



Date Rape Cases Among Young Women and the Development of Good Practices for Support and Prevention

funded by the Daphne II Programme
of the European Commission



*Mediterranean Institute
of Gender Studies*

*Country Research Report
CYPRUS*

Abstract

The Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies is coordinating a transnational project entitled "Date Rape Cases Among Young Women and the Development of Good Practices for Support and Prevention", funded by the Daphne II Programme, of the European Commission.

The project involves five countries of the European Union including Cyprus, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania and Malta. Project partners are the Institute of Equality in Greece, Coalition for Gender Equality in Latvia, Women Issues Information Centre in Lithuania and the Institute for Forensic Studies in Malta. The main aim of the project is to investigate the incidence of date rape among female college students (aged 18-24) in the partner countries and assess the attitude, and level of awareness among beneficiaries and target groups. The project will also promote awareness and make policy recommendations for prevention of date rape and support to victims.

This is a quantitative and qualitative study. **476** female students responded to an anonymous questionnaire, **2** focus groups were carried out and **5** interviews of relevant institutional representatives were performed (Cyprus Family Planning Association, Association for the Prevention and Handling of Family Violence, Domestic violence and child abuse office criminal investigation police department, Welfare services, Advisory committee for the prevention and handling of violence in the family).

This study reveals that unwanted sexual experiences, violence, sexual violence and date rape exist among young women's (18-24 years old) relationships in Cyprus. This can be considered as pioneer study as research on date rape in Cyprus is almost non-existent.

This report includes only the national data for Cyprus.

Acknowledgements

This National Finding report could not have been completed without the contribution of several people. We would like to thank all the personnel at the Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies (MIGS) and the Cyprus Family Planning Association who helped in various stages of this research. Also we thank Mr. Christoforos Christoforou, Cyprus Center for European and International Affairs, University of Nicosia, for assisting and advising on statistical analysis. We are grateful to all the female students that completed our questionnaire, to the participants of the focus groups who made a special effort in participating in the discussion, as well as the following institutions and their representative that were interviewed: Cyprus Family Planning Association, Association for the Prevention and Handling of Family Violence, Domestic Violence and Child Abuse Office Criminal Investigation Department, Cyprus Police, Welfare Services of the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance, Advisory Committee for the Prevention and Handling of Violence in the Family.

Dr. Christiana Kouta
Ms. Susana Elisa Pavlou

Contents

	Pages
Abstract	2
Acknowledgements	3
Contents	4
1. Introduction	5
1.1 Aim, objectives	6
1.2 Definition	7
2. Literature	8
2.1 Literature review (summary)	8
2.2 Country situational analysis	10
3. Methodology	15
3.1 Study Design	15
3.2 Sample, Sampling	15
3.3 Ethical Issues	17
3.4 Pilot study	17
3.5 Data collection	18
3.6 Instrument	19
3.7 Analysis of data	20
4. Findings	22
4.1 Quantitative results – questionnaire	22
4.2 Qualitative results - focus groups discussions	27
4.3 Qualitative results - institutions interviews	32
5. Discussion	42
6. Conclusion	47
References	49

1. Introduction

Sexual violence is a form of interpersonal violence that has emerged as a social and a public health problem. Sexual violence includes abusive sexual contact, making a woman engage in a sexual act without her consent, and attempted or completed sex acts with a woman who is ill, disabled, under pressure or under the influence of alcohol or other drugs (UN, 2006). Young people are more likely to experience sexual assault or violence (Rickert et al., 2005) and women are more commonly victims of sexual coercion and more extremes forms of it than men (Katz et al., 2002). Therefore, research among female adolescents and youth is of significant value, as to prevent such unwanted conditions and support victims of sexual violence.

The Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1993, defined violence against women as: *Any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life.* Globally, gender violence includes sexual harassment, sexual coercion, assault and rape as well as battering, trafficking, forced prostitution, dowry related violence, female genital mutilation, sex selective abortion and female infanticide.

Sexual violence is defined by the World Health Organization as:

Any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, unwanted sexual comments, or advances, or acts to traffic a person's sexuality, using coercion, threats of harm or physical force, by any person regardless of their relationship to the victim, in any setting, including but not limited to home and work.(WHO, 2002)

Date rape is a form of sexual violence that specifically affects female adolescents. (WHO, 2002)

In 2005, the Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe member states reaffirmed their commitment to eradicating violence against women, including domestic violence, during the 3rd Summit of the organisation (Warsaw, May 2005) and they defined in their Action Plan the future activities of the Council of Europe in this field. Furthermore, during the 6th European Ministerial

Conference on Equality between Women Men (Stockholm, 8-9 June 2006), the Ministers adopted a Resolution in which member States were encouraged to support and participate in the work of the *Task Force to Combat Violence against Women, including domestic violence* and in the *Council of Europe Campaign* in this field. They were also encouraged to adopt and implement all the measures contained in the *Recommendation Rec (2002)5 on the protection of women against violence* (www.coe.int)

Overall, there is no legal framework for violence against women on a European level and few studies have been carried out specifically on date rape. Despite this, European level efforts at combating violence against women have intensified in recent years. On September 2006, the European Parliament adopted the report of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality on the Daphne III programme. The new Programme will run from 2007 until 2013 and aims to prevent and combat violence against women, children and young people and on the other, to protect the victims through the establishment of effective transnational networks, provision of support for the activities of NGOs and the exchange of best practices and experiences (Panayiotopoulos- Cassiotou, 2006).

1.1 Aim

This research study aims to investigate the incidence of date rape among female students (18-24 years old) their attitudes and dating experiences; and the level of awareness among stakeholders and the female students.

Objectives

1. To identify the incidence of date rape among female students in each participating country;
2. To explore the attitudes and experiences of female students regarding date rape;
3. To explore and promote awareness among young people and other stakeholders about date rape;
4. To develop recommendations, policies and strategies for victim support and the prevention of date rape.

1.2 Definition

Several definitions are found in the literature. However, for the purposes of this project the following definition was adopted:

Date rape is a type of sexual assault, where the victim and the offender are or have been in, some form of personal social relationship, ranging from a first date to an established relationship (Australian Institute of Criminology, 2000).

2. Literature

2.1 Literature Review

The phenomenon of date and acquaintance rape was first researched by Kanin in the 1950s. In his studies (Kanin 1957, 1969, 1985, 1977) he reported that a significant percentage of 13-21% and later on 50% of American college women had experienced attempted or complete unwanted sexual intercourse. He even researched the prevalence of males who committed sexual assault (Kanin, 1969, 1985).

According to Claiborne (2006), one in three American girls who have been in a serious relationship reported that they have been concerned about being physically hurt by their partner and one in four girls who have been in a relationship (23%) reported going further sexually than they wanted as a result of pressure. These results are alarming and many female teenagers seemed to feel physically and sexually threatened. As previously mentioned, adolescent females and young adult women are four times more likely to be sexually assaulted than women in other age groups, usually by an acquaintance or date (Rickert et al., 2002).

According to Harned (2001) both men and women can experience date violence. However, the type of violence exercised by men and women is expressed differently. Women are more likely to be victims of sexual assault, rape or attempted rape which are specific forms of gender-based violence.

The literature reveals (Lewis and Famouw, 2001; Rickert and Wiemann 1998) several risk factors associated with physical and sexual violence:

- Reproductive characteristics (e.g. age of first date)
- Attitudes and beliefs about dating violence
- Date specific behaviour (e.g. who pays, place of date)
- Substance misuse
- History of abuse (e.g. by siblings, parents)
- Demographic characteristics

Relationship characteristics play a significant role in the development and existence of violence in relationships among young people. According to Abbey et

al (2003), most sexual assaults are experienced by college students during dating, often after some consensual sexual activities such as kissing.

Some perpetrators use alcohol and/or drugs to facilitate non-consensual sex. One reason for this is that the perpetrator does not have to use any force, since it will be difficult for the woman to resist as her state of being is more submissive or even unconscious. In recent years "date-rape" drugs have been given much attention (WHO, 2003). The most commonly used drugs are Flunitrazepam (Rohyphol), other Benzodiazepines, Gamma hydroxybutyrate (GHB), Ketamine, Cocaine, Methamphetamine and Marijuana (WHO, 2003).

Most of these drugs are suppressants and are easily diluted in drinks (e.g. coffee, alcohol, juice). They take approximately 20 minutes to act and their action last about 8-10 hours. Drugs can be detected through blood analysis, although because victims are unable to ask for help in the first hours, detection becomes more difficult. Further complicating matters is that a woman that has been raped while under the influence of date rape drugs may have vague recollections of the rape or no memory of it at all. The unknown may create anxiety and fear that may distort their memories of the event (Kronz, 2000).

In recent years in Europe, there has been an increase in cases of sexual violence where the victims are under the influence of date rape drugs. The Council of Europe-General Assembly (2007), called on European governments to raise awareness in the general public and among the responsible authorities about date rape drugs. The parliamentarians requested a revised legislation on rape and sexual assault and introduce a provision which requires the victim to have had the "freedom and capacity to consent" to sexual relations, including in cases of intimate rape.

The whole experience is traumatic and disclosure very difficult. Most of the victims disclose their experience within six months from the episode, fewer victims will make disclosure within 24 hours (Rickert et al., 2005). Those with short-term relationships are more likely to disclose such experience (Rickert et al., 2005). Violence is nearly always under-reported by women because they believe it is "normal"; they fear that making it public will cause them harm or shame; or they are not ready to talk about it, so levels of violence reported are often minimum levels of actual violence (WHO and PATH, 2005).

Many college students hear about date rape from women who are their friends,

relatives or dating partners. However they do not always know what to do or say in response to such disclosures (Dunn et al., 1999). Research from Europe reveals that there are difficulties in responding to rape victims and this requires continuing attention (Martin 2005). This can be due several reasons such as the ignorance of the recipient or the period of the incidence (happened too long ago) and they did not know what to do (Dunn et al., 1999).

2.2 Cyprus Situational analysis

Cyprus is an island situated in the North-eastern Mediterranean sea, with a population of 873 300 (Cyprus Statistical Service, 2004). The information provided in this report applies to the 749,200 people who reside in the government controlled area. The estimated ethnic composition of the population at the end of 2004 was: Greek Cypriots 77.8%, Turkish Cypriots 10.5% and foreign residents 11.7%

The Cyprus economy is based on the free market mechanism. The private sector is the backbone of economic activity with the government's role being confined to indicative planning. Although the blow inflicted on the economy by the Turkish invasion and occupation of a significant part of the island in 1974 was severe, recovery was remarkable. In more recent years, the economy has been growing at an average annual rate of 4% and per capita income has been rising continuously and it is in the meantime one of the highest in the Middle East and Southeast Europe (Cyprus Family Planning Association, 2006).

Gender Equality and Violence against Women in Cyprus

Human rights and women's rights in particular are at a critical juncture in Cyprus. Cyprus's recent accession to the European Union has accelerated the pace of legislative and legal reform on issues of equality and significant achievements have been registered in all areas. An impressive number of legislative measures relating to gender equality have been passed including the Equal Treatment of Men and Women in Employment and Vocational Training Law, 2002 (L. 205(I)/2002), The Equal Pay Between Men and Women for the Same Work or for Work of Equal Value Law, 2002 (L. 177(I)/2002), the Maternity Protection (Amendment) Law, 2002 (L. 64(I)/2002), the Parental Leave and Leave on Grounds of Force Majeure Law, 2002, (L. 69(I)/2002), and The Equal Treatment

of Men and Women in Professional Social Insurance Schemes Law, 2002 (L. 133(I)/2002), among others.

Furthermore, all National Development Plans since 1979 have declared as part of their objectives the improvement of women in economic activity and society and the combating of discrimination against women (MIGS, 2005).

There have been some important efforts by the government in Cyprus aimed at combating discrimination, such as creating the infrastructure for childcare facilities, providing training programmes, as well as improving institutional mechanisms, to increase women's participation and status in economic activity and society as a whole.

The increased participation of women in public and political life and at decision-making level has been identified as one of the priorities in the field of equality for which the Government has committed itself at the Beijing Conference in 1995. The President of the Republic, as well as Political Party Leaders and Women's Organizations, have declared their full support to a further balancing out in women's participation in decision-making and politics women's political participation has been very limited (Cyprus Family Planning Association, 2006). Despite these reforms, however, challenges remain and statistical evidence demonstrate that, although on paper Cyprus' gender policies seem excellent, little has been done to actively promote these policies and generate awareness such as disseminate information to citizens relating to this new legislation or provide information and training to employers, policy makers, and decision-makers to effectively implement these measures (MIGS, 2006).

During the past few years, agencies aiming to address gender inequalities have been established. These include:

- The *Cyprus Gender Equality Observatory (CGEO)* a specialized organization aiming to "evolve into a place to receive, encourage, empower and support all women living in Cyprus... irrespectively of nationality, race, religion etc and into a meeting place and friendly and humane place of solidarity and activation of women" (<http://www.pik.org.cy/english/index.htm>). This agency conducts research concerning employment for Cypriot women, and monitors labor-related issues as well as non-implementation of laws.

- The *National Machinery for Women's Rights*, a department of the Ministry of Justice, headed by the Minister of Justice was established in 1994. Its aim is to promote gender equality in all aspects of life (www.mjpo.gov.cy).
- Several specialized NGOs are involved in promoting gender equality, such as the Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies [MIGS] and the Cyprus Family Planning Association.
- The Association for the Prevention and Handling of Violence in the Family is the only an NGO that provides shelter to victims of violence and a 24 hour hotline. In addition, many cases of violence may be referred to the social welfare services.

There have been many positive developments with regard to increasing awareness and commitment towards preventing and combating violence against women – particularly domestic violence – in recent years. The improved legislative framework dealing specifically with family violence, as well as the establishment of the Advisory Committee on Family Violence, have been welcome developments. Despite this, efforts have focused almost entirely on 'family violence' which has not only rendered other forms of violence against women such as rape, sexual harassment, trafficking and others, invisible but also reveals a lack of awareness and understanding of the scope and nature of violence against women (MIGS, 2006)

Further, state services for victims of violence such as shelters are inadequate and are limited to the funding of one NGO that suffers from limited resources and space. Finally, underreporting may conceal the true extent of violence against women in Cyprus as women are often reluctant to report incidents of violence due to ingrained socio-cultural attitudes as well as economic inequalities (MIGS, 2006)

Socio-cultural factors such as religion/church have a significant impact on Greek-Cypriot adolescents' attitudes and beliefs. Although young people do have some knowledge about sexuality, limited resources and services are available to them (Kouta, 2003).

Apart from an Action Plan by the Ministry of Health that deals with HIV/AIDS, there is no National Action Plan that deals with Sexual and Reproductive Health. There are no national statements on how prevention/health promotion is viewed.

Although a Health Education Committee involving government and officials and NGO representatives has been established, it is currently inactive. There are no formal policies and action plans with regard to contraception, abortion and sexuality education for young people. Sexuality education exists in the health education curriculum since 1992, however still is not taught in all public schools.

The public sector does not have a service for young people regarding sexuality or violence issues. One can seek help at public hospitals, however this is not preferred; and this might be due to the lack of privacy and anonymity. One can also seek help at private hospitals and clinics and some NGOs such as the Cyprus Family Association, the Association for the Prevention and Handling of Family Violence etc. Some helplines on such issues e.g. drugs or domestic violence exist and are run mainly by voluntary organizations/agencies.

Laws addressing the family, domestic violence

There are several laws addressing the family: family/domestic violence, including sexual abuse (Article 119 (1) of 2000), forced marriage (article 150), fraudulent marriage (Article 178 and Article 180), and polygamy (Article 179) are prohibited and their penalties and severity are addressed in various laws. The Marriage Law (law 21 of 1990) allows for civil or religious wedding (or both) and defines who is eligible to marry and who is not. The Divorce Law (1990) specifies proceedings and criteria for divorce.

These laws do not include date rape or sexual violence/rape under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Rape, including marital rape is punishable by law with a maximum sentence of life in prison and for attempted rape 10 years in prison. As noted above the law L. 47(I)/1994 clarifies that rape can be committed within marriage. Cypriot legislation, as is generally the case in Europe as well as the United States, does not make formal legal distinctions between assaults committed by strangers and those committed by people known to the victim. However, date and acquaintance rape are prosecuted less frequently and punished less severely than stranger rape. A study in Great Britain, for example, reported that acquaintance rapes were "the most likely to involve withdrawal of the complaint; the most likely to be contested; and the least likely to result in conviction" (Harris and Grace, 1999).

Abortion law

The abortion law in Cyprus is permissive and restrictive at the same time, stating that abortion is prohibited, except for cases where at least two medical doctors

consent that continuation of the pregnancy would constitute a serious physiological or emotional hazard for the mother or child. The law also permits abortion in cases of rape, provided that a certificate from the appropriate police authority accompanied by a medical report is presented, stating that the pregnancy was a result of rape and its continuance would seriously harm the social status of the pregnant woman and/or her family.

Overall in Cyprus there are no data specifically for date rape or other forms of sexual violence in relationships. However, there are anecdotal reports from individuals and organizations (such as the Family Planning and several gynaecologists) of its existence.

According to the Cyprus Police (2007) there has been a steady increase of reported rapes in recent years. In 2004, 41 rapes were reported while in 2000, only 12 were reported.

According to the Association for Prevention and Handling of Domestic Violence (2007), in 2006, 11 cases of partner-violence (physical-including date rape, psychological), of which 8 were unmarried women 18-30 years old, were reported.

Although the numbers seem to be low, as mentioned above, one must take into consideration that rape, particularly date rape, may be severely underreported as are other forms interpersonal violence against women. Thus, research studies related to gender-based violence and specifically to date rape are of much importance as to identify a potential problem, handle, solve and/or prevent it.

3. Methodology

3.1 Study Design

This research study applied both quantitative and qualitative methodologies. Using triangulation was thought to provide a wider perspective of date rape issues in each country participating in this study.

A quantitative methodology is used to test theories and hypotheses and to make generalizations that may contribute to the understanding of a condition or phenomenon and to the developing of a theory (Creswell, 1994).

A qualitative research study may have achieved a more in-depth understanding of the subjective perceptions of adolescents (Sarantakos 1993).

For quantitative methodology a structured questionnaire was used and for qualitative methodology two focus groups were carried out and also personal interviews of formal representatives of relevant institutions.

3.2 Sample, Sampling

Simple random selection was used among female college students 18-24 years old. According to Cyprus Statistical Service (2005) the population under study is 7.735 and with a 5% statistical error, the following calculation was applied:

$$\text{Margin} = \pm 1.96 \sqrt{\frac{(100-P)P}{n} \times \frac{(N-n)}{N-1}}$$

(1.96 is the Z value at a 95% Confidence Interval, N=population size, n= sample size and P = 50, percentage 50% where the maximum error is calculated)

For example, if the sample size is 500:

$$\text{Margin} = 1.96 \sqrt{\frac{(100 - 50) (50)}{(500) (7735-1)} \times (7735-500)}$$

$$\text{Margin} = 1.96 \sqrt{\frac{(50) (50)}{(500) (7734)} \times (7235)}$$

$$\text{Margin} = 1.96 \sqrt{\frac{2500}{3867000} \times (7235)}$$

$$\text{Margin} = 1.96 \sqrt{\frac{18087500}{3867000}}$$

$$\text{Margin} = 1.96 \sqrt{\frac{18087500}{3867000}}$$

$$\text{Margin} = 1.96 \sqrt{4.677}$$

$$\text{Margin} = 1.96 (2.16)$$

$$\text{Margin} = 4.24 \%$$

(http://www.researchsolutions.co.nz/sample_sizes.htm,
<http://www.surveysystem.com/sscalc.htm>, 2003)

For Cyprus, a sample of 366 was considered representative. However, the researchers decided to aim for 500 questionnaires as to counteract any incomplete questionnaires. The end result was to collect **476** completed questionnaires from different tertiary education institutions (e.g. college, university) and a variety of majors.

Due to practical constraints the sample was selected only from one major city, Nicosia. The sample varies in area of living since most of the major tertiary education institutions (colleges, university) are located in Nicosia.

Regarding the *focus groups*, the following criteria were applied in order to select each participating group:

- Participants in the same group could not have any relation or friendship, since date rape is a sensitive issue and may influence the response of each participant or it might be difficult to reveal personal data to very close people.
- Participants could not all be from the same college or follow the same major or same age as to have a broad perspective of opinions and experiences.

In addition, *personal interviews of relevant institutions' representatives* were carried out. Each interviewee was appointed by its organization as the person responsible for issues related to violence against women, date rape, rape or sexuality. The organizations participated included the Cyprus Family Planning Association, the Association for the Prevention and Handling of Family Violence, Domestic Violence and Child Abuse Office Criminal Investigation Department,

Cyprus Police, the Welfare Services, and the Advisory Committee for the Prevention and Handling of Violence in the Family.

3.3 Ethical Issues

The principles of Belmont report were adopted for this study:

The principle of Beneficence- involves the protection of subjects from physical, psychological harm, exploitation and the performance of some good. It is essential for any researcher to weight the cost and benefit of participation to individual subjects as well as the risks to the subjects against the potential benefits to society (Polit and Hungler, 1995).

The principle of Respect for Human Dignity- includes the right to self-determination, full disclosure and informed consent. The researcher gave verbal and written explanations to the subjects, emphasizing their voluntary participation in the study. A written consent was used in focus groups and interviews. The questionnaire was anonymous. A key element of informed consent is the participants inviolable right of withdrawal without any hindrance from the researcher (Dunn, 1999).

The principle of Justice- involves the right to fair treatment and privacy. The researcher set criteria (as mentioned previously) for selecting the subjects ensuring their equal treatment at all times. The questionnaires, discussions and interviews were safely stored by the research team.

In this study, even though some of the questions were personal, the participants were assured of confidentiality.

The questionnaires distributed were anonymous and participants of the focus groups signed an informed consent.

This research project was approved and sponsored by the European Commission.

3.4 Pilot study

A pilot study consisting of 11 female college students, 18-24 years of age was carried out. This was done to identify any potential problems with the questionnaire (e.g. unclear questions), the actual time required to complete the questionnaire, and to calculate the resources needed and the cost to administer, analyze and report the main study. Pilot studies also test the reliability of the

research instruments and the feasibility of the data collection process (Reid and Boore, 1987). The pilot study may reveal that revisions are needed (Polit and Beck, 2004).

No major revisions to the research instruments were needed following the pilot study. Minor changes were made mainly to the wording of some questions.

The pilot study underlined interesting results that may support one important hypothesis of the study: The incidence of date rape and/or the existence of violence in dating relationships. Out of 11 participants one reported to have been raped during a date. Also, violent or unwanted acts seemed to exist in several relationships among the respondents. Four of the participants reported that their date acted extremely jealous, two of them reported that he/she made decisions for them; one reported that her date restricted her from seeing her friends/family.

3.5 Data collection

According to Judd et al. (1991), structured questionnaires have several advantages: lower cost over personal interviews, avoidance of interviewer bias, the respondents feel less pressure for their immediate response on the subject, and questionnaires give the respondents a greater feeling of anonymity and thus encourage them to be more open in sensitive questions. Participants may feel more comfortable or less threatened in responding to a questionnaire because along with anonymity, it assures confidentiality too. There is evidence of greater willingness to report sensitive behaviours on self-administered questionnaires than face-to-face interviews (Wellings et al., 1994).

Structured questionnaires have disadvantages too, such as lower response rate, lack of control over question order, inability to correct any misunderstandings or answer questions. Sometimes subjects respond according to what they perceive is the 'correct' answer.

In order to compensate for some of the disadvantages identified in the literature more questionnaires were distributed than the number necessary. Moreover, the use of qualitative methods, focus group discussions and interviews, aimed to counteract these disadvantages.

As previously mentioned, **476** questionnaires were collected. The response rate was 100% as the researcher and assistant researchers were present during the

distribution and collection of the questionnaires. A few women did not want to participate in the study and, in this case no questionnaire was given to them.

Two focus group discussions of 90 minutes each carried out. The discussions were facilitated by the researchers of this study and they were tape recorded. Although the researchers were aiming to have 6-8 participants in each group, only 4 students participate in each focus group. A psychologist was available within the premises of the building where the group discussions were carried out. This was done in case of any potential crisis or in the event that a participant wanted to discuss the issue further or in a more therapeutic manner. It is important to underline the difficulty to commit students for the focus groups. One reason could be the sensitivity of the issue under discussion.

Five 60 minute interviews with a representative of each institution were facilitated by one researcher.

3.6 Instrument

The research instrument for the quantitative part of this study was based on instruments of previous research studies:

Rickert VI, Wiemann CM, Vaughan RD, White JW. (2004). Rates and risk factors for sexual violence among an ethnically diverse sample of adolescents. *Archives of Pediatric & Adolescent Medicine*. 158:1132-1139.

Zeitler MS, Paine AD, Breitbart V, Rickert VI, Olson C, Stevens L, Rottenberg L, Davidson LL. (2006). Attitudes About Intimate Partner Violence Screening Among an Ethnically Diverse Sample of Young Women. *Journal of Adolescent Health*. 39:119.e1-119.e8.

Most of the questions were used in their original form, and some were modified to reflect the particular national context. Since limited research exists on date rape issues in Cyprus, it was thought appropriate to use a questionnaire that has already been used in a country with more experience in researching these issues. After reviewing several questionnaires, the above questionnaires were thought to better meet the needs of this study. Therefore, the researcher obtained permission for their use.

The questionnaire was in English and was modified in the English language. However, the questionnaire was translated and back translated in Greek by the

research team. The construction of the final version of the questionnaire was reviewed by all main researchers of the five participating countries.

As to ensure the internal consistency reliability, Chronbach's alpha was done: $\alpha = 0.586$, within a range between .00-1.00.

There are recognized methods for measuring readability such as the Flesch Formula and the Gunning's Fog Formula that are available on computer software programmes. These scales range from *very difficult* (0-30), *difficult* (31-50), *fairly difficult* (51-60), *standard* (61-70), *fairly easy* (71-80), *easy* (81-90) and *very easy* (91-100) (Hughes and Foster in Foster, 1994). The readability score for the questionnaire used, on the Flesch scale, was 106 *very easy*.

The questionnaire consisted of three sections: The first included questions to obtain demographic data, the second included questions about dating relationships and violence in dating, and the third and final section included questions about unwanted sexual experiences in relation to dating. All questions were close-ended, except the last one that was an open question where the participant was invited to write anything she wanted to say with regard to date rape or violence in dating relationships. The questionnaire took approximately 15-20 minutes to complete.

Regarding the *focus groups*, a discussion guide was developed based on the literature (Zeitler et al., 2006; Kvinnoforum and Partners, 2005 EU project; Rickert et al., 2004) as to help the facilitator guide the group discussion in such a way as to meet the aim of the study. The focus group discussion guide consisted of 3 parts: Introduction (e.g. definition of date rape); Dating relationships/unwanted sexual experiences/date rape (e.g. behaviour, gender stereotypes, assertiveness) and Support and Prevention (e.g. services, preventative actions, protective measures).

Regarding the *interviews*, a semi-structured interview guide was used. The guide consisted of 3 parts: Institutional data including policies on date rape (if any); support services; prevention, best practice, and cooperation with other organizations.

3.7 Analysis of data

The data was analyzed with the use of the Statistical Package for Social Sciences software (SPSS) Version 10. It is one of the most widely used statistical software packages. Descriptive and inferential statistics were used to describe, synthesize

and draw conclusions. Several statistical tests such as chi-square were performed as to meet the above purposes.

The interviews and focus groups was transcribed and grouped into main themes based on the interview guides. Institutional interviews were grouped into 3 main themes: Profile of organization, prevention and support; and needs in relation to date rape.

Focus group discussions were grouped into 3 main themes: Awareness of date rape, dating relationships/unwanted sexual experiences; and support and prevention.

These groupings provided a better understanding of participants' responses as well as to extract conclusions in association with the quantitative analysis of the study.

4. Findings

4.1 Quantitative Results – Questionnaire

Demographic data

In this study **476** female college students participated; ages 18-24. Almost half of them (42.6%, n=203) were 20-21 years old.

Most of the participants (64.2%) were from urban areas with Cypriot nationality (88.6%).

Although the majority of the females (83.3%) never married, at this young age (18-24), 12.1% reported to be engaged, married or divorced.

Further, 70.3% of the participants reported not working.

Regarding the education of their parents, almost half of the respondents (mother= 44.5%, father= 44%) reported their parents had at least finished high school.

The vast majority (92.8%) reported to be Greek Orthodox, while some reported to have other religions such as Muslim, Maronite, Catholic. Further, 78.9% of the young females reported attending church, but only 35.7% of them reported attending the church at least 1-2 times in a month.

63.3% of the respondents reported currently having a partner that they know for 1-4 years (25%), of average 21-22 years of age (32.9%). Participants reported that they are considering their current relationship as a serious one (55.4%) and their partner as their exclusive sexual partner (84.6).

Dating relationships

Most of the young females (59.7%) have started dating between 15-17 years and had their first sexual intercourse at 16 years old and later. The following table presents the response regarding the first sexual intercourse of the young females.

Table No.4.1.1: At what age did you first have sexual intercourse?

	Total
Have not have sex	125 26.3%
12-13	3 0.6%
14-15	18 3.7%

16-17	84 17.6%
18-19	124 26%
20+	38 7.9%
Did not respond	84 17.6%
Total	476 100%

The vast majority (94.8%) of the young females reported to be heterosexual, 2.1% bisexual and 3.1% reported unsure. More than half of them (58.2%) reported dating 1-3 different people since they have started dating, whilst 69.5% reported dating only 1 person for the last 12 months, 19.9% 2-3, 6% more than 4 people and 4.6% none.

The following were reported as being the most frequent places for dating: Movies/restaurants (91.9%), club/pub (89%), friend's house with a group (83.3%) and at date's house with a group (70%) or alone (65.5%).

Further, the majority of the young females (62.6%) reported their partner or date usually pays on a date.

Most of the participants (60.4%) do not drink or have one drink during their date, whilst 32.1% have 2-3 drinks and 7.5% have 4 drinks and more. Further 5.5% of the participants reported that they do take drugs on a date.

1.3% (n=5) of the participants reported an attempted date rape by their date, 1.9% (n=7) reported being forced to have oral sex and 1.9% (n=7) reported date raped.

The table below shows the participants' sexual behaviour, as they experienced it, on a date since they finished high school:

Table No.4.1.2: Sexual behaviour during a date, since you have finished high school

Sexual behavior	I did this willingly	My date TRIED to against my wishes	My date DID this anyway against my wishes
1. Kissed	93.6%	2.6%	0.3%
2. Touched/kissed breasts	75.1%	5%	1.6%
3. Touched buttocks under your clothes	66.1%	4.3%	1.3%
4. Touched genitals under your clothes	62.7%	3.8%	1.6%
5. Had oral sex	47.7%	2.9%	1.9%
6. Had sexual intercourse	63.6%	1.3%	1.9%

The following table shows violent behaviours that respondents reported that happened on a date.

Table No.4.1.3: Since you have finished high school your date:

	Never/Seldom %	Often/ Always %
Persistently insist to know where you were	74.1	25.9
Act extremely jealous	74.3	25.7
Criticize you	74.5	25.6
Shout at you	86.3	13.7
Ignore your feelings	87.5	12.4
Hold you to keep you from leaving	90.9	9.2
Make decisions for you	91.5	8.4
Ignore you/did not pay any attention to you	92.4	7.6
Insult your family/friends?	94.4	5.6
Ridicule your ideas	94.5	5.8
Try to restrict you from seeing your friends/family	94.6	5.4
Subject you to reckless driving	94.9	4.1
Call you names/insulted you	95.2	4.8
Humiliate you in private or public	96	4

Push or shove you violently	96.6	3.3
Threaten to hurt you	97.7	1.3
Punch you	97.9	2.1
Slap or hit you	98	2
Threaten to hurt you with a weapon/object	98.4	1.5
Throw objects at you	98.5	1.5
Put his arms around your neck to choke you	98.7	1.3

Unwanted sexual experiences with a date

Table No.4.1.4: Have you given in to sex play/'making' out/messing around (kissing, petting) on a date, when you did not want to and how often?

	On date	Sometimes/always
1. Overwhelmed by a person's continuous arguments	17.2%	23.5%
2. A person threatened or used some degree of physical force (twisting your arm, holding you down, etc.) to make you	7.8%	6.7%
3. A person forced you by giving you alcohol or drugs	6.1%	7.4%
4. You were afraid to say no	14.5%	16.8%
5. You were afraid that if you didn't consent would leave you (break up with you)	18.6%	24.6%
6. A person used his position of authority (boss, teacher, camp counsellor, supervisor) to force you	3.8%	5.7%

Table No.4.1.5: Reasons for unwanted sexual intercourse with a date

	On date	Sometimes/always
1. Overwhelmed by a person's continuous	9.3%	15.4%

arguments		
2. A person threatened or used some degree of physical force (twisting your arm, holding you down, etc.) to make you	4.1%	4.7%
3. A person forced you by giving you alcohol or drugs	3.6%	5.4%
4. You were afraid to say no	6.5%	11.1%
5. You were afraid that if you didn't consent would leave you (break up with you)	10.5%	15.5%
6. A person used his position of authority (boss, teacher, camp counsellor, supervisor) to force you	3.6%	6.6%

From the participants 12.2% (n=42) reported having an unwanted sexual experience, often by a person that they considered to be their boyfriend, friend or sexual partner (54.2%) and usually in an apartment (31.9%) or on a club (14.9%).

More than half of the respondents (58%) reported that the person forced them to have an unwanted sexual experience was drinking and/or having drugs (19.1%). Of those young women reported yes, ¼ (25%) of them never told anyone, almost half of them (44.2%) told someone after a month or more, 29.5% after one day and 2.3% after a week.

Of those reported an unwanted sexual experience, 76% told this to a friend, 20% to their parents and 4% to a priest/religious representative, whilst the majority of them (81.6%) never asked for professional help.

Further, more than half of them (58.8%) reported that they have knowing the particular person for more than few months to years.

Qualitative question

At the end of the questionnaire there was an open question to participants whether they want to report/add anything else related to date rape. Some of the statements reveal the problem of violence and highlight the existence of sexual and gender based violence in Cyprus.

- *Men are psychopaths...stupid. End. Alone for ever... Men are pigs...*
- *Women do not tell about being victims of violence because they are afraid of their reputation and honour.*

- *Most of the times due to man's desire for sex they might do to you something bad (minimal!) and then they regret it.*
- *Women do not even know that they are being raped by their partners.*
- *All depends on the woman.*
- *I had a relationship for 1 ½ year and whenever he was upset he was violent to me, he even broke my leg once.*
- *I was sexually harassed when I was 4 years old. I never told to anyone.*
- *I was sexually harassed by my uncle when I was 5 years old. He was not violent but he was trying to do to me whatever he wanted, in a good way!*
- *I know women that have been raped by their partners. They desperately need help.*

4.2 Qualitative Results - Focus Groups Discussions

1. Awareness of Date Rape

Participants in both focus groups described date rape as an unwanted sexual experience. All participants agreed that any type of sexual contact without consent is a form of violence. It does not have to be intercourse as such. They stated that violence in relationships can take many forms such as physical or psychological.

2. Dating Relationships/Unwanted Sexual Experiences

This includes gender stereotypes (e.g. women to be passive, not assertive), the meaning and time of saying 'no', one's comfort level, the influence of previous relationship with the perpetrator.

Ways of dressing/behaving:

All participants from both focus groups stated that women can behave and dress in 'provocative' ways. Some reported that although no form of dress or mode of behaviour can justify violence, there was a general agreement that certain types of dress and behaviour can make women more vulnerable to being harassed/attacked. All participants agreed that women may not intend to be provocative, but may just be seeking attention and thus engage in behaviour that could be misunderstood, such as dancing on bars or rubbing up against men. They said that a woman who engages in such behaviour must set her limits, so that men do not think she is 'teasing' them or 'leading them on' that may create false expectations.

One participant considers 'making advances' towards a man that she does not intend to carry further 'provocative' behaviour.

Participants in the second focus groups discussed the issue of whether men have needs 'that they cannot control'. One participant reported that this a myth perpetuated by society and that a woman's behaviour or dress does not have anything to do with violence. Another participant, although agreed with this, pointed out that a man cannot provoke a woman in any way, whereas a woman can provoke a man in many ways including behavior and dress. Another participant agreed with this and continued to say that women have 'confused' men as and they give out unclear messages when they dress 'with short skirts'. They do not know if a woman is dressing this way because she 'wants something' or because she simply feels like it. According to the participants, women on the one hand have the right to dress as they please, but their intentions in dressing 'provocatively' matters.

One participant reported that some women may be dressed 'sexy' because of their need to be liked.

Case 1: A participant one night she was wearing a very short shirt that she felt good in and because of that a man felt that he could touch her buttocks. She believed, at the moment that in his mind was the idea that 'she was asking for it'. She said that she felt that it was her own fault that this happened. She wondered whether it was her mistake in dressing in a certain way or the mistake of the person that touch her. Even though she wore the skirt again, she feels confused over this issue.

Gender Stereotypes:

One participant stated that these stereotypes no longer apply to this generation. She feels that women are now more independent and equal to men.

Case 2: A participant from the second focus group stated that she had a friend that many in their group of friend though she was 'easy' or a 'slut' when, in fact, she was a virgin. The girl began dating someone and during her first sexual intercourse, the man was so violent that she ended up in the hospital. The participant said that he was violent with her because he did not know she was a virgin.

Women's empowerment and role, Communication with partner:

Participants from the first focus group stated that empowerment and independence that women gained in recent years created feelings of 'insecurity' in men which can make them to be more violent in an attempt to affirm their dominance or to preserve the 'upper hand' in a relationship.

All the participants reported that women are more confident now and express their needs. Further, participants agreed that how far a situation goes is up to the woman's ability to communicate her needs. One participant stated that 'it is a matter of self control and knowing your rights'. All participants reported that the responsibility lies with the woman and how she handles a particular situation. However, one participant from the first focus group pointed out that in situations of sexual violence it is a question of physical power and not on a woman's ability to say 'no'.

Participants of the first focus group agreed that someone can refuse sex at any point, even while it is still happening. Another participant stated that this may not be fully understood by the other person and he may keep pressuring you to continue, for this reason one must be firm in their decision when saying no.

One participant mentioned that, in her experience, before having sexual intercourse it was much easier to refuse sex. She feels that after having sex she is more 'tolerant'.

Participants stated that good communication is necessary in order to prevent misunderstanding in relationships, although they mentioned that this is not very common among most couples. Participants from the second focus group said that this could be related to living in Cyprus and the taboos that exist in Cypriot society.

Participants of the first focus groups reported that in many cases it is difficult to establish limits when someone is making you uncomfortable, because you feel you may have misunderstood his intentions. A participant agreed, saying that she feels she may misjudge the other person and therefore insult them. She continued to say that she may think she was imagining it at first and that she tends to make excuses for others and blame herself.

One participant disagreed and said that she would directly stop a situation she was not comfortable with, whether or not she would be considered to be rude.

A participant stated that things become even more complicated in situations where one is attracted to the other person. This would make a woman more vulnerable to verbal and physical pressure as well as in cases that the woman had a previous sexual encounter with the person (e.g. an ex-boyfriend). A participant from the first focus group reported that such cases have more to do with psychological coercion rather than physical strength. Three participants reported cases where former partners felt they could continue having or re-initiate a sexual relationship with them because they had been intimate in the past.

Participants from both focus groups agreed that many women give in to psychological pressure because they feel guilty about letting the other person down or because they 'didn't satisfy him' or be afraid that they might lose him.

Another participant reported that sometimes the most difficult thing is to understand what one's self really wants.

A participant also stated that setting limits within a relationship is not easy difficult and you may consent to things you do not feel completely comfortable with.

Participants generally reported that some cases of violence in relationships in Cyprus are linked to jealousy – that men in Cyprus are very jealous. One participant said that if a woman is dressing or behaving 'provocatively' then it is normal that her partner would feel jealous. Another disagreed and stated that this jealousy comes from the mistaken impression that women are property.

Alcohol and drugs:

Participants from the first focus group stated that women are more vulnerable under the influence of alcohol or drugs. One participant said that she had heard of cases in Cyprus that involved drugs. Another participant stated that she had heard this happening in University students in Athens. In response to the question as to whether this is considered date rape, the participants said that this depended on whether the victim was pressured into drinking alcohol or whether she drank willingly. At the same time, participants reported that no-one has the right to take advantage of someone that is under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.

One participant from the second focus group stated that men consider women who drink as 'wanting something' so they feel they can sexually exploit them. The

participant reported that a woman who is drunk can become a target and can end up doing things she doesn't want to and may regret later.

Case 3: A cell-phone video was being circulated with a man having sex with a girl that seemed to be drunk and/or unconscious.

Participants reported that regardless of how much one's drink, no-one has the right to rape someone.

3) Support and Prevention

Responsibility of the woman:

One participant from the first focus group reported that the key is for one to set her limits and reveal her intentions from the beginning, "this will prevent a woman from finding herself in a difficult situation where it is 'too late' and where he is brought to a point where he may use force". Similar approach had and the second focus group. They stated that a woman should have the will and the confidence to set her limits. They reported as one reason that women may not communicate clearly to their partner is the fear of losing him.

One participant from the first focus group said:

"If I were to give advice to women in order to avoid incidents of violence I would tell them to set their limits from early on and believe in themselves, know what they want and what their rights are over themselves and their bodies. I would tell them that no matter who the other person is no-one has the right to exercise violence on you. Both women and men should know this".

The participants did not respond to the question about the responsibilities of their date.

All participants agreed that education on such issues should begin from early age, particularly nowadays that adolescents and young adults are experiencing things at a much earlier age than previous generations. Further, participants reported that men should also be educated on these issues and perhaps should be given some classes separately from women. One participant that is working as a school teacher said that adolescents want to learn. All participants expressed the need for sex education in schools, because adolescents are usually receiving information from inappropriate sources (e.g. porn magazines).

Asking for help, Resources:

Another participant stated that the breaking down of taboos and more openness about sex would enable women to express themselves more and talk more openly about issues that concern them. She said that taboos in Cypriot society have prevented women from knowing their rights and speaking out. Another participant added that issues of violence such as date rape are only recently being mentioned in the mass media and perhaps with more public discussion women will not be so ashamed to ask for help.

Participants from the first focus group agreed that asking for help and reporting an incident are two different things. They stated that if a woman wanted to report date rape or attempted rape by a person they know, such as an ex-boyfriend, the police would not believe her. They felt that police would probably tell them that they had provoked him as this is the stereotype. Participants added that because police officers are usually men, women may not feel comfortable coming forward and talking to them. They agreed that they would probably advise the woman to visit a psychologist rather than going to the police.

Participants from the second focus group said that they did not know any organization that dealt specifically with date rape. They mentioned police, Cyprus Family Planning Association and the Association for the Prevention and Handling of Violence in the Family as possible resources for victims.

4.3 Qualitative Results - Institutions Interviews

As previously mentioned, institutional interviews were grouped into 3 main themes: Profile of organization, prevention and support; and needs in relation to date rape. This was done for better understanding of the responses of each representative from each participating institution. Five institutions participated in this part of the study.

1. Profile of organization in related to date rape: This includes general information and main activities of each organization, the organization's understanding and definition of date rape and its guidelines and policies related to sexual violence/date rape.

The Association for the Prevention and Handling of Family Violence has been involved in the issue of violence and since 1992, adopting the definition of the Cyprus law on family violence. The organization currently employs four persons.

The Association provides a 24 hour hotline service and a shelter for victims of violence and their children. The procedure for the shelter is that the client needs a referral from the Welfare Services. The Association is now embarking on a new programme 'Love without Time' which targets male perpetrators of family violence.

The Association has an advisory and a supportive role to clients; for other needs such as medical services or legal advice the victim is referred to the responsible government department or agency.

The Domestic Violence and Child Abuse Office Criminal Investigation Department, Cyprus Police was established in 2001, but the issue of date rape does not specifically concern the Office. However, sometimes it may get involved in rape cases that are reported to the Police. Being a governmental department it adopts the definition Cyprus law on rape and family violence.

The main activities of the Central Bureau is the promotion of training and education on domestic violence and child abuse for Police Officers, the establishment of an archive on domestic violence cases, and the representation of the Police in various seminars and conferences on issues of domestic violence.

The Police Department does have guidelines for dealing with rape cases, but there are no guidelines specifically on date rape. Such incidents maybe reported to police stations or to the police department for Criminal Investigation (TAE).

During their training in the Police Academy they are taught general issues regarding violence and rape but not about date rape in particular. Higher ranking police officers receive specialized training, often by instructors from abroad.

Cyprus Welfare Services, Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance (government)

The Welfare Services employ 16 officers in all unoccupied Cyprus. Its duties are derived from the Laws on Family Violence 2000 and 2004) and Family Advisors/Counsellors (2001) and it does not deal with violence cases that fall outside the family.

The Laws are specific about procedures involving family violence cases (e.g. reporting, victim support), and the welfare services responsibilities. Cross-service procedures such as referrals are established by the Advisory Committee for the Prevention of Violence in the Family.

The Welfare Services' activities focus on violence between married couples, and persons that co-inhabit. All reports of violence are investigated in order to encourage the public to approach the Welfare Services when needed. To the

victim is offered mainly counselling, protection measures and financial help. In the case of child violence the procedures undertaken are different in order to adequately protect the child. In cases involving adults, assistance is offered only to the extent that the victim requests this.

With regard to rape cases outside family an act of violence between adults is considered to be a violation of the penal code and thus falls outside the competencies of the Welfare Services. However, the Welfare Services claim that they would not turn down a request for assistance from a rape victim.

The Advisory Committee for the Prevention of Violence in the Family (semi-government organization) employs one person and works specifically within the framework of family violence, based on the Laws 2000 and 2004 (as previously mentioned).

The Committee was established in 1996 and consists of persons from the private or the public sector. They are appointed according to their professional qualifications by the Council of Ministers. The Committee has the responsibility to record the problem of family violence in Cyprus; to increase public and health and/or other professional's awareness (through e.g. seminars, conferences); to promote research on family violence; to coordinate and cooperate with the various governmental services and to supervise the efficiency of those services and the implementation of the relevant law. However, the committee is not directly involved with incidents of violence or with date rape incidents.

The Advisory committee has the responsibility to promote the harmonization of statistical data collection across all competent authorities (such as Ministry of Health, Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Education and Culture). Until now there has been no unified method of data collection. In order to meet European criteria, the Advisory Committee hopes to achieve a unified system that will function under the Legal Services.

The Committee is currently conducting an evaluation of the services that are provided to the victims of family violence. Upon completion of the evaluation, the Committee will make recommendations.

The Cyprus Family Planning Association (NGO) has been involved with the issue of rape and date rape since its foundation, since its work focuses on sexuality and reproductive health and rights. The Association employs four persons and also works with a large body of volunteers who provide a wide range of services to the Association.

The Cyprus Family Planning Association's main activities include advocacy and lobbying on issues related to sexual and reproductive health and rights. Further, it provides information, training, counselling, advisory services and clinical services.

2. Prevention and Support: This includes the ways of support to victims, the institutions prevention policies, activities; examples of successful practices and institution's cooperation with other institutions and/or government.

Association for the Prevention and Handling of Family Violence

The Association provides support to teenagers (since children are responsibility of the welfare office), women and men. There is a new programme targeting men abusers offering counselling and support.

It also provides social support in the form of a shelter, as well as psychological and health services. The shelter provides the opportunity to have direct contact with the victims, which is more effective than providing support over the telephone. Further, the Association can arrange for immediate hospitalization through an agreement with the Ministry of Health.

The main problems faced by the Association are limited shelter space and lack of adequate funding. Another limitation is that the Association's activities are not well publicized and the public is not aware of them. The Association worries that victims are often reluctant to contact the organization for assistance. The institutional representative stated that working within the framework of 'family violence' is also a limitation and that they are trying to expand their activities to include other forms of violence against women such as trafficking.

The general preventative measures carried out by the Association are the distribution of information leaflets, the provision of training seminars to stakeholders such as the police and in schools, as well as participation in conferences and seminars on issue of violence. The Association expressed the belief that prevention measures should involve education beginning at elementary school.

Case 4: A man called to ask for help because he was abusing his girlfriend. He was confused and very soon stopped the communication with the Association. However, the friendly relation of the abused woman with a member of the Association helped her to leave from this relationship. However, the Association failed it in helping the perpetrator.

The Association for the Prevention and Handling of Family Violence mentioned that other organizations involved in Date Rape issues are the Police and the Welfare Office. With regard to initiatives concerning date rape, another organization involved in the issue is the Cyprus Family Planning Association.

Further, the Association for the Prevention and Handling of Family Violence reported that for support it cooperates with the Migration Department (in cases of immigrants wanting to prosecute), the Cyprus Family Planning Association (for family planning services like pregnancy), the Welfare office, the Police, KISA (NGO): (Movement for Equality, Support and Antiracism) in cases of rape of domestic workers from their employer and Stigma (in cases of trafficking). It considers the Advisory Committee for the Prevention of Violence in the Family as the most equipped organization in fighting date rape despite the fact that this organization does not work outside the framework of the law on family violence and only plays an advisory role.

According to the Association, combating date rape should be a collaborative effort between organizations with experts. Each organization should have specific roles according to their expertise. Some of the main difficulties in combating violence against women is that women often don't ask for help, and there is insufficient coordination between the different authorities.

The Association declared its interest in participating on a national or international network concerning the date rape.

The Office on Domestic Violence and Child Abuse, Police Department

The Police Department claims to provide partial support to victims as first assistance, however, if proper procedure is followed, main support is provided by the Welfare Services. Victims may also be referred to the Mental Health Services for psychological support. Further, the Police Department cooperates also with the Association for the Prevention and Handling of Family Violence.

Case 5 (of rape, not date rape): A female victim reported to be raped by her husband. However, she refused to testify in the court. Police stated that they provided the support but believes that the victim was not willing to testify, because until the case reached the court the abuser didn't use any violence and the victim may thought that it's 'easier' for her to 'let it go'.

According to the Police, the main difficulty of fighting date rape is that there is no identification of a particular target group with which to work with or specific data to work with.

Cyprus Welfare Services, Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance

The Cyprus Welfare Services offer social and financial support to girls, boys, women and men. Psychological support is also provided although this is not linked with any specialized therapy. If a person needs specialized help, she/he is referred to the Mental Health Services.

The Welfare Services do cooperate with the Association for the Prevention and Handling of Family Violence when shelter is needed.

The Cyprus Welfare Services carry out prevention measures on domestic violence, such as the proper identification of a potentially violent situation in the family before the violence actually occurs. They also run a Centre for Family Guidance and give seminars in schools.

The Welfare Services expressed the belief that prevention measures should be included in the National Action Plan on Domestic Violence. The NAP should appoint responsibilities to each Ministry or NGO according to its competencies.

The Advisory Committee for the Prevention of Violence in the Family has developed a mandatory report for reporting violence incidents that has been sent to all related departments. The mandatory report includes a uniform report for all services. This report will help the different organizations to provide give statistical data.

The Welfare Services often use the work conducted by the Family Planning Association. For example they use data from a recent research on sexuality and youth in their work on child pornography.

The Cyprus Welfare Services also cooperates with the Legal services, the Police, the Ministry of Education and Culture, the Ministry of Health, the Cyprus Family Planning Association etc.

According to the Welfare Services, this cross-departmental way of functioning is the key to effective prevention and support of family violence as it enhances communication and cooperation between stakeholders.

Advisory Committee for the Prevention of Violence in the Family

The role of the Advisory Committee for the Prevention of Violence in the Family is to inform and sensitize the public as well as professionals regarding family violence. Its main aim is to oversee and coordinate a national policy, thus the organization's activities are considered as preventative.

The Committee works on a very limited budget as it functions under funds allocated to it in the annual governmental budget.

The advisory committee published a manual of cross-department procedures in 2001. This manual refers to the action which must be taken when a service faces an incidence of domestic violence, a step by step procedure and how a service can interact with other services. The problem of this manual is that it's not obligatory since every service faces its own difficulties and therefore it is not applied as it should. This is exclusively for domestic violence.

According to the Advisory Committee for the Prevention of Violence in the Family, the organizations that are involved in the issue of family violence are those that obtain their authority from the law on family violence. However, there is always the problem of implementation of the various provisions of the law.

Cyprus Family Planning Association

The CFPA provides social as well as psychological support often to girls and women. However, psychological support is more on a consultant level and is not meant to replace long term psychological support.

The CFPA also conducts awareness-raising and prevention programmes in schools. The issue of violence and date rape is always raised. For example exercises on 'saying no' are applied during education sessions in schools.

Also, the CFPA has a number of volunteer gynaecologists for the provision of free reproductive health care services to those that need it.

According to the Director of the CFPA, doctors that come into contact with clients are well informed in issues of violence and identification of signs through their training and education. Also the personnel of the Association may identify suspicious signs and discuss these with the doctors.

The CFPA carries out preventative measures against date rape and other forms of gender based violence such as: training of young people on sexual and reproductive rights; use of volunteers that transmit the goals of the Association to other persons; distribution of information material including the date rape leaflet produced by MIGS.

The CFPA minimal funding as a major issue faced by the organization. Will additional funding they could hire additional personnel to carry out projects as well as offer more services to the public.

Case 6: A 17 year old girl was at a school party when someone out of school that knew her, drove her at his house with the excuse that his mother was sick. He offered to her a juice and that was the last thing that the girl remembered before she ends back in the school confused and messed. When she when home, she found out that she was full of bruises. Having good relations with her teacher, she reported the incident to her. The teacher was a volunteer in the Association and arranged for a doctor to examine her. No signs of intercourse were detected and a pregnancy test was carried out.

Case 7: A 21 year old girl went out with a good friend of hers as they always used to do. He raped her and she became pregnant. She decided to keep the baby. The girl was alone without any financial support. The Association tried to help her and called the Welfare Services, hospitals, and the Mental Health Service in order to find some funds for her. This was a successful case because when she went to the CFPA she was severely depressed. With the support that the Association gave her she felt relieved and had someone to talk, since her family did not know anything. The decision to keep the child was hers, although her sister (the only family member that knew) tried to talk her out of it.

The CFPA mentioned that for support it cooperates with the Association for the Prevention and Handling of Family Violence. The Association is also a member of the Advisory Committee for the Prevention of Violence in the Family. For support the CFPA also cooperates with MIGS, school doctors, health visitors, persons within school groups and consultant teachers. The Association also visits the Welfare Departments in all districts on occasion to provide information and training, including sexual violence.

The Association expressed the desire to cooperate with one specialized organization that could offer all the services, including psychological and support services, rather than having to send victims from one service to another. Although they do not think such centre exists, perhaps an organization such as KESY (Research Centre and Counselling Services) could offer such services, provided necessary funding was secured.

The CFPA stated that no organization is specialized in the field of date rape. The Association for the Prevention and Handling of Family Violence and MIGS are two of the more aware organizations.

The Association mentioned the ignorance of most people about this form of rape. They also explained that the English term is understandable but in Greek schools the term is difficult to translate in a meaningful way. They stated that they would be interested in participating in a national or international network concerning the date rape.

3. Needs: This includes the main problems and future needs and/or plans of the institution as a live entity.

Association for the Prevention and Handling of Family Violence

The Association plans to continue its work in providing support services to girls/women, boys/men. It will begin a programme for men perpetrators of family violence. The Association is very interested in cooperating with other organizations in activities such as training, psychological support, as well as in the creation and running of shelters, particularly in cities other than Nicosia.

The Office on Domestic Violence and Child Abuse, Police Department

There was no response to this by the police department.

Welfare Services, Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance

The Welfare Services explained that a lot of work needs to be done on combating stereotyping in violence issues particularly in cases where persons from different cultures are involved. Stereotyping may lead in failing to identify a possible victim as they may not have the same profile as other victims. More organized and well defined goals and practices are needed such as audiovisual statements and a way of accredited work. Also there is no option for rehabilitation of perpetrators, the only option is imprisonment.

Advisory Committee for the Prevention of Violence in the Family

The Committee explained that there is an effort to transform the organization into a coordinating body and that the Council of Ministers asked for the needs of the organization. The responsibilities will remain the same since they are derived from the law, but hopefully there will be more funding for activities and additional

personnel. As the National Action Plan on Domestic Violence is completed it will be submitted to the Council of Ministries for approval.

Cyprus Family Planning Association

The Association stated that will try to include projects related to date rape in its future plans. Further, the Cyprus Family Planning Association believes in the need for professional psychological support and group therapy. According to the Association, the participation in a group helps people to give to others, be active, and improves their self confidence. Long term support also needed by the Association including counselling services, provision of information (e.g. a boy in a class replied to date rape saying that the way that the girl are dressed are provocative), funding sources, experience, and consultant services.

According to the CFPA education is needed to combat the phenomenon of date rape, not only in terms of sexuality but also life education skills, beginning from elementary school. This will lead to people with self-confidence ready to defend themselves from the pressures of their social environment.

5. Discussion

This research study reveals that emotional, psychological and physical violence exists among young females is a usual phenomenon among dating couples. More significantly for the purposes of this project, this study shows that women experience various forms of unwanted sexual behaviour during dating, such as touching one's buttock or genitals under one's clothes, kissing one's breast, and oral sex, as well as date rape.

Young females in Cyprus become sexually active around 16 years old, having mainly heterosexual relationships with an average of two partners in a period of 12 months. Thus, one may conclude that violence is occurring among women that are in established relationships and not one-off dates. Therefore, it may be less likely for women in longer term relationships, to report sexual violence to the authorities, or may not even view their experience as such due to traditional gender roles and expectations within relationships, and society at large.

Young women reported usually go with their date to clubs/pubs or to a friend's/partner's house. Although most of the participants (60.4%) reported that they do not drink, they reported going to places where most clients drink or their partner may drink. It is also significant that in Cyprus drug use is becoming more and more frequent among young women during outings (5.5%). The literature on date rape and sexual violence indicates that incidents of sexual violence and date rape are more likely to take place in conditions where alcohol and drugs are involved. However, it is important to point out that there is no causal link between alcohol and drug use among young women and sexual violence and date rape (Russo, 2000) Further, it may be assumed that going to your date's/partners house alone signifies that more intimate activities or sex will take place.

Although most of the young women seem to have some knowledge and understanding about gender based violence, the research revealed that there is a need for becoming more sensitive and aware of gender violence and sexuality issues in Cyprus. Generally sexuality issues are taboo in Cyprus and limited research exists on these issues in Cyprus. Date rape, being an issue involving violence as well as sex makes it even more difficult a topic of public discussion which may also explain the low participation of young women in the focus group discussions.

Interestingly, most of the young females (62.6%) reported that their date usually pays on a date. Since most commonly their dates are males (majority are heterosexual) this could be an indication of male dominance, culturally appropriate or expected in a patriarchal society as Cyprus. Sometimes this is translated as 'ownership', meaning that the female 'owes' to the male partner. Thus, a perpetrator may use economic pressure on women during sexual activity, implying that he is entitled to sexual intimacy because he paid for dinner, drinks etc.

In terms of women's empowerment, participants of the focus group expressed the belief that women are now more confident and empowered than ever before. Interestingly, respondents seemed to think that this may create feelings of 'insecurity' in men and may cause them to be more violent in order to preserve their dominance. This corresponds to the current understanding of sexual violence and date rape by theorists as a manifestation of and means to reinforce traditional gender roles (Jasinski, 2001).

Despite claiming more confidence and empowerment, the women interviewed expressed that establishing boundaries in relationships is difficult either due to lack of confidence, fear of abandonment or guilt. They also found it difficult to establish limits in cases where they had already had sexual relations with their date in the past. They stated that they felt the need to 'please' their partners or dates, as well as 'guilty' for not satisfying their partner or 'letting him down'. Notwithstanding, the women felt that they had the right to stop sexual relations at any time. However, they also felt that the responsibility to control the situation lies squarely with the woman and her ability to 'communicate her needs' to her partner or date. Never during the discussions was men's role and responsibility in the matter questioned.

One may argue that many young females are neither assertive nor self-confident enough to establish limits with their partners or to clearly state 'no'. This may be due to traditional gender roles and socio-cultural expectations of women in Cyprus, highlighting the importance of satisfying male sexual desires while females' desires are non-existent or less important.

As can be seen, several times during the focus group discussions, the young females contradicted themselves often revealing traditional beliefs that reinforce patriarchal attitudes toward women and sexuality. For example, on the one hand

they stated that no conditions excused date rape and, on the other, they maintained that within each group of women there is an 'easy' one (a woman that easily consents to sexual activity and may have many sexual partners). Although these 'labels' are used for women, they seemed not to apply for men. The sexual behaviour of men seemed to be less or not criticized at all reinforcing the stereotype that sexual aggressiveness is natural if not admirable in men.

Further, the focus group discussions showed that a general culture of victim blaming prevails in Cyprus. In discussing gender stereotypes and dating behaviour, although participants believe that a woman can dress the way she feels comfortable, they reported that sometimes women 'confuse' men with provocative dressing. They stated that it is the responsibility of the woman to prevent unwanted sexual experiences, such as not engaging in behaviour that may create 'false expectations'. This maintains one of the most powerful myths associated with sexual violence that asks to find the cause of assault in the victim's behaviour or choices. Even when discussing alcohol and drugs, although the focus group participants emphasised that a man has no right to take sexual advantage of a woman that is intoxicated, they felt that drinking or taking drugs may "cause" sexual assault, again placing responsibility for the occurrence on the behaviour of the woman. One participant even distinguished between a woman drinking willingly and being pressured to drink, when defining date rape. The focus on women's behaviour as 'risky', also reinforces the traditional belief that men's sexual desires cannot be controlled and thus one must take appropriate measures to avoid 'provoking' such uncontrollable desire. One participant of the focus groups insisted that it is not possible for a man to 'provoke' a woman in the same way a woman can 'provoke' a man.

Thus, gender roles and as well as societal expectations can contribute to an atmosphere where date rape is possible. The traditional role for women is to be passive in romantic and sexual relationships whereas men are taught to be sexually aggressive. Under these conditions, men may expect that when a woman says no to sex, she only says it because she's supposed to put up some resistance, but that in fact she does want sex (as in no means yes). The focus group discussions undertaken during this study also reveal that women have internalized many myths associated with date rape such as those associated with dress and behaviour. Thus, this may indicate that victims may not even recognize their experience as rape, but instead blame themselves for engaging in some type of activity or behaviour that may have 'provoked' the occurrence.

Although the attempts of date rape (1.3%) and date rape cases (1.9%) percentages seemed to be small in this study, considering the size of the island and the population these are not ignorable numbers. Statements such as: *I had a relationship for 1 ½ year and whenever he was upset he was violent to me, he even broke my leg once; I was sexually harassed when I was 4 years old. I never told to anyone; I know women that have been raped by their partners. They desperately need help...*, are vital to this research study as it shows that gender based violence exists but is severely underreported.

An important finding of this study is that resources for young women that experienced date rape or had an unwanted sexual experience are almost non-existent. Further, the study shows that most women (76%) that had an unwanted sexual experience told a friend, whilst the majority (81.6%) never asked for professional help. The research reveals a lack of confidence in the ability of the relevant authorities to provide support to victims of date rape. No respondents to the questionnaires reported disclosing incidents to the police and participants of the focus groups maintained that the police would not believe them if they reported an incidence of rape by someone they know. Other reasons for this underreporting could be that they do not feel comfortable with existing resources, resources are limited and not available all over Cyprus, and sometimes anonymity and confidentiality is an issue. Moreover, in a collectivist society such as Cyprus reputation and stigmatization it is an obstacle to coming up front and asking for help or reporting date rape. Adding to this, participants in focus groups highlighted that they would be uncomfortable and insecure reporting rape or date rape to a male police officer.

Indeed, according to the Police, date rape cases are difficult due to lack of evidence and the problem of concurrence (her word against his). The Police also explained that, even when there is evidence of rape, cases often do not make it to court as victims often refuse to testify. According to the records of the Cyprus Law Office, this is indeed the case with the majority of rape cases being dropped before reaching the courts. Although the reasons for this are unknown, it is most likely due to the delay in cases reaching the courts, psychological trauma of the victim, lack of confidence in the system, and perhaps a lack of adequate societal and institutional support to victims. Lower prosecution and conviction rates may also be a product of the myths associated with rape—namely, the myths that women must take steps to avoid "provoking" men, and that the absence of

physical injury indicates that the victim consented. As mentioned above, the focus group discussions revealed that these myths, particularly the myth of provocation, are very much part of Cypriot patriarchal culture.

There is no gender perspective in violence prevention and many relevant organisations do not have specialised trained personnel for handling violence cases. Existing services work within the framework of 'family violence' rather than 'gender-based violence' or 'violence against women'. This reinforces the perception that sexual violence is a private issue and not a public issue. Women are primarily seen as family members and not as individuals. Almost all the services working on issues of violence in Cyprus employ the definition given by the Cyprus law on family violence effectively restricting support and prevention programmes and services to domestic violence and child abuse cases only. This, in conjunction with a lack of gender perspective and sensitivity, creates a tremendous gap in terms of gender violence prevention and support in Cyprus. The family violence framework does not encompass the many forms of violence against women that take place outside the home such as sexual assault. Furthermore, "family violence" fails to highlight that violence against women largely stems from women's subordinate status in society (WHO, 2005).

6. Conclusion

This study reveals that unwanted sexual experiences, violence, sexual violence and date rape exist within young females (18-24 years old) relationships in Cyprus.

The research also strongly demonstrates that gender roles and patriarchal gender relations in Cyprus are a root cause of sexual assault and date rape. Young women feel unable to assert themselves and set limits in their relationships due to societal expectations of what is considered appropriate behaviour and associated myths that result in victim blaming and tolerance of male sexual aggression. Date rape, as other forms of gender-based violence, is also severely underreported due to lack of confidence in the relevant authorities, as well as all the reasons associated with gender such as victim blaming and stigmatization.

Resources related to date rape and violence against women more generally are very limited to non-existent. Most of these organizations work mainly within the framework of family violence which imposes limitations on their scope of action and fails to address the gender dimension of interpersonal violence. Related institutions need to be gender based oriented in order to fully tackle the root causes of violence and provide adequate support to victims. For example, in cases of date rape the relevant police department may use female police officers as for the victims to feel more comfortable. It is suggested that a liaison organization/committee coordinate all related activities on gender based violence and to strengthen the impact to the public and have more productive inter-institutional cooperation. Further, support services should exist for young people as to provide information, support as well as clinical services. These services (e.g. open door youth centres) should be easily accessible, affordable, confidential and/or anonymous.

The participants to the research highlighted a number of possible preventative measures of date rape that could be taken into account when designing a prevention and support framework. These include, prudent behaviour, good communication in relationships and the ability to establish limits, gender awareness and sensitivity, the breaking down of societal taboos and open dialogue among all relevant stakeholders, as well as sex education among adolescents and young adults

Overall, considering the sexual violence risk and date rape susceptibility factors a framework can be formed for the development of prevention policies aiming to reduce the risk of date rape and sexual assault among young women in Cyprus, and for the provision of adequate support services.

References

Abbey A. et al. (2003). Alcohol's effects on perceptions of a potential date rape. Journal of Studies on Alcohol. 64 (5):669-677

Association for Prevention and Handling of Domestic Violence, (2007). Cases among partners-2006 data. Presentation 6/5/2007

Australian Institute of Criminology (2000). www.aic.gov.au (accessed 1/12/2005)

Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies (2006). CEDAW Shadow Report 2006

Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies (2005). Equal opportunity policy in Cyprus

Claiborne L. Inc (2006). Teen relationships abuse survey. Illinois, USA: Teenage Research Unlimited, <http://loveisnotabuse.com> (accessed 10/3/07)

Council of Europe (2007). www.coe.int. Report on 22/1/2007 (accessed 30/3/2007) and Recommendation Rec (2002)5 on the protection of women against violence (accessed 5/10/2007).

Creswell J.W., (1994). Research design. Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches. London : Sage Publications

Cyprus Family Planning Association (2006). The SAFE report. IPPFEN

Cyprus Penal code for sexual abuse (Article 119 (1) of 2000), forced marriage (article 150), fraudulent marriage (Article 178 and Article 180), and polygamy (Article 179), marriage (law 21 of 1990), divorce (1990), abortion (169A).

The Equal Treatment of Men and Women in Employment and Vocational Training Law, 2002 (L. 205(I)/2002), The Equal Pay Between Men and Women for the Same Work or for Work of Equal Value Law, 2002 (L. 177(I)/2002), the Maternity Protection (Amendment) Law, 2002 (L. 64(I)/2002), the Parental Leave and Leave on Grounds of Force Majeure Law, 2002, (L. 69(I)/2002), and The Equal Treatment of Men and Women in Professional Social Insurance Schemes Law, 2002 (L. 133(I)/2002).

Cyprus Police (2007). www.police.gov.cy (accessed 1/4/2007)

Cyprus statistical Service (2005). Demographic data. Nicosia

Cyprus Statistical Service (2004). Demographic data. Nicosia

United Nations Secretariat (2006). In-depth study on all forms of violence against women. Report of Secretary-General. UN

Dunn P.C., Vail-Smith K. & Knight S.M. (1999). What date/acquaintance rape victims tell others: A study of college student recipients of disclosure. Journal of American College Health. 47: 213-219

Harris J. & Grace S., (1999). A Question of Evidence? Investigating and Prosecuting Rape in the 1990s. Home Office Research Study, London

Harned M.S., (2001). Abused women or men? An examination of the context and outcome of dating violence. Violence and Victims. 16: 269-285

<http://www.mjpo.gov.cy> (accessed 22/8/2006)

<http://www.pik.org.cy/english/index.htm> (accessed 22/8/2006)

http://www.researchsolutions.co.nz/sample_sizes.htm,

<http://www.surveysystem.com/sscalc.htm> (2003) (accessed 28/9/2006)

Hughes T. & Foster C., (1994). Communicating with the potential research subject, in Foster C. (ed.). Manual for Ethics Committees. 3rd edition. London: Center of medical law and ethics, Kings College, Section II, 11.23-11.25

Jasinski J.L. (2001) Theoretical Explanations for Violence Against Women, in Renzetti C., Bergen R.K. & Edleson J.L. (Eds.), in Sourcebook on Violence Against Women. UK : SAGE

Judd C.M., Smith E.R. & Kidder L.H., (1991). Research Methods in Social Relations. 6th edition. U.S.A : Harcourt Brace Javanovich College Publishers

Kanin (1957, 69, 77, 85) in Rickert 1998, Date rape among adolescents and young adults. Journal of Pediatric Adolescent and Gynecology. 11: 167-175.

Katz J., Carino A. & Hilton A., (2002). Perceived verbal conflict behaviors associated with physical aggression and sexual coercion in dating relationships: A gender-sensitive analysis. Violence and Victims. 17 (1): 93-109

Kouta C. (2003). Sexuality, sexual and reproductive health. An exploration of the knowledge attitudes and beliefs of Greek-Cypriot adolescents. Phd thesis, Middlesex University, UK

Kronz C.S., (2000). A 30 year old woman with possible unknown ingestion of date rape drugs. Journal of Emergency Nursing. 25 (6): 544-548

Kvinnotorum and Partners (2005). Manual-Honour related violence. Stockholm (EU funded project)

Lewis S.F. and Femouw W. (2001). Dating violence: A Critical review of the literature. Canadian Psychological Review. 21: 105-127

Martin P.Y. (2005). Rape work: Victims, Gender and Emotions in organization and community context . Routledge NY

Panayiotopoulos-Cassiotou M. (MEP). Report on violence against women. Daphne III. European Parliament. Strasburg, 5 /9/2006

Polit D.F. & Beck T.C., (2004). Nursing Research. Principles and Methods. 7th edition. USA : J.B. Lippincott Company

Polit D.F. & Hungler B. P., (1995). Nursing Research. Principles and Methods. 5th edition. USA : J.B. Lippincott Company

Reid N.G. & Boore J.R.P., (1987). Research Methods and Statistics in Health Care. London : Edward Arnold

Rickert V.I. Wiemann C.M. & Vaughan R.D. (2005). Disclosure of date rape/acquaintance rape: Who report and when. Journal of Pediatric and Adolescence Gynecology. 18: 17-24

Rickert VI, Wiemann CM, Vaughan RD, White JW. (2004). Rates and risk factors for sexual violence among an ethnically diverse sample of adolescents. Archives of Pediatric & Adolescent Medicine. 158:1132-1139.

Rickert V.I., Vaughan R.D. & Wienmann C.M. (2002). Adolescent dating violence and date rape. Obstetrics and Gynecology.14: 495-500

Rickert V.I. and Wiemann C.M. (1998). Date rape among adolescents and young adults. Journal of Pediatric Adolescence Gynecology. 11: 167-175

Russo, Laura, Date Rape: A Hidden Crime, Australian Institute of Criminology (June 2000).

Sarantacos S., (1993). Social Research. N.Y. : Mackmillan

UN General Assembly, (1993). Declaration on the elimination of violence against women.

Wellings K., Field J., Johnson A.M. & Wadsworth J., (1994). Sexual Behaviour in Britain. The National Survey of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles. UK : Penguin

WHO & PATH (2005). Researching violence against women. A practical guide for researchers and activists. Geneva: WHO

WHO, (2003). Guidelines for medico-legal care for victims of sexual violence. Geneva

World Health Organization (2002). World Report on Violence and Health. Geneva, Switzerland: WHO

Zeitler MS, Paine AD, Breitbart V, Rickert VI, Olson C, Stevens L, Rottenberg L, Davidson LL. (2006). Attitudes About Intimate Partner Violence Screening Among an Ethnically Diverse Sample of Young Women. Journal of Adolescent Health. 39:119.e1-119.e8.