

MEDICAL AND SOCIAL FEATURES OF THE SEXUAL ABUSES IN SIBIU COUNTY

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Abstract: Monitoring the incidence, epidemiological characteristics and medical and social consequences of sexual assault is a priority of the Public Health at global and national level. Our research goal is to identify certain epidemiological characteristics of sexual assault in Sibiu County which allow the formulation of specific intervention strategies in order to reduce the frequency, the medical and social consequences thereof. The study was performed through a longitudinal retrospective survey upon a number of 180 sexual assault cases that have addressed to the Forensic Dept of Sibiu County during 2006-2010. The study results show a slight tendency to decrease the frequency of sexual assaults for the last year of study only. There is a small difference in the area of residence environment of the victim. (53% rural area, 47% urban area). Most sexual assault victims are female (94%). Homosexual rape was identified in 6% of cases. Over 60% of victims are minors. More than half of the cases (63%) had injuries that required medical attention. Sexual assaults occur more frequently in the summer and are twice as rare in spring. Sexual assaults are more common in early days of the week (Thursday, approx. 20%) and are very rare on Fridays (about 9%).

Cuvinte cheie: viol, statistici, Romania

Rezumat: Monitorizarea incidenței, caracteristicilor epidemiologice și consecințelor medico-sociale ale agresiunilor sexuale reprezintă un domeniu prioritar al sănătății publice la nivel mondial și național. Scopul cercetării este de a identifica anumite caracteristici epidemiologice ale agresiunilor sexuale în județul Sibiu, care să permită formularea unor strategii de intervenție în vederea reducerii frecvenței și a consecințelor medico-sociale ale acestora. Studiul s-a realizat printr-o anchetă longitudinală retrospectivă asupra 180 cazuri de agresiuni sexuale care s-au adresat Serviciului de Medicină Legală Sibiu în perioada 2006-2010. Rezultatele studiului evidențiază o tendință ușoară spre scădere a frecvenței agresiunilor sexuale numai în ultimul an de studiu. Există o diferență redusă în ceea ce privește mediul de proveniență al victimelor (53% mediu rural, 47% mediu urban). Majoritatea victimelor sunt de sex feminin (94%). A fost identificat viol homosexual în 6% cazuri. Peste 60% din victime sunt minore. Peste jumătate din cazuri (63%) prezintă leziuni traumatice care au necesitat îngrijiri medicale. Agresiunile sexuale au loc mai frecvent în lunile de vară și sunt de două ori mai rare primăvara. Agresiunile sexuale sunt mai frecvente la începutul săptămânii (marți, aprox. 20% din agresiuni) și sunt mai rare în zilele de vineri (aprox. 9% din agresiuni)

INTRODUCTION

Statistics show that in Romania the number of rapes declined to 6.88% in 2010 compared to 2009. However, the figures signify one sexual assault at each four hours. In most cases, rapists are under the influence of alcohol, drugs or sexual complexes.[10.11] In the first five months of 2008 were held by 21.3% more rape followed by victim's death comparatively to the same period of 2007. Over 50% of them took part in rural areas. One in three women said she was physically or verbally abused by a male.[9.10] Violence against women results in high costs for national medical expenses, court cases and police actions, losses in educational outcomes, productivity and personal development.[4.7]

Monitoring the incidence, epidemiological characteristics and medical and social consequences of sexual assault is a priority area of public health at global and national level.

STUDY OBJECTIVE

Research goal is to identify certain epidemiological

characteristics of sexual assaults in Sibiu County in order to allow the formulation of specific intervention strategies to reduce the frequency and the medical and social consequences thereof.

METHODOLOGY

The studied material is represented by 180 sexual assaults victims who presented to in Sibiu County Forensic Dept for a period of 5 years (2006.01.01-2010.12.31). The method used is descriptive retrospective. Information gathering was done by consulting the following documents: Forensic Certificates, Forensic Reports, Toxicological Analysis Report Bulletins Clinical Examination Bulletins, Bulletins of Ambulance Emergency Service existing in the archive of County Clinical Emergency Hospital of Sibiu. The following parameters were analyzed: area of origin, age, gender, calendar period.

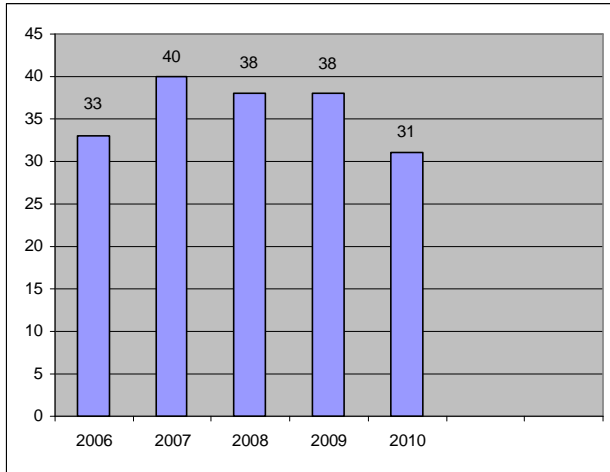
RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

During 2006-2010 in Sibiu County Forensic Dept

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registered 180 cases of sexual assaults. The annually distribution of the rapes during the study period shows a steady path with values ranging between 31 and 40 cases per year. There is a slight downward trend for the last year of study

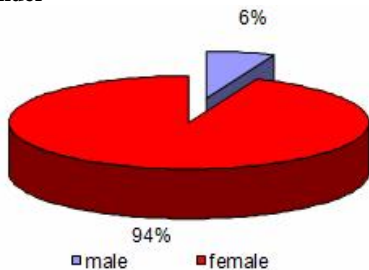
Figure no.1. Distribution of the sexual assault cases by years



In terms of the origin environment of the victims, there are important differences. It can be noted a discrete higher frequency of the victims from rural areas, 95 cases (53%) than from urban areas 85 cases (47%), The result doesn't confirm the literature where the share of rural victim is two times higher.

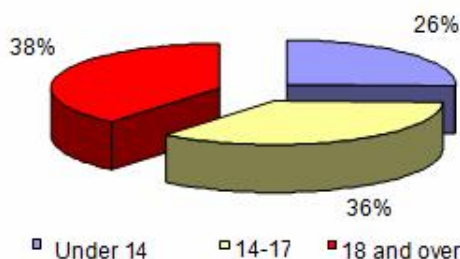
In terms of the distribution cases by rape victim's gender, it is noted that most sexual assault victims were female, 169 cases (94%) compared to only 11 cases (6%) of homosexual rape.

Figure no. 2. Distribution of the sexual assault cases by victime's gender



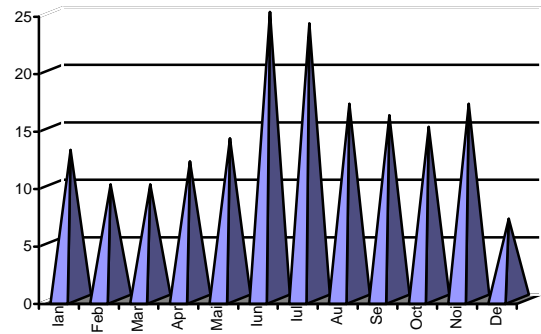
In terms of victim's age, the study reveals an alarming reality, the majority of the victims of sexual assault are minor, 110 cases of which 46 cases aged under 14 years (25.5%) and 64 cases (35.5%) aged 14-17 years. There were a total of 70 cases over 18 years. It should be noted that there were studied only victims who have asked for Forensic services, so there is an unknown number of victims of all ages who did not report sexual assault, because of shame or fear.

Figure no.3. Distribution of the sexual assault cases by age (years of age)



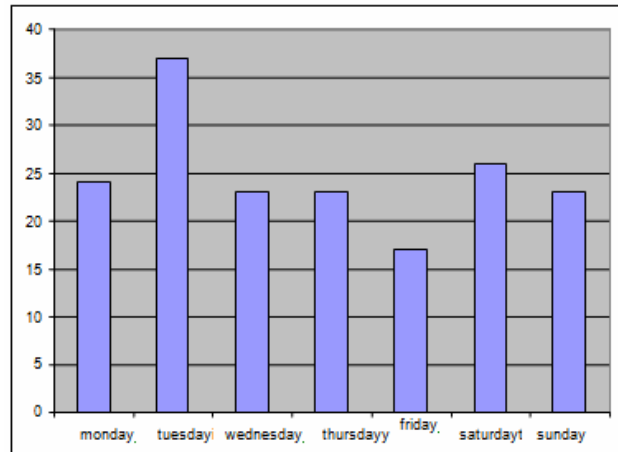
Among the 80 cases of sexual assault, 114 cases (63%) suffered injuries that highlights the increased severity of this phenomenon that combines at least two forms of aggression. About half of the cases had traumatic injuries, 52 cases (46%) required medical treatment and 62 cases (54%) did not require medicalcare.

Figure no. 4. Distribution of the sexual assault cases by calendar period



In terms of distribution of the sexual assault cases by month, it appears that the summer period recorded the highest number of cases (25 cases in June, 25 cases in July, 17 cases in August, which gather about two-thirds of all cases), followed by autumn period (15 to 17 cases/month during September-November). Summer months registered a total of about 2 times more than spring months.

Figure no. 5. Distribution of the sexual assault cases by days of the week



Regarding the distribution of cases by the days of the week, the highest number of cases were recorded in the first days of the week (Tuesday 37 cases, approx. 20%) and Saturday (26 cases, approx. 14%). In other days, the number of cases ranges between 23 and 26. Friday recorded the lowest number of sexual aggressions (17 cases, approx. 9%).

CONCLUSIONS

- during 2006-2010 in Sibiu Forensic Dept Medicine there were registered a 180 cases of sexual assaults.
- there is a tendency of reduce the frecvency of sexual assaults only for the last year of survey.
- most victims are female (94%).
- In 6% of cases we identified an homosexual sexual assault.
- over 60% of victims of sexual assault were minor.
- more than half cases (63%) had injuries that required

medical attention.

7. sexual assaults occur more frequently in the summer months and are twice as rare in springtime.

§ sexual assaults are more common Thursday (approx. 20% of assaults) and are rare on Fridays (about 9% of assaults).

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