

War Against Rape (WAR), Karachi.

Sexual Violence Factsheet Jan - Jun 2012



The United Nations defines **sexual violence** as any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, or other act directed against a person's sexuality using coercion, by any person regardless of their relationship to the victim, in any settingⁱ. Though sexual violence has varied forms, most of the reported cases are registered under either Rape or Sodomy, bears witness to the fact that our society acknowledges mostly penetrative offences as crimes against sexuality.

WAR works to prevent and respond to sexual violence, especially against women and children by engaging different government sectors – including ministries of Health, Education and Law, - as well as legislators, civil society, community leaders, religious groups, the private sector, media, families and children themselves.

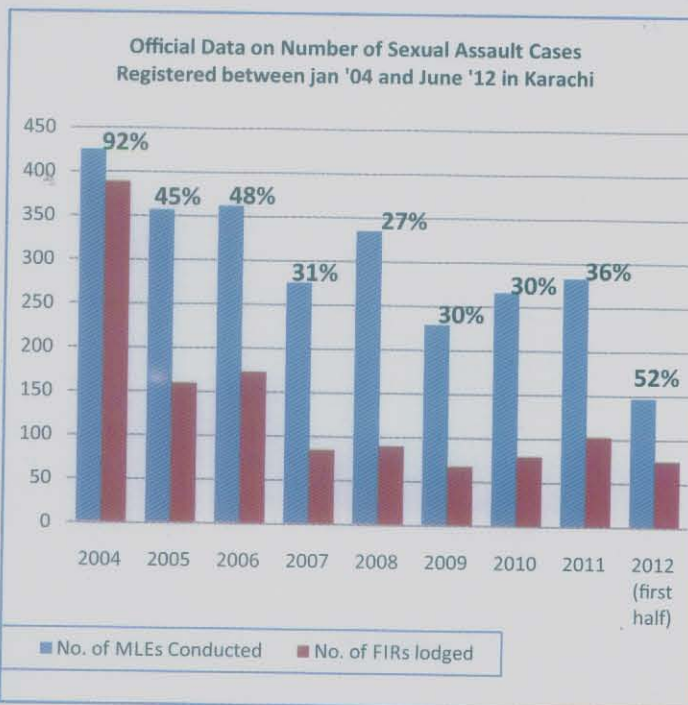
Collecting and disseminating data on cases of sexual violence within the city is one way of drawing attention to the severity of the issue. For this purpose WAR gathers statistics and case-related information from all **103** police stations in Karachi, including Women Police stations and the three major Government hospitals in Karachi where medico-legal exams (MLEs) are conducted.

Reported Sexual Assault Cases January - June 2012

A reported **485** First Information Reports (FIRs) were lodged across Pakistan in the first six months of **2012**, in cases of Rape and Sexual Assaultⁱⁱ. It is widely noted that the official numbers represent only the tip of the iceberg.

Official records for Karachiⁱⁱⁱ show that, 76 FIRs were registered; in cases of sexual assault (includes Rape, Gang Rape, attempt to Rape and Sodomy). On the other hand, data collected from the three major Government hospitals shows that **147 Medico-legal Exams (MLEs)** were conducted in cases of sexual assault during the same period.

WAR has been tracking the difference in the number of FIRs and MLEs conducted in Karachi since 2004. The table below shows the percentage difference between the data obtained from the police and the medico-legal sector from 2004-2012:



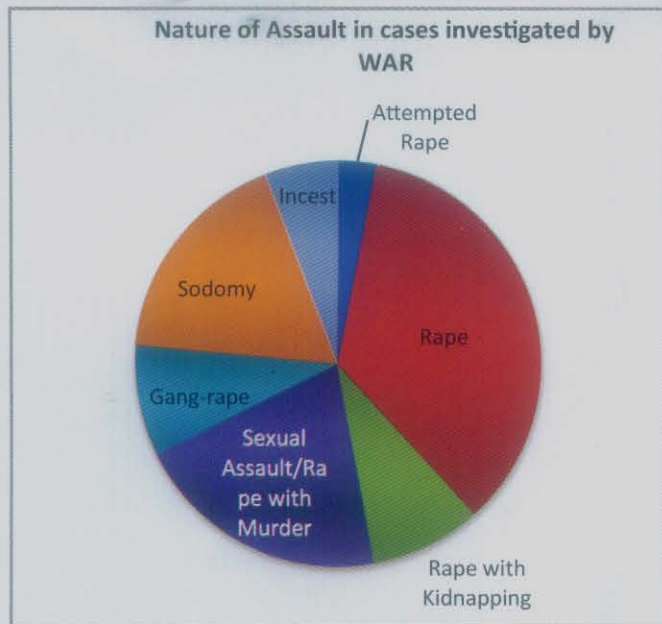
The significant difference in the number of medico-legal examinations and FIRs registered in sexual assault cases is indicative of survivors either not willing to engage with the criminal justice system or of cases where the complainant attempted to report the crimes, but were unable to get their complaint lodged, due to non-incorporation from the police.

While on one hand the underreporting of cases can be attributed to various social issues, such as lack of awareness, stigma, fear and lack of trust in the authorities; those survivors who actually muster up the courage to engage with the criminal justice system have their cases handled the following way:

Police records show that of the **76** FIRs registered between Jan-Jun 2012, *challan* of only **10 cases (13%)** have been presented in court, while **58 cases (76%)** were disposed off under Classification A – which means that after investigations by the police there was lack of evidence for the case to proceed further, or the accused had absconded.

WAR's Investigations

WAR's Survivor Support Unit investigated **32** cases of sexual assault in the first half of 2012, including sodomy, rape, rape and murder, Incest and gang-rape.



Analysis of cases investigated by WAR in the period Jan – Jun 2012 highlighted the following facts:

- The age group was most vulnerable to sexual assault was 4-10 years (36%), followed by 16-20 years (25%).
- 39% of survivors were children under the age of 12, whilst 50% were under 18 years.
- The average age of a rape survivor was 14 years.
- Majority (79%) of rape survivors were female, while 21% were male.
- Demographically, the highest incidents of sexual violence were recorded in Gulshan-e-Iqbal town (21%), with Clifton Town (18%) in second place.
- There were – cases of Sexual assault with murder, reported from

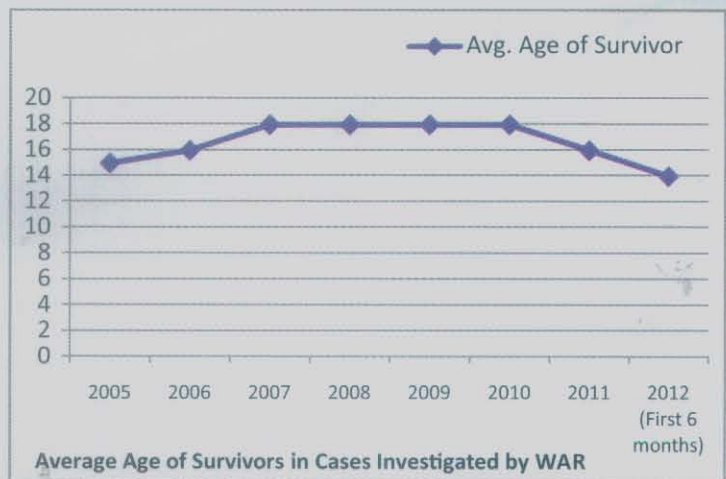
Emerging Trends

Child Sexual Abuse (CSA)

The year 2012 started on an alarming note with 3 cases of child rape and murder reported in the first few weeks.

WAR has been tracking an alarming rise in the number of cases of child sexual abuse throughout the country; whereas in 2009 the total number of reported cases of child sexual abuse in Pakistan was 968^{iv}, in 2011 the number rose to 2,252^v.

The chart below traces the average ages of survivors in cases investigated by WAR from 2005 – 2011.



In order to adequately tackle the issue of sexual violence in the country, and particularly the rising number in incidence of CSA, WAR recommends the following steps be taken immediately:

- The definition of rape under Section 375 of the Pakistan Penal Code, needs to be broadened to include crimes other than only vagino-penile offences; these include non-penetrative or non-penile offences, object and digital rape, which are especially common in cases of Child Sexual Abuse.
- Police officials, as well as the Courts, often fail to take into account the age of the survivor in cases of rape. The provisions relating to statutory rape of minors need to be highlighted.
- Public Prosecutors need to be vigilant in the use of In-camera trials and use of screens during the identification process, so as to minimize the secondary trauma to the minor.
- The Education Department needs to implement Prevention schemes, including mandatory training of teachers to identify CSA, as well as lessons in teaching children about protecting themselves need to be implemented in schools.

ⁱ Factsheet on Violence Against Women, World Health Organization (WHO) 2012.

ⁱⁱ Annual Statistics on VAW in Pakistan, Aurat Foundation, 2011.

ⁱⁱⁱ As obtained from the Inspector General of Police, (Crime Branch), Karachi.

^{iv} Cruel Numbers Report, Sahil, 2010.

^v Cruel Numbers Report, Sahil, 2010.

War Against Rape (WAR), Karachi

102, Pearl Crest, 18-C, Lane # 4

Main Zamzama Boulevard, Phase 5, DHA, Karachi

Tel: (9221) 3537 3008; Fax: (9221) 3583 0903

Email: waragainstrape.khi@gmail.com

URL: <http://www.war.org.pk>



War Against Rape (WAR), Karachi, established in 1989, is working to provide comprehensive services to rape survivors and to advocate just laws and rights-based services for survivors of sexual violence. For more information, please visit our website.

WAR's Legal Aid Program is funded by:



Global Fund
for Women