Ireland
- As an all-Ireland organisation RCNI represents and supports member RCCs
 - Existing Reports: Based on data from 14 member RCCs
 - 2 other RCCs in South of Ireland: Dublin and Cork
- Commitment by RCCs to service users that their experiences will contribute towards changing society (prevention of SV)
 - How? By generating accurate and informative statistics on the extent and nature of sexual violence as told by those who avail of face-to-face counselling
- 2007 represents 2nd year for publication of RCC data (<http://www.rcni.ie/documents/>)
- 1st report: 2006 data (available at following link: http://www.rcni.ie/documents/NationalRapeCrisisStatistics2006web_000.pdf)



Methodology (1)

- RNCI web-based data recording system, established in 2004
- Purposefully designed recording system to ensure systematic recording and ready availability of data for analysis by individual RCCs as well as across all RCCs
- The unit of information (basis of the record) is the person (service user):
 - Helpline
 - Face-to-face counselling
- Information entered directly by key individuals in each RCC
- Each report based on 1 calendar year data
 - Snapshot insight of those using face-to-face counselling in that period
 - In reality, service users counselling experience can span many years or sometimes less than 1 year and entry to, and exit from, the service can take place at any time over the course of the year
 - Limitations of a snapshot view is that 1) we don't have 'completed service usage patterns' to analyse 2) service users can exit the system only to re-enter a year or so later for further counselling without any way of linking their records



Methodology (2)

- Information on each service user is entered and updated by RCC staff
- Anonymous Yearly (Jan to Dec) data downloaded into excel and imported into SPSS for analysis for checking, cleaning and analysis
- Checking and cleaning of data involves:
 - Meticulous attention to detail to ensure validity and reliability of data
 - Consultation with key personnel in RCNI and member RCCs particularly in relation to data on the nature and extent of the SV



Who do these statistics refer to?



- Approx 12% of those experiencing SV in Ireland utilise counselling such as that provided by RCCs
- This report refers specifically to those who have experienced SV & who have also utilised the services of a RCC
- While this means we cannot generalise the results to the total population and cannot make any inferences about incidence or prevalence of SV in Ireland, it does provide a very important part of the overall SV story
- If SV is to be prevented in the future it is critical that the experiences of those availing of RCC counselling services are recorded and acknowledged as part of what constituted and constitutes SV in Ireland (and elsewhere)



Population of 2007 RCC service users



- **Total population: 1, 691 persons**
- **3 types of service user:**
 1. CSA only: 54%;
 2. Adulthood only: 39%
 3. Both 7%
- **Gender differences across 3 groups:**
 1. CSA only – men 72.4% and women 51.7%
 2. Adulthood only – men 24% and women 40.6%
 3. Both – men 3.6% and women 7.6%
- Data consistent with **SAVI research**: women remain vulnerable to SV across lifespan while men's vulnerability decreases with age



How survivors of SV become RCC service users?



- Almost one half (47.3 %) through self-referral and 52.7% by referral
- Four in ten (39.8 %) are referred from a formal source such as a doctor
- More than one in ten (12.9 %) are referred by family or friends
- Survivors subjected to sexual violence in 'childhood only' were significantly more likely to be self-referring (52.5 %) than those who experienced sexual abuse in 'adulthood only' (39.2 %) or 'both in childhood and adulthood' (44.5 %).



'CSA only' SV



- Overall, 83% of all SV reporting 'CSA only' in 2007 are women
- % CSA only within each gender group:
 - 72.4% of all men compared to 52% of all women
- Legal Status:
 - Irish citizens 92.7%
- Current Age at time of contact with RCC:
 - Two-thirds aged 24-49
 - 30-39 28.7%;
 - 40-49 22.8%
 - 24-29 19.8%
 - Slight increase (from 2006) in % U17 years (7%)
 - More likely to be females than males
 - Just 9% aged 50+ years
 - More likely to be females than males
- Age and Gender differences in Disclosure Pattern:
 - Analysis of time delay between abuse and disclosure to RCC (calculated as current age minus age at time of abuse) shows a much longer time lag for men than women



'CSA only' SV

- **When did 'CSA only' abuse begin (age at time of abuse)?**
 - Irrespective of gender, onset of abuse in early years of childhood, with two-thirds reporting such SV before the age of twelve
 - Onset prior to age 4: females (6.6%) and males (3.5%)
- **Who perpetrated the 'CSA only' abuse?**
 - 8 out of 10 situations, perpetrator known to child
 - Most commonly the perpetrator is a family member and this applies to both girls (55.4%) and boys (33.6%)
 - Gender difference in relationship to other main perpetrators:
 - Acquaintance/Friend/ Neighbour : Boys (36.4) Girls (28.3)
 - Authority Figure: Boys (18.9%) and Girls (2%)
 - **Stranger: Boys (2.8%) and Girls (2.0%)**
- **Differences in Perpetrators by age of survivor when 'CSA only' abuse began?**
 - 'CSA only' U11 years: most likely family/relative
 - 'CSA only' 11-17: higher % of boyfriends and acquaintances/friends



'CSA only' SV

- **Nature of 'CSA only' Abuse?**
 - Overwhelmingly (90.4%) 'CSA only' abuse involved a 'Discrete episode' & such discrete episodes typically involve 1 perpetrator
 - Minority (14%) of all episodes involved more than 1 perpetrator – this was slightly higher for women (14.1%) than men (12.8%)
 - Analysis of Multiple perpetrators:
 - Numbers
 - 2 in 53.7%
 - 3 in 31.6%
 - 4+ in 14.9%
 - Most common relationships to survivor in multiple perpetrator SV
 - Fathers and brothers; fathers and uncles; fathers and family friend;
 - Duration typically years rather than hours, days, weeks or months
 - 6 out of 10 abused for 1 or more years
- **Pregnancy following 'CSA only' abuse** occurring in 1% of cases, with 60% giving birth and parenting child
- **Reporting to Gardai in context of 'CSA only' abuse** strikingly low overall at just 13.5%:
 - Overall: Highest for strangers (33.3%) and lowest for acquaintance/friend (18.2%) and male relative (13.3%)
 - Girls: 42.9% for strangers, 20.4% for acquaintance/friend and 14.6% for : Strangers (33.3%); acquaintance/friend (18.2%) and male relative (13.3%)
 - Boys: female relative (25%); authority figure (11.1%) and neighbour (10%)



'Adulthood only'

SV



- **Gender of survivors of 'Adulthood only' abuse:**
 - Females greatly outnumber males (92.2 % versus 7.8 %)
 - % 'adult only' within each gender group: women are significantly more likely than men to have experienced 'adulthood only' sexual violence (40.6 % versus 24 % compared to 38.5 % overall).
- **Current Age of survivors of 'Adulthood only' abuse:**
 - nine in every ten survivors of 'adulthood only' sexual abuse are aged under 50 years
 - the single largest group are in the 30 to 39 age range (29 %) and the second largest group are in the 17 to 23 age range (27.2 %).
 - men are nearly all under 50 years compared to a significant minority of women represented in the age ranges over 50 years (7.9 %).
 - Notably, men are over-represented as a percentage of the total population of service users in the age range 30 to 39 (40 % versus 29 %) and 40 to 49 years (13.3 % versus 11.8 %).
- **Disclosure Pattern of survivors of 'Adulthood only' abuse:**
 - as service users' current age increases so does the range of years since the abuse took place.
 - For example, almost two-thirds of survivors aged 24 to 29 seek support for sexual abuse occurring within their current age band while the remaining one third do so between one and six years post-abuse.
 - A cross analysis of age at onset of the first incident of 'adulthood only' sexual abuse by current age shows that service users in this category are significantly more likely to disclose to a RCC than is the case for their counterparts in either of the other two abuse categories.
- **Legal status of survivors of 'Adulthood only' abuse :**
 - eight out of every ten (79.5 %) RCC service users reporting 'adulthood only' sexual abuse are Irish citizens
- 6.8 % of all 'adult only' sexual abuse survivors reported having a disability at the time of contact with a RCC.



'Adulthood only'

SV



- **When did 'adulthood only' abuse occur?**
 - most 'adulthood only' sexual abuse occurred during early adulthood; (70 % were under thirty years of age)
 - 17 to 23 is the single largest age group for both males and females - men were significantly more likely to have been abused in this age range than women (54.3 % versus 47.1 % and 47.6 % for the total population in this category).
- **Nature of 'adulthood only' abuse:**
 - most common type of sexual violence = rape and sexual assault - three quarters of all sexual violence relating to rape (74.9 %) and a further 13.8 % relating to sexual assault
 - In terms of gender, this figure is greater for females when relating to rape and greater for males when relating to sexual assault.
 - The majority of 'adulthood only' sexual abuse involved discrete episodes (95.6 %) with single rather than multiple perpetrators (82.1 % versus 13.5 %).
- **Analysis of multiple perpetrators:**
 - 2 in 23.8%
 - 3 in 38.8%
 - 4 in 37.4%
- Two thirds of all survivors in this 'adulthood only' group who were subjected to a discrete episode of sexual abuse involving multiple perpetrators were either asylum seekers or refugees.
- shorter duration abuse 54 % reporting abuse lasting hours rather than days, 12 months or years



'Adulthood only' SV



- **Relationship to abuser:**
 - 70 % of survivors of 'adulthood only' sexual abuse knew their abuser
 - Where the abuser was known they were mainly non-familial (45.3% versus 5.9%)
 - men twice as likely as women to have been abused by a family member or relative (15.9 % versus 7.8 %) or a member of the security forces (18.2 % and 8.2 %).
 - the principal non-familial perpetrators were either acquaintances/friends or a partner/ex-partner.
 - In the context of 'adulthood only' sexual violence, the likelihood of the perpetrator being a stranger is quite high (at 14 % for women and 15.2 % for men).
 - familial abuse is uncommon in 'adulthood only' - 5.9 % of the abuse



'Adulthood only'

SV



- Almost two thirds (64 %) of survivors of 'adulthood only' sexual abuse reported additional other violence
- **Pregnancy following from 'Adulthood only' abuse:** 22 survivors of 'adulthood only' sexual abuse became pregnant - (66.6 %) decided to parent the child - remainder either opted for adoption or fostering.
- **Reporting to the Gardai in context of 'Adulthood only' abuse:**
 - almost one-third of all survivors of 'adulthood only' sexual abuse reported the crime to the Gardai
 - Overall, the tendency for survivors to report crimes of sexual violence in this context is shown to be greatest when the perpetrator is a neighbour (71.4 %) or a stranger (62.7 %) and lowest when the perpetrator is an authority figure (20 %), partner/ex-partner (18 %) or member of the security forces (6 %).



'Both Childhood and Adulthood' SV



- Least common category of sexual abuse for RCC service users (7.1 %) - 3.6 % (n=7) of men and 7.6 % (n=103) of women.
- **Gender of survivors of 'Both CSA and Adulthood' sexual abuse:**
 - this type of abuse is a problem that relates significantly to women.
- **Current age of survivors of 'Both CSA and Adulthood' sexual abuse :**
 - over 90 % of this category of female service users are aged less than 50
 - largest group within the 30 to 39 years age range (37.4 %).
- **Combinations of abuse in context of 'Both CSA and Adulthood' sexual abuse :**
 - Those reporting child sexual abuse and rape are more likely to be found in the 30 to 39 years and 17 to 23 years old age ranges.
 - For female survivors over 50 years of age, child sexual abuse is mainly combined with rape and sexual assault.



'Both Childhood and Adulthood' SV



- **Legal status of survivors of 'Both CSA and Adulthood' sexual abuse :**
 - majority are Irish citizens (78.6 %).
 - Asylum seekers are the second largest group at 7.8 %.
 - those experiencing child sexual abuse and rape include survivors with a more diverse legal status range
- **Current Disability status of survivors of 'Both CSA and Adulthood' sexual abuse :**
 - At almost 10 %, female service users in the 'both childhood and adulthood' sexual abuse category are more likely to have a disability at the time of contact with a RCC when compared to the overall population (9.7 % versus 5 %) and either the 'childhood only' or 'adulthood only' groups (3.7 % and 6.8 %).



'Both Childhood and Adulthood' SV



- **When did abuse begin?**
 - just over 60 % of women in this category were under the age of eleven when the abuse commenced (68.2 %).
- **Nature of abuse:**
 - Episodes of abuse are mainly multiple (94.2%)
 - For the majority of women (66%) abuse was perpetrated by different single perpetrators.
- **Who perpetrated the abuse?**
 - The gender of the perpetrators in the majority of 'both childhood and adulthood' sexual abuse is male (94.5 %).
 - For 63.4 % of survivors, the perpetrator of the first episode was known to them and, as expected, 45.5 % of those known to survivors were family members.
 - Male perpetrators during the childhood sexual abuse are predominantly known to the survivor (64.6 %), with male relatives representing 45.8 % of the total
 - Again, for the adult sexual abuse, the majority of perpetrators are known to the survivor (70.3 %). However, unlike the childhood abuse, the largest category is non-familial and includes male partners/ex-partners (30.7 %).



'Both Childhood and Adulthood' SV



- 60.2 % of women surviving 'both childhood and adulthood' sexual abuse reported **additional other violence**.
- The single largest type of additional violence was physical abuse followed by intimidation and multiple forms of violence.
- **Reporting to the Gardaí:**
- 19.4 % (n=20) of survivors of 'both childhood and adulthood' sexual abuse are detailed as having reported at least one of the crimes to the Gardaí.
- marginally higher than the percentage for the total population of survivors at 17.7 %.
- The majority (65 %) of those reporting sexual violence to the Gardaí are doing so with respect to the sexual violence experienced in adulthood, while a further 26 % reported multiple crimes from 'both childhood and adulthood'.
- over 40 % of survivors in this group report to the Gardaí in the context of childhood sexual abuse and either drug assisted rape or sexual assault. This drops to 20 % for childhood sexual abuse combined with rape and sexual assault and to 14.9 % for those subjected to childhood sexual abuse and later rape.