

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



Women's Issues Information Centre

Jurgita Peciuriene

*Country Research Report
LITHUANIA*

Abstract

The Women's Issues Information Centre (NGO) takes part in a transnational study 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 and co-ordinated by the Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies, Cyprus.

Organizations from five European Union countries are participating in the project: Cyprus, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania and Malta. Project partners are: the Institute of Equality in Greece, Coalition for Gender Equality in Latvia, Women's Issues Information Center in Lithuania, the Institute of Forensic Studies University in Malta and project coordinator and leader is Mediterranean Institute for Gender Studies in Cyprus.

The main aim of the project is to investigate the incidence of date rape among female college students (aged 18-24) in partner countries and to assess the attitude, dating experiences, and level of awareness among beneficiaries and target groups among stakeholders and the female students. The project aims to promote awareness and make policy recommendations for prevention of date rape and support for victims.

This is a quantitative and qualitative study. 394 questionnaires were answered at universities and colleges, based in three major cities of Lithuania: Vilnius, Kaunas and Klaipeda. 2 Focus groups were carried out in Vilnius and 8 interviews of relevant institutional representatives were interviewed in Vilnius, Klaipeda and Kaunas.

The research project was approved and sponsored by the European Commission, Daphne programme.

Acknowledgements

The National Finding report could not have been completed without contribution of several people. Thanks are due to Dovile Rukaite, Jekaterina Chirkovskaja for the help in distributing questionnaires, and Laima Trofimoviene for the support. I am grateful to all female students that completed the questionnaires, to participants of the focus groups, as well as the representatives of interviewed institutions.

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1. Introduction

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 to 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 to young people and 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 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

In Lithuania there are no data specifically for date rape. There are only official statistics on reported rapes. According to the Lithuanian Statistical Department (<http://www.stat.gov.lt/lt/>, 1997-2002, viewed 25/05/2007), there are reported rape and sexual abuse cases since 1990. In 2004, 260 rape or attended rape cases were reported; in 2006, 107 cases were reported. Regarding sexual abuse, in 2004, 128 cases were reported and in 2006, 64 cases were reported.

Lithuania's legislation against rape was last revised on 05/07/2004. According to the opinion of law enforcement officials, legislation is adequate, but there is no confidence in law enforcement system, as well as courts system, therefore victims often do not apply. These are three articles from Criminal Code of the Republic of Lithuania describing: the punishment for rape, sexual abuse and forced sexual relations cases.

Article No.149- has to do with rape: Every person, who had sexual intercourse against someone's will, using physical violence or threatening to use it immediately, or by other means depriving that person from resisting violence, or by taking advantage of person's helpless condition, is liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding seven years.

Article No.150- is about sexual abuse: Every person, who satisfied sexual needs with person against it's will by performing anal, oral or other physical act, using physical violence or threatening to use it immediately, or by other means depriving that person from resisting violence, or by taking advantage of person's helpless condition, is liable to arrest or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding seven years.

Article No.151- is about forced sexual relations: Every person, who, by threatening to use physical violence or by using other psychical violence or person's dependence, forced that person to have sexual relations or satisfy sexual needs in other forms with himself or other person is liable to arrest or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years.

2.2 Country situational analysis

Lithuania is a country situated on the Baltic Sea shores with a population of 3384900. 1577000 of this number are males and the rest (53.4%) are females (<http://www.stat.gov.lt/lt/> accessed on the 4th of October, 2007). The national language of Lithuania is Lithuanian. Lithuanian is written with a Latin alphabet. Almost all the population is Roman Catholic.

Gender based violence in Lithuania

Violence against women is one of the main problems women face in Lithuania, as well as in Europe. Unfortunately, there is no statistical data how many women experience violence from their partner, or ex-partner. To fill the gap two surveys on violence against women were initiated by the Women's Issues Information Centre. First, the survey "Violence against Women" was conducted in 1997-1998 by dr. Giedre Purvaneckiene and financially supported by the UNDP and UNIFEM. Second research (including national survey, content analysis, focus group) was conducted in 2001-2002. By Public opinion and market research company Spinter and supported financially by UNIFEM.

Main findings of the victim survey "Violence against Women" were:

- * 63.3 % of Lithuanian women have been victims of male physical or sexual violence or threats after their 16th birthday.
- * 42.4 % of all married and cohabiting women have been victims of physical or sexual violence or threats of violence by their present partner.
- * 53% of all women who had lived in relationships which had already terminated experienced violence or threats by their ex-partners.
- * 11 % of Lithuanian women had at least once, after their 16th birthday, been victims of male physical or sexual violence or threats, perpetrated by a stranger, 8.2 % - by a friend, and 14.4 % by an acquaintance or relative.
- * 71.4 % of Lithuanian women after their 16th birthday have been victims of sexual harassment or sexually offensive behaviour by a stranger, and 43.8% by a known man.
- * 26.5 % of Lithuanian women after their 16th birthday had experienced sexual abuse by a stranger; 18.2 % by a known man; 17 % were attempted to coerce into sexual intercourse by their date.

* 10.6 % of the victims reported the most serious incident to the police (http://www.lygus.lt/ITC/files_smurtas/giedre1.doc accessed on the 4th of October, 2007).

Main findings of the survey on Violence against women were:

- * The vast majority (87%) of participants of research agree that violence against woman in the family does exist in our country.
- * Only 1/5 of women told that they have not experienced any of the actions mentioned above.
- * 17 percent of respondents have pointed that sometimes/ often they are forced to have sexual intercourse against their will.
- * More than a half of respondents (57 percent) did not know any forms of help for women who have experienced violence.

Domestic violence in Lithuania is considered as a private interest (private prosecution) and that is the biggest problem regarding legal situation. There is no specific legislation against domestic violence. There are separate attitudes towards violence against mother, father, own child and a pregnant woman (not necessarily – wife).

Positive step forward is that Government approved the Strategy to combat violence against women and Action plan for 2007-2009 and it is under implementation since 1997.

Shelters and crisis centers operate in Lithuania for women victims of violence, ran by NGOs. They also take care about women victims of rape. The oldest shelter for battered women – Pension for Mother and Child is established by World Bank and fully supported by Vilnius Municipality. Municipality-run shelter in Vilnius has 24-hours phone-service.

3. Methodology

3.1 Study Design

This research study applied both quantitative and qualitative methodologies. Using triangulation was thought as 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 students 18-24 years old. Number of female students 18-24 years old is 30000. Sample size is 394 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:

$$\text{Margin} = 1.96 \sqrt{\frac{(100-50)(50)}{(394)(30000-1)} \times (30000-394)}$$

$$\text{Margin} = 1.96 \sqrt{\frac{(50)(50)}{(394)(29999)} \times (29606)}$$

$$\text{Margin} = 1.96 \sqrt{\frac{2500}{11819606} \times (29606)}$$

$$\text{Margin} = 1.96 \sqrt{\frac{74015000}{11819606}}$$

$$\text{Margin} = 1.96 \sqrt{6.2620}$$

$$\text{Margin} = 1.96 (2.50)$$

$$\text{Margin} = 4.9 \%$$

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

3.3 Ethical issues.

Although we went to classrooms and students' hostels with the questionnaires and explained the instructions before distributing them to the students, who voluntarily agreed to participate in research, once they placed answered questionnaires into one big envelope, we had no manner of finding out who the respondent was. Therefore, this technique enabled the respondents to remain anonymous (Harris 1998:50). In the questionnaire was provided telephone number of the psychologist who was prepared to provide help if needed. Moreover, the students who participated in the focus groups were asked to sign a consent form before the commencement of discussion and data collection

3.4 Pilot study.

A pilot study consisting of 6 female universities 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.

3.5 Data collection.

Questionnaires were distributed at colleges and universities, based in Vilnius, Kaunas and Klaipeda, three major cities of Lithuania.

2 Focus groups took place in Vilnius.

8 institutions were interviewed, based in Vilnius, Klaipeda and Kaunas.

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. Rates and risk factors for sexual violence among an ethnically diverse sample of adolescents. *Archives of Pediatric & Adolescent Medicine* 2004;158:1132-1139.

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

Most of the questions were used in their original form, some were modified. Since limited research exists for date rape issues in Cyprus, it was thought as appropriate to use a questionnaire from another country, more experienced in research. After reviewing several questionnaires, the above questionnaires were thought to be meeting the needs of this study. Therefore, the researcher communicated with the researcher where these were used and got his permission for its use.

In Lithuanian questionnaire to Lithuanian situation were adapted and changed some possible versions of answers to three following questions:

3. What is your nationality?

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| (1) Lithuanian | (4) Belarussian |
| (2) Polish | (5) Jewish |

(3) Russian (6) Other-----

8. What is the highest level of education of your father?

(1) Primary school	(5) Higher non-university
(2) Basic school	(6) College/University
(3) Secondary School	(7) Has not gone to school
(4) Professional school	

9. Religion

(1) Catholic	(4) Jew
(2) Orthodox	(5) Non-believer
(3) Lutheran	(6) Other-----

The questionnaire consisted of three parts: The first one included demographic data, the second part included questions about dating relations; and violence in dating, and the third part included questions about unwanted sexual experiences in relation to dating. All questions were close-ended, except the last one that was an open question as to write anything they wanted to say regarding date rape or violence in dating relations. The questionnaire took about 15-20 minutes to complete. The questionnaire was translated in Lithuanian language by researcher in order to ensure the use of the appropriate words. The translation was edited by Lithuanian language specialist.

Regarding the *focus groups*, a discussion guide was developed based on literature (Zeitler et al., 2006; Kvinnoforum and Partners, 2005 EU project; Rickert et al., 2004) as to help the interviewer to ask and interviewee to respond to questions specific to the aim of the study. The focus group discussion guide consisted of 3 parts: Introduction (e.g. definition of date, 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).

Focus group was one of the methods of the research. Two focus group discussions of 100 minutes each carried out.

Although the researcher was aiming to have 6-8 participants in each group, at the end 5 students participate in one focus group and 8 in the second focus group.

Participants were invited from different universities and colleges. 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. It was difficult to predict how many respondents will come to the focus group.

First focus group took place on 29th of March, 2007 in Vilnius, Lithuania. 5 respondents participated in it. Second focus group took place on 8th of April, 2007 in Vilnius, Lithuania. 8 respondents participated in it.

Discussions were moderated by the researcher of this study and were tape recorded. Moderator controlled emotions among participants and atmosphere in a group. Everyone was informed that she can leave the room any moment and that psychologist is available.

Regarding the *institutional interviews*, a semi-structured interview guide was used. The guide consisted of 3 parts: Demographic data of institution including policies on date rape; Support services; Prevention, better practice and cooperation with other organizations.

8 organizations were interviewed in June- July, 2007. 5 non-governmental and 2 governmental institutions and 1 municipal institution were interviewed. Non-governmental organizations – Kaunas district Women's Crisis Center, Klaipeda Social and Psychological Service Center, Save the Children and Child House (last 2 organizations working with children). Representatives of Ministry of Social Security and Ministry of Interior were interviewed as representing opinion of governmental institutions. Director of Vilnius Pension of Mother and Child was interviewed as representing municipal institution.

4. Findings

4.1. Quantitative results – questionnaire

Section 1 – Demographic data.

Section 1 provides some demographic characteristics of the participants in the quantitative research. 394 students between 18 and 24 years of age are studying at Universities or Colleges participated. The majority (72,6%) of them were 20 – 22 years of age. Only 1% respondents have chosen not to reveal their age.

The study includes a random geographic spread with participants covering the rural and urban regions. Majority of the interviewed female students were from the urban area (91,4%). Main respondents were Lithuanians – 84%, Polish – 7,1%, Russians – 6,1%, other nationalities (Belarus, Jewish) comprise only 2%. Lithuania's ethnical consist according to the Department of Statistics in 2007: Lithuanians comprise 84%, Polish – 6.4%, Russians – 5.2%, Belarus – 1.2%.

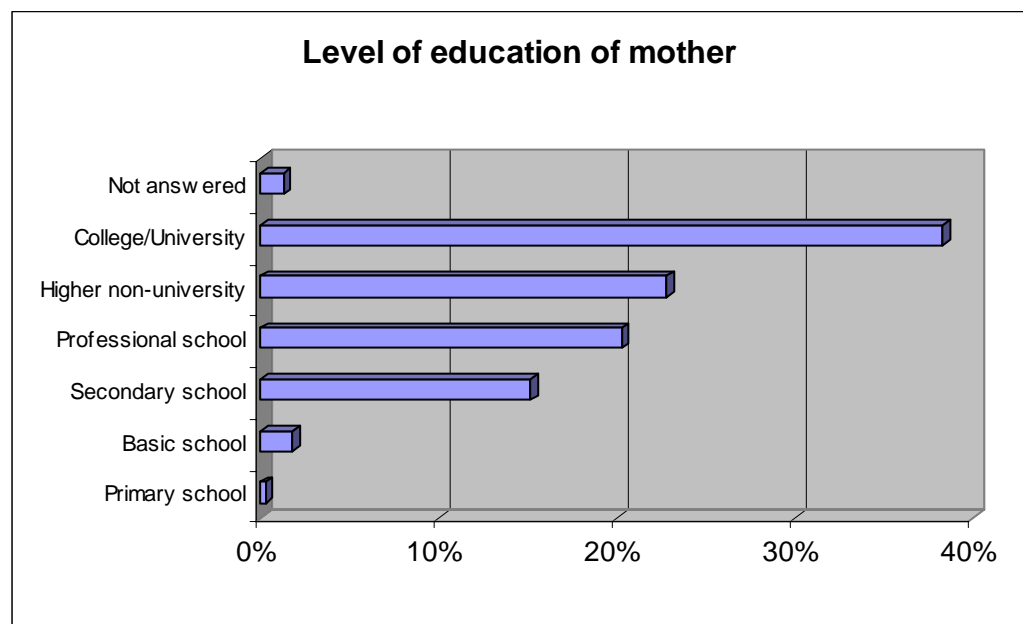
The questionnaire probes into the major of the studies undertaken by the respondents. Majority of respondents were studying law (28.9%), social sciences (19.8%), health (14.5%), business (11.4%) or education.

Although majority of students have never been married (82,5%) but at this young age cohabit – 9,4%. married – 3,8%, separated – 1,3%, engaged – 1,3% and 1,8% of respondents did not respond.

University students usually from 3rd or 4th year participate in labour market. Majority of respondents (75,4%) were working. Majority of currently employed are of age 20-22 and it is common for students of 4th-6th year to work.

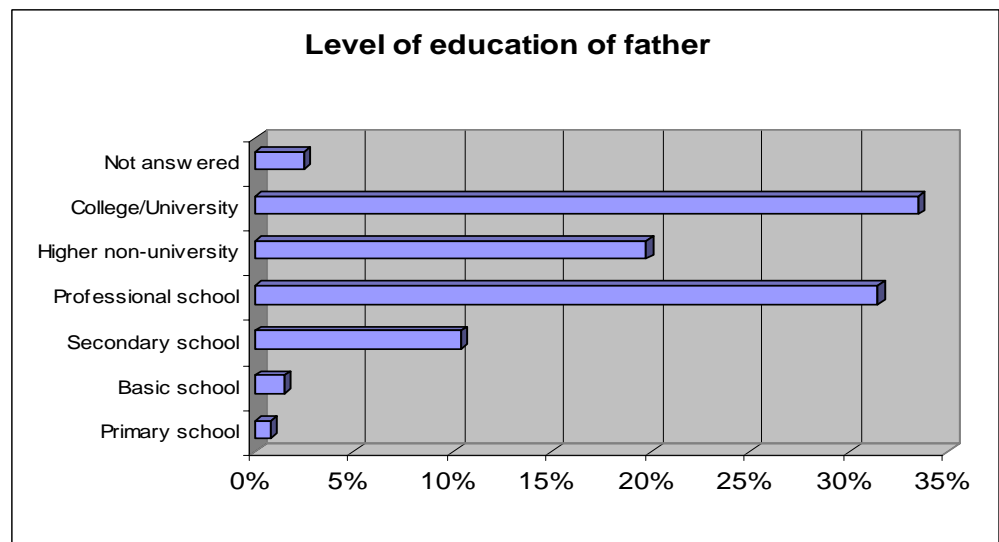
The respondents were asked about their parents' level of education. Majority of mothers have university, or higher non-university education (Figure 1 and Figure 2).

Figure 1. What is the highest level of education of your mother?



Respondents’ fathers have lower education comparing to mothers education. Majority of fathers have university/college diploma, professional school or higher non-university education, while mothers (and higher amount of them) have university/college diploma, more fathers than mothers have professional school education, and contrary, more mothers have higher non-university education comparing with fathers.

Figure 2. What is the highest level of education of your father?



Majority of interviewed students reported to be Catholic - 87,6%, while some reported to have other religions, such as Orthodox (5,1%), Lutheran, Jew, and 3,6% pointed that they are non-believers. Lithuania's ethnical consist according to the Department of Statistics in 2001: Catholics comprised 79%, Orthodox - 4,1%, Others - 2,2% of all believers. Although majority (70%) reported attending church, but only answered that they do go to church, but only 27,2% of them reported attending the church at least 1-2 times in a month.

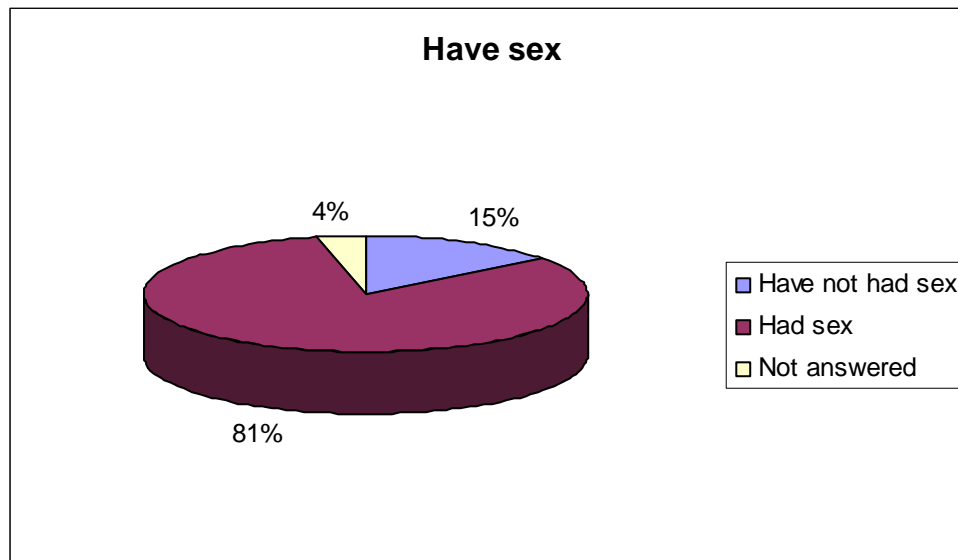
Most of interviewed female students have current partner - 61,2% that they know for 2 years (10,4%), or 3-4 years (13,9%) or 1 year (6,6%), of average age as theirs: 20 -23 years old (52%). Majority of interviewees (64,6%) reported that they are considering current relationship as a serious one (64,6%) and their partner considered as their exclusive sexual partner (91,7%).

Section 2 – Dating relationships

Section 2 describes dating relationships and defines a date as a planned romantic or social activity with another person. Examples of these activities may include going out to lunch, to the movies, out for a ride, to the beach or getting together at a friend's house. It could be an activity to get to know someone better, or it could also mean hanging out with someone a person is already 'going out with'. When a date takes place, there could be romantic / sexual interest from either or both partners.

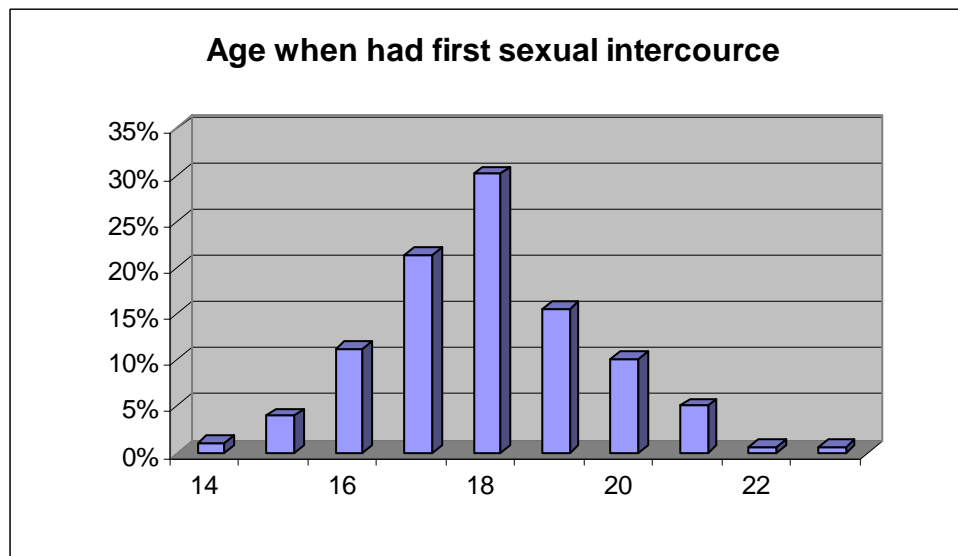
Most of interviewed female students (93,1%) Indicated that they have started dating or had any relationship Majority of respondents (28,4%) started dating being 16 years old, 16,4% started dating being 14 years old, 15,5% started dating being 15 years old, others - older than 16 years. The following Figure 3 presents the response regarding sexual intercourse.

Figure 3. Experience of sexual intercourse



The study suggests that the first intercourse happens from the age of 14 and increases substantially among women in the 17 to 18 age bracket. Only 0,7% of respondents had their first intercourse when they were 22 and the same amount had first intercourse when they were 23 years of age. Majority (30,1%) have had first sexual intercourse at age of 18 years (Figure 4).

Figure 4. At what age did you first have sexual intercourse?



Vast majority of respondents (84,6%) considered themselves as heterosexual, 2% as bisexual, 0,3% as homosexual, 3,7% were not sure about their sexual orientation. Interestingly, 9.4% gave no reply.

Even 23,9% did not answer to the question "Since you started dating how many different people have you dated". Majority mentioned that they have dated only one partner – 29,1%, two partners- 17,4%, three partners – 11,7%.

More than half of them (55,6%) reported dating only 1 person for the last the 12 months prior to the study, 14,7% dated 2-3 persons and 16,2% did not answer to the question regarding number of partners within last 12 months.

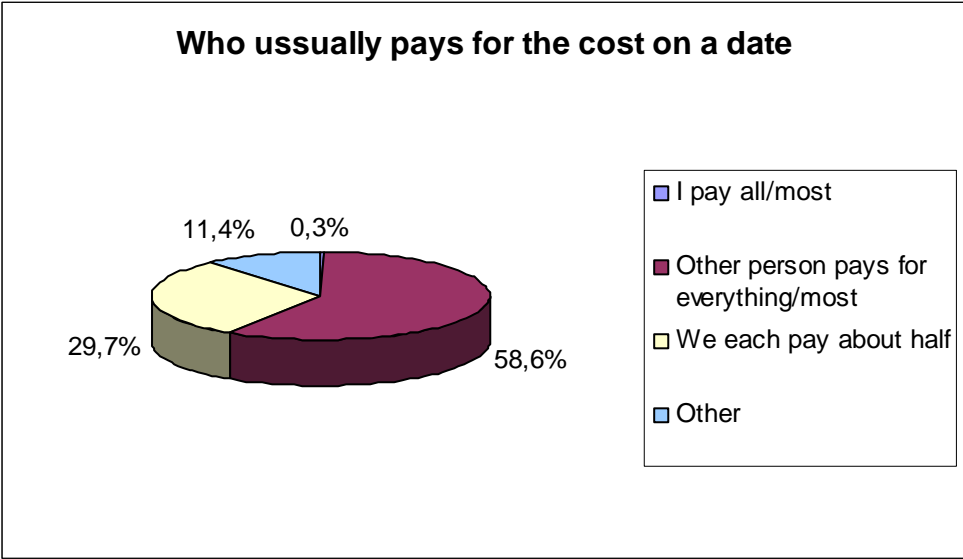
The table and charts that follow more deeply analyse the activities that go on during a date and the attitudes of both partners. The data suggests that the trend for a romantic evening between 2 young people varies substantially; however, the majority seem to prefer the club, pub, a restaurant or the movies, as well as one's or date's apartments (Table 1).

Table 1. Which, if any, of the following happened with your date/s since you finished high school?

	No	Yes
1. My date and I went to a friend's house where we could be alone	29,4%	70,6%
2. Went to a friend's house with a group	12,5%	87,5%
3. Went to my/my date's house or apartment to be alone	10,6%	89,4%
4. Went to my/my date's house or apartment with a group	23,9%	76,1%
5. Went to the park to be alone	17,4%	82,6%
6. Were to the park with a group	39,1%	60,9%
7. Were at a club, pub	3,4%	96,6%
8. Went to the movies, restaurants	8,2%	91,8%
9. Other	19%	81%

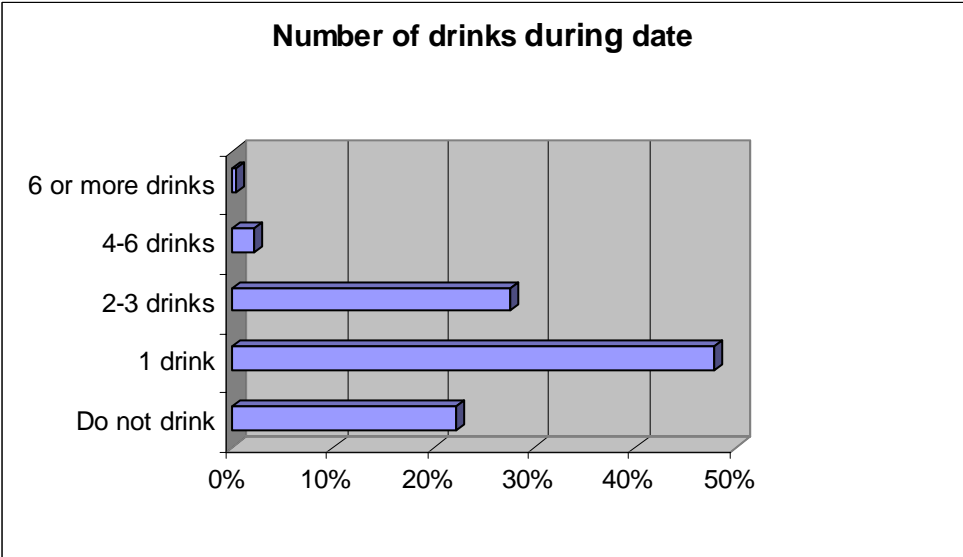
58,6% students answered that usually other person pays for everything or the bigger part, almost one third answered that they share the costs during date (Figure 5).

Figure 5. Who usually pays for the costs on a date?



Majority (47.8%) have one drink during date, comparably similar amount of respondents (27.6%) answered that they have 2-3 drinks or do not drink during date (22.3%).

Figure 6. How many alcoholic drinks do you have when you go out on a date?



Vast majority of the respondents (97,7%) do not take drugs during date, and 0,9% of the respondents reported that they take dugs on a date.

The data provided bellow in Table 2 suggests that kissing, touching the genital area and sex are a common occurrence during a date and well over half the

participants contend that they accommodate to such behavior 'willingly'. Data from those who answered to the question is provided in the table below.

Table 2. Sexual behavior during a date/s since you have finished high school.

Sexual behavior	Did not happen	I did this willingly	My date TRIED to against my wishes	My date DID this anyway against my wishes
1. Kissed	1,6%	97,8%	0,0%	0,6%
2. Touched/kissed breasts	24,1%	70,4%	5,1%	0,3%
3. Touched buttocks under your clothes	16,8%	77,2%	5,3%	0,7%
4. Touched genitals under your clothes	42,9%	50,7%	5,7%	0,7%
5. Had oral sex	64,7%	33,2%	2,1%	0,0%
6. Had sexual intercourse	31,7%	66,6%	1,4%	0,3%

1,4% (n=4) of the participants reported an attempted date rape by their date, 2,1% (n=6) reported an attempted oral sex and 0,3% (n=1) reported date rape.

In view of women's accommodating attitude towards their date, to the questions on how do their partners treat them 13,2% mentioned, that date partner act extremely jealous, other behavior happens either seldom or never. Half of respondents sometimes suffer from being criticized and 40% experienced decisions made for them.

Table 3. Since you have finished high school your date/s:

Your date did	Never (%)	Seldom (%)	Often (%)	Always (%)
1. Ignore you/did not pay any attention to you	91,4%	8,3%	0,0%	0,3%
2. Ignore your feelings	79,4%	20,6%	0,0%	0,0%
3. Criticize you	48,2%	50,0%	1,5%	0,3%
4. Ridicule your ideas	83,1%	16,6%	0,3%	0,0%
5. Shout at you	85,5%	12,3%	2,2%	0,0%

6. Call you names/insulted you	94,5%	5,2%	0,3%	0,0%
7. Insult your family/friends?	92,0%	7,4%	0,6%	0,0%
8. Humiliate you in private or public	97,2%	2,8%	0,0%	0,0%
9. Make decisions for you	57,8%	40,0%	1,8%	0,3%
10. Act extremely jealous	43,4%	40,9%	13,2%	2,5%
11. Persistently insist to know where you were	50,8%	40,9%	6,2%	2,2%
12. Try to restrict you from seeing your friends/family	82,2%	15,0%	2,1%	0,6%
13. Push or shove you violently	98,2%	1,5%	0,3%	0,0%
14. Hold you to keep you from leaving	91,1%	7,7%	1,2%	0,0%
15. Slap or hit you	99,1%	0,9%	0,0%	0,0%
16. Punch you	92,6%	0,3%	0,0%	0,0%
17. Put his arms around your neck to choke you	98,5%	1,5%	0,0%	0,0%
18. Throw objects at you	99,1%	0,6%	0,3%	0,0%
19. Threaten to hurt you	98,2%	1,5%	0,3%	0,0%
20. Subject you to reckless driving	73,6%	23,0%	2,1%	1,2%
21. Threaten to hurt you with a weapon/object	99,4%	0,6%	0,0%	0,0%

Section 3 - Unwanted sexual experiences with a date

An unwanted sexual experience is when a date tries to make it clear, either verbally or non verbally, that she does not want to indulge in sexual activity but is coerced to do it anyway. The unwanted sexual experience could have been anything from making a woman kiss her date to forcing her to have sexual intercourse.

The question that follows asks respondents whether they were forced to give in to sexual activity but not intercourse. Table 4 suggests that majority of respondents were never forced into unwanted sexual behaviour.

Table 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?

Reason			Did it happen on a date?		How often?		
Yes			Yes	No	Never	Sometimes	Always
No							
1. You were overwhelmed by a person's continual arguments and pressure	10,5%	66,4%	9,1%	24,2%	29,3%	12,5%	0%
2. A person threatened or used some degree of physical force (twisting your arm, holding you down, etc.) to make you	2,3%	74,9%	1,4%	21,9%	33,3%	2,3%	0%
3. A person forced you by giving you alcohol or drugs	1,4%	74,9%	1,1%	22,8%	33,9%	1,1%	0%
4. You were afraid to say no	3,7%	72,6%	2,8%	21,1%	32,8%	3,1%	0,3%
5. You were afraid that if you didn't consent would leave you (break up with you)	3,7%	73,2%	2,3%	20,2%	31,9%	3,4%	0%
6. A person used his position of authority (boss, teacher, camp counselor, supervisor) to force you	0,6%	76,4%	0,6%	21,1%	33,6%	0,6%	0%
7. For any other reason	1,1%	21,7%	0,9%	6,8%	11,4%	0,9%	0,3%

The following question asks specifically about unwanted sexual intercourse and other sexual acts. 20.5 % (n=17) on the date were overwhelmed by a person's continual arguments and pressure, and 8.3% (n=6) were afraid to say no. Low percentage of respondents experiences violent or forced relations.

Table 5. Reasons for unwanted sexual intercourse with a date

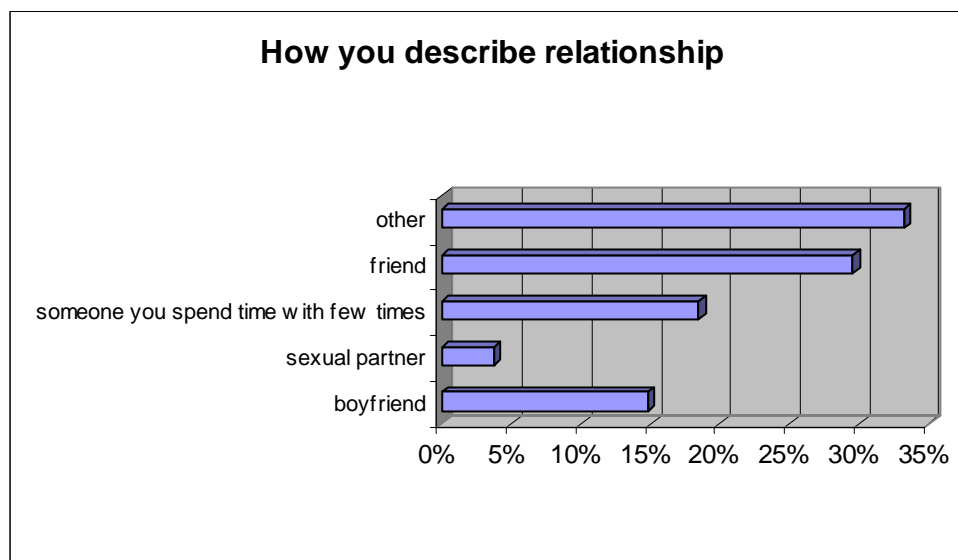
Reason			Did it happen on a date?		How often?		
No			Yes	No	Never Always	Sometimes	
1. You were overwhelmed by a person's continual arguments and pressure	11,8%	88,2%	20,5%	79,5%	75,9%	23,2%	0,9%
2. A person threatened or used some degree of physical force (twisting your arm, holding you down, etc.) to make you	2,4%	97,6%	2,9%	97,1%	96,1%	3,9%	0,0%
3. A person forced you by giving you alcohol or drugs	2,4%	97,6%	4,3%	95,7%	97,1%	2,9%	0,0%
4. You were afraid to say no	4,7%	95,3%	8,3%	91,7%	91,4%	6,7%	1,9%
5. You were afraid that if you didn't consent would leave you (break up with you)	4,0%	96,0%	4,3%	95,7%	94,3%	3,8%	1,9%
6. A person used his position of authority (boss, teacher, camp counselor, supervisor) to force you	0,8%	99,2%	2,9%	97,1%	98,0%	2,0%	0,0%
7. For any other reason	1,9%	98,1%	0,0%	100,0 %	81,8%	18,2%	0,0%

8,3% (n=29) out of all respondents reported having an unwanted sexual experience, and even 13,7% (n=48) did not gave the answer about unwanted sexual experience.

The date with whom the women in the study had experienced unwanted sexual intercourse was mainly know between a few weeks and a few months: 17,9% knew the person only few days, 10,7% knew this person already for a few weeks, 21,4% knew the person a few months, and even 39,3% knew this person long before.10,7% of the respondents did not know the person before.

48,1% of the women who experienced unwanted sexual experience described their dates as friends, 14,8% as a boyfriend and 3,7% as sexual partners, 18,5% as someone with whom spent time a few times (Figure 7).

Figure 7. How would you describe your relationship with this person?



The setting for unwanted sexual intercourse seems to be a single date 'just me and him' in 55,6% of the cases. 29,6% mentioned that it was group of friends who got together.

24% of the cases where unwanted sexual intercourse took place seem to happen in an apartment or house, 16% in a party and the same amount on a beach.

More than half of the respondents (53,6%) reported that the person forced them to have an unwanted sexual experience was drinking, and 3,8% having drugs.

57% (n=17) of the women who have experienced an unwanted sexual experience have told about the unwanted sexual experience to someone and 41% (n=12) have not told anyone. Majority (88,2%) have told to a friend, small number (5,9%) have told to police or to someone else (5,9%), No one told to parents or

family members, therapist or priest. Only 8% of participants seek for professional help. Most of participants (42,9%) have told someone after 6 months or more time, 14,3% after a month, 9,5% after 1 week and 9,5% after 1 day. Vast majority (92%) never asked for professional help.

Qualitative question

At the end of the questionnaire an open question to participants was placed if they want to add anything else related to date rape.

54 participants indicated that they have not experienced and hope not to experience violence from date partner, or partner and 42 respondents answered to the last open question, their comments are summarized bellow.

Eight students mentioned that they are happy, because they never experienced violent behavior. Five of them said that they would never let it happen to them.

Another group of respondents commented that they have not experienced violence and reasons were their own personal behaviour. They stated that if you do not allow anyone to behave with you the way you do not like, then nothing happens. "Each woman should know her importance and should not allow anyone to humiliate herself. If she has doubts about a date – it is better not to go". "A woman does not have to humiliate herself and suffer". "Women should not be naïve and believe to everything what is told them".

One respondent mentioned that it is inhuman that such cases of violence still exist. Another said that such accidents are despicable.

Eight responses were that women have to respect themselves and should not let anyone humiliate them, and that they should not trust every word that is said by men who are barely known. Several respondents mentioned that women should not be silent if they experience violence; they have to speak openly and warn others. "They do not have to humiliate themselves and they must respect themselves."

Eleven students indicated precautions, which young women should take going to a date. Mainly (nine comments) the following advises were provided – to go to

the date with a barely known man only to such places where other people are around, not to go to remote places, not to go with him in his car. One respondent suggested that women should have gas or pepper spray container for self-defense.

One respondent said that she does not approve blind dates. Another respondent mentioned that if you sense at least a hint of aggression – it is better to break the relations with that man.

Ten respondents mentioned several possible causes of violence: for example, two respondents said that a woman might provoke violence by wearing a short skirt or by inappropriate behavior. One respondent said that young women themselves affect men's behavior; they want to tempt a man and show him that they want him and because of that they get hurt. Another respondent said that usually young women experience psychological violence and pressure and therefore they agree to do things that they were not planning to do. It was mentioned by another respondent that violence is the result of alcohol and drugs.

Seven respondents told about their experience of unwanted petting during a date. One of them has experienced pressure, forceful touching and harassment. The respondent commented that it happened because she had drunk alcohol and needed some time to understand that she did not want that. She further reported that she managed to "persuade herself" to accept such behavior because of the pressure.

Another respondent mentioned that on one occasion she got scared, but managed to talk her way out of the situation and nothing happened. Another respondent reported that she experienced unwanted touching and presently she is happy because she has finally split up with that partner. One respondent experienced unwanted behavior from a teacher after her classes at school. Another respondent had a car accident because her date was drunk.

One respondent mentioned that it is a pity that in this questionnaire she was not asked about unwanted sexual experience that happened not during a date. Another respondent wrote that she does not want to tell what happened to her.

4.2. Qualitative results – focus groups discussions

Two focus groups were conducted among students who were picked at random and invited to participate in the study. Participants in both focus groups described date rape as unwanted sexual experience. All agreed that any type of sexual contact without consent is a form of violence. The following data draw on the discussions with the women:

FIRST Focus GROUP

Average age 19-21 years

Participants of the focus groups described "date" as a meeting of a woman and a man who are not necessarily having an affair or are in love. As regards timing, "it happens not necessarily in the evening, it could happen in the middle of the day or in the middle of the night". It was said "it could be a double date - when 2 boys and 2 girls are meeting and spending time together. It could happen in the beginning of relations, when you don't know a person well enough to meet alone".

"Date rape" was described as unwanted forced sexual relations with a date partner. In the opinion of the focus group participants the date rape could happen with a new date – a partner, whom you do not know well.

Most popular places to go for a date are: home, cinema, cafe, park, and open air. Younger people meet at home because they usually do not have money to go out.

Initiators of a date are both young men and young women, "but girls have more braveness." It was claimed that "girls are not passive", but still some admitted that "girls wish that guys take an initiative for the date".

Some focus group participants told that they were dating two young males "for fun or to check if the relations are real". Some mentioned that they had sex with another young male while being in a relationship.

Use of alcohol during a date is very common. One glass (of wine, cocktail, or cider) is considered enough by young women, and possibly more –could be consumed during a party. Sexual relations are not common on a first date.

Pressure for sex during a date is more popular among younger people, as young males "have a goal to score for having sex". Young women who have some experience interpret touching as a "must run away"_signal. This is accepted and implied as a sign that a young male wants more. Girl could allow continuing only if she experiences "some special connection with a person".

A participant talked about two attempts of date rape that she knew from acquaintances: "they knew each other for 1.5 years and then it happened. He took her to a forest, she hardly escaped". In the other case, two girls stayed with two young males after a party and had to lie to them to escape.

Focus group participants said that they never go to a young male's home; it is much safer to meet in open air. One said "also I would think twice to go camping even with a company if we have to stay over night". Students mentioned that "if your relations just started and you do not know the person well – it is much safer to meet in a public place and not late in the evening. Before the date it is good to let him know how much time you can stay and till what time you are available. If you do not feel happy about how the date goes, you can leave at the time earlier agreed, and if you are having a good time and like the person, you can postpone your plans and stay together longer".

Some girls were very brave and went to a date with people from Internet chats. They knew some girls who met their fiancés on the Internet. Interviewees were sceptical about relations over the Internet because there is always a risk of how many men could come to a date. Internet relations are not so open, not sincere and more imaginary than real.

Participants said that aggression could be provoked by appearance, clothes, sexy shoes and too much attention to a young male. It is very common for adolescent girls. When a girl acts like this, it is very hard to say that she really does not want to have sex. Participants claimed that in many cases "boys can not believe that girls could refuse or do not want to have sex". Young males are also afraid to be rejected. They even do not understand if young females warn that they are going to slap them. A girl interviewed claimed: "if he continues to be rude, I slap him". Focus group participants mentioned that if a girl says NO, she has to leave. If she stays after saying NO, she will be misunderstood.

Who is guilty or to be blamed in cases of date rape? Most said that girls are blamed too often without a reason. Also it was said that girls to be blamed because they dress inappropriately or too sexy, use too much make up, wear too short skirts. Moreover, it was suggested that girls should be blamed for having no experience of recognizing with whom it is safe to go.

While speaking about other dangerous circumstances, it was mentioned that the danger of rape or of sexual violence is higher in places where alcohol and drugs are used – parties, for example. A bad habit to drink much alcohol starts in adolescence when there is nothing to do except drinking, as some of the interviewed girls claimed. It is also dangerous to go alone in one car with a young male.

Participants agreed that problems of date rape or rape do exist but it is not much spoken about. Most of the victims would turn for help to their friends or relatives and parents. Most are very sceptical of the police or other officials who would do just technical job. Some participants compared undergoing the official procedure to experiencing rape for the second time. They think that state agents would not give any support. One interviewee said she had no idea where she could find help. Some mentioned that they are very sceptical of psychological help and would turn to it much later.

Participants pointed out the need to start education in schools while answering a question how to solve the date rape problem. It was said that “we have to start talking and explaining what are the real dangers and how to recognize dangerous behaviour already at school age – starting from 13 years old”, and “we have to teach girls how to say NO, how to dress, how to act”. Participants mentioned that there were some lessons about sexual health in school but not about violence or rape.

In the end of the session girls were asked to say something that was not asked about but is important to them. All confirmed that they expect to meet a person for closer and nicer relations and love.

SECOND Focus GROUP

Average age 22-24 years

“Date” is described as a meeting of a woman and a man with an intention to continue deeper relations in the future. Most popular places to spend time on a

date: AKROPOLIS shopping and leisure center, open air (bicycling, sports), cinema, and cafés. Date rape was described as the highest level of physical and spiritual violation against human will.

If someone intends to get to know a person, they prefer to meet alone; if the purpose is to have a good time, people go out in a group. Usually girls go to the first date with more people or together with a friend who finds the meeting place most convenient.

Girls admit that in the younger age they felt less self-confident and gave more attention to their looks and appearance, not to their behaviour. Today they act more secure.

It is considered to be normal if initiators and inviters to the date are both young females and males. Young males usually say that today we have "equal opportunities" and do not show initiative first. They are also afraid to be rejected. Girls stressed that they always pay their part of a bill during the date.

Alcohol is very popular during dates. It could be beer, cider, or wine. Girls said they try to drink less to avoid "loosing their mind".

There were 2 cases of violence during dates mentioned. One girl was robbed – her mobile phone was taken. Another girl had her head injured and was raped during Midsummer's night party. It took a long time for her to recover; she even tried to commit suicide.

It is also common to experience active sexual harassment from unknown persons in public, including the public transportation. Using of physical power is more common in rural areas, in cars, and among younger persons.

Younger girls are afraid to say NO because of general pressure a girl experiences when all her girlfriends have boyfriends and she is lonely and wants to have a boyfriend too.

Interviewees mentioned that they are very careful considering a suggestion to go with young males in a car, or to apartments. If they decide to go by car, as means of prevention they pretend to give the car number to their parents by sending an SMS.

Interviewees confirmed that education on how to act during a date is very important and needed. It is especially so, as far as violent actions during a date are concerned. Since childhood and first grades at school, children have to be taught how to avoid strangers with aggressive sexual behaviour. It has to be clear what does it mean to act appropriately – one girl just recently realized what her father's words "to act in an appropriate way " meant.

Girls were of different opinions on question whether a girl can provoke aggressive sexual behaviour herself. One said that it is possible to provoke anything anywhere and by any means. The rest said that violence and rape can not be provoked.

Some of the interviewees once tried to meet in person people whom they have met over the Internet but will not do it again. One girl accompanied her friend on a date with a young male met over the Internet. Also one case of marriage was mentioned – the couple met through an add in the newspaper.

In the end of the session girls were asked to say something that was not asked about but is important to them. Girls said that they are well educated, know about possible dangers of aggressive sexual behaviour and try to avoid it.

4.3. Qualitative results – institutions interviews

Eight organizations were interviewed in June and July, 2007. Four of them were non-governmental organizations, three governmental institutions and one municipal institution. The non-governmental organizations were: Kaunas district Women's Crisis Center, Klaipeda Social and Psychological Service Center, Save the Children and Child House (last 2 organizations work with children). Representatives of the Ministry of Social Security and the Ministry of Interior and Police Department were interviewed as demonstrating the opinion of governmental institutions. Ministry of Interior was interviewed, because Police Department provided very limited information. Director of Vilnius Pension of Mother and Child was interviewed as representing municipal institution.

Interviews with the representatives of the governmental organizations

Since 1997, the **Ministry of Social Security and Labour** (MSSL) has been working on issues of sexuality, dating experience, date rape and gender. However, institution's main spheres of activities are employment and social affairs. MSSL does not have any specific guidelines or policies dealing with date rape. They do not have a specific date rape definition and use the definition of violence against women. The Ministry of Social Security and Labour annually supports project activities, providing support and assistance to women and children, who were victims of violence.

MSSL offers financial support to organizations that implement different project activities.

In its work, the Ministry faces organizational problems, because only one person or only one institution is not enough to work on these issues due to the their complexity. MSSL works with preventative measures against the occurrence of unwanted sexual relations/date rape within the national strategy on combating violence against women by supporting and participating in awareness raising campaigns and trainings in line with Council of Europe campaigns on combating violence. They did not provide a successful example.

The MSSL mentioned the Women's Issues Information Center and Child House as institutions, successfully working on relevant issues.

The initiatives related to gender form a large part of all activities mentioned (i.e. seminars, research, political activities), involving different aspects of violence and gender issues.

MSSL cooperates with women organizations, gender studies centers, other governmental institutions by organizing and participating in joint activities, etc. Moreover, the Ministry is willing to cooperate with a number of other organizations.

The Ministry of Social Security and Labour is planning other activities, projects within the framework of national strategy on combating violence against women. The work done and the ongoing activities are positively evaluated on the international level.

A representative of the **Ministry of the Interior** (MoI) was also interviewed as representing governmental institutions. There are around 250 people working in the MoI, however, because of the nature of work at MoI, none of them is specifically working on issues related to dating experiences, date rape, and issues mentioned above, related to gender. The Police Department under the MoI is authorized to deal with these issues, particularly – the division of Preventive Activities (consisting of 7 people). MoI has been working with the issues of sexuality, dating experiences, date rape, and gender as long as it existed, but it does not have specific guidelines/policies in dealing with date rape and does not have a definition of date rape. The main activities of this organization are: public security, migration, regional policy, prevention activities. MoI's work does not support activities related to girls/women, that have experienced or might experience date rape, but the Police Department under the MoI does.

MoI offers Legal, Psychological and Health services (forensic expertise).

The Ministry of Interior does not work with preventative measures against the occurrence of unwanted sexual experience/date rape.

The representative of the Ministry of Interior thinks that the main responsibility for fighting against unwanted sexual experiences/date rape should have the Ministry of Education and Science, providing adequate educational programmes in secondary schools promoting gender equality and educating children and teenagers to respect law, also the Ministry of Social Security and Labour and the Ministry of the Interior, Police Department under the MoI should be responsible for fighting against unwanted sexual experiences/date rape.

Interview of the municipal institution

Vilnius Pension of Mother and Child (VPMC) is funded by the municipality of Vilnius. There are 18 social workers, who are working on issues related to dating experiences, date rape, and gender. The Pension has been working with the issues of sexuality for nine years. The main activities of the organization are: social services, crisis prevalence, temporary shelter, consulting, informing, and intermediation.

The date rape is seen as a violation of human rights and one of the forms of violence against human. The Pension does not have a specific definition of date rape.

VPMC work is connected with support of girls/women, who had experienced or might experience date rape and offers financial, legal, psychological, health services (e.g. clinical services) and shelter support.

The main problems that the Pension encounters in its work to support girls and women are: negative prejudice of the police workers towards the victim, negative society's attitude, gender stereotypes, lack of help to children suffering from violence, passiveness of Children Right's Protection Service, delay of cases in courts. All of these factors reflect on women lives and their future.

Vilnius Pension of Mother and Child participates in different campaigns. Together with social partners, it implements a project, by which complex services for victims are provided. Institution organizes informational consultations at schools all the year round.

A successful example was provided: individual work with educators/teachers, parents and kids, common meetings and informational consultations influenced school community attitudes towards victims and made a positive change.

It was stressed that the law enforcement institutions are responsible for ensuring human rights. Everything depends on whether the relevant court decision grants the status of a victim or does not.

The main difficulties that the Pension is facing in its fight against unwanted sexual experience/date rape are these: passiveness of courts, blaming attitudes towards victims, lack of punishment of guilty perpetrators, and lack of network of social services in the country.

Vilnius Pension of Mother and Child is planning some projects/activities, support services and/or other possibilities for girls/women who experienced or might experience an unwanted sexual experience/date rape. They evaluate their work in relation to sexuality, gender issues, unwanted sexual experiences, and date rape very positively.

For informational purposes, VPMC would like very much to be included in a national or European network of organizations on these issues.

Interviews with the representatives of the non-governmental organizations

In **Kaunas district Women's Crisis Center** (KWCC) there are seven persons, working on issues related to dating experiences, date rape, and gender. Six of them are dealing with date rape issues. The NGO works for ten years, eight years as registered NGO and since then it has been working on issues of sexuality, dating experiences, date rape and gender. The main activities of this organization are:

- Support of people in crisis situations
- Protection of women rights and representation.

Kaunas district Women's Crisis Center has a self-defense and psychological support group programme. They train physical self defense and build women's empowerment, self cognition, conflict resolution abilities and teach how to say "NO". As regards work in groups, KWCC has a separate part of the programme on rape issues.

Organization uses this definition on date rape: "Date rape is a forced sexual relation, occurring when a person is not expecting violence or rape and involving the use of force or threatening."

KWCC works with support activities related to girls/women, who have experienced or might experience violence and offers legal, psychological support, help of social workers, therapy, group therapy, physical and psychological self-defense programme. Organization does not have any huge problems while working to support the girls/women.

KWCC works with preventative measures against an occurrence of unwanted sexual experience/date rape and provides and administers group therapy, physical and psychological self-defense programme.

A successful example of support/prevention in relation to unwanted sexual experiences/date rape:

"After finishing physical and psychological self-defense programme one woman successfully used the knowledge and defended herself against a perpetrator. Our programme is very useful also because women get loads of great knowledge, information and new skills on avoiding violence and escaping from complicated situations".

Representatives of KWCC mentioned that they are not aware of any other organization/authority that is successfully working on these issues and any initiatives related to the issues of sexuality, gender, dating experiences, and unwanted sexual experiences/date rape. While working on these issues, the organization cooperates with other organizations in order to support girls/women, such as police, prosecutor's office, Children Rights' Protection service. It organizes or participates in joint round tables, meetings, and consultations. The organization would like to cooperate with institutions from foreign countries, which have experience dealing with date rape issues.

The main difficulties that the organization faces in its work are that women are very closed and do not want to speak about these problems publicly. Nevertheless, the organization is planning some projects/activities, support services and/or other possibilities for girls/women who experienced or might experience unwanted sexual experience/date rape.

KWCC stresses that its self defence programme is unique in Lithuania – they are the only ones providing such programme and it is very successful.

Last comment, which the interviewed person mentioned is that the prevention is of utmost importance for the purposes of stopping the violence.

Kaunas district Women's Crisis Center would also like to be included in a national or European network of organizations that are working on these issues for the informational purposes.

Non-governmental organization **Klaipeda Social and Psychological Service Center** (KSPSC) was established in 2003. In total, there are nine people working there, four of them deal with issues related to dating experiences, date rape, and gender equality. The organization has been working on issues of sexuality, dating experiences, date rape, and gender since 2003.

The main activities of this organization are:

- social and psychological support for women and mothers with children, who suffered domestic violence,
- social and psychological support for trafficked women,
- anonymous free of charge psychological helpline (women's helpline 8 800 66366; working hours: 10 am to 9 pm on workdays),
- mediation to get social, psychological, legal and other consultations for women refugees,
- training of volunteers.

The organization does not have specific guidelines or policies in dealing with date rape, but it is working according to the following principles that are applied in practice providing services. These involve:

- methods that are individual- oriented, understandable and involving;
- respect towards personal choices;
- giving priority to the interests of a person (not to social services, local authority or organisations);
- confidentiality;
- non-judgemental attitude;
- clear information about social services and other help;
- honesty and awareness of boundaries (individual, personal, legal);
- being realistic.

The organization uses definition of sexual violence given in the Criminal Code of the Republic of Lithuania in the articles 149, 150, 151, and 152, depending on the type of sexual violence.

Klaipeda Social and Psychological Service Center work is related with support activities for girls/women, who have experienced or might experience date rape and offers:

1. Rehabilitation programme for trafficked and women and adolescent girls, who are involved into prostitution:

- short-term accommodation (anonymous housing location);
- food, clothes
- social and psychological counselling;

- mediation for getting legal, medical and other necessary services (e.g. clinical services);
- mediation when dealing with personal or other documents;
- mediation for re-creation of relationships with relatives or family members;
- helping for organising a comeback to a birthplace.

2. Re-integration programme that consist:

- vocational guidance and mediation of vocational trainings;
- mediation when searching for a job and mediation in order to retain a job.

3. Organizing of information campaigns.

The main problem that organization encounters when working to support the girls/women is that there is no clear national system for support victims of rape created. Also there is no adequate legal system created at the national level. Representatives of the legal institutions do not consider a possibility to provide legal help for trafficked or sexually abused women. Therefore, many NGOs are limited and can provide only social and psychological help to sexually abused women. In many cases the support is also limited due to low financial resources, for example, not having sufficient funds to employ lawyers to protect victim's rights in court proceedings. A clear support structure would help to stop the continuous acts of violence, and the victims would not be traumatized again during the pre-trial investigation, in court proceedings, etc.

Klaipeda Social and Psychological Service Center work is related to preventative measures against the occurrence of unwanted sexual experience/date rape. NGO organizes seminars on prevention, spreads preventative information by publishing brochures and posters, organizes informative and educative seminars for youth and various specialists.

No successful example of support/prevention work in relation to unwanted sexual experiences/date rape was provided.

To the question "Do you know any other organization/authority that is successfully working in these issues?" the interviewee answered:

"Yes, the organization "Child's house" that has an opportunity to provide the necessary support to sexually abused children. Their examined witnessing of sexual abuse is recorded, while the pre-trial examination continues. In such case it is possible to avoid re-traumatizing children again with repeating interrogations".

Director of KSPSC mentioned that they are aware of some initiatives related to the issues of sexuality, gender, dating experiences, and unwanted sexual experiences/date rape. However, these are usually one-time events, based on initiatives of various NGOs.

KSPSC cooperates with the NGO "Child house" in case they need to organize child's interrogation after experiencing sexual abuse. It collaborates with this organization in order to organize interrogation process and collect documents needed to start the pre-trial process.

The police, which registers crimes of sexual abuse, the prosecutor's office and the courts should have the main responsibility for fighting against unwanted sexual experiences/date rape. Their recognition of responsibility is necessary in order to help victims, because solutions of sexual abuse and penalty applicable to the abusers depend on the decisions of these institutions.

The main difficulties in fighting against unwanted sexual experience/date rape are: negative perspectives when trying to solve these problems, absence of necessary means, structural problems and lack of specialists, capable of solving such problems.

KSPSC is planning further projects/activities, support services and/or other possibilities for girls/women. They evaluate their work on issues of sexuality, gender issues, unwanted sexual experiences, and date rape positively, because "many things are made in order to help girls and women who suffered from sexual abuse, providing them a complex social and psychological help, intermediating and coordinating between various organizations to receive necessary help. Various informative and preventative campaigns are organized to motivate members of society, different specialists, and representatives of various organizations, to provide information on gender equality, to educate them about issues of sexual violence and to seek more effective ways to solve these problems".

Klaipeda Social and Psychological Service Center would like to be included in a national or European network of organizations in relation to these issues for the informational purposes.

Non-governmental organization **"Save the Children"** is working to protect children rights since it's establishment 16 years ago. The NGO has twelve workers. Since the beginning, this organization has been fighting against violence against children and sexual child abuse. The main activities of this organization are: fighting against violence against children and child exploitation; decreasing child poverty and mistreatment; and institutionalization, education on children rights, initiating changes in the society.

Save the Children applies the Save the Children International Alliance's Code of Child Protection. It is applied inside of the organization and in cooperation with partners seeking to protect children interests. The organization does not have its own definition of a date rape and uses the one provided in the Criminal Code of the Republic of Lithuania.

The organization works with girls, who have experienced different kinds of violence, including sexual violence. It offers psychological and social help, information and intermediation, also working in the field of prevention.

The main problem that the organization encounters working to support the girls/women is that there is no definition of a date rape, defining it as a specific or separate issue, as trafficking in children. Moreover, there is a lack of cooperation among different organizations in that particular area.

Save the Children works with preventative measures against the occurrence of unwanted sexual experience/date rape. They are implementing "Girl's Programme" which introduces girls to sexuality, sexual relations, relations of men and women, safe sex and protection. The organization teaches them how to say "NO", how to gain self-respect, not to be afraid to turn for help and not to be afraid to defend themselves, and etc.

A successful example:

The "Girl's Programme" empowers girls, provide information how to protect themselves from the sexual abuse, sexual violence, and how to resist gender stereotypes. Such courses on self-exploration, empowerment and etc. are perfect preventative measures, applied during the training seminars and similar courses.

The interviewee said that they are aware of other organizations/authorities that are successfully working on these issues, and mentioned Women's Issues Information Center, Vilnius Pension of Mother and Child, the police, Caritas Lithuania, the Ministry of Social Security and Labour. There is a lack of specialized organizations, providing help for date rape victims. Also she stressed that there is a lack of trainings, seminars and research on the specific issue of date rape.

The NGO cooperates with police offices and Children Rights' Protection Service by organizing common preventative events, providing information, psychological and physiotherapeutic help, determining the methods of common help. The interviewee stressed that they need more information about the organizations which are specialized in date rape problem.

The main difficulty that the organization faces is that there is no specific or separate definition of a date rape. There is a lack of cooperation among different organizations in this particular area.

Save the Children is planning further activities, support services and/or other possibilities for girls who experienced or might experience unwanted sexual experience/date rape, because help for victims of date rape or unwanted sexual experience is seen as priority strategical problem but much more information is required to come to an effective solution. Educational activities, special training courses, training of specialists, information on experts in this field for the purposes of possible cooperation are needed.

Asked to evaluate their work, the interviewee said: "Our organization works with children, who suffered from violence. We also provide help to the girls who experienced sexual violence. This issue is not distinguished as separate from all of the organization's activities, as we provide help for victims of sexual violence".

Save the Children would like to be included in a national or European network of organizations in relation to these issues for informational purposes.

At the end of the interview, the interviewee said that they lack information on this issue in Lithuania, it is not distinguished as separate from other related issues, and we lack research, statistics, information on experts and trainings. Education programmes and deeper research on the date rape problem are needed.

Non-governmental organization "**Child House**" has been working with the issues of sexuality, dating experiences, date rape, gender for five years. There are eight people working in the organization. The main activities of the organization are social-psychological help, legal help, informative and educational activities aiming to stop child abuse and to provide support for victims and family members of victims of child abuse and trafficking in children. The organization has general policies in dealing with child abuse cases and applies the general definition of sexual child abuse.

NGO works with support activities related to girls, who have experienced or are likely to experience date rape and offers legal, psychological and social support.

The main problems that the organization encounters working to support the girls/women are structural, financial, and organizational problems, as well as problems related to policies.

The organization implements prevention activities where date rape is an issue among other problems. It organizes prevention meetings or seminars on sexual child abuse and sexual trafficking in humans.

Evaluating their work in relation to sexuality, gender issues, unwanted sexual experiences, and date rape, the organization provided a successful example of PEPP'E (Resist abuse effectively). Part of this initiative is to prevent date rape. It was very successful, target group- schools and care houses demanded this seminars a lot.

The interviewee mentioned that these organizations are working on sexual child abuse issues: Child support center, Child development center's child and teenagers crisis interventions department, "Pastogė" in Kaunas, Child line.

In order to support girls on these issues, the Child House directly cooperates with the Child support center, Child development center's child and teenagers crisis interventions department, "Pastogė" in Kaunas, Child line, Vilnius pension of Mother and child, the police departments, Caritas Lithuania, and prosecutors. It was stressed that all institutions starting from education institutions to the police are responsible for the prevention work, involving children and their parents.

The main difficulties of the organization in fighting against this issue is lack of attention from the governmental institutions and lack of constant/systematic financial support. The NGO is planning to continue its work in these issues.

For informational purposes, Child House would like to be included in a national or European network of organizations that work on these issues.

5. Discussion

This research study examined the prevalence and impact of date rape among female students in Lithuania, their attitude and dating experiences and the level of awareness among students. The research examined the knowledge and awareness on date rape issue among governmental institutions, police, service providers and NGOs working in the field of gender/women issues. The study adopted both a quantitative and qualitative approach for data collection.

Data for the quantitative study covered interviews of 394 female students between the age of 18 and 24 years. Respondents were female students from colleges and universities of 3 biggest Lithuanian cities - Vilnius, Kaunas and Klaipeda. Data for the qualitative study covered interviews of another 13 students who participated in focus groups. Qualitative study covered interviews of representatives from 8 relevant institutions in Lithuania that include an NGO, government entities, municipal institution and police.

The research study reveals that psychological and physical violence exists among young female students. Study confirmed the significance of the project idea and proved that young female students 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, oral sex, as well as date rape.

Majority of respondents of quantitative research were females of 20 – 22 years age group. Main respondents were Lithuanians – they composed 84%, Catholics – 87,6%, majority of respondents (61%) have a current partner. Young females in Lithuania start dating around 16 years old (28 % of respondents) and have first sexual intercourse around 18 years old, heterosexual relationship prevails with an average of 1 partner for 12 months period.

Most common places for dates are pubs, clubs, movie theatres, restaurants and apartments. Female students usually have 1 drink during the date (48%) and their dating partner 2-3 drinks. Most of young students (58,6%) reported that their date usually pays for everything or the bigger part on a date, almost one third reported that they share the costs during date. It shows that young females are usually economically dependent on their male partner what proves the tendency becoming financially supported by the male partner later.

13% felt that their partner often acts extremely jealous, 50% sometimes (seldom) felt being criticized, 41% sometimes felt that partner persistently insist to know where she spends time or tries to control her activities. It shows that female students experience psychological pressure or violence from their date partner. That as well as economical dependence shows that all forms violence could be met in dating relationships.

8% (n=29) of respondents had an unwanted sexual experience, and even 13,7% (n=48) did not answer to the question about such experience. 1,4% (n=4) of the interview participants reported an attempted date rape by their date, 2,1% (n=6) reported an attempted oral sex and 0,3% (n=1) reported date rape.

41% (n=12) of those who had unwanted sexual experience - have not told anyone about it. Majority have told to a friend (88,2%), small number - to police (5,9%) or to someone else (5,9%). No one told to parents or family members, therapist or priest and only 8% sought professional help after experienced violence. Vast majority (92%) never asked for professional help. It confirms findings of other National researches, that violence is a taboo and women tend to keep it inside them, not to share with others and do not tend to seek for help. Women are ashamed and it is problematic for them to report about the person they know (like date partner, etc.). The research reveals that there is a lack of confidence in the ability of the relevant authorities to provide support to victims of date rape.

24% of cases where unwanted sexual intercourse took place happened in an apartment or house, 16% at the party and the same amount -16% - on the beach. More than half of the respondents (53,6%) reported that the person forced them to have an unwanted sexual experience was drinking and 3,8% having drugs.

Participants of both focus groups described date rape as unwanted sexual experience. All agreed that any type of sexual contact without consent is a form of violence. Focus groups discussions showed that younger female students (19-21 years old) have stereotypical opinion that rape is provoked by women, themselves and women are to be blamed. Both age groups confirmed that younger girls act as "more available and less careful". The lack of experience and understanding the situation turns younger girls in more risky and unprotected

situations. Elder female students avoid dangerous situations, do know what they want and do not accept the aggressive behaviour that they do not like.

Focus groups discussions support the findings of quantitative research that young women do not know where to turn for help in cases of date rape and rape, they do not trust the police and psychologists and they would rather turn for help to their close friends. In most cases girls have stereotypical opinion that police provide very routine services and procedures and can't really help finding the rapist. The investigation is an additional psychological abuse for victim.

Focus groups participants unanimously confirmed an urgent need for the education about violent behaviour and information where to obtain help. awareness raising initiatives should be started at school in early age. And last, but not least research confirmed that problems of date rapes or rape do exist but it is not much spoken about.

As asked about women's empowerment - participants of the focus groups expressed the belief that women are now more confident and empowered than ever before.

Several times during focus groups discussions respondents contradicted themselves stating that no excuses date rapist behaviour has and sometimes women "provoke" man with provocative dressing or behaviour. 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. The focus on preventing 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.

Institutions interviews showed that the problem of date rape exists and there are institutions and organizations in Lithuania which are helping victims of rape including date rape.

Governmental institutions and most responded NGOs which deals with gender issues, do not have special definition of date rape and use definition of rape, described in Lithuanian Criminal Code. Definition of child sexual abuse is used in organization where they work with children. All interviewed institutions and organizations treat date rape as one of the forms of violence against women or

children (if they work with children). The lack of definition on the date rape as specific or separate issue was named as one of the problems that organization encounters working to support the girls/women and eliminating the date rapes.

Governmental institutions have no specialists assigned to work with rape/date rape cases. Usually there are several persons responsible for issue of violence in families in general, and they are also responsible for issues of rape, including date rape. There are no national or local programmes for prevention or elimination of date rape and unwanted sexual experience. Representatives of ministries named the complexity of the issue itself as main problems in fighting unwanted sexual experiences/date rape.

Municipal institutions and NGOs named variety of different aspects as the main problems: the passiveness of courts, changing attitudes towards the violence, no punishment of guilty perpetrators – lack of appropriate legal system at national level, lack of network of professional social services in the country, that women are very closed and don't want to speak about this problem publicly, that there is no clear support system functioning and no vision or policy how to provide help and organize prevention. Low funding is another problem that in most cases the help is limited, for example lack of sufficient funds to employ lawyers to protect victim's rights at the court. Having a well organized protection and support/help structure would help to stop the continuous acts of violence also the victims would not be traumatized again during before-the-trial, at the trial and etc. It was stressed that the prevention and/including public awareness is very important stopping the accidents of date rape.

Summarizing findings of the research it should be mentioned that the main problems organizations encounters working to support the girls/women are: structural, financial, organizational and lack of systemic approach towards problem solution. In Lithuania there is a lack of cooperation among different organizations and institutions in that particular area and there is a lack of information on this issue, research, statistics, experts and trainings. Education programmes and deeper research on the date rape problem are needed.

All interviewed service providers' institutions and organizations showed interest to be included to European network. It proves that cooperation with other countries, sharing experience and learning more about the issues of date rape is needed/required.

Date rape, rape and its consequences is still a taboo in Lithuanian society and covered by silence. Therefore it was a light break when majority of focus group participants told that there is an urgent need to educate young schoolchildren from early age about the violence, possible violent behaviour and to form a negative attitude towards violence in general, including date rape. Focus groups participants, institutions representatives agree that problems of date rapes or rapes do exist in Lithuanian society but it is not much spoken of. Prevention and awareness raising campaigns should be well planned and implemented thorough the education process continuously. Girls and boys starting from early age should be introduced to the general knowledge about the gender differences should be taught how to avoid any forms of violence and how harmful is a violent behaviour itself.

More institutions and organizations should be involved in prevention activities and educational seminars should be provided to strengthen the network of help institutions. General knowledge and foreign expertise on the issues of date rape should be presented to all institutions and organizations working with young people.

6. Conclusions

Majority of respondents of quantitative research were females 20 – 22 years of age. Main respondents were Lithuanians – they composed 84%, Catholics – 87,6%, and majority of respondents (61%) have a current partner. Female students tend to have one relationship at one time, and it is proven by data that 56% of respondents have dated 1 person at a time during last 12 years.

Most common places for dates are pubs, clubs, movie theatres, restaurants, restaurants and apartments. Female students usually have 1 drink during the date (48%). Majority, i.e. 28 % of respondents started dating being 16 years old. 13% of respondents felt that their partner often acts extremely jealous. 50% sometimes (seldom) felt being criticized, 41% sometimes felt that partner persistently insist to know where she is or tries to control her activities. It shows that female students sometimes experience psychological pressure or violence from their date partner.

8% of respondents had an unwanted sexual experience, but even 13,7% did not answer to the question about such experience. 41% (12 students) out of those who had unwanted sexual experience - have not told anyone about it. Majority have told to a friend (88,2%), small number to police (5,9%) or to someone else (5,9%). No one told to parents or family members, therapist or priest and only 8% seek for professional help after experienced violence. It shows that violence is a taboo and women tend to keep it inside them, not to share with others and do not tend to seek for help.

Focus groups discussions support the findings of quantitative research that young women do not know where to turn for help in cases of date rape and rape, they do not trust the police and psychologists, and they would rather turn for help to their close friends. In most cases girls have stereotypical opinion that police provide very routine services and procedures and can't really help finding the rapist. Younger female students (19-21 years old) have stereotypical opinion that rape is provoked by women themselves and they are guilty.

Most of related institutions have limited resources to work on date rape and work mainly with the legal framework of rape which imposes limitations on their scope of action.

Focus groups participants, institutions representatives agree that problems of date rapes or rapes do exist in Lithuanian society but it is not much spoken of. Prevention and awareness raising campaigns should be well planned and implemented thorough the education process continuously. Girls and boys starting from early age should be introduced to the general knowledge about the gender differences should be taught how to avoid any forms of violence and how harmful is a violent behaviour itself.

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