Sexual Violence Among University Students in France: Prevalence, Risk Factors, and Health Impacts

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Declaration of interests

No conflicts of interest

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INTRODUCTION

Who?

❑ **Student population**

- 3 million students in France
- + 20% in the last 10 years

What?

❑ **Sexist and Sexual violence**

- Unwanted behaviors, remarks, or actions based on gender or sexuality.

🚨 **Significant public health problem**

📌 60% of students in France: **Victims or witnesses**

(Baromètre,2023)

Objective:

- **Assess** prevalence
- **Identify** risk factors
- **Evaluate** impact on mental health

METHODS

Survey:

- Cross-sectional study (Feb–May 2022)

- **3 Universities in Normandy**

- Self-administered online questionnaire:

  - **Sexual violence**: cyberbullying, sexual assault, rape.

  - **Health impact**: Mental disorders, Suicide attempts, Eating disorders, Substance use

  - **Sociodemographic data**: Gender, Age, student job.

Source: Ouest-France

Inclusion Criteria:

- Volunteers

- Enrolled in a university

- Undergraduate students (1st, 2nd, or 3rd year)

METHODS

Statistical analysis:

- Logistic regression models: univariable and multivariable

    - Identify risk factors

    - Assess the impact of victimization on mental health

Weighting process:

    - Ensure that survey data represent the population

    - Based on: **gender, grade, university affiliation, and age group**.
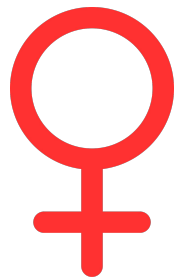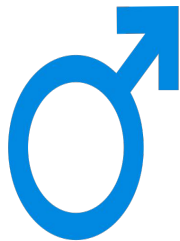
    - To minimize selection biais

RESULTS

❖ **Demographic characteristics**

Response rate **8.5%**

2374 undergraduate students

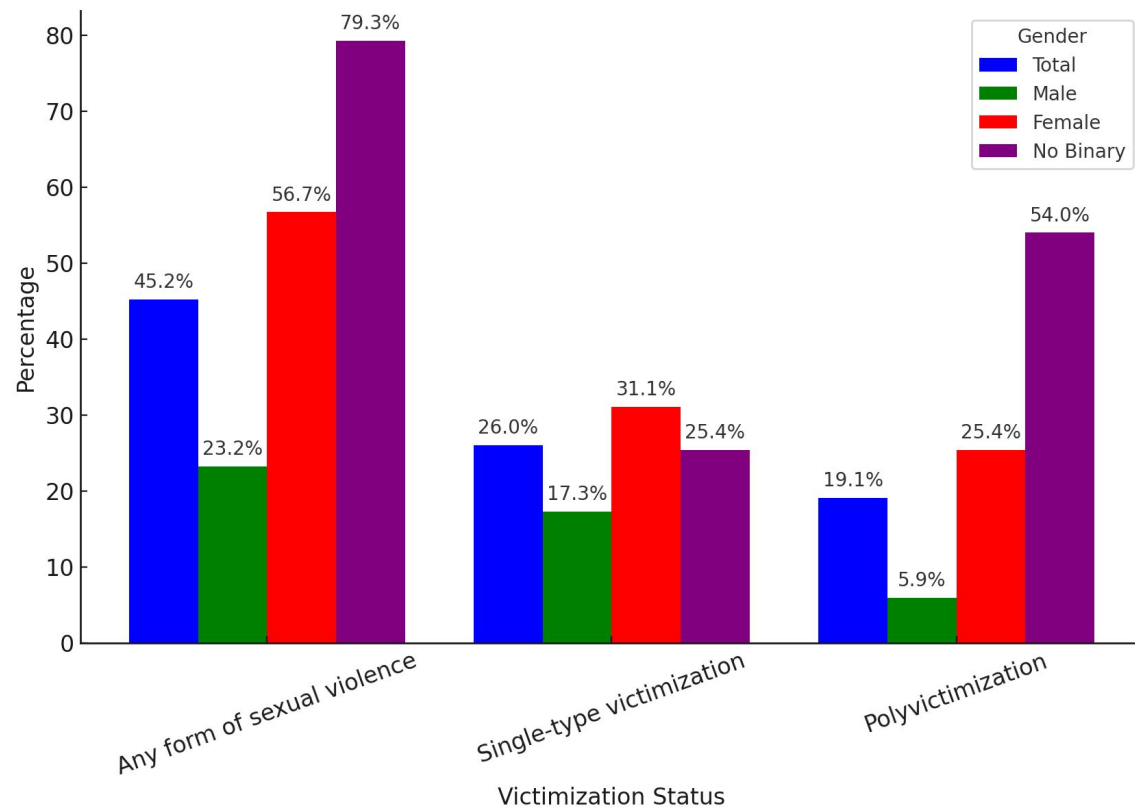61.1%   36.2%   2.7%

Participant Age Groups (%)
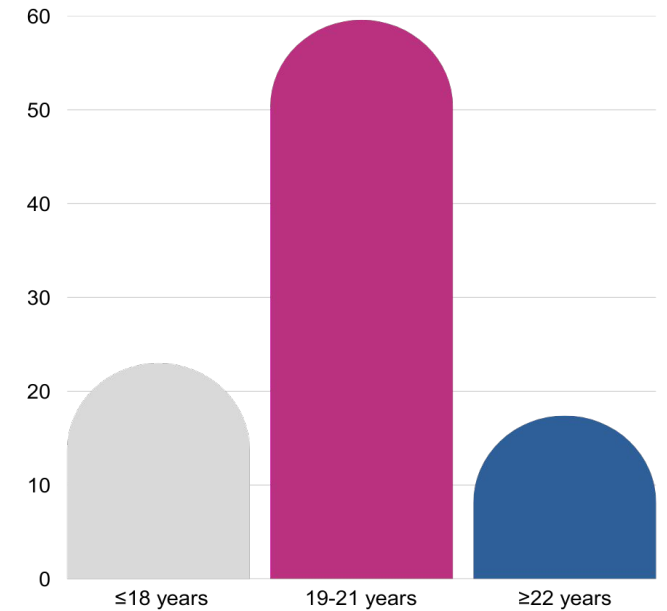
Field of study (%)

Literature, Arts, and Languages
16.5%

Sciences/STAPS
27.3%

Health
8.4%

Law, Economics, Management, Political Science
18%

Social Sciences and Humanities
24.7%
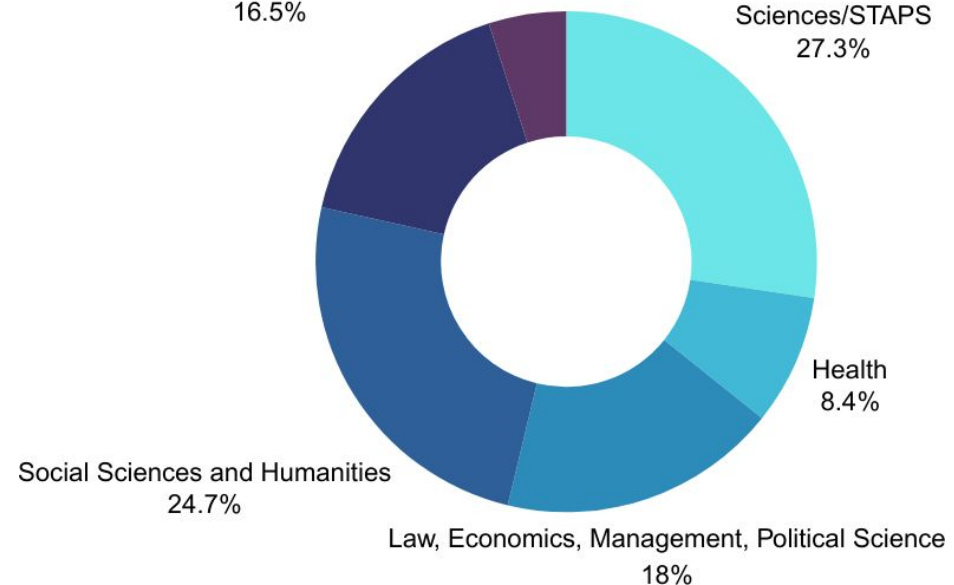
❖ **Lifetime Prevalence of Sexual Violence by Gender**
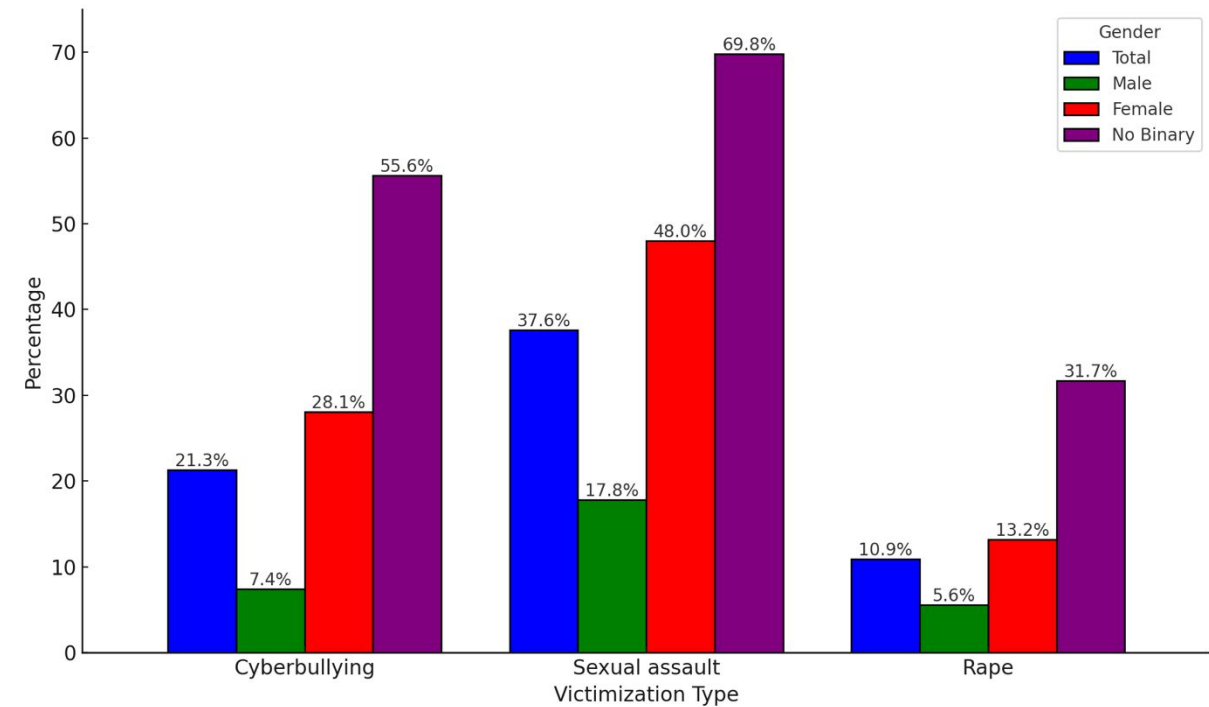
❖ **Factors Associated with Victimization**

Reference: No victimization

❖ **Health behaviors associated with sexual victimization status**
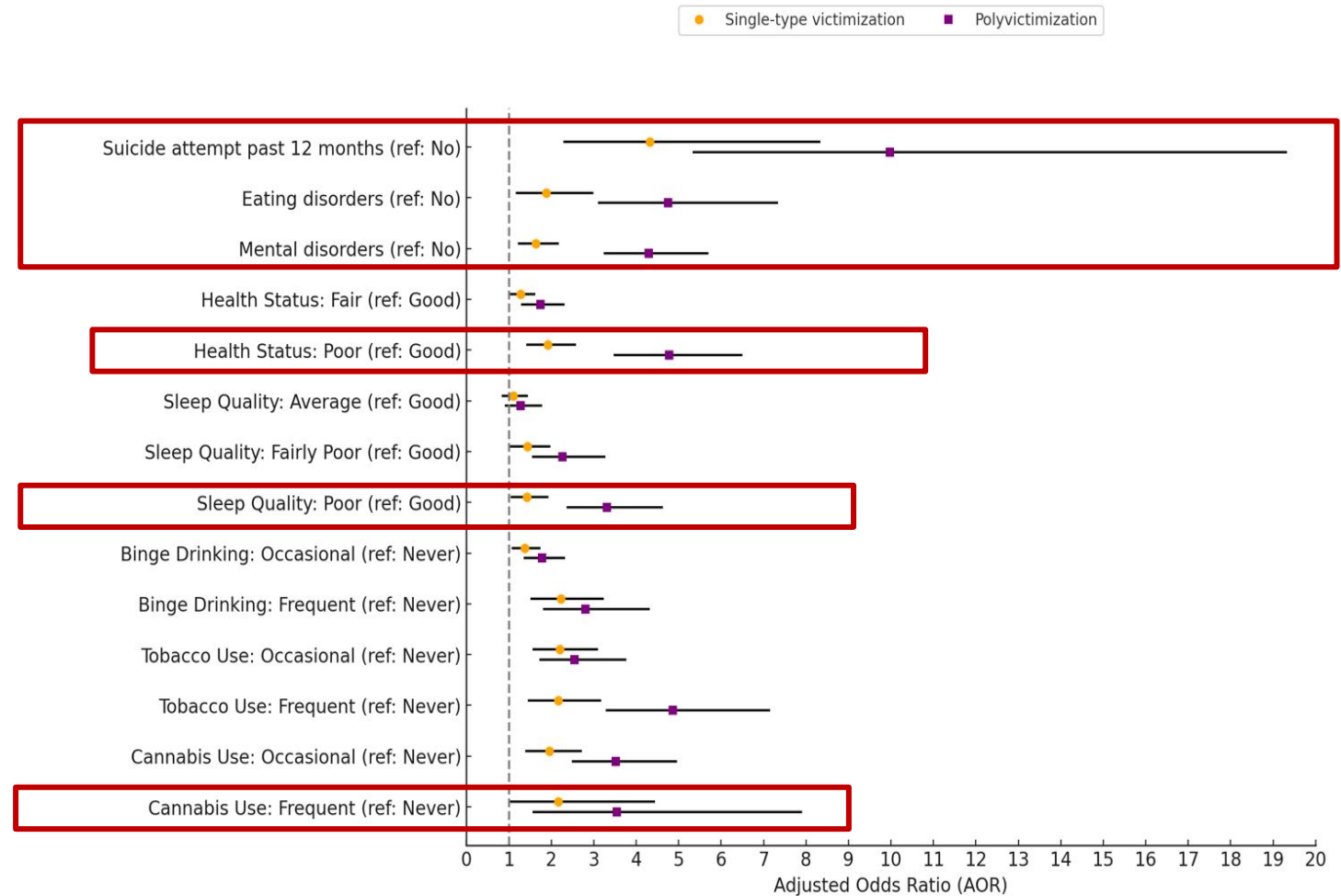
Adjusted for gender, age group, and field of study

Reference: No victimization

Discussion/ Conclusion

📌 **Findings**

- **High prevalence** of sexual violence among university students. *(Howard et al., 2019)*

- **Severe health consequences** for victicms: Mental disorders, Suicide attempts, Eating disorders.

📌 **Call to Action & Future Research**

- **Universities** : Implement **comprehensive prevention programs** and **enforce safety policies** to foster a secure learning environment.

- **Primary care providers**: Identify and support victims

- **Awareness & training** for healthcare providers are **essential** in mitigating the **negative health impacts** of sexual violence on students.

- **Longitudinal studies**: Assess the **long-term impact** and **effectiveness** of interventions.

Thank You for Your Attention!