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The Baltic Sea Regional Study on Adolescents' Sexuality

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Norsk institutt for forskning om
oppvekst, velferd og aldring
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Foreword

This report is based on research carried out in a network of researchers in Estonia, Lithuania, Poland, Norway, Sweden and North-West Russia. It was initiated and established in cooperation within the network of Children at Risk Children's Unit, Council of the Baltic Sea States. To establish such a network and to make it a functional unit has been a necessary condition for this report to appear. Each national unit of researchers has draw on national funding and support from the Children's Unit at the Council of the Baltic Sea States. In addition we have received support from Nordic Council/-Norwegian Research Council which made it possible for the researchers in the network to meet and to take part in necessary discussions about how the research should proceed. Thanks to Morten Blekesaune at NOVA, who helped to establish the data file with the data from all countries. Solveig Abrahamsen at NOVA and Kadri Soo at the University of Tartu has contributed substantially to making this report ready. Thanks also to NOVA in Oslo, Norway and to the University of Tartu in Tartu, Estonia, who have offered possibilities for some of the researchers in the network to stay at these institutions for shorter or longer periods. The authors of this report are grateful to all institutions that have supported this international comparative survey in its different stages.

Oslo July 2007

Svein Mossige

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PART I:
Contextualization of the study

Lars Lööf

Head of Children's Unit

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Background

For a number of years now child protection professionals and researchers have tried to find ways of addressing phenomena associated with child sexual abuse, child sexual exploitation and violence against children. Approaches have been varied in assessing and determining the scope of the problem and how to assist decision makers and clinical practitioners with tools on how best to assist a child where there are suspicions of sexual abuse or where there is proof of sexual abuse. The process being that society, the public, the professional community and the decision makers and those formulating policies and actions need first be convinced that sexual abuse of children does exist and is a problem to be taken seriously. Passing this stage, the extent of sexual abuse had to be considered. How common is it and how much do social workers and persons assisting children need to take the possibility of abuse into calculation when meeting with a child. Several studies in Europe and worldwide have looked into the frequency of sexual abuse and in later years also the extent of sexual exploitation.

The first World Congress against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children was held in Stockholm in 1996. It marks the start of the international community's acceptance of the fact that not only are children and young persons in the whole world affected by sexual abuse and violence, they are also facing sexual exploitation. Exploitation however is a term that is not universally defined. It is used to signify the use of an unequal balance of power in order for one person making financial or other gain of the other person's situation. In the case of sexual exploitation this would translate into another person using the child's inferior position to make a profit or gaining something for him/herself. Sexual exploitation is now regularly defined as child prostitution, child trafficking and abusive images of children, so called child pornography. The different forms of sexual exploitation have been scrutinised and defined in a number of papers and in research attempts. However, most of the information we have on sexual exploitation stems from anecdotal reports, material gathered from young persons involved in street

prostitution and victims of trafficking. Reports from the victims of sexual exploitation certainly assist the professional community in defining and outlining the area that should be addressed but do not fully put the different phenomena of interest in a relation to each other. For example does the fact that so many of the young prostitutes interviewed by Julia O'Connell Davidson and cited in her book on the global sex trade ¹ declare that they have chosen prostitution as the lesser of several evils mean that they have made an informed decision or are they just responding to a situation where no adult has ever cared for them? Questions like this immediately arise when we try to dismantle the intricate web of circumstances that surround sexual abuse and exploitation of children and young persons.

Where the first world congress against the commercial sexual exploitation of children put a strong focus on the commercial side of sexual exploitation, the second world congress in Yokohama in 2001 brought the area of commercial sexual exploitation closer to that of sexual abuse. Among other issues, the debate at the conference circled around the connection between the sexual abuse and the sexual exploitation of children. This discourse led to the outcome of the second world congress to include in the text not only the commercial sexual exploitation but also other forms of child sexual exploitation and other forms of child sexual abuse. International instruments and recommendations developed have followed this and are now generally comprehensively attempting to address the entire area of sexual violence against children². This was a consequence of the fact that the term commercial limited the usefulness of conventions and recommendations and the term exploitation again limited the recognition of who was to be considered a victim. However, this has in no way limited the professional community and researchers in their efforts to understand what impact the commercial aspect of sexual exploitation may have on the victimised young person nor the understanding of how sexual abuse in a local or domestic setting is linked to the commercial sexual exploitation that may indeed happen on an international arena. Is it so that a child exploited sexually somehow is experiencing greater trauma than a child that is sexually abused?

¹ Children in the Global Sex Trade. 2005: Blackwell Publishing.

² See for example the recent work of the Council of Europe on the drafting of a convention against sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children.

Prevention has been the clarion cry whenever discussing sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children. How can the knowledge we gain be put to use in designing intelligent prevention programmes? Preventive attempts have been made for a long time, many of which however have been poorly evaluated and even fewer build on any strong evidence of what the group they are addressing looks like. The lack of evaluation of preventive campaigns and the lack of focus have in some cases led to these being discontinued. There is no general consensus on whether preventive programmes should be primary, secondary or tertiary in order to achieve the strongest possible impact. The secondary preventive approach where target is set at groups known to be at special risk, has however gained increased interest. Secondary prevention however does mean that there is a need for knowledge on how the group targeted may be defined and what specifies the group.

Parallel to the developments internationally in protecting and preventing children from exposure to sexual abuse and sexual exploitation came the developing consciousness that young persons, often under the age of 18 constitute around 30 % of the perpetrators of child sexual abuse. Adult perpetrators also witness that as often as in 50 % of the cases had they started abusing children when they were under the age of 18. This gave a number of new impulses to the prevention of child sexual abuse and exploitation. If the perpetrators were sometimes this young, there should be ways in which we could identify how a young person may turn into a person that may violate a child and there should be ways in which the identification of young persons at risk of committing offences against children should make it possible to make this not happen.

The cooperation on Children at Risk within the region of the Baltic Sea States, came out of the Stockholm agenda for action where state parties were encouraged to cooperate more on a regional basis to find ways to end child sexual exploitation. The Cooperation started by coordinating activities and information on child sexual abuse and child sexual exploitation and took upon itself to establish new ways of keeping professionals linked to each other by establishing the Childcentre web site³. The network of professionals involved in the cooperation discussed at the meetings how their combined experiences of both hands on assistance to abused children and research on both extent of abuse and assistance to abused children could be put to use in

³ www.childcentre.info

preventing abuse from occurring in the first place. This had been stated several times before and it has always been seen as a priority for the work that knowledge gained should also mean that fewer children became victimised.

A small survey made in Norway caught the interest of the cooperation. In the survey, Dr Svein Mossige of the Norwegian Social Research Institute, NOVA, asked young persons about their attitudes towards child sexual abuse and also put questions to them on male and female tendencies as well as a number of personality traits⁴. He found that there was only a small group of respondents that would even hypothetically consider having sex with a child if they knew that there would be no legal actions taken and that no one would find out. There was also a marginally bigger group of young persons in the study who would consider having sex with a somewhat older child, but still a child under the age of consent. By looking at how these groups of young persons scored on the personality scales and on attitude scales used in the questionnaire, it was possible to see that the small group of young persons that would consider having sex with a child also had other attitudes and traits in common.

In discussing the results from this small group of respondents, 710 individuals, the idea was raised to duplicate the study on a larger scale. The phenomenon we were trying to circle was obviously a low frequency phenomenon but none the less one that did cause a great deal of harm to the child victims. Arguing that with a larger set of respondents we would get more reliable data the cooperation started looking for interested partners in the cooperation on children at risk among the member states within the Council of the Baltic Sea States, CBSS.⁵

At the initial meetings on establishing a regional research network, national priorities obviously played an important role but so did the international developments. After the Second World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children held in Yokohama, an emphasis in fighting child sexual abuse and child sexual exploitation was put on curbing the demand for sexual services from children. The same issue was

⁴ A summary in English of this study can be found at <http://www.childcentre.info/research/abusedchil/ifid1842.html>

⁵ The CBSS, the Council of the Baltic Sea States consists of eleven member states and the European Commission. The member states are: Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Russia and Sweden.

brought to light when the discussion around how to end child trafficking became more intense. Obviously, policy makers would argue, without a market for sex with children and young persons there wouldn't be any trafficking. As has eloquently been demonstrated in a small paper written for the Council of Europe's follow up meeting to the Yokohama conference, demand for sexual services from children and young persons within or without the commercial sex market has not been adequately addressed.⁶ In this paper and in the working group discussion held at the Ljubljana meeting it clearly emerged a need to develop knowledge on how demand for sexual services from children affects the extent of the abuse and the number of victimised children. There is a pressing need to understand the complex nature of demand and how child exploiters are in turn using this demand to make financial gain. A parallel development has just recently emerged in studies around how the Internet affects the ways in which some persons access pornography. There seems to be a scale where the pornography providers lure the consumer into accessing more and more advanced and sometimes abusive images and films. For some young persons interviewed, accessing quite harmless pornography is the starting point on a sliding scale that ends with accessing illegal abusive images of children. So increased interest focused on how the demand for sex with children expresses itself before it is acted upon. Again, looking at how young persons think around this issue and around the issue of selling sex and buying sex became a topic. If we knew more about the young men who would eventually develop into requesting sex with children and young persons we may be able to design more intelligent preventive programmes targeting the group most likely to victimise children.

On the national level, Sweden was just launching a governmental study on the extent of sexual exploitation of children in Sweden and the possibility of joining the research made in Sweden with the regional attempt was seen as an excellent way of combining the regional knowledge. The Swedish governmental study wanted to learn about the extent of young persons selling sex and they also had an interest in understanding the general attitudes among young persons around commercial sex, pornography and sexual abuse⁷.

⁶ "Understanding 'demand' for children in the sex trade: an outstanding challenge". Paper for the Yokohama review meeting in Yokohama, July 2005. Dr June Kane.

⁷ A summary in English of the governmental study can be found at <http://www.childcentre.info/projects/abused/sweden/dbaFile11368.html>

Researchers from Estonia, Latvia, Russia, Lithuania, Poland, Norway, Sweden and Iceland attempted, all on their part to secure funding for the national part of the study, and the regional group under the Working Group for Cooperation on Children at Risk within the CBSS on their part tried to find funding for the regional cooperation needed. At meetings in Vilnius, Oslo, Tartu in Estonia and Höör in Sweden the different specific aspects of what should be included in the regional study was elaborated. The governments involved in the cooperation showed a great interest in conducting this kind of research and supported the meetings in order to get the cooperation operational. The Nordic Council of Ministers has also funded the regional part of the cooperation.

In the end, research teams from six countries conducted the same kind of survey: Norway, Sweden, Russia, Estonia, Lithuania and Poland. All in all some 20 000 young persons around the age of 18 has responded to the questionnaire and it is the joint analysis of parts of the questionnaire and the national comments to these that we present in this volume.

Stockholm in July 2007

Introduction to the study

The aim of the study

There are many unanswered questions in the field of sexual abuse. More knowledge is indeed needed when it comes to the prevalence of different forms of sexual abuse and exploitation. The correlates of various kinds of sexual abuse have been the subject of controversies and disagreements. This is especially the case when it comes to negative consequences of sexual abuse in childhood or adolescence. Some researchers even claim that “although CSA is related to poorer adjustment in the general population the magnitude of this relationship is small” (Rind & Tromovich, 1997, p. 253). Others state that “Sexually abused subjects report higher levels of general psychological distress and higher rates of both major psychological disorders and personality disorders than non-abused subjects” (Polusny & Follette, 1995, p. 143). There are still certain disagreements, but most researchers seem to agree that “there is a wide range of negative consequences of sexual trauma” (Classen, Palesh, & Aggarwal, 2005, p. 103). The disagreements within the field indicate a need for more research.

The possible impact of sexual abuse experiences during adolescence makes it particularly important to study abusive experiences among young people (Classen et al., 2005), as we do in the present study. Abusive experiences in the past are closer in time for adolescents, than for adults. The experiences are thus easier to remember for adolescents and their reports more reliable. As time passes, new experiences may influence what kind of events from childhood or adolescence people remember, and also how events are remembered. This uncertainty makes it difficult to rely on self-reports concerning events and experiences that took place several years ago (Hardt & Rutter, 2004). The aim of this study is twofold. First we want to give some indications of the prevalence rate for sexual abuse among young people in the countries involved in the study. Second we want to see how experiences of sexual abuse is related to other phenomena. This is a cross

sectional study. We can not draw conclusions about causality. But on a statistical basis we can say something about how some phenomena are inter-related to sexual abuse, for instance if and how certain experiences increase or decrease the chances of being abused or of abusing others. On a theoretical basis we can argue why some experiences or why some attitudes can be understood as conditions for being abused or for abusing others.

A valid prevalence rate can be obtained only if at least two conditions are fulfilled: The definition of abuse has to be clear enough, and the sample of young informants has to be representative for each country. The sampling procedures are presented in the contributions from each country. The definition we apply is discussed in the next paragraph.

Definition of sexual abuse

In some studies sexual abuse is defined in terms of the age-difference between offender and victim (Briere & Elliot, 2003). In our study the abusive acts are defined in terms of specific sexual acts which involved a degree of force or pressure and happened against the will of the young person. The respondents are asked if they have experienced six different forms of sexual offences from indecent touching to different forms of penetrative sexual activities. The questions we apply have been used in other studies (Edgardh, 2001) even if some of the formulations used by Edgardh were more specific than ours. The informants' reports about the age of the offender and the victim at the first sexual assault will be presented in the report from each country and in the comparative part. This age-difference may also determine if the sexual acts are experienced as abusive or not. The definition of sexual abuse is a difficult topic. When applying a wide definition we run the risk that it will include incidents that many will not regard as sexual abuse. If it is too strict and narrow there will always be the chance that situations which have been experienced by someone as abuse will be excluded. We have chosen a rather wide definition but at the same time a definition where the abusive acts are specified to a certain extent. In that sense our definition is an answer to both objections above.

Assessment of the every day life of young people

In addition to variables assessing experiences and attitudes related to sexual abuse the questionnaire include variables which from a theoretical point of view can be regarded as preconditions for or consequences of sexual abuse. Relationship with parents are in some studies regarded as a precondition for abuse. But if sexual abuse has taken place within the family the respondents' perception of this relation may be influenced by these abusive experiences. We ask the respondents who he or she would turn to for help in case of personal problems. The answer may be an indication of the extent to which the respondents trust in other people. The respondents' mental health in terms of degree of depression and/or anxiety can be a possible consequence of abusive experiences. But mental health may also contribute to making the respondents more vulnerable to be exposed to situations with an increased risk for abusive experiences. Together with other topics and questions, perception of relationship to parents and mental health focus on experiences and events from the ordinary every day life of the respondents.

The development of the questionnaire

The questionnaire applied in the Norwegian study (Mossige, 2001) was revised and extended in cooperation with Carl Göran Svedin (University of Linköping) and Mare Ainsaar (University of Tartu). The revised edition included more detailed questions about sexual abuse and commercial sexual exploitation and attitudes in these areas. Questions about the hypothetical possibility of sex with a child were included but the definitions of a child were changed. This hypothetical possibility was asked in relation to three different definitions of a child: A child is between 12-14 year of age, between 10-12, and below 10. In some questions the term child was used without such definitions. In these cases a child was a person below the age of sexual consent. This is a dilemma since the age of sexual consent is different for different countries.

An English version of the questionnaire was developed from the Norwegian and the Swedish versions. We made sure that the English edition was identical with the two Nordic ones. The English version was then translated into Estonian, Russian, Lithuanian, and Polish. In order to investigate whether each question had the same semantic meaning for each of

the six countries, the Estonian, Russian, Lithuanian, and Polish editions were controlled against the Norwegian and the Swedish editions. The meaning of the questions was discussed in groups with representatives for each national research group to secure correspondence in meaning.

The questionnaire was designed in such a way that the respondents had to answer nearly every question. This was done in order to prevent that respondents who had not been abused could be visually distinguished from classmates who filled out the sensitive sectors in the questionnaire.

A total of about 20,000 adolescents around the age of 18 responded to the questionnaire.

The structure of the report

The network of researchers from the involved countries agreed upon a certain structure for the report. The report consists of two main parts: A comparative one and a part containing contributions from each of the six countries. The comparative part includes five of the six countries. North-West Russia is not part of these analysis because of differences in samples. The comparative analysis is based upon the age group of 18-year-old adolescent in order to make the national groups as comparable as possible. The comparative part has three separate chapters. The first compares the national samples, family structure, and relationship with parents. In the second chapter experiences with sexual abuse, sexual offences of other, selling sex and consumption of pornography are compared. In the third part we treat the group of 18-year-old from the five countries as one group and explore if and how different abusive experiences and attitudes influence the probability of abusing others.

The reports from each of the six countries had to follow the same outline. They all deal with the same topics agreed on in the network of researchers. Each of them give a description of the sampling procedures. The national reports contain 19 tables covering data about the same topics. For example, if you want to know the proportion of respondents within each country who reported about experiences with offering sexual services for pay, you will find data about this in Table 16 in each of the country reports. The table also tell what kind of sexual activities the respondents offered. In addition to this rather strict outline each national research group was offered the possibility of presenting a special analysis based upon data from their

own country sample. Three of the countries contributed with a special analysis. In the report from Estonia there is an analysis of consequences of sexual abuse related to mental health. In the Norwegian report there is an analysis of age-constellations between offender and victim, and of the risk of abusing others related to certain experiences and attitudes. In the Swedish report you will find analysis of common sexual experiences and sexual orientations among young people in the Swedish sample.

PART II: Comparisons between countries

Environment and experiences of sexual abuse for 18-year-olds in the Baltic sea region

Who are the youth in the analyses?

The survey was carried out in 2003 – 2004 in six countries (Table 1). Three countries out of six (Estonia, Lithuania, and Poland) used an all country representative sample and three countries (Sweden, Norway, and North-West Russia) a sample from larger cities. Differences in initial sample collection puts additional challenges to all researchers who are going to use a survey database for country comparative purposes. As North-West Russian data included several vulnerable groups who were not included in the samples in the other countries, we excluded the Russian sample from comparative country comparative analyses.

Most of the country reports revealed differences between age groups, as well as urban – rural particularities (Soo & Kutsar, 2004). Therefore, we analyse only urban youth at the age of 18 in order to secure comparability of country samples.

TABLE 1: DESCRIPTION OF COUNTRY SAMPLES, AGE GROUP 18

Country	Geographical representatives	School types covered	Time of a fieldwork and number of respondents at age 18
Estonia	All country representative (urban, rural, all counties)	Secondary and vocational schools	2003 (582)
Lithuania	All country representative (urban, rural, all counties)	Secondary and vocational schools	2003 – 2004 (2312)
Sweden	Five big cities: Stockholm, Malmö, Luleå, Falköping, Haparanda	Secondary schools with different programs and classes	2003 – 2004 (2941)
Norway	Nine largest town regions	Secondary schools, both vocational and general classes	2003 – 2004 (3364)
Poland	All country representative (urban, rural)	Secondary and vocational schools	2004 (2347)
North-West Russia	Four towns: Saint-Petersburg, Petrozavodsk, Murmansk, Kaliningrad	Secondary schools, vocational schools, universities, and governmental detention centres	2004 (320)

Analyses of the Estonian data revealed that attitudes towards sexuality as well as sexual experiences, among students at high schools can be essentially different from those of students at vocational schools (Soo & Kutsar, 2004). All country samples involved youth both from general and vocational classes, but the share of adolescents from different classes varied according to countries (Table 2). Norway, Sweden, and Estonia were more similar in this respect. Poland and Lithuania had comparatively more students from vocational schools in their samples.

TABLE 2: TYPES OF RESPONDENTS DISTRIBUTED ON GENERAL AND VOCATIONAL/COMBINED CLASSES, 18 YEAR OLD URBAN YOUTH (%)

	General	Vocational/combined	Total
Norway	77.3	22.7	100.0
Sweden	71.2	28.8	100.0
Estonia	70.8	29.2	100.0
Lithuania	46.0	54.0	100.0
Poland	60.7	39.3	100.0

Family as a growth environment for adolescents

Although the survey was oriented towards comparisons of adolescents' sexual experiences, the questionnaire highlighted several aspects of adolescents' everyday living environment. Compared with later phases in life, young people's lives are more bounded by their close environment such as family and school. Friends, parents, schoolmates, relatives and other people influence young people's lives. In order to explain country differences found in this study, social and cultural differences in young peoples' environment should be studied. There is much research about the influence of family structure on the well-being and family relations of young people. Some analyses also show a direct relationship between family structure and sexual abuse experiences. Victims of sexual abuse often come from more patriarchal, conflicting, enmeshed, and authoritarian families (Polusny & Follette, 1995, p. 144).

The traditional family with a biological mother and father is still the dominating family structure in Europe, although changes in the traditional family structure has been observed since the 1970's. This report is based on individuals born around 1986. Families are influenced both by history and the local family culture. In addition, families are still strongly influenced by

religion. For example, the protestant countries Sweden and Estonia have for years been known as countries with high indicators of births out of wedlock and divorces.

In this survey Poland and Estonia represent two extremes concerning family structure (Table 3). Poland was the most two-parent oriented country and Estonia the country with most single parent families. In this respect Catholic Lithuania is more similar to Norway and Sweden.

TABLE 3: FAMILY STRUCTURE OF URBAN ADOLESCENTS AT AGE 18 (%)

	Both biological parents	One parent	With biological and stepparent	Other	Total
Norway	72.1	13.7	7.7	6.5	100
Sweden	72.1	15.7	7.0	5.2	100
Estonia	64.6	21.8	7.5	6.1	100
Lithuania	73.8	16.8	5.9	3.5	100
Poland	82.1	13.0	2.4	2.5	100

Relationship with parents

Even more important than family structure is children's relationship with their parents. Preliminary comparisons of two prevailing family types showed that young informants in Norway, Estonia, and Lithuania reported two-parent families (mother and father) to be more controlling than single parent families ($p > 0.05$). In Norway and Sweden, parents in two-parent families were also reported to communicate more with the child compared with single parents. In Sweden, parents in two-parent families appeared more caring than single parents.

A child's vulnerability can be related to the relationship with his or her parents (Fonagy, Steele, Steele, Higgitt, & Target, 1994, p.234). The questionnaire included questions about the informants' relationships with their parents (Parental Bonding Instrument, Parker, Tupling & Brown, 1979). (In each country-report the answers on these questions are presented in Table 2.) Table 4 presents country means at age group 18 for some statements. The data are presented according to three indices: closeness (communication and understanding); care (support and care); control (decide things myself and over-protection).

TABLE 4: RELATIONSHIP WITH PARENTS WHILE GROWING UP - MEANS

<i>Country</i>	Closeness		Care		Control	
	Rarely communi- cated with me	Have understood my problems	Not given me the support I needed	Have been caring towards me	Let me decide on things myself	They have been over- protective
Norway	1.70	4.44	2.60	5.09	4.60	3.29
Sweden	1.84	4.45	2.53	5.68	4.14	3.39
Estonia	1.83	4.46	2.19	5.30	4.72	3.78
Lithuania	2.23	4.29	2.42	5.23	4.20	3.41
Poland	2.53	4.13	2.12	5.14	4.00	3.22

Note. 1= does not correspond at all, 6 = corresponds completely

The parent-child communication was considered well-functioning more frequently in Norway, Sweden and Estonia than in Poland and Lithuania. Adolescents in Norway, Sweden and Estonia reported more often than young people in Poland and Lithuania that their parents communicated frequently with them.

Mutual understanding is usually a precondition for good communication between parents and children. We investigated whether the informants believed their parents to understand their problems. Respondents in Norway, Sweden and Estonia appeared quite equal in this matter. Young people in Lithuania and Poland reported a slightly lower confidence in their parents' understanding of their problems.

There is a positive correlation between the informants' perception of their communication with their parents and their perception of whether their parents had understood their problems. Those who reported frequent communication with their parents more often reported that their parents understood their problems.

The Norwegian and the Swedish adolescents agreed more often that their parents had not always given the support that they needed compared to the respondents from the other countries. This is despite the Norwegian and the Swedish respondents scoring the highest on perception of parental understanding and communication.

When asked whether their parents had been caring towards them, the informants in all countries reported that they perceived their parents as being very caring. However, the Norwegian and the Polish parents were perceived as the least caring. Parents in Sweden were perceived as being very caring, while informants in Lithuania and Estonia formed a group in between (Table 4).

Parental control may be a risk diminishing factor for adolescents. On the other hand, too much control can restrict young people’s development. Parental control was measured by the degree to which the informants agreed with the following two statements: “They have let me decide on things myself”, and “They have been very controlling”. Estonian and Norwegian adolescents believed to a larger degree that they had the freedom to decide things by themselves. Informants from Poland generally reported that their parents restricted their freedom to decide for themselves. Surprisingly, there was a positive correlation between freedom and overprotection. The Estonian respondents reported the highest degree of freedom, but also the highest degree of overprotection. The respondents from Poland reported the lowest degree of freedom, but they also complained the least about overprotection (Table 4).

Regarding the interaction between closeness and care, Estonia and Sweden form the closest pair of countries. Figure 1 demonstrates that closeness does not always correspond with high level of care. Despite that Norwegian children perceived their parents as being very close to them, they perceived a lower level of care compared with the other countries. On the other hand, the very caring Polish parents were not perceived as being very close to their children.

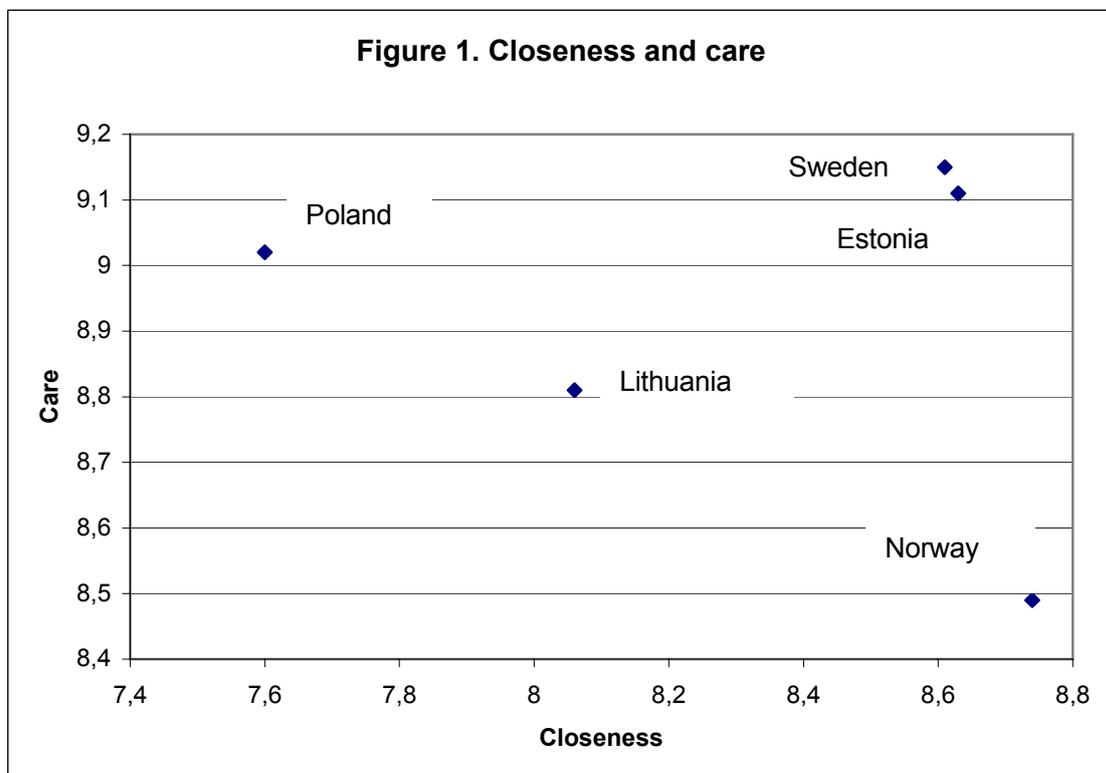


FIGURE 1. CLOSENESS AND CARE

There is no relationship between closeness and control in the five countries (Figure 2). Perceived level of control was quite equal in Sweden, Poland and Lithuania. Level of closeness with parents varied, though. Sweden, Estonia and Norway had the highest parent-child closeness scores, but very different perceptions of parental control.

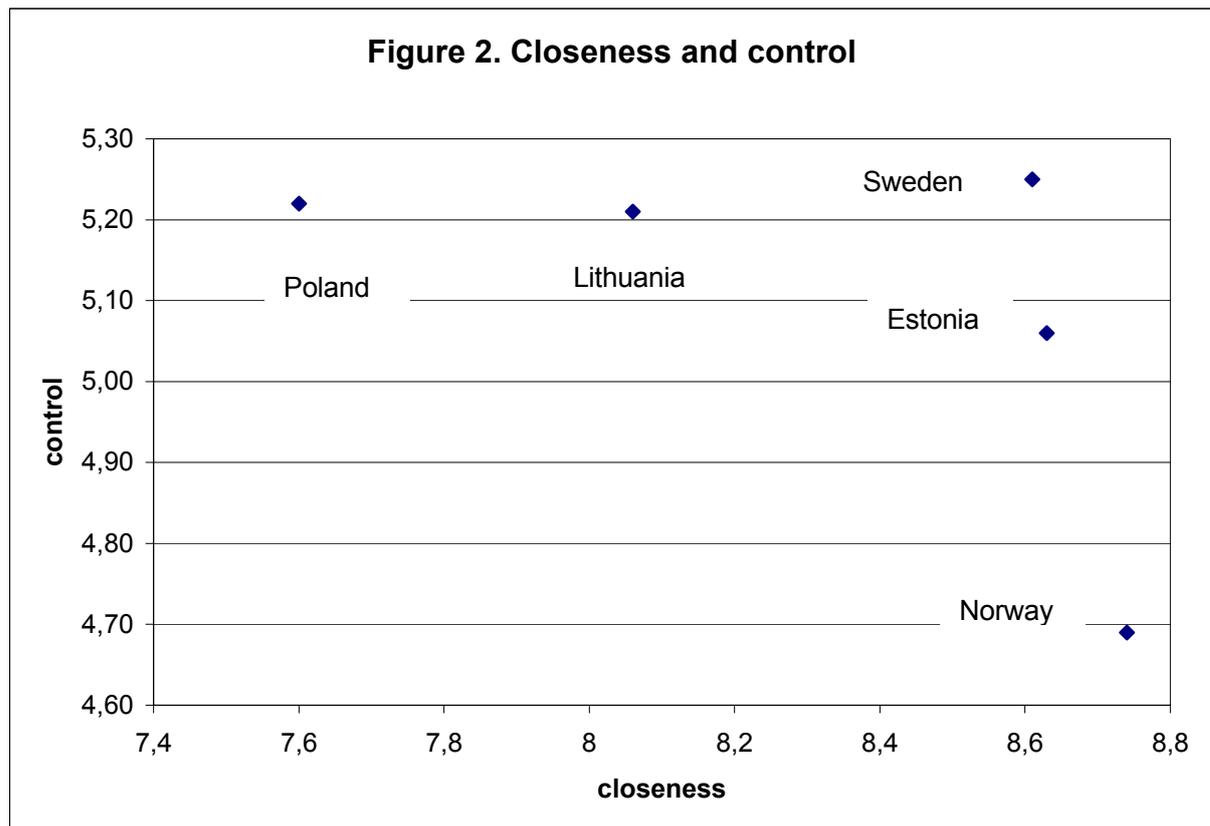


FIGURE 2. CLOSENESS AND CONTROL

Trust and asking for help

The respondents were asked to report to whom they would most likely talk in case of a personal problem. The answers show that adolescents trust peers and grown-ups. Lack of closeness can be seen as a risk factor (Classen, Field, Koopman, Nevill-Manning & Spiegel, 2001; Cloutre, Cohen & Scarvalone, 2002; Soo, 2004).

TABLE 5: TO WHOM THE CHILD WOULD COMMUNICATE IN CASE OF PERSONAL PROBLEMS (% OF YES)

	Mother	Father	Relatives	Adult living nearby	Teacher	Social teacher	Brothers and sisters	Friend	Girl/boy-friend
Norway	63.7	36.4	17.5	3.6	7.1	15.5	39.9	89.8	82.3
Sweden	66.4	40.2	14.9	4.9	9.4	23.5	45.8	89.6	78.1
Estonia	63.6	32.5	16.7	2.7	3.2	18.1	47.3	79.9	81.8
Lithuania	66.8	39.2	23.3	11.2	14.1	19.4	50.4	80.4	78.8
Poland	62.8	33.8	27.5	5.0	5.8	11.3	51.3	85.0	81.2

Despite the different level of perceived closeness to their parents, there were no essential country differences with respect to whom the 18-year-olds would turn to (Table 5). Mother was the essential trust person in all countries. Only friends formed a more popular source from which to get help. Brothers and sisters were also important trust lines. About one third of the respondents would turn to their father. This proportion was lower in Estonia, possibly explained by the larger share of children living only with their mother in this country.

Other relatives and adults were more trusted in Lithuania and Poland. Teachers were considered an essential source of trust only in Lithuania and Sweden. In all countries there are gender differences concerning who the respondents would turn to for help.

The fact that mothers are more frequently chosen as conversation partners than fathers is not surprising. This finding indicates that gender roles still prevail among young people, irrespective of country (and culture) and gender.

Experiences with sexual abuse, selling sex, and use of pornography

In this section we will study some of the sexual abuse items and compare 18-year-olds from the five countries. Of the original sample of 20 979 participants 55.0 % fulfilled the country and age criteria (18-year-olds from Norway, Sweden, Estonia, Lithuania, or Poland) making a final sample of 11 528 participants. The distribution between the five countries is displayed in table 1.

TABLE 1: PARTICIPANTS IN THE COMPARATIVE STUDY OF SEXUAL EXPERIENCES

Country	Gender				All	
	Girls		Boys			
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Norway	1 966	31.4	1 397	26.4	3 363	29.1
Sweden	1 571	25.1	1 363	25.8	2 934	25.4
Lithuania	1 336	21.4	976	18.5	2 312	20.0
Estonia	285	4.6	297	5.6	582	5.0
Poland	1 094	17.5	1 253	23.7	2 347	20.3
All	5 158	100	4 033	100	11 528	100

In the following analyses comparisons will be made across the five countries. The two Nordic countries, Norway and Sweden, have had a well-developed social security and social welfare system since the Second World War while the two Baltic countries, Estonia and Lithuania, and Poland have recently started this development. As a consequence of these differences, comparisons between the Nordic countries and the Baltic countries will be presented separately in addition to comparisons between all five countries.

Sexual abuse experience

Experiences with sexual abuse were rather common among 18-year-olds in this survey.

In general, across the five countries, a substantial part of the girls reported that someone exposed him/herself indecently or that somebody touched her body in an indecent way. These kinds of activities were reported somewhat less frequent among the boys before their 19th birthday. (see tables 2 and 3). The highest frequency for these two activities was found among Swedish girls (27,1% and 56,2%) and the lowest among Estonian boys (7,7% and 10,1%).

TABLE 2: SEXUAL ABUSE EXPERIENCES, GIRLS (%)

	Norway N=1966	Sweden N=1571	Lithuania N=1336	Estonia N=285	Poland N=1094	All N=6252
Somebody exposed him/herself indecently towards you	21.8	27.1	21.3	15.4	15.9	21.9
Somebody has touched your body in an indecent way	33.6	56.2	31.9	42.5	20.6	37
You have exposed yourself masturbating towards somebody	2.6	4.5	1	0.7	0.9	2.4
You have had sexual intercourse	9.7	9.2	13.3	7	8.4	10
You have had oral sex	7	5.4	4.6	4.2	4.8	5.5
You have had anal sex	3.6	2.1	1.6	2.5	2.5	2.6

Sexual activities involving some kind of penetration was rather evenly spread among girls from all the participating countries, with Estonian girls reporting the lowest frequency. Among boys there was a greater diversity, from very infrequent in Estonia (close to no one) to high prevalence rates particular concerning intercourse in Poland (25,1%) and Lithuania (19,2%). (These prevalence rates will be commented upon later on in the discussion part of this chapter and at the end of the comparative section) Generally, girls in the five countries were more often victims of sexual abuse than boys.

TABLE 3: SEXUAL ABUSE EXPERIENCES, BOYS (%)

	Norway N=1397	Sweden N=1363	Lithuania N=976	Estonia N=297	Poland N=1253	All N=5286
Somebody exposed him/herself indecently towards you	14.5	8.2	14.8	7.7	21.5	14.2
Somebody has touched your body in an indecent way	17.7	14	12	10.1	23	16.4
You have exposed yourself masturbating towards somebody	4.7	3	2.3	0.3	7.7	4.2
You have had sexual intercourse	6	3.7	19.2	0	25.1	11.9
You have had oral sex	7.3	2.6	4.8	0.7	14.9	6.9
You have had anal sex	2.7	1.2	2.9	0	11.4	4.2

Sexually abusive behaviour

The participants were asked whether they had dragged, persuaded, pressed or forced someone into sexual activities. A total of 865 out of 5286 boys (16.4%) and 199 girls out of 5158 (3.9%) reported that they had been sexually abusive towards someone else.

Compared with girls, boys had abused others significantly more often. Two groups of countries were distinguished with lower frequencies of abusive behaviours. Those were Norway (9.7%) and Sweden (10.1%). In Estonia, Lithuania, and Poland more than twice as many (24.2%, 25.5%, and 21.7%, respectively) of the boys conceded to having been sexually abusive to someone at least once. The difference between the countries was significant, $\chi^2 = 184.81$, $df = 4$, $p < .000$ as was the difference between the two Nordic and the two Baltic countries, $\chi^2 = 163.90$, $df = 1$, $p < .000$.

TABLE 4: PERCENTAGE OF BOYS AND GIRLS WHO HAD DRAGGED, PERSUADED, PRESSED OR FORCED SOMEONE INTO SEXUAL ACTIVITIES

Country	Norway	Sweden	Estonia	Lithuania	Poland
Boys	9.7	10.1	24.2	25.5	21.7
Girls	1.5	2.4	10.5	7.6	4.2

There also existed clear differences between girls from Norway (1.5%) and Sweden (2.4%) on the one hand, and girls from Estonia (10.5%) and Lithuania (7.6%) on the other. Poland was in between these two groups of

countries (4.2%). The difference between all countries was significant, $\chi^2 = 119.61$, $df = 4$, $p < .000$ as well as between the two Nordic countries and the two Baltic countries $\chi^2 = 113.67$, $df = 1$, $p < .000$.

Selling sex

Two questions, 16i and 48a-g, in the questionnaire covered the topic of selling sex either for money or for other forms of reimbursement. When analysing the answers from the two questions, there were three possible combinations of answers: Answering yes twice, answering yes once, and answering no twice.

One of the most clear-cut results was that the experience of selling sex was significantly more common for boys in all countries but Estonia. For girls, Poland had a much higher prevalence rate compared with the other countries (Norwegian girls scored the lowest). The Lithuanian boys reported having sold sex at a frequency between 0.8-9.1% depending on whether they responded yes once or twice. Boys from Poland differed considerably from the other countries, and this merits a more thorough investigation. The lowest frequency of having sold sex was reported by the Estonian boys, 0-0.4%.

TABLE 5: SELLING SEX, GIRLS (%)

	Norway	Sweden	Lithuania	Estonia	Poland	All
Frequency	N=1911	N=1488	N=1155	N=248	N=1037	N=4802
Girls, Yes twice	0.1	0.5	0.2	1.2	0.5	0.3
Yes once	0.9	1.3	2.2	2.4	14.1	3.7
No twice	99.0	98.2	97.7	96.4	85.4	96.0
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

¹ $\chi^2 = 402.28$ $df = 8$, $p < .001$, ² Nordic/Baltic countries $\chi^2 = 8.92$, $df = 2$, $p < .012$

TABLE 6: SELLING SEX, BOYS (%)

	Norway	Sweden	Lithuania	Estonia	Poland	All
Frequency	N=1317	N=1235	N=762	N=268	N=1125	N=4707
Boys, Yes twice	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.0	1.0	0.7
Yes once	3.6	4.7	8.3	0.4	24.2	9.4
No twice	95.7	94.6	90.9	99.6	74.8	89.9
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

¹ $\chi^2 = 405.74$, $df = 8$, $p < .000$, ² Nordic/Baltic $\chi^2 = 7.32$, $df = 2$, $p < .026$

The use of pornography

Boys (93.1%) had significantly more often than girls (71.7%) read pornographic magazines, watched a pornographic film or accessed pornography on the Internet. This difference was found in all country samples. The highest reported frequency among boys was from Norway (95.5%) and among girls from Lithuania (78.0%). Among boys, the lowest frequency was in Lithuania (89%) and among girls from Poland (65.8%).

The frequency with which the respondents watched pornography differed significantly between the countries both for boys and girls (see tables 6 and 7). When comparing the two Nordic countries with the two Baltic countries, the Nordic boys watched pornography significantly more often. The opposite picture was true for girls.

TABLE 7: WATCHED PORNOGRAPHY, BOYS (%) ^{1,2}

Frequency	Norway N=1352	Sweden N=1320	Lithuania N=883	Estonia N=288	Poland N=1238	All N=5081
Never	4.5	4.6	11.0	8.3	8.8	6.9
Once	2.7	3.9	7.8	4.5	4.4	4.4
Once or twice a year	18.3	25.5	37.5	30.9	23.1	25.4
Some time each month	41.0	30.2	30.9	40.3	36.1	35.2
Some time each week	25.1	26.5	10.4	14.9	22.7	21.8
Daily	8.3	9.4	2.4	1.0	6.3	6.8
All	100	100	100	100	100	100

¹ $\chi^2 = 340.95$, $df = 20$, $p < .000$, ² Nordic/Baltic countries $\chi^2 = 263.54$, $df = 5$, $p < .000$

TABLE 8: WATCHED PORNOGRAPHY, GIRLS (%) ^{1,2}

Frequency	Norway N=1844	Sweden N=1525	Lithuania N=1267	Estonia N=278	Poland N=1085	All N=5999
Never	28.7	29.8	22.0	22.7	34.2	28.3
Once	32.2	34.7	26.7	20.9	25.3	29.9
Once or twice a year	32.4	28.5	41.2	46.0	33.4	34.1
Some time each month	6.5	5.4	8.2	9.7	6.3	6.7
Some time each wee	0.3	1.4	1.7	0.7	0.6	1.0
Daily	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.1
All	100	100	100	100	100	100

¹ $\chi^2 = 151.30$, $df = 20$, $p < .000$, ² Nordic/Baltic countries $\chi^2 = 96.17$, $df = 5$, $p < .000$

Summary and discussion

Prevalence rates for sexual abuse experiences, sexually abusive behaviour, sexual exploitation, and the use of pornography are difficult to obtain per se. When comparing data from different studies within a country and especially when comparing data between countries, methodological problems always are in focus and often insuperable. Different definitions and questions, and sometimes different cultural meanings of questions put forward in an interview, are just some of the obstacles encountered. Different target populations and sampling procedures are other obstacles when trying to compare data between different studies.

In this study we have tried to overcome some of these difficulties by using the same questionnaire in the different countries, by using a similar sampling procedure and by restricting the age of the participants to 18.

The figures on prevalence of *sexual abuse* are higher than usually seen in international studies but the figures include sexual abuse perpetrated by peers, people of the same age. If applying the often used age difference of ≥ 5 years age between the victim and the perpetrator, these figures will decrease by roughly 50%, i.e. within the range of other international reviews. Finkelhor (1994) for example, reported that the prevalence of reported sexual abuse varied between 7 and 36% among women and 3 and 29% among men in his overview of 21 international studies. Gorey and Leslie (1997) found an average of 22.3% of women reporting having been sexually abused in childhood and 8.5% of men when looking at 16 North American studies.

Concerning *sexually abusive behaviours* the results from this study showed that 16.4% of the boys and 3.9% of the girls had been sexually abusive towards others. This is a high frequency compared with other international studies, but once again we have the problem with definitions. In the Minnesota Student Survey of more than 70,000 students (Borowsky, Hogan, & Ireland, 1997), 4.8% of male and 1.3% of female students reported a history of having forced someone else into a sexual act. Our study used a broad definition including non-contact abusive behaviour. Borowsky et al. (1997) did not define what kind of sexual acts (narrow or broad definition) their students reported on.

Selling sex for money or other forms of compensation was not very prevalent among girls (4.0%) but surprisingly high among boys (9.4 %). The high number among boys is mainly due to the very high figure reported by

Polish boys. There are very few international studies on this topic. Most of the studies are Nordic, but they all report a higher frequency among boys than among girls (Svedin & Priebe, 2007). Mossige's (2001) numbers are closest to this study, with 3.9% of boys and 1.7% of girls reporting having sold sex.

The extent to which young people *watch pornography* is not very well studied internationally. In this study we could see that almost all boys (93.1%) and a big group of girls (71.7%) had ever watched pornography. Among the boys there was a rather big group that watched pornography habitually, more or less on a daily basis (6.8%).

When comparing the Nordic countries with the Baltic countries, we found that sexually violent experiences among boys (only Lithuania), sexually abusive behaviour, and selling sex were more prevalent in the Baltic countries. On the other hand, non-penetrating sexual offenses among girls (Sweden) and watching pornography were more prevalent in the Nordic countries. Poland, and especially Polish boys, reported higher prevalence figures on sexual abuse experiences and selling sex compared to all the other countries. We do not have a good explanation for this, but we know from other studies that some countries do differ from others. For example, the SAVI-report (McGee, Garavan, de Barra, Byrne & Conroy, 2002) reported high prevalence rates from Ireland. All these figures must be interpreted with caution but could indicate that the social welfare system or support given to children while growing up, differ between these two groups of countries. A higher consumption of pornography in the Nordic countries may partially be explained by easier access to computers and The Internet.

The cycle of abuse, and attitudes towards abuse

In this section we will explore the relationship between experiences with sexual abuse and abuse of others: Does the risk of abusing others increase alongside the number of own experiences with sexual abuse? We will also look at the relationship between abusive experiences (being abused, abusing others, or both) and identification with certain attitudes. These are attitudes related to the acceptance of selling sex, and the acceptance of adults having sex with children. The analyses are based on the data from Norway, Sweden, Estonia, Lithuania, and Poland (18-year-olds).

The cycle of abuse

Results from international research indicate that experiences with sexual abuse increase the risk of abusing others (Browne & Finkelhor, 1986). This is particularly the case among boys. Previous research has not investigated the strength of the connection between experiences with abuse and abuse of others. The current research provides an indication of the strength of this relationship.

In order to compare respondents having different experiences with sexual abuse, the respondents who had experienced sexual abuse were divided into two subgroups. The groups were defined based on the number of different experiences with sexual abuse. In one group were respondents who had experienced 1 to 3 different kinds of sexual abuse (ranging from touching to more severe types of abuse). In the other group were respondents who had experienced 4 to 6 different kinds of sexual abuse.

As can be seen in Table 1, personal experiences with sexual abuse increase the risk of abusing others. The risk of abusing others is ten times higher for those who have experienced 4 to 6 different kinds of abuse, compared with those who have not been abused (controlled for gender). These results are in accordance with the results from the Norwegian data (see the report from Norway).

TABLE 1: ODDS OF ABUSING OTHERS

	Odds ratio
Has not been abused	1
Has experienced 1-3 different kinds of sexual abuse	4.8
Has experienced 4-6 different kinds of sexual abuse	10.6

Note. Examples of “different kinds of sexual abuse” are: “someone exposed him/herself indecently towards you”, “you have had sexual intercourse”, “you have had anal sex”.

The same relation is evident in Table 2. The proportion of respondents who report having abused others increases with the respondents’ own abuse experiences. This relationship between experiences with abuse and abuse of others points to one possible target for preventive measures. Identifying and helping victims of abuse could be an important step in stopping the vicious cycle through which victims may become offenders.

TABLE 2: PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS WHO HAVE NOT ABUSED/HAVE ABUSED OTHERS, DEPENDENT ON PERSONAL EXPERIENCES WITH SEXUAL ABUSE

	Have not abused others % (N)	Have abused others % (N)
Have not been abused	94.6 (6443)	5.4 (367)
Have experienced 1-3 different kinds of sexual abuse	86.1 (3742)	13.9 (606)
Have experienced 4-6 different kinds of sexual abuse	64.2 (249)	35.8 (139)

Note. See Note to Table 1.

Attitudes towards commercial sexual exploitation

Individuals who have experienced sexual abuse have been found to be at higher risk when it comes to engaging in commercial sexual exploitation. Yates, MacKenzie, Pennbridge, and Swofford (1991) found that a high percentage of adolescents involved in prostitution reported incidents of sexual abuse. There may be a two-way causal relationship between sexual abuse and participation in commercial sexual exploitation. On the one hand, involvement in commercial sexual exploitation appears to increase the risk of being sexually abused. On the other hand, experiences with sexual abuse increase the risk of getting involved in commercial sexual exploitation. This two-way connection makes commercial sexual exploitation an important topic for further investigation.

In this study, both the behavioural and the attitudinal aspects of commercial sexual exploitation were examined. That is, the informants were asked what kinds of sexual activities they had exchanged for pay, what kinds of payment they received, how often it happened, etc. In addition, they were asked to report attitudes concerning sex selling (whether they could imagine selling sex in the future, and whether they can accept that other people sell sex).

Table 3 displays the distribution of respondents who could imagine selling sex in the future, for each of the five countries. The part of respondents who could imagine having sex for pay in the future is highest in the countries having the largest proportion of respondents who have sold sex. The attitudes are thus consonant with reported behaviour (see Table 5 and Table 6 in the previous chapter).

TABLE 3: PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS WHO COULD IMAGINE HAVING SEXUAL INTERCOURSE FOR PAY IN THE FUTURE

	Poland	Lithuania	Sweden	Estonia	Norway
Boys	33.1	14.3	14.2	5.4	9.8
Girls	32.2	3.1	2.0	1.1	1.2

Relationship between abusive experiences and attitudes towards selling sex

We examined whether there is a connection between abusive experiences (being abused, abusing others, or both) and having attitudes that favor sex selling. Table 4 displays the distribution of scores on the question concerning whether or not the respondents could imagine participating in seven different kinds of sexual activities for pay in the future. A high score implies that the respondent could imagine selling various types of sexual services in the future.

The respondents who have both abused others and have been abused display the most accepting attitudes towards selling sexual services. Those with the highest scores are those who have abused others and have been abused in 4 to 6 different ways.

TABLE 4: OFFERING SEXUAL SERVICES FOR PAY (%)

	Have not abused others			Have abused others		
	Not abused	Abused in 1-3 different ways	Abused in 4-6 different ways	Not abused	Abused in 1-3 different ways	Abused in 4-6 different ways
1	93.6	94.5	83.1	76.4	74.9	56.1
2	4.5	3.8	8.5	17.3	16.4	20.7
3	2	1.7	8.5	6.3	8.8	23.2

Note. 1 = scores from 0 to 2; 2 = scores from 3 to 5; 3 = scores from 6 to 7. High scores (3) indicate high willingness to offer sexual services.

Attitudes towards sex between adults and children

According to Finkelhor (1984), both abusers and potential abusers possess certain attitudes in favour of adults having sex with children. In the current study, attitudes about sexual relations between adults and children were assessed by means of the scale developed by Briere, Henschel, and Smiljanich (1992). The respondents were asked to report the degree to which they agreed with 15 statements concerning sex between a child and an adult. We will discuss the responses on three of these statements.

The statement “An adult and a child should be allowed to have sex together if they both want to”, expresses a view of children as autonomous individuals who are capable of deciding whether or not they want to have sex. The statement “Sex between a child and an adult is likely to hurt the child in major ways” concerns possibly damaging effects resulting from sex between an adult and a child. The statement “Many children would like to have sex with an adult once they have tried it” claims that children actually will enjoy having sex with adults, they only need the opportunity to try.

Table 5 presents the distribution of respondents who agreed with the statement “An adult and a child should be allowed to have sex together if they both want to”, for each of the five countries.

TABLE 5: PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS WHO AGREED WITH THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT: “AN ADULT AND A CHILD SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO HAVE SEX TOGETHER IF THEY BOTH WANT TO”

	Poland	Lithuania	Sweden	Estonia	Norway
Boys	21.2	61.2	13.6	39.5	16.9
Girls	17.1	58.8	12.2	37.9	15.8

The respondents in Poland, Lithuania, and Estonia display the most accepting attitudes concerning sex between an adult and a child. The Swedish and Norwegian respondents present a more restrictive attitude. The country differences are not due to variations in age of sexual consent. Age of sexual consent is 16 in Norway, Poland, and Lithuania, 15 in Sweden, and 14 in Estonia (Graupner, 2000, p. 420). The Nordic countries scoring lower may be due to the debate that has taken place in these countries concerning sex between adults and children, casting this kind of sexual contact in a negative light. Such a debate has been more absent in the other countries. The difference may also reflect dissimilar views on children. While the Nordic countries have a long tradition regarding children as vulnerable and

dependent, the other countries may view children as more autonomous and able to make their own decisions; children can make their own choices concerning whether or not they want to have sex.

Relationship between abusive experiences and attitudes towards adults having sex with children

We investigated the relationship between abusive experiences (being abused, abusing others, or both) and attitudes towards sex between adults and children (reflected in responses to the three statements described recently, the second statement having been manipulated into the opposite direction) (see Table 6 for the results). There was not a clear pattern concerning the relationship between abusive experiences and acceptance of adult - child sexual relationships. Still, those who had abused others scored higher than those who had not abused others. There was also a small tendency that those who had been abused agreed more with the statements favoring sex between an adult and a child, compared with those who had not been abused. The exception was the group of respondents who had both abused others and had been abused in 4 to 6 different ways. The respondents in this group had a lower percentage of scores within the highest response category, compared with those who had abused others but had not been abused themselves, and those who had abused others and had been abused in 1 to 3 different ways.

TABLE 6: DISTRIBUTION OF MEAN SCORES ON STATEMENTS PROMOTING SEXUAL RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN CHILDREN AND ADULTS (%)

	Have not abused others			Have abused others		
	Not abused	Abused in 1-3 different ways	Abused in 4-6 different ways	Not abused	Abused in 1-3 different ways	Abused in 4-6 different ways
1	61.1	59.6	60.7	41.3	37.6	56
2	32.1	33.4	30.3	39.6	42.1	32.8
3	6.8	7	9	19.1	20.3	11.2

Note. 1 = mean scores from 1 to 2.99; 2 = a mean score of 3; 3 = mean scores from 3.01 to 5. The scale ranged from 1-5 (high scores indicate agreement).

Sex with a 10 to 12-year-old

The respondents were also asked to indicate the likelihood with which they would have sex with a 10 to 12-year-old child if nobody knew and there would be no penalty. Table 7 displays the proportion of respondents indicating such an act to be likely (distributed between the five countries).

The age of this hypothetical child is far below the age of sexual consent in all countries.

TABLE 7: PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS WHO REPORTED IT TO BE LIKELY THAT THEY WOULD HAVE SEX WITH A 10 TO 12-YEAR-OLD CHILD IF NOBODY KNEW AND THERE WOULD BE NO PENALTY

	Poland	Lithuania	Sweden	Estonia	Norway
Boys	1.9	5.2	3.3	1.3	1.0
Girls	0.4	4.3	3.0	0.4	0.6

Very few respondents indicated a hypothetical possibility that they would have sex with a 10 to 12-year-old child. Respondents from Lithuania and Sweden scored the highest.

Relationship between abusive experiences and attitudes towards having sex with a 10 to 12-year-old

Regarding the relationship between abusive experiences (being abused, abusing others, or both) and the reported probability of having sex with a 10 to 12-year-old, it appeared that those who had abused others and had been abused in 4 to 6 different ways had the largest proportion of scores in the highest response category (see table 8). However, this is not a very strong tendency; the probability of having sex with a child at this age is low for every group of respondents.

TABLE 8: PROBABILITY OF HAVING SEX WITH A CHILD AGED 10-12 (%)

	Have not abused others			Have abused others		
	Not abused	Abused in 1-3 different ways	Abused in 4-6 different ways	Not abused	Abused in 1-3 different ways	Abused in 4-6 different ways
1	97.6	96.3	96	93.7	89.4	89.9
2	0.7	1.1	1.2	3.3	3.7	2.2
3	1.7	2.6	2.8	3	6.9	8

Note. 1 = scores from 1 to 2; 2 = a score of 3; 3 = scores from 4 to 5. The scale ranged from 1-5 (high scores indicate a high probability).

Conclusion

In sum, there is a clear relationship between having been abused and abusing others; the risk of abusing others increases significantly with the number of different abuse experiences. When it comes to attitudes towards commercial sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children there seems to be important differences between the six groups (having different experiences with sexual abuse). There is a tendency that a larger proportion of those who have been abused themselves score high on the attitudinal measures, compared with those who have not been abused. This relationship suggests that abusive experiences may result in attitudinal changes. These changes in attitudes may be a part of the explanation of why a higher percentage of victims of abuse report to have sexually offended others, compared with the non-abused population.

Those who have abused others score higher on several attitudinal measures compared with those who have not abused others. This is the case both for those who have been abused themselves and for those who have not been abused. One possible explanation is that the mere act of abusing others results in attitudinal changes. It is also possible, though, that those who have abused others differed from the rest of the population even before they became sexual offenders. The causal direction of this relationship cannot be determined based on the existing data.

Discussion and some concluding remarks

This international study assess the prevalence of sexual abuse among children and adolescents. We also make some assessment of aspects of the every day life of young people in the countries involved. The study reveal some interesting findings in both areas.

Relationship towards parents was measured by the Parental Bonding Instrument (Parker et al., 1979). The answers measured by this instrument tell us something about how young people perceive their relationship towards parents in terms of perceived care, closeness and control. May be the most striking finding is how similar the respondents from different countries are in how they perceive the relationship towards own parents. The informants are asked to assess the perceived relationship along six dimensions on a scale from one to six. The average scores on these six dimensions for each country are very similar to each other. The score indicate that most young people in the study perceive the relationship in a positive way along these six dimensions.

For both genders there are country variations when it comes to the prevalence of different kinds of abusive experiences. In some countries the prevalence rates for penetrating sexual abuse, particularly for boys, are remarkably high. The high prevalence rate may be a result of how we choose to assess sexual abuse. We asked if the respondents had been exposed for any of six sexual acts against their will. We made the following introduction to this part of the questionnaire: “It happens that people are persuaded, pressed or forced to sexual acts which they are not able to protect themselves against. Following are some questions about such situations. Have you been exposed for something of the following against your will?” The introduction underlines that the sexual events we ask about take place against the will of the respondent and that there is an aspect of force involved.

Some of the described sexual acts are rather common among the respondents such as “somebody exposed him/herself indecently towards you”. Most people will probably not regard this kind of act as a severe offence and some may even question if the act deserves to be categorized as an offence.

From a clinical context such events may be experienced by some individuals as abusive. To be touched on one's body in indecent ways is also a category where the experienced sexual abusive aspect may be different for different people. However under the circumstances described above we have reasons to believe that those who reported about own experiences of "indecent exposure" or "touched your body in an indecent way" told about an event that was experienced as an uncomfortable sexual offence seriously enough to be remembered as a violation of some personal and private boundaries.

For some people one such event may be harmful but for most young people it probably will not do any harm. One reason to include a wide specter of sexual offences in the survey is the assumption that the number of different kinds of sexual offences can matter in relation to the possible consequences these events may have. Those who have experienced several such events may report more severe consequences than those with fewer experiences. It is not only the assumed severity of the single event, but also the number of events, that matters - even if the reported events include what may seem to be some less severe events.

In this report we document that there is an increased risk for those who report above a certain number of unwanted sexual experiences, that they will report about different other kinds of problematic behaviours and attitudes in the sexual area.

When we asked about penetrating sexual acts such as "you have had sexual intercourse", the reported rate of such acts were particularly high among boys in countries like Poland and Lithuania. The differences between countries were also striking but where respondents from the two Nordic countries were rather similar. There is no simple explanation of the differences in prevalence rates of reported abusive events among boys between the countries. They may partly be due to different public discourses about sexuality and child sexual abuse. Different social conditions may also account for some of the variation. In any case these high prevalence rates ask for a careful interpretation of the data.

Few respondents reported positive attitudes towards adults having sex with children. The proportion of respondents who held the most positive attitudes towards this kind of sexual relationship were relatively small in every country but highest in Sweden and Lithuania (for both genders).

Selling sex is also a low-frequent phenomenon for most countries, with the exception of Poland and Lithuania. A higher proportion of respondents (both genders) reports having sold sex in these two countries. There is a clear connection between attitudes and behaviour when it comes to selling sex. In the countries with the highest proportions of respondents having sold sex, we also find the highest proportions of respondents who could imagine selling sex in the future.

It is evident from the analyses that abusers held attitudes that separate them from non-abusers. Respondents who report having abused others agree more with attitudes supporting sexual exploitation, suggesting that preventive measures may successfully be directed at young people's attitudes towards abuse.

PART III: National reports

ESTONIA

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Introduction

The survey in Estonia was financed by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Gambling Tax Foundation and carried out by the department of Sociology and Social Policy at Tartu University. The Child Support Centre in Tartu was a supportive partner in the management of the project.

Sample

Children start their education at age 6–7 in Estonia. After compulsory primary school (grade 9 about at age 16), students can choose between high school, vocational school or starting their work career. The survey was carried out as a school survey among 16–19 year old children attending high school and vocational school in April – May 2003. Sample was formed as cluster sample: from different types of schools in different regions. The schools in the sample were selected according to their general distribution in Estonia by study language (Estonian, Russian), type of school (vocational, gymnasium or equal to gymnasium), geographical region (Tallinn, Tartu, Pärnu, North-East Estonia, other towns, rural areas). As only all regular schools were in the sample, no pupils with special needs (from institutions for health or security reasons) were included. Initial data about the number of schoolchildren were obtained from Statistical Office. The final achieved sample by students in different schools was very close to planned sample (Ainsaar and Soo, 2004).

Data collection

The Estonian team followed all general implementation rules agreed for this survey. All principals of the schools in the final sample were asked to give their permission to carry out the survey. The majority of the schools agreed to implement the survey. Some school disagreed, the main reason being coincidence of the survey with an intensive period of exams and other large

surveys in the same period. Only one school refused to participate because of the sensitive topic of the survey.

The survey was carried out as a class paper and pencil survey. In all schools the children sat one by one at desks in order to secure higher personal privacy. No teachers or other school personnel were present in the classroom during the time of the implementation of the survey. Instructed and qualified survey persons made a brief introduction and were ready to answer questions from students during the survey process and after finishing. They informed students shortly about the content of the survey and stressed that the survey was voluntary, anonymous, and that all persons could quit at any moment if they wanted to. All persons working with the survey gave information about possibilities of youth consultation centres if someone wanted such consultation after having finished the survey. All fieldworkers were instructed to collect information about possible selectivity of participants, for example missing classroom. However, no evidence of selectivity was reported.

No one refused to participate. However about 4% of the questionnaires were so occasionally filled out that they were eliminated from further data processing. The average time for filling out the questionnaire was about 45 minutes. Those pupils who were absent from school missed the chance to participate in the survey. In this report data from three age groups are presented, 333 girls and boys at age 16, 752 at age 17, and 582 at age 18. 43,3% of this sample consist of boys and 56,7% of girls. The official statistics shows that the distribution of boys and girls in the general student population at age 16–19 are 47% and 53% respectively (Database of Statistical Office of Estonia).

Perception of parents

Table 1 represents the youths' opinions about how they have perceived their parents. Estonian respondents generally considered their parents to be caring, supporting and understanding. Approximately three out of four students reported that their parents often communicated with them. Mostly the respondents found that their parents let them decide on things themselves. It is noticeable that slightly more than one third of Estonian respondents evaluated their parents to be very controlling. The distribution of answers about parents by gender and age were quite similar. Only two statistically significant

differences appeared. Firstly, 16-year-old girls agreed less that their parents let them decide themselves compared to older girls and boys. Secondly, 16-year-old boys evaluated their parents less caring than other groups.

TABLE 1: PERCEPTION OF THE PARENTS BY AGE AND GENDER (% , N)

	Age	Gender	1 – 2	3 – 4	5 – 6	N =100%
They have let me decide on things myself	16	Boy	3.1	33.9	63	127
		Girl	6.4	39.2	54.4	204
	17	Boy	6.4	35.4	58.2	297
		Girl	7.5	26.3	66.2	453
	18	Boy	4	31	65	294
		Girl	7.4	24.6	68	284
They have been very controlling	16	Boy	19.6	46.5	33.9	127
		Girl	17.7	43.6	38.7	204
	17	Boy	19.2	46.1	34.7	297
		Girl	20.9	38.6	40.5	454
	18	Boy	18.6	42	39.4	295
		Girl	18.7	44	37.3	284
They rarely communicated with me	16	Boy	74.8	19.7	5.5	127
		Girl	75.5	20.1	4.4	204
	17	Boy	75.3	21	3.7	295
		Girl	74.8	17.7	7.5	453
	18	Boy	80	14.6	5.4	295
		Girl	78.2	13.7	8.1	284
They have been caring towards me	16	Boy	6.3	25.2	68.5	127
		Girl	2.5	15.2	82.3	204
	17	Boy	0.7	20.2	79.1	297
		Girl	3.1	13.7	83.2	454
	18	Boy	3.7	16.3	80	295
		Girl	2.8	13.7	83.5	284
They have understood my problems and worries	16	Boy	7.9	33.1	59	127
		Girl	12.7	35.3	52	204
	17	Boy	7.7	38.8	53.5	297
		Girl	14.8	34.5	50.7	454
	18	Boy	9.5	36.5	54	296
		Girl	12	29.5	58.5	284
They have not given me the support I needed.	16	Boy	69	16.7	14.3	126
		Girl	61.3	26	12.7	204
	17	Boy	67.5	20	12.5	295
		Girl	65	19.3	15.7	452
	18	Boy	73.4	17.7	8.9	293
		Girl	69.7	15.5	14.8	284
They have not understood my needs and wishes	16	Boy	52.8	33.8	13.4	127
		Girl	48	33.4	18.6	204
	17	Boy	44.6	34.5	20.9	296
		Girl	50.8	29.6	19.6	453
	18	Boy	49.5	35.2	15.3	295
		Girl	51.1	30.6	18.3	284

Note. The scale: 1 – does not correspond at all, 6 – corresponds completely.

Mental health – reports of depression

Estonian respondents generally complained little about mental health problems. The main problems were worries, feeling helplessness and depression (Table 2).

TABLE 2: RESPONDENTS' MENTAL HEALTH BY AGE AND GENDER (% , N)

During the last week, have you...	Age	Gender	Does not correspond at all	Correspond a little	Correspond quite well	Correspond very well	N =100%
felt that everything is a struggle?	16	Boy	31.5	40.9	18.9	8.7	127
		Girl	18.1	40.2	24	17.7	204
	17	Boy	23.5	37.8	22.4	16.3	294
		Girl	19	38.3	29.9	12.8	452
	18	Boy	23	40.9	24.6	11.5	296
		Girl	20.4	37	29.6	13	284
had any trouble sleeping?	16	Boy	54.8	25.4	12.7	7.1	126
		Girl	37.6	27.8	20.5	14.1	205
	17	Boy	46.2	28.8	16.1	8.9	292
		Girl	32.3	31.6	18.4	17.7	452
	18	Boy	44.6	30.6	17.7	7.1	294
		Girl	35.9	29.2	19.8	15.1	284
felt unhappy, miserable or depressed?	16	Boy	39.4	33.1	16.5	11	127
		Girl	23.4	26.9	24.8	24.9	201
	17	Boy	41.1	33.2	14.4	11.3	292
		Girl	17.7	38.4	21.8	22.1	453
	18	Boy	35.4	38.1	19	7.5	294
		Girl	18.4	31.8	28.2	21.6	283
felt helplessness towards the future?	16	Boy	44.9	29.1	18.1	7.9	127
		Girl	28.4	35.8	22.1	13.7	204
	17	Boy	38.9	33.1	19.8	8.2	293
		Girl	28	31.8	23.2	17	453
	18	Boy	34.6	40.3	17.6	7.5	295
		Girl	23	26.1	26.5	24.4	283
felt tied up or tensed?	16	Boy	48.8	32.3	13.4	5.5	127
		Girl	35.8	34.3	18.6	11.3	204
	17	Boy	44.2	36.1	15	4.7	294
		Girl	35.2	33.9	18.5	12.4	454
	18	Boy	46.1	33.6	15.6	4.7	295
		Girl	33.2	33.9	17.3	15.6	283
worried too much about things?	16	Boy	34.1	35.7	22.3	7.9	126
		Girl	19	31.7	22.5	26.8	205
	17	Boy	33.7	38.8	19.3	8.2	294
		Girl	20.7	33.2	26.3	19.8	455
	18	Boy	28.3	37.7	23.9	10.1	297
		Girl	18.3	24.3	29.6	27.8	284

However, there were some gender differences. Contrary to the majority of boys, approximately half of the girls in age groups 16 and 18 felt that they are unhappy, miserable or depressed. There was a strong correlation between the feeling of helplessness towards the future and age of respondents in the group of girls. Older girls were more worried about the future than younger ones. 57% of 18-year-old girls felt that they worry too much about things. An explanation can be related to school achievement and study load.

The total stage of mental health might be dependent on many different circumstances. Special analyses of Estonian survey revealed that for example adolescent sexual abusers, especially young men, had experienced more different negative feelings than non-abusers of the same gender. Abusers felt themselves more miserable, worried and helplessness towards the future. Compared to boys, sexually violently behaving girls had considerably more sleeping difficulties (Altosaar, 2004).

Asking for help

The person to whom the young people would address in case of problems works as an indicator of level of social network. In case of this question there was a structural difference between Estonian and other countries' questionnaire. In the Estonian survey the option "no one" was at the very end of the list of possible replies while in other countries it was the first in the list. Therefore the answers to this option vary significantly between Estonia and the other countries. Estonian results showed that only a very small proportion of young people have no one to whom to address in case of problems (Table 3).

TABLE 3: PERSON TO WHOM ADOLESCENTS WOULD MOST LIKELY TALK WITH IF HE OR SHE HAD A PERSONAL PROBLEM (% ANSWERING POSITIVELY TO THIS STATEMENT FROM THIS GENDER AND AGE GROUP)

	16		17		18	
	Boy	Girl	Boy	Girl	Boy	Girl
No one	1.6	2.9	3	0.9	4.7	1.4
Mother	57.8	69.3	53.5	65.3	49.2	66
Father	43	16	36	15.8	35	20
Sibling, friend	90.6	94.1	91.2	96	89.6	93.7
Relative, neighbour	18	13.2	14.1	16.9	17.2	12.3
Teacher, counsellor	14.8	21	14.1	24.4	13.5	30.5
N = 100%	128	205	297	455	297	285

The survey indicated that siblings and friends were the persons to whom male and female respondents most likely would talk to. In the second position were mother and in the third father. Girls would talk relatively more often to mother and boys relatively more often to father. Girls saw also teacher as a source of help more frequently than boys.

Problem behaviour

Smoking

Previous studies show that youngsters start smoking very early in Estonia. 67% of boys and 44% of girls, at the age of 12 or younger have tried to smoke. 33% of the same age group of boys and 21% of girls are regular smokers (Derman, 2004).

TABLE 4: SMOKING BY AGE AND GENDER (% , N)

Age	Gender	Has never smoked	Did smoke, but quit	Smokes, but not daily	Smokes daily	N =100%
16	Boy	48.8	16.5	7.9	26.8	127
	Girl	44.3	15.8	19.2	20.7	203
17	Boy	41.2	15	14.6	29.2	294
	Girl	48.9	16.2	14.8	20.1	452
18	Boy	38.5	15.5	9.5	36.5	296
	Girl	49.1	16.6	16.3	18	283

Among 16-year-old boys approximately half had never smoked, but in the same time nearly a quarter smokes daily (Table 4). About half of 17 and 18 years old girls had never smoked. The proportion of girls who has never smoked is the smallest in the age group of 16 which may indicate that more girls start to smoke at a younger age compared to the other two age groups Boys start to smoke mostly at the age of 17 where about one third is smoking daily. At age 18, 36,5% of boys smoked daily.

Drinking

TABLE 5: AVERAGE AGE AT THE FIRST DRINK AND DRINKING FREQUENCY DURING THE LAST 12 MONTHS BY RESPONDENT'S AGE AND GENDER

Age	Gender	Average age at the first drink	Drinking during the last 12 months			N =100%
			Never	2-3 times a month or less often	About once a week or more often	
16	Boy	12.5	8.9	69.9	21.2	123
	Girl	12.9	3.7	77.7	18.6	188
17	Boy	12.7	3.4	68.2	28.4	292
	Girl	13.4	4.7	78.1	17.2	443
18	Boy	13.3	3.8	59.4	36.8	293
	Girl	14	3.2	78.8	18	278

The average age where Estonian girls and boys had their first drink was at the age of 13. There was a strong correlation between average age at the first drink and age of respondents on the survey. Younger respondents reported about their first drink of alcohol at a younger age than older respondents. Frequency of alcohol consumption among boys increased with age. It is common to drink 2-3 times a month or less often (Table 5).

Experiences of problems related to alcohol

Half of all respondents had experienced at least one kind of problem related to drinking alcohol. In general, boys reported more often about alcohol-related problems than girls, especially boys at the age of 17 and 18 (Table 6). Differences between genders were smaller in the age group of 16. Girls had more often been sad and miserable in connection with alcohol drinking than boys. However, boys announced about twice as often as girls that they had been in a fight or behaved badly.

TABLE 6: EXPERIENCES OF PROBLEMS RELATED TO DRINKING ALCOHOL BY AGE AND GENDER (% , N)

	Age	Gender	Has never experienced	Has at least once experienced	Missing or Abstainers	N=100%
Been in a fight, behaved badly or hurt other people	16	Boy	57.8	14.8	27.4	128
		Girl	71.2	11.7	17.1	205
	17	Boy	63	21.9	15.1	297
		Girl	68.8	9.5	21.7	455
	18	Boy	63	25.9	11.1	297
		Girl	64.9	13.7	21.4	285
Missed/dropped school	16	Boy	57.8	12.5	29.7	128
		Girl	63.4	19	17.6	205
	17	Boy	67	18.2	14.8	297
		Girl	62.6	15.2	22.2	455
	18	Boy	60.3	28.3	11.4	297
		Girl	62.5	15.4	22.1	285
Finding yourself in a place without knowing how got there	16	Boy	62.5	7.8	29.7	128
		Girl	74.7	6.8	18.5	205
	17	Boy	72.4	10.4	17.2	297
		Girl	70.8	6.2	23	455
	18	Boy	72.7	13.5	13.8	297
		Girl	73.3	5.3	21.4	285
Been sad, miserable for a while	16	Boy	46.1	26.6	27.3	128
		Girl	32.7	49.3	18	205
	17	Boy	52.2	33.7	14.1	297
		Girl	37.6	41.1	21.3	455
	18	Boy	52.2	36.4	11.4	297
		Girl	45.3	36.5	18.2	285
A neighbour or a friend have told you to stop or reduce drinking	16	Boy	60.1	9.4	30.5	128
		Girl	65.4	16.6	18	205
	17	Boy	71.3	13.5	15.2	297
		Girl	66.2	11.6	22.2	455
	18	Boy	70.4	18.5	11.1	297
		Girl	68.1	11.2	20.7	285

Lawbreaking behaviour

More boys than girls reported about law-breaking behaviours (Table 7). About 3 – 4% of all girls reported that they had behaved criminally (stolen things, motorbike or car or committed burglary). Reports about criminal behaviour prevailed in older ages. 6% of 16-year-old boys had committed crime while corresponding figures for older boys were twice as high.

Drugs are a problem among Estonian adolescent boys and girls. Percentage of girls who had tried or used some substance ranged 17 – 21,

according to age (Table 7). 22 % of 16-year-old boys reported about an experience of using drugs. The same figures for boys at the ages of 17 and 18 were respectively 26 and 28. Boys had used hashish or marihuana approximately twice as often as girls, but on the other hand girls tended to use a bit more amphetamine, cocaine or heroin than boys.

TABLE 7: DRUG USING, CRIMINAL BEHAVIOUR, AND BUYING SEXUAL SERVICES BY AGE AND GENDER (% , N)

Respondent has...	Age	Gender	Yes	No	Missing	N =100%
stolen something worth more than 300 EEK	16	Boy	3.9	93	3.1	128
		Girl	1.5	98	0.5	205
	17	Boy	6.7	90.3	3	297
		Girl	2	96	2	455
	18	Boy	7.1	91.2	1.7	297
		Girl	2.1	95.8	2.1	285
committed burglary/theft by breaking and entering	16	Boy	1.6	95.3	3.1	128
		Girl	0.5	99	0.5	205
	17	Boy	3.4	92.6	4	297
		Girl	0.9	97.3	1.8	455
	18	Boy	7.1	90.9	2	297
		Girl	1.8	95.8	2.4	285
stolen a car/motorbike	16	Boy	1.6	95.3	3.1	128
		Girl	1.5	97	1.5	205
	17	Boy	3.4	92.9	3.7	297
		Girl	2	96.2	1.8	455
	18	Boy	4.4	93.9	1.7	297
		Girl	0.7	97.2	2.1	285
used hashish or marihuana	16	Boy	21.1	75.8	3.1	128
		Girl	10.7	87.3	2	205
	17	Boy	24.2	72.4	3.4	297
		Girl	11.6	85.9	2.5	455
	18	Boy	23.9	74.1	2	297
		Girl	14.7	82.5	2.8	285
used cocaine, heroin, amphetamine	16	Boy	5.5	92.2	2.3	128
		Girl	11.7	87.3	1	205
	17	Boy	9.1	88.2	2.7	297
		Girl	11.6	86.6	1.8	455
	18	Boy	12.8	85.5	1.7	297
		Girl	15.1	82.1	2.8	285
bought sexual services	16	Boy	-	96.9	3.1	128
		Girl	-	99	1	205
	17	Boy	2	95.3	2.7	297
		Girl	0.2	97.8	2	455
	18	Boy	4	93.3	2.7	297
		Girl	-	97.5	2.5	285

The respondents were asked whether they had ever bought sexual services. It appears that 2% of boys in ages 17 and 4% in ages 18 reported buying sexual services while none of 16-year-old boy did it. Among female sample, one 17-year-old girl admitted buying sexual services.

Attitudes

Attitudes towards sexual relations between child and adult

Generally Estonian youths tolerated sexual relationship between a child and an adult (Table 8). Half of girls in age groups 16 and 17 found that sex between an adult and a child should be allowed when they both want it. Disagreement with this proposition was increasing with increasing age for both genders. There was a correlation between age and attitude that sex between a child and an adult is likely to hurt the child in major ways. Older respondents agreed more with the proposition – sex between a child and an adult is likely to hurt the child in major ways. Approximately one third of respondents agreed that many children would like to have sex with an adult once they tried it. There was a slightly increase in the proportion of boys who agreed with this statement with increasing age while there was no clear pattern in how this agreement changed with age among the girls.

TABLE 8: ATTITUDES TOWARDS SEXUAL RELATIONS BETWEEN CHILDREN AND ADULTS BY AGE AND GENDER (% , N)

			Disagree	Neither nor	Agree	N =100%
An adult and a child should be allowed to have sex together if they both want to	16	Boy	36.8	20	43.2	125
		Girl	31.4	18.6	50	204
	17	Boy	37.2	20.1	42.7	293
		Girl	33.6	16.4	50	444
	18	Boy	42.9	17.6	39.5	296
		Girl	47.5	14.6	37.9	280
Sex between a child and adult is likely to hurt the child in major ways	16	Boy	26.2	20.5	53.3	122
		Girl	36.8	22.5	40.7	204
	17	Boy	21.8	22.8	55.4	294
		Girl	30.5	21	48.5	447
	18	Boy	23.6	18.6	57.8	296
		Girl	20.8	16.9	62.3	284
Many children would like to have sex with an adult once they tried it	16	Boy	32	40	28	125
		Girl	38.5	34.5	27	200
	17	Boy	32.8	37.5	29.7	290
		Girl	33.6	35.1	31.3	447
	18	Boy	28.2	36.1	35.7	294
		Girl	36.6	39.4	24	279

Attitudes towards sexual exploitation of other young people

Almost half of the respondents agreed with the statement that “If adolescent lets others exploit her/him sexually, it is her/his own responsibility” (Table 9). 18-year-old girls were most in disagreement with the statement. - 40% of them disagreed that it is youngsters’ own responsibility if other exploit them sexually. For both genders older respondents disagreed more than younger respondents.

Adolescents generally did not agree with the statement that being part of a group you must tolerate to be sexually exploited by the others. However boys would participate in sexual exploiting more likely than girls. Age also matters. The respondents agreed less with the statement with increasing age. 16-year-old boys were the most tolerant about group exploitation.

TABLE 9: ATTITUDES TOWARDS SEXUAL EXPLOITATION BY AGE AND GENDER (% , N)

			Disagree	Neither nor	Agree	N =100%
If young people let other exploit them sexually, it is their own responsibility	16	Boy	29.7	21.2	49.1	118
		Girl	31.5	16.8	51.7	102
sexually, it is their own responsibility	17	Boy	24.4	21.6	54	283
		Girl	34.6	22.2	43.2	442
	18	Boy	28.8	25	46.2	288
		Girl	40.4	20	39.6	280
If several took part, you would participate in exploiting another youth sexually	16	Boy	83.2	10.1	6.7	119
		Girl	91.8	5.1	3.1	196
	17	Boy	82.6	12.1	5.3	282
		Girl	94.3	4.1	1.6	440
	18	Boy	84.2	11.6	4.2	284
		Girl	95.7	2.5	1.8	280
Youth that are part of a group of friends must tolerate to be sexually exploited by the others	16	Boy	81.2	9.4	9.4	117
		Girl	89.2	5.6	5.2	194
	17	Boy	77.4	15.8	6.8	279
		Girl	92	4.6	3.4	436
	18	Boy	83.4	9.9	6.7	283
		Girl	89.6	6.1	4.3	279

Probability of sex with a child

About 91-99% of youngsters believed that they would not have sex with a 10 to 12-year-old child even if nobody would know and there would be no penalty (Table 10). Girls were more confident with this statement – 97–99% perceived this situation as “unlikely”. There were more respondents who believed in such a probability among younger boys. Still, only very few boys

reported that it was “likely” to have sexual relations with 10 to 12 year old child.

TABLE 10: PROBABILITY OF HAVING SEX WITH A 10 TO 12-YEAR-OLD CHILD IF NOBODY WOULD KNOW AND THERE WOULD BE NO PENALTY

		Unlikely	Neither nor	Likely	Missing	N = 100%
16	Boy	91.4	3.1	3.9	1.6	128
	Girl	97.1	1	1.5	0.4	205
17	Boy	93.3	4.4	1.3	1	297
	Girl	99.1	-	0.9	-	455
18	Boy	96	1.7	1.3	1	297
	Girl	98.9	-	0.4	0.7	285

Attitudes towards doing sexual activities for pay

Very few adolescents imagined that they would provide sexual services for pay and most of them did not accept that someone else would do it either (Table 11). The of 18-year-old boys was the most liberal where on the average one third of them accepted that someone else sold sex.

However it is important to mention that there was a big share of respondents who did not give any answer to these questions. It might be explained by the delicacy of the questions.

TABLE 11: ATTITUDES TOWARDS DOING SEXUAL ACTIVITIES FOR PAY BY AGE AND GENDER
(% OF ALL RESPONDENTS)

			Could imagine doing it in the future			Can accept that someone else do it			Total N
			Yes	No	Missing	Yes	No	Missing	
Expose your sex organs to someone for pay	16	Boy	3.1	80.5	16.4	19.5	64.1	16.4	128
		Girl	1	78	21	18	62.4	19.6	205
	17	Boy	1	83.5	15.5	23.2	62.3	14.5	297
		Girl	1.8	84	14.2	24	63	13	455
	18	Boy	1	83.8	15.2	30.3	54.9	14.8	297
		Girl	0.4	81.4	18.2	23.5	58.6	17.9	285
Involve yourself in nude photographing or filming for pay	16	Boy	5.5	78.1	16.4	35.2	48.4	16.4	128
		Girl	2.9	76.6	20.5	28.3	51.2	20.5	205
	17	Boy	5.7	78.1	16.2	37	47.8	15.2	297
		Girl	4.4	81.1	14.5	40.9	45.7	13.4	455
	18	Boy	4	80.5	15.5	39.4	46.5	14.1	297
		Girl	2.8	78.9	18.3	34.4	47.7	17.9	285
Show off masturbating for pay	16	Boy	0.8	79.7	19.5	18.8	60.9	20.3	128
		Girl	1.5	77.1	21.4	18.5	60.5	21	205
	17	Boy	0.7	82.5	16.8	20.5	63	16.5	297
		Girl	0.4	84.2	15.4	22.9	62.2	14.9	455
	18	Boy	-	84.2	15.8	25.3	59.9	14.8	297
		Girl	0.4	80.7	18.9	22.1	59.6	18.3	285
Do oral sex for pay	16	Boy	4.7	78.1	17.2	24.2	57	18.8	128
		Girl	0.5	78	5	19.5	60	20.5	205
	17	Boy	1.7	81.5	16.8	25.6	58.6	15.8	297
		Girl	0.4	84	15.6	26.6	58.5	14.9	455
	18	Boy	0.7	83.2	16.1	30.3	54.2	15.5	297
		Girl	0.4	79.6	20	23.2	56.5	20.4	285
Have sexual intercourse for pay	16	Boy	4.7	78.1	17.2	28.1	53.9	18	128
		Girl	1.5	77.1	21.4	22.9	55.1	22	205
	17	Boy	3	80.8	16.2	31	53.5	15.5	297
		Girl	0.9	84.4	14.7	29.2	56.5	14.3	455
	18	Boy	5.4	79.5	15.1	36.7	49.2	14.1	297
		Girl	1.1	80.4	18.5	25.3	55.1	19.6	285
Do anal sex for pay	16	Boy	2.3	79.7	18	21.1	60.2	18.7	128
		Girl	2.4	75.1	22.4	21	57.6	21.4	205
	17	Boy	2	79.5	18.5	24.2	58.2	17.6	297
		Girl	-	84.2	15.8	22.9	61.8	15.3	455
	18	Boy	2	82.5	15.5	30.6	54.9	14.5	297
		Girl	1.1	79.3	19.6	22.1	57.5	20.4	285
Be photographed or filmed while doing sexual activities for pay	16	Boy	1.6	82	16.4	25	57.8	17.2	128
		Girl	1.5	76.6	22	21.4	57.6	21	205
	17	Boy	2.4	82.2	15.4	29.3	55.6	15.1	297
		Girl	0.7	84.6	14.7	29.2	56.3	14.5	455
	18	Boy	2.4	82.5	15.2	32	53.9	14.1	297
		Girl	1.8	79.3	18.9	24.2	56.5	19.3	285

Experiences of sexual abuse

Experiences of being exposed to sexual activities against your will

The most common reported episode of sexual abuse is that somebody “touched your body in an indecent way” both among girls and boys. Nearly 40% of the girls at every age group has experienced at least one such episode. Less than 10% of the boys report the same (Table 12). In each age group, girls have been the targets of sexual abuse significantly more often than boys in Estonia. Among 16 to 18-year olds, very few boys and approximately up until 7,0% of the girls have reported at least one incident of penetrative sexual abuse. Comparing the victims by age and gender, it appears that 16-year-old boys have been molested about two times less than the oldest boys. Among girls the proportion who report about experiences of nearly any kind of sexual offences is increasing with age. .

TABLE 12: EXPERIENCES OF SEXUAL OFFENCES BY AGE AND GENDER (INCIDENCE AND % OF ALL RESPONDENTS)

	Somebody has exposed him/herself indecently towards you		Somebody has touched your body in an indecent way		You exposed yourself masturbating towards somebody		You have had sexual intercourse		You have had oral sex		You have had anal sex		N=100 %	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%		
Boy	16	7	5.5	4	3.1	0	-	1	0.8	1	0.8	0	-	128
	17	21	7.1	24	8.1	1	0.3	3	1.0	4	1.3	1	0.3	297
	18	23	7.7	30	10.1	1	0.3	0	-	2	0.7	0	-	297
Girl	16	16	7.8	79	38.5	0	-	13	6.3	2	1.0	4	2.0	205
	17	66	14.5	170	37.4	8	1.8	31	6.8	16	3.5	7	1.5	455
	18	44	15.4	121	42.5	2	0.7	20	7.0	12	4.2	7	2.5	285

Age of victim at first sexual assault

Penetrating sexual offences was mainly reported from informants at the age of 13. The age of the victim at the first experience of a sexual offence varied between 14 and 16 years (Table 13). The girls’ mean age at onset was a bit lower than for boys. According to the self-reported results, any kind of sexual abuse occurred very rarely in early childhood.

TABLE 13: AGE OF VICTIM AT THE FIRST SEXUAL ASSAULT (AVERAGE)

		Age of victim	
		N	Mean
Girl	16	53	14.3
	17	143	14.8
	18	87	15.5
All Boys		54	15.6

Usually the offender of sexual abuse was a male person. However, previous analyses with respondents at all ages showed that 13% of all reported abusive actions had been committed by a woman (Soo 2004). In all cases where the perpetrator was a female person the victim was a boy.

Age difference between offender and victim

Most frequently, the age of the offender ranged from 17 to 23 years. Usually girls reported more often to have been abused by an older individual than boys did (Table 14). In the case of boys, the average offender was most often 3 – 4 years older than a victim while in the case of girls 7 – 8 years older. Previous analyses have shown that the perpetrator of an adolescent is most frequently a few years older acquaintance (Soo, 2004). It may be expected that abuse occurring between adolescents of the same age need not always be a malevolent assault, but might be (at least as perceived by the victim) an ex-post unwanted sexual relationship. The reasons for the occurrence of such abuse may be the adolescents' poor knowledge of sexual behaviour, misinterpretation of one another's wishes and social pressure resulting from gender role expectations.

TABLE 14: AGE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN OFFENDER AND VICTIM AT FIRST SEXUAL ASSAULT (% OF RESPONDENT GIVING AN ANSWER)

	Differences more than 5 years		Differences 5 or less than 5 years	
	N	%	N	%
Boy	4	13.3	26	86.7
Girl	91	46.2	106	53.8

57% of the victims reported that the perpetrator was an acquaintance. 35% of the boy victims and 28% of the girl victims have been abused by a stranger. Adolescents were rarely abused by members of their own family. A family member or a relative was an offender only in 6% of cases. In all these cases the victims were girls, none of them were boys.

Consequences of Sexual Abuse Related to Mental Health and Substance Use

Figure 1 illustrates the mental health of abused and non-abused respondents. Results indicate that sexually abused girls reported about more negative emotions and feelings compared to girls without such experiences. Especially female victims have experienced significantly more sleeping troubles and helplessness towards the future than non-abused girls. There were less mental health differences between abused and non-abused boys. However, abused boys significantly more often reported about feeling of tension and worry than boys without a history of sexual abuse. These results indicate that experience of sexual abuse may have a negative influence on the emotional life of a young person.

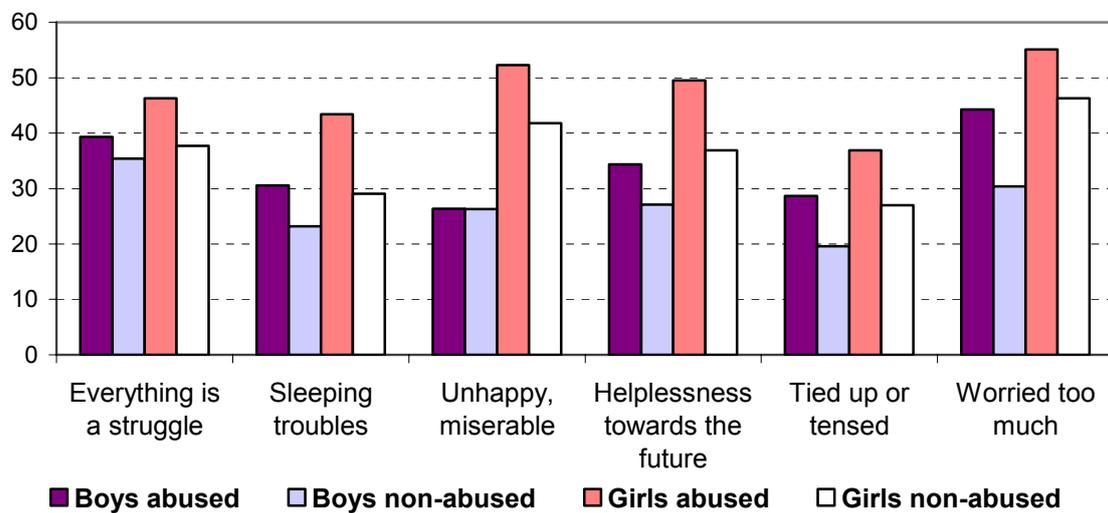


FIGURE 1: FREQUENCY OF SOME NEGATIVE FEELINGS DURING THE LAST WEEK AMONG ABUSED AND NON-ABUSED BOYS AND GIRLS (%)

Several studies have showed that use of drugs may be an important consequence of sexual abuse among adolescence (Bailey & McCloskey, 2005; Southwick Bensley, Spieker, Van Eenwyk & Schoderl, 1999). Substance may be used to get relief from depression and anxiety and to compensate one's low self-esteem. Results from Estonia indicated that especially abused girls tended to use significantly more alcohol and illegal drugs. For example from all girls reporting about abuse 23% have drunk alcohol at least once a week, compared to 14% of non-abused girls ($p = .000$). The share of drug experimenters/users among abused was 26% and 14% for non-abused girls ($p = .000$). No differences appeared among boys according to drinking alcohol. As regards

drug use, abused boys reported somewhat more frequent use of drugs compared to non-abused boys, but this difference was not statistically significant.

Commercial sexual exploitation

Frequency and forms of sexual exploitation

The topic of prostitution seems to be quite sensitive for Estonian respondents because there were many missing answers on the occasion of this theme in the questionnaires. Particularly younger individuals missed more cells without giving any answer than older participants. There were only few respondents who declared they had offered any kind of sexual service for pay (Table 15). About five girls reported offering sexual services twice (which means they gave positive answers on two occasions to two different questions in the questionnaire). Additionally ten females and two male respondents affirmed doing sexual activities for pay only on one question but did not give a clear answer to the second repeating question (they answered “yes” once, either to question 16 or 48.)

TABLE 15: OFFERING SEXUAL SERVICES FOR PAY BY AGE AND GENDER (QUESTIONS 16 AND 48)

		Answered twice 'yes'	Answered once 'yes'	Answered twice 'no'	Missing	N = 100%
16	Boy	-	0.8	83.6	15.6	128
	Girl	-	0.5	83.4	16.1	205
17	Boy	-	-	84.5	15.5	297
	Girl	0.4	0.7	90.1	8.8	455
18	Boy	-	0.3	89.9	9.8	297
	Girl	1.1	2.1	83.8	13	285

Of the 15 girls who reported offering sexual services for pay half of them had sexual intercourse or oral or anal sex for pay, and half reported to have exchanged nude photographing and/or exposed their sex organs for pay (Table 16). From boys only one boy at age 16 reported exposing sex organs to someone and an 18-year-old boy has had intercourse for pay.

A majority of the respondents who reported offering sexual service had previously been victims of sexual abuse. Many of them (12 cases) used drugs and drank alcohol quite often (at least once a week).

TABLE 16: OFFERING SEXUAL SERVICES FOR PAY BY AGE AND GENDER (% , N)

			Respondent has done it			N = 100%
			Yes	No	Missing	
Expose your sex organs to someone for pay	16	Boy	0.8	90.6	8.6	128
		Girl	-	89.3	10.7	205
	17	Boy	-	91.6	8.4	297
		Girl	0.4	96	3.6	455
	18	Boy	-	93.3	6.7	297
		Girl	0.4	93	6.6	285
Involve yourself in nude photographing or filming for pay	16	Boy	-	91.4	8.6	128
		Girl	0.5	88.3	11.2	205
	17	Boy	-	91.6	8.4	297
		Girl	0.2	96.1	3.7	455
	18	Boy	-	93.3	6.7	297
		Girl	1.4	91.2	7.4	285
Show off masturbating for pay	16	Boy	-	89.1	10.9	128
		Girl	-	88.8	11.2	205
	17	Boy	-	91.6	8.4	297
		Girl	-	95.6	4.4	455
	18	Boy	-	92.3	7.7	297
		Girl	0.4	93	6.6	285
Do oral sex for pay	16	Boy	-	89.8	10.2	128
		Girl	-	87.8	12.2	205
	17	Boy	-	92.3	7.7	297
		Girl	0.4	96.1	3.5	455
	18	Boy	-	92.6	7.4	297
		Girl	0.4	91.2	8.4	285
Have sexual intercourse for pay	16	Boy	-	89.8	10.2	128
		Girl	-	87.8	12.2	205
	17	Boy	-	91.2	8.8	297
		Girl	0.4	96.1	3.5	455
	18	Boy	0.3	93	6.7	297
		Girl	1.4	91.9	6.7	285
Do anal sex for pay	16	Boy	-	89.8	10.2	128
		Girl	-	87.8	12.2	205
	17	Boy	-	90.2	9.8	297
		Girl	-	95.6	4.4	455
	18	Boy	-	92.6	7.4	297
		Girl	0.7	90.2	9.1	285
Be photographed or filmed while doing sexual activities for pay	16	Boy	-	91.4	8.6	128
		Girl	-	88.8	11.2	205
	17	Boy	-	92.3	7.7	297
		Girl	-	96.7	3.3	455
	18	Boy	-	93.3	6.7	297
		Girl	-	91.6	8.4	285

Pornography

Frequency of watching pornography

Boys expressed substantially more interest in pornography than girls (Table 17). Generally younger respondents had less experience with pornography than older ones ($r = -0,13$) (see also Soo, 2004). 21% of 16-year-old boys had been watching pornography at least once a week. In the younger age groups, the number of girls who never watch pornography was significantly higher (33%) than among the oldest age group (22,7%). The more frequently respondents watched pornography the more they found it to be interesting, inspiring and exciting.

TABLE 17: FREQUENCY OF WATCHING PORNOGRAPHY BY AGE AND GENDER (% , N)

		Never	Some times each month or less often	Some times or more each week	N = 100%
16	Boy	15.3	63.7	21	124
	Girl	32.5	67	0.5	200
17	Boy	11.5	71.7	16.8	286
	Girl	32.7	66.4	0.9	443
18	Boy	8.3	75.7	16	288
	Girl	22.7	76.6	0.7	278

Pornography – opinion about friends’ use of pornography

About 14% of all boys and 21% of girls guessed that their friends had never watched pornographic films, while every fourth boy and seventh girl thought their friends were watching pornography quite or very often.

Most of the respondents answered that their friends never watched pornographic films dealing with adults having sex with children (Table 18).

TABLE 18: RESPONDENTS’ OPINION ABOUT FREQUENCY OF WATCHING PORNOGRAPHIC FILMS AMONG HIS/HER FRIENDS (AVERAGE)

	16		17		18	
	Boy	Girl	Boy	Girl	Boy	Girl
How often do your friends watch pornographic films?	2.85	2.46	2.82	2.4	2.74	2.52
How often do your friends watch pornographic films dealing with adults having sex with children?	1.47	1.21	1.43	1.18	1.33	1.17

Note. The scale: 1 – never, 5 – very often.

Pornography – sex between adults and children

Among those who reported to have seen pornography it was most common to have watched pornography about sex between an adult man and woman. The next most common was to have watched group sex and third sex between two adults of same sex (Soo, 2004). Only very few admitted to have watched pornographic materials about sex between an adult and a child (Table 19). Those who had watched sex between an adult and a child were mainly boys. 5% of boys from all age groups reported that they had seen this type of pornography.

TABLE 19: WATCHING SEX BETWEEN ADULTS AND CHILDREN BY AGE AND GENDER (% , N)

		Has watched this sort of pornography	Has never watched pornography	No information	N = 100%
16	Boy	5.5	14.8	79.7	128
	Girl	1	31.2	67.8	205
17	Boy	5.1	11.4	83.5	297
	Girl	0.2	31.6	68.2	455
18	Boy	4.4	8.1	87.5	297
	Girl	0.7	21.1	78.2	285

LITHUANIA

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Introduction

This study on adolescents' behaviour and attitudes towards sexuality and sexual abuse is the first representative study on the issue in Lithuania. It was organised by the Child Development Centre at the Republican University Hospital with the support of the AMADE-Lithuania and Vilnius City Municipality. The research was approbated by the Lithuanian Bioethics Committee at the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania.

Design and description of the sample

The sample targeted the 18-year-old adolescents who study at educational institutions providing general education.

Usually, children at the age of 7 years start attending the primary school. In Lithuania, education is compulsory until 16 years of age. Those who leave school at the age of 17 or older are not properly identified in the statistics. The statistics on pupils and students in year of the research (2003/2004) shows that there were 49,766 pupils and students of age 18 and 41,604 of age 19 at different levels of education (see tables below). The majority of them were at the level of general education, i.e. at secondary schools, youth schools, gymnasiums, adult schools, vocational and professional schools that provide general education. Taking into account the size of the cohort and number of pupils at the educational system, nearly 90% of the group is involved in an educational process.

TABLE A: PUPILS AND STUDENTS BY AGE (YEAR 2003)

Age	<u>General schools</u>				Colleges	Universities	Total
	Daily schools	Adult (youth schools)	Vocational Schools	Professional colleges			
18	30.363	1.634	10.905	148	1.738	4.978	49.766
19	3.277	1.666	10.850	455	6.741	18.615	41.604
20	462	1.399	4.973	1.688	6.682	18.636	33.840
Total	34.102	4.699	26.728	2.291	15.161	42.229	125.210

Note. Source: Education 2003. Statistics Lithuania: Vilnius 2004. ISSN 1392-978X. P. 29.

The national statistics are aggregated mainly on the data of registered students in any school at the beginning of the school year. The dropouts are still not accurately calculated in the country, especially for pupils older than 16 years old (as the education is compulsory until the age of 16).

In the selection of respondents, a representative random quota sample was used. The quotas were constructed according to the number and types of schools in 10 counties, which are the administrative units of the country (see Table b).

TABLE B: SCHOOLS BY CERTAIN TYPES IN THE COUNTIES (2003)

County	Type of school				Total	Share of the sample (%)	Sample
	Secondary	Youth	Gymnasium	Vocational and Professional schools			
Alytus	33	-	2	9	44	6	12
Kaunas	91	6	18	15	130	18	37
Klaipėda	45	2	11	10	68	10	19
Marijampolė	34	1	3	1	39	6	12
Panevezys	41	4	8	7	60	8	17
Siauliai	51	4	9	11	75	11	21
Taurage	20	2	4	2	28	4	8
Telsiai	31	2	5	4	42	6	12
Utena	21	1	9	6	37	5	11
Vilnius	144	4	21	17	186	26	52
Total	511	26	90	82	709	100	202

Note. Source: The Lithuanian Education Information system *IS mokykla*. The list of all educational institutions in the counties provided in the database, available at: <http://www.mokykla.smm.lt/svet/>

In the final sample, the questionnaires were filled in at 201 schools, among which secondary schools accounted for 72 %, gymnasiums 14 %, vocational and professional schools 12 %, and youth schools 2 %. At every school, approximately 16 pupils filled in the questionnaires.

The sample consisted of 202 schools. 210 schools were contacted in total. 3,140 questionnaires were delivered. The final database included 3,010 questionnaires. At each school, approximately 16 pupils filled in the questionnaires. Usually a class was chosen randomly. In those cases in which the number of pupils was too low, other 18-year-old volunteers were invited to participate. At secondary schools and gymnasiums, these were the pupils of the last grades. Those who were absent at school the day on which the questionnaire was delivered, were not given the opportunity to participate in the survey.

The data collection, i.e. the fieldwork, took place from February 23rd to March 12th, 2004. The fieldwork was carried out by a company, *Market Analysis and Research Group, RAIT Ltd.* The questionnaires were delivered to the students by the interviewers of the company. Each pupil received a questionnaire and an envelope, in which a filled in questionnaire was put in and passed to the interviewer. No questionnaires were left at school or presented to teachers.

The final sample included 56.7 % girls and 43.3 % boys (the statistical share of girls in secondary education is 49.3 %). The majority (76.8 %) of respondents were 18 years old. 15.8 % of the sample was made up of 19-year-olds. 4.2 % of respondents were younger than 18 years old and 2.3 % were 20 years old. The distribution of respondents by school type, place of residence and administrative units is evident from Table c.

TABLE C: DESCRIPTION OF THE SAMPLE

Category		Frequency	Per cent
Gender	Boys	1304	43.3
	Girls	1706	56.7
	Total	3010	100.0
Age	16	8	0.3
	17	117	3.9
	18	2312	76.8
	19	476	15.8
	20	69	2.3
	No answer	28	0.9
	Total	3010	100.0
School type	Gymnasium	417	13.9
	Secondary school	2165	71.9
	Youth school	71	2.4
	Vocational school	357	11.9
	Total	3010	100.0
Place of residence	Cities	1013	33.7
	Towns	1300	43.2
	Rural areas	697	23.2
	Total	3010	100.0
County	Alytus	205	6.8
	Kaunas	546	18.1
	Klaipėda	280	9.3
	Marijampolė	183	6.1
	Panevėžys	251	8.3
	Šiauliai	285	9.5
	Tauragė	126	4.2
	Telšiai	172	5.7
	Plungė	171	5.7
	Vilnius	791	26.3
Total	3010	100.0	

Perception of Parents

While analyzing the adolescents' perceptions of their parents, the following issues came to view. More than three out of four adolescents (78-81 %) reported that their parents have been caring towards them. Also, the majority of the respondents (over 60 %) state that their parents communicated with them and provided the necessary support. Nearly a half (42-48 % in age and gender groups) agree strongly that their parents have understood their problems and worries. A similar part (42-45 %) maintain that parents understood their needs and wishes and that their parents let them decide on things themselves (this attitude is stronger among girls than among boys - 44 and 38 %, respectively). When it comes to the question as to whether or not the parents had been controlling, nearly 50 % of the respondents are neutral. More than one fourth of the adolescents express a strong notion of parental control (see Table 1). There are small differences between boys and girls concerning perception of parental control.

TABLE 1: PERCEPTION OF THE PARENTS BY AGE AND GENDER (% , N)

	Age	Gender	1 – 2	3 – 4	5 – 6	N =100%
They have let me decide on things myself	18	Boy	15.2	46.4	38.4	958
		Girl	13.5	43.1	43.4	1326
	19	Boy	18.1	42.4	39.5	215
		Girl	11.5	44.1	44.4	252
They have been very controlling	18	Boy	24.5	48.4	27	961
		Girl	23.5	47	29.5	1321
	19	Boy	26.8	44.6	28.6	213
		Girl	24.6	48	27.4	252
They rarely communicated with me	18	Boy	67	22.7	10.3	949
		Girl	68.4	20.3	11.3	1323
	19	Boy	69.8	19.4	10.8	212
		Girl	61	25.5	13.5	251
They have been caring towards me	18	Boy	4.6	14.1	81.3	957
		Girl	3.6	14.5	81.9	1317
	19	Boy	4.7	19.1	76.2	214
		Girl	5.6	16	78.4	250
They have understood my problems and worries	18	Boy	11.9	39.5	48.6	951
		Girl	13.6	40.8	45.6	1319
	19	Boy	18.9	36.3	44.8	212
		Girl	15.9	41.5	42.6	251
They have not given me the support I needed.	18	Boy	62.3	23.7	14	953
		Girl	62.5	24.9	12.6	1323
	19	Boy	65.6	25	9.4	212
		Girl	57.8	26.3	15.9	251
They have not understood my needs and wishes	18	Boy	42.5	39.4	18.1	958
		Girl	45.5	38.7	15.8	1323
	19	Boy	42	40.6	17.4	212
		Girl	45.2	38.5	16.3	252

Note. The scale: 1 – does not correspond at all, 6 – corresponds completely.

Mental health – reports of depression

With regard to the Lithuanian respondents' mental health, there are certain gender differences: girls express a much higher psychological tension compared to boys. Two thirds of girls (around 66 %) reported that they had worried too much during the last week, and that they had trouble sleeping (they marked “corresponds quite well” and “corresponds very well”). Among boys this part comprises 40-49 %. Also, more than half of the girls felt tied up or tensed (58 %), felt helpless towards the future (56 %), felt that everything is a struggle, or felt unhappy, miserable or depressed (Table 2). About one third of the boys report experiences of depression but the proportion tends to increase with age. Among the girls more than 50% report about depressive feelings.

TABLE 2: RESPONDENTS' MENTAL HEALTH BY AGE AND GENDER (% , N)

During the last week, have you...	Age	Gender	Does not correspond at all	Correspond a little	Correspond quite well	Correspond very well	N =100%
felt that everything is a struggle?	18	Boy	30.5	25.5	34.5	9.5	944
		Girl	21.9	20.7	44	13.4	1320
	19	Boy	28.1	23.8	36.7	11.4	210
		Girl	22.8	20.4	48.4	8.4	250
had any trouble sleeping?	18	Boy	35.9	20.7	31.9	11.5	940
		Girl	24.5	15.2	38.4	21.9	1317
	19	Boy	26.5	24.2	39.8	9.5	211
		Girl	19.1	12.7	41.9	26.3	251
felt unhappy, miserable or depressed?	18	Boy	42.1	25.7	25.2	7	942
		Girl	21.7	22	37.6	18.7	1320
	19	Boy	33	33	24.4	9.6	209
		Girl	21.7	19.6	37.8	20.9	249
felt helplessness towards the future?	18	Boy	40.3	28	23.6	8.1	940
		Girl	21.5	23	37.6	17.9	1319
	19	Boy	34.3	30	29	6.8	207
		Girl	22	20.4	38.4	19.2	250
felt tied up or tensed?	18	Boy	32.6	28.2	32.3	6.9	937
		Girl	17.2	24	43.4	15.4	1314
	19	Boy	29.7	30.1	32.5	7.7	209
		Girl	17.3	24.8	40.6	17.3	249
worried too much about things?	18	Boy	30.9	29	31.0	9.1	942
		Girl	15	18.8	42.4	23.8	1315
	19	Boy	25.1	31.3	36	7.6	211
		Girl	14.7	17.9	42.3	25.1	251

These data correspond to the findings of other studies that generally indicate a high prevalence of depressive moods among the general public of Lithuania. The data of the 2002 WHO Collaborative Cross-National Study

the Health Behaviour in School-Aged Children (HBSC), showed that the highest percentage of bullying was in Lithuania (Povilaitis & Valiukevičiūtė, 2006; Zaborskis, Cirtautiene, & Zemaitiene, 2005). These factors are related to general public health as well as to the mental health of adolescents.

Asking for help

The research data indicate that a large part of adolescents (ranging from 39 % among the 19-year-old girls to 46 % among the 18-year-old boys) would have no one to talk to in case of a personal problem (see Table 3). Boys report a bit more than girls that they would not talk to anybody if they had problems. Still, with increasing age this share of adolescents tends to decrease. In the majority of cases (around 90 %), the Lithuanian adolescents would talk to their siblings or friends. Girls tend to rely on mother more frequently than boys (e.g. 68% and 55.2 % in the group of 18-year-olds, respectively). Although with less confidence, boys tend to address father more frequently than girls (44.6 % for boys and 31 % for the 18-year-old girls). A teacher or a counsellor is the least possible person to talk to in case of a personal problem both among boys and girls.

TABLE 3: PERSON TO WHOM ADOLESCENTS WOULD MOST LIKELY TALK IF HE OR SHE HAD A PERSONAL PROBLEM (NUMBER OF ALL RESPONDENTS AT THIS AGE AND GENDER GROUP AND % ANSWERING POSITIVELY TO THIS STATEMENT)

	18		19	
	Boy	Girl	Boy	Girl
No one	45.6	41.2	40.5	38.7
Mother	55.2	68	48.2	64.1
Father	44.6	31	43.6	29.3
Sibling, friend	86.5	93.6	84.1	89.8
Relative, neighbour	28.5	24.3	29.5	30.5
Teacher, counsellor	21.1	29.7	25.9	30.5
N = 100%	976	1336	220	256

Problem behaviour

Smoking

Smoking and alcohol drinking is quite common among the Lithuanian adolescents (Table 4). The data from this study does not give a clear message whether smoking is increasing or not among young people. There may be a

slightly tendency that it is in fact decreasing. The proportion of 18 year old boys and girls who has never smoked is higher than the same proportion among 19 year old. Relatively fewer boys and girls at the age of 18 are daily smokers compared to the age group of 19.⁸ (see Table 4). The daily smokers comprise more than one third of boys (37.5 % among the 18-year-olds and 38.9 % among the 19-year-olds) and a quarter of girls (17.1 % of the 18-year-olds and 27.3 % of the 19-year-olds). The part of daily smokers among the girls increases significantly with age.

TABLE 4: SMOKING BY AGE AND GENDER (% , N)

Age	Gender	Has never smoked	Did smoke, but quit	Smokes, but not daily	Smokes daily	N =100%
18	Boy	28.5	18.6	15.4	37.5	958
	Girl	41.8	17.5	23.6	17.1	1312
19	Boy	24.2	19.4	17.5	38.9	211
	Girl	39.8	13.2	19.7	27.3	249

Consumption of alcohol

Only 4-6 % of the 18-19-year-old respondents replied that they had never drunk an alcoholic beverage during the last twelve months (see Table 5). The average age for the first drink is around 13 years for boys and 14 years for girls. Nearly one third of boys indicate that they have drunk once a week or more often during the last twelve months. Among the girls 14% have drunk once a week or more often.

The data of the Statistics Lithuania show increasing alcohol consumption in the Lithuanian adult population. The statistics also indicate a relation between alcohol consumption and intensified health problems⁹. The adolescents' usage of alcohol and tobacco could be related to the widespread habits of alcohol consumption among adults.

⁸ The data correspond to other international research, e.g., ESPAD-03 Lithuania show that among the age group of 15-16 years old, 85 per cent of boys and 72 per cent of girls have ever smoked in their life. The results available at: http://www.smm.lt/svietimo_bukle/tyrimai.htm

⁹ E.g., in 2005, each resident over 15 years old used 12.9 liters of absolute alcohol. Press release, Usage of Alcohol and Its Consequences 2005 (*in Lithuanian*), available at: <http://www.std.lt/lt/news/view/?id=1765>

TABLE 5: AVERAGE AGE AT THE FIRST DRINK AND DRINKING FREQUENCY DURING THE LAST 12 MONTHS BY RESPONDENT'S AGE AND GENDER

Age	Gender	Average age at the first drink	Drinking during the last 12 months			N =100%
			Never	2-3 times a month or less often	About once a week or more often	
18	Boy	13.4	4.2	66.2	29.6	959
	Girl	14	5.1	81	13.9	1319
19	Boy	13.8	4.7	63.1	32.2	214
	Girl	14.6	6	80.5	13.5	251

Experiences of problems related to alcohol

A large majority of the respondents indicate that they have never had problems related to drinking alcohol. Also, the problematic cases happen quite rear and are more frequent among those who use alcohol heavily. Quite different patterns of problem behaviour are observed when comparing boys and girls. Boys first of all indicate that they have been absent from school related to drinking alcohol, 28.5 % of boys at the age of 18 and 35.5 % of boys at the age of 19. Girls report more often than boys that alcohol is the reason for a psychological condition – “being sad/miserable for a while”. (see Table 6). Because of drinking alcohol, the boys tend to get into a fight,

TABLE 6: EXPERIENCES OF PROBLEMS RELATED TO DRINKING ALCOHOL BY AGE AND GENDER (% , N)

	Age	Gender	Has never experienced	Has at least once experienced	Missing or Abstainers	N=100%
Been in a fight, behaved badly or hurt other people	18	Boy	53	31.8	15.2	976
		Girl	77.4	5.2	17.4	1336
	19	Boy	50	34.5	15.5	220
		Girl	71.9	8.2	19.9	256
Missed/dropped school	18	Boy	55.1	28.5	16.4	976
		Girl	59.8	23.1	17.1	1336
	19	Boy	49.1	35.5	15.4	220
		Girl	57.8	22.3	19.9	256
Finding yourself in a place without knowing how got there	18	Boy	64.7	18.3	17	976
		Girl	73.7	8.9	17.4	1336
	19	Boy	64	20.5	15.5	220
		Girl	71.5	7.8	20.7	256
Been sad, miserable for a while	18	Boy	53.7	29.8	16.5	976
		Girl	45	38.7	16.3	1336
	19	Boy	54.5	30.9	14.6	220
		Girl	41.4	39.1	19.5	256
A neighbour or a friend have told you to stop or reduce drinking	18	Boy	69.6	13.3	17.1	976
		Girl	74.7	7.2	18.1	1336
	19	Boy	66.4	17.7	15.9	220
		Girl	70.3	9	20.7	256

behave badly or hurt other people much more often than the girls (31.8 % and 5.2 % with regard to the group of 18-year-olds). Also, when it comes to finding oneself in a place without knowing how one got there, as well as getting the attention of a neighbour or a friend, the results for boys are twice as high compared with the girls.

Lawbreaking behaviour

13 % of the 18-19-year-olds have used hashish/marihuana or cocaine, heroin, or amphetamine¹⁰ at least once. Among the 18-year-olds, 15 % of boys and 5.6 % of girls indicate that they have used hashish or marihuana. 8.5 % of boys and 5.8 % of girls indicate that they have used cocaine, heroin, or amphetamine. Among the 19-year-olds, these groups comprise 13.2 % and 2.3 %, and 10 % and 5.5 %, respectively (see Table 7).

Criminal behaviour is observed in rare cases among the 18-19-year-olds. However, it is several times higher among the boys than among the girls. For example, 7.1 % of 18-year-olds and 10 % of 19-year-old boys report that they have stolen something worth more than 100LTL, while only 1.2 % of the girls report such behaviour. Having stolen a car or a motorbike is reported by around 4 % of boys and 1 % of girls. The share of boys involved in criminal behaviour increases with age.

Boys of both 18 and 19 years (7.3 % and 8.2 %, respectively) have bought sexual services, while almost none of the girls report such behaviour. Among boys within this age group, there is thus a relatively high demand for buying sexual services.

¹⁰ The data correspond with other international research, e.g., ESPAD-03 Lithuania show that among the age group of 15-16 years old, 15.6 per cent have ever used any drug, while among the girls this comprises 10.5 per cent, the boys – 20.7 per cent (in ESPAD99, it was 15.5, 9.6 and 21 per cent, respectively). Those who have ever tried marihuana or hashish comprise 13.5 per cent (8.6 per cent among the girls and 18.4 per cent among the boys). For more see at: http://www.smm.lt/svietimo_bukle/tyrimai.htm

TABLE 7: DRUG USING, CRIMINAL BEHAVIOUR, AND BUYING SEXUAL SERVICES BY AGE AND GENDER (% , N)

Respondent has...	Age	Gender	Yes	No	Missing	N =100%
stolen something worth more than 100 LTL	18	Boy	7.1	89.5	3.4	976
		Girl	1.2	96.7	2.1	1336
	19	Boy	10	86.4	3.6	220
		Girl	1.2	96.1	2.7	256
committed burglary/theft by breaking and entering	18	Boy	1.8	95	3.2	976
		Girl	1	96.2	2.8	1336
	19	Boy	3.6	95	1.4	220
		Girl	3.9	93.8	2.3	256
stolen a car/motorbike	18	Boy	3.4	92.3	4.3	976
		Girl	0.5	97.1	2.4	1336
	19	Boy	4.5	91.4	4.1	220
		Girl	1.2	95.3	3.5	256
used hashish or marihuana	18	Boy	15	81.5	3.5	976
		Girl	5.6	92.4	2	1336
	19	Boy	13.2	83.2	3.6	220
		Girl	2.3	94.9	2.8	256
used cocaine, heroin, amphetamine	18	Boy	8.5	87.9	3.6	976
		Girl	5.8	91.8	2.4	1336
	19	Boy	10	85.9	4.1	220
		Girl	5.5	91.4	3.1	256
bought sexual services	18	Boy	7.3	88.9	3.8	976
		Girl	0.7	96.7	2.6	1336
	19	Boy	8.2	88.2	3.6	220
		Girl	0.4	96.9	2.7	256

Attitudes

Attitudes towards sexual relations between child and adult

When considering sexual relations between an adult and a child, the adolescents tend to have somewhat unclear opinions. In the Lithuanian questionnaire the term “child” was used together with an “under age” (who is under the age of 18). The majority of the adolescents agree with the statement “an adult and a child should be allowed to have sex together if they both want to”: 61 % of boys from all age groups and 58.8 % and 45.5 % of girls, aged 18 and 19, respectively. One fifth of the adolescents have no opinion on this matter, and one fifth tend to disagree with the aforementioned statement (see Table 8). Around 40 % of adolescents agree that sex between a child and adult is likely to hurt the child in major ways. Girls agree a bit more than boys. However, one third of boys disagree that the child could be hurt, and one fourth has no opinion on the matter. Nearly

in equal parts the groups of 18 and 19-year-olds agree or have no opinion on the statement that many children would like to have sex with an adult once they have tried it. However, it appears that 19-year-old boys agree more often with this statement than other groups.

These attitudes concerning sexual relations between an adult and a child should be viewed in light of the possibility that the adolescents do not view a 16 or 17-year-old peer as a child (in the questionnaire, everyone below the age of 18 is defined as a child). Thus, sexual intercourse between someone this age and an adult may not be treated as a relation between a child and an adult but rather between two more or less equal partners.

TABLE 8: ATTITUDES TOWARDS SEXUAL RELATIONS BETWEEN CHILDREN AND ADULTS BY AGE AND GENDER (% , N)

			Disagree	Neither nor	Agree	N =100%
An adult and a child should be allowed to have sex together if they both want to	18	Boy	20.5	18.3	61.2	965
		Girl	21	20.2	58.8	1326
	19	Boy	20.3	18.4	61.3	217
		Girl	26.7	27.8	45.5	255
Sex between a child and adult is likely to hurt the child in major ways	18	Boy	33.6	27.4	39	966
		Girl	22.9	32.8	44.3	1326
	19	Boy	31.2	24.8	44	218
		Girl	20.4	31.4	48.2	255
Many children would like to have sex with an adult once they tried it	18	Boy	12.6	45	42.4	961
		Girl	14.6	44.7	40.7	1325
	19	Boy	11.5	41	47.5	217
		Girl	12.6	49.5	37.9	253

Attitudes towards sexual exploitation of other young people

With regard to attitudes towards sexual exploitation, there are significant gender differences. Boys tend to attribute more responsibility to the victim than do the girls (40 % of boys at the age of both 18 and 19 and 23.6 % and 27 % of girls at the age of 18 and 19 respectively) (see Table 9). Nearly every fourth adolescent has no opinion with regard to the statement “If young people let others exploit them sexually, it is their own responsibility”. Still, the great majority of the respondents disagree that if several others took part, they would participate in exploiting another youth sexually (still with some differences by gender: 97 % of girls and 89 % of boys). The same disagreement is the case in relation to the statement that youth that are part of a group of friends must tolerate to be sexually exploited by the others (93 % of girls and 85 % of boys disagree with this statement).

TABLE 9: ATTITUDES TOWARDS SEXUAL EXPLOITATION BY AGE AND GENDER (% , N)

			Disagree	Neither nor	Agree	N =100%
If young people let other exploit them sexually, it is their own responsibility	18	Boy	35.7	24	40.3	874
		Girl	47.4	29	23.6	1272
	19	Boy	36.6	23	40.4	183
		Girl	46	27	27	237
If several took part, you would participate in exploiting another youth sexually	18	Boy	88.4	6.8	4.8	874
		Girl	97.5	0.8	1.7	1267
	19	Boy	89	7.2	3.8	182
		Girl	97	1.3	1.7	237
Youth that are part of a group of friends must tolerate to be sexually exploited by the others	18	Boy	85.8	8.7	5.5	872
		Girl	92.7	3.4	3.9	1265
	19	Boy	85.1	10.5	4.4	181
		Girl	93.6	3.4	3	235

Probability of sex with a child

When considering a hypothetical situation, i.e. the “probability of having sex with a 10 to 12-year-old child if nobody would know and there would be no penalty”, the great majority of the adolescents (around 90 % of both boys and girls) reject this probability. A small part - around 5 % of both genders - maintains it to be likely (see Table 10). However , the boys are somewhat more likely to have sex with a child than girls are.

TABLE 10: PROBABILITY OF HAVING SEX WITH A 10 TO 12-YEAR-OLD CHILD IF NOBODY WOULD KNOW AND THERE WOULD BE NO PENALTY.

		Unlikely	Neither nor	Likely	Missing	N = 100%
18	Boy	87.8	4.2	5.2	2.8	976
	Girl	92.6	1.9	4.3	1.2	1336
19	Boy	90	3.2	5	1.8	220
	Girl	89.5	3.9	3.9	2.7	256

Attitudes towards doing sexual activities for pay

As to the adolescents’ attitudes about doing sexual activities for pay, several aspects are observed. Relatively few respondents can imagine to do sexual activities for pay in the future. (see Table 11). Exchanging sex for compensation is more acceptable for boys than for girls. About 14 % of boys report that they would have sexual intercourse for pay. A similar part of boys would agree to involve themselves in nude photographing or filming for pay (12.7 % and 15 % among 18 and 19-year-olds, respectively).

TABLE 11: ATTITUDES TOWARDS DOING SEXUAL ACTIVITIES FOR PAY BY AGE AND GENDER (% FROM ALL RESPONDENTS)

			Could imagine doing it in the future			Can accept that someone else do it			N = 100%
			Yes	No	Missing	Yes	No	Missing	
Expose your sex organs to someone for pay	18	Boy	6.4	65.9	27.7	10	61.8	28.2	976
		Girl	2.9	76.9	20.2	9.4	71.2	19.4	1336
	19	Boy	8.6	55	36.4	10.9	53.6	35.5	220
		Girl	2	71.1	26.9	7.8	64.5	27.7	256
Involve yourself in nude photographing or filming for pay	18	Boy	12.7	59.3	28	20.1	51	28.9	976
		Girl	10.9	69.4	19.7	26.8	54	19.2	1336
	19	Boy	15	50	35	12.7	49.1	38.2	220
		Girl	9.8	63.3	26.9	21.1	51.2	27.7	256
Show off masturbating for pay	18	Boy	1.6	69.8	28.6	5.2	66.5	28.3	976
		Girl	-	79.4	20.6	5.6	75.1	19.3	1336
	19	Boy	2.3	60.5	37.2	4.5	59.1	36.4	220
		Girl	-	72.7	27.3	4.3	68.4	27.3	256
Do oral sex for pay	18	Boy	4.4	66.6	29	9.4	62.3	28.3	976
		Girl	0.7	78.5	20.8	7.1	73.4	19.5	1336
	19	Boy	5.5	57.3	37.2	8.2	54.1	37.7	220
		Girl	-	72.3	27.7	4.7	66.8	28.5	256
Have sexual intercourse for pay	18	Boy	14.3	57.8	27.9	16.3	54.7	29	976
		Girl	3.1	76.2	20.7	10.1	70.3	19.6	1336
	19	Boy	13.2	50	36.8	13.2	48.6	38.2	220
		Girl	2.3	70.7	27	8.6	63.7	27.7	256
Do anal sex for pay	18	Boy	2.8	67.1	30.1	8.6	61.9	29.5	976
		Girl	0.5	78.1	21.4	6.1	73.8	20.1	1336
	19	Boy	5	58.2	36.8	7.3	54.5	38.2	220
		Girl	-	71.9	28.1	4.7	66.4	28.9	256
Be photographed or filmed while doing sexual activities for pay	18	Boy	9.9	61.5	28.6	15.5	56.3	28.2	976
		Girl	1.1	78.1	20.8	11.3	69.3	19.4	1336
	19	Boy	12.3	51.8	35.9	11.4	49.5	39.1	220
		Girl	2.3	70.3	27.4	10.9	60.5	28.6	256

Every tenth boy could imagine being photographed or filmed in the future while doing sexual activities for pay (9.9 % and 12.3 % among 18 and 19-year-olds, respectively). Every tenth girl at the age of 18 or 19 (10.9 % and 9.8 %, respectively) could imagine being involved in nude photographing or filming for pay. However, 26.8 % of 18-year-old and 21.1 % of 19-year-old girls accept that someone else do it. It is remarkable that girls have a higher acceptance of nude photographing or filming, compared to boys. Only 2 to 3 % of girls would agree to have sexual intercourse for pay or to be photographed or filmed while doing sexual activities for pay. The acceptance

of others doing it, though, is around 10 % in each group. The acceptance of other sexual activities (e.g. show off masturbating for pay, do oral or anal sex for pay) are low-frequency phenomena among the adolescents (2-3 %). Boys seem to be much more in favour of commercial sexual activities; boys could to a larger extent than girls imagine participating in different sexual activities for pay in the future, and they have a greater acceptance that others do it. This tendency increases with age.

Experiences of sexual abuse

Experiences of being exposed to sexual activities against your will

Reported experiences of sexual offences defined as indecent touching or exposure is more than twice as high among girls than among boys (see Table 12). In both age groups, nearly every second girl has at least experienced one of these two offences. Experiences of any kind of penetrative sexual acts is more frequent among the boys than among the girls. Among girls, the higher the age, the higher the rate of reported incidences of being involved in any kind of these sexual activities; 13.3 % of the 18-year-olds and 20.7 % of the 19-year-old girls report that they have experienced unwanted sexual intercourse. Although this share differs among boys, the difference is lower. In the group of 18-year-olds the share of experienced sexual abuse comprises one fifth of the respondents and in case of 19-year-olds it comprises one fourth (19,2% and 23,2%, respectively). The finding that boys indicate to a larger degree than girls that they have been victims of sexual violence requires additional analysis. Without having references to other research data from Lithuania, it is complicated to do reasonable elaborations or conclusions. Notwithstanding, the possibility of gender differences when it comes to ways of comprehending the variables assessing different kinds of penetrating sexual activities should not be rejected.

TABLE 12: EXPERIENCES OF SEXUAL ABUSE BY AGE AND GENDER (INCIDENCE AND % FROM ALL RESPONDENTS)

	Somebody has exposed him/herself indecently towards you		Somebody has touched your body in an indecent way		You exposed yourself masturbating towards somebody		You have had sexual inter-course		You have had oral sex		You have had anal sex		N=100%	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%		
Boy	18	144	14.8	117	12.0	22	2.3	187	19.2	47	4.8	28	2.9	976
	19	28	12.7	24	10.9	2	0.9	51	23.2	21	9.5	9	4.1	220
Girl	18	285	21.3	426	31.9	13	1.0	178	13.3	62	4.6	22	1.6	1336
	19	70	27.3	71	27.7	2	0.8	53	20.7	20	7.8	3	1.2	256

Age of victim at first sexual assault

The average age at the first sexual assault both for girls and boys is around 16 years. 16-year-olds are defined as children (as they are less than 18 years old) The 18-year-olds refer to age up to 16, the 19-year-olds to 16 years or a bit more (see Table 13).

TABLE 13: AGE OF VICTIM AT THE FIRST SEXUAL ASSAULT (AVERAGE)

		Age of victim	
		N	Mean
18	Boy	240	15.7
	Girl	308	15.7
19	Boy	57	16.2
	Girl	64	16.1

Age difference between offender and victim

In most cases (around 60 %) the offender was 5 or less than 5 years older than the victim. Among 18-year-old girls this share is a bit higher (64.5 %). These results presumably indicate that the offender could be close to the victim's age, or a peer. However, for nearly 40% of the respondents who have experienced sexual assault, the offender was more than five years older.

TABLE 14: AGE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN OFFENDER AND VICTIM AT FIRST SEXUAL ASSAULT (% FROM RESPONDENT GIVING AN ANSWER)

		Differences more than 5 years		Differences 5 or less than 5 years		N = 100%
		N	%	N	%	
18	Boy	63	39.9	95	60.1	158
	Girl	78	35.5	142	64.5	220
19	Boy	16	40	24	60	40
	Girl	16	39	25	61	41

Commercial sexual exploitation

Frequency and forms of sexual exploitation

Almost no one of the girls report that they have offered sexual services for pay. Only a few boys have answered “yes” twice on this question. However, 6.5 % of 18-year-old and 5.5% of 19-year-old boys reply “yes” that they have participated in this activity at least once (Table 15) .

TABLE 15: OFFERING SEXUAL SERVICES FOR PAY BY AGE AND GENDER (QUESTIONS 16 AND 48)

		Answered twice ‘yes’	Answered once ‘yes’	Answered twice ‘no’	Missing	N = 100%
18	Boy	0.6	6.5	71	21.9	976
	Girl	0.1	1.9	84.5	13.5	1336
19	Boy	1.4	5.5	64	29.1	220
	Girl	-	2.3	77.8	19.9	256

The answers on what kinds of sexual activities the adolescents have offered for pay are in close accordance with the already discussed attitudes about doing sexual activities for pay. Although it is a low-frequent activity, it is more often reported by boys than girls. 3.3 % of 18-year-old and 4.5 % of 19-year-old boys report that they have had sexual intercourse for pay (for girls this share is close to zero). 3 % of boys in both age groups report that they have been photographed or filmed while doing sexual activities for pay. A similar proportion has been involved in nude photographing or filming for pay. For any of these activities the proportion of girls who have been involved in them are close to zero.

TABLE 16: OFFERING SEXUAL SERVICES FOR PAY BY AGE AND GENDER (% , N)

			Respondent has done it			N = 100%
			Yes	No	Missing	
Expose your sex organs to someone for pay	18	Boy	1.8	82.6	15.6	976
		Girl	0.1	90.5	9.4	1336
	19	Boy	2.3	76.8	20.9	220
		Girl	-	84.4	15.6	256
Involve yourself in nude photographing or filming for pay	18	Boy	2.5	81.1	16.4	976
		Girl	0.5	89.2	10.3	1336
	19	Boy	2.3	76.3	21.4	220
		Girl	1.2	83.6	15.2	256
Show off masturbating for pay	18	Boy	0.7	83.5	15.8	976
		Girl	0.3	90.5	9.2	1336
	19	Boy	0.5	79	20.5	220
		Girl	0.4	85.1	14.5	256
Do oral sex for pay	18	Boy	1	82.2	16.8	976
		Girl	0.4	90	9.6	1336
	19	Boy	0.5	78.1	21.4	220
		Girl	0.4	84.4	15.2	256
Have sexual intercourse for pay	18	Boy	3.3	79.4	17.3	976
		Girl	0.6	90.1	9.3	1336
	19	Boy	4.5	74.1	21.4	220
		Girl	0.4	85.1	14.5	256
Do anal sex for pay	18	Boy	1.1	81.3	17.6	976
		Girl	0.4	89.4	10.2	1336
	19	Boy	0.5	76.4	23.1	220
		Girl	0.4	84.4	15.2	256
Be photographed or filmed while doing sexual activities for pay	18	Boy	3	79.9	17.1	976
		Girl	0.1	90.3	9.6	1336
	19	Boy	2.7	73.2	24.1	220
		Girl	0.4	85.1	14.5	256

Pornography

Frequency of watching pornography

Watching pornography is a frequent and very common phenomenon among the Lithuanian adolescents. It is more widespread among the boys than among the girls. Every fifth girl (22 %) in both age groups has never watched pornography. For boys, the earlier the age, the higher consumers they are – 89 % of 18-year-old and 81.1 % of 19-year-old boys have watched pornography. The majority of the adolescents (75 %) watch pornography some time each month or less often. Very few girls belong to the group of frequent pornography consumers (1.9 % in the age group of 18 and 2.6 % in the age group of 19). Nearly every seventh boy in both age groups (with a slight increase with an increasing age) is a frequent consumer of pornography (Table 17).

TABLE 17: FREQUENCY OF WATCHING PORNOGRAPHY BY AGE AND GENDER (% , N)

		Never	Some times each month or less often	Some times or more each week	N = 100%
18	Boy	11	76.2	12.8	883
	Girl	22	76.1	1.9	1267
19	Boy	18.9	65.9	15.2	185
	Girl	21.5	75.9	2.6	237

Pornography – sex between adults and children

Very few girls have watched pornography displaying sex between adults and children (1 %). 5 % of the boys in both age groups report that they have watched this kind of pornography.

TABLE 18: WATCHING SEX BETWEEN ADULTS AND CHILDREN BY AGE AND GENDER (% , N)

		Has watched this sort of pornography	Never has watched pornography	No information	N = 100%
18	Boy	5.3	13.9	80.8	976
	Girl	1	25.4	73.6	1336
19	Boy	5	19.5	75.5	220
	Girl	1.2	23.8	75	256

Pornography – opinion about friends' use of pornography

The adolescents were asked to report the degree to which they believed that their friends watch pornographic films. The average answers indicate that watching pornography is a common activity (Table 19). The differences among the genders are low, although fewer girls tend to assume that their friends and peers watch pornographic films. Boys and girls for both age groups are not likely to presume that their friends and peers watch pornographic films dealing with sex between adults and children. Especially boys assume that it is much more common for their friends to watch pornographic films in general.

TABLE 19: RESPONDENTS' OPINION ABOUT FREQUENCY OF WATCHING PORNOGRAPHIC FILMS AMONG HIS/HER FRIENDS (AVERAGE)

	18		19	
	Boy	Girl	Boy	Girl
How often do your friends watch pornographic films?	2.82	2.54	2.85	2.53
How often do your friends watch pornographic films dealing with adults having sex with children?	1.52	1.34	1.49	1.31

Note. The scale: 1 – never, 5 – very often.

NORWAY

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Introduction

Background, Data Collection, and Sample

The Norwegian school survey was carried out among adolescents in the last grade of senior high school in the end of 2003 and the beginning of 2004. The respondents were 4911 students in the third grade from 41 senior high schools in the nine largest town regions in Norway. The sample consisted of 2033 boys and 2878 girls and is a representative sample of young people in senior high schools from these regions. The students represented both vocational and general classes. There were 690 17-year-olds, 3364 18-year-olds, and 535 19-year-olds. The remaining 322 students were older than 19 years of age. To achieve as high a response rate as possible we arranged a second opportunity to answer the questionnaire for students who were absent at the first day of implementation. This second implementation took place within a week after the first. The response rate was 82%. The students who did not answer the questionnaire (18%) were in most cases absent from school at the points of time when the study was implemented.

The sample consists mainly of students from general classes; students in vocational training are represented to a low extent. The fact that the majority of respondents attended general classes explains why there is a majority of girls in the sample. The gender distribution is similar to other representative national studies, such as “Ung i Norge” 2002 (Rossow & Bø, 2003, p. 27) and mirrors the gender distribution in general classes in senior high school.

The Norwegian study was supported by The Ministry of Children and Family Affairs, now called The Ministry of Children and Equality (BLD). Permission to do the study was obtained both from The Ministry of Children and Family Affairs, which funded the Norwegian study, from the school authorities at county and municipality levels, and from the administration at each school. The study was also evaluated and accepted by The Norwegian Social Science Data Services (NSD).

The administration at each school suggested a member of the school staff to be the survey contact. The person appointed by the school was often

a school health nurse or a teacher. Every contact passed a half-day seminar where the aim of the study and the tasks of the contact were presented. The contact was responsible for collecting information about the exact number of pupils in the vocational and general classes, giving instructions to the head of each class (the head of the class received written information about the project, to be handed out to the students on the day before the data collection), making an appointment with the head about the exact time for the implementation, implementing the data collection, and receiving the questionnaires. The contact was also in charge of returning the filled-out questionnaires which the students had put into closed envelopes. Finally, the contact was responsible for arranging a second opportunity to answer the questionnaire for those who were not present at the first trial. The survey was carried out class by class, as a paper and pencil survey. In all schools the students sat alone at a desk in order to secure higher personal privacy.

Perception of parents

Table 1 displays the respondents' perceptions of their relationship with their parents. These are experiences related to control, self-determination, protection, communication, empathy, and support while growing up. The respondents were asked to mark on a scale from 1 to 6 to which amount seven different statements fit in their own lives (1 indicated "Does not fit at all" and 6 indicated "Fits completely"). In the table, the answers are collapsed into three groups (1 and 2, 3 and 4, 5 and 6).

Most of the respondents perceived their parents to be caring, understanding, open, and communicating. The respondents also believed that their parents let them decide things for themselves. There are no systematic gender differences as to how the respondents perceived their parents, although there is a greater tendency for girls (across age groups) to report that they have not gotten the support they needed. The 19-year-old girls differ somewhat from the other two age groups of girls. A majority of girls at the age of 19 reported that their parents have not let them decide on things themselves. Consistent with this, a larger proportion of girls this age believed that their parents have been very controlling and that their parents have rarely communicated with them. Girls at the age of 19 also reported more often that their parents have not understood neither their problems and worries, nor their needs and wishes. The 19-year-old girls also claimed to have received little support from their parents.

As we will discuss later, girls at the age of 19 reported more depressive thoughts and feelings compared to the other age groups. Negative thinking and negative emotions may colour the way these girls perceive their parents.

TABLE 1: PERCEPTION OF THE PARENTS, BY AGE AND GENDER (% , N)

	Age	Gender	1 – 2	3 – 4	5 – 6	N =100%
They have let me decide on things myself	17	Boy	7.1	33.6	59.3	283
		Girl	7.7	32.2	60.1	401
	18	Boy	5.3	34.8	59.9	1390
		Girl	5.7	32.6	61.7	1960
	19	Boy	2.7	40.1	57.2	222
		Girl	9.1	40.6	50.3	308
They have been very controlling	17	Boy	59	30.4	10.6	283
		Girl	58	30.8	11.2	400
	18	Boy	56.7	32.9	10.4	1385
		Girl	63.5	26.5	10	1958
	19	Boy	60.8	30.6	8.6	222
		Girl	55.3	32	12.7	309
They rarely communicated with me	17	Boy	82.9	12.1	5	280
		Girl	83.7	11.5	4.8	399
	18	Boy	79.7	15.5	4.8	1389
		Girl	84	11.2	4.8	1952
	19	Boy	78	14.4	7.6	223
		Girl	79.9	12	8.1	308
They have been caring towards me	17	Boy	3.5	22.3	74.2	283
		Girl	6.5	18.7	74.8	401
	18	Boy	3.7	22.7	73.6	1386
		Girl	3.9	18.3	77.8	1957
	19	Boy	3.6	24.2	72.2	223
		Girl	7.2	20.2	72.6	307
They have understood my problems and worries	17	Boy	10	34.3	55.7	280
		Girl	11.7	30.4	57.9	401
	18	Boy	11.4	34.3	54.3	1389
		Girl	11.1	31.4	57.5	1959
	19	Boy	11.3	38.2	50.5	222
		Girl	16.3	27.7	56	307
They have not given me the support I needed.	17	Boy	63.3	17.8	18.9	281
		Girl	63	16.2	20.8	400
	18	Boy	63	18.1	18.9	1388
		Girl	61.6	17.2	21.2	1955
	19	Boy	62.6	16.7	20.7	222
		Girl	55.2	17.9	26.9	308
They have not understood my needs and wishes	17	Boy	55.9	28.3	15.8	279
		Girl	58.9	23.9	17.2	401
	18	Boy	57.8	27.2	15	1386
		Girl	59	26.9	14.1	1959
	19	Boy	52.7	29.7	17.6	222
		Girl	51.3	27.9	20.8	308

Note. The scale: 1 – does not correspond at all, 6 – corresponds completely.

Mental health – reports of depression

The respondents' mental health (related to degree of depression) was measured by asking them to report to which degree six different statements fit with the respondents' experiences during the last week. The adolescents answered six questions from the SCL-90 depressive scale (Derogatis, 1974). More girls than boys reported that the statements corresponded quite well or very well with their experiences. The gender difference was statistically significant ($p < .01$) for all of the six statements for all three age levels (see Table 2).

Depression can be regarded as a continuum on which clinical depression is located in the "heavy" end. There were more cases of clinical depression among girls than among boys. Sleep disturbances, feelings of helplessness, and a tendency to worry about things are all important ingredients in clinical depression. All of these elements were reported more frequently by girls. Our findings are in accordance with both national (Wichström, 1999) and international (Ge, Conger, & Elder, 2001) studies showing that girls are more prone to report depressive reactions compared with boys.

The share of respondents who reported any of the statements to correspond quite well or very well increased with age. 23.3% of the boys and 30.5% of the girls at the age of 17 reported that a feeling of helplessness towards the future corresponded quite well or very well with their experiences. At the age of 19 these numbers were 30.5% and 39.8% for boys and girls respectively.

The gender differences may alternatively be due to girls being more capable of naming their feelings, especially difficult feelings. Girls are also less reluctant to admit feelings. For boys to report about helplessness and other less potent feelings, may challenge their masculine self-identity. In addition, there may be gender differences as to how people perceive descriptions of various states; dependent on sex the same words may be comprehended in different manners.

TABLE 2: RESPONDENTS' MENTAL HEALTH, BY AGE AND GENDER (% , N)

During the last week, have you...	Age	Gender	Does not correspond at all	Cor-responds a little	Cor-responds quite well	Cor-responds very well	N =100%
felt that everything is a struggle?	17	Boy	19.5	35.5	24.1	20.9	282
		Girl	14	32.8	28.8	24.4	399
	18	Boy	18.5	37.9	23.4	20.2	1386
		Girl	10.9	33.1	26.6	29.4	1961
	19	Boy	16.3	37.1	24	22.6	221
		Girl	8.7	34.3	31.4	25.6	309
had any trouble sleeping?	17	Boy	41.8	33.3	17	7.9	282
		Girl	38.6	31.1	17.2	13.1	402
	18	Boy	41.9	27.7	16.3	14.1	1384
		Girl	33.9	30.3	18.9	16.9	1959
	19	Boy	32.1	29.4	20.4	18.1	221
		Girl	27.9	31.5	20.5	20.1	308
felt unhappy, miserable or depressed?	17	Boy	50.7	28.9	10.7	9.7	280
		Girl	33	34	18	15	400
	18	Boy	51.1	28.2	11.2	9.5	1381
		Girl	31.3	32.8	17.3	18.6	1958
	19	Boy	48.9	25.3	15.4	10.4	221
		Girl	24.1	38.1	19.2	18.6	307
felt helplessness towards the future?	17	Boy	51.6	25.1	16.2	7.1	283
		Girl	38.5	31	17.5	13	400
	18	Boy	49.8	25.9	14.5	9.8	1381
		Girl	35.6	30.1	17.9	16.4	1956
	19	Boy	38.6	30.9	17.3	13.2	220
		Girl	29.8	30.4	23.6	16.2	309
felt tied up or tensed?	17	Boy	36.7	35	18.8	9.5	283
		Girl	25.7	36.9	21.9	15.5	401
	18	Boy	38.9	33.2	18	9.8	1381
		Girl	24.9	35.6	22.9	16.6	1957
	19	Boy	34.7	34.7	21.9	8.7	219
		Girl	25.2	32.7	21.7	20.4	309
worried too much about things?	17	Boy	30.7	33.9	23	12.4	283
		Girl	14.7	32.6	26.9	25.8	402
	18	Boy	26.9	36	22	15.1	1385
		Girl	12.5	32.5	26.4	28.6	1958
	19	Boy	21.6	39	21.1	18.3	218
		Girl	10	29.8	30.7	29.5	309

Asking for help

The respondents were asked to report who they would talk to if they had a personal problem. At all ages relatively more boys than girls would choose not to talk to anyone ($p < .01$). With increasing age the proportion of respondents who would not talk to anyone decreases. This change applies to both genders, but is most pronounced for boys. 30.6% of boys at the age of

17 reported that they would not talk to anyone. Among 19-year-old boys this share has decreased to 23.8% (see Table 3).

Siblings and friends are the most popular conversation partners for both genders. When it comes to parents, both boys and girls reported mother as the preferred talking partner in case of a personal problem.

TABLE 3: PERSON TO WHOM ADOLESCENT WOULD MOST LIKELY TALK IF HE OR SHE HAD A PERSONAL PROBLEM, BY AGE AND GENDER (% , N)

	17		18		19	
	Boy	Girl	Boy	Girl	Boy	Girl
No one	30.6	17.7	27.3	16.2	23.8	15.2
Mother	52.8	64.9	53.3	67	54.3	67.3
Father	37.2	31.1	38.3	31	41.3	26.2
Sibling, friend	87.2	95.3	91.3	97.7	91.9	96.8
Relative, neighbour	14.2	17.2	15.6	19.5	14.8	16.2
Teacher, counsellor	12.2	19.7	13.2	20.1	18.4	25.9
N = 100%	288	402	1397	1966	233	309

Problem behaviour

Smoking

More than 60% of both 17 and 18-year-old boys report that they have never smoked. These two groups of boys differ from all groups of girls and from 19-year-old boys. More girls than boys were daily smokers (at all ages). Smoking among adolescents in Norway has decreased during the last years (Statistics Norway, 2006). The reported smoking frequency in the different age groups in this sample is in accordance with these tendencies; fewer people in the youngest age groups start smoking compared to the oldest group.

TABLE 4: SMOKING, BY AGE AND GENDER (% , N)

Age	Gender	Has never smoked	Did smoke, but quit	Smokes, but not daily	Smokes daily	N =100%
17	Boy	60.1	13.3	14.3	12.3	286
	Girl	56.5	13.8	16.1	13.6	398
18	Boy	60.6	12.6	15.6	11.1	1386
	Girl	52.6	12.2	17	18.2	1940
19	Boy	49.5	13.6	12.4	24.5	220
	Girl	43	12.4	14.6	30	307

Consumption of alcohol – age at first drink

On average, young people in Norway had their first drink, defined as a bottle of beer (33cl), a glass of wine, or a glass of brandy (4cl), when they were about 14 years of age (see Table 5). There is a weak tendency that the respondents in the youngest age groups start drinking earlier than those in the oldest age group. The number of boys with a frequent alcohol consumption increases with age. This pattern is less apparent for girls. More boys than girls (independent of age) reported having drunk about once a week or more often during the last 12 months. The most common drinking pattern for both genders is to drink two to three times a month or less often. This pattern is even more typical for girls than for boys at every age level.

TABLE 5: AVERAGE AGE AT THE FIRST DRINK AND DRINKING FREQUENCY DURING THE LAST 12 MONTHS, BY AGE AND GENDER

Age	Gender	Average age at the first drink	Drinking during the last 12 months			N =100%
			Never	2-3 times a month or less often	About once a week or more often	
17	Boy	14.1	11.6	64.9	23.5	285
	Girl	14	12.9	66.8	20.3	394
18	Boy	14.4	8.5	60.1	31.4	1384
	Girl	14.4	9.4	67.1	23.5	1944
19	Boy	14.5	10.9	57	32.1	221
	Girl	14.5	12.8	66	21.2	297

Experiences of problems related to alcohol

There are some clear gender differences concerning what kinds of alcohol related problems the respondents experience (see Table 6). Boys report about externalizing problems (e.g. been in a fight) to a much higher degree than girls. Girls report relatively more often about internalizing problems (been sad). These results are in accordance with findings from similar studies (Øia, 2006).

TABLE 6: EXPERIENCES OF PROBLEMS RELATED TO DRINKING ALCOHOL, BY AGE AND GENDER (AVERAGE)

	17		18		19	
	Boy	Girl	Boy	Girl	Boy	Girl
Been in a fight, behaved badly or hurt other people	0.59	0.29	0.72	0.32	0.84	0.39
Missed school/dropped school	0.36	0.27	0.45	0.42	0.64	0.52
Finding yourself in a place without knowing how you got there	0.57	0.42	0.6	0.41	0.67	0.33
Been sad/miserable for a while	0.52	0.81	0.54	0.89	0.61	1
A neighbour or a friend have told you to stop or reduce your drinking	0.27	0.30	0.29	0.25	0.43	0.19

Note. The scale: 0 – never; 1 – one time; 2 – 2-4 times; 3 – 5-10 times; 4 – more than 10 times

Lawbreaking behaviour

Criminal behaviour, except for use of hashish or marihuana, is reported very seldom by girls. The gender differences in criminal behaviour are significant for every type of rule breaking behaviour and for every age group ($p < .01$). Except for the category “Having stolen something worth more than 1,000 NOK” boys at the age of 19 more often than any other age group reported having engaged in the various behaviours. The tendency for 19-year-old boys to be the most active when it comes to criminal behaviour is in accordance with a typical age curve that has appeared in several studies and for various countries (Pedersen & Wickstrøm, 1995). The proportion of respondents who reported that they have used hashish or marihuana at least once exceeds four to six times the proportion of respondents who reported having used cocaine, heroin, or amphetamine (for every age group and both genders). Drugs like cocaine, heroin, and amphetamine are probably regarded as much more risky compared with the other group of drugs. More than 20% of the respondents reported having used marihuana or hashish at least once, compared with 4% having used cocaine, heroin, or amphetamine (all age levels grouped together).

Very few informants reported having bought sexual services. However (and not surprisingly), whereas practically no girls reported having bought sex, the proportion of boys who has bought sexual services increases with age. The number of boys who reported having bought such services is still low (only 36 individuals in total). Assuming that the percentage of 19-year-old boys who have bought sexual services (3.1%) is indicative of the total

demand of boys at this age, about 1,000 Norwegian boys at the age of 19 have bought sexual services at some point in time.

TABLE 7: DRUG USING AND CRIMINAL BEHAVIOUR, BY AGE AND GENDER (% , N)

Respondent has...	Age	Gender	Yes	No	Missing	N =100%	
stolen something worth more than 1,000 NOK	17	Boy	6.6	92	1.4	288	
		Girl	2	97.5	0.5	402	
	18	Boy	3.8	94.8	1.4	1397	
		Girl	0.8	98.2	1	1966	
	19	Boy	6.3	92.4	1.3	223	
		Girl	1.6	98.1	0.3	309	
	committed burglary/theft by breaking and entering	17	Boy	4.5	94.1	1.4	288
			Girl	0.3	99	0.7	402
18		Boy	3.4	95.2	1.4	1397	
		Girl	0.5	98.5	1	1966	
19		Boy	5.8	92.4	1.8	223	
		Girl	0.3	99.4	0.3	309	
stolen a car/motorbike		17	Boy	3.1	96.5	0.4	288
			Girl	0.7	98.5	0.8	402
	18	Boy	2.9	96.2	0.9	1397	
		Girl	0.4	99.1	0.5	1966	
	19	Boy	6.3	92.8	0.9	223	
		Girl	0.3	99.4	0.3	309	
	used hashish or marihuana	17	Boy	25.3	74.4	0.3	288
			Girl	17.9	81.6	0.5	402
18		Boy	22.1	77.3	0.6	1397	
		Girl	14.9	84.3	0.8	1966	
19		Boy	33.2	66.4	0.4	223	
		Girl	26.5	73.2	0.3	309	
used cocaine, heroin, amphetamine		17	Boy	3.5	96.2	0.3	288
			Girl	3.7	95.3	1	402
	18	Boy	3.9	95.3	0.8	1397	
		Girl	2.3	97	0.7	1966	
	19	Boy	9	89.7	1.3	223	
		Girl	4.9	94.8	0.3	309	
	bought sexual services	17	Boy	1.4	98.3	0.3	288
			Girl	0.5	98.8	0.7	402
18		Boy	1.8	97.3	0.9	1397	
		Girl	-	99.5	0.5	1966	
19		Boy	3.1	96	0.9	223	
		Girl	-	99.4	0.6	309	

Attitudes

The majority of respondents (both genders) did not agree with statements promoting sex between adults and children. Most of the adolescents disagreed that children can decide for themselves whether or not they want to have sex, and that children would like to have sex with an adult once they have tried it. The majority of the respondents agreed that sex between a child and an adult is harmful for the child. These were clear tendencies, but there were also some systematic gender differences. For all age groups and for both statements encouraging sex between adults and children, significantly more boys than girls agreed ($p < .01$). The proportion of respondents who agreed that adults may have sex with children decreased with increasing age for girls, but not for boys. These findings are in accordance with those of the 2001-survey (Mossige, 2001).

TABLE 8: ATTITUDES ABOUT SEXUAL RELATIONS BETWEEN CHILDREN AND ADULTS, BY AGE AND GENDER (% , N)

			Disagree	Neither nor	Agree	N =100%
An adult and a child should be allowed to have sex together if they both want to	17	Boy	57.6	18	24.4	283
		Girl	60.3	21.7	18	401
	18	Boy	66.2	16.9	16.9	1384
		Girl	66.7	17.5	15.8	1955
	19	Boy	65.8	16.2	18	222
		Girl	69.1	16.9	14	308
Sex between a child and an adult is likely to hurt the child in major ways	17	Boy	21.9	18.7	59.4	283
		Girl	15.9	23.4	60.7	402
	18	Boy	16	20.9	63.1	1382
		Girl	15.3	18.9	65.8	1953
	19	Boy	17.9	20.6	61.5	223
		Girl	12.8	18.4	68.8	304
Many children would like to have sex with an adult once they have tried it	17	Boy	55.4	34.1	10.5	276
		Girl	72.6	21.9	5.5	398
	18	Boy	55.8	34.2	10	1375
		Girl	76.5	19.4	4.1	1942
	19	Boy	54.6	33.5	11.9	218
		Girl	73	22.7	4.3	300

Attitudes towards sexual exploitation of other young people

The respondents were asked to rate on a scale from 1 to 5 the degree to which they agreed with three statements expressing acceptance of sexual exploitation of peers. Boys appeared to attribute more responsibility to

“young people who let others exploit them sexually” compared with girls (see Table 9). For all statements there is a significant difference between the genders ($p < .01$). This difference may be due to the girls adopting a more caring position towards the victim, regarding the situation from a relation-ethical point of view (Gilligan, 1993). The boys care more about the victim as they get older. In total, very few respondents (irrespective of gender) could imagine taking part in sexual exploitation of another youth. This tendency is the case both when it comes to sexual exploitation of other youths in general and youths that are part of a group of friends.

TABLE 9: ATTITUDES ABOUT SEXUAL EXPLOITATION, BY AGE AND GENDER (% , N)

			Disagree	Neither nor	Agree	N =100%
If young people let others exploit them sexually it is their own responsibility	17	Boy	33.6	32.8	33.6	274
		Girl	53.3	26.1	20.6	398
	18	Boy	38.1	31.5	30.4	1363
		Girl	55	25.2	19.8	1943
	19	Boy	39.6	33.6	26.7	217
		Girl	49.8	26.4	23.8	303
If several took part you would participate in exploiting another youth sexually	17	Boy	92.7	6.2	1.1	275
		Girl	97.2	0.8	2	397
	18	Boy	93.9	3.6	2.5	1360
		Girl	98.1	1	0.9	1944
	19	Boy	94.9	2.8	2.3	216
		Girl	97.3	1.7	1	301
Youths that are part of a group of friends must tolerate to be sexually exploited by the others	17	Boy	95.6	3.3	1.1	275
		Girl	98.4	0.8	0.8	398
	18	Boy	96.1	2.4	1.5	1361
		Girl	98.9	0.8	0.3	1941
	19	Boy	95.8	2.8	1.4	217
		Girl	98.6	0.7	0.7	302

Probability of sex with a child

The hypothetical probability of having sex with a 10 to 12-year-old child “if nobody knew and there would be no penalty” is very small for both genders and for every group of age. Looking at the entire sample, though, there is a significant gender difference ($p < .01$); boys report greater likelihood that they would have sex with a child. The gender difference is not equally clear at every group of age. The informants were in general less willing to have sex with a child compared with the respondents in Mossige’s (2001) study. In the 2001-study, 5.9% of the boys reported such an act to be likely. For girls

the proportion is about the same in both studies. The change among boys may reflect a growing attention concerning who to involve and who not involve in sexual activities.

TABLE 10: PROBABILITY OF HAVING SEX WITH A 10 TO 12-YEAR-OLD CHILD IF NOBODY WOULD KNOW AND THERE WOULD BE NO PENALTY, BY AGE AND GENDER (% , N)

		Unlikely	Neither nor	Likely	Missing	N = 100%
17	Boy	96.9	1	0.7	1.4	288
	Girl	98.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	402
18	Boy	97.6	0.6	1	0.8	1397
	Girl	98.9	0.1	0.6	0.4	1966
19	Boy	98.7	0.4	0.4	0.5	223
	Girl	98.1	0.3	1	0.6	309

Attitudes about doing sexual activities for pay

The informants were asked to report what kinds of sexual services they could imagine doing for pay in the future, and whether they could accept that someone else engage in these same activities. A significantly larger proportion of boys than girls ($p < .01$) could imagine participating in all of the various sexual activities for pay. For more than half of the sexual activities, the proportion of boys (all age levels) who could imagine engaging in these sexual activities was more than five times the proportion of girls. The smallest gender difference was for the activity of being involved in nude photographing or filming. A somewhat greater proportion of 19-year-old boys could imagine taking part in the various sexual activities compared with boys in the two other age groups. There were no significant age differences for girls.

Anal sex was the activity that the fewest boys could imagine doing for pay. A possible reason could be that anal sex may be regarded as a homosexual activity. The majority of boys are willing to accept that someone else participate in the various sexual activities for pay, while less than half of the female respondents reported such acceptance.

TABLE 11: ATTITUDES TOWARDS DOING SEXUAL ACTIVITIES FOR PAY, BY AGE AND GENDER (% , N)

			Could imagine doing it in the future			Can accept that someone else do it			Total N
			Yes	No	Missing	Yes	No	Missing	
Expose your sex organs to someone for pay	17	Boy	13.2	80.9	5.9	55.9	38.2	5.9	288
		Girl	2.7	95.8	1.5	38.6	59.4	2	402
	18	Boy	12.4	83.7	W3.9	55	40.4	4.6	1397
		Girl	1.4	96.1	2.5	34.8	62.5	2.7	1966
	19	Boy	15.7	78.5	5.8	57.4	36.8	5.8	223
		Girl	1.9	92.6	5.5	35.6	59.5	4.9	309
Involve yourself in nude photographing or filming for pay	17	Boy	12.5	81.9	5.6	64.9	29.2	5.9	288
		Girl	6.7	91.8	1.5	51.7	46.3	2	402
	18	Boy	11.5	84.4	4.1	65	30.6	4.4	1397
		Girl	3.7	93.7	2.6	51.8	45.6	2.6	1966
	19	Boy	13.9	79.8	6.3	64.1	29.6	6.3	223
		Girl	4.9	89.6	5.5	46.6	48.9	4.5	309
Show off masturbating for pay	17	Boy	5.9	88.2	5.9	43.1	51.7	5.2	288
		Girl	1	97.3	1.7	32.1	65.7	2.2	402
	18	Boy	5.6	90.4	4	46.1	49.5	4.4	1397
		Girl	0.6	96.7	2.7	31.2	66	2.8	1966
	19	Boy	6.3	87.4	6.3	43.5	49.8	6.7	223
		Girl	1.9	92.6	5.5	31.1	64	4.9	309
Do oral sex for pay	17	Boy	8.7	85.4	5.9	50	44.8	5.2	288
		Girl	2.5	95.8	1.7	31.8	65.7	2.5	402
	18	Boy	9.2	86.8	4	51.5	44.3	4.2	1397
		Girl	1.3	96.1	2.6	32	65	3	1966
	19	Boy	12.6	81.2	6.2	53.8	40.4	5.8	223
		Girl	1.6	92.9	5.5	34.3	60.8	4.9	309
Have sexual intercourse for pay	17	Boy	11.5	81.9	6.6	52.1	42	5.9	288
		Girl	2.5	96	1.5	35.1	62.7	2.2	402
	18	Boy	9.8	86.3	3.9	51.3	44.5	4.2	1397
		Girl	1.2	96.2	2.6	32	65	3	1966
	19	Boy	12.1	81.6	6.3	53.8	39.9	6.3	223
		Girl	2.9	91.9	5.2	34	61.2	4.8	309
Do anal sex for pay	17	Boy	3.5	90.2	6.3	44.4	49.7	5.9	288
		Girl	1	97.5	1.5	28.4	69.4	2.2	402
	18	Boy	4.2	91.8	4	44.2	51.7	4.1	1397
		Girl	0.3	96.8	2.9	28.3	68.7	3	1966
	19	Boy	5.4	88.3	6.3	47.5	46.6	5.9	223
		Girl	0.3	94.2	5.5	30.4	64.4	5.2	309
Be photographed or filmed while doing sexual activities for pay	17	Boy	8.3	85.4	6.3	61.5	33.3	5.2	288
		Girl	3.5	95	1.5	40.3	57.5	2.2	402
	18	Boy	8.5	87.7	3.8	58.4	37.5	4.1	1397
		Girl	1.2	96.1	2.7	39.9	57	3.1	1966
	19	Boy	9	84.7	6.3	58.3	35.9	5.8	223
		Girl	1.3	92.9	5.8	37.9	56.3	5.8	309

Experiences with sexual abuse

Experiences of being exposed to involuntary sexual activity

The informants reported whether they had been exposed to any of the following sexual activities against their will: Indecent exposure, being touched in indecent ways, sexual intercourse, oral sex, anal sex, or masturbating towards someone.

About one third or more of the girls reported about less severe experiences, such as indecent exposure or indecent touching. More unexpected is the small gender difference concerning experiences with various kinds of penetrative sexually abusive acts. The small difference (except for the age group of 19, where the difference is larger) deviates both from other Norwegian studies (Mossige, 2001; Sætre, Holter, & Jebsen, 1986) and from international studies (Briere & Elliot, 2003; Finkelhor, Hotaling, Lewis, & Smith, 1990). In these studies the prevalence rates for females are higher than those for males, and the gender differences are larger. Due to differences in assessment procedures and definitions of abuse, though, it is hard to make comparisons between studies.

The prevalence rates for forced intercourse and anal sex among girls in the current study are either similar to or higher than the findings in other studies. However, the prevalence rates for boys are higher in the current study. It may simply be that a larger number of boys have had experiences with sexual violence. It may also be that the threshold for reporting such experiences has been lowered as a result of the focus upon sexual abuse, as well as the attention to equality between genders.

TABLE 12: EXPERIENCES WITH SEXUAL OFFENCES, BY AGE AND GENDER

	Somebody has exposed him/herself indecently towards you		Somebody has touched your body in an indecent way		You have exposed yourself masturbating towards somebody		You have had sexual inter-course		You have had oral sex		You have had anal sex		N= 100%
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
Boy 17	48	16.7	47	16.3	21	7.3	24	8.3	24	8.3	8	2.8	288
18	202	14.5	247	17.7	65	4.7	84	6.0	102	7.3	38	2.7	1397
19	27	12.1	48	21.5	9	4	22	9.9	19	8.5	4	1.8	223
Girl 17	100	24.9	126	31.3	8	2.0	36	9.0	29	7.2	11	2.7	402
18	429	21.8	661	33.6	52	2.6	190	9.7	138	7.0	70	3.6	1966
19	82	26.5	12	39.8	7	2.3	54	17.5	39	12.6	20	6.5	309

Age of victim at first sexual assault

For girls, the average age of first sexual assault is fourteen. For boys, the average age is fifteen (see Table 13). These numbers are similar to earlier findings from Norway (Mossige, 2001), indicating that the early teens is a vulnerable period for being exposed to different kinds of unwanted sexual activities. This is especially the case for girls.

TABLE 13: AGE OF VICTIM AT THE FIRST SEXUAL ASSAULT (AVERAGE)

		Age of victim	
		N	Mean
17	Boy	17	15.1
	Girl	116	14.2
18	Boy	110	15.3
	Girl	580	14.4
19	Boy	28	15.9
	Girl	117	14.7

Age difference between offender and victim

For more than 40% of the abused girls, the offender was more than five years older at the first sexual assault. For boys, the age difference was usually five years or less than five years (see Table 14).

TABLE 14: AGE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN OFFENDER AND VICTIM AT FIRST SEXUAL ASSAULT

		Differences more than 5 years		Differences 5 or less than 5 years	
		N	%	N	%
17	Boy	2	16.7	10	83.3
	Girl	51	52.6	46	47.4
18	Boy	20	21.5	73	78.5
	Girl	214	43.3	280	56.7
19	Boy	3	13.6	19	86.4
	Girl	42	42.9	56	57.1

Commercial sexual exploitation

Frequency of sexual exploitation

The informants were asked twice (in two different questions) whether they had ever exchanged sexual services for some kind of payment. Only one per cent or less answered affirmatively on both of these occasions (see Table 15). Of the boys, 2.8% to 5.4% (dependent on age) answered “yes” at least once. Only one or less than one per cent of the girls answered “yes” once. The gender difference was significant ($p < .01$). The proportion of respondents who had sold sexual services increased with age for boys, but not for girls.

Boys reporting more involvement in sex selling is in accordance with earlier findings from Norway (Pedersen & Hegna, 2000), although the proportion is higher in the current study. Nevertheless, sex selling is a low-frequent phenomenon; only a total of 17 individuals (both genders) replied on both questions that they had offered sexual services for pay. About 50 individuals answered affirmatively on one of the occasions.

TABLE 15: OFFERING SEXUAL SERVICES FOR PAY, BY AGE AND GENDER (% , N)

		Answered twice 'yes'	Answered once 'yes'	Answered twice 'no'	Missing	N = 100%
17	Boy	0.7	2.8	88.9	7.6	288
	Girl	0.7	1	95.3	3	402
18	Boy	0.6	3.4	90.3	5.7	1397
	Girl	0.1	0.9	96.2	2.8	1966
19	Boy	1.3	5.4	86.6	6.7	223
	Girl	-	1	95.1	3.9	309

Forms of sexual exploitation

When asked about what kinds of sexual activities they had offered, the trend was the same: Only between one and two per cent of the boys and less than one per cent of the girls reported that they had offered any kind of sexual activity for pay (see Table 16). For boys, on most of the sexual activities the 19-year-olds constituted the largest proportion who replied affirmatively. For girls, fewer activities were reported with increasing age. As the sexual activities we asked for are rather concrete, Table 16 most probably provides a quite reliable estimate of the commonality of offering sexual services for pay. Selling sex is not common, but more common among boys than among girls. Also, engagement in sex selling increases with age for boys.

TABLE 16: OFFERING SEXUAL SERVICES FOR PAY, BY AGE AND GENDER (% , N)

			Respondent has done it			N = 100%
			Yes	No	Missing	
Expose your sex organs to someone for pay	17	Boy	1.7	92.7	5.6	288
		Girl	1.2	97.3	1.5	402
	18	Boy	2.1	94.1	3.8	1397
		Girl	0.1	98.3	1.6	1966
	19	Boy	1.8	93.7	4.5	223
		Girl	0.3	96.8	2.9	309
Involve yourself in nude photographing or filming for pay	17	Boy	2.4	91.3	6.3	288
		Girl	1	97.3	1.7	402
	18	Boy	1.2	94.7	4.1	1397
		Girl	0.4	97.8	1.8	1966
	19	Boy	1.8	93.7	4.5	223
		Girl	0.6	96.2	3.2	309
Show off masturbating for pay	17	Boy	1.4	93	5.6	288
		Girl	0.5	97.5	2	402
	18	Boy	0.9	94.9	4.2	1397
		Girl	-	98.2	1.8	1966
	19	Boy	1.8	93.3	4.9	223
		Girl	-	96.8	3.2	309
Do oral sex for pay	17	Boy	1.7	92.7	5.6	288
		Girl	0.5	97.5	2	402
	18	Boy	1.5	94.4	4.1	1397
		Girl	0.2	98.1	1.7	1966
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		Girl	0.7	97.6	1.7	402
	18	Boy	1.4	94.6	4	1397
		Girl	0.1	98.2	1.7	1966
	19	Boy	3.6	91	5.4	223
		Girl	-	97.1	2.9	309
Do anal sex for pay	17	Boy	1.7	92.7	5.6	288
		Girl	0.5	97.8	1.7	402
	18	Boy	0.7	95.3	4	1397
		Girl	0.2	98	1.8	1966
	19	Boy	2.7	91.9	5.4	223
		Girl	-	97.1	2.9	309
Be photographed or filmed while doing sexual activities for pay	17	Boy	1.4	92.4	6.2	288
		Girl	0.7	97.3	2	402
	18	Boy	0.7	95.2	4.1	1397
		Girl	0.2	97.8	2	1966
	19	Boy	1.3	93.3	5.4	223
		Girl	-	96.1	3.9	309

Pornography

Frequency of watching pornography

Among both genders a high percentage reported that they watched pornography some times each month or less often (see Table 17). While most of the remaining boys (more than 30%) were frequent consumers of pornography, most of the remaining girls (about 30%) never watched pornography. Only a few females at each age level were frequent consumers of pornography. The consumption of pornography did not increase with age neither for boys nor for girls.

The motives for watching pornography may differ, dependent on the amount of consumption. Among the infrequent watchers there may be many “passers by” who watch more by accident than as a result of an active search for pornographic material. Among those who watch pornography several times each week are probably consumers who search more intentionally for pornographic material.

TABLE 17: FREQUENCY OF WATCHING PORNOGRAPHY, BY AGE AND GENDER (% , N)

		Never	Some times each month or less often	Some times or more each week	N = 100%
17	Boy	4.8	63.6	31.6	269
	Girl	33.2	66.4	0.5	382
18	Boy	4.5	62.1	33.4	1352
	Girl	28.7	71	0.3	1844
19	Boy	3.3	66.8	29.9	214
	Girl	27	71.6	1.4	293

Pornography – sex between adults and children

Very few girls (one per cent or less, dependent on age) reported having watched pornography displaying sex between adults and children (see Table 18). This share of girls totals 12 informants. About five per cent of the boys at every age level (110 informants totally) reported having watched this kind of pornography. Even though the use of such pornographic material is not very common, the proportion of boys who reported having watched this kind of pornography is five to ten times higher than that for girls. Adults having sex with children is not accepted in the Norwegian culture. The five per cent of boys who reported having watched this kind of pornography thus admit being consumers of a product without much cultural, moral, or legal

legitimacy. Even if we assume that a few of these boys are “accidental watchers”, five per cent is a quite high proportion. In order to find this type of pornography on the Internet (the only place where it is available), the consumer needs to search intentionally.

TABLE 18: WATCHING SEX BETWEEN ADULTS AND CHILDREN, BY AGE AND GENDER (% , N)

		Has watched this sort of pornography	Never has watched pornography	No information	N = 100%
17	Boy	5.6	3.8	90.6	288
	Girl	1	35.3	63.7	402
18	Boy	5.4	4.6	90	1397
	Girl	0.4	28.4	71.2	1966
19	Boy	4.9	2.3	92.8	223
	Girl	0.3	28.5	71.2	309

Note. “No information” includes respondents who have watched pornography but not sex between adults and children, and also those who have not given an answer.

Pornography - opinion about friends’ use of pornography

The gender differences concerning pornography consumption are reflected in the respondents’ estimation of the frequency with which their friends watch pornography. At every age level boys assumed a higher frequency of consumption among their friends, compared with what the girls assumed (see Table 19). The boys’ answers indicate that pornography watching is common, while girls did not take for granted that their peers watch pornography. Both girls and boys at every age level assumed that their friends do not watch pornographic films displaying sex between adults and children. This is in accordance with what most of them reported about their own consumption of such pornographic material.

TABLE 19: RESPONDENTS’ OPINION ABOUT FREQUENCY OF WATCHING PORNOGRAPHIC FILMS AMONG HIS/HER FRIENDS (AVERAGE)

	17		18		19	
	Boy	Girl	Boy	Girl	Boy	Girl
How often do your friends watch pornographic films?	2.37	2.04	3.41	2.15	3.41	2.29
How often do your friends watch pornographic films dealing with adults having sex with children?	1.24	1.08	1.25	1.07	1.23	1.09

Note. The scale: 1 – never, 5 – very often.

Sexual Abuse in Norway: Age, Risk, and Attitudes

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Age constellation victim – offender

The 2001-study (Mossige, 2001) revealed that the majority of the girls who reported having been abused, had been abused between the age of 15 and 19. The offender was most often someone between 15 and 19 years of age. In 47.7% of the cases in which the female respondents reported having been assaulted when they were between 15 and 19 years of age, the offender was within this same age group.

A somewhat different pattern appeared in the present study: the vast majority of the girls who reported having been sexually abused, had been abused when they were between 10 and 14 years old. Most of the girls who had been abused at this age had been abused by someone between 15 and 19 years of age (see Table 20).

TABLE 20: GIRLS EXPOSED TO SEXUAL ABUSE DISTRIBUTED ON AGE, SEEN IN CONNECTION WITH ABUSERS DISTRIBUTED ON AGE

		Age of offender					Total
		Less than 10 years old	10-14 years old	15-19 years old	20-24 years old	25 years or older	
Girls who were sexually abused when less than 10 years old	Number of girls	5	10	13	1	46	75
	Part of abused girls less than 10 years	6.7%	13.3%	17.3%	1.3%	61.3%	100%
	Part of abusers based on age	83.3%	25%	4.1%	0.6%	18.7%	9.8%
Girls who were sexually abused at the age between 10 and 14	Number of girls	1	30	278	137	182	628
	Part of abused girls 10-14 years	0.2%	4.8%	44.3%	21.8%	29%	100%
	Part of abusers based on age	16.7%	75%	88.5%	85.6%	74%	82%
Girls who were sexually abused at the age between 15 and 18	Number of girls	0	0	23	22	18	63
	Part of abused girls 15-18 years			36.5%	34.9%	28.6%	100%
	Part of abusers based on age			7.3%	13.8%	7.3%	8.2%
Total	Number of girls	6	40	314	160	246	766
	Part of abused girls	0.8%	5.2%	41%	20.9%	32.1%	100%
	Part of abusers	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

The horizontal lines in Table 20 show the distribution of girls within the same group of age, distributed on the different age groups of offenders. The vertical lines show the distribution of offenders within the same group of age, distributed on the different age groups of girls.

As can be seen in Table 20, most girls who reported experiences of sexual abuse were abused at the age between 10 and 14. In 44.3% of the cases where the assault had taken place at this age, the offender was between 15 and 19 years of age. 21.8% of the girls who were abused at the age between 10 and 14 met an offender between 20 and 24 years of age, and in 29% of the cases the offender was 25 years or older.

Apparently, the most common victim - offender constellation is a victim at the age between 10 and 14, being abused by someone (most often a male) between 15 and 19 years of age. Only 9.8% of the abused girls reported that the abuse took place when they were less than 10 years old. In 46 of these 75 cases the offender was 25 years or older.

Risk of abusing others

Both in the 2001-study and in the present study, the majority of sexual abusers were reported to be between 15 and 19 years of age. 9.5% of Norwegian boys within this age group in the present study admitted that they had persuaded, pushed, or forced someone into participating in sexual activities. 1.9% of Norwegian girls at this age reported about the same. The victims of such abusers are for the most part people a bit younger (between 10 and 14 years of age). As the number of 15 to 19-year-old abusers amounts to quite many people, it would be interesting to know what characterizes these individuals. What distinguishes them from non-abusers at the same age?

Victims of abuse have been found to be at increased risk of abusing others (Bagley, Wood, & Young, 1994; Cantwell, 1988; Worling, 1995; Zgourides, Monto, & Harris, 1994), frequently referred to as the “victim-offender cycle” (Glasser et al., 2001; Lambie, Seymour, Lee, & Adams, 2002; Lane, 1997). This relationship was examined in the current study as well, and the pattern was quite clear: Personal experiences with sexual abuse increase the risk of abusing others. Table 21 displays the odds of abusing others, depending on whether the person has been abused himself/herself (having controlled for gender).

TABLE 21: ODDS OF ABUSING OTHERS

	Odds ratio
Has not been abused	1
Has experienced 1-3 different kinds of sexual abuse	3.9
Has experienced 4-6 different kinds of sexual abuse	9

Note. Examples of “different kinds of sexual abuse” are: “someone exposed him/herself indecently towards you”, “you have had sexual intercourse”, “you have had anal sex”.

As can be seen in Table 21, there is a much greater probability that someone who has experienced sexual abuse will abuse others. The probability of abusing others is nine times higher for someone who has experienced 4 to 6 different kinds of sexual abuse, compared to someone who has not been abused. This same tendency is also evident when comparing the proportion of abusers among those who have been abused, with the proportion of abusers among those who have not been abused (see Table 22).

TABLE 22: PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS WHO HAVE NOT ABUSED/HAVE ABUSED OTHERS, DEPENDENT ON PERSONAL EXPERIENCES WITH SEXUAL ABUSE

	Have not abused others	Have abused others
	% (N)	% (N)
Have not been abused	97 (2830)	3 (88)
Have experienced 1-3 different kinds of sexual abuse	93.1 (1729)	6.9 (129)
Have experienced 4-6 different kinds of sexual abuse	81.7 (138)	18.3 (31)

Note. See Note to Table 21.

It is evident from Table 22 that a higher percentage of those who have been abused have abused others, compared to those who have not been abused. 3% of respondents who have not been abused themselves have abused others, compared to 6.9% of respondents who have experienced 1 to 3 different kinds of sexual abuse. 18.3% of respondents who have experienced 4 to 6 different kinds of sexual abuse report that they have abused others. Apparently, the risk of abusing others increases with the number of different abuse experiences. Still, it should be noted that the group of respondents who report having experienced 4 to 6 different kinds of sexual abuse, consists of far fewer people compared to the group that has not been abused. Thus, a larger number of people who have not been abused, report having abused others. This is despite the portion of abusers being considerably smaller in this group.

In sum, the majority of offenders are between 15 and 19 years of age, and they are most likely to abuse people at the age between 10 and 14. Consistent with these findings, as many as 19.1% of the male respondents (aged 18 or 19) in a study conducted by Hegna, Mossige, and Wichstrom (2004) reported that they could imagine having sex with a 13 to 14-year-old. As there is a greater likelihood for those who have been abused themselves to abuse others, there seems to be a vicious cycle in which youngsters aged 15 to 19 abuse people a bit younger. The victims of such abuse will again be more likely to abuse others when they grow somewhat older. These victims are likely to abuse still others, leading to a very destructive spiral of abuse.

Attitudes towards sexual abuse

Why is it that a larger portion of people who have been abused themselves abuse others, compared with those who have not been abused? Part of the explanation could be that abusive experiences change peoples' attitudes towards sexual relations and sexual abuse. In the same vein, could it be that the attitudes of abusers (both those who have been abused themselves and those who have not been abused) differ from the attitudes of non-abusers? In order to investigate these issues, we compared attitudes towards sexual abuse and commercial sexual exploitation for different groups of respondents, having different experiences with sexual abuse.

Acceptance of sex with a child

There were several attitudinal measures in the questionnaire. One of the questions contained various statements concerning sexual relationships between children and adults. For each statement the respondents were asked to mark on a scale from 1 to 5 the degree to which they agreed. Table 23 displays the distribution of mean scores for three of the statements for six different groups of respondents. The groups were defined based on the respondents' own abuse history.

TABLE 23: DISTRIBUTION OF MEAN SCORES ON STATEMENTS PROMOTING SEXUAL RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN CHILDREN AND ADULTS (%)

	Have not abused others			Have abused others		
	Not abused	Abused in 1-3 different ways	Abused in 4-6 different ways	Not abused	Abused in 1-3 different ways	Abused in 4-6 different ways
1	81.1	79.5	75.6	64.7	56.7	58.1
2	15.5	16.8	18.5	22.4	32.3	25.8
3	3.4	3.7	5.9	12.9	11	16.1

Note. 1 = mean scores from 1 to 2.99; 2 = a mean score of 3; 3 = mean scores from 3.01 to 5. The scale ranged from 1-5 (high scores indicate agreement).

As can be seen in Table 23, respondents who have not abused others, but are victims of abuse, have higher mean scores compared with respondents who have neither abused others nor been abused themselves. Those who have been abused thus believe to a larger degree that an adult and a child should be allowed to have sex together if they both want to, that sex between a child and an adult is *not* likely to hurt the child in major ways, and that many children would like to have sex with an adult once they have tried it. The same tendency appears for the group of respondents who has abused others. Those who have abused others and have been abused in 4 to 6 different ways agree more with the statements compared with those who have abused others but are not victims of abuse.

In sum, victims of abuse agree more with the statements compared with those who have not been abused. Also, abusers have higher mean scores compared with the group that has not abused others. This is the case both for those who have not been abused and for those who have been abused.

Probability of having sex with a child

The respondents were also asked to report on a scale from 1 to 5 the probability with which they would have sex with a child aged 10 to 12 if nobody knew and there would be no penalty. The distribution of scores is displayed in Table 24.

TABLE 24: PROBABILITY OF HAVING SEX WITH A CHILD AGED 10-12 (%)

	Have not abused others			Have abused others		
	Not abused	Abused in 1-3 different ways	Abused in 4-6 different ways	Not abused	Abused in 1-3 different ways	Abused in 4-6 different ways
1	99.1	99.0	96.4	98.9	94.6	90.3
2	0.2	0.3	2.2	1.1	2.3	0
3	0.7	0.7	1.5	0	3.1	9.7

Note. 1 = scores from 1 to 2; 2 = a score of 3; 3 = scores from 4 to 5. The scale ranged from 1-5 (high scores indicate a high probability).

Respondents who have not abused others but have been abused themselves, have higher scores compared with respondents who have neither abused others nor been abused themselves. The group that has not abused others, but has been abused in 1 to 3 different ways, has quite similar scores to the group that has not been abused. The difference appears when comparing those who have been abused in 4 to 6 different ways, with those who have not been abused or those who have been abused in 1 to 3 different ways. The proportion of respondents who have scores within the range of 4 and 5 is twice as high for those who have been abused in 4 to 6 different ways compared with the other two groups.

Again, the same pattern appears for the group that has abused others. Those who have been abused themselves have higher scores compared with non-victims of abuse. 98.9% of those who have abused others but have not been abused themselves have scores within the range of 1 and 2. The equivalent for those who have been abused in 4 to 6 different ways is 90.3%. None of those who have abused others but have not been abused themselves, score within the range of 4 and 5, compared with 9.7% of those who have abused others and have been abused in 4 to 6 different ways.

Agreement with rape myths

TABLE 25: ATTITUDES CONCERNING ACCEPTANCE OF RAPE MYTHS (%)

	Have not abused others			Have abused others		
	Not abused	Abused in 1-3 different ways	Abused in 4-6 different ways	Not abused	Abused in 1-3 different ways	Abused in 4-6 different ways
1	68.8	63.5	50.4	39.1	33.3	38.7
2	28.8	32.8	39.1	54	54.8	45.2
3	2.4	3.7	10.5	6.9	11.9	16.1

Note. 1 = mean scores from 1 to 2.99; 2 = mean scores from 3 to 5; 3 = mean scores from 5.01 to 7. The scale ranged from 1-7 (high scores indicate high agreement).

The respondents were asked to report on a scale from 1 to 7 the degree to which they agreed with several rape myths. These were myths such as: “If a girl participates in kissing and petting, it is her own fault if her partner forces her into having sex”, and “Many boys have an unconscious wish to rape girls”. As can be seen in Table 25, those who have neither abused others nor been abused themselves, agree less with the myths compared with those who have not abused others but have been abused. The same tendency appears for

those who have abused others. 16.1% of those who have abused others and have been abused in 4 to 6 different ways have mean scores within the highest range, compared with 6.9% of those who have abused others but have not been abused themselves. The equivalent is 2.4% for those who have neither abused others nor been abused.

Offering sexual services for pay

TABLE 26: OFFERING SEXUAL SERVICES FOR PAY (%)

	Have not abused others			Have abused others		
	Not abused	Abused in 1-3 different ways	Abused in 4-6 different ways	Not abused	Abused in 1-3 different ways	Abused in 4-6 different ways
1	96.1	96.3	88.5	78.8	76.8	52
2	2.2	2.1	3.1	12.9	11.6	20
3	1.8	1.6	8.5	8.2	11.6	28

Note. 1 = scores from 0 to 2; 2 = scores from 3 to 5; 3 = scores from 6 to 7.
High scores (3) indicate high willingness to offer sexual services.

Table 26 displays the distribution of scores on the question concerning whether or not the respondents could imagine engaging in seven different kinds of sexual activities for pay in the future. A high score implies that the respondent could imagine selling various types of sexual services in the future.

Again, the respondents with the highest scores are those who have abused others and have been abused in 4 to 6 different ways. 28% of these respondents score within the highest range, while 1.8% of those who have neither abused others nor been victims of abuse fall within this same category. 52% of those who have abused others and have been abused in 4 to 6 different ways have scores within the lowest range, with a corresponding 96.1% of those who have neither abused others nor been abused themselves. Respondents who have abused others and have been abused themselves thus report greater willingness to engage in different kinds of sexual activities for pay in the future.

Attitudes concerning sexual abuse of youths

TABLE 27: ATTITUDES CONCERNING SEXUAL ABUSE OF YOUTHS (%)

	Have not abused others			Have abused others		
	Not abused	Abused in 1-3 different ways	Abused in 4-6 different ways	Not abused	Abused in 1-3 different ways	Abused in 4-6 different ways
1	97.5	97.4	91.9	87.4	82.9	75.9
2	2.1	2.2	5.9	11.5	14.6	10.3
3	0.4	0.5	2.2	1.1	2.4	13.8

Note. 1 = mean scores from 1 to 2.99; 2 = a mean score of 3; 3 = mean scores from 3.01 to 5. The scale ranged from 1 to 5 (high scores indicate positive attitudes).

The respondents were asked to rate on a scale from 1 to 5 the degree to which they agreed with three statements concerning sexual abuse of youths. The questions concerned whether or not youths are responsible themselves if they are sexually abused, whether youths have to tolerate to be sexually abused by their friends, and whether the respondents could imagine participating in sexual abuse of another youth if several others took part. The same pattern that was found in the other attitudinal measures came to view (see Table 27). The respondents having the highest mean scores are those who have abused others and have been abused in 4 to 6 different ways. 75.9% of the respondents in this group have mean scores within the lowest range, compared with 97.5% of the respondents who have neither abused others nor been abused.

Conclusion

To conclude, the respondents' attitudes seem to depend systematically upon the respondents' own experiences with sexual abuse. Victims of abuse are more supportive of attitudes related to different kinds of sexual exploitation, compared with respondents who have not been abused. This same pattern appears for those who have abused others, compared with those who have not abused others. The respondents being the least supportive of the various attitudes are those who have neither abused others nor been abused. The opposite pole is those who have both abused others and have been abused.

It should be noted, though, that the differences between the groups are significant only at the .05 level. Also, some of the groups consist of quite few people. This is especially the case for the group of respondents who have both abused others and have been abused in 4 to 6 different ways. Thus,

even though a higher proportion of this group has scores within the highest response category for most attitudinal measures, the number of people within the different response categories is quite low for this group. One should therefore be careful drawing definite conclusions concerning differences between the groups based on the existing data. Due to these considerations, some of the same analyses were performed based on data from five of the countries. Such a merger gives a larger number of people in each of the groups, providing greater statistical power in the analyses. The results are reported in the country comparative part of the report.

POLAND

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Introduction

In Poland the project was carried out by TNS OBOP to the order of PRO-ECPAT, the Global Network to End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes. The research project was managed by Prof. Zbigniew Izdebski, PhD.

The surveyed sample was representative for the province and the type of the secondary school (divided into four types of schools, i.e. general secondary school, profiled secondary school, technical secondary school, vocational school). The survey was carried out in randomly selected 250 secondary schools in Poland (41 vocational schools, 56 technical secondary schools, 112 general secondary schools and 41 profiled secondary schools). In each of the schools, the survey was conducted in a randomly selected class of the second grade.

In the case of the Polish questionnaire, additional 75 questions were written by Prof. Zbigniew Izdebski, PhD.

Methodology

The youth survey was carried out in 250 schools. One class of the second grade had been selected. Since we had assumed that each class had the average of 20 students, we estimated that the survey would cover 5,000 second-graders of secondary schools¹¹. The field work covered the period from April 19, 2004 to May 13, 2004.

In course of the survey, a letter to the management of schools, a letter to inform parents, and a letter to obtain the consent of the parents, were prepared. The letters to parents were left at schools after the survey. Each of the letters included information related to the survey, i.e. objectives, organisation and principles of the survey to be conducted at schools.

¹¹ Due to the assumed methodology all the analyses in the youth survey covered 5,173 students.

The aforementioned documents were submitted in order to inform the management of schools and parents about the survey. In course of writing the letters, we assumed that the manner of communicating and discussing with the management of schools differ from that of addressing parents. It was important to avoid any influence from parents upon the respondents and their answers to the questions of the survey. Some questions concerned sexual abuse in the family and it was important to make the participants feel secure to give true answers to all the questions in the survey. Research on sexual abuse indicate that one of the places where sexual abuse takes place is home (Putnam, 2003, p. 271). Since the aim of the survey was to show the real face of the phenomenon, participants were encouraged to answer the questionnaire sincerely. According to the Personal Data Protection Act from August, 29 1997 parent's consent is necessary only with people who are invited to take part in the survey are under the age of 18. . In the survey only those students who were officially below the age of 18 needed to have their parents' consent. The remaining part of the sample – those who were 18 – decided by themselves whether they wanted to take part in the survey¹².

The survey used the method of a questionnaire. Students filled in the questionnaire themselves during lesson in the presence of the surveyor. Their teacher was not present in the classroom during the survey to make the respondents feel free when answering the questions. The surveyor's task was to present the aims and topic of the survey. The surveyor provided information about how to fill in the questionnaire and the rules for participating in the survey (voluntary participation, possibility of resigning from participation, filling in the questionnaire or skipping any of the questions). While students were filling in the questionnaire, the surveyor was allowed only to provide technical tips about how to fill in the questionnaire without suggesting any answers. Students were also informed that assistance will be

¹² The survey of students of senior secondary schools was carried out in the first half of 2004. Thus, we assumed that before May 2004 approximately every second student would turn 18, i.e. they would have their 18th birthday. The sample eventually included 2,815 17-year-old students and 2,347 18-year-old ones (54% and 45% respectively). Eleven students did not indicate their age in the questionnaire. All the respondents who were not 18 years old at the time of the survey, and those who did not indicate their age were included in the analyses only following receipt of their parents' written consent. Students who had not handed such written consent and were not of age or had not indicated their age, were excluded from the survey and statistical analyses.

provided if any emotional problems occurred while they participated in the survey. The assistance would be provided by school pedagogue, teacher of Family Planning and homeroom teachers or by appropriate counselling offices (addresses available from the above teachers).

Prior to the field phase of the survey, a piloting survey was conducted in order to test the survey procedure and completeness of survey's questions. The piloting survey took place in two senior secondary schools: 43 student questionnaires were collected.

Sample

The choice of the survey sample aimed at making sure that the schools are representative both in terms of senior secondary school type and province. The sample was constructed on the basis of the publication "Education and upbringing in the school year 2002/2003". Its structure was based on the number of students in senior secondary schools. The first step was to estimate the number of schools to be tested. Information about the number of students was taken into account. Randomizing according to number of schools could distort the test sample.

TABLE A: NUMBER OF SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN THE SAMPLE

	Students (thousand)	Percentage	Number of schools
Vocational school	94	16.3	41
High school	258.3	44.9	112
Profiled secondary school	94.2	16.3	41
Technical college	129.6	22.5	56
	576.1	100	250

The next step was to estimate the number of schools to be randomly selected in particular provinces. Then, one second grade of each school was randomly selected. All the students from each selected grade were taken into account in the survey. The operating scheme for randomizing was the Internet lists of secondary schools provided by particular regional boards of education. The survey was conducted from 19.04.2004 to 13.05.2004 (the actual survey was preceded by the piloting one). 5194 questionnaires were collected from students of 250 surveyed schools. Eventually, 5173 student questionnaires were qualified for the analysis. 99 surveyors from surveying network of TNS OBOP took part in the survey. These surveyors of TNS OBOP received training to fulfil their duties.

New system of education

At the end of 2001 the amended Education System Act came into force. As of 01.09.2002, it introduced a new structure of secondary education. According to the new structure, graduates of junior high schools may continue their education in four types of schools: high schools, profiled high schools, technical secondary schools and vocational schools. The website of the Ministry of Education and Sports provides the following characteristics of the four types of schools, taking into account the period of study and available diplomas:

1. high school

- period of study: three years
- graduation allows the student to obtain the certificate of general education after passing the GCSE exam

2. profiled high school

- period of study: three years
- the education involves studying in projected profiles of general vocational education: environment shaping, economics and administration, agriculture and food industry, services, clothes designing, chemical environment studies, social, forestry and wood-processing, transport and forwarding, electronics, electrical engineering, mechanical techniques of manufacture, information management,
- graduation allows the student to obtain the certificate of general education after passing the GCSE exam
- graduation enables the student to continue education in post-secondary schools with the period of study between half a year and a year.

3. technical secondary school

- period of study: four years
- graduation allows the student to obtain the diploma acknowledging vocational skills as well as to obtain the certificate of general education after passing the GCSE exam

4. vocational school

- period of study: not less than two years and not more than three years
- graduation allows the student to obtain the diploma acknowledging vocational skills after passing an exam; it also allows the student to continue education in a supplementary high school or a supplementary technical secondary school.

Perception of parents

The youth were presented with some statements about how they perceived their parents' attitudes towards the respondents in the period of puberty. The students' task was to decide to what extent the statements apply to their perceptions of the relations to parents.

TABLE 1: PERCEPTION OF THE PARENTS BY AGE AND GENDER (% , N)

	Age	Gender	1 – 2	3 – 4	5 - 6	N =100%
They have let me decide on things myself	17	Boy	13.2	47	39.8	1328
		Girl	18.9	42.3	38.8	1478
	18	Boy	17	45.6	37.4	1245
		Girl	18.3	40.6	41.1	1093
They have been very controlling	17	Boy	26.2	46.7	27.1	1329
		Girl	30.4	38.8	30.8	1472
	18	Boy	25.2	46.3	28.5	1244
		Girl	29.6	43.8	26.6	1092
They rarely communicated with me	17	Boy	57.9	28.7	13.4	1326
		Girl	58.7	23.1	18.2	1473
	18	Boy	54.7	29.9	15.4	1243
		Girl	58.7	25	16.3	1092
They have been caring towards me	17	Boy	3.1	22.2	74.7	1326
		Girl	2.8	16.9	80.3	1476
	18	Boy	4.3	20.9	74.8	1244
		Girl	4.2	15.7	80.1	1091
They have understood my problems and worries	17	Boy	16.5	42.5	41	1327
		Girl	16.9	37	46.1	1476
	18	Boy	16.4	39.6	44	1245
		Girl	17.1	35.6	47.3	1094
They have not given me the support I needed.	17	Boy	71.5	18.7	9.8	1323
		Girl	68.9	19.9	11.2	1475
	18	Boy	70.5	19.5	10	1236
		Girl	68.7	18.3	13	1092
They have not understood my needs and wishes	17	Boy	52	33	15	1322
		Girl	53.7	29.3	17	1473
	18	Boy	52.7	33.5	13.8	1234
		Girl	53.8	27.7	18.5	1092

Note. The scale: 1 – does not correspond at all, 6 – correspond completely.

Interestingly, the vast majority of the surveyed students reported that their parents were supportive and cared for them. Less than 5% of respondents did not agree with the statement.

The fact that some of the youth had a feeling that they could not count on their parents and that they were treated as younger than they actually

were is worth considering, since it seems that this type of attitude may make children unwilling to share their problems and worries with their parents.

The feeling of teenagers that they could not count on their parents during the period of adolescence most strongly¹³ coexists with the feeling that:

- parents did not understand my needs ($r=0.58$)
- parents did not understand my worries and problems ($r=0.48$)
- parents seldom talked to me ($r=0.45$)
- parents did not care for me ($r=0.32$)

The feeling of teenagers that their parents treated them indulgently, i.e. younger than they actually were, most strongly¹⁴ coexists with the feeling that:

- parents were overprotective ($r=0.49$)
- parents were very controlling

Mental health – report of depression

The questionnaire contained some statements that concerned problems and difficulties which young people may have (Table 2). The task for the students in the survey was to mark to what extent particular statements applied to their mood during the previous week. They could use a four-grade scale where '1' meant 'strongly disagree', '2' meant 'rather disagree', '3' meant 'rather agree' and '4' meant 'strongly agree'.

The statement concerned the following difficulties:

- sleeping problems,
- feeling of depression, sadness, misery,
- feeling of helplessness about future,
- feeling that one has to fight for everything,
- feeling of tension,
- worrying about too many things at once.

Statements of such type aimed at characterizing the youth on the basis of their attitude towards things and problems that young people usually encounter and the extent to which they try to keep control over their lives or,

¹³ Higher than 0.3 correlation coefficients were taken into account.

¹⁴ Higher than 0.3 correlation coefficients were taken into account.

on the contrary, the extent to which they feel overwhelmed, do not believe in themselves, or are likely to be depressed.

TABLE 2: RESPONDENTS' MENTAL HEALTH BY AGE AND GENDER (% , N)

During the last week, have you...	Age	Gender	Does not correspond at all	Correspond a little	Correspond quite well	Correspond very well	N =100%
felt that everything is a struggle?	17	Boy	20	40	27.2	12.8	1329
		Girl	15.3	42	31.4	11.3	1473
	18	Boy	19.5	37.5	29.9	13.1	1246
		Girl	20	36.8	31.4	11.8	1089
had any trouble sleeping?	17	Boy	44	25	18.1	12.9	1330
		Girl	36.2	21.2	25.5	17.1	1479
	18	Boy	41	24.9	19.9	14.2	1238
		Girl	33.9	22.1	24.8	19.2	1092
felt unhappy, miserable or depressed?	17	Boy	28.5	34.3	23.2	14	1312
		Girl	16.9	25.7	31.3	26.1	1477
	18	Boy	25.4	32.9	26.4	15.3	1234
		Girl	18.3	25.5	30.5	25.7	1087
Felt helplessness towards the future?	17	Boy	27.7	34.9	24.5	12.9	1330
		Girl	16.1	30.3	31.2	22.4	1477
	18	Boy	25.3	34.5	26.7	13.5	1242
		Girl	18.7	27.4	31.1	22.8	1094
felt tied up or tensed?	17	Boy	29.5	33.8	25.9	10.8	1329
		Girl	20.8	30.6	32.2	16.4	1476
	18	Boy	26.4	33	28.4	12.2	1241
		Girl	23.8	28.3	29.4	18.5	1092
worried too much about things?	17	Boy	19.1	23.7	33.4	23.8	1329
		Girl	12.4	17.6	36.1	33.9	1479
	18	Boy	19.7	22.6	32.2	25.5	1245
		Girl	13.8	17.6	32.9	35.7	1093

The teenagers' answers about difficulties and problems that they encounter indicate that during the previous week students of the second grades of senior high schools most often had a feeling that they worried about too many things at once.

Almost every second person admitted that they had recently felt unhappy, overwhelmed and helpless about the things that they encounter. Declarations of feeling sad and miserable are more often reported by girls. Also the feeling of helplessness is more often reported by girls. On the basis of the young people's answers, the conclusion can be drawn that bad mood, even if it is only temporary, is quite common among young people in their everyday lives. In such situations trustworthy people to whom one can turn to ask for help or advice may be very helpful. The results differ between genders - girls generally score the highest, apart from the statement "Everything is a

struggle”. Boys of 17 years of age score always highest on “Does not correspond at all”. As a rule, most responses are in the middle of the scale. The exception to this is “Had any trouble sleeping”, where the majority respond “Does not correspond at all” and “Worried too much about things”, where the emphasis is on “Correspond quite well” and “Correspond very well”. Reports about negative feelings increase with age for both genders.

Asking for help

TABLE 3: PERSON TO WHOM ADOLESCENT WOULD MOST LIKELY TALK IF HE OR SHE HAD A PERSONAL PROBLEM (PERCENTAGE OF ALL RESPONDENTS AT THIS AGE AND GENDER GROUP ANSWERING POSITIVELY TO THIS STATEMENT)

	17		18	
	Boy	Girl	Boy	Girl
No one	34.1	18.2	28.1	16.6
Mother	54.2	60.1	50.6	63.6
Father	34.2	21.7	34.6	24.6
Sibling, friend	89.1	95	87.9	94.8
Relative, neighbour	24.9	25.4	26.3	25.5
Teacher, counsellor	11.5	13.5	11.4	14
N = 100%	1335	1480	1253	1094

The vast majority of respondents would decide to look for help from a friend or a sibling in the case of a personal problem. In the case of boys, such possibility is declared by as many as 90%, and in the case of girls it is 95%. Mother was chosen in the second place. The person to whom the fewest would talk to is a teacher. Less girls than boys responded "no one". One third of the boys responded "no one".

Problem behaviour

Smoking

TABLE 4: SMOKING BY AGE AND GENDER (% , N)

Age	Gender	Has never smoked	Did smoke, but quit	Smokes, but not daily	Smokes daily	N =100%
17	Boy	46	17.9	13.9	22.2	1333
	Girl	48.6	14.9	19	17.5	1478
18	Boy	39	16.7	14.6	29.7	1246
	Girl	45.9	13.9	19.2	21	1086

Almost half of the number of teenagers declared that they had never smoked cigarettes – most of them are girls. At the same time, about 20% admitted that they smoked every day. Such behaviour is more common among boys than girls. For both boys and girls the number who smokes daily increases with age. More boys than girls have started to smoke but quit.

Consumption of alcohol – age at first drink

TABLE 5: AVERAGE AGE AT THE FIRST DRINK AND DRINKING FREQUENCY DURING THE LAST 12 MONTHS BY RESPONDENTS' AGE AND GENDER

Age	Gender	Average age at the first drink	Drinking during the last 12 months (%)			N =100%
			Never	2-3 times a month or less often	About once a week or more often	
17	Boy	13.7	4.7	67.5	27.8	1315
	Girl	14.5	5.5	81.5	13	1455
18	Boy	13.9	2.4	64.5	33.1	1234
	Girl	14.9	3.2	80.5	16.3	1079

The average age in which students drank alcohol for the first time is somewhat higher for girls than for boys., the difference being a year or close to a year. Girls respond to a higher degree than boys that they did not had a drink during the last year. The number responding „never” decreases with age for both sexes. The major part of both sexes responds “2 – 3 times a month or more seldom”, and in this category we can notice the difference between girls and boys - The percentage of girls is higher than boys: While about 80% of the girls report an alcohol consumption it this level the corresponding proportion for boys is about 65%., Relatively more boys than girls reported that they use alcohol rather frequent; once a week or more often (almost twice as many boys). The number who have a drink 2-3 times a month or less often decreases slightly with age, while the proportion of frequent drinkers increase with age for both genders.

Experiences of problems related to alcohol

We asked the youth about different types of negative experiences connected to their drinking alcohol during the last twelve months.

TABLE 6: EXPERIENCES OF PROBLEMS RELATED TO DRINKING ALCOHOL BY AGE AND GENDER

	Age	Gender	Has never experienced	Has at least once experienced	Missing or abstainers	N=100%
Been in a fight, behaved badly or hurt other people	17	Boy	60.6	33.5	5.9	1335
		Girl	81.4	10.5	8.1	1480
	18	Boy	56.9	38.1	5	1253
		Girl	83.5	12.2	4.3	1094
Missed/dropped school	17	Boy	53.7	40.5	5.8	1335
		Girl	66.1	26.1	7.8	1480
	18	Boy	50.1	45	4.9	1253
		Girl	65.4	30.4	4.2	1094
Finding yourself in a place without knowing how got there	17	Boy	68.8	24.5	6.7	1335
		Girl	75.5	16.1	8.4	1480
	18	Boy	65.5	29.3	5.2	1253
		Girl	77.8	17.8	4.4	1094
Been sad, miserable for a while	17	Boy	59.2	34.4	6.4	1335
		Girl	52.4	39.7	7.9	1480
	18	Boy	57.2	37.6	5.2	1253
		Girl	55.5	40.2	4.3	1094
A neighbour or a friend have told you to stop or reduce drinking	17	Boy	61.7	32.1	6.2	1335
		Girl	60.2	31.8	8	1480
	18	Boy	58.1	36.8	5.1	1253
		Girl	63.3	32.4	4.3	1094

As table 6 indicates, definitely more boys than girls participated in a fight under the influence of alcohol. Other problematic behaviours (such as hurting other people, finding himself in a place without knowing how he got there, school dropping caused by misuse of alcohol) are relatively more frequent among boys compared to girls, while an internalizing problem like being sad is a more common experience related to drinking alcohol among girls.

Lawbreaking behaviour

TABLE 7: DRUG USING, CRIMINAL BEHAVIOUR, AND BUYING SEXUAL SERVICES BY AGE AND GENDER (% , N)

Respondent has...	Age	Gender	Yes	No	Missing	N =100%
stolen something worth more than £100 (in polish survey it was 500PLN)	17	Boy	3.7	95.8	0.5	1335
		Girl	0.6	98.8	0.6	1480
	18	Boy	5.3	93.8	0.9	1253
		Girl	1.2	98.2	0.6	1094
Committed burglary/theft by breaking and entering	17	Boy	5.2	94.3	0.5	1335
		Girl	0.7	98.7	0.6	1480
	18	Boy	5.7	93	1.3	1253
		Girl	1	98.1	0.9	1094
stolen a car/motorbike	17	Boy	2.7	96.6	0.7	1335
		Girl	0.5	98.8	0.7	1480
	18	Boy	3.4	95.2	1.3	1253
		Girl	1	98.3	0.7	1094
used hashish or marihuana	17	Boy	33.8	65.3	0.9	1335
		Girl	21.3	77.7	1	1480
	18	Boy	39.9	59	1.1	1253
		Girl	22.1	77.4	0.5	1094
used cocaine, heroin, amphetamine	17	Boy	11.4	88	0.6	1335
		Girl	11.5	87.6	0.9	1480
	18	Boy	16.8	81.8	1.4	1253
		Girl	11.1	88.5	0.4	1094
bought sexual services	17	Boy	3.7	95.7	0.6	1335
		Girl	0.5	98.6	0.9	1480
	18	Boy	5.1	93.8	1.1	1253
		Girl	0.5	98.9	0.6	1094

The results show that 3.7% of boys aged 17 and 5.3% of boys aged 18 have stolen something worth more than 100£ (500 PLN in Polish survey). The proportion of such offences among girls was definitely smaller. Also for other categories of offences boys appeared to be more often involved than girls. Both genders score the highest on using hashish/marijuana. 34-40% of the boys and a bit over 20% of the girls answers “yes” on this question. Approximately 11% of both sexes report that they have used any of cocaine/heroin/-amphetamine. The exception is boys of 18 where 16,8% confirms having used these types of drugs. The trend is that all kinds of criminal behaviour increase with age particular for boys and to a less extent for girls.

Attitudes

Attitudes about sexual relations between child and adult

TABLE 8: ATTITUDES TOWARDS SEXUAL RELATIONS BETWEEN A CHILD AND AN ADULT BY AGE AND GENDER (% , N)

			Disagree	Neither nor	Agree	N =100%
An adult and a child should be allowed to have sex together if they both want to	17	Boy	69.1	10.3	20.6	1326
		Girl	74.7	8.9	16.4	1477
	18	Boy	66.5	12.3	21.2	1240
		Girl	72.4	10.5	17.1	1094
Sex between a child and adult is likely to hurt the child in major ways	17	Boy	13.6	8.5	77.9	1327
		Girl	11.5	7.6	80.9	1475
	18	Boy	15.1	9.5	75.4	1238
		Girl	10.1	7.2	82.7	1089
Many children would like to have sex with an adult once they tried it	17	Boy	29.8	39.1	31.1	1311
		Girl	43.3	35.7	21	1461
	18	Boy	31.1	37.6	31.3	1215
		Girl	41.5	36	22.5	1075

In the case of attitudes towards sexual relations between children and adults clearly more boys than girls reported that sex between a child and an adult should be allowed provided that both the child and the adult wanted it. It is worth noticing, however, that acceptance of such relations proves to be at the level of about 20% among boys and 17% among girls. Every third male respondent agreed with a statement that children would want to have sex with adults if they tried it once. About 20% of girls reported the same. Approximately 80% of the respondents agreed with the statement “Sex between a child and adult is likely to hurt the child in major ways”. Girls are most unanimous on this and have the least disagreement with this statement.

Attitudes towards sexual exploitation of other young people

TABLE 9: ATTITUDES TOWARDS SEXUAL EXPLOITATION BY AGE AND GENDER (% , N)

			Disagree	Neither nor	Agree	N =100%
If young people let other exploit them sexually, it is their own responsibility	17	Boy	20	19.6	60.4	1297
		Girl	28.9	19	52.1	1472
	18	Boy	23.8	20.4	55.8	1213
		Girl	26.2	21.3	52.5	1085
If several took part, you would participate in exploiting another youth sexually	17	Boy	89.3	5.4	5.3	1296
		Girl	98.2	0.6	1.2	1473
	18	Boy	89.6	6.4	4	1211
		Girl	98.3	0.9	0.8	1087
Youth that are part of a group of friends must tolerate to be sexually exploited by the others	17	Boy	88.9	5.3	5.8	1292
		Girl	95.6	1.8	2.6	1468
	18	Boy	86.9	8.4	4.7	1201
		Girl	95.6	2.4	2	1085

The vast majority of the surveyed students would not accept to participate in sexual exploitation of another young person if other people would be involved (negation of this fact – 90% boys, 98% girls). A similarly high proportion of negation occurs in the case of tolerating sexual exploitation within the group of friends among both genders but the proportion of those who disagree is the highest among girls. However, it was observed that a distinct proportion (50-60% – with a bit more boys than girls) of respondents agreed with the statement that if young people let others exploit them sexually, it is these young people who are responsible for it.

Probability of sex with a child

TABLE 10: PROBABILITY OF HAVING SEX WITH A 10 TO 12-YEAR-OLD CHILD IF NOBODY WOULD KNOW AND THERE WOULD BE NO PENALTY

		Unlikely	Neither nor	Likely	Missing	N = 100%
17	Boy	95.7	1.9	1.9	0.4	1335
	Girl	98.5	0.3	0.7	0.6	1480
18	Boy	94.2	1.9	2.9	1	1253
	Girl	98.5	0.4	0.6	0.5	1094

In the hypothetical case of having sex with a person of 10-12 year of age, in a situation where nobody know about it and with the assumption that there will be no punishment, a definite majority of the respondents declared aversion to this kind of behaviour. There were, however, some few respondents who accepted the possibility of this kind of contact and there were more boys than girls in this group.

Attitudes about doing sexual activities for pay

TABLE 11: ATTITUDES TOWARDS PAID SEX BY AGE AND GENDER (% OF ALL RESPONDENTS)

			Could imagine doing it in the future			Can accept that someone else do it			N = 100%
			Yes	No	Missing	Yes	No	Missing	
Expose your sex organs to someone for pay	17	Boy	19.7	60.4	19.9	48.6	31.9	19.5	1335
		Girl	15.1	70.6	14.3	47.8	38.6	13.6	1480
	18	Boy	16.3	57.8	25.9	44.9	29.3	25.8	1253
		Girl	15.4	68.4	16.2	48.2	36.4	15.4	1094
Involve yourself in nude photo- graphing or filming for pay	17	Boy	7.6	72.4	20	47	33.5	19.5	1335
		Girl	9.1	76.8	14.1	50.5	36.1	13.4	1480
	18	Boy	6.6	67.3	26.1	43.7	30.5	25.8	1253
		Girl	9.1	74.5	16.4	48.3	35.8	15.9	1094
Show off masturbating for pay	17	Boy	7.9	72.1	20	27.4	53	19.6	1335
		Girl	2.1	84	13.9	17.5	69.3	13.2	1480
	18	Boy	6.3	67.2	26.5	25.7	47.9	26.4	1253
		Girl	1.3	82.1	16.6	17.4	66.8	15.8	1094
Do oral sex for pay	17	Boy	25.1	54.6	20.3	44.1	35.4	20.5	1335
		Girl	14.7	70.5	14.8	36.6	48.9	14.5	1480
	18	Boy	21.2	52.5	26.3	38.3	35.3	26.4	1253
		Girl	13.7	69.5	16.8	34.8	48.5	16.7	1094
Have sexual intercourse for pay	17	Boy	41.1	39.3	19.6	56.1	23.5	20.4	1335
		Girl	36.1	49.5	14.4	53.4	32.7	13.9	1480
	18	Boy	33.1	40.1	26.8	49.3	23.7	27	1253
		Girl	32.2	51.4	16.4	50.7	33	16.3	1094
Make anal sex for pay	17	Boy	21.4	57.5	21.1	41.5	37.2	21.3	1335
		Girl	11.6	72.8	15.6	35.7	49.1	15.2	1480
	18	Boy	17.2	54.5	28.3	36.2	36.1	27.7	1253
		Girl	10.8	71.7	17.5	33.2	49.5	17.3	1094
Be photographed or filmed while doing sexual activities for pay	17	Boy	7.8	71.7	20.5	39.5	40.7	19.8	1335
		Girl	2.7	83.1	14.2	28.1	58.6	13.3	1480
	18	Boy	7.5	65.5	27	36.6	36.9	26.5	1253
		Girl	2	81.7	16.3	26.5	57.8	15.7	1094

The outcomes of the analysis indicate that boys to a higher degree than girls could imagine to participate in the sexual situations described in the survey. Almost 20% of boys (aged 17) would agree to expose themselves for money. Boys of 17 distinguishes themselves also regarding the other activities. Every fourth of this age group would accept having oral sex for money, and every fifth - anal sex. In the case of girls, the proportions are lower, but indicate that for some of the sexual activities a substantial part of them accept the possibility of participating in such situations.

Experiences of sexual abuse

Experiences of being exposed to sexual activities against your will

TABLE 12: EXPERIENCES OF SEXUAL OFFENCES BY AGE AND GENDER (% FROM ALL RESPONDENTS)

	Somebody has exposed him/herself indecently towards you		Somebody has touched your body in an indecent way		You exposed yourself masturbating towards somebody		You have had sexual inter-course		You have had oral sex		You have had anal sex		N=100%
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
Boy 17	211	15.8	256	19.2	80	6.0	205	15.4	127	9.5	94	7.0	1335
18	270	21.5	288	23.0	96	7.7	315	25.1	187	14.9	143	11.4	1253
Girl 17	210	14.2	304	20.5	13	0.9	101	6.8	58	3.9	43	2.9	1480
18	174	15.9	225	20.6	10	0.9	92	8.4	53	4.8	27	2.5	1094

As can be seen from Table 12 the prevalence rate reported by boys for any kind of forced sexual activity is higher or similar to that reported by girls. The incidence of different forced sexual acts reported by Polish girls are similar to those we find reported by girls from the Nordic countries. The prevalence rate for the different sexual acts reported by boys is not only high compared to what is reported by girls. It is also very high when we compare to other international studies. In some international studies the female-to-male ratios are typically between 1,5:1 and 3:1 (Putnam, 2003). It remains to explain the relatively frequent reports of abusive experiences among male informants in Poland.

Age of victim at first sexual assault

TABLE 13: AGE OF VICTIM AT THE FIRST SEXUAL ASSAULT (AVERAGE)

		Age of victim	
		N	Mean
17	Boy	165	15.4
	Girl	288	14.8
18	Boy	175	15.9
	Girl	227	15

The average age of a victim of sexual assault is a little different for boys and girls. Girls report that they experience the first sexual assault at a younger age than boys for both age-groups.

Age difference between offender and victim

TABLE 14: AGE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN OFFENDER AND VICTIM AT FIRST SEXUAL ASSAULT (% FROM RESPONDENT GIVING AN ANSWER)

		Differences more than 5 years		Differences 5 or less than 5 years		N = 100%
		N	%	N	%	
17	Boy	15	11.2	119	88.8	134
	Girl	93	40.1	139	59.9	232
18	Boy	7	5.3	125	94.7	132
	Girl	70	38.9	110	61.1	180

40% of the girls (aged 17) who answered the above question were molested by a person 5 or more years older. In the case of boys of this group, the difference between ages of the victim and offender was more often less than 5 years (89% indications). For boys and girls of both ages, the abuser in most cases is less than five years older, but this constellation is most common for boys.

Commercial sexual exploitation

Frequency of sexual exploitation

TABLE 15: OFFERING PAID SEXUAL SERVICES BY AGE AND GENDER

		Answered twice 'yes'	Answered once 'yes'	Answered twice 'no'	Missing	N = 100%
17	Boy	0.8	19.4	72	7.8	1335
	Girl	0.3	11.4	81.7	6.6	1480
18	Boy	0.9	21.7	67.2	10.2	1253
	Girl	0.5	13.3	81	5.2	1094

The informants could report about experiences of selling sex on two different questions. Far more respondents say “yes” once than twice. More boys than girls reported “yes” on both questions. 0,5% of the girls and 1% of the boys responds “yes” twice. 20 % of the boys and 10% of the girls answered “yes” once.

TABLE 16: OFFERING SEXUAL SERVICES BY AGE AND GENDER (% , N)

			Respondent has done it			N = 100%
			Yes	No	Missing	
Expose your sex organs to someone for pay	17	Boy	6.4	88.1	5.5	1335
		Girl	3	93.5	3.5	1480
	18	Boy	7.4	85.6	6.9	1253
		Girl	4	92.5	3.5	1094
Involve yourself in nude photographing or filming for pay	17	Boy	1.9	92.3	5.8	1335
		Girl	0.9	95.5	3.4	1480
	18	Boy	2.2	90.2	7.6	1253
		Girl	1.6	94.8	3.6	1094
Show off masturbating for pay	17	Boy	3.6	90.9	5.5	1335
		Girl	0.3	96.5	3.2	1480
	18	Boy	3.8	88.8	7.4	1253
		Girl	0.7	95.9	3.4	1094
Do oral sex for pay	17	Boy	6.6	87.1	6.3	1335
		Girl	4.4	92	3.6	1480
	18	Boy	9.3	82.5	8.2	1253
		Girl	6	90.4	3.6	1094
Have sexual intercourse for pay	17	Boy	13.3	79.7	7	1335
		Girl	7.7	88.2	4.1	1480
	18	Boy	16.1	74.9	9	1253
		Girl	9.9	86.3	3.8	1094
Do anal sex for pay	17	Boy	5.8	86.9	7.3	1335
		Girl	2.6	92.9	4.5	1480
	18	Boy	7.3	83	9.7	1253
		Girl	3.9	91.6	4.5	1094
Be photographed or filmed while doing sexual activities for pay	17	Boy	1.9	92.2	5.9	1335
		Girl	0.4	96.6	3	1480
	18	Boy	2.8	89.1	8.1	1253
		Girl	0.5	96	3.5	1094

Table 16 indicates that, in case of every described sexual activity it is more common for boys to offer sexual activities for pay than for girls. It is worth noticing that the tendency for such behaviour is growing with age. Most of the sexual activities are low frequent phenomena. However some are reported to the extent that they can not be regarded as uncommon, like having sexual intercourse or do oral sex for pay.

Pornography

Frequency of watching pornography

TABLE 17: FREQUENCY OF WATCHING PORNOGRAPHY BY AGE AND GENDER (% , N)

		Never	Some times each month or less often	Some times or more each week	N = 100%
17	Boy	7.5	63.4	29.1	1316
	Girl	35.3	63.7	1	1466
18	Boy	8.8	63.6	27.6	1238
	Girl	34.2	65	0.8	1085

The study showed that the vast majority of respondents watched pornography from time to time monthly or less often. The proportion of these infrequent and incidental pornography watchers are very similar for genders and age groups (approximately 64%). This, however, changes dramatically in the case of watching pornography weekly or more often. Approximately 30% of boys and 1% of girls (both 17- and 18-year-olds) reply that they watch pornography some time or more each week. The group of “high-consumers” of pornography consists nearly exclusively of boys.

Pornography – sex between adults and children

TABLE 18: WATCHING SEX BETWEEN ADULTS AND CHILDREN BY AGE AND GENDER (% , N)

		Has watched this sort of pornography	Never has watched pornography	No information	N = 100%
17	Boy	7.5	7.9	84.6	1335
	Girl	1.2	35.2	63.6	1480
18	Boy	7.3	9.5	83.2	1253
	Girl	1.2	34.1	64.7	1094

Concerning watching sex between children and adults, the high number of missing answers is the most prevalent answer. Among those who watch this kind of pornography boys do it more often than girls.

Pornography – opinion about friends’ use of pornography

TABLE 19: RESPONDENTS’ OPINION ABOUT FREQUENCY OF WATCHING PORNOGRAPHIC FILMS AMONG HIS/HER FRIENDS (AVERAGE)

	17		18	
	Boy	Girl	Boy	Girl
How often do your friends watch pornographic films?	3.22	2.37	3.16	2.41
How often do your friends watch pornographic films dealing with adults having sex with children?	1.46	1.24	1.46	1.23

Note. The scale: 1 – never, 5 – very often.

We asked the youth how often their friends or acquaintances watch pornographic materials. The respondents could choose from the scale between 1 and 5, where 1 meant 'never' and 5 meant 'very often'. Boys indicated more often than girls that their friends or acquaintances watched pornographic movies. This is the case both when it comes to regular pornographic films and pornographic films displaying sex between adults and children. They believe however that the latter type of pornography is less common among their friends.

North - West RUSSIA

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Introduction

Sample

The survey was conducted in the North-Western region of Russia and covered four cities: St. Petersburg, Kaliningrad, Murmansk and Petrozavodsk. To provide a representative sample of children living in the North-Western region of Russia, a 3-stage sample design was used.

On the first two stages the cluster sample was used. On the first stage four big cities, from the region of North-West Russia: Saint-Petersburg, Petrozavodsk, Murmansk, and Kaliningrad were selected. The sample was comprised of 450 respondents from every city.

From every cluster (or city) five typical schools for teenagers were selected. These were: a secondary school (or gymnasium), a technical vocational school (or lyceum), a technical school (or college), a university, and governmental detention institutions for risk groups (pre-trial detention centre or asylum centre). Children at pre-trial detention centres and asylum centres were considered as the most vulnerable groups for violence and sexual exploitation.

Finally 90 respondents were selected from every school according following principles and quotas:

- age 14-21
- studying at grades «A», «B» and «C» at schools;
- training in different specialties at technical schools, technical vocational schools and higher education institutions in order to provide representative sample in terms of gender;
- at universities the selection of risk group minors was done on the basis of mechanical multiple sampling with variable step, whereas the step was stipulated by the number of adolescents staying at the institution at the time of survey.

The final sample had the following distribution of types of schools: 5% of respondents were from secondary schools , 41% from vocational schools,

27% from technical schools, 18% from higher education institutions, and 9% from governmental institutions for risk group minors. Less than 5% refused to complete the questionnaire.

In this report data from informants 16-18 year old are analysed. Overall, 1036 adolescents in age 16-18. answered the questionnaire, 48% were men and 52% young women. Distribution of the adolescents according to gender does not differ considerably from the gender balance of population at that ages of Russia at year 2004. According to data of State Committee on Statistics the population at these ages consists of 51% men and 49% girls.

Data collection

The same questionnaire that was applied in the other five countries was used. It was translated into Russian, and pilot survey carried out with 30 respondents. According to the results of the pilot survey some changes were introduced into the questionnaire to secure the same semantic meaning as in the original edition of the questionnaire. The Ministry of Education of the Russian Federation and Committees on Education of Saint-Petersburg, Petrozavodsk, Murmansk, and Kaliningrad gave their permission to data collection. Data collection was carried out in May-June 2004.

In all cities the survey was undertaken by trained interviewers who got instructions about the research procedure. Data collection was carried out at schools in classrooms during the lessons, with exception of detention centre for minors where respondents filled in questionnaire at the psychologist's room. Before filling in the questionnaire, interviewers informed adolescents about the goals of the research and gave relevant instructions as to how to work with the questionnaire.

The participation in the survey was voluntary for all adolescents. The survey procedure provided confidential nature of the received data: Participants were enciphered without recording their personal data. Every participant put his or her individual data into an envelope and sealed it up.

Perception of parents

Less than 18% of adolescents reported that their parents let them make their own independent decisions. Nearly half of boys and girls at the age of 18 reported that their parents did not let them decide themselves. More than 30% of the adolescents of both genders reported a high level of parental

control. A high level of parental control and absence of that parents “let me decide on things myself” may be to aspects of the same phenomena. Adolescents at age of 16 considered parents to be more controlling compared to the other age groups.

TABLE 1: PERCEPTION OF THE PARENTS BY AGE AND GENDER (% , N)

	Age	Gender	1 – 2	3 – 4	5 – 6	N =100%
They let me decide on things myself	16	Boy	46.1	35.7	18.2	154
		Girl	43.8	42.6	13.6	162
	17	Boy	41.5	42.9	15.6	147
		Girl	47	38	15	200
	18	Boy	48.6	41.7	9.7	144
		Girl	50.6	32.5	16.9	160
They have been very controlling	16	Boy	28	35	37	157
		Girl	22.7	42.3	35	163
	17	Boy	26.5	38.8	34.7	147
		Girl	27.4	38.8	33.8	201
	18	Boy	25.7	42.4	31.9	144
		Girl	24.2	41	34.8	161
They rarely communicated with me	16	Boy	75.2	15.6	9.2	153
		Girl	71.7	13.8	14.5	159
	17	Boy	71.3	17.5	11.2	143
		Girl	77.8	13.6	8.6	198
	18	Boy	76.9	14.7	8.4	143
		Girl	70.6	20.6	8.8	160
They were caring towards me	16	Boy	9.7	20.2	70.1	154
		Girl	6.7	17.2	76.1	163
	17	Boy	12.4	16.6	71	145
		Girl	6.6	12.1	81.3	198
	18	Boy	4.9	16	79.1	144
		Girl	8.9	10.8	80.3	157
They understood my problems and worries	16	Boy	16.3	30.8	52.9	153
		Girl	20.4	32.1	47.5	162
	17	Boy	18.6	29.7	51.7	145
		Girl	14.6	28.6	56.8	199
	18	Boy	11.9	33.6	54.5	143
		Girl	19.5	28.3	52.2	159
They did not give me the support I needed.	16	Boy	60.9	21.2	17.9	151
		Girl	55.3	22.3	22.4	161
	17	Boy	61.3	24.6	14.1	142
		Girl	50.5	26.3	23.2	198
	18	Boy	61.3	20.4	18.3	142
		Girl	59.1	22	18.9	159
They did not understand my needs and wishes	16	Boy	45.5	33.7	20.8	154
		Girl	44.4	35.6	20	160
	17	Boy	50.3	28.3	21.4	145
		Girl	50	23.5	26.5	200
	18	Boy	48.6	35.9	15.5	142
		Girl	43.7	29.7	26.6	158

Note. The scale: 1 – does not correspond at all, 6 – corresponds completely.

The overwhelming majority of young people - 71 to 78% - reported that their parents often communicate with them. Among 16 year old girls and 17 year old boys more than 10% reported that their parents hardly ever talk to them.

Girls from all age groups and 18-year-old boys seemed to regard their parents more caring than the rest of the boys did. Adolescents at the age of 17 and 18 more often regarded their parents as caring than those at the age of 16. About a half of all adolescents reported that their parents understand their problems and troubles. 14-23% of adolescents believed that their parents do not support them properly. This opinion was more common among girls at the age of 16 and 17 (22-23%). At age 16 27% of the adolescents thought that their parents did not understand their needs and wishes. This opinion was more often shared by girls at age 17 and 18 than by boys at the age of 18.

Mental health – reports of depression

Strong feelings that life is a struggle was reported mainly by boys (11-13%). Even more seldom adolescents reported any trouble with sleep. Reports of feeling unhappy, miserable and depressed, were more common among girls (17-22%). The feeling of helplessness towards the future corresponded quite well or very well most frequently for those in the age group of 16. Feeling tied up or tensed about different things was a relatively infrequent reported phenomena at every age and gender.

TABLE 2: RESPONDENTS' MENTAL HEALTH ACCORDING TO AGE AND GENDER (% , N)

During the last week, have you...	Age	Gender	Does not correspond at all	Correspond a little	Correspond quite well	Correspond very well	N =100%
felt that everything is a struggle?	16	Boy	38	34	14.7	13.3	150
		Girl	35.8	48.8	9.2	6.2	162
	17	Boy	41.5	34.5	13.4	10.6	142
		Girl	35.2	39.2	18.6	7	199
	18	Boy	36.6	32.4	19.3	11.7	145
		Girl	25.6	45.6	23.8	5	160
had any troubles with sleep?	16	Boy	55.3	28	10	6.7	150
		Girl	53.1	27.8	12.3	6.8	162
	17	Boy	61.3	20.4	12.7	5.6	142
		Girl	47.5	31	16.5	5	200
	18	Boy	55.9	23.8	14.7	5.6	143
		Girl	50.6	23.2	13.1	13.1	160

table 2:

felt unhappy, miserable or depressed?	16	Boy	45.9	31.5	16.4	6.2	146
		Girl	32.3	28.6	21.7	17.4	161
	17	Boy	43.6	32.1	14.3	10	140
		Girl	27.6	29.2	23.6	19.6	199
	18	Boy	43.4	28.3	18.6	9.7	145
		Girl	21	30.5	26.8	21.7	157
felt helplessness towards the future?	16	Boy	48.3	19.9	17.9	13.9	151
		Girl	36.3	37.5	15.6	10.6	160
	17	Boy	48.5	27.5	15.5	8.5	142
		Girl	29.4	39.1	24.9	6.6	197
	18	Boy	43.9	35.8	13.5	6.8	148
		Girl	28.5	43.7	18.3	9.5	158
felt tied up or tensed?	16	Boy	54	32	10.7	3.3	150
		Girl	50	31.5	13	5.5	162
	17	Boy	55.2	24.5	14	6.3	143
		Girl	40.7	36.2	16.1	7	199
	18	Boy	55.2	26.2	13.1	5.5	145
		Girl	36.5	44.7	14.5	4.3	159
worried too much about things?	16	Boy	43	38.9	13.4	4.7	149
		Girl	48.1	34	14.2	3.7	162
	17	Boy	52.1	27.5	14.1	6.3	142
		Girl	42.6	37.1	11.7	8.6	197
	18	Boy	46.2	33.6	14	6.2	143
		Girl	37.1	43.4	11.3	8.2	159

Asking for help

Seeking for help varied depending on age (Table 3). The per cent of adolescents who would never talk to anyone about their personal troubles increased from the junior to the senior age group. Persons to whom the adolescents would most likely speak to if they had a personal problem were as follows: on the first place – friends and siblings (71-90%), then – father (39-48%) and more seldom – mother (24-47%). Adolescents of all age groups were less inclined to seek for help from relatives, neighbours and teachers when they have difficulties (only 13-25%).

TABLE 3: PERSON TO WHOM ADOLESCENT WOULD MOST LIKELY SPEAK IF HE OR SHE HAD PERSONAL PROBLEM (NUMBER OF ALL RESPONDENTS IN THIS AGE AND GENDER GROUP AND % ANSWERING POSITIVELY TO THIS STATEMENT)

	16		17		18	
	Boy	Girl	Boy	Girl	Boy	Girl
No one	48.9	56.4	45.7	65	64.3	61.4
Mother	33.3	24.4	32.3	24.8	46.8	23.5
Father	39.7	47.7	39	43.7	46.1	38.6
Sibling, friend	78.7	79.1	71.3	85.9	77.9	89.8
Relative, neighbour	21.3	20.3	13.4	15	25.3	13.9
Teacher, counsellor	13.2	20.9	12.8	15.5	18.8	22.3
N = 100%	174	172	164	206	154	166

Girls were more inclined to talk to siblings and friends, especially those from the age groups of 17 and 18. Girls at the age of 16 and 17 would more often than boys talk to a father

Problem behaviour

Smoking

TABLE 4: SMOKING BY AGE AND GENDER (% , N)

Age	Gender	Has never smoked	Did smoke, but quit	Smokes, but not daily	Smokes daily	N =100%
16	Boy	29.5	9.8	13.9	46.8	173
	Girl	38.7	11.3	16.1	33.9	168
17	Boy	27.8	13.5	9.9	48.8	162
	Girl	41.4	8.9	19.2	30.5	203
18	Boy	30.9	14.5	7.9	46.7	152
	Girl	40.6	9.7	17	32.7	165

Non-smoking was reported by 28-31% of the boys and by 39-41% of the girls (Table 4). Daily smoking was common for more than 47% of boys and 31% of girls. Relatively more boys than girls at the age of 17 and 18 reported that they quitted smoking. The proportion of those who have never smoked is higher with increasing age. It seems as if smoking is a more frequent phenomena among the youngest informants which indicates that smoking is increasing among young people in Russia.

Consumption of alcohol

TABLE 5: AVERAGE AGE AT THE FIRST DRINK AND DRINKING FREQUENCY DURING THE LAST 12 MONTH BY RESPONDENT'S AGE AND GENDER

Age	Gender	Average age at the first drink	Drinking during the last 12 months			N =100%
			Never	2-3 times a month or less often	About once a week or more often	
16	Boy	13	8.3	55.6	36.1	169
	Girl	12.9	8.6	64.9	26.5	162
17	Boy	13.4	11	55.8	33.2	154
	Girl	13.7	11.7	56.3	32	197
18	Boy	13	13.8	47.4	38.8	152
	Girl	14.1	8.6	59.9	31.5	162

Abstainers among boys decreases from 14% among 18 year old to 8% among 16 year old (Table 5). There was no such a tendency among girls.

Age at the first drink of alcohol was about 13 for every group of age, among boys, whereas the age at the first drink for girls declined with decreasing age.

Experiences of problems related to alcohol

TABLE 6: EXPERIENCES OF PROBLEMS RELATED TO DRINKING ALCOHOL BY AGE AND GENDER

	Age	Gender	Has never experienced	Has at least once experienced	Missing or abstainers	N=100%
Was in a fight, behaved badly or hurt other people	16	Boy	33.3	30.5	36.2	174
		Girl	34.9	19.8	45.3	172
	17	Boy	33.5	28	38.5	164
		Girl	49.5	12.1	38.4	206
	18	Boy	29.2	31.2	39.6	154
		Girl	45.1	13.3	41.6	166
Missed/dropped school	16	Boy	27	34.5	38.5	174
		Girl	29.6	23.3	47.1	172
	17	Boy	23.8	36.6	39.6	164
		Girl	25.7	35	39.3	206
	18	Boy	20.8	37	42.2	154
		Girl	28.3	32.5	39.2	166
Finding yourself in a place without knowing how you got there	16	Boy	47.7	14.9	37.4	174
		Girl	40.7	9.9	49.4	172
	17	Boy	47	11.6	41.4	164
		Girl	56.3	5.3	38.4	206
	18	Boy	44.2	11.7	44.1	154
		Girl	48.2	9.6	42.2	166
Was sad, miserable for a while	16	Boy	34.5	28.7	36.8	174
		Girl	25.6	28.5	45.9	172
	17	Boy	37.8	21.3	40.9	164
		Girl	28.2	32.5	39.3	206
	18	Boy	35.7	22.1	42.2	154
		Girl	28.3	33.1	38.6	166
A neighbour or a friend told you to stop or reduce drinking	16	Boy	38.5	23.6	37.9	174
		Girl	34.9	18	47.1	172
	17	Boy	36.6	21.3	42.1	164
		Girl	39.8	21.8	38.4	206
	18	Boy	32.4	24.7	42.9	154
		Girl	36.1	21.7	42.2	166

Reported problems among boys resulting from use of alcohol, increased slightly with increasing age. Problems resulting from use of alcohol in all age groups were more often found among boys than girls. There was only one exception to this: feeling sad and miserable which was more often found among girls. This is an internalizing problem more common among girls than among boys.

Lawbreaking behaviour

TABLE 7: DRUG USING, CRIMINAL BEHAVIOUR AND BUYING SEXUAL SERVICES ACCORDING TO AGE AND GENDER (% , N)

Respondent has...	Age	Gender	Yes	No	Missing	N =100%
stolen something worth more than 100 RUB	16	Boy	8.6	83.4	8	174
		Girl	6.4	84.3	9.3	172
	17	Boy	12.8	81.1	6.1	164
		Girl	3.9	90.8	5.3	206
	18	Boy	20.2	71.4	8.4	154
		Girl	6	89.2	4.8	166
committed burglary/theft by breaking and entering	16	Boy	6.9	82.8	10.3	174
		Girl	2.3	87.8	9.9	172
	17	Boy	7.9	81.7	10.4	164
		Girl	1.5	92.2	6.3	206
	18	Boy	13	76.6	10.4	154
		Girl	2.4	90.4	7.2	166
stolen a car/motorbike	16	Boy	4.6	86.2	9.2	174
		Girl	1.7	89.6	8.7	172
	17	Boy	4.2	86	9.8	164
		Girl	0.5	93.2	6.3	206
	18	Boy	9.7	80.6	9.7	154
		Girl	3	91	6	166
used hashish or marihuana	16	Boy	25.3	66.7	8	174
		Girl	20.9	69.2	9.9	172
	17	Boy	26.8	64	9.2	164
		Girl	21.8	73.8	4.4	206
	18	Boy	31.8	59.1	9.1	154
		Girl	20.5	74.7	4.8	166
used cocaine, heroin, amphetamine	16	Boy	5.7	85.6	8.7	174
		Girl	7	83.1	9.9	172
	17	Boy	7.3	82.9	9.8	164
		Girl	6.3	88.4	5.3	206
	18	Boy	16.9	72.7	10.4	154
		Girl	6.6	88	5.4	166
bought sexual services	16	Boy	9.8	83.9	6.3	174
		Girl	1.7	89.5	8.8	172
	17	Boy	3.7	87.8	8.5	164
		Girl	0.5	93.2	6.3	206
	18	Boy	15.6	74.7	9.7	154
		Girl	1.2	92.8	6	166

Use of drugs as hashish/ marijuana was the most common criminal behaviour (Table 7). From 21-32% of the adolescents have tried these drugs. Among those who tried, the proportion of boys was higher than for girls at all age groups. Cocaine, heroine and amphetamine had been used by at least 7% of the adolescents, but among 18-year-old boys as many as 17% reported to have tried these kind of drugs.

Stealing was most prevalent among the older respondents. Few reported to have committed theft and burglary, but this criminal behaviour was more common among boys than among girls. Boys, at the age 18, most often reported about some kind of criminal behaviour. 20% of them have stolen things, 13% committed burglary and 10% had stolen a motorbike or car, and 16% reported to have bought sexual services.

Attitudes

Attitudes towards sexual relations between a child and an adult

TABLE 8: ATTITUDES TOWARDS SEXUAL RELATIONS BETWEEN CHILDREN AND ADULT BY AGE AND GENDER (% , N)

			Disagree	Neither nor	Agree	N =100%
An adult and a child should be allowed to have sex together if they both want to	16	Boy	52.9	17.4	29.7	155
		Girl	55.7	15.8	28.5	158
	17	Boy	53.2	13.7	33.1	139
		Girl	55.7	20.6	23.7	194
	18	Boy	55.1	15.5	29.4	136
		Girl	58.1	20.6	21.3	155
Sex between a child and adult is likely to hurt the child in major ways	16	Boy	36.6	14.7	48.7	156
		Girl	28	14	58	157
	17	Boy	34.3	13.3	52.4	143
		Girl	25	9.4	65.6	192
	18	Boy	29	15.2	55.8	138
		Girl	25	13.8	61.2	152
Many children would like to have sex with an adult once they tried it	16	Boy	45	26.1	28.9	149
		Girl	59.5	20.2	20.3	153
	17	Boy	52.2	28.2	19.6	138
		Girl	56.5	25.2	18.3	191
	18	Boy	55.5	24.8	19.7	137
		Girl	53.5	31	15.5	155

About 30% of boys at each age level agree with an attitude that a child and an adult should be allowed to have sex together if they both want to. Over half of the respondents of both genders do disagree with this attitude. Concerning the attitude that sex between an adult and a child can hurt the child, 49-56% of boys and 58-66% of girls agree. On the other hand 25% or more of the respondents disagree with the idea that such sex could hurt the child in major ways. The answers on these two attitudinal questions indicate that a relatively great minority of Russian adolescents support attitudes in favour of sex between an adult and a child.

Over a half of adolescents, with exception of 16-year-old boys, do not think that children would want to have sex with adults if they have once tried it. The percentage of those who agree with this statement decreases with increasing age.

Attitudes towards sexual exploitation of other young people

TABLE 9: ATTITUDES ABOUT SEXUAL EXPLOITATION BY AGE AND GENDER (% , N)

			Disagree	Neither nor	Agree	N =100%
If young people let other exploit them sexually, it is their own responsibility	16	Boy	12.7	20.6	66.7	126
		Girl	10.5	14.3	75.2	133
	17	Boy	20.5	11.6	67.9	112
		Girl	9.5	13.1	77.4	168
	18	Boy	7.1	12.7	80.2	126
		Girl	17.4	16.2	66.4	149
If several took part, you would participate in exploiting another youth sexually	16	Boy	66.7	25.2	8.1	123
		Girl	82	10.9	7.1	128
	17	Boy	63.2	21.9	14.9	114
		Girl	84.8	9.4	5.8	171
	18	Boy	73.8	15.9	10.3	126
		Girl	81.6	14.3	4.1	147
Youth that are part of a group of friends must tolerate sexual exploitation by the others	16	Boy	34.4	29.6	36	125
		Girl	42.2	21.1	36.7	128
	17	Boy	45.5	19.6	34.9	112
		Girl	51.5	21.9	26.6	169
	18	Boy	40.7	35.8	23.5	123
		Girl	53	16.8	30.2	149

The majority of adolescents are inclined to consider that victims who let other exploit them, are responsible for the exploitation – from 67% to 80% of adolescents (Table 9). Girls in age group of 16 and 17 as well as 18-year-old boys tended most often to agree with this statement. If several took part 4-7% of girls and 8-15% of boys would participate in sexual exploitation of another youth..Boys at the age of 17 and 18 were most in agreement with this attitude.

The view that the youth must tolerate sexual exploitation by the others in a group was shared by 24-36% of adolescents. This view was shared as much by girls as by boys, but the size of the relative support changed with age.

Possibility of sex with a child

TABLE 10: POSSIBILITY OF HAVING SEX WITH A 10 TO 12-YEAR-OLD CHILD IF NOBODY KNOWS AND THERE IS BE NO PENALTY

		Unlikely	Neither nor	Likely	Missing	N = 100%
16	Boy	78.2	2.9	2.2 [4]	16.7	174
	Girl	83.1	4.2	1.7 [3]	11	172
17	Boy	77.4	3.7	3 [5]	15.9	164
	Girl	89.3	2.4	2.9 [6]	5.4	206
18	Boy	88.3	3.3	1.3 [2]	7.1	154
	Girl	92.8	2.4	-	4.8	166

The hypothetical possibility of having sex with a child aged 10-12 provided nobody knows about it and there is no punishment, was highest among the group of 17-year-old adolescents., However there were only 11 persons out of 370 respondents in this age group who admitted this (Table 10).

Attitudes towards doing sexual activities for pay

TABLE 11: ATTITUDES TOWARDS DOING SEXUAL ACTIVITIES FOR PAY BY AGE AND GENDER (% FROM ALL RESPONDENTS)

			Could imagine doing it in the future			Can accept that someone else can do it			N = 100%
			Yes	No	Missing	Yes	No	Missing	
Expose your sex organs to someone for pay	16	Boy	4.6	70.1	25.3	47.1	27	25.9	174
		Girl	8.7	78.5	12.8	60.5	26.1	13.4	172
	17	Boy	6.7	65.3	28	39.6	34.2	26.2	164
		Girl	6.8	81.1	12.1	57.3	29.1	13.6	206
	18	Boy	7.8	79.2	13	57.8	28.6	13.6	154
		Girl	7.2	83.2	9.6	64.5	24.7	10.8	166
Involve yourself in nude photographing or shooting for pay	16	Boy	10.3	63.8	25.9	51.1	25.3	23.6	174
		Girl	16.9	70.3	12.8	59.9	26.1	14	172
	17	Boy	11	59.1	29.9	41.5	34.1	24.4	164
		Girl	13.6	72.8	13.6	63.1	23.8	13.1	206
	18	Boy	17.5	70.1	12.4	61	24.7	14.3	154
		Girl	21.1	68.1	10.8	67.5	22.9	9.6	166
Show off masturbating for pay	16	Boy	5.2	68.4	26.4	31.6	42.5	25.9	174
		Girl	4.7	79.6	15.7	41.3	43.6	15.1	172
	17	Boy	3.7	67.1	29.2	28	45.7	26.3	164
		Girl	1.5	85.9	12.6	41.7	43.7	14.6	206
	18	Boy	4.5	80.6	14.9	44.8	40.3	14.9	154
		Girl	3	84.3	12.7	54.8	33.2	12	166
Do oral sex for pay	16	Boy	5.7	65.6	28.7	38.5	35.1	26.4	174
		Girl	7	76.1	16.9	48.8	35.5	15.7	172
	17	Boy	4.2	65.9	29.9	30.5	39	30.5	164
		Girl	2.4	78.7	18.9	42.7	38.8	18.5	206
	18	Boy	6.5	74	19.5	51.3	28.6	20.1	154
		Girl	7.8	76.5	15.7	55.4	29.5	15.1	166

table 11:

Have sexual intercourse for pay	16	Boy	13.2	60.9	25.9	40.5	32.2	25.3	174
		Girl	9.3	71.5	19.2	52.9	28.5	18.6	172
	17	Boy	9.2	62.8	28	37.2	36	26.8	164
		Girl	4.9	78.6	16.5	55.3	28.2	16.5	206
	18	Boy	14.3	68.2	17.5	50.6	29.2	20.2	154
		Girl	9.6	77.7	12.7	62.7	24.1	13.2	166
Do anal sex for pay	16	Boy	5.7	67.3	27	35.1	39.7	25.2	174
		Girl	3.5	80.2	16.3	44.2	40.7	15.1	172
	17	Boy	3.7	67.6	28.7	31.7	41.5	26.8	164
		Girl	1	85	14	47.1	38.8	14.1	206
	18	Boy	6.5	80.5	13	47.4	38.3	14.3	154
		Girl	3	84.9	12.1	55.4	33.8	10.8	166
Be photographed or shot while doing sexual activities for pay	16	Boy	6.9	64.9	28.2	37.4	37.3	25.3	174
		Girl	5.2	78.5	16.3	47.1	36.6	16.3	172
	17	Boy	6.7	65.3	28	33.5	40.3	26.2	164
		Girl	2.9	83	14.1	52.9	33	14.1	206
	18	Boy	9.1	77.3	13.6	51.3	34.4	14.3	154
		Girl	7.2	81.4	11.4	60.8	27.1	12.1	166

The sexual activity that most adolescents could imagine to be involved in for pay was nude photographing or shooting. However a considerable proportion of the informants could imagine to be involved in intercourse for pay (from 5 to 14%).

Anal sex and showing oneself masturbating for pay were the least acceptable activities.

About 5-9% of adolescents could imagine themselves showing their genitals for pay. Generally boys are somewhat more willing to imagine that they might do some of these activities for pay in the future than girls. However for many activities the differences are small and goes even in the opposite direction.

For every sexual activity the part of the respondents who can accept that someone else can do this activity exceeds the part who are not willing to accept it. However in some groups of respondents the number of missing answers are high. Girls are to some extent more willing to accept that someone else do these activities for pay than boys are.

Experiences of sexual abuse

Experiences of being exposed to sexual activities against your will

TABLE 12: EXPERIENCES OF SEXUAL ABUSE BY AGE AND GENDER (% FROM ALL RESPONDENTS)

	Somebody has exposed him/herself indecently towards you		Somebody has touched your body in an indecent way		You exposed yourself masturbating towards somebody		You have had sexual inter-course		You have had oral sex		You have had anal sex		N=100 %
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
Boy 16	16	9.2	33	19.0	10	5.7	21	12.1	8	4.6	6	3.4	174
17	24	14.6	25	15.2	9	5.5	18	11.0	8	4.9	6	3.7	164
18	21	13.6	21	13.6	3	1.9	13	8.4	3	1.9	3	1.9	154
Girl 16	35	20.3	36	20.9	2	1.2	11	6.4	3	1.7	1	0.6	172
17	57	27.7	61	29.6	10	4.9	27	13.1	9	4.4	4	1.9	206
18	50	30.1	59	35.5	8	4.8	17	10.2	6	3.6	7	4.2	166

From 20 to 36 of the girls report to have experienced any kind of non-penetrative sexual offences. From 9 up to 19% of the boys report the same. Concerning penetrative sexual offences the picture is different and more unexpected. Many of these kinds of offences are reported as frequently by boys as by girls. The high reported prevalence rates among boys are difficult to explain.

Age of victim at first sexual assault

TABLE 13: AGE OF VICTIM AT THE FIRST SEXUAL ASSAULT (AVERAGE)

		Age of victim	
		N	Mean
16	Boy	28	13.5
	Girl	38	13.7
17	Boy	28	13.3
	Girl	68	14.2
18	Boy	27	14.5
	Girl	64	13.8

Among 16-year-old adolescents both boys and girls experienced the first sexual assault nearly at the same age (Table 13). Among 17-year-old victims boys on the average, were nearly one year younger than girls the first time it happened. 18-year-old girls experienced the first sexual assault at an earlier

age than boys. In this material there are no clear pattern concerning gender and the age when the first sexual assault happened.

Age difference between offender and victim

TABLE 14: AGE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN OFFENDER AND VICTIM AT FIRST SEXUAL ASSAULT (% FROM RESPONDENT GIVING AN ANSWER)

		Differences more than 5 years		Differences 5 or less than 5 years		N = 100%
		N	%	N	%	
16	Boy	3	20	12	80	15
	Girl	9	45	11	55	20
17	Boy	9	52.9	8	47.1	17
	Girl	24	58.5	17	41.5	41
18	Boy	7	31.8	15	68.2	22
	Girl	27	67.5	13	32.5	40

It was more common that the offender was more than 5 years older than his victim in cases with female victims than with male victims. (Table 14). An age difference of five or less than five years between offender and victim is more common for male victims than for female victims.

Commercial sexual exploitation

Frequency of sexual exploitation

TABLE 15: OFFERING SEXUAL SERVICES FOR PAY BY AGE AND GENDER (QUESTIONS 16 AND 48)

		Answered twice 'yes'	Answered once 'yes'	Answered twice 'no'	Missing	N = 100%
16	Boy	0.6 [1]	5.2 [9]	69.5	24.7	174
	Girl	0.6 [1]	7 [12]	67.4	25	172
17	Boy	-	9.2 [15]	64	26.8	164
	Girl	-	4.4 [9]	71.3	24.3	206
18	Boy	2.6 [4]	10.4 [16]	55.2	31.8	154
	Girl	1.8 [3]	8.4 [14]	69.3	20.5	166

The informants could report about experiences of selling sex on two different questions. Very few reported about any instance of selling sex. Commercial sexual exploitation appears as a very low-frequent activity. More respondents reported “yes” once than twice. More boys than girls reported “yes” on both questions.

Forms of sexual exploitation

TABLE 16: OFFERING SEXUAL SERVICES FOR PAY BY AGE AND GENDER (% , N)

			Respondent did it		Missing	N = 100%
			Yes	No		
Expose your sex organs to someone for pay	16	Boy	0.6 [1]	79.3	20.1	174
		Girl	1.2 [2]	86	12.8	172
	17	Boy	2.4 [4]	75	22.6	164
		Girl	1.9 [4]	89.4	8.7	206
	18	Boy	1.9 [3]	85.7	12.4	154
		Girl	-	91	9	166
Involve yourself in nude photographing or filming for pay	16	Boy	3.4 [6]	77.6	19	174
		Girl	6.4 [11]	82.6	11	172
	17	Boy	4.9 [8]	71.3	23.8	164
		Girl	2.9 [6]	85.4	11.7	206
	18	Boy	7.8 [12]	79.2	13	154
		Girl	6	86.7	7.3	166
Show off masturbating for pay	16	Boy	1.1 [2]	78.2	20.7	174
		Girl	3.5 [6]	84.9	11.6	172
	17	Boy	1.8 [3]	74.4	23.8	164
		Girl	-	89.8	10.2	206
	18	Boy	3.2 [5]	83.8	13	154
		Girl	-	92.2	7.8	166
Do oral sex for pay	16	Boy	4 [7]	75.9	20.1	174
		Girl	2.3 [4]	84.3	13.4	172
	17	Boy	3 [5]	73.2	23.8	164
		Girl	0.5 [1]	84	15.5	206
	18	Boy	1.3 [2]	80.5	18.2	154
		Girl	3 [5]	85.5	11.5	166
Have sexual intercourse for pay	16	Boy	2.3 [4]	77	20.7	174
		Girl	1.7 [3]	83.1	15.2	172
	17	Boy	3 [5]	73.8	23.2	164
		Girl	1 [2]	85.9	13.1	206
	18	Boy	5.8 [9]	74	20.2	154
		Girl	3.6 [6]	86.1	10.3	166
Do anal sex for pay	16	Boy	1.7 [3]	78.2	20.1	174
		Girl	0.6 [1]	87.2	12.2	172
	17	Boy	2.4 [4]	73.8	23.8	164
		Girl	-	87.9	12.1	206
	18	Boy	1.9 [3]	83.8	14.3	154
		Girl	0.6 [1]	91	8.4	166
Be photographed or filmed while doing sexual activities for pay	16	Boy	1.7 [3]	78.2	20.1	174
		Girl	0.6 [1]	86.6	12.8	172
	17	Boy	1.8 [3]	74.4	23.8	164
		Girl	1 [2]	87.3	11.7	206
	18	Boy	0.6 [1]	85.7	13.7	154
		Girl	1.2 [2]	90.4	8.4	166

As already shown very few have reported about any experiences with exchanging sexual activities for pay. However the exchange of some kinds of sexual activities are less uncommon than others. Nude photographing or filming is the most common reported form of commercial sexual exploitation. 26 boys and 28 girls report about an experience of nude posing, The next most common sexual activity for pay is sexual intercourse. 18 boys and 11 girls reported about sexual intercourse for pay which is 3,7% of the sample of boys and 2% of the sample of girls. .

Pornography

Frequency of watching pornography

TABLE 17: FREQUENCY OF WATCHING PORNOGRAPHY ACCORDING TO AGE AND GENDER (% , N)

		Never	Some times each month or less often	Some times or more each week	N = 100%
16	Boy	45.2	44.7	10.1	159
	Girl	65.0	31.2	3.8	157
17	Boy	56.0	35.5	8.5	141
	Girl	66.2	32.8	1.0	192
18	Boy	44.3	45.8	9.9	142
	Girl	61.8	36.9	1.3	157

Boys do watch pornography more often than girls do. The group of frequent watchers is increasing with age among boys. Very few girls report to watch pornography on a frequent basis.

Pornography – sex between adults and children

TABLE 18: WATCHING SEX BETWEEN ADULTS AND CHILDREN ACCORDING TO AGE AND GENDER (% , N)

		Watched this sort of pornography	Never watched pornography	No information	N = 100%
16	Boy	1.7	44.3	54	174
	Girl	1.2	59.8	39	172
17	Boy	3.7	46.3	50	164
	Girl	1	63.6	35.4	206
18	Boy	1.9	42.9	55.2	154
	Girl	1.2	61.4	37.4	166

Note. “No information” may include respondents who watched pornography but not sex between adults and children and also them who haven’t given an answer.

Very few have ever watched child-pornography. Boys watched child-pornography a little more often than girls (Table 18). 17-year-old boys most often reported watching child pornography – almost 4% did.

Pornography – opinion on friends’ use of pornography

TABLE 19: RESPONDENTS’ OPINION ON FREQUENCY OF WATCHING PORNOGRAPHIC FILMS AMONG HIS/HER FRIENDS (AVERAGE)

	16		17		18	
	Boy	Girl	Boy	Girl	Boy	Girl
How often do your friends watch pornographic films?	2.83	2.7	2.83	2.49	2.97	2.6
How often do your friends watch pornographic films dealing with adults having sex with children?	1.54	1.55	1.61	1.5	1.46	1.42

Note. The scale: 1 – never, 5 – very often.

Boys assumed that their friends watch pornographic films more frequent than girls assume, but the differences are relatively small. Their opinion about how often their friends watch pornographic films dealing with adults having sex with children are nearly the same. Both boys and girls assume that their friends watch this kind of pornography very rarely.

SWEDEN

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Introduction

Sample

In Sweden, young people go to compulsory school for 9 years. After that, most of them continue at voluntary high school for 3 years. According to official statistics, about 90% of the Swedish 18-year-olds are enrolled in high school, 2% are studying in other education alternatives such as university, and 8% are not studying (Sweden's Statistical Database).

The study obtained data from a representative community and high school based sample from five Swedish cities of different sizes (Malmö, Luleå, Falköping, Haparanda, and Stockholm, the capital of Sweden). Two of Sweden's three biggest cities with more than 250,000 inhabitants are represented. All high schools, their programs and their senior classes were listed. At that time there were 17 different national educational programs in Sweden. Four of them can be classified as general/economic and 13 as practical/vocational. In addition, there was an individual program for students with special needs. This program was classified as practical/vocational. There was also a special program with different kinds of content of which some have been classified as general/economic and some as practical/vocational.

In total, 10,751 students were enrolled in a senior class at high school. Through a representative sampling procedure of programs and classes, 5,623 (52.3%) of the students were selected and 4,377 of them participated in the study. 21 questionnaires were empty. The final sample consists of 4,356 participants and the response rate is 77.4%. 2,010 (46.1%) of the respondents were boys and 2,312 (53.1%) were girls. 34 (0.8%) did not tell their gender. The sample consisted of 2,914 (66.9%) students from a general/economic program and 1,442 (33.1%) students from a practical/vocational program. The mean age was 18.2.

In this report data from participants at age 17 (n=467), age 18 (n=2,934) and age 19 (n=738) are presented (total n=4,139).

The age of consent in Sweden is 15 years of age.

Data collection

The questionnaire was based on a Norwegian questionnaire used by Mossige (2001). This questionnaire was translated into Swedish. The English version was based on the final Swedish version.

We established contact with the school director in each participating community. The school directors then gave permission for the study. After general permission was obtained, the principal at each selected school was informed about the research project. After the principal gave permission for the study each student gave consent, based on both oral and written information. A field worker from the research group visited each class and distributed and collected the questionnaire in the classroom. In order to ensure that the students could not influence each other, they completed the questionnaire at the same time in the classroom or in another room. The anonymous questionnaires were placed in unmarked envelopes, sealed by the participants, and collected by the field worker. The students received oral and written information about where to get counselling if participation caused feelings of distress.

The Swedish study was carried out in April 2003 – January 2004.

The study was initiated as part of a Swedish Governmental Committee assigned to get knowledge concerning sexual exploitation of children in Sweden (SOU 2004:71). It was carried out by the Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at Lund University. The Swedish survey was supported by the committee and the Ministry of Social Affairs.

Perception of parents

In general, the Swedish adolescents reported that their relationship with their parents during the years when they grew up was good (see Table 1). More than 90% perceived their parents as very caring and three out of four reported that they had a frequent communication with their parents. About 20% believed that they had not received enough support and understanding. Girls aged 17 felt more often than boys at the same age that their parents had not let them decide on things by themselves ($\chi^2=9.1$, $df=2$, $p=.010$). 18-year-old girls did not perceive as often as boys at the same age that their parents had been very controlling ($\chi^2=35.7$, $df=2$, $p<.001$).

TABLE 1: PERCEPTION OF THE PARENTS BY AGE AND GENDER (% , N)

	Age	Gender	1 – 2	3 – 4	5 - 6	N =100%
They have let me decide on things myself	17	Boy	8.1	50.8	41.1	197
		Girl	17.3	41.7	41	266
	18	Boy	10.1	46	43.9	1349
		Girl	12.2	44.4	43.4	1553
	19	Boy	13.6	44.4	42	352
		Girl	13.3	46.9	39.8	377
They have been very controlling	17	Boy	46.7	36.5	16.8	197
		Girl	56.3	29.5	14.2	268
	18	Boy	50.6	37	12.4	1350
		Girl	61.1	27.5	11.4	1559
	19	Boy	49.7	34.4	15.9	352
		Girl	58.5	29.1	12.4	378
They rarely communicated with me	17	Boy	72.6	21.8	5.6	197
		Girl	81.3	11.9	6.8	268
	18	Boy	76.2	17.5	6.3	1349
		Girl	80.1	12.9	7	1555
	19	Boy	70.2	21	8.8	353
		Girl	74.1	16.4	9.5	378
They have been caring towards me	17	Boy	3.1	7.7	89.2	195
		Girl	1.5	4.8	93.7	268
	18	Boy	1.6	5.5	92.9	1354
		Girl	1.2	5.1	93.7	1556
	19	Boy	3.7	6.3	90	352
		Girl	1.8	7.7	90.5	379
They have understood my problems and worries	17	Boy	11.7	36.5	51.8	197
		Girl	12.4	25.1	62.5	267
	18	Boy	10.1	36.4	53.5	1352
		Girl	11.6	31.8	56.6	1553
	19	Boy	12	39.9	48.1	351
		Girl	15.2	33.2	51.6	376
They have not given me the support I needed.	17	Boy	59.7	15.3	25	196
		Girl	65.8	13.2	21	266
	18	Boy	62.8	17.4	19.8	1351
		Girl	64.1	16	19.9	1552
	19	Boy	56.7	20.2	23.1	351
		Girl	57.3	21.4	21.3	379
They have not understood my needs and wishes	17	Boy	49.5	32	18.5	194
		Girl	55.6	20.9	23.5	268
	18	Boy	52.6	28.3	19.1	1351
		Girl	54.2	24.3	21.5	1556
	19	Boy	46.5	33.2	20.3	349
		Girl	51.1	25.4	23.5	378

Note. The scale: 1 – does not correspond at all, 6 – corresponds completely.

Girls aged 17 or 18 were more often either positive or negative, while boys at the same age were more neutral concerning communication with their parents ($\chi^2=18.7$, $df=2$, $p<.001$), parents' understanding of their problems and worries ($\chi^2=11.9$, $df=2$, $p=.003$) and parents' understanding of their needs and wishes ($\chi^2=11.6$, $df=2$, $p=.003$).

Mental health – reports of depression

TABLE 2: RESPONDENTS' MENTAL HEALTH BY AGE AND GENDER (% , N)

During the last week, have you...	Age	Gender	Does not correspond at all	Correspond a little	Correspond quite well	Correspond very well	N =100%
felt that everything is a struggle?	17	Boy	13.3	44.1	20.5	22.1	195
		Girl	10.9	31.6	29.7	27.8	266
	18	Boy	15.3	37.5	27.2	20	1349
		Girl	9.6	29.6	28.3	32.5	1550
	19	Boy	16.6	33.4	25.7	24.3	350
		Girl	10.1	33.9	25.6	30.4	375
had any trouble sleeping?	17	Boy	35.9	31.8	16.9	15.4	195
		Girl	35	25.9	20.3	18.8	266
	18	Boy	38.5	27.2	18.4	15.9	1349
		Girl	28.4	27	21.6	23	1555
	19	Boy	28.8	29.3	20.5	21.4	351
		Girl	32.6	26.2	20.6	20.6	374
felt unhappy, miserable or depressed?	17	Boy	37.4	34.9	14.9	12.8	195
		Girl	30.5	29.3	20.7	19.5	266
	18	Boy	43	32.8	14.7	9.5	1347
		Girl	26.5	32.7	19.8	21	1550
	19	Boy	37.9	27.7	20.2	14.2	351
		Girl	23.6	35.6	20.4	20.4	373
felt helplessness towards the future?	17	Boy	43.6	30.7	14.4	11.3	195
		Girl	40.6	26.7	14.3	18.4	266
	18	Boy	47	29	15	9	1343
		Girl	37.4	29.6	17	16	1554
	19	Boy	41.9	29.6	15.4	13.1	351
		Girl	35.8	24.6	19	20.6	374
felt tied up or tensed?	17	Boy	34.9	39	16.4	9.7	195
		Girl	27.8	39.1	19.2	13.9	266
	18	Boy	38.3	35.5	17.1	9.1	1346
		Girl	26.4	32.8	21.8	19	1555
	19	Boy	35.3	34.8	19.9	10	351
		Girl	26	33.5	20.1	20.4	373
worried too much about things?	17	Boy	17.4	34.4	30.3	17.9	195
		Girl	11.3	30.8	27.4	30.5	266
	18	Boy	21.4	34.5	26.4	17.7	1348
		Girl	9.2	28.2	25.9	36.7	1555
	19	Boy	17.7	30.3	28	24	350
		Girl	8.9	26	26	39.1	373

The adolescents answered six questions from the SCL-90 depressive scale (Derogatis, 1974). The six questions concerned problems and worries experienced during the preceding week (felt that everything was a struggle, had any trouble sleeping, felt unhappy, miserable or depressed, felt helplessness towards the future, felt tied up or tense, and worried too much about things).

The most common complaints from the adolescents were “worries too much about things” among girls and a “feeling that everything is a struggle” among both girls and boys. Approximately one out of five girls (20.7%) and one out of ten boys (10.7%) answered “correspond very well” to the question “felt unhappy, miserable or depressed”, which is a question more commonly associated with depression.

There was generally no or very small differences between the different age groups for both genders. The 19-year-old boys claimed somewhat more sleeping difficulties and the 18-year-old boys were less unhappy and felt less miserable or depressed compared to the other age groups.

Girls reported significantly more mental health problems than boys on all questions. The differences between the genders were most evident among the 18-year-olds, mainly because of the larger size of this group.

Asking for help

Almost all adolescents (about 88% of the boys and 96% of the girls) reported that they would talk to someone at their own age if they had a personal problem (see Table 3). As many as 31% of the boys and 21% of the girls reported that they would not talk to anybody. 89% marked that they would talk to at least one of the persons mentioned on the list. There were significant gender differences in all categories (Chi-squared test, $p < .001$). Girls would more often than boys talk to mother, sibling/friend, relative/neighbour or teacher/counsellor. Boys would more often talk to their father or not talk to anybody. The older the participants were, the more often they did not answer the question. This may explain differences between age groups.

TABLE 3: PERSON WHO ADOLESCENT WOULD MOST LIKELY TALK TO IF HE OR SHE HAD A PERSONAL PROBLEM (NUMBER OF ALL RESPONDENTS IN THIS AGE AND GENDER GROUP AND % ANSWERING POSITIVELY TO THIS STATEMENT)

	17		18		19	
	Boy	Girl	Boy	Girl	Boy	Girl
No one	36.9	22.7	30.7	21.5	27.9	18.7
Mother	49	72.9	53.5	68.5	52.1	64.4
Father	35.9	30.9	38.8	34	34.8	32.5
Sibling, friend	86.9	95.5	89	95.8	86.9	95
Relative, neighbour	15.7	20.4	12.2	18.9	17.8	18.5
Teacher, counsellor	18.2	26.4	20	28	19.5	30.9
N = 100%	198	269	1369	1571	359	379

It is worth noticing that the question refers to a hypothetical situation; we cannot know to whom the adolescents would talk in a real problem situation.

Problem behaviour

Smoking

TABLE 4: SMOKING BY AGE AND GENDER (% , N)

Age	Gender	Has never smoked	Did smoke, but quit	Smokes, but not daily	Smokes daily	N =100%
17	Boy	66.5	10.8	15.5	7.2	194
	Girl	53.8	11.7	20.5	14	264
18	Boy	57	14.7	19.8	8.5	1342
	Girl	51	12.5	19.4	17.1	1552
19	Boy	42.3	16.3	21.4	20	355
	Girl	42.1	16.9	18.2	22.8	373

The number of respondents who reported that they smoked increased with age. Girls began smoking earlier. Both 17 year-old and 18 year-old girls smoked significantly more often than boys. This difference disappeared among the 19 years old informants. When reaching adulthood (18 years of age) twice as many girls (17.1%) than boys (8.5%) were daily smokers.

Consumption of alcohol

TABLE 5: AVERAGE AGE AT THE FIRST DRINK AND DRINKING FREQUENCY DURING THE LAST 12 MONTHS BY RESPONDENTS' AGE AND GENDER

Age	Gender	Average age at the first drink	Drinking during the last 12 months			N =100%
			Never	2-3 times a month or less often	About once a week or more often	
17	Boy	14.2	10.9	69.8	19.3	192
	Girl	14.4	11.4	78	10.6	264
18	Boy	14.6	7.4	68.7	23.9	1349
	Girl	14.6	9.2	68.9	21.9	1529
19	Boy	14.5	7.5	62.9	29.6	348
	Girl	14.8	9	71.9	19.1	366

The average age at the first drink was 14.5 years among the boys and 14.6 years among the girls in the age group 17-19. There was an increase in alcohol consumption with age between 17/18-year-olds and 19-year-olds among the boys, and between 17-year-olds and 18-year-olds among the girls. About 20% of 18-year-olds (both genders) were drinking alcohol once a

week or more often. Both among the 17-year-olds and the 19-year-olds the boys drank more often than the girls.

Experiences of problems related to alcohol

TABLE 6: EXPERIENCES OF PROBLEMS RELATED TO DRINKING ALCOHOL BY AGE AND GENDER (N, %)

	Age	Gender	Has never experienced	Has at least once experienced	Missing or abstainers	N=100%
Been in a fight, behaved badly or hurt other people	17	Boy	44.9	16.7	38.4	198
		Girl	61.7	7.8	30.5	269
	18	Boy	47.3	21.6	31.1	1363
		Girl	61.7	10.5	27.8	1571
	19	Boy	40.4	31.5	28.1	359
		Girl	60.2	12.1	27.7	379
Missed/dropped school	17	Boy	45.5	14.1	40.4	198
		Girl	56.9	12.6	30.5	269
	18	Boy	53	14.1	32.9	1363
		Girl	56.2	16.1	27.7	1571
	19	Boy	47.1	23.4	29.5	359
		Girl	52.5	19.8	27.7	379
Finding yourself in a place without knowing how got there	17	Boy	43.4	17.7	38.9	198
		Girl	55.4	14.5	30.1	269
	18	Boy	46.2	22.1	31.7	1363
		Girl	51.8	20.9	27.3	1571
	19	Boy	45.7	27	27.3	359
		Girl	53.5	18.5	28	379
Been sad, miserable for a while	17	Boy	37.9	24.2	37.9	198
		Girl	42.4	29	28.6	269
	18	Boy	43.7	24.9	31.4	1363
		Girl	36	37.3	26.7	1571
	19	Boy	44	27.3	28.7	359
		Girl	36.2	36.1	27.7	379
A neighbour or a friend have told you to stop or reduce drinking	17	Boy	50	11.1	38.9	198
		Girl	61.3	8.2	30.5	269
	18	Boy	55.2	12.7	32.1	1363
		Girl	61.3	11.3	27.4	1571
	19	Boy	56	16.2	27.8	359
		Girl	59.9	12.4	27.7	379

Problems related to alcohol use was reported by 20-33% of the boys depending on type of problem (see Table 6). Fighting and being sad/miserable for a while were the most common problems. Fighting and missing school increased significantly with age.

Among girls 15-50% reported problems related to use of alcohol. Far most common was feeling sad/miserable for a while, while they more seldom

had been in a fight. Missing school increased significantly with age. Feeling sad or miserable for a while was significantly more common among 17 years old girls.

There were significant gender differences concerning fighting and bad behaviour in all age groups ($p < .001$). Being sad or miserable for a while also differed between the genders for the 18-year-old ($p < .001$) and the 19-year-old respondents ($p < .05$).

Lawbreaking behaviour

TABLE 7: DRUG USING, CRIMINAL BEHAVIOUR, AND BUYING SEXUAL SERVICES BY AGE AND GENDER (% , N)

Respondent has...	Age	Gender	Yes	No	Missing	N =100%	
stolen something worth more than 1,000 SEK	17	Boy	9.1	90.4	0.5	198	
		Girl	2.6	97	0.4	269	
	18	Boy	8.4	89.4	2.2	1363	
		Girl	4.6	94.3	1.1	1571	
	19	Boy	17.3	79.6	3.1	359	
		Girl	6.9	91.5	1.6	379	
	committed burglary/theft by breaking and entering	17	Boy	9.6	89.4	1	198
			Girl	1.5	98.1	0.4	269
18		Boy	7	90.7	2.3	1363	
		Girl	1.2	97.3	1.5	1571	
19		Boy	17	80.5	2.5	359	
		Girl	2.9	95.	2.1	379	
stolen a car/motorbike		17	Boy	6.6	92.9	0.5	198
			Girl	0.4	98.9	0.7	269
	18	Boy	4.8	93.5	1.7	1363	
		Girl	1.2	97.7	1.1	1571	
	19	Boy	12.5	84.7	2.8	359	
		Girl	1.6	96.6	1.8	379	
	used hashish or marihuana	17	Boy	23.2	76.3	0.5	198
			Girl	20.8	78.5	0.7	269
18		Boy	22	76.1	1.9	1363	
		Girl	19.9	79.1	1	1571	
19		Boy	37.9	60.4	1.7	359	
		Girl	24.8	73.6	1.6	379	
used cocaine, heroin, amphetamine		17	Boy	5.1	93.9	1	198
			Girl	5.2	94.1	0.7	269
	18	Boy	4.7	93.5	1.8	1363	
		Girl	5.5	93.5	1	1571	
	19	Boy	13.1	84.4	2.5	359	
		Girl	9	89.2	1.8	379	
	bought sexual services	17	Boy	1	98.5	0.5	198
			Girl	-	99.3	0.7	269
18		Boy	1.4	96.6	2	1363	
		Girl	0.4	98.4	1.2	1571	
19		Boy	4.7	92.2	3.1	359	
		Girl	0.3	98.1	1.6	379	

Rather few students had ever engaged in criminal behaviour. Quite many, though, had used hashish or marihuana (22-38% of boys and 20-25% of girls). For boys, criminal activity and use of drugs was significantly higher among the 19-year-olds. There was a similar tendency for girls, but not equally striking.

In all age groups, significantly more boys than girls reported criminal behaviour. Concerning drug use, there were no significant gender differences except for 19-year-olds. Boys at this age had used cocaine, heroine or amphetamine significantly more often than girls at the same age.

Attitudes

Attitudes about sexual relations between child and adult

Most young Swedes showed a negative attitude towards sexual relations between children and adults (see Table 8). A "child" was defined as a person younger than 15 years. The age of consent is 15 years in Sweden. Boys disagreed less often than girls that many children would like to have sex with an adult once they tried it ($\chi^2=245.5$, $df=2$, $p<.001$). There were no significant age differences.

TABLE 8: ATTITUDES TOWARDS SEXUAL RELATIONS BETWEEN CHILDREN AND ADULTS BY AGE AND GENDER (% , N)

			Disagree	Neither nor	Agree	N =100%
An adult and a child should be allowed to have sex together if they both want to	17	Boy	67.3	14.3	18.4	196
		Girl	69.3	16.1	14.6	267
	18	Boy	73.2	13.2	13.6	1346
		Girl	74.1	13.7	12.2	1554
19	Boy	71.8	13.1	15.1	351	
	Girl	76.2	11.6	12.2	378	
Sex between a child and adult is likely to hurt the child in major ways	17	Boy	13.3	21.5	65.2	195
		Girl	15.8	15.1	69.1	265
	18	Boy	16.1	17.6	66.3	1342
		Girl	13.8	15.5	70.7	1553
	19	Boy	17.4	16.6	66	350
		Girl	18.5	11.9	69.6	379
Many children would like to have sex with an adult once they have tried it	17	Boy	59.1	25.9	15	193
		Girl	79.1	16	4.9	263
	18	Boy	59.6	26.3	14.1	1328
		Girl	81.5	14.6	3.9	1542
	19	Boy	59.5	25.6	14.9	348
		Girl	79.6	15.8	4.6	373

Attitudes towards sexual exploitation of other young people

In general, the Swedish participants had negative attitudes towards sexual abuse of other adolescents (see Table 9). More than 90% of the respondents disagreed that they would participate in abusing another youth sexually if several took part, or that youths who are part of a group of friends must tolerate to be sexually abused by the others. 17% of all respondents agreed that it is the adolescents' own responsibility if they let others abuse them sexually. Girls disagreed significantly more often than boys with all of the statements ($p < .001$). 19-year-old participants agreed more often than the younger ones that sexual abused young people are responsible themselves ($\chi^2 = 24.2$, $df = 4$, $p < .001$) and that adolescents must tolerate to be sexually abused by other people in their group ($\chi^2 = 11.4$, $df = 4$, $p = .022$).

TABLE 9: ATTITUDES TOWARDS SEXUAL EXPLOITATION BY AGE AND GENDER (% , N)

			Disagree	Neither nor	Agree	N =100%
If young people let other exploit them sexually, it is their own responsibility	17	Boy	56	17.9	26.1	184
		Girl	77.3	12.9	9.8	264
	18	Boy	56.5	20.9	22.6	1291
		Girl	73.3	15.8	10.9	1528
19	Boy	48.5	20.7	30.8	328	
	Girl	65	19.9	15.1	366	
If several took part, you would participate in exploiting another youth sexually	17	Boy	90.2	6	3.8	184
		Girl	98.5	1.5	-	264
	18	Boy	93.4	4.3	2.3	1289
		Girl	98.2	1	0.8	1525
	19	Boy	90.2	5.5	4.3	326
		Girl	97.3	2.2	0.5	366
Youth that are part of a group of friends must tolerate to be sexually exploited by the others	17	Boy	92.9	4.9	2.2	184
		Girl	99.6	-	0.4	264
	18	Boy	95.6	2.6	1.8	1291
		Girl	99.3	0.3	0.4	1525
	19	Boy	92.7	4.3	3	327
		Girl	97.5	1.1	1.4	366

Probability of sex with a child

The vast majority of the Swedish participants (more than 90%) found it unlikely that they would have sex with a 10 to 12-year-old if they were certain nobody would know and there would be no penalty (see Table 10). Girls believed such an action to be even more unlikely than boys ($\chi^2 = 17.7$, $df = 3$, $p = .001$). There were no significant differences between the age groups.

TABLE 10: PROBABILITY OF HAVING SEX WITH A 10 TO 12-YEAR-OLD CHILD IF NOBODY WOULD KNOW AND THERE WOULD BE NO PENALTY

		Unlikely	Neither nor	Likely	Missing	N = 100%
17	Boy	93.9	1.5	4	0.6	198
	Girl	97.4	-	1.5	1.1	269
18	Boy	94.6	1	3.3	1.1	1363
	Girl	95.9	0.1	3	1	1571
19	Boy	94.2	0.8	2.8	2.2	359
	Girl	95.3	0.3	3.1	1.3	379

Attitudes about doing sexual activities for pay

In general, the participants displayed negative attitudes towards commercial sexual exploitation (selling sex for payment) (see Table 11). A clear majority of the respondents could not imagine participating in any sexual activity for payment in the future. There was a somewhat greater acceptance that other people sell sex. Girls could imagine doing sexual activities for pay and accept that someone else do it, to a lesser degree than boys. The gender differences were significant ($p < .001$) for all sexual activities that were mentioned.

TABLE 11: ATTITUDES TOWARDS DOING SEXUAL ACTIVITIES FOR PAY BY AGE AND GENDER (% OF ALL RESPONDENTS)

			Could imagine doing it in the future			Can accept that someone else does it			Total N
			Yes	No	Missing	Yes	No	Missing	
Expose your sex organs to someone for pay	17	Boy	21.2	67.7	11.1	42.9	44.9	12.2	198
		Girl	3.3	91.9	4.8	24.9	67.7	7.4	269
	18	Boy	19.9	72.6	7.5	41.9	49.5	8.6	1363
		Girl	4.1	91.2	4.7	26.7	67.4	5.9	1571
	19	Boy	21.4	66.3	12.3	39.8	46	14.2	359
		Girl	3.2	88.4	8.4	30.3	63.3	6.4	379
Involve yourself in nude photographing or filming for pay	17	Boy	20.7	69.2	10.1	53	35.4	11.6	198
		Girl	7.8	87.4	4.8	36.8	56.9	6.3	269
	18	Boy	16.3	75.9	7.8	48.5	42.3	9.2	1363
		Girl	7.8	87.4	4.8	37.1	56.9	6	1571
	19	Boy	20.3	66.9	12.8	43.2	41.8	15	359
		Girl	11.3	81	7.7	39.1	53.8	7.1	379
Show off masturbating for pay	17	Boy	10.6	78.3	11.1	32.8	55.6	11.6	198
		Girl	1.1	94.4	4.5	20.4	72.9	6.7	269
	18	Boy	7.4	84.7	7.9	31.6	59.3	9.1	1363
		Girl	2.1	92.7	5.2	20.4	73.4	6.2	1571
	19	Boy	9.5	75.8	14.7	32.9	52.1	15	359
		Girl	1.3	89.4	9.3	25.9	66.4	7.7	379

table 11:

Do oral sex for pay	17	Boy	12.1	77.3	10.6	30.8	58.1	11.1	198
		Girl	0.7	94.8	4.5	18.6	73.6	7.8	269
	18	Boy	8.4	83.9	7.7	31.3	59.6	9.1	1363
		Girl	1.1	94.1	4.8	19.3	74.4	6.3	1571
	19	Boy	10	76.4	13.6	30.4	55.2	14.4	359
		Girl	1.8	90.3	7.9	23.2	69.9	6.9	379
Have sexual intercourse for pay	17	Boy	17.2	72.7	10.1	31.8	56.6	11.6	198
		Girl	1.1	94.1	4.8	16.7	75.8	7.5	269
	18	Boy	14.2	77.7	8.1	33	57.7	9.3	1363
		Girl	2	92.9	5.1	18.9	74.7	6.4	1571
	19	Boy	16.4	69.4	14.2	34.8	50.7	14.5	359
		Girl	2.4	89.2	8.4	23	70.4	6.6	379
Do anal sex for pay	17	Boy	8.1	81.3	10.6	27.8	60.6	11.6	198
		Girl	-	95.2	4.8	15.6	77.3	7.1	269
	18	Boy	5.3	86.6	8.1	28.2	62.6	9.2	1363
		Girl	0.4	94.4	5.2	17.6	76.1	6.3	1571
	19	Boy	8.4	76.6	15	28.4	57.7	13.9	359
		Girl	0.3	91.6	8.1	19.5	73.6	6.9	379
Be photographed or filmed while doing sexual activities for pay	17	Boy	11.6	78.3	10.1	42.4	46.5	11.1	198
		Girl	0.7	94.4	4.9	22.7	70.6	6.7	269
	18	Boy	10.2	81.7	8.1	38.6	52.2	9.2	1363
		Girl	2	92.7	5.3	24.8	69	6.2	1571
	19	Boy	11.4	75.2	13.4	35.1	50.4	14.5	359
		Girl	2.1	90	7.9	25.9	66.8	7.3	379

Experiences of sexual abuse

Experiences of being exposed to sexual activities against your will

A quite big part of the participants reported having been sexually abused. The part that reported having experienced indecent exposure and/or indecent touching was particularly large (see Table 12). Significantly more girls than boys reported about these two kinds of sexual offences ($\chi^2=766.5$, $df=1$, $p<.001$). The same was the case concerning different kinds of penetrative sexual experiences ($\chi^2=73.1$, $df=1$, $p<.001$). More girls than boys reported about experiences of both kinds of sexual abuse (girls 11.8%, boys 3.6%, ($\chi^2=758.5$, $df=2$, $p<.001$)). The older the participants were, the more often they reported having been exposed to sexual abuse ($\chi^2=7.9$, $df=2$, $p=.019$).

TABLE 12A: EXPERIENCES OF SEXUAL ABUSE BY AGE AND GENDER - BOYS (N, % FROM ALL RESPONDENTS)

	Somebody has exposed him/herself indecently towards you		Somebody has touched your body in an indecent way		You exposed yourself masturbating towards somebody		You have had sexual inter-course		You have had oral sex		You have had anal sex		N= 100%
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
Boys 17	16	8.1	29	14.6	4	2.0	12	6.1	6	3.0	3	1.5	198
18	112	8.2	191	14.0	41	3.0	50	3.7	36	2.6	16	1.2	1363
19	38	10.6	66	18.4	13	3.6	27	7.5	22	6.1	12	3.3	359

TABLE 12B: EXPERIENCES OF SEXUAL ABUSE BY AGE AND GENDER – GIRLS (N, % FROM ALL RESPONDENTS)

	Somebody has exposed him/herself indecently towards you		Somebody has touched your body in an indecent way		You exposed yourself masturbating towards somebody		You have had sexual inter-course		You have had oral sex		You have had anal sex		N= 100%
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
Girls 17	51	19.0	118	43.9	12	4.5	24	8.9	14	5.2	5	1.9	269
18	425	27.1	883	56.2	70	4.5	145	9.2	85	5.4	33	2.1	1571
19	131	34.6	218	57.5	25	6.6	53	14.0	28	7.4	19	5.0	379

Age of victim at first sexual assault

Sexually abused girls were significantly younger than the sexually abused boys at first abuse occasion (mean age of all girls was 14.27, mean age of all boys was 15.17; $t = 4.8$, $df=1569$, $p<.001$) (see Table 13). Only 7.2% of the boys and 10.9% of the girls reported that they had been 10 years or younger at first abuse occasion.

TABLE 13: AGE OF VICTIM AT THE FIRST SEXUAL ASSAULT (AVERAGE)

		Age of victim	
		N	Mean
17	Boy	30	15.2
	Girl	130	14.4
18	Boy	199	15.1
	Girl	912	14.2
19	Boy	62	15.3
	Girl	238	14.5

Age difference between offender and victim

Among the majority of the respondents who reported having been sexually abused, the offender was five years or less than five years older (see Table 14). Peer abuse does therefore not seem to be uncommon. Significantly more girls than boys reported that the offender was more than five years older than themselves ($\chi^2=16.3$, $df=1$, $p<.001$). There were no significant differences between the age groups. Of the participants who reported having been sexually abused, 38.2% of the boys and 24.4% of the girls did not give the offender's age.

TABLE 14: AGE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN OFFENDER AND VICTIM AT FIRST SEXUAL ASSAULT (% FROM RESPONDENT GIVING AN ANSWER)

		Differences more than 5 years		Differences 5 or less than 5 years	
		N	%	N	%
17	Boy	10	35.7	18	64.3
	Girl	47	43.1	62	56.9
18	Boy	64	34.4	122	65.6
	Girl	361	46.6	414	53.4
19	Boy	15	26.3	42	73.7
	Girl	99	47.6	109	52.4

Commercial sexual exploitation

Frequency and forms of sexual exploitation

TABLE 15: OFFERING SEXUAL SERVICES FOR PAY BY AGE AND GENDER (% , N)

		Answered	Answered	Answered	Missing	N = 100%
		twice 'yes'	once 'yes'	twice 'no'		
17	Boy	0.5	3.5	81.8	14.2	198
	Girl	-	-	95.5	4.5	269
18	Boy	0.7	4.3	85.7	9.3	1363
	Girl	0.4	1.3	93	5.3	1571
19	Boy	2.2	6.1	77.4	14.3	359
	Girl	0.3	2.6	92.1	5	379

The question whether or not the respondents had sold sex was asked twice. Boys more often than girls stated that they had exchanged sex for pay. Still, this question seemed to be a little sensitive for boys as between 9 % and 14 % did not answer the question. We scrutinized each questionnaire manually in order to sort out false positives. In that way not seriously filled in questionnaires were removed. Afterwards, the frequency of selling sex was 1.3 % among the 17 to 19-year-old respondents (boys 1.7 % and girls 1.0%). The difference between the genders was significant ($p<.05$).

Table 16 displays the proportion of respondents who had participated in specific sexual activities for pay. Most common among the boys were sexual intercourse, exposure of sex organs to someone, and oral sex. Among the girls the most common activities were sexual intercourse and nude photographing.

TABLE 16: OFFERING SEXUAL SERVICES FOR PAY BY AGE AND GENDER (% , N)

		Respondent has done it			Missing	N = 100%
		Yes	No			
Expose your sex organs to someone for pay	17	Boy	2	87.4	10.6	198
		Girl	-	97.4	2.6	269
	18	Boy	2.1	92.4	5.5	1363
		Girl	0.6	96.9	2.5	1571
	19	Boy	2.8	87.7	9.5	359
		Girl	1.1	96.5	2.4	379
Involve yourself in nude photographing or filming for pay	17	Boy	1	88.4	10.6	198
		Girl	-	97.4	2.6	269
	18	Boy	1.9	91.7	6.4	1363
		Girl	0.3	96.9	2.8	1571
	19	Boy	2.5	87.8	9.7	359
		Girl	1.6	96.3	2.1	379
Show off masturbating for pay	17	Boy	2.5	85.4	12.1	198
		Girl	-	97.8	2.2	269
	18	Boy	1.1	93	5.9	1363
		Girl	0.6	96.3	3.1	1571
	19	Boy	1.9	87.7	10.4	359
		Girl	1.1	96	2.9	379
Do oral sex for pay	17	Boy	2	86.9	11.1	198
		Girl	-	97.8	2.2	269
	18	Boy	1.6	92.7	5.7	1363
		Girl	0.7	96.8	2.5	1571
	19	Boy	2.8	87.7	9.5	359
		Girl	0.8	96.3	2.9	379
Have sexual intercourse for pay	17	Boy	2.5	86.4	11.1	198
		Girl	-	97.4	2.6	269
	18	Boy	2.5	91	6.5	1363
		Girl	0.5	96.9	2.6	1571
	19	Boy	5.6	85	9.4	359
		Girl	1.1	96.6	2.3	379
Do anal sex for pay	17	Boy	1	88.4	10.6	198
		Girl	-	97.8	2.2	269
	18	Boy	0.8	93.3	5.9	1363
		Girl	0.1	97.1	2.8	1571
	19	Boy	2.8	88	9.2	359
		Girl	-	97.4	2.6	379
Be photographed or filmed while doing sexual activities for pay	17	Boy	0.5	88.4	11.1	198
		Girl	-	97.4	2.6	269
	18	Boy	1.6	92.5	5.9	1363
		Girl	0.2	96.8	3	1571
	19	Boy	2.5	88.6	8.9	359
		Girl	-	97.6	2.4	379

Pornography

Frequency of watching pornography

TABLE 17: FREQUENCY OF WATCHING PORNOGRAPHY BY AGE AND GENDER (% , N)

		Never	Some times each month or less often	Some times or more each week	N = 100%
17	Boy	5.1	51.8	43.1	195
	Girl	36	62.9	1.1	261
18	Boy	4.6	59.5	35.9	1320
	Girl	29.8	68.6	1.6	1525
19	Boy	4.3	51.6	44.1	345
	Girl	24.6	73.8	1.6	370

Almost all boys had watched some kind of pornography compared to 64-75% of the girls. There were significant gender differences in pornography viewing in all age groups ($p < .001$). 36-44% of the boys watched pornography some times or more often every week which is very different from girls where only about 1,5% belonged to this “high-consumption” group.

Pornography – sex between adults and children

TABLE 18: WATCHING SEX BETWEEN ADULTS AND CHILDREN BY AGE AND GENDER (% , N)

		Has watched this sort of pornography	Never has watched pornography	No information	N = 100%
17	Boy	7.6	2.5	89.9	198
	Girl	0.7	32	67.3	269
18	Boy	3.9	3.4	92.7	1363
	Girl	0.6	23.9	75.5	1571
19	Boy	4.5	2.2	93.3	359
	Girl	0.3	18.5	81.2	379

Rather few adolescents had watched child pornography. Among girls less than 1% had watched such material, compared with 3.9% to 7.6% of the male respondents.

Pornography – opinion about friends’ use of pornography

TABLE 19: RESPONDENTS’ OPINION ABOUT FREQUENCY OF WATCHING PORNOGRAPHIC FILMS AMONG HIS/HER FRIENDS (AVERAGE)

	17		18		19	
	Boy	Girl	Boy	Girl	Boy	Girl
How often do your friends watch pornographic films?	3.23	1.93	3.23	2	3.45	2.13
How often do your friends watch pornographic films dealing with adults having sex with children?	1.26	1.05	1.17	1.05	1.25	1.08

Note. The scale: 1 – never, 5 – very often.

As can be seen in Table 19, there were gender differences as to the degree to which the respondents believed that their friends did watch pornographic films. Boys supposed to a larger degree than girls that their friends watched pornographic films ($p < .001$). Boys also believed that their friends more frequently (but still rather seldom) did watch child pornography ($p < .001$).

Sexual Experiences and Sexual Orientation

In this chapter different experiences of voluntary sex among the 18-year-old respondents will be discussed. Almost all adolescents had been in love with someone and approximately 80% of both genders had had a steady boyfriend or a girlfriend (see Table Extra 1). Not surprisingly, they had also experienced kisses and petting. Fewer respondents had experienced oral sex, anal sex and sexual intercourse. Two thirds of the girls had practiced oral sex with a boy and almost equally many boys had experienced oral sex with a girl. At the age of 18, 69.5% of the girls and 63.5% of the boys had had intercourse with the opposite sex. Among the girls 20.3% stated that they had experienced anal sex with a boy. 14.2% of the boys reported that they had had anal sex with a girl.

TABLE EXTRA 1: VOLUNTARY SEX

Action/Feeling	Girls (N=1571)		Boys (N=1363)	
	N	%	N	%
Have you ever been in love with a boy?	1 479	94.1	51	3.7
Have you ever been in love with a girl?	76	4.8	1 220	89.5
Have you ever had a (steady) boyfriend?	1 254	79.8	29	2.1
Have you ever had a (steady) girlfriend?	13	0.8	1 080	79.2
Have you ever kissed a boy?	1 455	92.6	212	15.6
Have you ever kissed a girl?	723	46.0	1 243	91.8
Have you ever petted a boy?	1 377	87.7	61	4.5
Have you ever petted a girl?	208	13.2	1 124	82.5
Have you ever had oral sex with a boy?	1 041	66.3	38	2.8
Have you ever had oral sex with a girl?	39	2.5	865	63.5
Have you ever had anal sex with a boy?	319	20.3	20	1.5
Have you ever had anal sex with a girl?	4	0.3	194	14.2
Have you ever had sexual intercourse with a boy?	1092	69.5	32	2.3
Have you ever had sexual intercourse with a girl?	32	2.0	866	63.5

Note. Action/Feeling refers to sexual activities/feelings as defined by the adolescent. For example, there may be different ways of defining intercourse between individuals of the same sex.

Homosexual acts were much less frequent than heterosexual acts. As for homosexual acts kissing (46.0%) and petting (13.2%) were the most

common activities among the girls. These two acts were also the most common ones among the boys, 15.6% and 4.5% respectively.

Experiences of different forms of penetrative sex (oral, anal and genital penetration) were only reported in low frequencies. The most frequent activity was oral sex between boys (2.8%) and between girls (2.5%).

Sexual attraction pattern

A Sexual Attraction scale was constructed using the two following questions about sexual attraction to an individual of the opposite sex: “On a scale measuring the attraction to the opposite sex, how would you place yourself?” and to a person of the same sex: “On a scale measuring the attraction to a person of the same sex, how would you place yourself?” Both questions had a 5 points response scale ranging from no attraction (1) to strong attraction (5). A score ≥ 3 on the opposite sex scale in combination with a score < 3 on the same sex scale was interpreted as a heterosexual attraction pattern. A low score (< 3) on the opposite sex scale and a high score (≥ 3) on the same sex scale was interpreted as a homosexual attraction pattern. A high score (≥ 3) on both scales indicated a bisexual attraction pattern, and finally a low score on both scales (≤ 2) was categorized as an asexual pattern.

TABLE EXTRA 2: SEXUAL ATTRACTION PATTERN

Sexual Attraction Pattern	Girls (N = 1542) %	Boys (N = 1334) %	χ^2	p
Heterosexual	77.8	87.8	57.62	<.001
Homosexual	5.1	3.7		
Bisexual	15.5	6.9		
Asexual	1.6	1.6		

There was a gender difference mainly explained by more girls having a bisexual attraction pattern (see Table Extra 2).

The distribution among both genders is very similar to two other Swedish studies (Edgardh, 2002; Månsson, Daneback, Tikkanen, & Löfgren-Mårtenson, 2003).

Månsson et al. (2003) asked 489 young people aged 18-24, through a web-based questionnaire, what sexual disposition they had. Heterosexual disposition was reported by 82% of the women and 88% of the men. As for a homosexual disposition the frequency was 2% and 3%, and for a bisexual disposition it was 14% and 8%, respectively.

In a study with 407 students at 2nd grade at high school in suburban Stockholm (Edgard, 2002) 84 % of the informants reported a heterosexual orientation, 5.2 % reported a homosexual orientation and 6.4 % had bisexual preferences. No gender differences were found. As for sexual activities, 4.2 % reported petting, oral sex or intercourse with a person of the same sex and 8.3 % reported bisexual activities.

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