Sexual coercive behaviour in male and female youth.
Results from the Baltic Sea Regional Study on Adolescents’ Sexuality.

RCPsych
Faculty of Child & Adolescent Psychiatric Conference
22 September 2011

Carl Göran Svedin/professor
• National incidence

- 99% of local authorities participated
- 197 males and 2 females (12-17 years old) in Sweden were reported to social services because of sexual offending behaviour during one year (2000).
- Incidence rate .06%
The incidence study further identified

– significantly **more reported** cases of sexually offending youth among local authorities of **rural and sparsely populated areas** than in medium sized or large cities

– results comparing offender subtypes, child vs peer offenders (46 vs 54%), in line with previous findings

– a substantial number (42%) of the sexually offending adolescents did offend within a group
The Baltic Sea Regional Study on Adolescents’ Sexuality

The 11 countries in CBSS and the 7 participating in the study

- Russia
- Estonia
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Poland
- Germany
- Iceland
- Norway
- Sweden
- Finland
- Denmark
- *Lund
- *Oslo
Sexual exploitation

Selling Sex in a Population-Based Study of High School Seniors in Sweden: Demographic and Psychosocial Correlates

Carl Göran Svedin - Gisela Priebel

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20,979 adolescents aged 16-20 years

www.nova.no
The questionnaire was divided into seven parts:
(1) background information, including smoking and alcohol use,
(2) consensual sexuality,
(3) sexual abuse experiences,
(4) own sexual abusive behavior,
(5) sexual attitudes,
(6) experiences with pornography, and
(7) experiences of sexual exploitation.
There were 65 main questions and 400 sub-questions.
Questions used

"ever talked someone into, used pressure or forced somebody by 1) exposing yourself indecently to someone 2) sexually touched someone, 3) masturbate them, 4) to have sexual intercourse, 5) oral sex, or 6) anal sex."
Percentage of boys and girls who had dragged, persuaded, pressed or forced someone into sexual acts


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Norway</th>
<th>Sweden</th>
<th>Lithuania</th>
<th>Estonia</th>
<th>Poland</th>
<th>All</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sex</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>10.5</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>3.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boys</td>
<td></td>
<td>9.7</td>
<td>10.1</td>
<td>24.1</td>
<td>25.5</td>
<td>21.7</td>
<td>16.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Percentage of respondents who have not abused/have abused others, dependent on personal experiences of sexual abuse


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Have not been abused</th>
<th>Have experienced 1-3 different kinds of sexual abuse</th>
<th>Have experienced 4-6 different forms of sexual abuse</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Have not abused others</td>
<td>Have abused others</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>%</td>
<td>%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(N)</td>
<td>(N)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have not been abused</td>
<td>94.6 (6443)</td>
<td>5.4 (367)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have experienced 1-3 different kinds of sexual abuse</td>
<td>86.1 (3742)</td>
<td>13.9 (606)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have experienced 4-6 different forms of sexual abuse</td>
<td>64.2 (249)</td>
<td>35.8 (139)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Odds of abusing others


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Odds ratio</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Have not been abused</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have experienced 1-3 different kinds of sexual abuse</td>
<td>4.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have experienced 4-6 different forms of sexual abuse</td>
<td>10.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sexual coercive behavior in male youth

• Method: Self reports
• Target group: Swedish male senior high school students
• Number: 1 933
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sexual coercive</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conduct problems</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control youth</td>
<td>1700</td>
<td>87.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1933</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Results

• Sexually coercive males vs controls:
  – minority ethnicity (OR 2.7)
  – having separated parents (OR 1.8)
  – attending vocational study program (OR 1.91)
  – lower perceived parental care
  – more parental overprotection (control)
Results

• Sexually coercive males vs controls:
  – more aggression
  – more depressive symptoms
  – more alcohol use (OR 3.4)
  – more cannabis use (OR 3.9)
Results

• Sexually coercive males vs controls:

  – more sex partners (OR 4.2)
  – more sexual lust (OR 5.8)
  – more porn use (OR 3.7)
  – more often sold sex (OR 14.6)
  – more often sexual victimized (OR 6.6)
  – more supporting attitudes of rape myths
• Non-sex conduct problem youth identified as self-reporting ≥3 of six items:
  – “ever violent conflict with teacher,
  – ever theft of ≥ 1.000 sw cr,
  – ever committed a burglary,
  – ever stolen a car or motorbike,
  – frequently being truant (≥5 times),
  – or ever been away from (their parents’) home an entire night without parents knowing where.”
Results

- Sexually coercive males vs conduct problem:
  - less often attending vocational study program (aOR 0.21)
  - lower risk taking behavior (aOR 0.63)
  - endorsed rape myths more (aOR 1.3)
  - more sexual lust (aOR 2.61)
Sexual coercive girls

• Method: Self report

• Target group: Norwegian and Swedish female senior high school students

• Number: 3 949
Subgroups of the Swedish high school sample

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subgroup</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female sexual coercive</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conduct problems</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control youth</td>
<td>2180</td>
<td>96.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2253</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Results

- Sexually coercive females vs controls:
  - lower perceived parental care **
  - more parental overprotection (control) ***
Results

• Sexually coercive males vs controls:
  – more aggression ***
  – more depressive symptoms *
  – more alcohol use ***
  – more cannabis use ***
Results

• Sexually coercive males vs controls:
  – more sex partners ***
  – more sexual lust ***
  – more porn use ***
  – more often sold sex ***
  – more often sexual victimized ***
  – more supporting attitudes of rape myths ***
Results

• Sexually coercive males vs conduct problem:
  – Moe seldom used cannabis (OR 0.18)
  – endorsed rape myths more (OR 1.12)
  – more sexual lust (OR 5.41)
Summary: General risk factors associated with sexual coercion compared with normal control youths

- Sexually coercive males:
  - minority ethnicity, having separated parents, attending vocational study program

- Sexually coercive females and males reported:
  - lower perceived parental care and more parental overprotection
  - more aggression, depressive symptoms
  - more alcohol and cannabis use,
  - more sex partners, more porn use, more selling sex and more sexual victimisation
  - more supporting attitudes of rape myths
Summery
Risk factors significant for sexually coercive and non-sex conduct problem behaviour compared with control youth

• Sexual coercive female and male students reported similar with conduct problem youth
  – more
    • alcohol and cannabis use
    • aggression, depressive symptoms
    • penetrative sexual victimisation, selling sex, use of porn and friends using porn than normal controls
Summary
Specific risk factors for sexually coercive behaviour

• sexually coercive female and male youth reported significantly
  – more sexual preoccupation
  – more pro-rape attitudes than conduct problem and normal control female and male youth.
Sexuel coercion experience and coercive behavior

• Method: Self report
• Target group: Norwegian and Swedish male senior high school students
• Number: 4 363
Sexual abuse – sexually coercive behaviour

• The relation between being sexual abused and having a sexual coercive behaviour.

• The association was explored among Norwegian and Swedish high school males, controlling for other influencing factors as
  – non-sexual antisocial behaviour
  – substance use
  – non-coercive sexual behaviour.

• The association of being sexual abused being sexual abusive was confirmed
Sexual abuse – sexually coercive behaviour

- The association of being sexual abused and being sexual abusive was confirmed both among Norwegian and Swedish boys in the three multivariate models.

- Population attributable fractions were 18-25% for sexual victimization.
Males who sexually offended during adolescence. Six year follow-up of a clinical sample

Potential sample = 78

Participants = 39

Non-participants = 39

No reports of sexual reoffending or deviant sexual behavior = 24

Sexual reoffending = 8

Sexual deviant behavior = 7

Follow-up from 15 (12-18) to 21 (17-26) years
Males who sexually offended during adolescence. Six year follow-up of a clinical sample

- Followed up on average six years after the clinical risk assessment
- The majority (n=22, 59.5%) were by follow-up convicted of one or more non-sexual offences since assessment
- 20% sexually reoffended since assessment
- Sexual re-offenders were significantly more likely to have learning disabilities (87.5% vs 9.7%) or neuropsychiatric disorders identified during youth (37.5% vs 19.4%).
Sexual reoffending

- Those who had sexually reoffended by follow-up were significantly more likely by clinical assessment (ERASOR)
  - to be assessed being of high risk of sexual reoffending, OR 12.50 (CI=2.02-78.05).
  - to have 4 particular (ERASOR) risk factors present:
    - preoccupied with sexual thoughts
    - to have sexually assaulted ≥2 victims
    - received prior sanctions for sexual assault
    - to have ever offended against a child victim

- Reoffenders were significantly more likely by follow-up to self-rate a risk of future sexual reoffending
Take home message

- There is a divergence comparing self reports and cases reported to authorities of female and male adolescent sexual offending
  - indicating substantial underreport of sexually offending adolescents
  - consequently a substantial number of victims unidentified

The general attention of sexual coercion among children and youth need to be improved and to be approached as public health issue.
In the different samples extensive vulnerability of sexual coercive youth is identified.

Vulnerability of sexually coercive youth need to be highlighted and interventions adjusted for different needs.
• Specific risk factors were identified for sexual offending and reoffending.

• More knowledge on risk factors/profiles could improve early identification of sexually offending behaviour.

• Sexuality specific risk factors in this population need to be identified and responded to.
• The clinical use of structured risk assessments is supported.

Should be further implemented in practice

The proposed guidance from the risk assessments should be complied
Thank you

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