Prevalence of non-volitional sex
(made to have sex, against your will)

2014/15 New Zealand Health Survey

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Disclosure of interest

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Contact details and future research

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• Confidentialised Unit Record File (CURF)

• Questionnaires:

Background

• 2014/15 Health Survey: **First** comprehensive, nationally representative survey of sexual behaviour & reproductive health in NZ

• Based on UK National Survey of Sexual Attitudes & Lifestyles undertaken: 1990, 2000 & 2010
Research questions

1. What % of adults have been made to have sex against their will, since age 13 years?
2. What is the median age at most recent occurrence of non-volitional sex (NVS)?
3. What is the relationship between victim and perpetrator at most recent occurrence?

Definitions
• Sex: ‘Vaginal, oral, or anal’ & ‘genital contact intended to achieve orgasm’
• NVS: ‘made you have sex against your will’

Methods

• Voluntary continuous survey
• Questionnaire: self-complete module
• Sample: 10,198 adults aged 16-74 years
  • 87% of 16-74 year olds who completed core NZHS (NZHS response rate = 79%)
  • Results are weighted to be representative of total population aged 16-74 years.
• Thank you to the thousands of New Zealanders who participated in the survey
Experienced non-volitional sex since 13-yr
7% of adults

Experienced non-volitional sex
Highest Māori: 11%. Lowest Asian: 4%

Total response measure of ethnicity.
Median age at most recent experience of non-volitional sex since age 13

- Men: 15 years at most recent NVS
- Women: 18 years at most recent NVS
- Majority of NVS experiences were in teenage years

Perpetrator of most recent NVS
Vast majority knew perpetrator, stranger: 17%
Key findings

• Women more likely to experience NVS
  • 11% women & 3% men

• Māori more likely to experience NVS
  • 11% Māori, 8% European, 6% Pacific, 4% Asian
  • 15% Māori women & 13% European women

• Median age of victim: 15-yr men, 18-yr women

• Perpetrator is usually known, stranger: 17%

• Women more likely to be victimised by a current/former partner: 34% women; 16% men