

MAPPING THE FIELD: HOW BIG IS THE PROBLEM? FACTS AND FIGURES ON SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

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Background

- Feminist and critical men's studies challenged dominant masculinist approaches to sport (late 1980s)
- Raised problem of discrimination & sexual harassment
- Academic research unveiled & investigated problem of child sexual abuse in sport
- Bristol, UK 1986



1993 BBC Documentary: 'Secrets of the Coach'

"sexual abuse in sport is the last frontier ... there is still terrific fear about discussing the subject, possibly because it's much more widespread than we all dare to believe ..." Celia Brackenridge

HOW BIG IS THE PROBLEM?

UK, 1998

- Celia Brackenridge
 - academic
- Tony Banks
 - Minister for Sport

- TB: How widespread? If we can't say size of the problem we can't do anything.
- CB: No-one knows. No systematic data in sport.
- TB: Need to be politically pragmatic. *How big an issue?*

What is the problem?

Defining **violence, maltreatment & abuse**

“... all forms of physical or mental violence, injury and abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, **including sexual abuse** while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other person who has the care of the child.”

Article 19 of the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* (United Nations, 1989)

‘**Child maltreatment** is the abuse and neglect that occurs to children ... in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust or power.’

WHO (2016)

‘**Sexual abuse** is the involvement of a child in sexual activity that s/he does not fully comprehend, is unable to give informed consent to, or for which the child is not developmentally prepared, or else that violates the laws or social taboos of society. ...

WHO (2006, p.10)

Importance of Reliable Data

Recommendations from the *World report on violence and health* (WHO, 2002):

2. **Enhance capacity for collecting data on violence**

“Reliable data on violence are crucial not only for setting priorities, guiding programme design and monitoring progress, but also for advocacy to help raise awareness about the issue.

Without information, there is little pressure on anyone to acknowledge or respond to the problem.”

Global Prevalence of CSA

Gilbert et al. 2009

(high-income countries)

- *Penetrative* sexual abuse:
 - Girls: 5-10%
 - Boys: up to 5%
- Up to 3 times higher for other forms of sexual abuse

Pereda et al. (2009):

- Girls: 19.7%
- Boys: 7.9%

Stoltenborgh et al. (2011):

- Girls: 16.4% - 19.7%
- Boys: 6.6% - 8.8%

Gender

‘Gender differences for reported prevalence of CSA may be due to either:

- **higher occurrence** of CSA among girls than among boys,
 - or to boys’ **more reluctant attitude toward disclosing** their CSA experiences,
 - or both causes might play a role
- most male CSA victims: more than 10 years before they start to discuss their CSA experiences.’ ...

Research with male victims in sport

“If at all possible I’d like to open the door for more people to come forward and finally speak.

I was silent for 38 years! So I’ve left it a bit late ...”

**Adult male,
sexually abused by rugby teacher**

Sexual Violence Against Children in Sport

Lack of studies in range of areas:

- *Prevalence* of SV against children
- *Official reports* of SV against children
- *Monitoring & evaluation* of prevention initiatives

Experiences of sexual abuse in main or second sport, by gender (before age 17)

UK study:

6000+ students

| | Total | | Male | | Female | |
|--------------------------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|
| | % | <i>N</i> | % | <i>N</i> | % | <i>N</i> |
| Sexual Harassment | 29 | 1784 | 17 | 284 | 34 | 1500 |
| Sexual Harm | 3 | 171 | 5 | 77 | 2 | 94 |

→ Contact & Non-Contact

Not a prevalence study

Self-selecting sample of UK university students

Response rate of under 1%

Stafford et al., 2011

Interpersonal violence against children in sport in Belgium & the Netherlands

- online questionnaire, 4000 respondents
- participated in organized sport before the age of 18
- at least 1 experience of sexual violence in sport: **14.3%**

‘mild’: **1.6%**

e.g., sexist jokes, sexual remarks, messages/photo messages with sexual content, inappropriate touches/massages

occurring once

‘moderate’ **7.2%**

as above

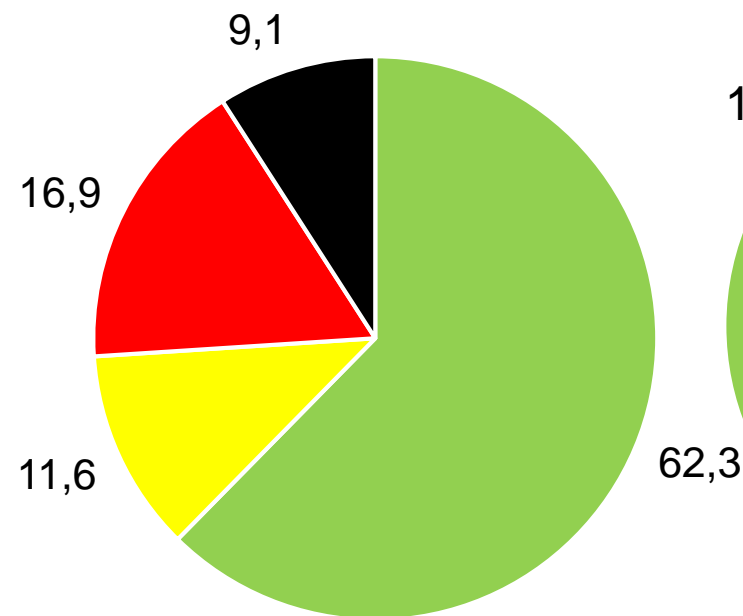
more than once

‘severe’ **5.5%**

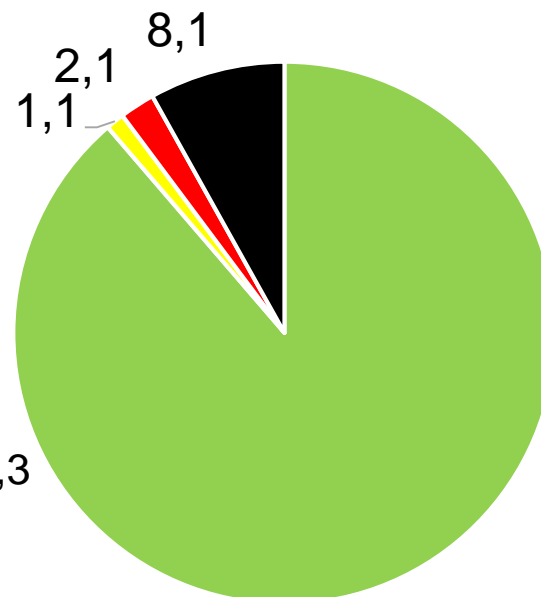
e.g., kisses, sexual touches, attempted sex, sex with penetration
once or over a longer period of time

BE/NL Prevalence rates

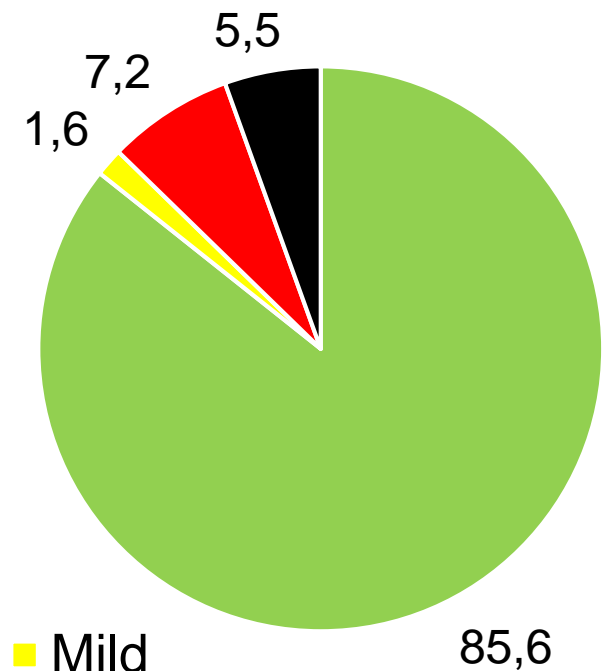
Psychological violence



Physical violence

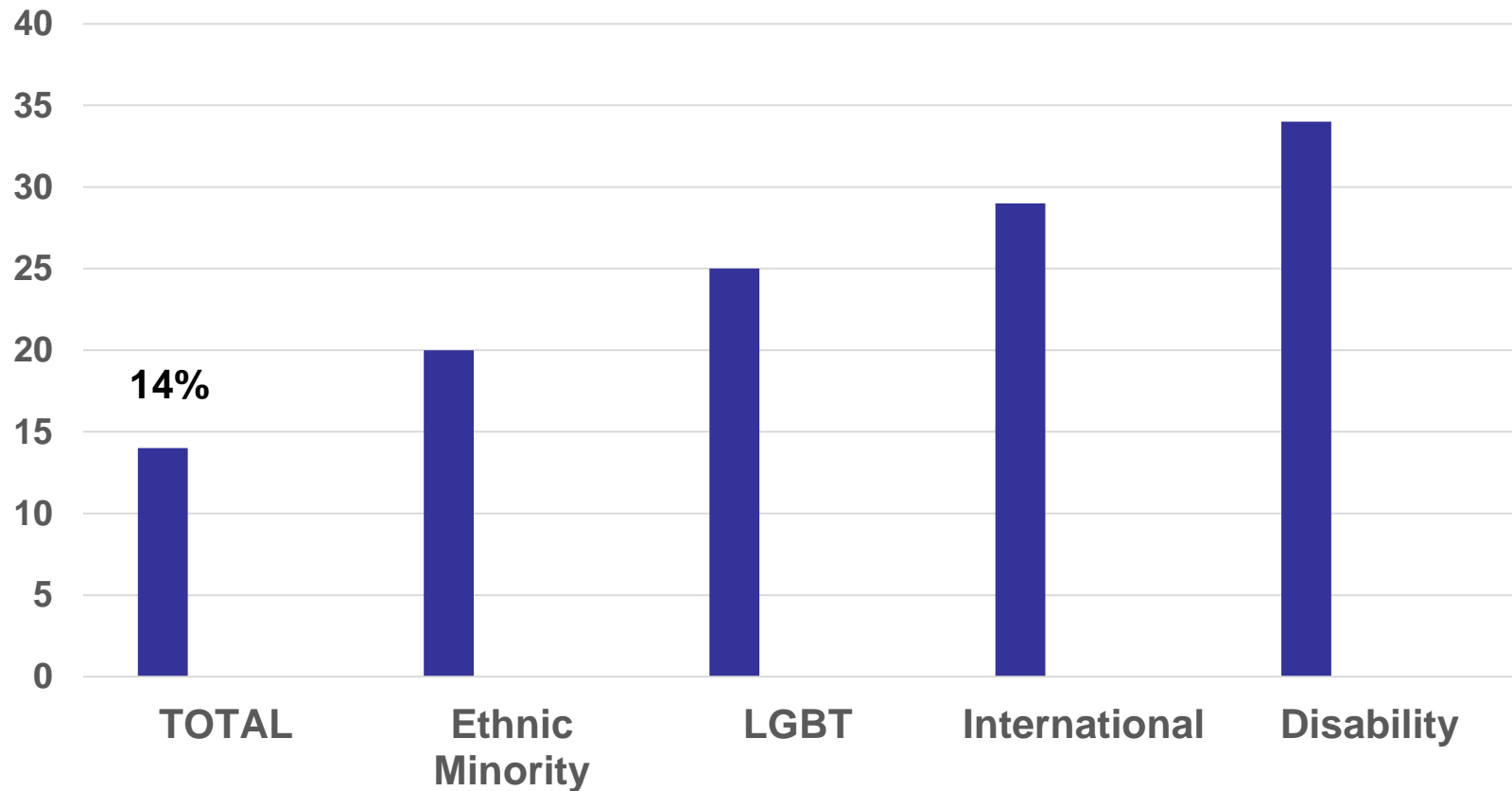


Sexual violence

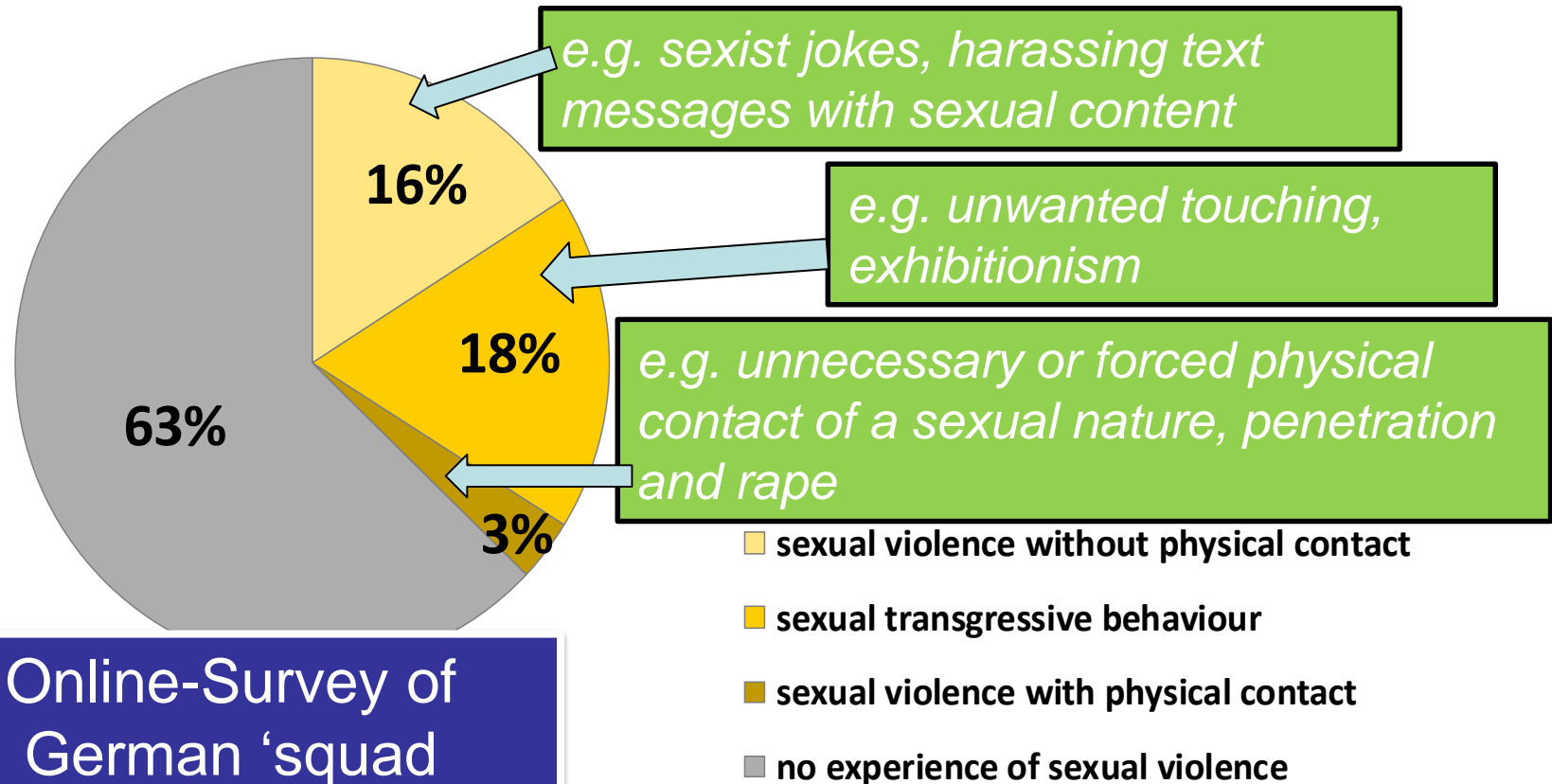


■ No 88,7
■ Mild
■ Moderate
■ Severe

Prevalence by Sub-groups



Experiences of sexual violence among **elite** athletes in Germany (N = 1799)

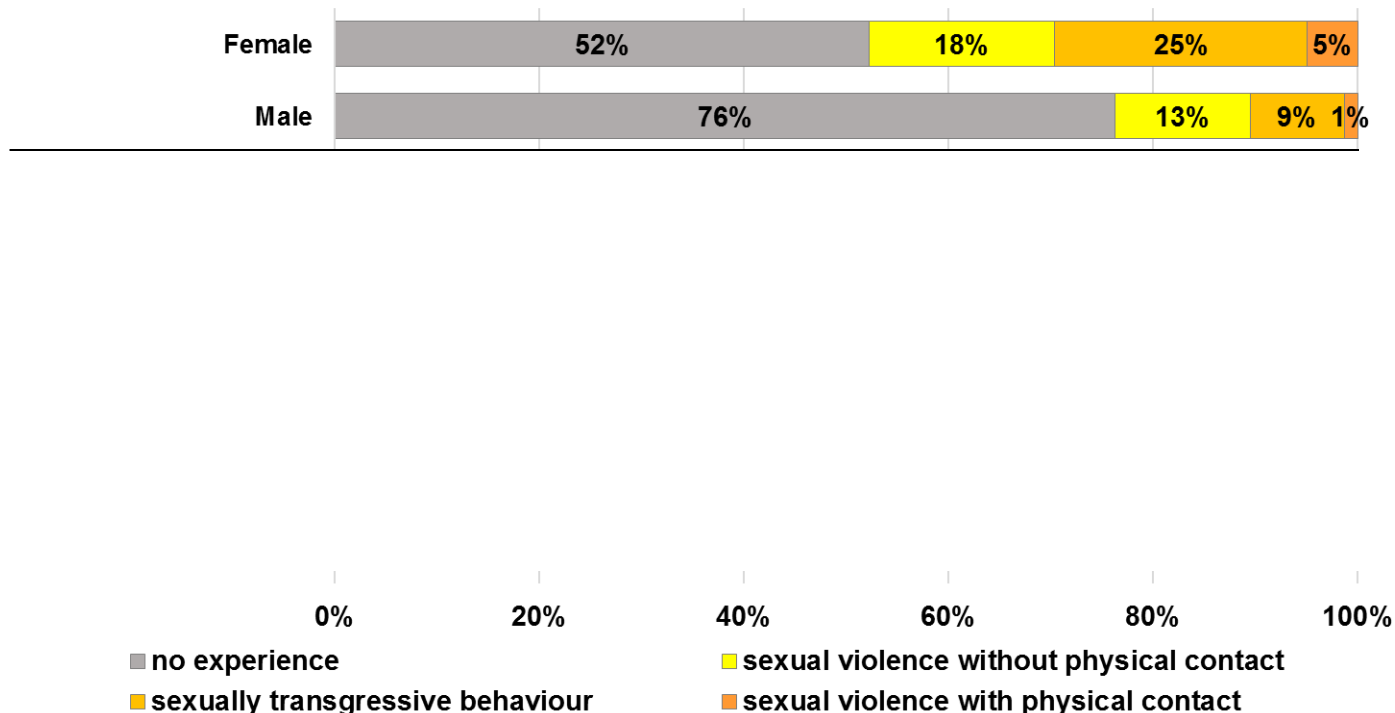


Online-Survey of German 'squad athletes' over 16 years

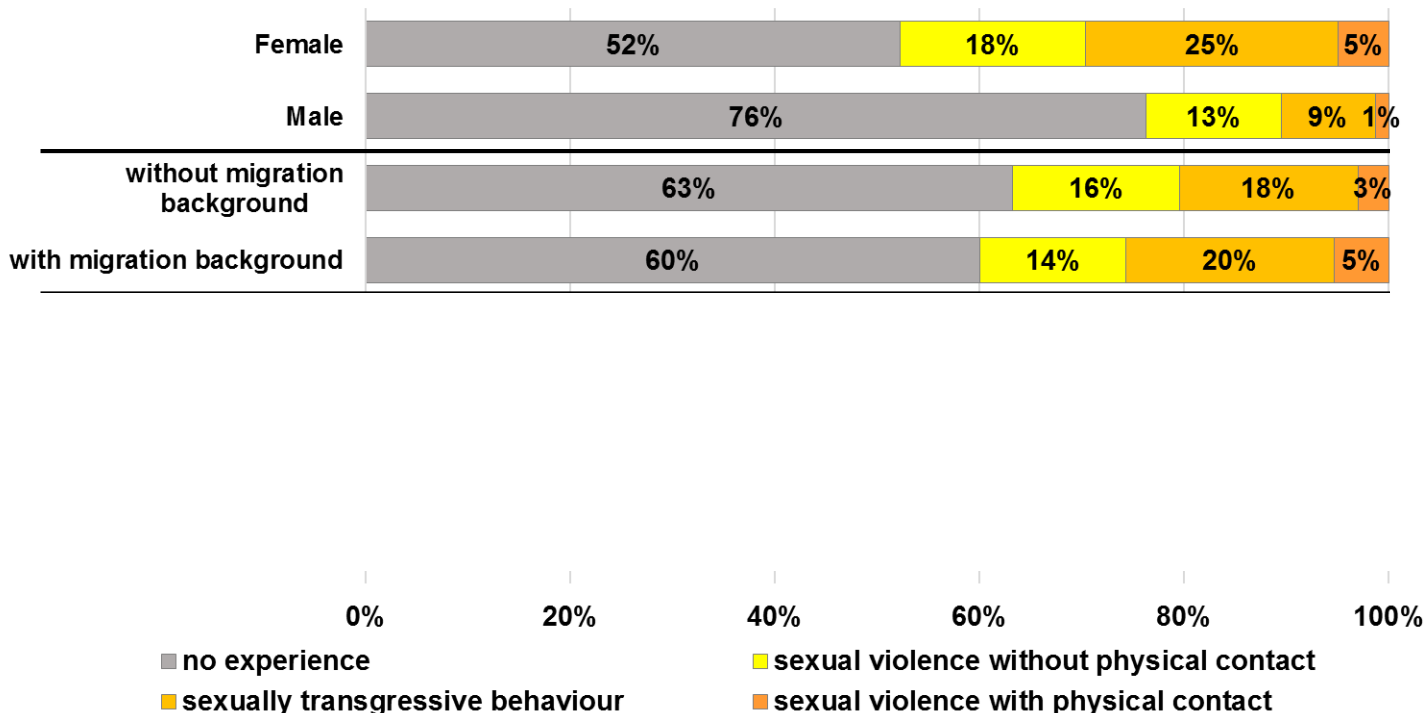
Experiences of sexual violence among elite athletes in Germany (N = 1799)

- **37% of elite athletes experienced a form of sexual violence in sport**
 - Mild (Occurring just once): 16%
 - Moderate: 10%
 - Severe: 11%
- **70% of victims under 18 at first incident of SV**
 - 10% were under 14 years old
- **Perpetrators were predominantly male (91%) and adults (81%) in roles such as coach and physiotherapist**

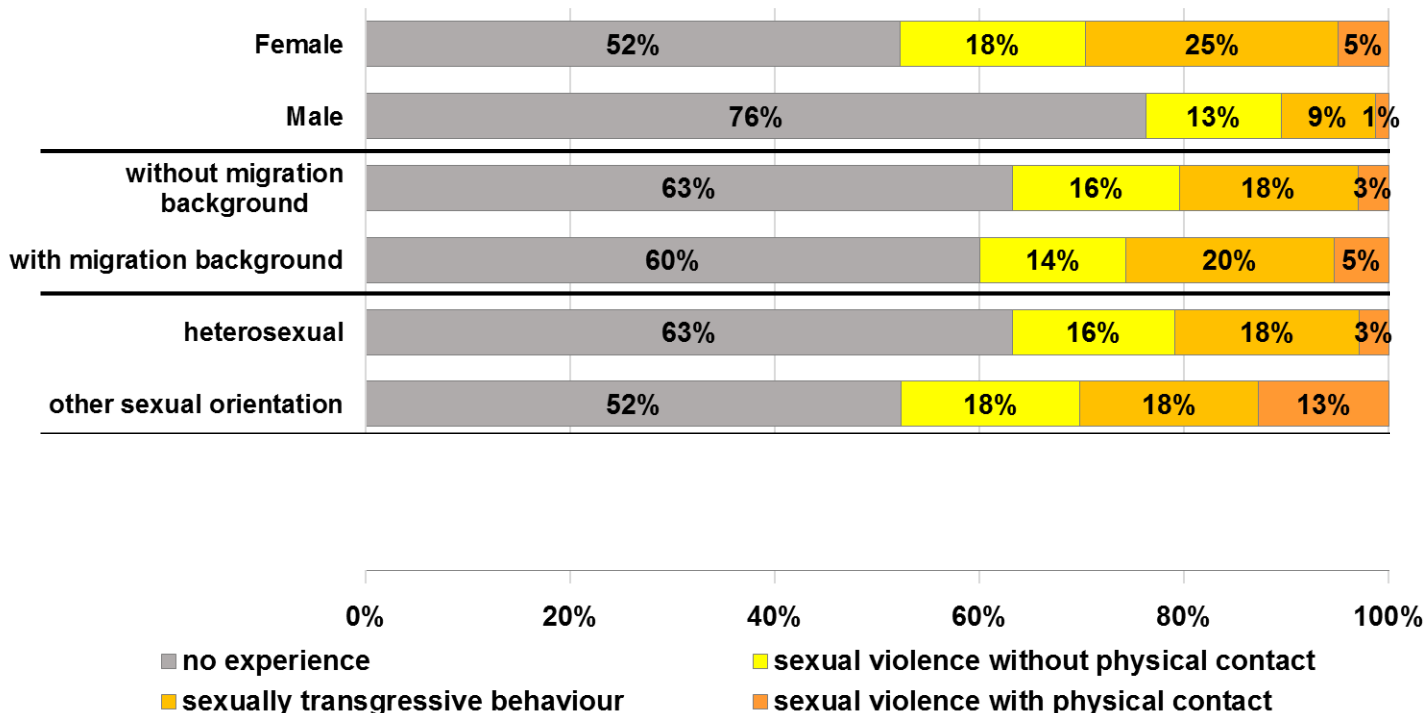
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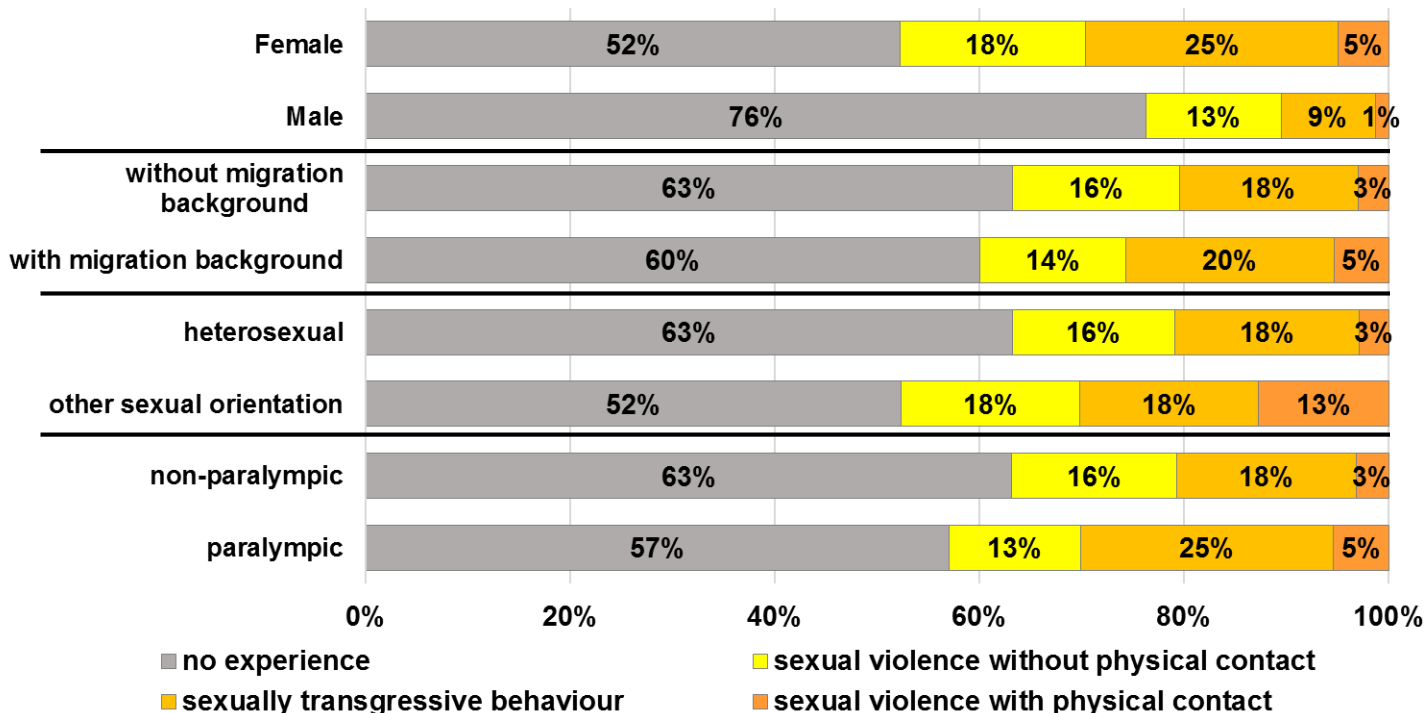
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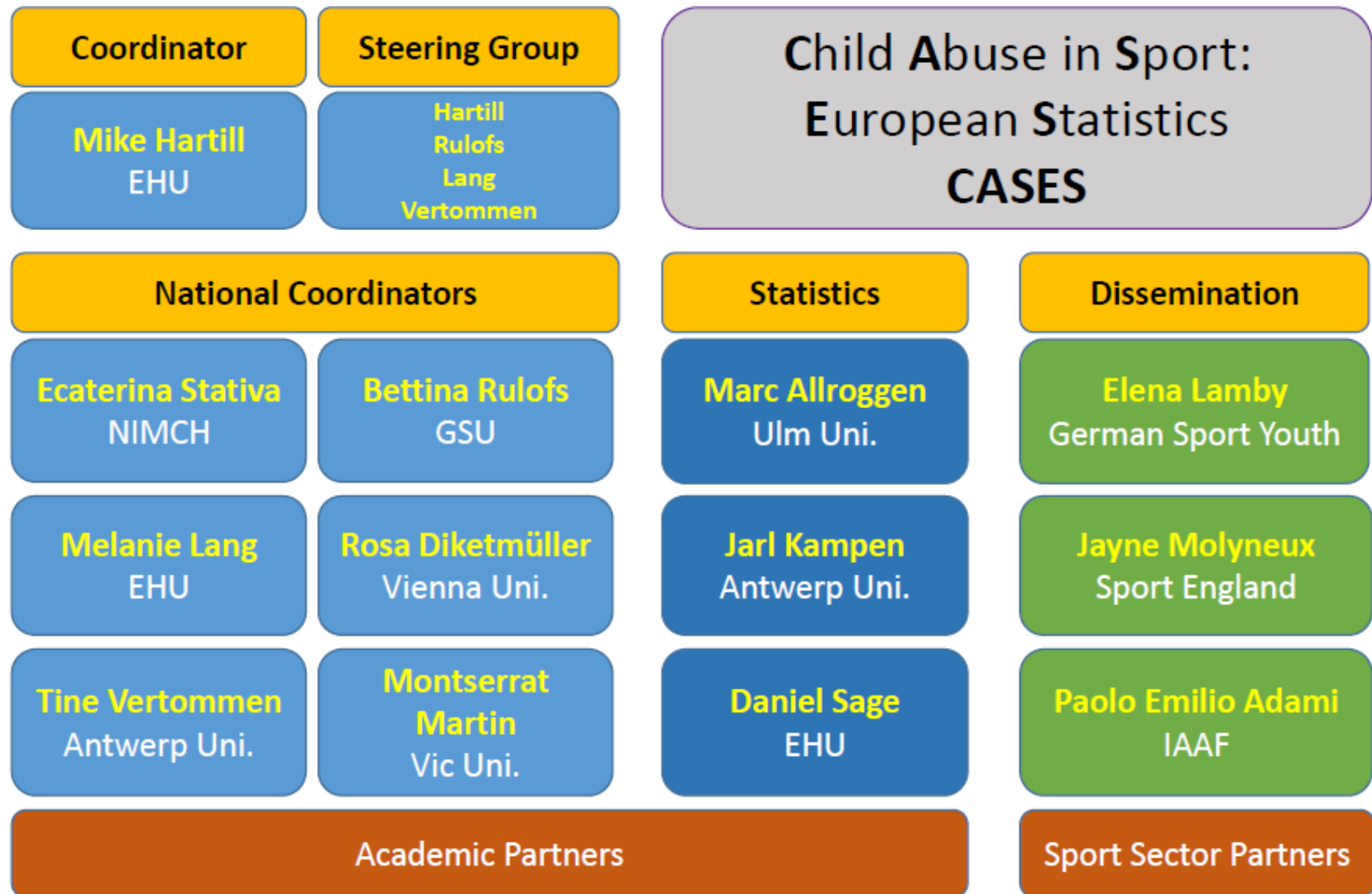
Experiences of sexual violence among elite athletes
in Germany (N = 1799)

- ✓ dress code
- ✓ early onset of high-performance age
- ✓ characteristics of different sports

... were **not** risk factors for sexual violence ... in this *elite* sample ...

Child sample

- Representative sample of 6450 14–17-year olds in Quebec
- 10.2% experienced contact sexual abuse
- 5.3% were victims of sexual abuse by a *coach*
- For those affiliated to a sports club, the prevalence rate of contact sexual abuse was 8.8%
 - 13.8% for girls & 3.2% for boys



Case Studies and Official Reports

- ‘far less attention has been paid to analysing reported incidents of alleged child maltreatment’.

Jud et al. (2016, p. 17)

- Official statistics are unreliable indicators of the prevalence of abuse due to low reporting rates.
- But provide important insights into *reporting behaviour* – and the cultural & organizational context within which reporting structures exist.
- complement prevalence studies and inform strategic approaches to policymaking and prevention efforts.

News

Former Olympic coach gets 17 years for sex attacks

Swimming scandal: Top trainer who led British athletes to medal success is found guilty of two rapes and series of assa

Wednesday 27 September 1995 23:02 BST |  0 comments



A former British Olympic swimming coach, Paul Hickson, was yesterday for 17 years for sex attacks on teenagers in his elite squads. Hickson, 48, Britain's chief coach at the Seoul games, was convicted of 15 out of 17 charges at Cardiff Crown Court.

He was found guilty of raping two teenage swimmers and

OLYMPIC 'RAPIST'



**British coach
'attacked 13
young girl
swimmers'**



'RAPIST' SWIM COACH PUT ME ON PILL AT 14

'He said it would help me beat Russians'



English Football Association

- Analysis of 132 (of the 152) child protection cases opened and closed by the Football Association between 1999 and 2002.
- including allegations relating to incidents outside football.
- 14 of the allegations related to *sexual* abuse (10.6%)
 - 30 to *physical* abuse (22.7%)
 - 20 to *emotional* abuse (15.2%)
 - 5 related to *neglect* (3.8%)

Brackenridge et al. (2005)

Sexual Abuse in British Football

As of 30th June 2017:

- 741 former/current players have made a disclosure
- 276 suspects named
- 328 clubs implicated
- 1,886 incidents reported

Sport > Football > News & Comment

Graham Taylor: Former England manager told sexual abuse victim to 'sweep evidence under the carpet'

FA's review into historical sexual abuse has contacted thousands of clubs

Tom Batchelor | @_tombatchelor | a day ago



UK National Governing Bodies reports of child maltreatment

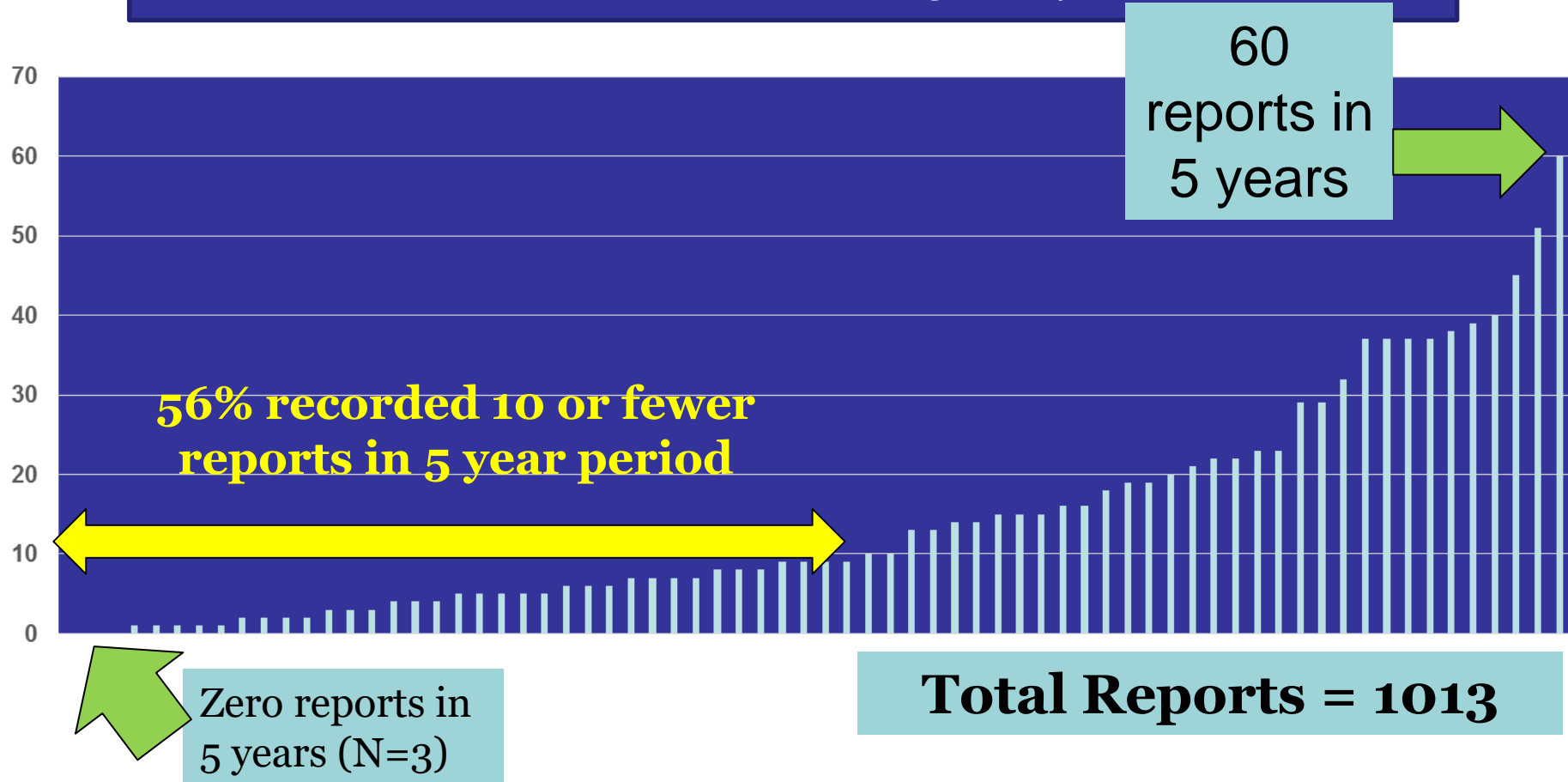
41 NGBs responded to questionnaire in 2011

FINDINGS:

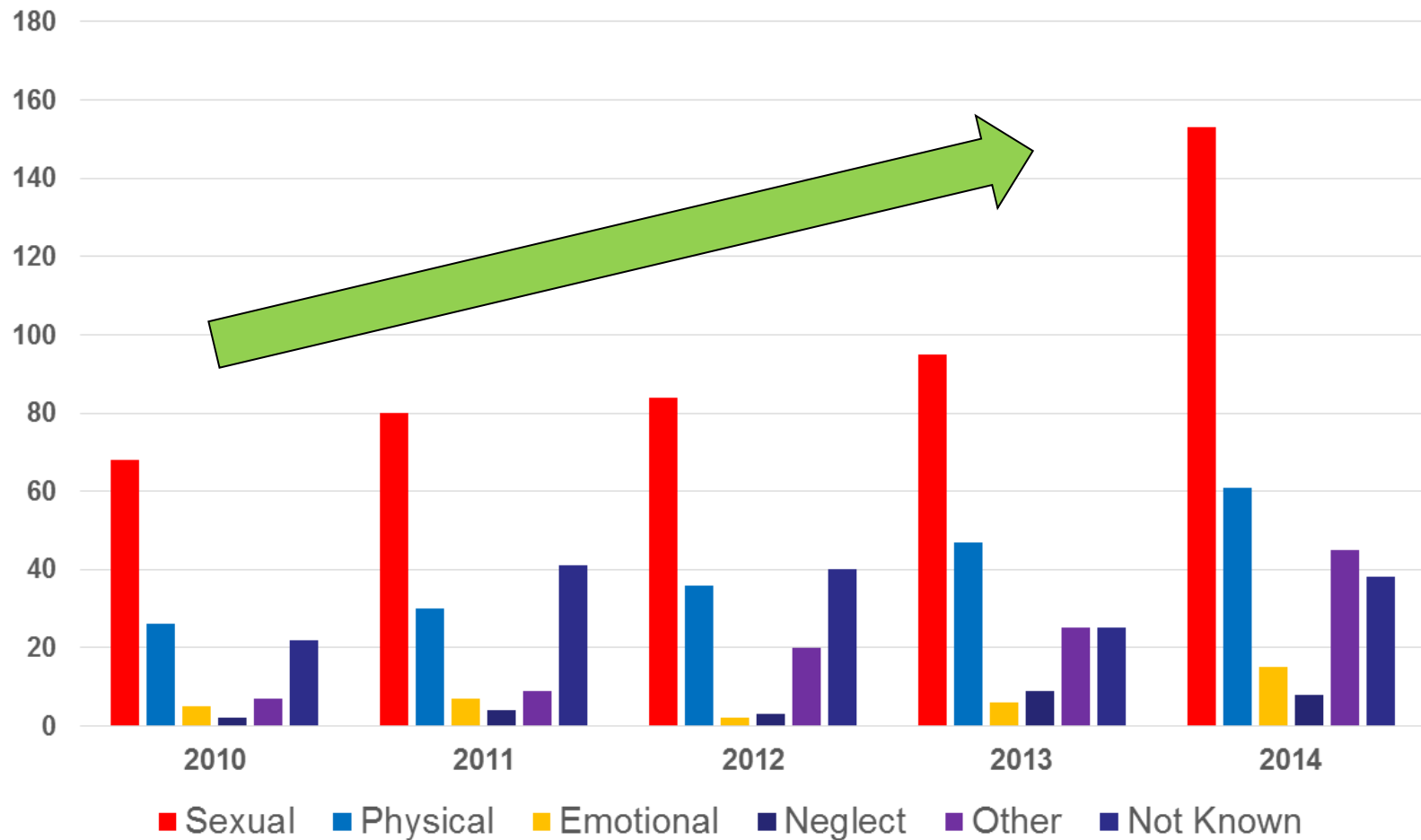
Rhind et al.
(2015)

- **Sexual abuse: 124 reports (19%)**
- Physical abuse: 134 reports (21%)
- concerns around criminal convictions: 68 (10.4%)
- Emotional abuse: 66 (10.1%)
- Bullying: 66 (10.1%)
- 91% of the alleged perpetrators were male,
- In 65% of reports, the 'victim' was also male.

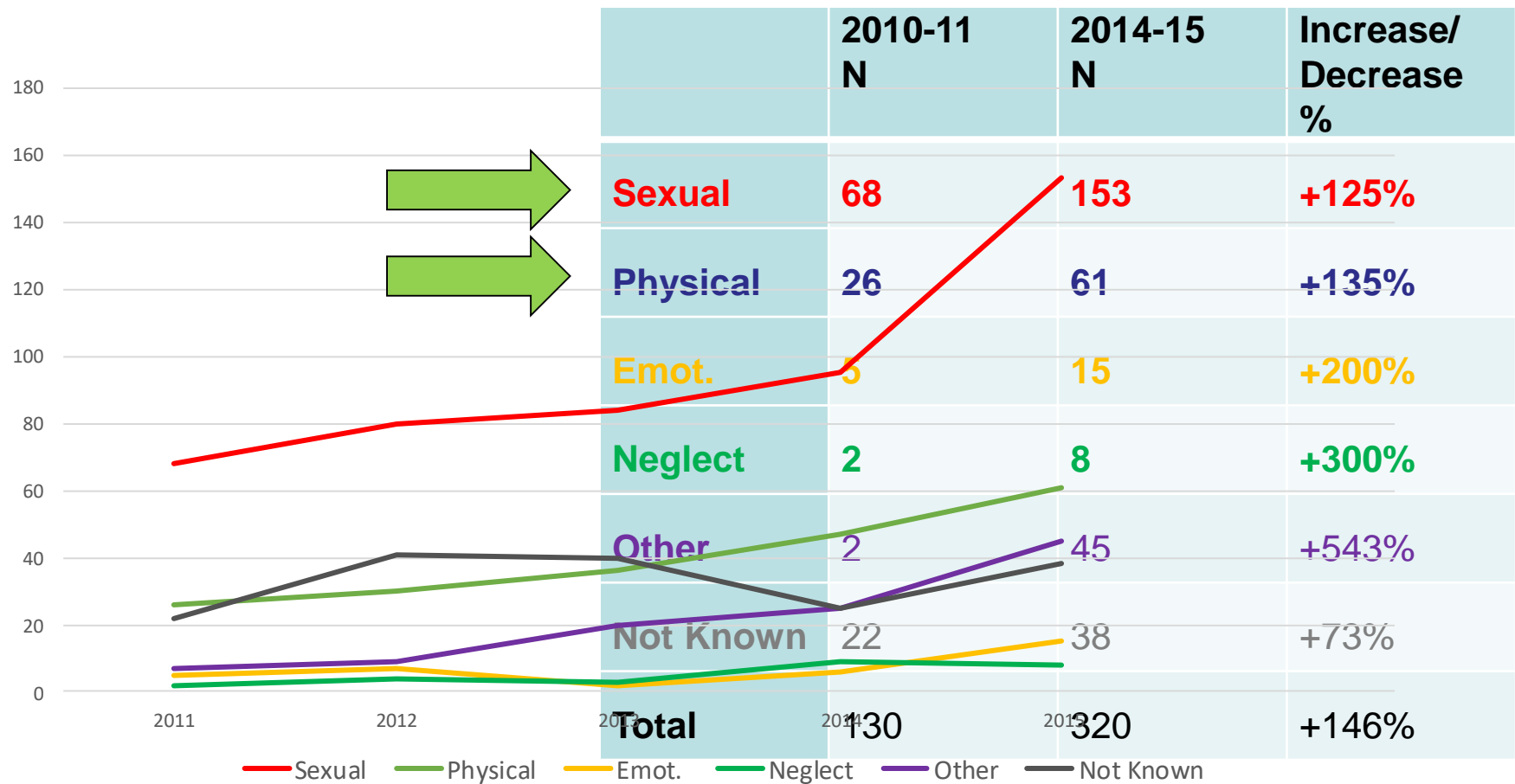
**Reports of Child Maltreatment in Sport
received by English Local Authorities
between 2010 & 2015 (N=70)**



Total reports to LAs by year & category



5 year change



Summary

- Academic research, outlier victim testimony, and media spotlight challenged *denial* and *minimisation* within sport sector
- Policy introduced rapidly in some countries, so prevention developed faster than research and without any objective *evaluation* measures
- Early adopter countries led way in *prevention* measures but have developed at different rates and in different ways
- Investment remains highly *variable*, even among countries considered to be international leaders;
- Research data now illustrates scale of problem;
- Clearly indicate need for *cultural change* in sport;
- But only handful of studies;
- Need contextualised data from all countries

Recommendations

- 1. Foster relationships between national sport agencies to share good practice**
 - Mistakes have – and *are* – being made, but could be avoided with greater dialogue and cooperation
- 2. Strengthen system of recording reports of violence within sport and monitoring patterns & trends longitudinally**
 - Nationally & pan-European
 - Enable system evaluation

Recommendations

3. Embed research within the prevention process

- Research and policy development have worked together in this area, but too often policy is developed and then evaluation rolled-out as an after-thought ...

4. Establish a longitudinal programme of prevalence research

- Work towards standardised methodology to enable comparison and facilitate powerful & increasingly precise strategic planning

5. Athlete, child & ‘survivor’ engagement

Next step ...?

Comprehensive European audit of child protection in sport policy and practice

- Where are the gaps?
- What are the weaknesses?
- Who is proactive?
- Who needs support?

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