

# Prevalence of Sexual Violence Perpetrated by Men and Women in a Community Sample in Argentina

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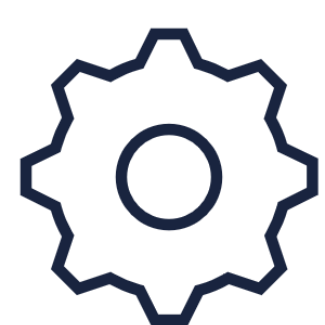
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Argentina shows a **high prevalence of sexual violence perpetrated** by both men and women from the general population. More evidence on the perpetration of violent behaviors is needed.



## 1. Background

- Sexual violence (SV) is a public health problem with serious consequences for its victims (1).
- Determining the prevalence of SV perpetrated by individuals within the community is crucial to preventing these behaviors and their associated consequences (2).
- Few studies have explored the perpetration of these behaviors through self-reports in the general population.
- Given the lack of literature in Argentina on this topic, the objective of this study was to explore the prevalence of SV perpetration in men and women in a community sample.



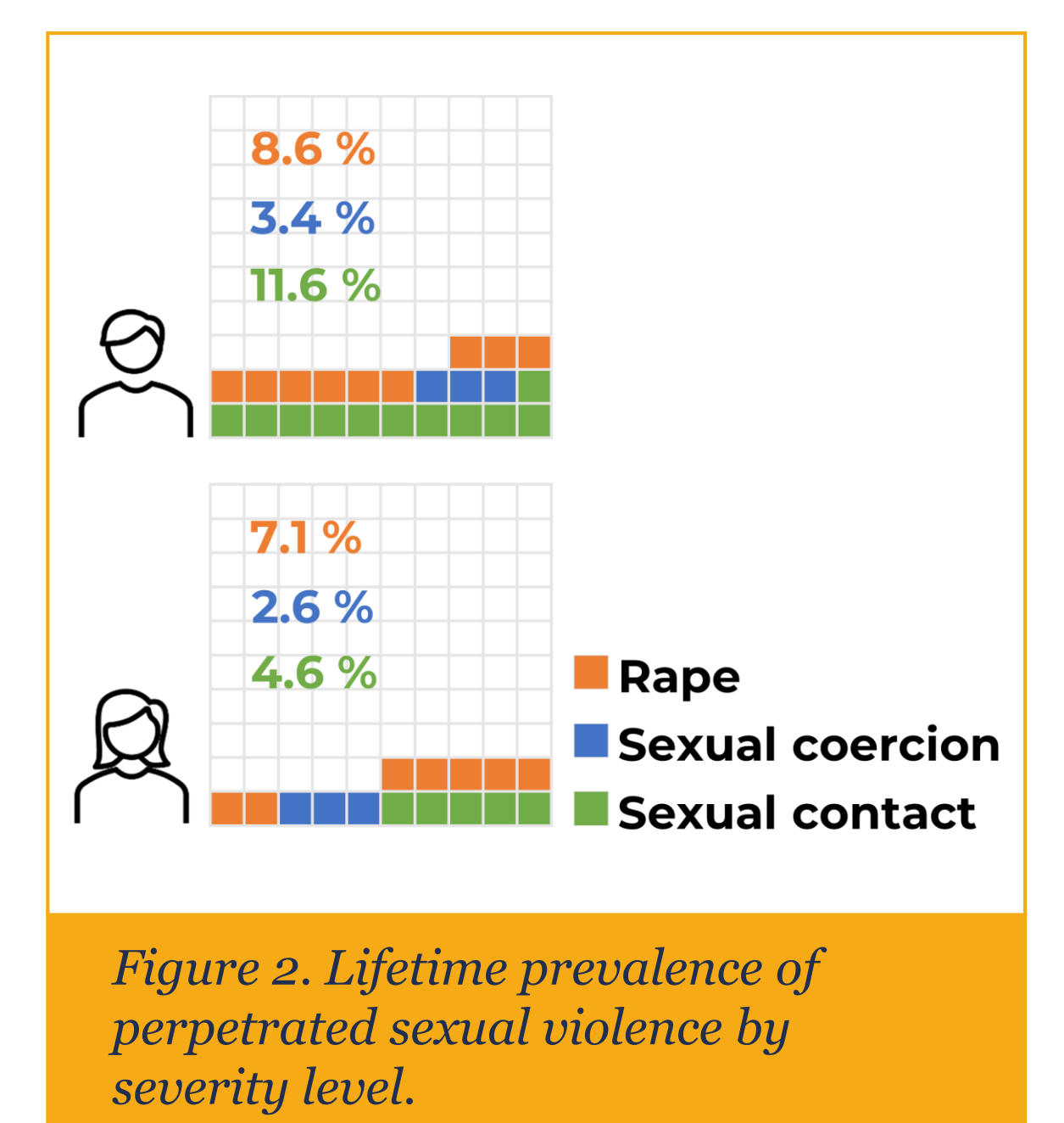
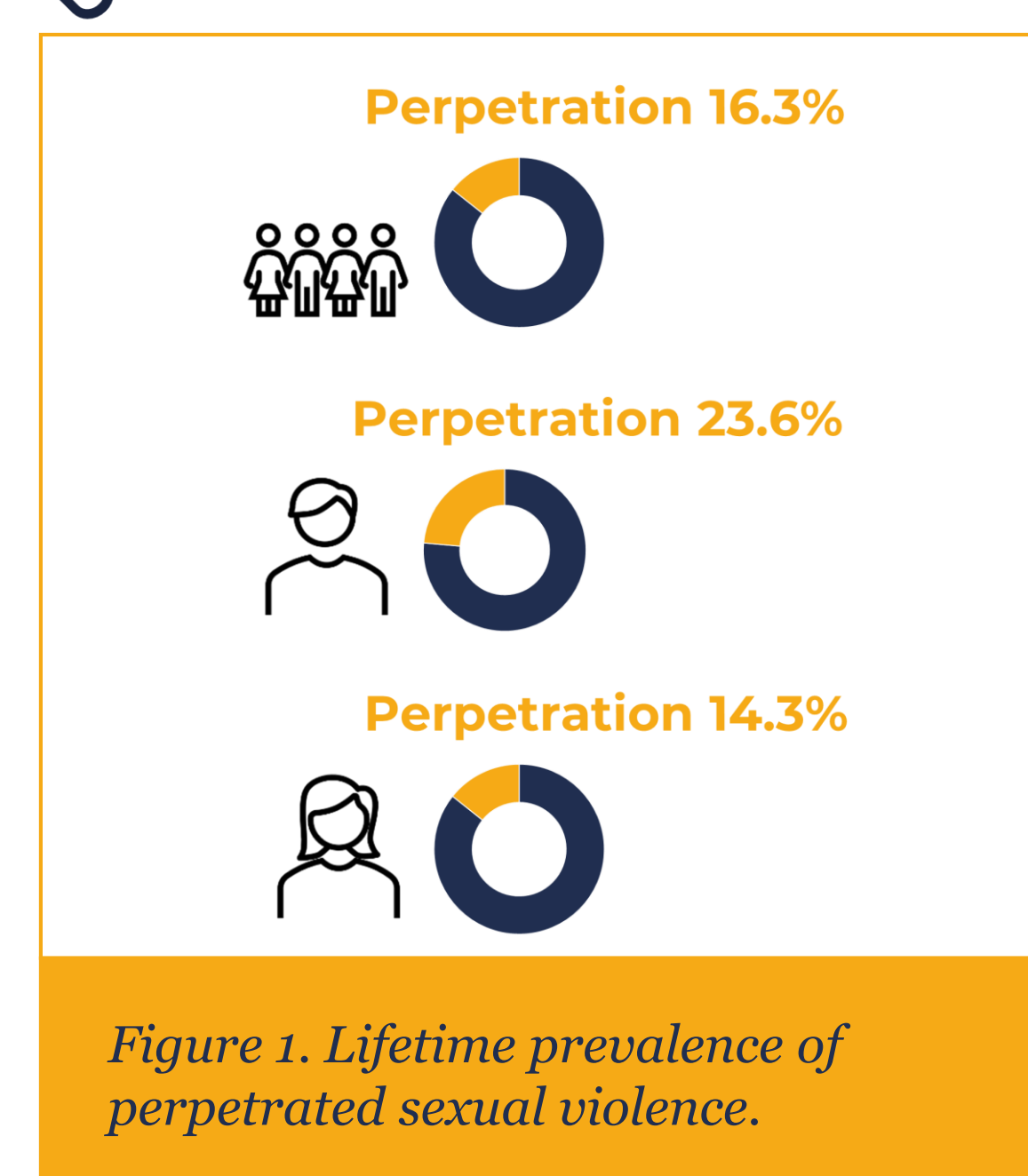
## 2. Methods

This was a cross-sectional exploratory study with data collected using a non-probabilistic online sampling method during the second semester of 2022. The final sample included 1088 adults from Argentina (77.1% women), with a mean age of 31 years (SD 9.68). SV perpetration was assessed using the Sexual Experiences Survey-Short Form Perpetration (3).

The prevalence of any form of SV and the occurrence of different types categorized by severity were estimated. Analyses were conducted for the overall sample and stratified by sex. Differences in total SV prevalence and severity categories between men and women were examined using chi-squared tests ( $\chi^2$ ). Risk was measured using *Odds Ratios* (OR) with 95% confidence intervals. Post-hoc tests were performed to identify statistically significant differences in severity levels.



## 3. Results



Men were more likely to perpetrate SV overall ( $OR=1.86$ , 95% IC [1.29 – 2.65]) (Figure 1). This trend was also observed when considering severity levels ( $\chi^2(3)=17.81$ ,  $p < .00$ ) (Figure 2), but only for sexual contact category (Table 1).

Sexual violence	Men		Women		Statistics		
	n (%)	Adjusted residual	n (%)	Adjusted residual	Z-score	$\chi^2$	Signif
Not perpetrated	178 (76.4)	-3.42	733 (85.7)	3.42	3.42	11.70	.003 <sup>a</sup>
Sexual contact	27 (11.59)	3.98	39 (4.56)	-3.98	-3.98	15.84	.000 <sup>a</sup>
Sexual coercion	8 (.43)	.70	22 (2.57)	-.71	-.71	.50	.777
Rape	20 (8.58)	.75	61 (7.13)	-.75	-.75	.56	.755

Note. <sup>a</sup>Significant at the Bonferroni adjusted significance level,  $\alpha = .05/8 = .006$ .

Table 1. Lifetime prevalence of perpetrated sexual violence by severity level.

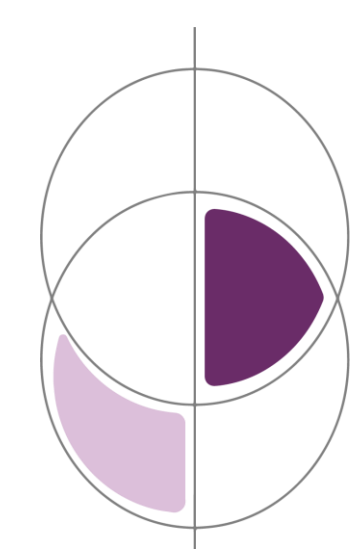


## 4. Conclusions

This study is the first in Argentina to explore the prevalence of perpetrated SV in a sample of men and women from the general population. The alarming statistics are consistent with rates reported in other countries. Overall, the results emphasize the urgency of generating empirical data obtained through validated instruments to guide the development of effective SV prevention interventions and the assessment of current sexual health policies.

## References

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3. Koss, M. P., Abbey, A., Campbell, R., Cook, S., Norris, J., Testa, M., Ullman, S., West, S., White, J. (2007). Revising the SES: A collaborative process to improve assessment of sexual aggression and victimization. *Psychology of Women Quarterly*, 31, 357–370. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1471-6402.2008.00468.x>



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