
Administrators from 1,067 public and private universities in the United States participated in a survey. Approximately one in three institutions (342) claimed to provide services specifically for male students who were victims of sexual violence.

Tags: campus sexual assault, support services, United States


Male victims of sexual violence, the author maintains, are characteristically targeted because they are homosexual or are perceived to be so. They are more likely than women to be the subjects of multiple-perpetrator attacks, and "the assailants are more often strangers to their male victims than is the case when women are raped." (p. 150) Perpetrators tend to be gangs of adolescent males; the attacks are usually premeditated. Anderson recommends self-defense training as being "of enormous benefit to clients...Ironically, training a person to deal with violence also has beneficial effects in helping her or him to experience greater capacity for affection." (pp. 157-8)

Tags: historical, homosexuality, perpetrator characteristics, psychological aspects, United States, victim characteristics

I. Anderson & A. Quinn, 'Gender Differences in Medical Students' Attitudes towards Male and Female Rape Victims,' *Psychology, Health & Medicine* 14:1 (January, 2009): 105-110.

The authors conducted a survey of 240 medical students in Birmingham (England), divided equally by sex and with a mean age just under 24 years. The study showed that "male rape victims were viewed more negatively than female victims by medical students (regardless of gender)" (p. 108). They recommend the revision of medical-school curricula to take account of this fact.

Tags: Great Britain, victim-blaming, vignette studies

P.B. Anderson & W. Sorensen, 'Male and Female Differences in Reports of Women's Heterosexual Initiation and Aggression,' *Archives of Sexual Behavior* 28:3 (June, 1999): 243-253.

The authors administered similar questionnaires to 163 women and 82 men taking an undergraduate psychology course in New Orleans, LA, with a mean age of 22 years for both sexes. The male students reported experiencing more sexual aggression and coercion than the female students reported perpetrating. "Men report women initiating sex with them when they are
minors, by getting them drunk, or by threatening to end their relationship." (p. 250) The limitations of the study, confined as it was to a single class in a single Southern university, are noted.

Tags: campus sexual assault, convenience samples, female perpetration, United States


In this review article, the authors note that numerous studies reveal significant levels of sexual coercion and sexual are perpetrated by female students. However, in "many state legal codes, and many college conduct codes, definitions of rape are constructed in such a way [as] to appear gender neutral but, in fact, cast women's behavior as below the threshold for rape." Overall, Anderson and Savage conclude, "it does not appear that college women are being held responsible for their aggressive behavior." (p. 137)

Tags: campus sexual assault, female perpetration, United States


A survey of 651 students at a New England public university found that 19.2% of female and 8.2% of male respondents reported experiencing unwanted sexual contact in the previous six months. Men disclosed their victimisation at less than half the rate of women; they were also less likely to know where to obtain help for sexual assault. While the nature of the unwanted sexual contacts were similar for both sexes, women reported being more distressed by their experiences. It is unclear, the authors point out, whether this indicates a genuine difference or is a result of pressure upon men to present a stoical front.

Tags: campus sexual assault, United States


In this undergraduate textbook, the authors assert that "Male rape of another male" is "rare, except in prison." (p. 291)

Tags: prevalence, prison rape

This Human Rights Watch report describes several cases of male rape in the Chernokozovo remand prison and the Mozdok military base in January and February 2000. Sexual torture and genital mutilation of men in custody, using pliers and batons, was also common.

Tags: conflict-related sexual violence, sexual torture, sexual violence in detention


In a 2007 case in which a man anally raped a nine-year-old girl, the South African Constitutional Court extended the statutory definition of "rape" to include anal penetration of female victims. It declined to do likewise for male victims on the ground that an essential quality of rape is the manifestation of "male supremacy over females," and that a gender-neutral approach would thus obscure the specifically gendered nature of the offence. Drawing upon different feminist approaches than those relied upon by the Court, Bonthuys maintains that raping men is a way of "symbolically turning them into women" (p. 256) and thus, according to a correct gender analysis, entitles them to legal protection on similar grounds.

Tags: feminist theory, legal aspects, South Africa


Based upon her reading of a variety of fictional and literary depictions of sexual violence against men and a 1968 study of prison rapes in Philadelphia, the author argues that "homosexual rape" is a "womanizing process" whose invariable purpose is to enhance the masculinity of the perpetrator. (p. 261) She decries what she sees as gay men's acceptance and adaptation of sexual victimisation in the form of "consensual sadomasochism," which she maintains "shall always remain a reactionary antithesis to women's liberation." (p. 263)

Tags: historical, homosexuality, prison rape, victim-blaming


Although rape and sexual assault of men is routinely denied and victim-blaming attitudes are highly prevalent, the author warns that acknowledging their victimisation is "difficult" and, where female perpetrators are concerned, "may be dangerous" by "opening the floodgates for a diversion of resources" from female to male victims. (p. 242) "At the very least," Bourke argues, "male victims are able to marshal more sympathy precisely because of their anomalous position in the imaginary of suffering." Seeking to contain this sympathy within safe boundaries, on the other hand, has the effect of
relegating male victims "to a dismissive footnote. Creating a hierarchy of suffering endorses some kinds of abuse." (p. 243)

Tags: support services, victim-blaming


The authors examined records of 5,476 cases of campus sexual assault in the United States contained within the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) for the years 1993-2014, 347 of which concerned male victims. No male-victim cases were to be found within the NIBRS before the earlier of these dates. While male victims were on average the same age as their female counterparts (19.6 years), their perpetrators were significantly older. 17% of those offending against male students were female. Men were more likely to be subjected to multiple-perpetrator assaults, but only half as likely as women to suffer injuries. The authors warn that campus sexual violence is probably significantly undercounted in the NIBRS data, which includes only some of the cases reported to law enforcement.

Tags: campus sexual assault, multiple-perpetrator offences, National Incident-Based Reporting System, United States


Examining the files of the Soccorso Violenza Sessuale e Domestica at the Ospedale Policlinico in Milan, the authors found records of 57 male rape victims -- around 1% of the total -- for the period between 1997 and 2004. The average loweage of victims was 29.9 years. More than half the crimes were stranger rapes, and nearly a third gang rapes. 70% of the offences occurred in public spaces. Nearly all victims were physically injured. The authors describe their work as the first study of male rape victims to be conducted in the Mediterranean region.

Tags: age data, Italy, multiple-perpetrator offences, prevalence


The author notes that male as well as female detainees were subjected to rape or other forms of sexual violence at the Serb-run Omarska and Trnopolje camps, the Croat camp at Odžak, and the Bosnian camp at Goražde during the War of Yugoslav Succession. However, virtually no reporting of these crimes occurred in the Croatian media. "The national press within former Yugoslavia offered a similar picture. Rapes of women were newsworthy; rapes of men were not." Žarkov accounts for the refusal to engage with these stories because of
their tendency to "undermine construction of the Croat nation as virile and powerful." (p. 80)

Tags: Bosnia and Herzegovina, conflict-related sexual violence, Croatia, Serbia, sexual violence in detention, Yugoslavia


Interviews with 79 victims of conflict-related sexual violence during the War of Yugoslav Succession included 13 men, who had been detained at Čelopek in Zvornik, Batković near Bijeljina, Luka in Brčko, Lora near Split (Croatia), and the Drmelejvo and Nepek camps in Velika Kladuša. The latter two facilities were operated by separatist western Bosniaks who raped female and male detainees of their own ethnicity. A clear motivation for the crimes was the infliction of humiliation upon the detainees, with fathers and sons in Čelopek being forced to carry out sexual acts upon each other.

Tags: Bosnia and Herzegovina, conflict-related sexual violence, motivations of offenders, sexual violence in detention, Yugoslavia


A Yale School of Medicine focus-group study of seven members of the U.S. sexual-violence support organisation MaleSurvivor. Participants compiled a list of ten under-examined areas of research they wished investigators in the field to address. Prominent items included practical methods of post-traumatic adjustment; techniques to address male sexual dysfunction; the development of ways of disseminating to victims the results of academic studies; and increased attention to racially and culturally specific experiences of sexual violence.

Tags: convenience samples, focus groups, psychological aspects, support services, United States


Declaring that "Victims become victimizers," the authors argue that society must take prison rape seriously lest those who suffer it "retaliate when they return to the community by committing acts of physical and sexual violence." (p. 130) The typical victim is stated to be "a middle-class first offender who, while heterosexual in sexual orientation, is uncertain about his masculine identity." (p. 133) The essay includes a model protocol for
addressing the problem developed by the San Francisco Department of Public Health in 1981.

Tags: historical, perpetrator characteristics, prison rape, psychological aspects, "vampire syndrome", victim characteristics, United States


50 male and 50 female undergraduates at the University of Central Lancashire were assigned to write a story about what they considered to be a "typical" male perpetrator of rape, and either a male or a female victim. More than a third of the male-victim stories depicted a gay man as the target of attack; none of the female-victim stories featured a lesbian subject. Only 8% of male and female authors had their male victim report his experience to the police; in contrast, four in five female victims were described as doing so. Almost all narratives written by authors of both sexes involved the use of physical force.

Tags: Great Britain, vignette studies


Interviews and focus-group meetings were conducted with 32 male victims of sexual violence from New York City. The average age of participants was 32; four were heterosexual. Only two victims sought help at a specialised sexual-violence facility; both reported their experiences as traumatic. The cost of therapy was described as a significant obstacle for approximately half the participants.

Tags: support services, United States


30 rape crisis centres, law-enforcement agencies, hospitals, and mental-health facilities in the Atlanta, GA area were surveyed. 11 said they did not accept men as clients; of those that did, only four had assisted a male victim of sexual violence in the previous year. "Many believed that men couldn't be raped or that they were raped only because they 'wanted to be.' One [female] law enforcement representative bluntly stated, 'Honey, we don't do men.'" (p. 444) The two cohorts most hostile to the provision of services to male victims, the authors found, were male police officers and rape-crisis centres professing a feminist philosophy. "What these groups...had in common were their doubts that men could be raped and their views of male rape as nonproblematic." (p. 447)

Over the course of eight years, researches at the Sorbonne cooperated with physicians at the Hôpital Jean-Verdier to conduct an observational study of the victims' physical and emotional trauma. The 98 participants were 15 or older, were mostly victimized by male assailants, and were more likely to be attacked by someone they knew. The study also emphasized the increased risk of assault for disabled persons. The authors found that male victims of sexual assault experienced high levels of trauma and shame. The article includes multiple tables with specific information about the assaults, i.e. the presence of substances, the incidence of psychological disturbances, and the nature of the attack.

Tags: disability, France, victim characteristics


Sexual violence by the Ethiopian government against men of the Oromo and other southern peoples is, in the authors' view, part of a genocidal strategy to curb the victims' reproductive capacity. They draw particular attention to the practice of hanging heavy (2-3 kg) weights from Oromo detainees' testicles for hours as a form of "virtual castration" that normally does not result in visible external injuries. Castration of captured enemies, they note, has a long tradition in Ethiopia, and cases of the crushing of Oromo detainees' testicles with hammers in the 1970s and 1980s were common.

Tags: conflict-related sexual violence, Ethiopia, sexual torture


The Refugee Law Project at Makerere University in Kampala has recorded rates of lifetime experience of sexual violence among male refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan in the range of 25%-39%. A victims' self-help organisation, Men of Hope Refugee Association Uganda, has begun not only to provide mutual support but to educate local policymakers and international aid agencies about the reality of male-victim conflict-related sexual violence. This "therapeutic activism" enables men who have experienced sexual violence to challenge their positioning as "passive victims who merely need assistance" and "suggests that those responding to
refugee survivors of sexual violence -- whether male or female -- must also...pay attention to their spaces and means for citizenship." (p. 189)

Tags: conflict-related sexual violence, Democratic Republic of the Congo, refugees, South Sudan, support services, Uganda


Excessive attention and resources, Gillespie contends, are devoted to the problem of male rape and its victims, a development that she attributes to an anti-feminist backlash against the reality of overwhelming male perpetration and female victimisation. In London during the year 1993, only 27 cases of male rape were reported to the Metropolitan Police; a 1989 survey by the author of 38 rape crisis centres in England and Wales found that the two RCCs that had established services for male clients had not during the previous eight years received a single call from sexually abused males." (p. 157) Female-perpetrated sexual assault of men, she asserts, is acknowledged by scholars to be "statistically insignificant." Gillespie warns that whereas British rape crisis centres ought not to be asked to accept male clients, the provision of separate services for men is also problematical, inasmuch as RCCs "may find themselves competing for funding with male groups." (p. 158)

Tags: female perpetration, Great Britain, prevalence, rape crisis centres, support services


Sexual violence against men during the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the author maintains, was carried out for different reasons to corresponding offences against women. Whereas the latter had a "genocidal" intent, the rape of men had "the intention of humiliating and emasculating both the individual and the enemy group." (p. 119) The International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, she asserts, agrees that "the typology and intent of the abuse of men was inherently different to the sexual abuse of women." (p. 125)

Tags: Bosnia and Herzegovina, conflict-related sexual violence, international law, legal aspects, motivations of offenders, Yugoslavia


In this much-cited early study, the authors discuss a sample of 22 persons -- 16 offenders and 6 victims -- known to them through their work at the
respective institutions at which they were employed in Connecticut and Massachusetts, or referred to them by police and hospitals. All but four of the 22 were white. Two-fifths of the attacks occurred in cars, leading the authors to conclude that men "appear to be at greater risk when engaged in solitary activities, such as hitchhiking." (p. 807) None of the perpetrators was convicted for the sexual attacks against adult men disclosed to the researchers. The authors note: "Although federal guidelines have precluded the introduction of the female victim's sexual reputation as a defense in rape cases, the sexual lifestyle [of male victims] can still be used as a defense." This is one of several factors that lead them to conclude that "male rape remains one of the most unaddressed issues in our society today." (p. 810)

Tags: convenience samples, historical, perpetrator characteristics, victim characteristics, United States


Students at a northeastern U.S. institution (presumably Clark University, MA) were administered questionnaires in the late autumn of the years 2008-10 inclusive. 6.6% of female students and 3.2% of male ones reported experiencing sexual assault during the two months since the beginning of the academic year. Nearly 90% of male students said that both the perpetrator and the victim had been drinking at the time of the assault. 73% of their assailants were female. Women students reported more forcible encounters, but the rate of physical injury, at 5%, was the same for both sexes. Likewise, each sex each experienced around three assaults during the two-month period surveyed. Gay and bisexual men were more likely to be victimised than their heterosexual counterparts; lesbians were not. The results, the authors observe, indicate that "researchers and practitioners need to include both men and women as potential perpetrators and victims of sexual assault in both research design and intervention programs." (p. 938)

Tags: campus sexual assault, convenience samples, prevalence, United States


The authors selected and surveyed fifteen Anglophone studies of male-victim/male-perpetrator sexual violence published between 1980 and 2010, yielding a total of 5,112 cases. All data were drawn from two countries: the United States and Great Britain. Victims from this sample "tended to be white and heterosexual, with a mean age of 24.7 years"; offenders were on average approximately the same age, and reported as predominantly heterosexual. More than 37% of the attacks were multiple-perpetrator offences. Approximately a third of the perpetrators were strangers to the victims; the same proportion of attacks involved the use of weapons. 60% of victims were subjected to forced anal intercourse; almost one in five experienced forced oral sex. The
authors acknowledge that "it is difficult to draw any reliable conclusions with regards [sic] to what is typical with regards to [sic] male sexual victimisation, given the varied and differing samples employed in existing studies." (p. 207)

Tags: Great Britain, perpetrator characteristics, United States, victim characteristics


A 1998 survey of the then-extant medical and psychological literature on non-institutional adult male rape in the United States yielded a total of only 4,067 cases. Suicidality, however, was especially common among those victimised in their late teens. "Out of a subsample of 1,697 victims, 777 (46.3%) men reported subsequent suicidal feelings and 591 (35.2%) attempted to kill themselves sometime after the assault occurred." (p. 157)

Tags: psychological aspects, prevalence, suicidality, United States


The author take issue with certain feminist scholars who contend that male rape victims are "privileged" in law and society; that the experience of sexual victimisation for men invariably involves their "feminisation"; and that they enjoy preferential treatment by the criminal justice system when reporting rape or sexual assault. Such empirical evidence as exists, they contend, stands in contradiction of all three of these propositions.

Tags: feminist theory, legal aspects, social attitudes, victim-blaming


Based on a survey of 57 police officers and 13 staff at voluntary agencies in Britain, the author found that "some voluntary agency practitioners may be unaware of the unique needs of male rape victims..." (p. 111)

Tags: Great Britain, support services

Based on a survey of 57 police officers and 13 staff at voluntary agencies in Britain, the author found that "many police officers do not provide support for male rape victims and do not refer them onto other voluntary services that could support them." (p. 1018)

Tags: Great Britain, police


Based on a survey of 57 police officers and 13 staff at voluntary agencies in Britain, the author found that "some police officers are likely to express poor attitudes and responses to male rape victims, which could in turn make the victims feel emasculated, ashamed, humiliated, or embarrassed." (p. 155)

Tags: Great Britain, police

--------, 'Can't Hear or Won't Hear: Gender, Sexualities and Reporting Male Rape,' InterAlia 13 (2018): 31-53.

Based on a survey of 57 police officers and 13 staff at voluntary agencies in Britain, the author found that "when male rape victims report their crime, they may be seen solely as homosexuals..." (p. 48)

Tags: Great Britain, homophobia, police


Based on a survey of 57 police officers and 13 staff at voluntary agencies in Britain, the author argues that "male rape can...be exercised as a form of hatred, homophobia, and homophobic violence, particularly in a hate crime and gang rape context." (p. 36)

Tags: Great Britain, homophobia


Based on a survey of 57 police officers and 13 staff at voluntary agencies in Britain, the author found that "the police and the voluntary sector may see male rape victims as homosexuals because the act of male rape equates to anal penetration even though some of them may identify as heterosexual." (p. 756) Javaid chose not to include any male victims in his inquiry "because getting access to them is extremely difficult." (p. 751)

14 male rape victims presenting at the Bernalillo County (Albuquerque, NM) Medical Center emergency room between 1975 and 1978 were compared with 100 female rape victims treated there during the same period. Four were adult men. Seven victims experienced multi-perpetrator attacks; nine were physically beaten. All fourteen had been anally raped, with nine also being orally raped. Five victims did not disclose that they had suffered sexual assault on initial screening at the hospital, seeking treatment only for their physical injuries. This was uncharacteristic of the female victims examined. The authors note the paucity of scholarship on male sexual victimisation, observing that 90 journal articles on rape published during the three years of the study "showed no articles primarily concerned with male victims." (p. 222) They caution, though, that the small size of their own sample raises questions about the generalisability of their findings.


In their brief section (1 pp.) devoted to male rape, the authors state: "There is very little evidence that the rape of men by women occurs any more than as an oddity." (p. 28)


The authors, associated with the Zagreb-based Medical Center for Human Rights, interviewed 60 men subjected by Serb forces to what they describe as "homosexual rape," sexual assault and sexual torture in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina during 1991 and 1992. 47 were victimised while in detention camps; more than three-quarters of the offences took place in front of witnesses. All but one victim was physically as well as sexually assaulted. "During the interviewing process, we found that 6 men were subjected to total castration, which none of them survived." (p. 196) All suffered severe and persistent psychological sequelae. Nearly fifteen years elapsed between the completion of this study and its publication, a delay that the authors attribute to lack of financial support by the Croatian Ministry of Health.
Despite the considerable and growing volume of evidence of the scale of male sexual victimisation in Britain, little progress has been made in meeting the needs of male victims. A set of guidelines issued by the Scottish Executive in 2005 laid out a useful programme for action in this area. However, no such initiative has been taken in England and Wales, and implementation throughout Great Britain remains slow. As a result, "UK-based services have, for the most part, failed to address the complex needs of male sexual assault survivors which are, by definition, varied, multifaceted and specialist." (p. 184)


British studies indicate that the mean age of all male victims of sexual assault is the same as that of female victims: 15.9 years. Most adult male victims, like female ones, fall within the 20-30 age-range. A Manchester-based survey found that men were most likely to experience sexual assault, in descending order, in a public place; the perpetrator's residence; and their own residence.

Applying what she describes as a "feminist political economy analysis," the author contends that male victims of conflict-related sexual violence are targeted for "material ends." Asserting that sexual violence against men is invariably deployed for the purpose of "feminising" them, the "conferring of a new status -- being like a woman and thus Othered from and subordinate to men" (p. 111) enables perpetrators in armed conflicts to gain "exchange value" by degrading the bodies of their male victims.

Tags: conflict-related sexual violence, feminist theory


The author asserts that "male survivors are not only a risk to themselves, in the form of self-destructive behaviors, but also to those around them." (p. 32) Counseling directed at them, she argues, should focus first on "redefining masculinity and its legacies," and then the impact of trauma.

Tags: therapeutic approaches, "vampire syndrome"


In this study, 18 participants were recruited from VA groups and military sexual trauma support groups. Researchers then completed a phenomenological analysis of the participants' behavior following their assaults. The behavioral patterns are analyzed as ten "themes," which are organized in a table and explained with the help of participant case studies. The authors found that victims of MST struggle with a distinct sense of betrayal, both by their peers and the miliary, feel compelled to keep their attacks a secret, and are often met with negative reactions when they did disclose the details of their attack. For participants, one of the most important steps toward recovery was a supportive response when they shared their experiences. The authors suggest that further research on the role of secrecy in these attacks and their aftermath would be beneficial moving forward.

Tags: military sexual trauma, veterans, phenomenological analysis


Conflict-related sexual violence against men often goes unpunished as such, or unpunished at all. After the 2003 invasion of Iraq, for example, 11 male
and female U.S. soldiers and three British servicemen were convicted by court-martial for mistreating detainees. However, "their convictions did not include acts of sexual humiliation despite photographic evidence of them forcing Iraqi prisoners to simulate sex acts." (p. 666) Part of the difficulty, Mouthaan points out, derives from the fact that "international law does not prohibit sexual violence against men expressly." (p. 667)

Tags: conflict-related sexual violence, international law, legal aspects, sexual torture


The authors administered an online campus climate survey to the students at Tennessee Technological University in 2014. A total of 18% of male respondents acknowledged experiencing sexual victimisation in the previous academic year: 2% reported rape; 5.9% attempted rape; 12.4% unwanted sexual touching and 5.3% attempted unwanted sexual touching. More than 90% of respondents were white, and a similar percentage heterosexual. "Dishearteningly, no respondents reported to any formal resources like counselors, faculty or staff members, or law enforcement" (p. 230) The authors note that limited resources are available for male victims and encourage campus sexual-assault support centers to adopt gender-neutral language as well as providing services addressing the specific needs of male students.

Tags: campus sexual violence, prevalence, United States


Studies indicate that perpetrators of both sexes in collegiate settings typically employ verbal coercion rather than physical force to induce a reluctant partner to engage in sexual relations. Male and female offenders use alcohol or drugs to achieve their goal at similar rates. Male perpetrators rely on physical force more often than females. The level of female-perpetrated campus sexual violence is likely to be understated as a result of confirmation biases. "Male-perpetrated aggression is perceived as more aggressive and more harmful than the same behavior perpetrated by a woman....Male-perpetrated violence against women is also more likely to be considered illegal and likely to result in the belief that there should be law enforcement interventions (such as arrest and restraining orders) than is female-perpetrated violence against men." (p. 83) These tendencies manifest themselves in a reduced likelihood of prosecutors bringing charges or, in those situations when a case reaches court, of juries holding the perpetrator responsible.

The author surveyed 891 police officers in the southeastern United States. 93.2% agreed or strongly agreed that "any woman can be raped"; only 66.4% agreed that any man could be. Just 12.7% of respondents said that they were "very likely" to believe a man who claimed to have been raped. The only victim category the officers rated as being less credible than male rape victims were female sex workers. (p. 402)


While scholarly investigations of male rape have accelerated in recent years, the authors consider that it is "still seen as a taboo topic in society, and as a result of this research is roughly 20 years behind research into female rape." (p. 90) Little of the existing statistical data, Pearson and Barker indicate, can be relied upon, suffering as they do from inconsistent definitions, wide variances in coding and interpretation, and a pronounced Anglo-American bias. Least of all is known about offender characteristics and what happens when criminal cases are brought to court.


A trio of sexual assault nurse examiners (SANEs) describe the circumstances of and physical evidence presented by three representative cases of male sexual assault. One patient refused an internal anal examination, despite acute injuries sustained during the attack, but accepted HIV prophylaxis. The authors emphasise the intense shame associated with male sexual assault and suggest that SANEs are especially well positioned to promote a "culture of caring" and educate policymakers and health-care professionals about the dynamics of male sexual victimisation.

The cases of 11 male victims, seven of whom were adults at the time of their assaults, are discussed. Six of the men were associated with the Yale Human Sexuality programme, as was the lead author; the other five were patients at the Masters & Johnson Institute in St Louis, MO. All the adult victims displayed post-traumatic symptoms, including sleep disturbances, depression, and sexual dysfunction. Only three had previously disclosed their experiences to therapists; of the three practitioners, only one believed that the crime had in fact taken place. Two complained to law enforcement: in neither case was their report believed. Like female rape victims, Sarrel and Masters state, sexually assaulted men are capable of displaying signs of physical arousal despite not desiring to be victimised.

The authors note that Alfred Kinsey's 1948 study on sexual behaviour in the human male "had never asked any man if he had been sexually assaulted." (p. 130)

Tags: convenience samples, legal aspects, psychological aspects, United States


A questionnaire was administered in 2015 to 886 female and 490 male heterosexual students at four public universities in Ankara. Nearly 78% of women and 65% reported experiencing some form of sexual aggression; some 29% of men and 14% of women reported some form of perpetration. Men reported having been subjected to rape (43.5%) at a slightly higher rate than women (39.1%); women's rate of unwanted sexual contact was approximately twice that of men. (p. 1144) Compared to the limited number of similar studies carried out in Turkey, the results are described by the authors as high, but not unique. Notwithstanding Islam's prohibition on drinking, alcohol was a factor in the majority of rapes and sexual assaults reported.

Tags: convenience samples, campus sexual assault, female perpetration, prevalence, Turkey

Tags: convenience samples, female offenders, historical, psychological aspects, United States


Countries like Guatemala and Peru in which conflict-related sexual violence against both sexes has occurred have understated the extent of male victimisation by confining eligibility for reparations to female victims alone. In contrast, Bosnia and Herzegovina accepted applications from women and men equally. By December 2013, as a result, 770 victims of conflict-related sexual violence in the War of Yugoslav Succession had come forward,
of whom 114 were men and boys. This figure too is likely to be a considerable understatement. A Bosnian NGO, the Association of Camp Detainees in Bosnia and Herzegovina, has records of 86 male victims from just one camp, the Dom Kulture detention facility in Čelopek. The Association reports that sexually victimised male detainees suffered severe and long-lasting difficulties in sexual functioning which, it believes, were intended by the perpetrators so as to limit Bosnian reproduction.

Tags: Bosnia and Herzegovina, conflict-related sexual violence, prevalence, sexual violence in detention, Yugoslavia


The adoption in 2008 of Security Council Resolution 1820, demanding an immediate end to the use by armed actors of sexual violence against civilians, offers little hope in the author's view that international protection will be extended to actual or potential male victims of rape and sexual assault in conflict situations. While the resolution acknowledges that such victims exist, the actions it calls upon the UN and the member states to take are aimed exclusively at the protection of women and girls. Here and elsewhere, Sivakumaran says, "brief recognition has not translated into concrete efforts on behalf of male victims, be they mechanisms for raising awareness of the problem, focused research agendas on the issue, or strategies for prevention." (p. 260)

Tags: conflict-related sexual violence, United Nations


Women's sexual offending against men, the author contends, is properly categorised as "coercion" rather than rape. Unlike women victimised by men, she argues, adult males are nearly always capable of escaping from an unwanted sexual situation should they truly wish to do so, even if under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Female-perpetrated offences, in her view, result in "male victims suffering, in general, less psychological trauma" than women. (p. 172)

Tags: female offenders, feminist theory, psychological aspects, rape denial, victim-blaming

The authors surveyed 40 male British victims of anal rape. Though most suffered physical injury, only 14 sought medical attention and just five admitted being sexually assaulted to physicians. The same number -- five -- reported their attack to the police; only one found officers to be supportive and helpful. Only a single prosecution and conviction resulted from this sample, the victim being made to feel that he "was the assailant, and that his ordeal in court probably had a worse effect on him than the rape itself." (p. 75)

Tags: criminal justice system, Great Britain, psychological aspects, social attitudes, victim-blaming


The author notes that the crime of rape in England and Wales is gender-specific, referring to non-consensual penile penetration exclusively. Cases in which female perpetrators compel or coerce men and boys to engage in forced penetration are tried as lesser offences. Citing numerous first-person accounts derived largely from U.S. studies, Weare maintains that the harms experienced by male and female victims of non-consensual sexual intercourse are so similar that there is little justification for differential treatment by the criminal-justice system. A gender-neutral rape law, she argues, need not undermine feminist interpretations of rape as a fundamentally gendered act.

Tags: female perpetration, Great Britain, legal aspects


The authors compared the responses of 16 male rape victims and 374 non-victims, all participants being male students at a Virginia university, on an online survey instrument purporting to measure sexist attitudes. Some of the victims who scored more highly on the sexism index also reported higher levels of post-traumatic stress. The generalisability of the findings, the authors acknowledge, are limited by the small size of the sample, its demographic unrepresentativeness, and the narrow definition of "rape" used in the survey measure.

Tags: convenience samples, psychological aspects, United States

As is true of servicewomen, servicemen in the U.S. armed forces continue to be the victims of sexual crimes at much higher rates than their civilian counterparts. A survey by the RAND Corporation found that in the twelve months beginning on September 1, 2013, 0.95% of servicemen were sexually assaulted in some way, and 6.6% experienced sexual harassment. A third of the sexual offences were penetrative rapes. 81% of the perpetrators were comrades in uniform. (p. 622) 76% of the male victims were subjected to repeated sexual assault during the twelve-month period; a similar pattern was evident with respect to sexual harassment. Victimisation rates in the three service academies were similar to those of the armed services as a whole. (p. 629)

Tags: military sexual trauma, prevalence, United States


58 men who telephoned the helpline of a sexual assault centre in the southeastern U.S. between 2008 and 2012 were compared with 58 randomly selected female callers. Male clients were much more likely to terminate the call abruptly, and were considerably more socially isolated. The great majority had not disclosed their victimisation to anyone; in contrast, women typically had spoken of their assault to friends and family and were often receiving some form of support service in addition to the helpline. Women tended to express fear of not being believed when disclosing sexual violence; men more typically feared being judged when they did. The authors recommend that "hotline workers should self-assess their own attitudes or biases about male victims of sexual assault and the potential impact it could have on male callers' future efforts of seeking help for their physical and mental health needs." (p. 469)

Tags: support services, United States