



# Gender inequitable masculinity and sexual entitlement in rape perpetration in South Africa: findings of a cross-sectional study

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# South Africa: very high prevalence of rape

- 56 272 rapes of women and girls were reported to the police between April 2010 and March 2011
- Rate of reporting to police ~4x higher than the United States, and has shown no evidence of decline in the last 15 years
- Recent research found 1 in 25 women ever raped and 1 in 13 raped by a non-partner had reported it to the police

# Understanding rape perpetration is a priority for rape prevention

- This research was informed by the current state of theory on rape perpetration, notably the work from the US of psychologists e.g Malamuth, also Knight, Abbey
- Feminist gender theories e.g Bourgois and sociological approaches
- Development psychopathology

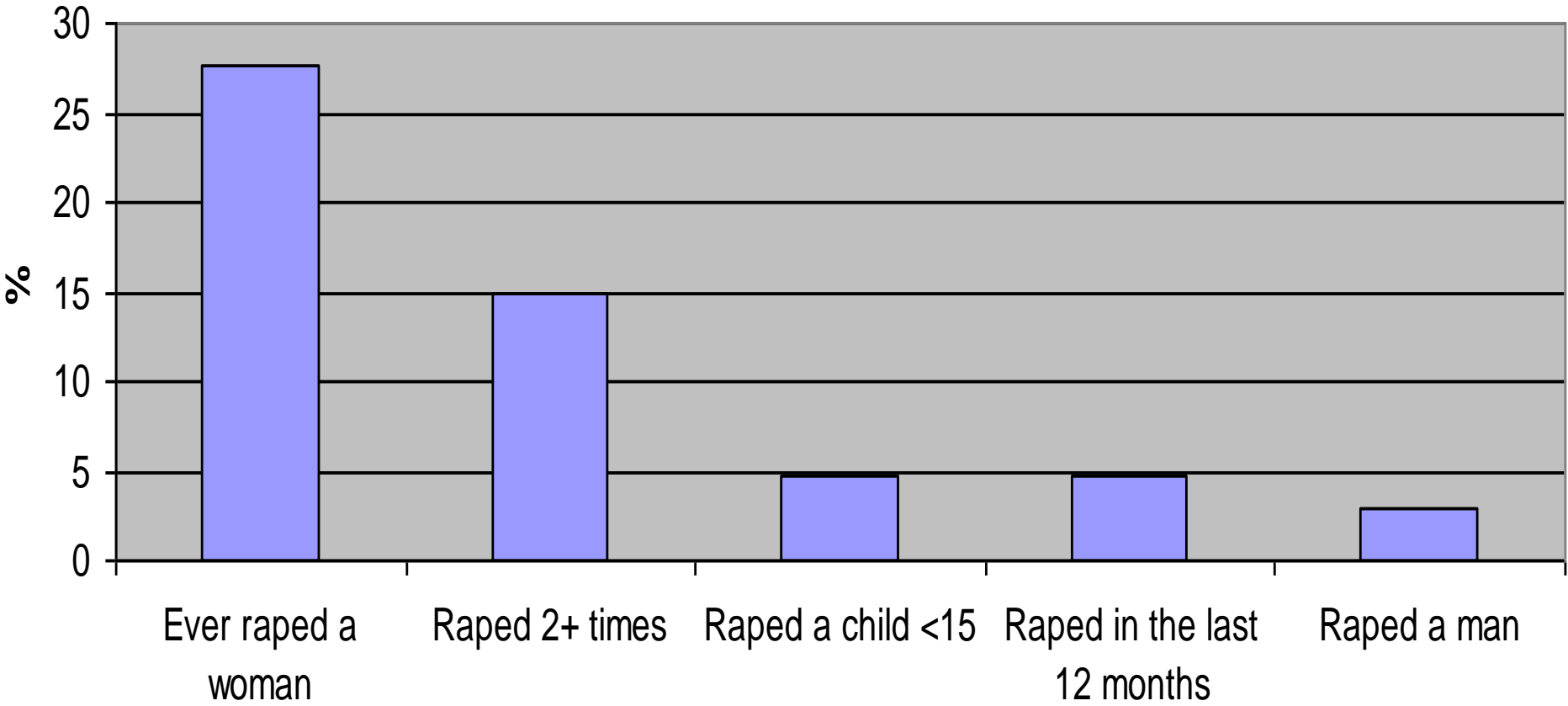
# Methods: rape and HIV study

- Setting: three districts in the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu Natal Provinces – spanning geographical areas: rural, urban and city
- Study design: cross-sectional with a two stage random sample
- Cluster design: 222 enumeration areas, 20 households approaches per ea, one man aged 18-49 years interviewed per household
- APDAs (Audio-enhanced Personal Digital Assistants) were used
- We completed interviews in 215 of 220 eligible eas (97.7%) and in 1,738 of 2,298 (75.6% ) of the enumerated and eligible households

**Table 1: Social and demographic characteristics of the sample**

	<b>Rape</b>	<b>Never raped</b>		
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>p value</b>	
age: 18-24 years	49.8%	52.4%	0.180	
25-34	34.5%	29.9%		
35-49	15.7%	17.7%		
Education: high school complete	43.7%	39.0%	0.104	
Race: Black African	83.5%	85.8%	0.003	
Coloured	6.9%	3.1%		
Indian	9.0%	9.1%		
White	0.6%	2.0%		
Marital status: married	19.5%	23.1%	0.0001	
cohabiting with woman	16.5%	9.5%		
divorced/widowed	5.2%	3.0%		
single	58.9%	64.4%		
Monthly income: R0-500	59.4%	69.8%	0.0003	
Ever hungry due to no money	58.3%	49.4%	0.003	

# Proportion of adult men who have perpetrated different acts of rape



Never raped 72.4%

Intimate Partner

4.2 %

5.3 %

4.4%

0.5 %

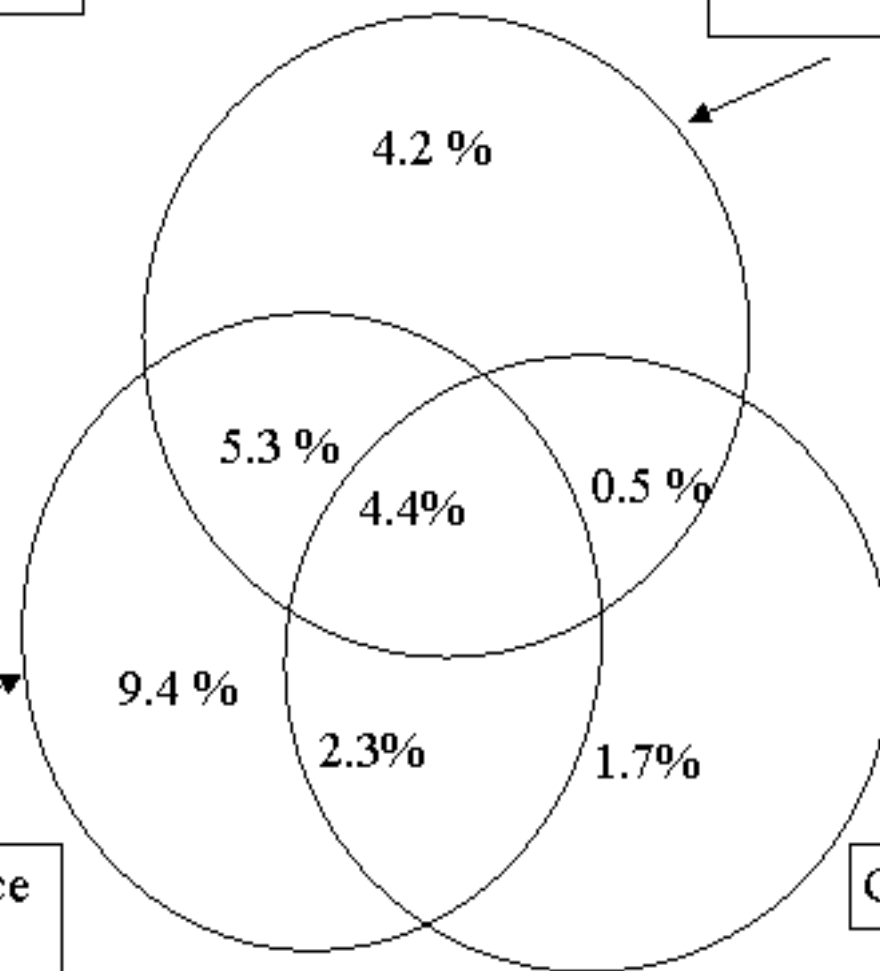
9.4 %

2.3%

1.7%

Stranger, acquaintance  
or family member

Gang rape



# Childhood environment & trauma

	<b>Rape</b>	<b>Never raped</b>		
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>p value</b>	
Raped by a man	17.2%	6.3%	<0.0001	
Mother's education: none	16.2%	25.4%	<0.0001	
some schooling	70.1%	68.0%		
completed school or higher	13.8%	6.6%		
<b>Childhood experiences</b>				
Perceptions of maternal kindness (mean score)	10.53	10.91	<0.0001	
Perceptions of paternal kindness (mean score)	11.18	12.16	<0.0001	
Mother never or rarely at home	45.6%	38.0%	0.012	
Father never or rarely at home	72.7%	65.2%	0.006	
Was teased and harassed as a child	67.5%	49.5%	<0.0001	
Childhood trauma scale	21.09	18.48	<0.0001	



	<b>Rape</b>	<b>Never raped</b>	
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>p value</b>
<b>Attitudes</b>			
Gender equitable men scale	22.36	23.81	<0.0001
Adversarial sexual beliefs score	14.14	14.79	0.018
Hostility towards women score	4.39	3.96	0.023
Rape myth score	9.89	9.42	0.013
<b>Psychological measures</b>			
Life circumstances now less good than peers	28.1%	16.9%	<0.0001
Blame externalisation	48.1%	32.1%	<0.0001
Machievellian egocentricity	30.7%	13.9%	<0.0001
Empathy (mean)	0.45	0.55	0.001

	<b>Rape</b>	<b>raped</b>		
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>p value</b>	
Alcohol	21.4%	35.1%	<0.0001	
moderate	43.3%	44.3%		
high	35.3%	20.7%		
Drug use in the past year	56.3%	31.6%	<0.0001	
Gang membership	22.2%	7.0%	<0.0001	
<b>Relations with women</b>				
> 20 sexual partners	52.8%	25.3%	<0.0001	
Any transactional sex	78.5%	58.8%	<0.0001	
Physical IPV:				
never	32.1%	67.4%	<0.0001	
once	15.9%	12.2%		
more than 1 time or type	52.0%	20.3%		

<b>Violent and anti-social behaviours</b>			
	<b>Rape</b>	<b>Never raped</b>	
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>p value</b>
School bullying score	12.29	9.90	<0.0001
Stolen something or had stolen goods:			
Never	22.9%	50.4%	<0.0001
1-2 occasions	19.0%	25.2%	
3 or more	58.1%	24.4%	
Ever in possession of an illegal gun	24.1%	6.1%	<0.0001
Has a licenced firearm	7.4%	5.6%	0.219
Has a weapon other than a licenced firearm	31.3%	16.1%	<0.0001
Rape of a man	9.5%	0.5%	<0.0001
Arrested for another crime	29.0%	20.8%	0.001

## Multivariable model of factors associated with raping (age adjusted)

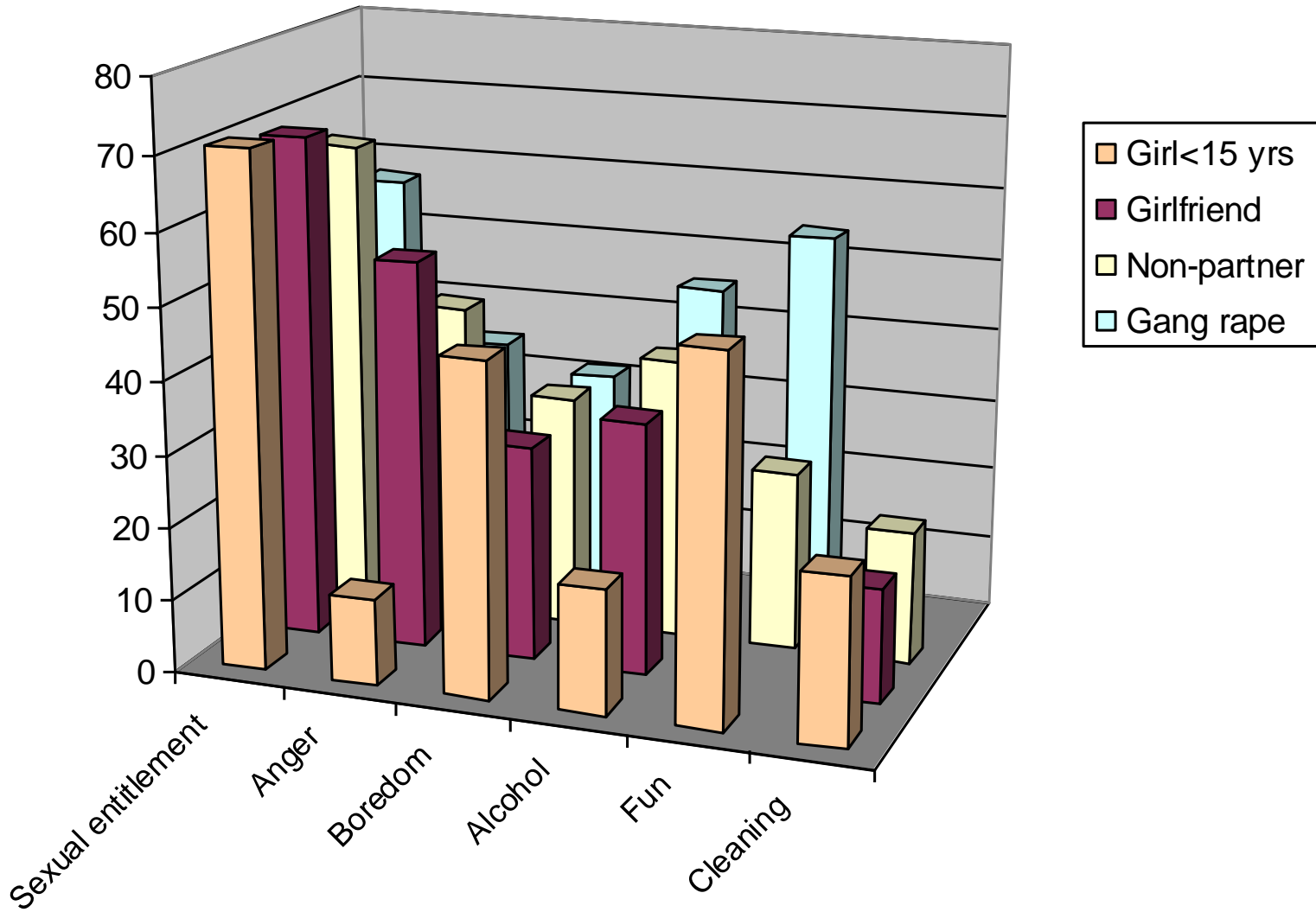
	<b>OR</b>	<b>95% CI</b>		<b>p value</b>
Childhood trauma scale	1.04	1.01	1.07	0.014
Raped by a man	2.18	1.35	3.52	0.002
Mother's education: none	1.00			
some schooling	1.94	1.26	3.00	0.003
completed school or higher	4.46	2.42	8.25	<0.0001
GEM scale	0.97	0.94	1.00	0.032
>20 sexual partners	1.88	1.36	2.59	<0.0001
Ever had transactional sex	1.53	1.10	2.33	0.015
Physical IPV perpetration: never	1.00			
once	1.85	1.17	2.92	0.008
more than 1 time or type	2.94	2.08	4.17	<0.0001
Past year drug use	1.52	1.10	2.09	0.011
Ever a gang member	1.98	1.26	3.10	0.003
Raped by a man	2.31	1.43	3.72	0.001
Life circumstances less good than peers	1.69	1.16	2.47	0.006
Machievellian egocentricity (upper third)	2.07	1.43	2.99	<0.0001

**Model of factors associated with having raped in the previous 12 months, South African men (18-49 years)**

**(adjusted for age and stratum)**

	<b>OR</b>	<b>95% CI</b>		<b>p value</b>	
Childhood trauma scale	1.05	1.01	1.10	0.02	
GEM scale (continuous)	0.95	0.90	1.00	0.035	
Machievellian egocentricity (upper third of scale)	1.84	1.03	3.27	0.04	
Raped by a man	2.04	1.04	3.99	0.04	
Physical IPV perpetration: never	1.00				
once	2.74	1.18	6.36	0.029	
more than 1 time or type	3.86	1.98	7.53	<0.0001	

## Motivations for rape



# Conclusions

- No reason to expect exaggeration in reporting of rape – in a random sample of men in Gauteng province 37% disclosed rape perpetration
- Very high prevalence points to the need for population approaches to prevention
- Key factors associated with raping:
  - Abuse and adversity in childhood
  - Ideation that justifies rape – esp. gender hierarchy
  - Inequitable practices in gender relations
  - Men saw themselves as victims & externalised blame
  - Delinquent peers and engagement with criminality

# Conclusions

- Motivations – central here are ideas of sexual entitlement and use of rape to punish women
- Speaks to a local legitimation of rape – even if rape is not seen as legitimate by victims or societal laws
- In terms of theorisation of rape – our findings highlight the importance of patriarchy, which has been largely ignored or treated very uncritically in many of the established rape perpetration theories



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