

Understanding Gender Differences in Adolescent Sexual Violence: A Prevalence Study in Mozambique to Inform Culturally-Sensitive Interventions

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Introduction

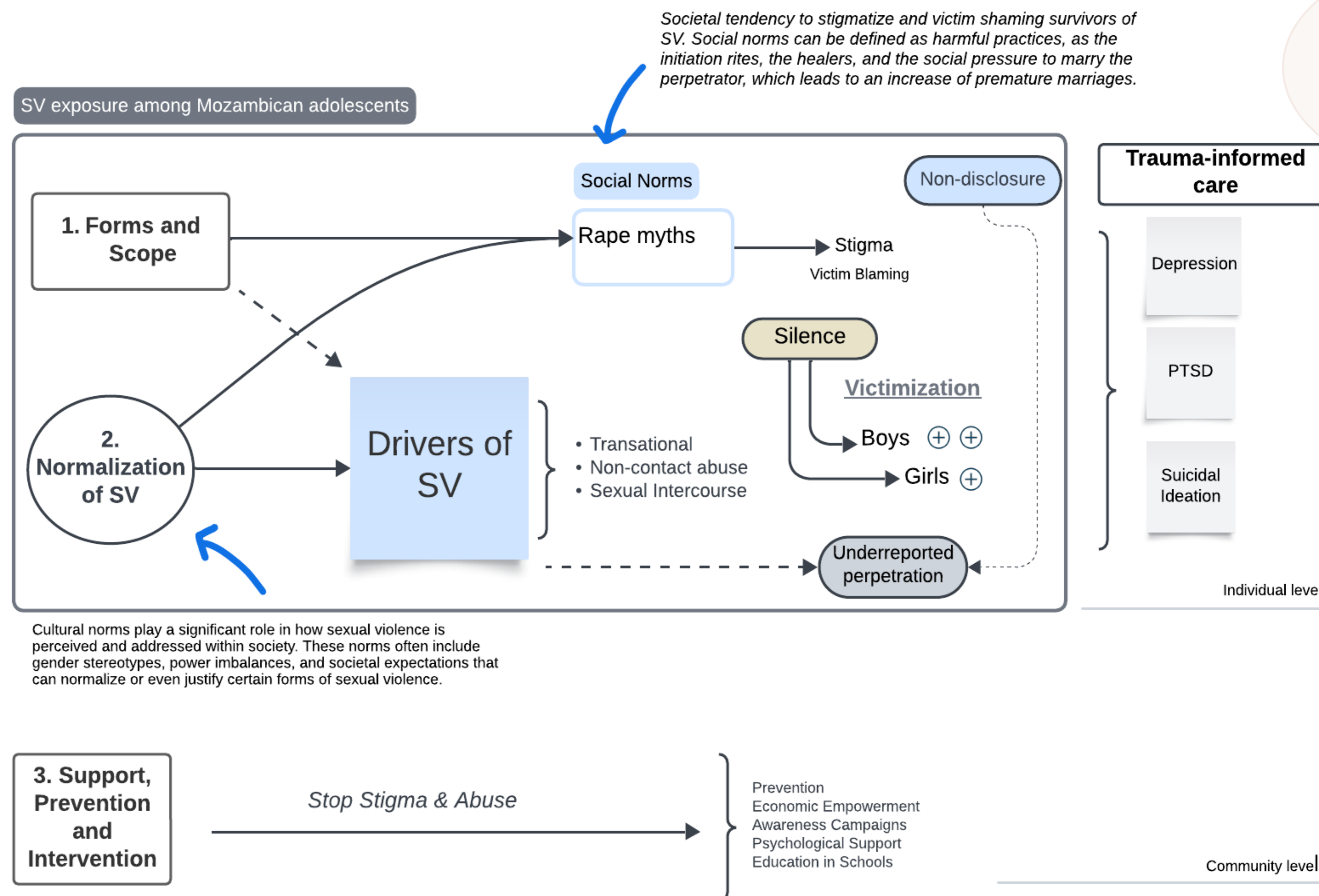
The prevalence of sexual violence (SV) against adolescents in sub-Saharan Africa remains a significant concern, impeding progress towards two crucial Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): SDG 3.4, which aims to promote mental health and well-being; and SDG 16.2, which seeks to protect children from abuse, exploitation, trafficking and violence by 2030.

The goal of the poster

The poster presents an overview of a study aiming to assess the understanding and the magnitude of sexual violence against adolescents in Mozambique.

Research approach

Our research methodology combined quantitative data collection with qualitative analysis to provide a differentiated understanding of the impact of SV on Mozambican adolescents. By examining both statistical trends and socio-cultural factors, we aim to create a solid evidence-based foundation for future efforts to protect children and adolescents and combat sexual violence in Mozambique.



Qualitative expert insights (N=28)

Methods

- 1. Passive contact abuse:** Being sexually touched by another person against one's will.
- 2. Active contact abuse:** Being forced to touch somebody else sexually.
- 3. Forced intercourse abuse:** Any type of penetrative sexual activity.
- 4. Non-contact abuse:** Unwanted exposure to pornographic material, verbal harassment, or dissemination of personal and intimate photos or messages on the internet.
- 5. Transactional abuse:** Being coerced to perform sexual acts in exchange for money or goods, including forced prostitution.

Quantitative adolescent findings (N= 1,557)

	Girls	Boys
Gender	879	678
In-school	822	621
Out-School	57	57

Results

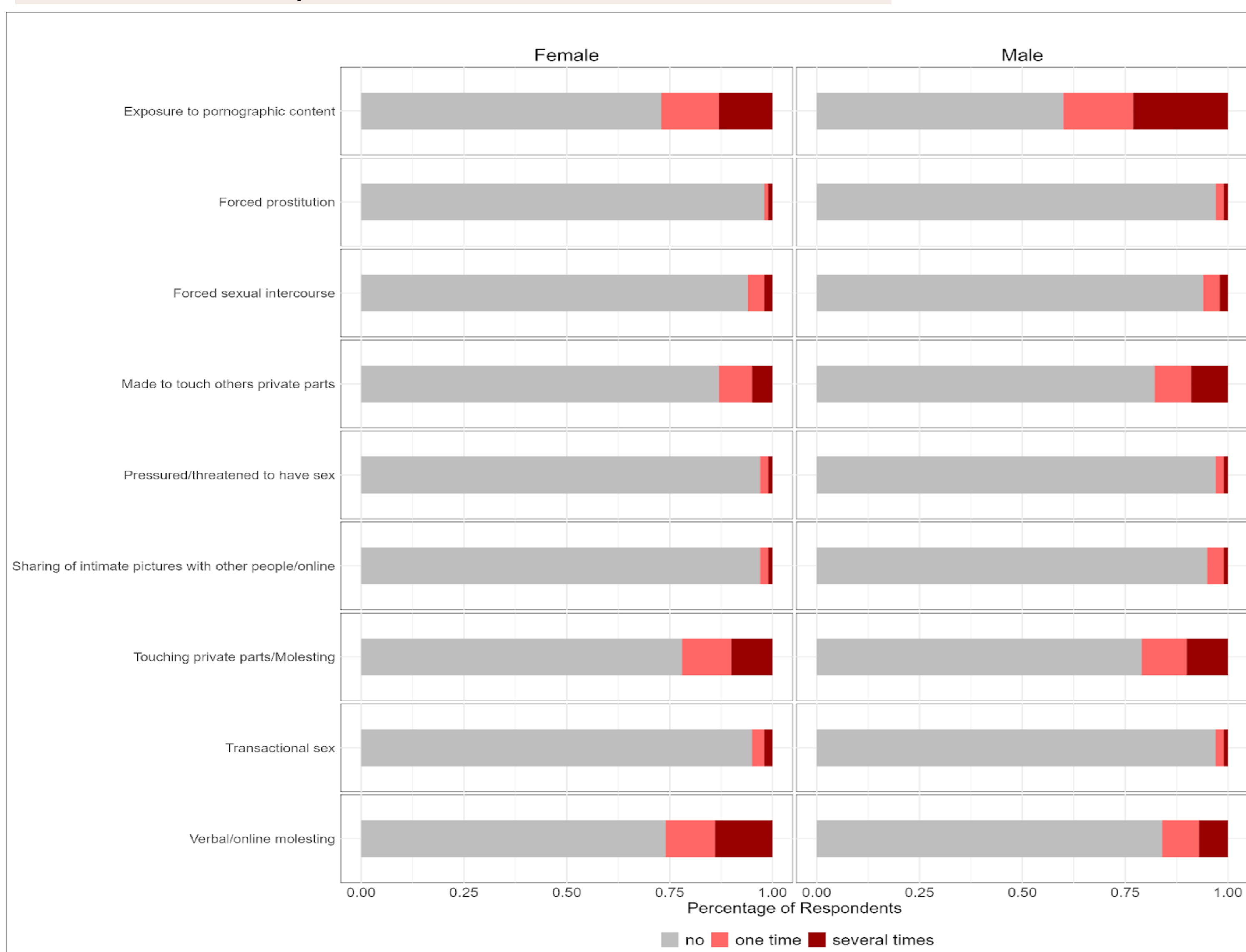
Girls:

- Exposure to pornographic content - 25% reporting one-time exposure and 15% reporting repeated exposure
- Forced sexual intercourse affected around 15% of adolescent girls, with 10% experiencing one incident and 5% multiple incidents
- Non-contact forms of abuse, including being pressured to touch others' private parts, being pressured or threatened into having sex, and sharing of intimate pictures online were reported by 10-15% of adolescent girls

Boys:

- Pornography exposure was at 30% for both one-time and repeated exposure
- Experiences of forced sexual intercourse was slightly lower among males (10%), other forms of abuse such as being made to touch private parts (20%), being pressured into having sex (15%), and sharing intimate pictures (10%) occurred quite commonly
- Engagement in transactional sex, being touched in a sexual way without consent, and being molested verbally or online affected around 5-10% of both adolescent boys and girls

References:
Goessmann K, Ssenyonga J, Nkuba M, Hermenau K, Hecker T. Characterizing the prevalence and contributing factors of sexual violence: A representative cross-sectional study among school-going adolescents in two East African countries. Child Abuse Negl. 2020 Nov;109:104711
Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development | Department of Economic and Social Affairs.



Conclusion & key learnings

Peer victimization is prevalent among both boys and girls

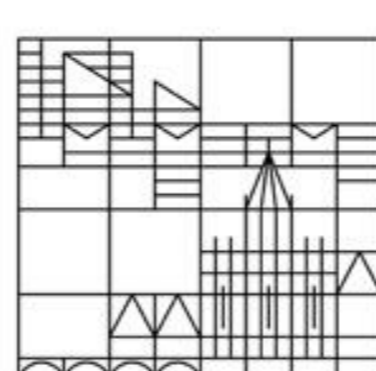
Experiencing SV before the age of 12 was a strong predictor of later victimisation, emphasising the need for early prevention interventions

Male victimisation is often overlooked or under-reported due to social norms and cultural expectations of masculinity. The **stigma** surrounding male victimisation is particularly severe



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