

How big is the problem?

Facts and Figures on Sexual Violence against Women in Sports

By

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Study on gender-based violence in sport in EU (Mergaert et al 2016)

- *"Due to a lack of studies and methodological difficulties, reliable prevalence and incidence, data on (forms of) gender-based violence in sport are strikingly absent across the EU and internationally.*
- *The terminology used to refer to forms of gender-based violence varies greatly across the EU, and there remains a lack of clarity in legal text.*



Outline

- What are we talking about: sexual violence – definitions
- What do we know about prevalence of sexual violence among adult athletes
- Who are the perpetrators?
- Conclusions and recommendations



Why are definitions important? (adopted from IOC Toolkit for IFs and NOCs, 2017)

- A prerequisite for research. i.e. how we measure violence
- Sets out what behaviours and actions are considered as violence – important when developing a policy, particularly with respect to safeguarding and educational material
- Should assist athletes, coaches, administrators etc. in learning what may constitute violence, and therefore behaviours that are not tolerated
- Underline the principles for which a case may be referred to Disciplinary Committee, Police etc



What is violence?

- "...the intentional use of **physical force or power**, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment, or deprivation." (*WHO 2002 World report on violence and health*).
- The WRVH also presents a typology of violence: **physical**; **sexual**; and **psychological attack**; and **deprivation** it then divides the general definition of violence into three sub-types according to the victim-perpetrator relationship:
 - **Self-directed violence**
 - **Interpersonal violence** refers to violence between individuals, and is subdivided into *family and intimate partner violence* and *community violence*.
 - **Collective violence** - can be subdivided into social, political and economic violence.

Defintions (Istanbul Convention)

- Violence against women is described as being rooted in gender inequality:
- "Violence against women" is understood as a **violation of human rights** and a form of **discrimination against women** and shall mean all acts of gender based violence that result in, or likely to result in, physical, sexual, psychological or economic harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, when occurring in public or private life (Article 3, Istanbul convention)
- "Gender-based violence against women" shall mean violence that is directed against a woman because she is a woman or that affects women disproportionately".



- *"Violence directed against a person because of that person's gender (including gender identity/expression) or as violence that affects persons of a particular gender disproportionately"*

4 PERCENT
of undergraduate men
experience sexual assault while in college.

Source: Christopher P. Krebs, Christine H. Lindquist, Tara D. Warner, et al.

Mother Jones



ALL IN

Towards gender balance
in sport

Albania, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia,
Lithuania, Montenegro and Serbia

Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France,
and The Netherlands

Austria, Croatia, Greece, Czech
Republic, Israel, Portugal and Spain

Running a broad data collection campaign on gender equality in sport

6 areas: leadership, coaching, participation, **gender-based violence**, media/communication, policies and programmes on gender equality in sport

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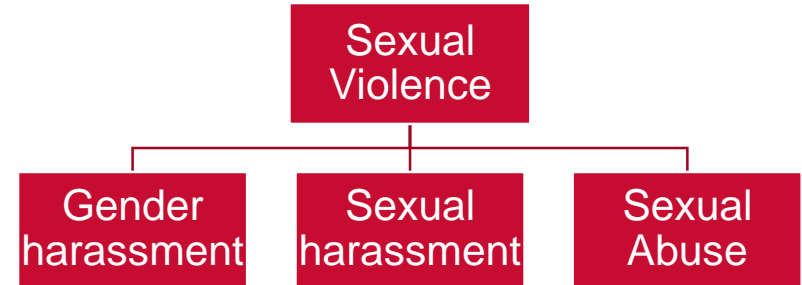


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Sexual Violence – an umbrella concept

Sexual violence is defined as: any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, unwanted sexual comments or advances, or acts to traffic, or otherwise directed, against a person's sexuality using coercion, by any person regardless of their relationship to the victim, in any setting, including but not limited to home and work. (WHO World report on violence and health 2002)



Sexual violence in sport normally stem from abuses of power relations facilitated by an organisational culture that ignores, denies, fails to prevent or even tacitly accepts such problems

Sexual Violence: Identifying Gender, Sexual Harassment and Abuse

- *Gender harassment* refers to a broad range of verbal and nonverbal behaviours not aiming at sexual cooperation but conveying insulting, hostile, and degrading attitudes about one's gender (male or female),
- *Sexual harassment* refers to behaviour towards an individual or group that involves sexualised verbal, non-verbal or physical behaviour, whether intended or unintended, legal or illegal, that is based upon an abuse of power and trust and that is considered by the victim or a bystander to be unwanted or coerced.
- The core in the definitions of *sexual abuse* is that it is non-consensual sexual contact and that it is forced or coerced

Examples of sexual violence: gender- , sexual harassment and abuse

- **Verbal**

- Derogatory or demeaning jokes and comments of a sexual nature
- Repeated unwanted sexual proposals or invitations concerning sexual behavior
- Ridicule or sexist jokes about women and men, girls and boys in general

- **Non-verbal**

- Unwanted sexual suggestions, whistling, sexual staring and leering about one's body, clothes or private life
- Unwanted telephone calls, sms or letters with sexual content
- Being shown pictures or things with unwanted sexual content

- **Physical**

- Unwanted touching of a sexual nature,
- pinching
- attempted kissing
- unwanted body contact and body pressing
- Forced into sexual acts
- Attempted rape and rape



Why prevalence studies



- Necessity to convince sport organizations and governments that Gender Based Violence occurs in Sport
- Necessity for developing educational and prevention programs
- Necessity for identifying high-risk groups and developing target oriented prevention programs



Little knowledge about the prevalence of SV among adult females in sports (I)

- Few studies on adults
- Most studies on children and youth – often retrospective
- Studies on adults often show that their experiences of sexual violence most often happen when they were younger.
- Some of these studies are on women only (Norway, Czech Republic and Greece), others cover both genders (Sweden, Zambia, Germany)
- The measurements vary a lot, from three to 19 questions



Little knowledge about the prevalence of SV among adult females in sports (II)

- Weak measurements, reliability and validity seem not to be tested
- The studies normally don't cover a certain time period for example last year, but are Lifetime (threshold) measurements.
- The studies normally don't separate between gender, sexual harassment and abuse, but one study present figures for mild, moderate and severe forms of sexual violence (Germany).
- Perpetrators: authority figures, coach, and peers

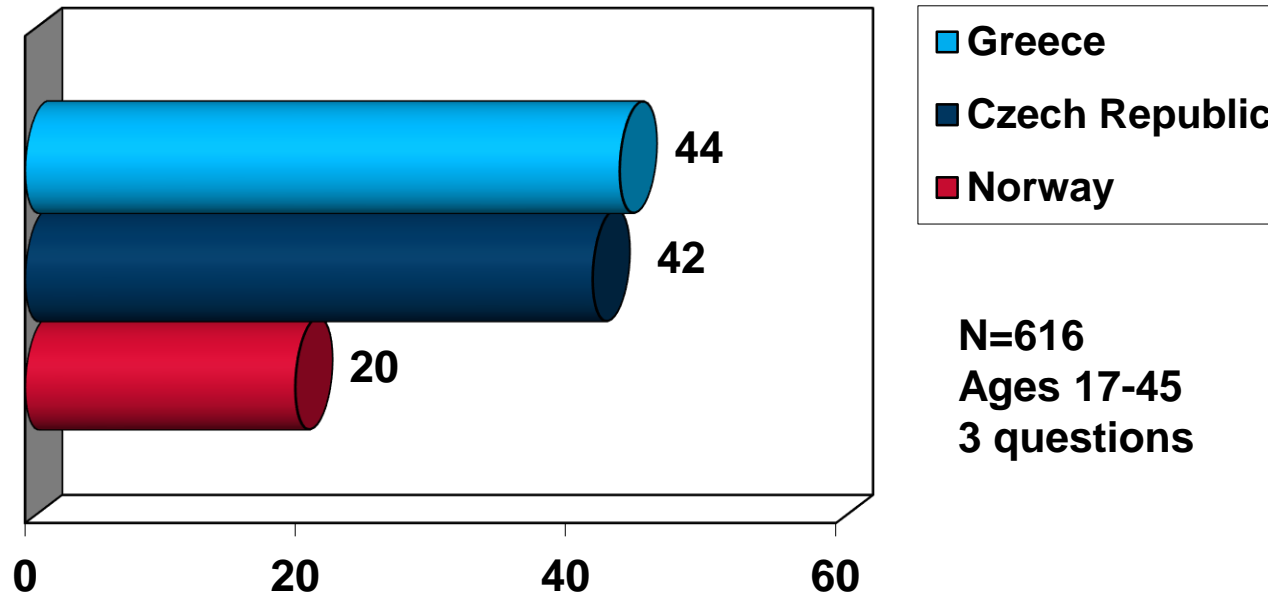


Difficult to compare studies on GBV

- Difference in definitions
- Differences in sampling procedures
- Methodological approaches
- Vocabulary and connotative meaning of questionnaire items
- Anonymity
- Confidentiality of disclosures
- Statistical analyses employed, etc



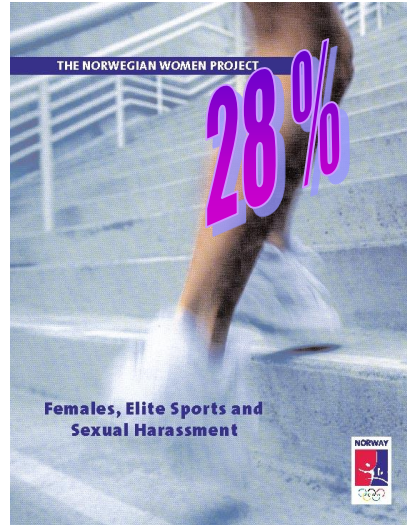
Sexual harassment inside sport experienced by female sport students in Czech Republic, Greece, and Norway (Fasting et al 2011)



Female athletes' experiences of sexual harassment in sport

(Fasting et al 2000, Fasting & Knorre 2005)

15-39 ages, 533 female elite level athletes and 516 non-athletes, 11 questions – 58 sports disciplines



+ 25
interviews

15-55 ages, 595 elite, non-elite and exercising females, 3 questions -



+ 9
interviews

Forms of sexual harassment and abuse from a coach (physical)

- *“It happens quite often that people try to hug people, but with this particular coach it is very clear that it was in a sexual context, so you have to be really insistent to keep him away from yourself. I experienced it as unpleasant.....It mainly happens during the training where he uses opportunities like when someone is coming to practice and he comes to hug and says I’m really glad to see you. But during the hug he can move his hands on the body, which is unpleasant.” (Fasting and Knorre 2005)*



What is the prevalence of SHA perpetrated by coaches as self-reported by a sample of current and former male and female Swedish athletes aged 25? (Johanson & Lundquist 2017)

Table 1. Self-reported prevalence rates of SHA by coaches displayed in frequencies and percent.

	Male athletes	Female athletes	Total	Gender differences (χ^2 analyses)
SHA ^a	(n = 223)	(n = 254)	(n = 477)	p
Inappropriate, unpleasant or offensive physical contact	7 (3.1%)	14 (5.5%)	21 (4.4%)	.20
Unwillingly depicted in sexually explicit footage or film	0 (0.0%)	3 (1.2%)	3 (0.6%)	.10
Forced to watch a sexual activity committed by a coach	1 (0.4%)	1 (0.4%)	2 (0.4%)	.93
Compelled or pressured to participate in a sexual activity	0 (0.0%)	3 (1.2%)	3 (0.6%)	.10
More severe forms of sexual assault	1 (0.4%)	1 (0.4%)	2 (0.4%)	.93

^aPartial response-rate = 475–476.

5,5 % (N=26) of the athletes reported prevalence of SHA perpetrated by male coaches

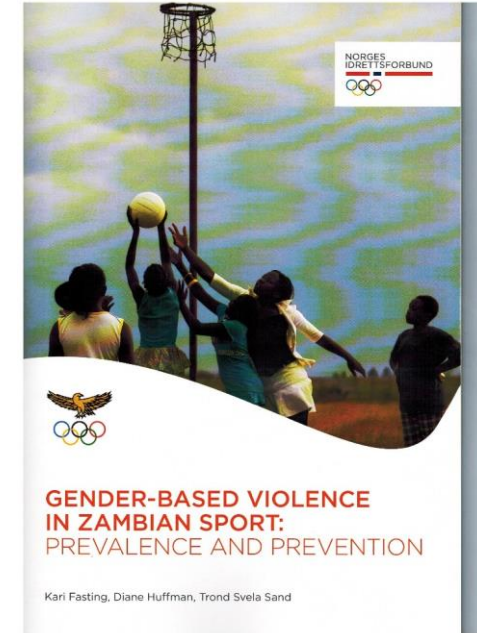
Of these self-reported cases, inappropriate, unpleasant, or offensive physical contact where most common. A majority had been children or adolescents when the SHA occurred.

No significant differences of SHA frequency were displayed across athlete gender, sport performance levels, or individual/team sports. "This may, however, be partly due to the small sample size of athletes reporting experiences of SHA."

Conclusion: "the results indicate that SHA in coach-athlete relationships is a general problem rather than one-off cases limited to specific variables such as athlete age and gender"

Experiences of sexual violence among female and male athletes in Zambia (2015) (410 athletes and 8 different sports)

	Female athletes	Male athletes	All athletes
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
Sexual harassment	120 (66)	154 (72)	274 (69)
Gender harassment	107 (59)	113 (54)	220 (56)
Sexual abuse	72 (40)	75 (35)	147 (37)



Initiatives to reduce sexual violence. Suggestions from Zambian athletes

	Females	Males	Total
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
Adopt a policy against harassment and gender based violence	80 (49)	96 (50)	176 (49)
Education/training of coaches about harassment and gender based violence	68 (41)	94 (49)	162 (45)
Education/training of athletes about harassment and gender based violence	59 (36)	65 (34)	124 (35)
Establish a system for how to handle cases of harassment and gender based violence	57 (35)	63 (33)	120 (34)
Adopt action plan on how to prevent harassment and gender based violence	63 (38)	55 (29)	118 (33)
Prohibit sexual relationships between coaches and athletes	37 (22)	47 (25)	84 (24)
Exclude coaches with history of harassment and gender based violence	37 (22)	38 (20)	75 (21)
Focus on having female coaches for female athletes	32 (19)	28 (15)	60 (17)
Mandatory for coaches to sign codes of conduct/ethics	23 (14)	31 (16)	54 (15)
Clear consequences if codes of conducts/ethics are violated	13 (8)	22 (12)	35 (10)
Mandatory for athletes to sign codes of conduct/ethics	16 (10)	12 (6)	28 (8)

Prevalence of sexual violence in organized sport in Germany (Ohlert et al 2017)

- In total 1529 squad athletes over the age of 16 representing 57 different sport organizations
- 19 questions: Four point answering scale: Never, Once, Twice to four times and Five times or more
- Prevalence rate: 37,6% (life time) – 48 % among women and 24 % among men
- On average the affected athletes were 17 years old at the time of the first experience
- 57 % were aged between 14-17 years
- Individuals with a sexual orientation other than heterosexual reported a higher prevalence than heterosexual participants

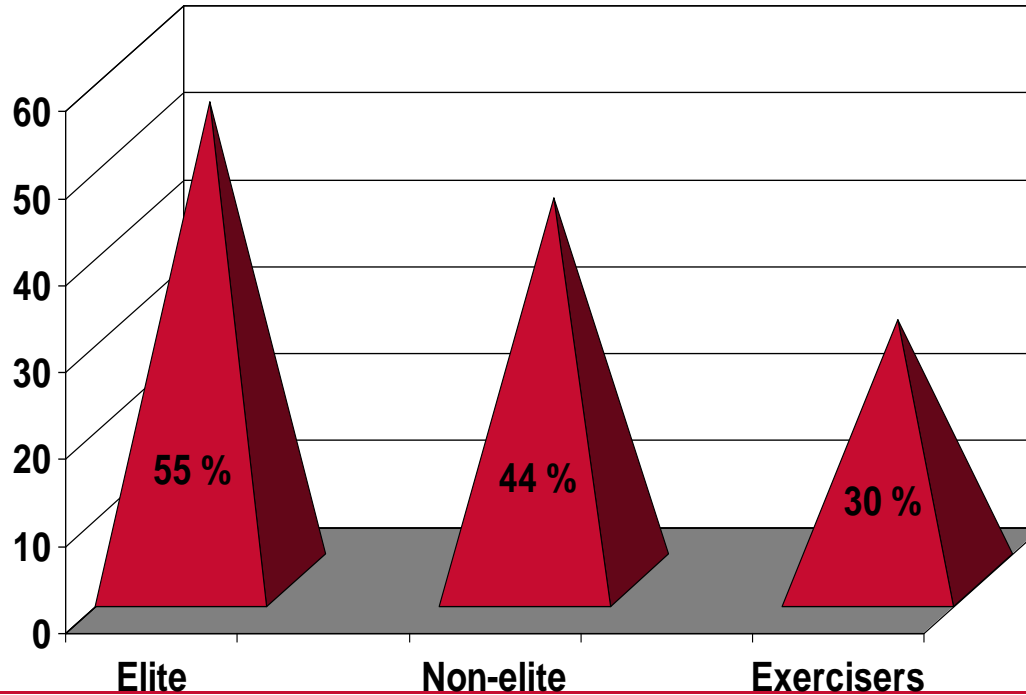


Prevalence for the different situations of sexual violences in sport - German organized sport (Ohlert et al 2017)

- Sexual remarks about your body and looks 17 %
- Subject/victims of sexist jokes 16 %
- Looked at with an intrusive sexual glance 14 %
- Someone was standing too close to you 14 %
- Whistled or yelled at in a sexist way 13 %
- ---
- ---
- Someone tried to have sex with you against your will 0,9 %
- You were forced to have sex with penetration 0,7 %

Czech female athletes' experiences of sexual harassment in sport for different sport groups

(Fasting & Knorre 2010)



Sexual harassment and abuse seems to occur in all sports (Fasting et al 2004)

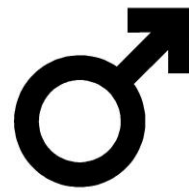


Perpetrators – who are they?

- Coaches
- Peer athletes
- Athletes' entourage/support personell
- Spectators
- Administrative staff



Gender of the perpetrator



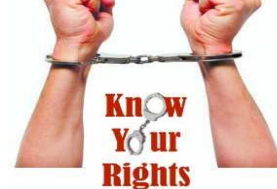
- Most often males, but
- Fasting et al (2000) found that among the Norwegian female elite level athletes 71 % had experienced SH from men only, 13 % from women only and 15% from both women and men
- Fasting & Knorre (2005) found among female athletes in Czech Republic that 69% had experienced SH from men and 28% from women
- Ohlert et al (2017) found that among male and female athletes in Germany the perpetrators were predominantly males (91%).



Lack of monitoring: **Do protection in sport initiatives originate from research?** (Kerr et al 2014)

- Play by the Rules (Australia)
- Speak out (Canada)
- Respect in Sport (Canada)
- Safe4Athletes (USA)
- Safe to Compete (USA)
- Child Protection in Sport Unit (UK)
- Children First (UK)
- **These initiatives were not empirically derived for the most part, and were not evaluated.**
- **Lack of attention to the power and other contextual information were missing**

Conclusions and recommendations



Due to a lack of studies and methodological difficulties, reliable prevalence and incidence, data on (forms of) gender-based violence in sport are strikingly absent across the EU and internationally.

- We know very little about adult female athletes experiences of sexual violence in sports.
- Need for a common terminology
- Need for developing prevalence measurements in the context of sport that are valid and reliable
- Need for more studies, particularly among athletes above 18 years of age
- The necessity of doing observational and ethnographic studies among children and adults
- Need for more knowledge about the consequences, particularly both short and long term consequences
- Need for knowledge about preventive initiatives and their impact (safeguarding studies)
- Need for more studies about the interaction and communication between the athletes, team-mates and the athletes' entourage

[illegible]