



Police Insensitivity and Societal Stigma Hinder Reporting of Rape in Nigeria

Key findings:

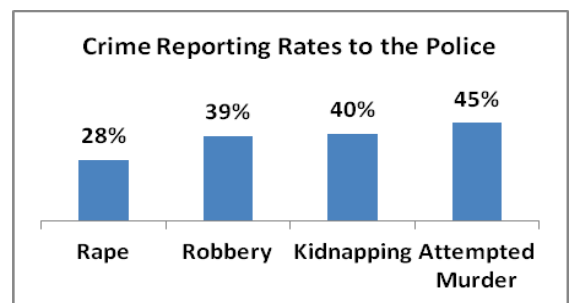
- Rape is under-reported in Nigeria compared to other major crimes.
- Police insensitivity and fear of stigmatisation discourage women from reporting.
- Less than 50% of those who reported were dissatisfied with handling of cases.

The Research:

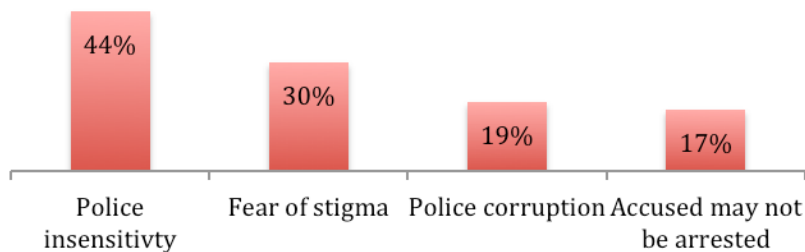
- National Crime and Safety Survey, 2011
- 11,518 respondents, comprising 50% male and female, all 18 years or older
- Stratified multi-stage random sampling procedure with face-to-face interviews.
- Interviews conducted in 36 states and Abuja

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

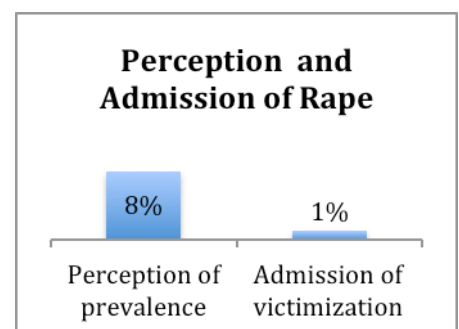


Finding 2: Police insensitivity and fear of stigma hinder reporting of rape

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.



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 'ABSU5' gang rape case should not be allowed to go unpunished like numerous other cases in the past.

For a full report of the National Crime & Safety Survey 2011 see www.cleen.org or email cleen@cleen.org. Support for this Policy Brief and conduct of CLEEN Foundation's National Crime and Safety Surveys were provided by MacArthur Foundation