



**Magnitude of childhood sexual violence
(SV) in refugee settlements among
females and males ages 13-24 years in
Uganda: Implications for programming**

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2024 SVRI Forum

Tuesday, 22 October 2024

Cape Town

Background

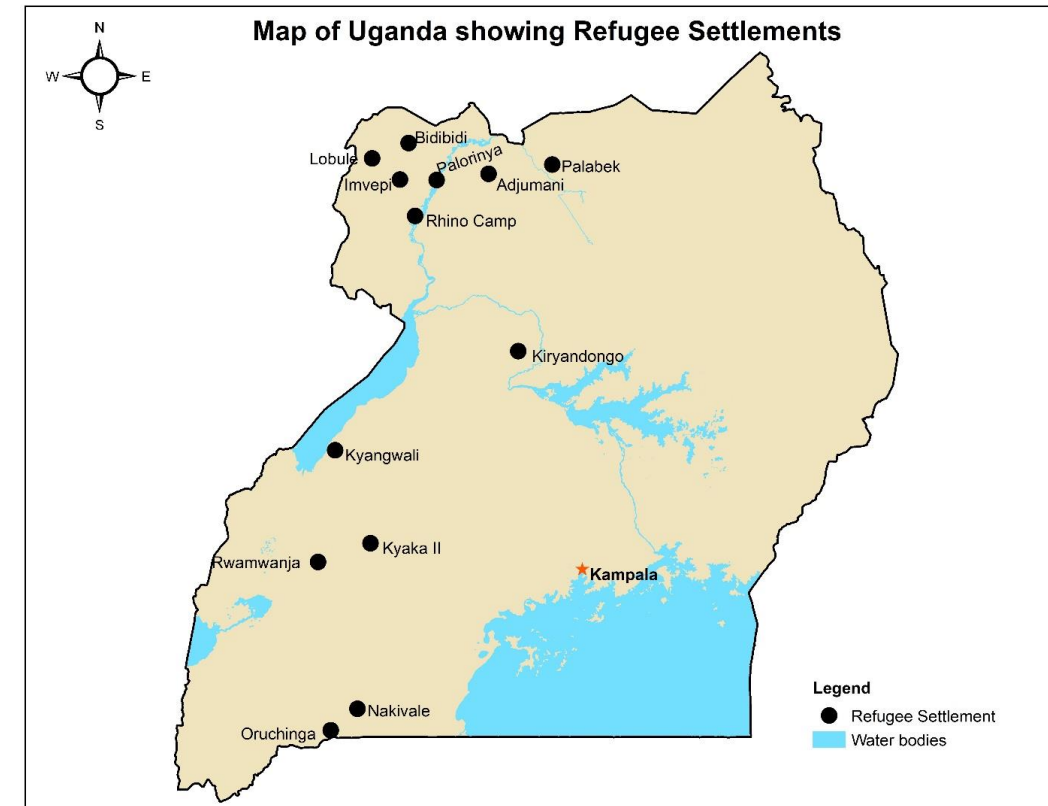
- Sexual violence (SV) constitutes a violation of human rights.
- Far-reaching negative effects such as death, injuries, poor mental health outcomes, negative coping behaviours, and unintended pregnancies
- Experience of violence among children in humanitarian is presumed to be higher than in other settings.
 - Precarious environment
 - Unaccompanied children
- Uganda hosts largest number of refugees in the East and Horn of Africa, majority being children.
 - Until now, there was no up-to-date estimate on sexual violence among children in humanitarian settings in Uganda, to inform programming.

Objectives

- We aim to:
 - ✓ To estimate the prevalence of childhood sexual violence among children in refugee settings in Uganda
 - ✓ To examine the occurrence of sexual violence in humanitarian settings in Uganda in terms of location, time of occurrence and perpetrator.

HVACS Methodology

- Adaptation of standard VACS used in development setting
 - (20+ LMICS)
- Representative household survey in 13 refugee settlements in Uganda
- Multistage split sampling
 - 1,338 13-24-year-old females
 - 927 13-24-year-old males



Measuring childhood sexual violence

- Participants who responded 'yes' to any of the SV questions were categorized as having experienced sexual violence.
- Respondents who experienced sexual violence were asked questions about their relationship with the perpetrator

Has anyone ever touched you in a sexual way against your will (touching without permission)?

Has anyone tried to make you have sex against your will (attempted forced sex)?

Has anyone physically forced you to have sex against your will (physically forced)?

Has anyone pressured you to have sex (pressured into sex)?

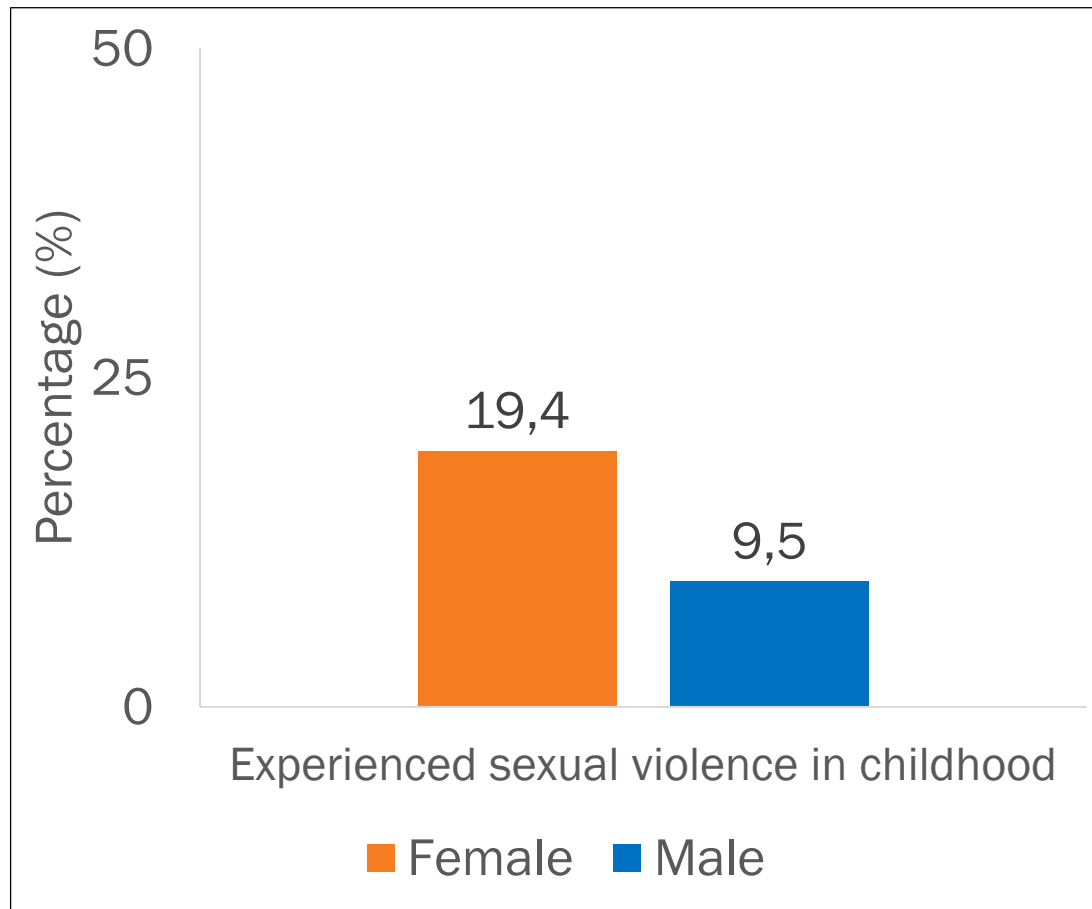
Findings

Characteristics of participants

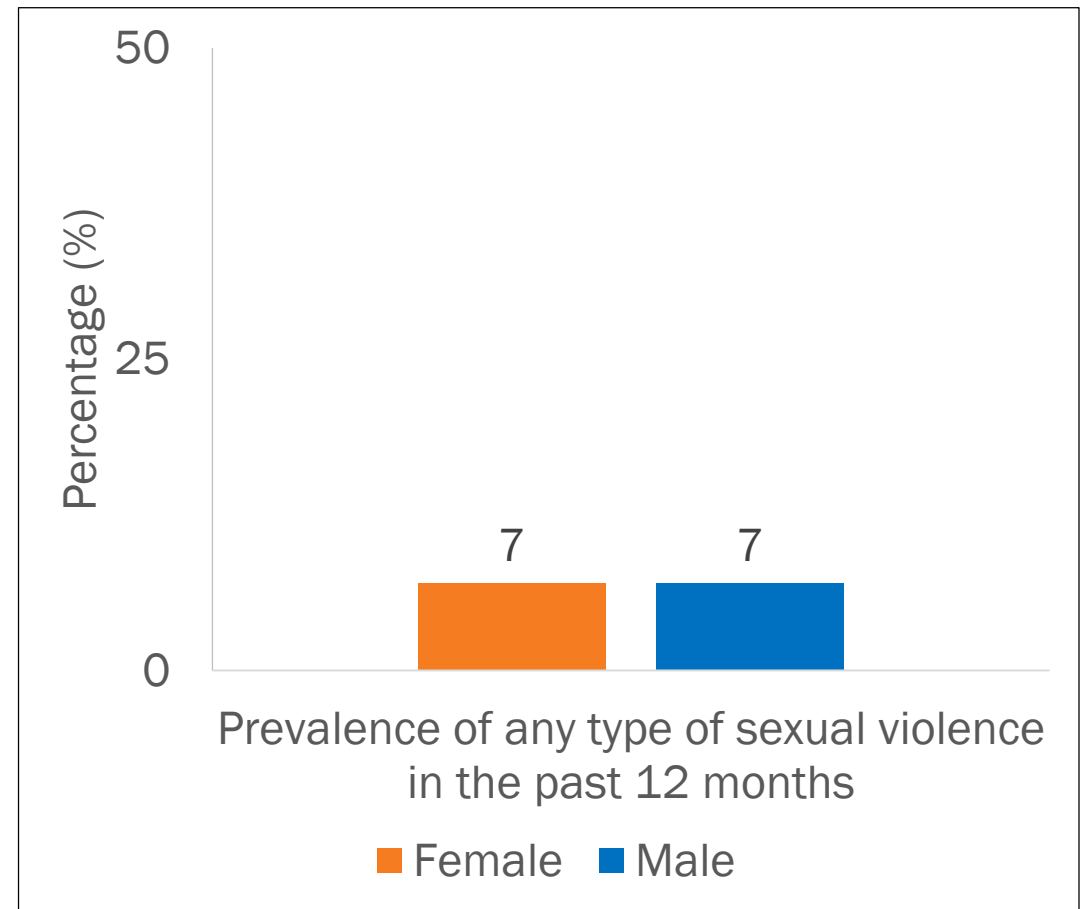
| Indicator | 18-24-year-olds | | 13-17-year-olds | |
|--|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| | Female N=622 | Male N=395 | Female N=716 | Male N=532 |
| Country of origin | | | | |
| South Sudan | 64% | 69% | 68% | 64% |
| DRC | 29% | 21% | 28% | 29% |
| Others* | 7% | 10% | 4% | 7% |
| Orphanhood status | | | | |
| Lost one parent | 23% | 24% | 25% | 23% |
| Lost both parents | 6% | 6% | 7% | 8% |
| Worked for money or other payment in the past 12 months | 43% | 62% | 20% | 34% |
| Never attended school | 9.9% | 3.6% | 3.4% | 2.0% |
| Married or living with someone | 41.1% | 16.9% | 1.8% | 0.4% |

* Others include Rwanda, Somalia, Burundi

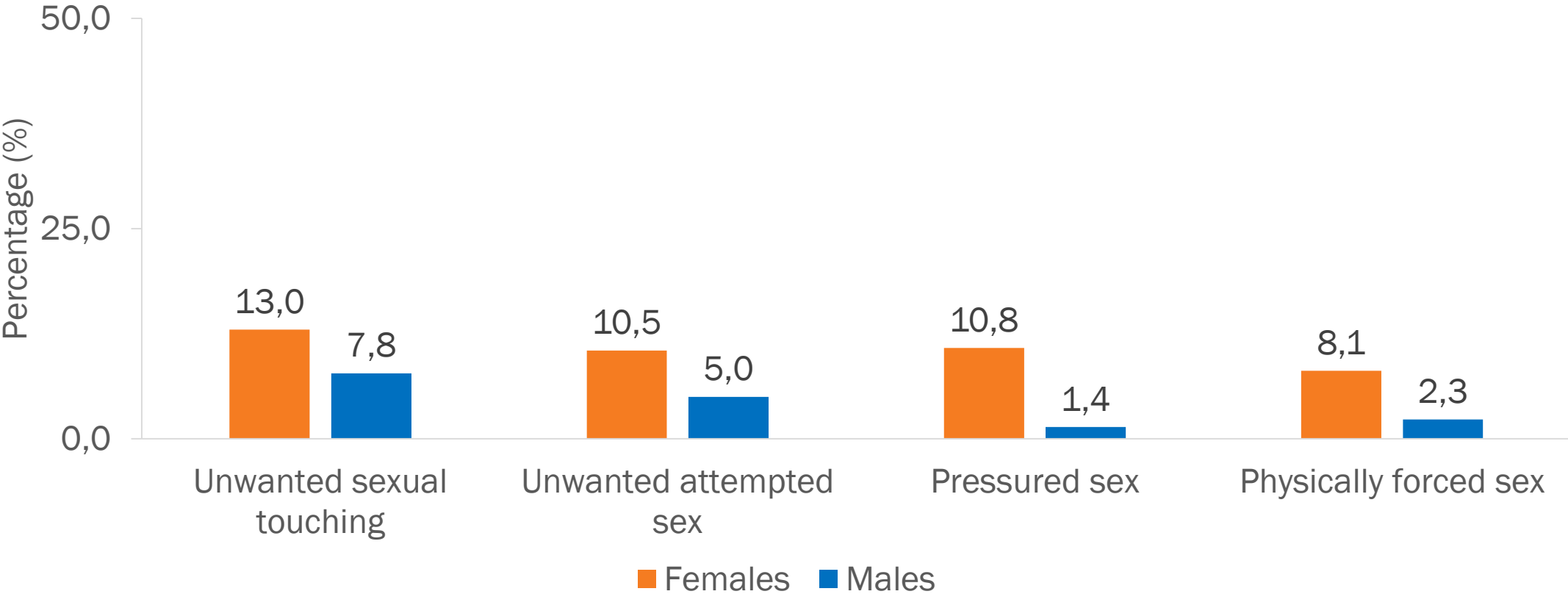
Prevalence of sexual violence in childhood (before age 18 years) among 18-24-year-olds



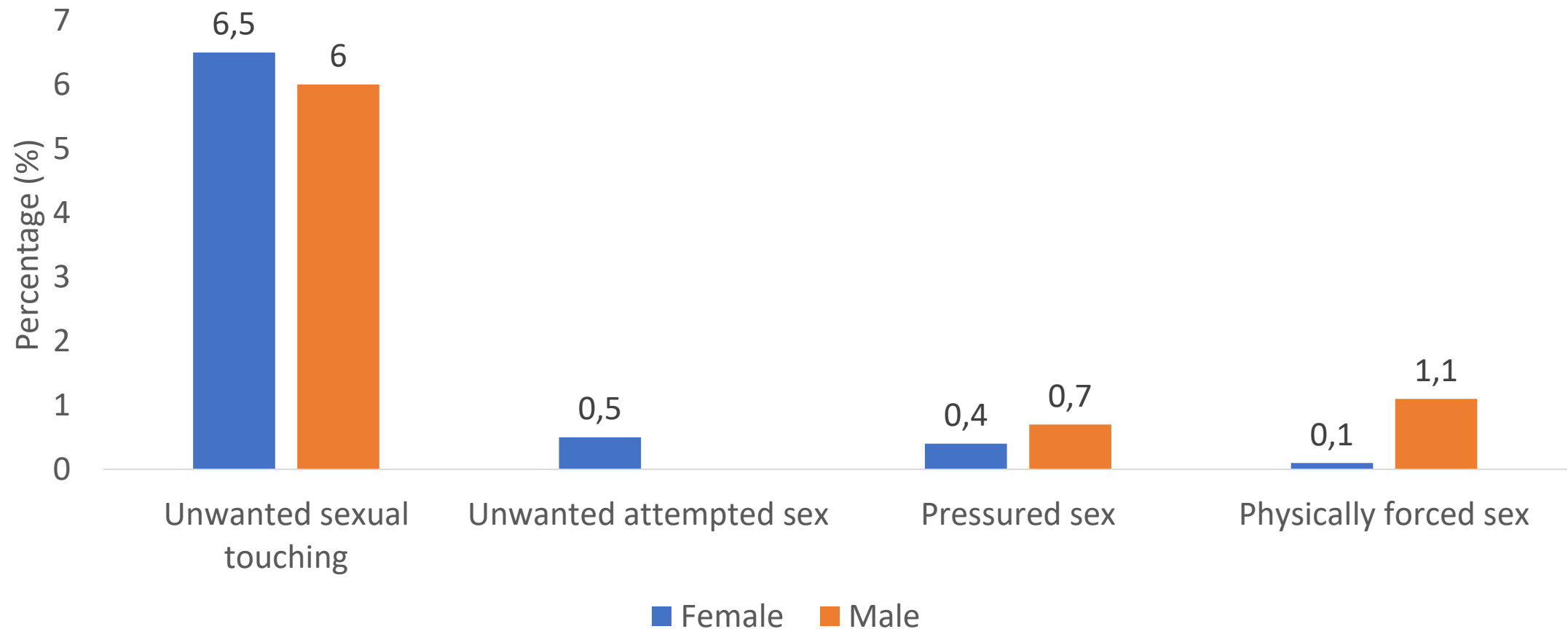
Prevalence of any sexual violence in the past 12 months among 13-17-year-olds



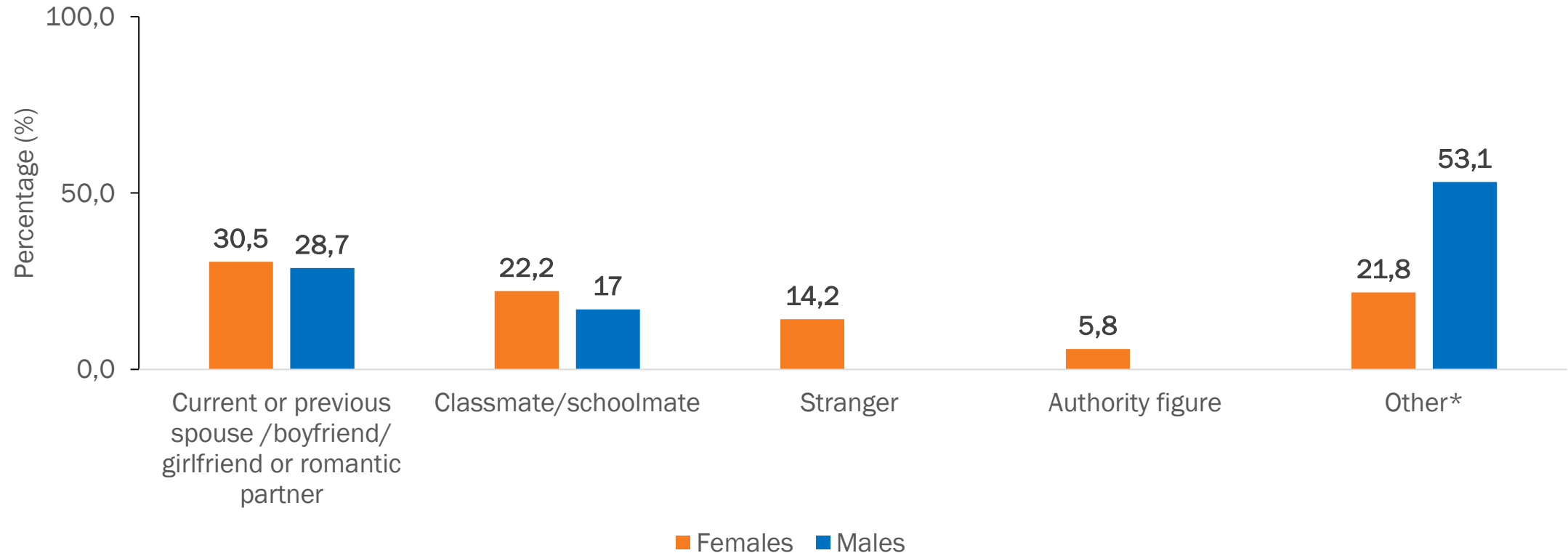
Prevalence of different types of sexual violence in childhood among 18-24-year-olds



Prevalence of different types of sexual violence in childhood among 13-17-year-olds

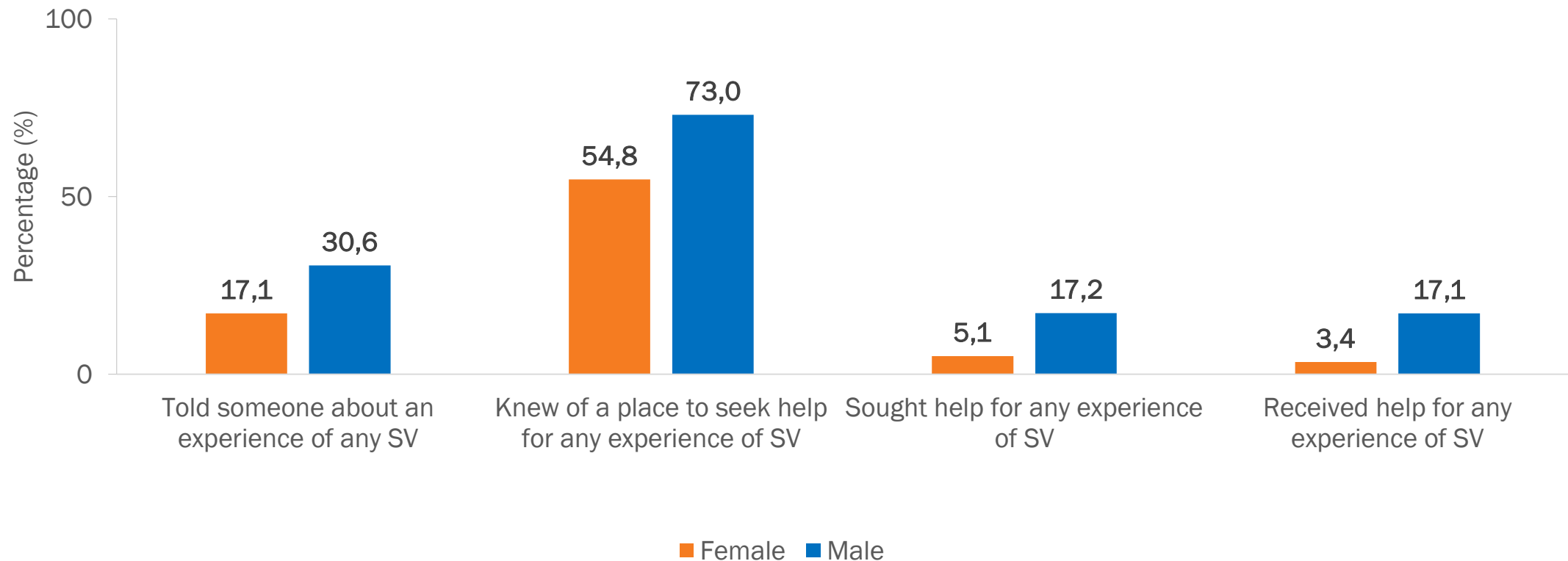


Perpetrators of the 1st incident of sexual violence in childhood experienced by 18-24-year-olds

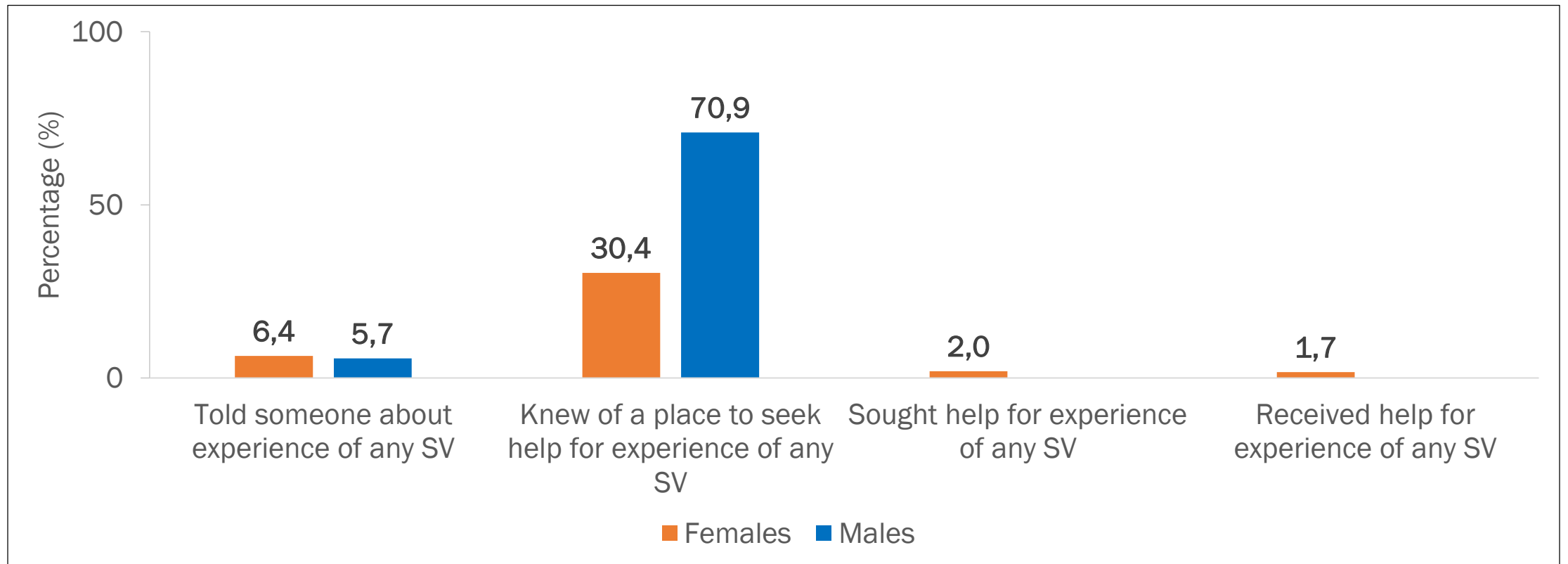


* Includes family member, relative, neighbour, and friend

Disclosure, service-seeking, and receipt of help for any incident of SV among 18-24-year-olds who experienced SV in childhood



Disclosure, service-seeking, and receipt of help for any incident of SV among 13-17-year-old who experienced SV in the past 12 months



Location and time of day

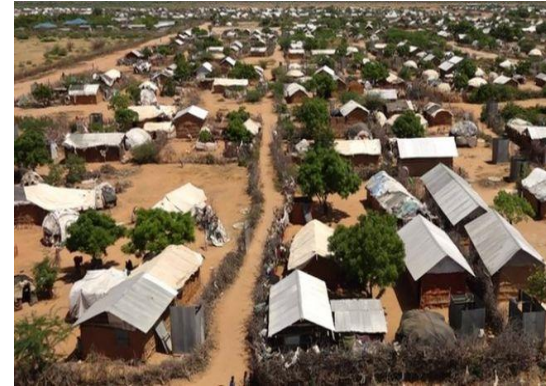
| Indicator | 18-24-year-olds | | 13-17-year-olds | |
|---|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| | Female N=622 | Male N=395 | Female N=716 | Male N=532 |
| Location | | | | |
| Outside location | 67.5% | 56.7% | 84.6% | 71.8% |
| Perpetrator's home | 13.0% | 13.5% | 6.8% | 5.9% |
| Respondent's home | 11.4% | 13.2% | 5.9% | 17.3% |
| Time of day | | | | |
| Morning | 17.9% | 2.0% | 8.1% | ** |
| Afternoon | 30.1% | 38.3% | 44.3% | 32.0% |
| Evening | 47.3% | 46.0% | 47.0% | 59.2% |
| Late at Night | 3.7% | 13.7% | 0.5% | 8.8% |
| After arriving in the settlement | 73.3% | 53.2% | 91.8% | 95.4% |

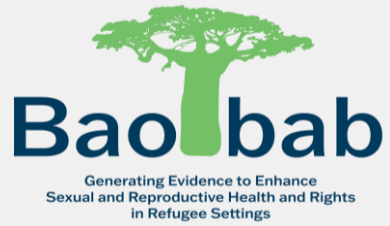
Age at first experience and perpetrators

| Indicator | 18-24-year-olds | | 13-17-year-olds | |
|--|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| | Female N=622 | Male N=395 | Female N=716 | Male N=532 |
| Age at first experience in childhood | | | | |
| 13 or younger | 37.7% | 8.3% | - | - |
| 14-15 | 34.8% | 22.9% | - | - |
| 16-17 | 27.5% | 68.8% | - | - |
| Perpetrators of first incident | | | | |
| Perpetrator 5 or more years older at first incident of any sexual violence in childhood | 54.2% | 12.8% | - | - |
| More than one perpetrator at first incident of sexual violence in childhood | 23.0% | ** | - | - |
| Perpetrator 5 or more years older at the most recent incident of any sexual violence in the past 12 months | 32.7% | 3.4% | 30.5% | 6.1% |

Implications for programming

- Intensified sexual violence prevention efforts are required during the childhood years to stem the tide of increased sexual violence exposure among girls as they grow older.
- Interventions are needed to promote disclosure and help-seeking. Younger children may also require special (child-friendly) support to access the VAC services they need.
- Community-wide approaches that promote the allyship of all community members in violence prevention are important, given the wide range of perpetrators reported, and the fact that most perpetration occurred outdoors.





Filling Gaps in Evidence to Enhance Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights among Vulnerable Populations in Refugee Settings in the East and Horn of Africa



The Population Council leads the Baobab Research Program Consortium in close partnership with the Population Council Kenya and the African Population and Health Research Center. Situated in the East and Horn of Africa, this Africa-based and African-led consortium is filling critical evidence gaps to reduce inequities in sexual reproductive health and rights among vulnerable populations in humanitarian settings.





An Evening with Baobab

Date: Tuesday, 22nd October 2024

Time: 1930 – 2130

Room: Hall 8.2, Cape Town International Convention Center

Welcome, 2024 SVRI Forum Delegates! We are excited to invite you to a conversational forum exploring an impactful, SRHR-focused Research Programme Consortium (RPC) operating in refugee settings in the East and Horn of Africa. The Baobab RPC is pioneering innovative large-scale studies and interventions in humanitarian contexts, which are often excluded by national surveys and traditional research. Join us for an engaging discussion and the chance to learn more about this vital work! **Register here:** <https://t.ly/TA9tt>