**Police Insensitivity and Societal Stigma Hinder Reporting of Rape in Nigeria**

**Key findings:**
- Rape is under-reported in Nigeria compared to other major crimes.
- Police insensitivity and fear of stigmatisation discourage women from reporting.
- Less than 50% of those who reported were dissatisfied with handling of cases.

**The Research:**
- 11,518 respondents, comprising 50% male and female, all 18 years or older
- Stratified multi-stage random sampling procedure with face-to-face interviews.
- Interviews conducted in 36 states and Abuja

**Finding 1: Rape incidents are less likely to be reported and victims more likely to be dissatisfied with handling of cases**
- Only 28% of rape incidents were reported to the Police. This is lower than the reporting rates of other major crimes such as robbery, kidnapping and attempted murder (See graph). Less than 50% of those who reported were satisfied with police handling of cases.

**Reasons for not reporting**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Police insensitivity</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fear of stigma</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police corruption</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accused may not be arrested</td>
<td>17%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Finding 2: Police insensitivity and fear of stigma hinder reporting of rape**

The fear that the police would not take their case seriously, stigmatization by the society and corruption are major reasons cited by victims for not reporting to the police.

**Finding 3: Admission of rape victimization is much lower than perception of how widespread the crime is in Nigeria**
- Although rape is perceived as widespread by 8% of respondents, only 1% admitted to being victimized.
- Government and society's apparent insensitivity to the plights of the victims as seen in the ABSU 5 gang rape case, remains a major reason why women do not disclose rape victimization.

**Perception and Admission of Rape**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Perception of prevalence</th>
<th>Admission of victimization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8%</td>
<td>1%</td>
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</table>

**Recommendations**
- Government needs to declare a zero tolerance on rape in Nigeria and commit adequate resources to tracking down offenders and encouraging victims to come forward and report to the police.
- Better training of the police on investigation of rape cases, diligent prosecution and exemplary punishment of offenders are needed now more than ever.
- The 'ABSUS5' gang rape case should not be allowed to go unpunished like numerous other cases in the past.