

Building the Evidence to Resist Campus Sexual Assault in Swaziland

Sexual Violence Research Forum
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Campus sexual assault in Eswatini

- In North American studies approximately 1 in 4 women report experiencing sexual assault on campus
- How big is the problem on college campuses outside of North America?
We have no idea
- 1 in 3 Swazi women age 18-24 report experiencing sexual violence in their lifetime

Study Objectives



- 1. Measure prevalence and correlates of SA victimization on a university campus in southern Africa.**
 - *Prevalence survey with random sample of female UNISWA students*
- 2. Adapt EAAA, an evidence-based sexual assault resistance intervention for Swaziland.**
 - *Formative qualitative work with survivors, administrators, local experts*
- 3. Establish potential for adapted intervention to reduce sexual assault.**
 - *Two-arm RCT with waitlist control – 100 participants*
- 4. Explore feasibility and acceptability of the adapted intervention.**
 - *Qualitative interviews with participants, facilitators, UNISWA staff and gatekeepers*

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Methods

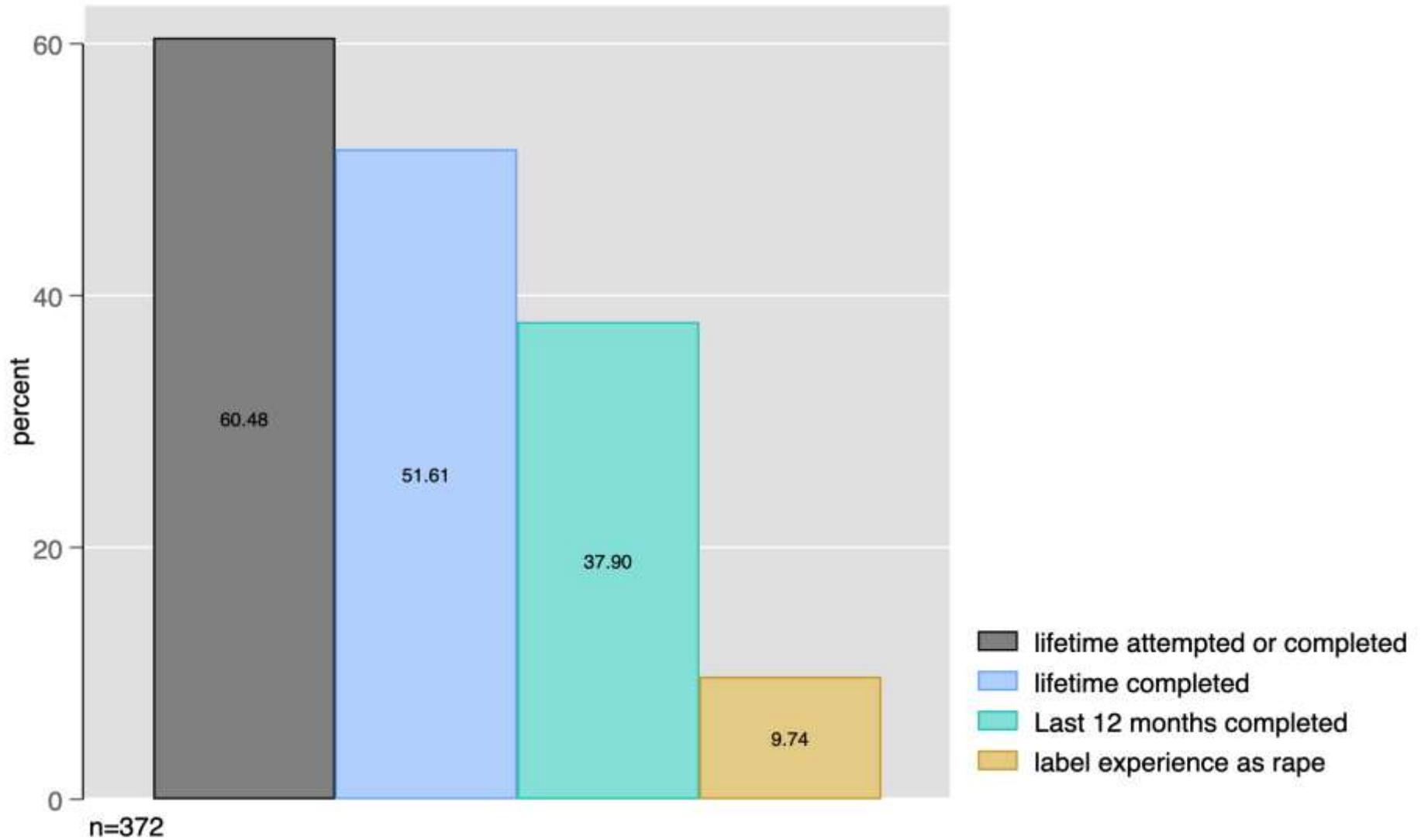
- Random sample from list of all female students on campus
- Email, text, and call
- Students were invited to participate in a survey on “health and experiences”
 - Sexual assault measured using sexual experiences survey
- Computer assisted self-interview on cellphones using SurveyCTO
- Qualitative participants recruited from prevalence survey

RESULTS

Demographics

Variable	<i>Median</i>	<i>Interquartile range</i>
Age	23	21 - 25
		%
Year		
1		9.14
2		29.57
3		29.57
4		27.15
5+		4.57
Stay on campus		59.41
Has a child		25.81
Lost mother before age 21		15.32
Lost father before age 21		28.23
Lost both parents before age 21		5.65
Government bursary is primary source of financial support		20.16
Food security (range: 0-28)		
Low (range: 0 – 4, mean: 1.98)		28.74
Medium (range: 5-9, mean: 7.02)		35.93
High (range: 10-28, mean: 13.85)		35.33

Prevalence of Sexual Assault Among Female UNESWA Students



Perpetrators

Perpetrator relationship

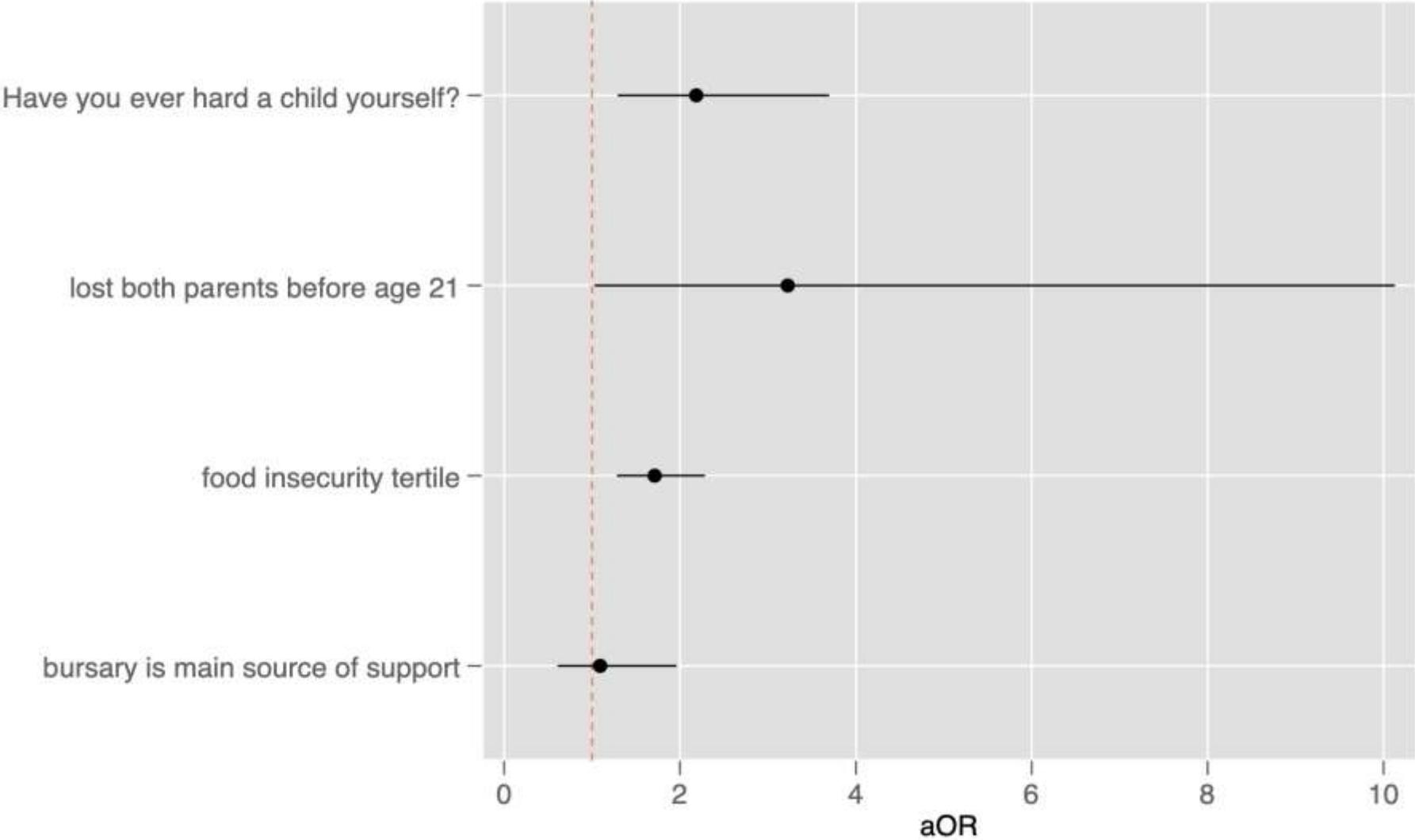
Boyfriend	56.52	(78)
Man or boy from area	10.87	(15)
Man or boy from university	15.22	(21)
Family friend	2.17	(3)
University staff or lecturer	1.45	(2)
Father or family member	2.90	(4)
Stranger	6.52	(9)
Someone else	4.35	(6)

Type of coercion used**

Verbal pressure: lies, threats, criticizing, getting angry, making false promises	72.34	(104)
Using force or threatening to use force	50.35	(71)
Taking advantage when I was too drunk or out of it to stop what was happening	24.82	(35)

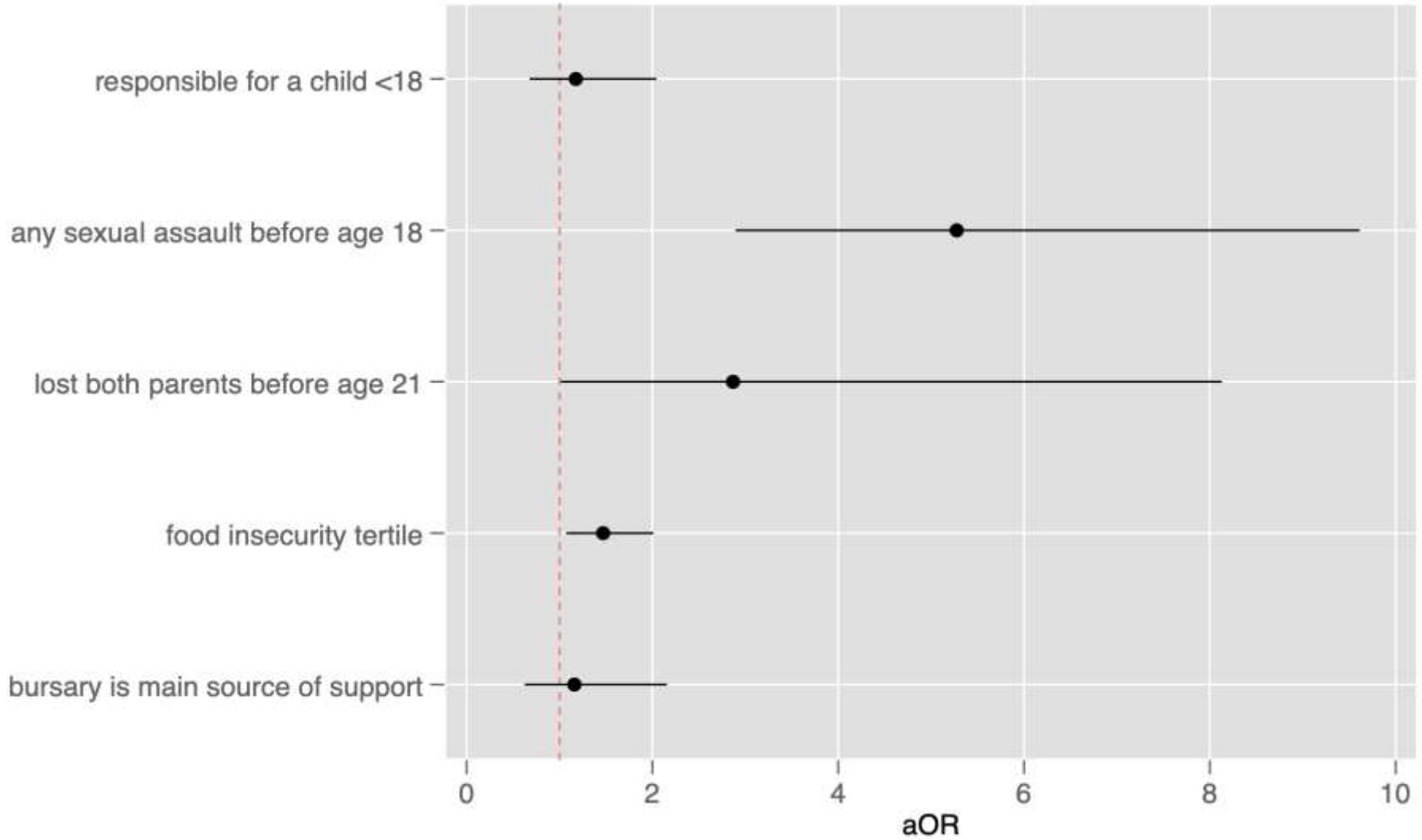
adjusted odds of lifetime sexual assault

n=334

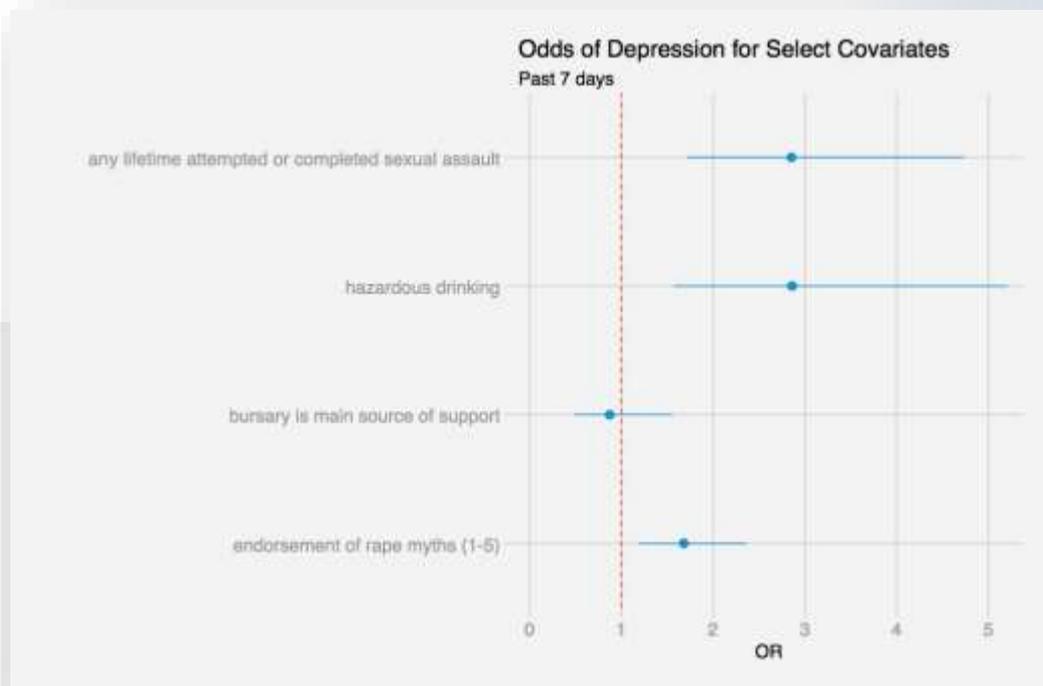
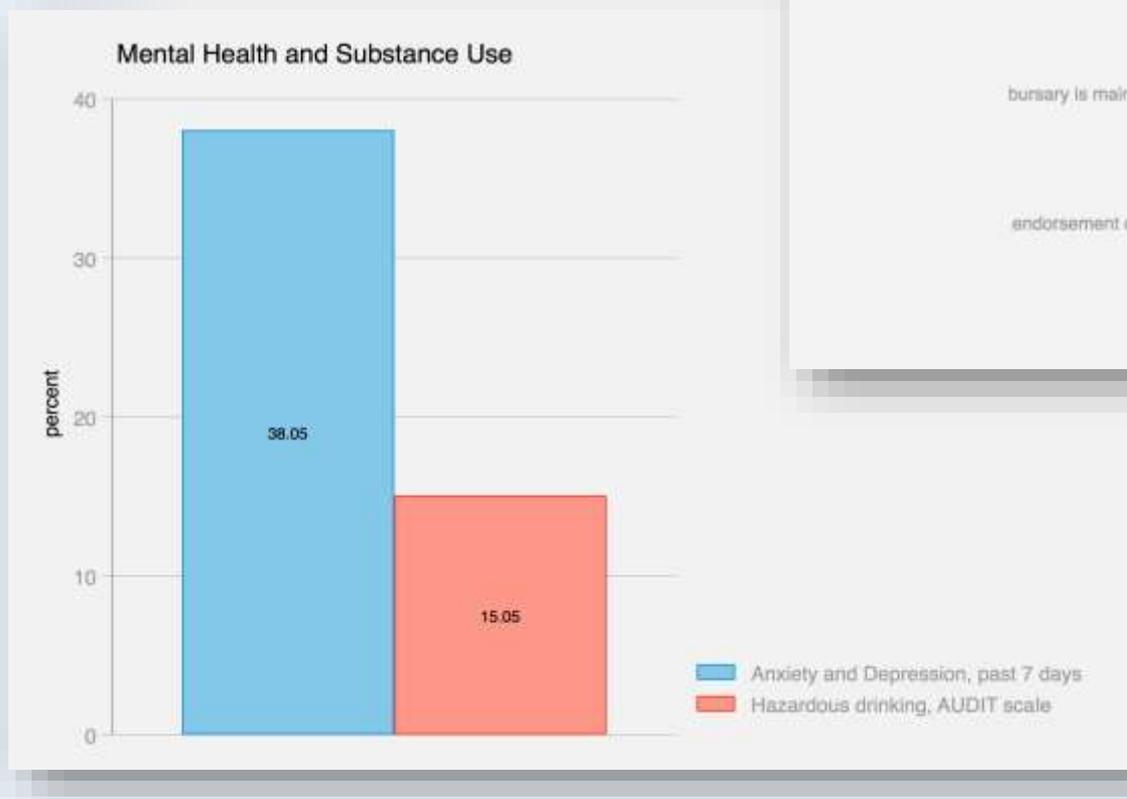


adjusted odds of sexual assault in last 12 months

n=334



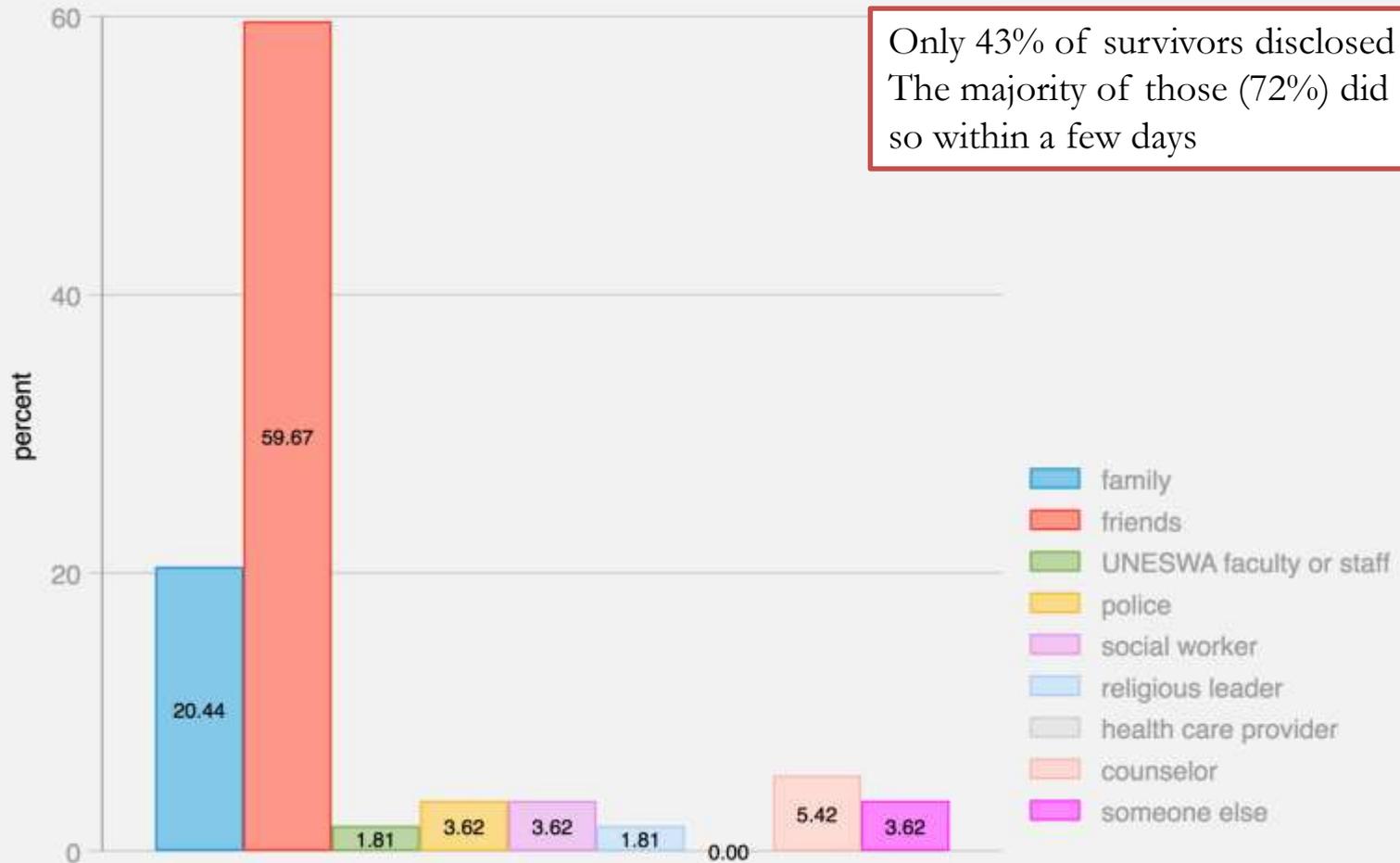
Mental Health



40.5% of women who experienced sexual violence at UNESWA reported depression, compared to 29.4% who had not

Disclosure

Who did you tell?



“It will create that conflict in my family because they had paid for me to go to school and I’m doing something else. Another thing was that I can’t break my parents’ trust because they trust me entirely so if I come with something like this they will no longer trust me so it’s my secret yet it still haunts me a lot.”

-2nd Year IDI participant

“I didn’t want to have sex on the day and my partner on the other hand wanted to. When growing up we didn’t see that as rape and that you have a right to say no. The way we were brought up, it’s like it is ok for a boyfriend to force you to have sex and as you grow up you can see that it is wrong.”

-IDI participant (no year given)

“I know that the police have a right to interrogate the whole matter to find out what really happened. But they should be sincere at the beginning then maybe advice you later on like “sisi you were wrong here and here.” What they usually do is that the minute you get there and report your case they will be like “why were you there in the first place.” Like these are the things that happen to victims when they get there. I know sometimes we put ourselves in situations where escaping becomes really hard and it has become normal. But the police shouldn’t say “why, you knew this was going to happen”. They should provide counseling services so that when a person comes and reports a rape case or any sexual assault they feel comfortable. They shouldn’t say “what were you doing” you know and then they just take your statement from the word go. No that’s not ok.”

-3rd Year IDI participant

Conclusion

- Campus sexual assault is highly prevalent, and is associated with elevated risk of anxiety, depression, and substance use
- Romantic partners (boyfriends) are main perpetrators
- Structural drivers – especially hunger and poverty – are associated with significantly increased risk

BELIEVE survivors



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