



University of
Zurich^{UZH}

Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine

The prevalence of post-traumatic stress disorder among adolescent victims of child sexual abuse in Switzerland

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Outline

- Background
- Optimus study
- Epidemiological survey
- Study Design
- Procedure / Study Preparation
- Results
- Key Messages



Background

- Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) is a frequent phenomenon
- CSA has effects on both mental and physical health in the immediate aftermath as well as throughout the human life cycle
 - Depression, generalized anxiety disorder, PTSD
 - PTSD:39% among women with CSA (Molnar,2001)
- Data on incidence and prevalence of CSA are not reliable
- International comparability is not satisfactory



Optimus Study - Overview

- Three distinct approaches:
 - Epidemiological study
 - In-depth study
 - Agency study
- Design alignment with research group in Hong Kong





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Epidemiological Study School Survey



Aims

- To obtain reliable national prevalence rate of childhood sexual abuse and PTSD in a large representative sample among adolescents
- To assess the association between CSA and posttraumatic stress disorder



Study Design

- A cross-sectional national epidemiological survey
 - School-based student survey
 - Parent survey with sub-sample

- School children in 9th grade (14-17 years old)

- Instrument development

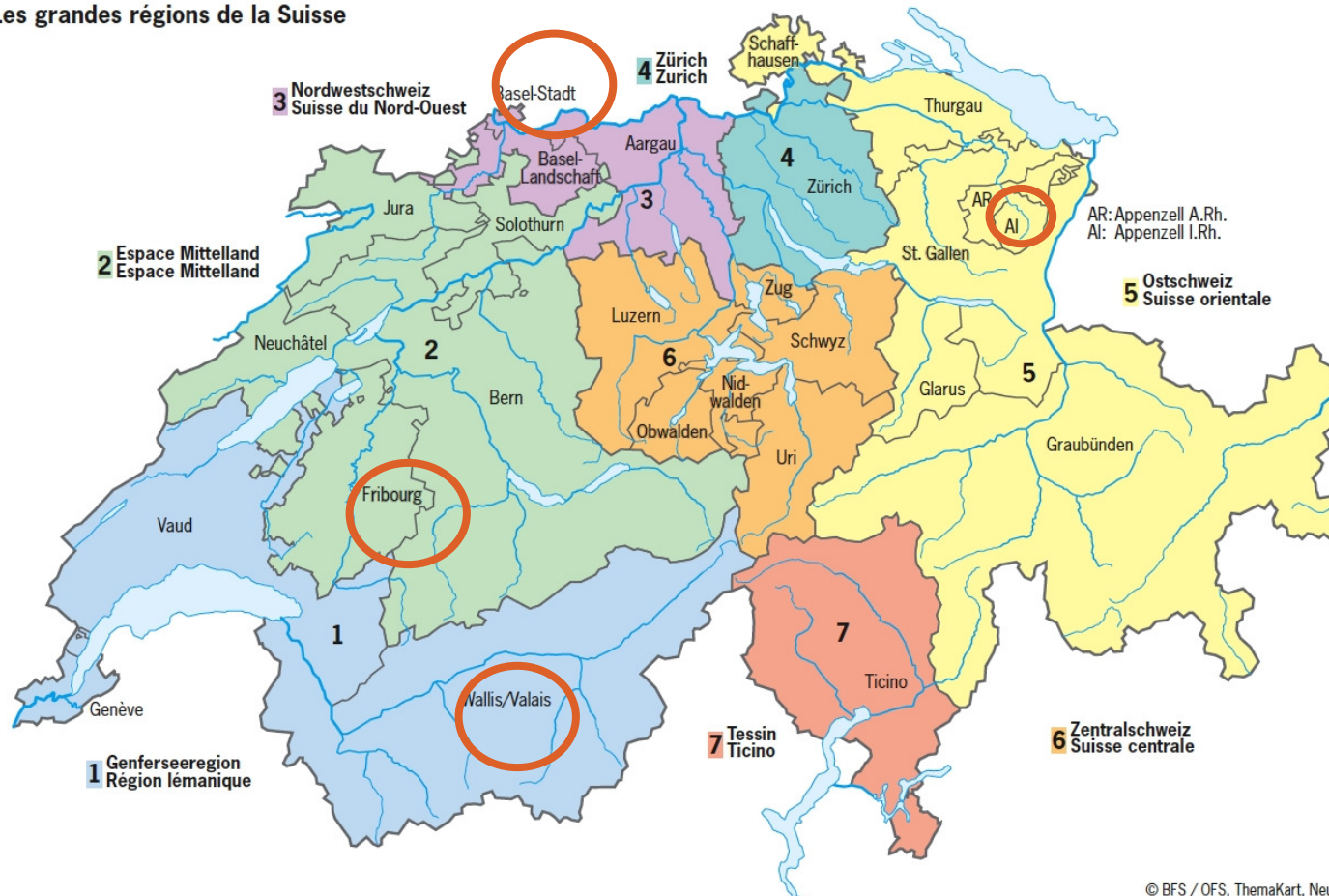
- Data collection
 - Computer-assisted questionnaire



Sampling

Grossregionen der Schweiz
Les grandes régions de la Suisse

K 0.2



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Student Participation

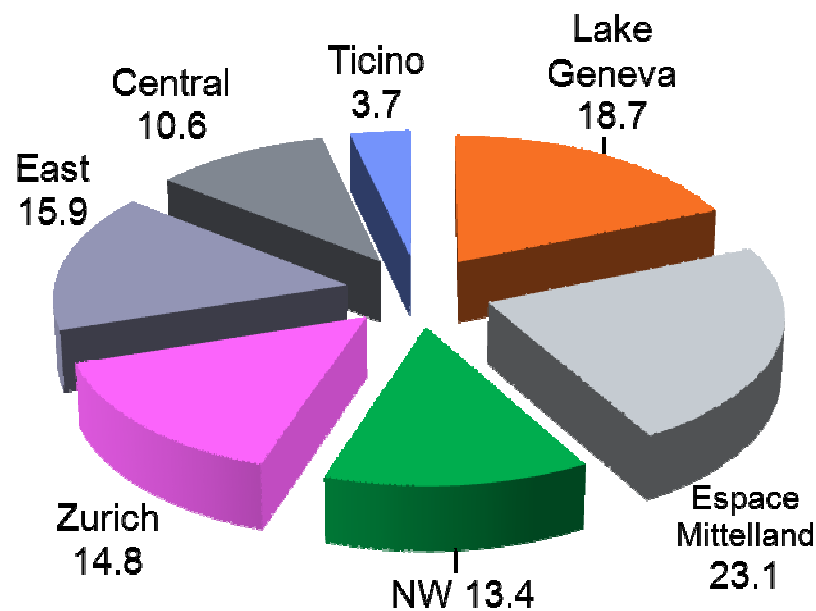
	Schools	Classes	Students
Total sample- 9th grade, 2009/2010	214	516	9857
Refused by ministry of education	30	49	N/A
Refused by school directors/teachers	24	68	N/A
Total Participated school	161	445	N/A
Student refused			63
Student absent on that day			537
Completed questionnaires			6841
Data lost			15
Invalid questionnaires			39
Total Analytic Questionnaires	215	445	6787



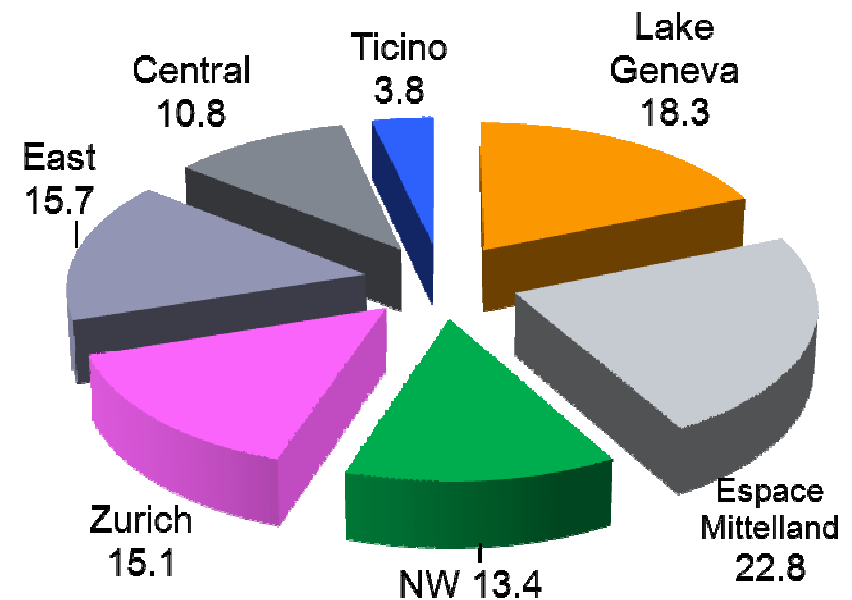
Sample Representativeness by 7 Great Regions

Source: BFS, 2009

Population, N=81'135



Total Interviews, N=6'787 Weighted %





Measures – Child Sexual Abuse

- Sexual Abuse and Victimization Questionnaire (SAVQ)
 - self-developed (research team), 15 items



Operational Definition: Non-contact Abuse

Non-contact abuse	Source
Witness sexual exposure: Have you ever been forced or urged to look at private parts of an adult or another adolescent?	SAVQ
Forced to show naked body: Have you ever been forced or urged to take off your clothes and show your private parts to an adult or another adolescent?	SAVQ
Forced to watch people having sex: Have you ever been forced or urged to watch one or several persons masturbating or having sex?	SAVQ
Forced to watch pornographic material: Have you ever been forced or urged to look at pornographic pictures, drawings, films, DVDs or magazines (also on the cell phone)?	SAVQ
Pictures taken from nude body against will: Did someone ever take pictures from your nude body against your will (also by cell phone)?	SAVQ



Operational Definition: Non-contact Abuse

Non-contact abuse	Source
Pass on or publish intimate pictures against will: Did someone ever pass on intimate pictures from you to other people or even published them on the internet?	SAVQ
Verbally molested: Have you ever been molested by someone who said or wrote sexual things (also by cell phone messages, e-mail or phone)?	SAVQ
Sexual harassment on the internet: Have you ever clearly been sexually harassed or molested when you were chatting (MSN, Netlog, etc.) or during some other type or internet based communication?	SAVQ



Operational Definition: Contact Abuse

Contact abuse / sexual assault	Source
Kissed or touched against will: Have you ever been touched or kissed with sexual intention on your body and / or your private parts?	SAV Q
Forced to kiss someone: Have you ever been forced or urged to touch or kiss another person on his/her body and / or his/her private parts?	SAV Q
Forced penetration with finger or object: Has someone ever tried to insert his/her fingers or an object in your vagina or your anus against your will?	SAV Q
Forced intercourse: (Just for female adolescents) Has someone ever tried to have vaginal intercourse (penis into vagina) with you against your will?	SAV Q
Forced anal intercourse: Has someone ever tried to have anal intercourse (penis into anus) with you against your will?	SAV Q
Forced oral intercourse: Has someone ever urged or forced you to take his penis or another person's penis in your mouth?	SAV Q
Forced into prostitution: Have you ever been forced or urged by another person to prostitute yourself (sex for money)?	SAV Q



DSM-IV PTSD Criteria

Criterion	
History of Trauma Exposure	
Criterion A1	The person has experienced, witnessed, or been confronted with an event or events that involve actual or threatened death or serious injury, or a threat to the physical integrity of oneself or others.
Criterion A2	The person's response involved intense fear, helplessness, or horror. Note: in children, it may be expressed instead by disorganized or agitated behavior.
Criterion B	intrusive recollection (1 of 3 symptoms)
Criterion C	avoidant/numbing (3 of 7 symptoms)
Criterion D	hyper-arousal (2 of 5 symptoms)
Criterion E	Symptom B, C, D, > one month
Criterion F	functional significance



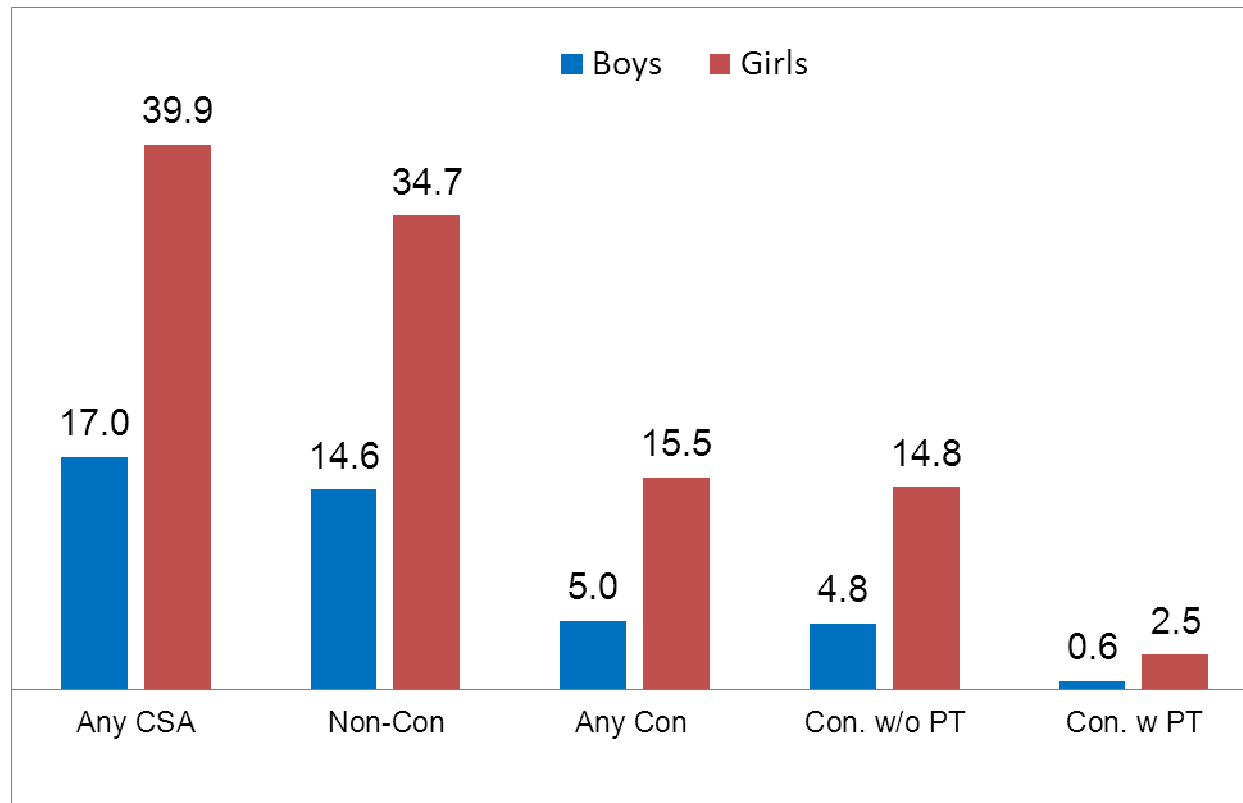
Measures- PTSD

- UCLA Child PTSD Reaction Index (Pynoos, et al 1998)
 - A 5-point Likert scale- 0 (none of the time) to 4 (most all the time) is used to rate PTSD symptoms (Slatzman, et al.,2001).
 - The structure of the measure facilitates scoring to assess for DSM-IV PTSD Criteria.



Life time prevalence of CSA, by Type

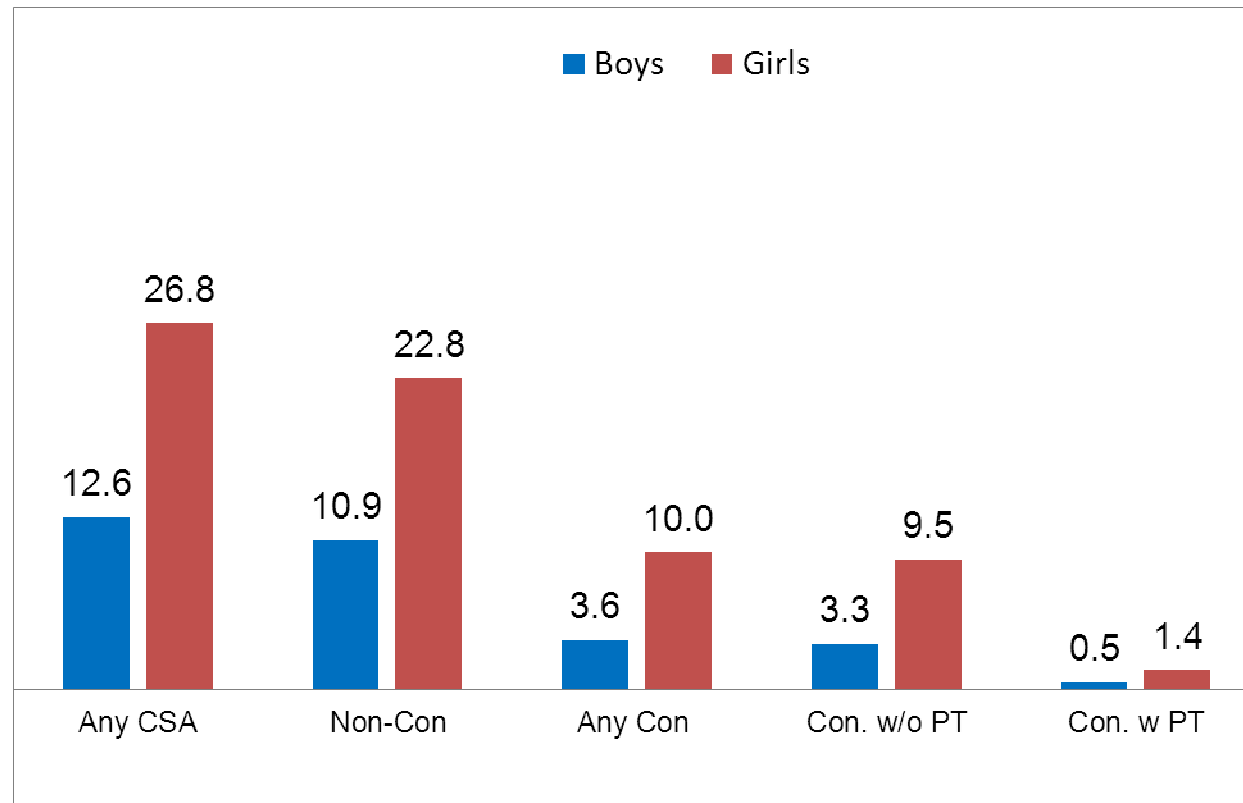
N= 6'780





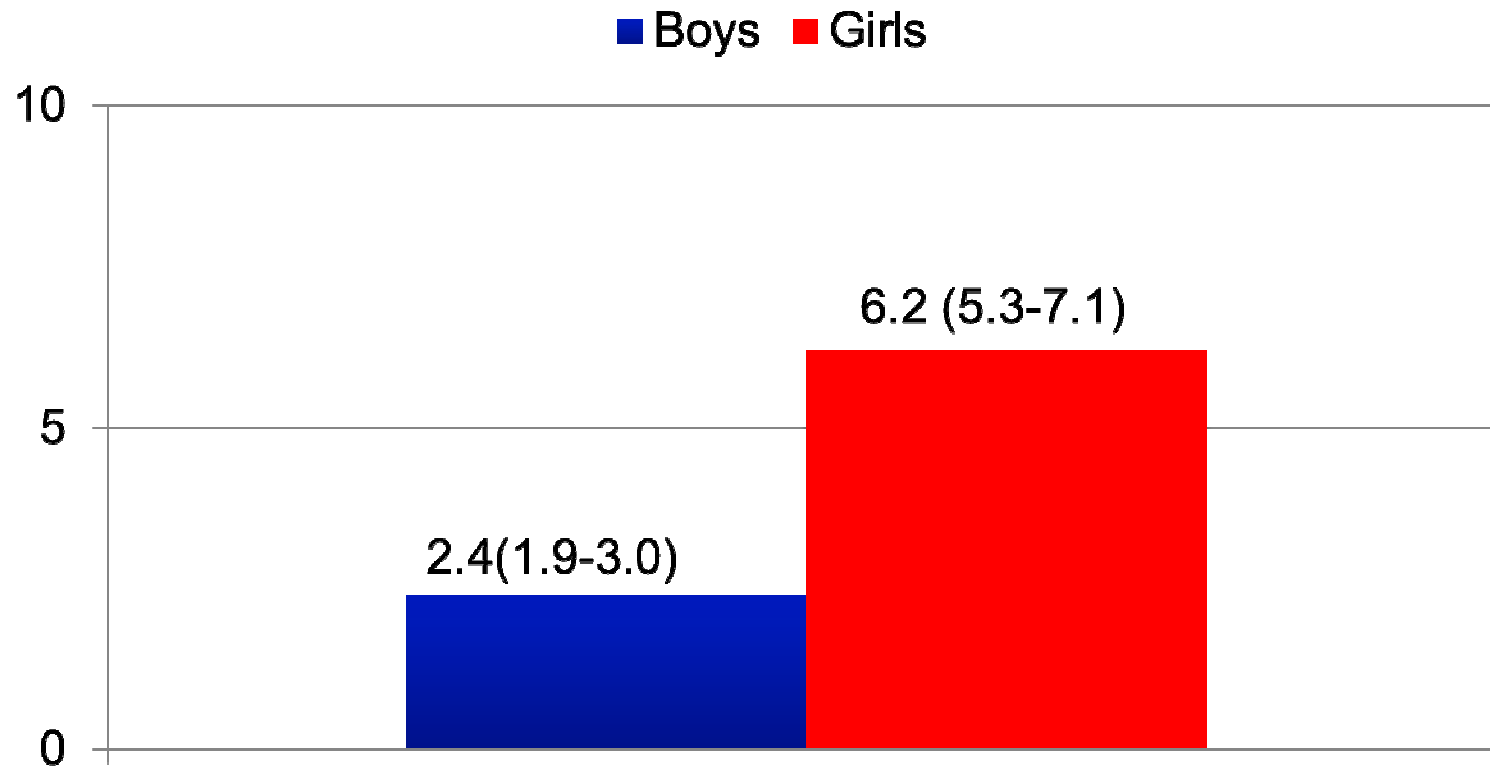
Past year prevalence of CSA, by Type

N= 6'780



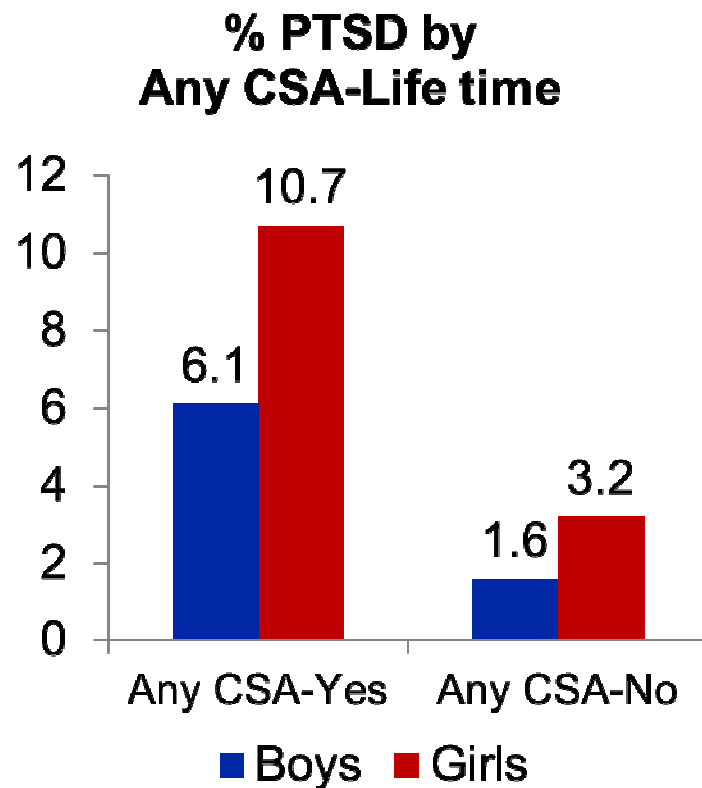


Prevalence of PTSD-

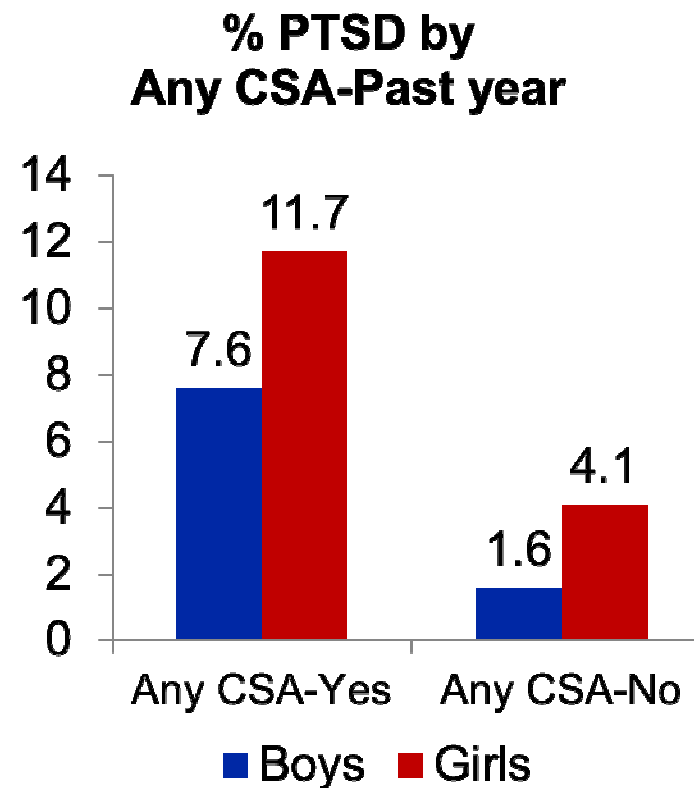




Effect of Any CSA & PTSD



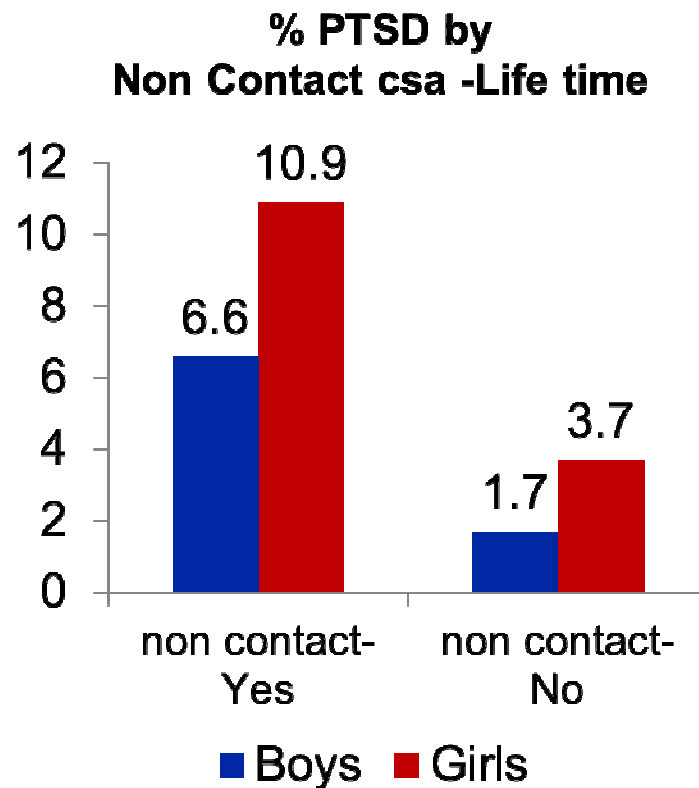
B-OR=4.4 (3.3-6.0) , G-OR=3.9 (2.3-6.6)



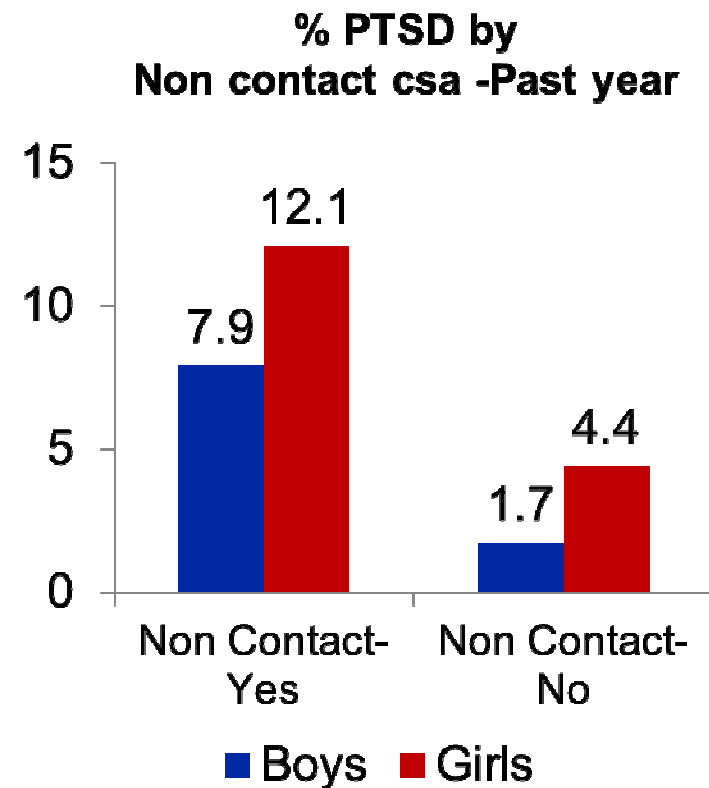
B-OR=5.0 (2.9-8.5) , G-OR=3.1 (2.2-4.3)



Effects of PTSD & Non Contact CSA



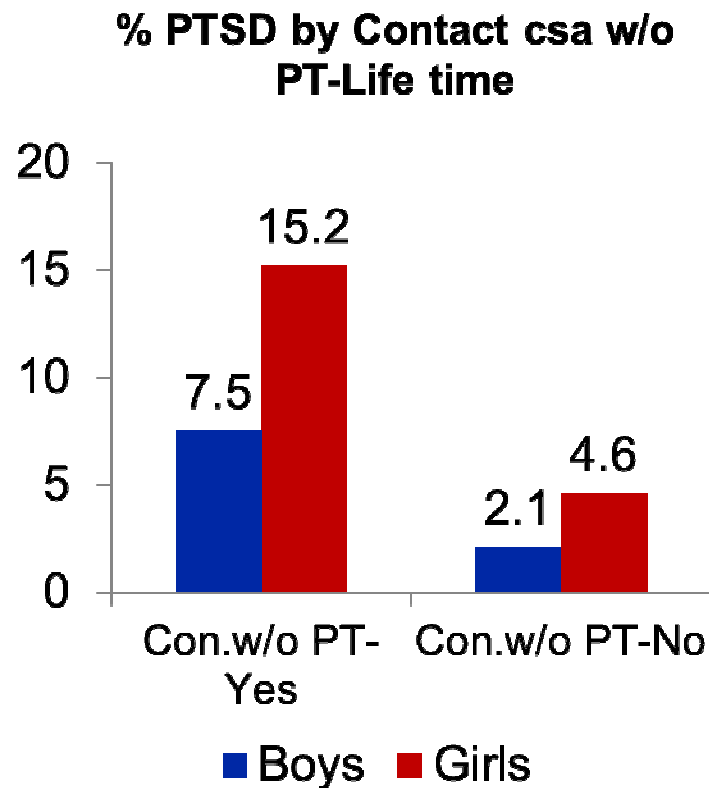
B-OR=4.2(2.5-6.9), G-OR=3.2(2.2-4.7)



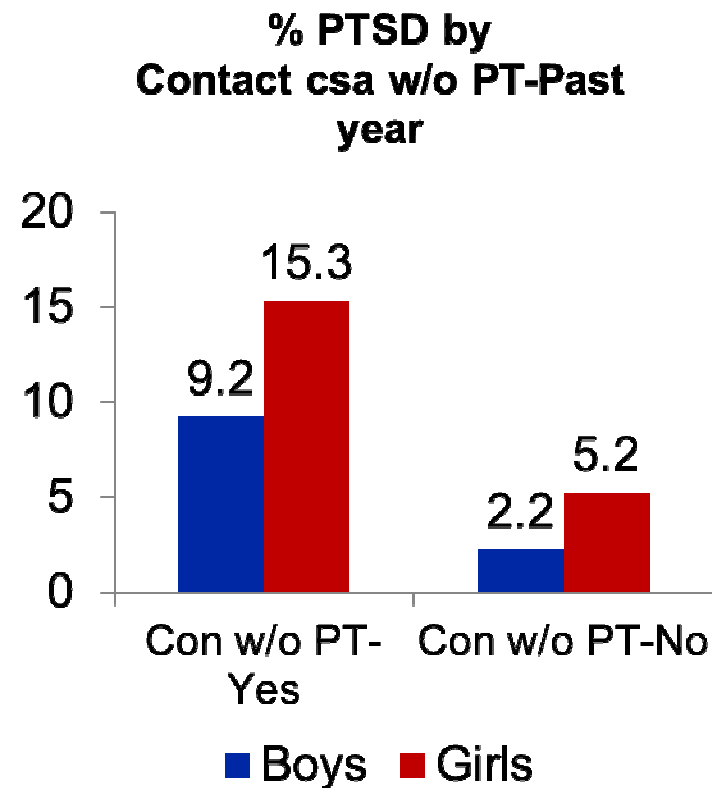
B-OR=4.9(2.9-8.3), G-OR=3.0(2.1-4.1)



Effect of PTSD & Contact CSA without Penetration



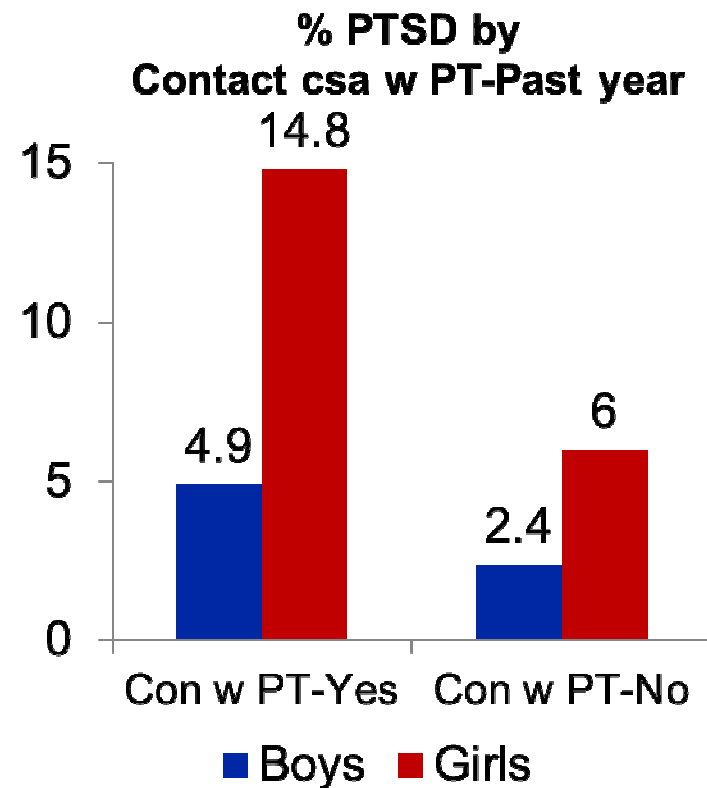
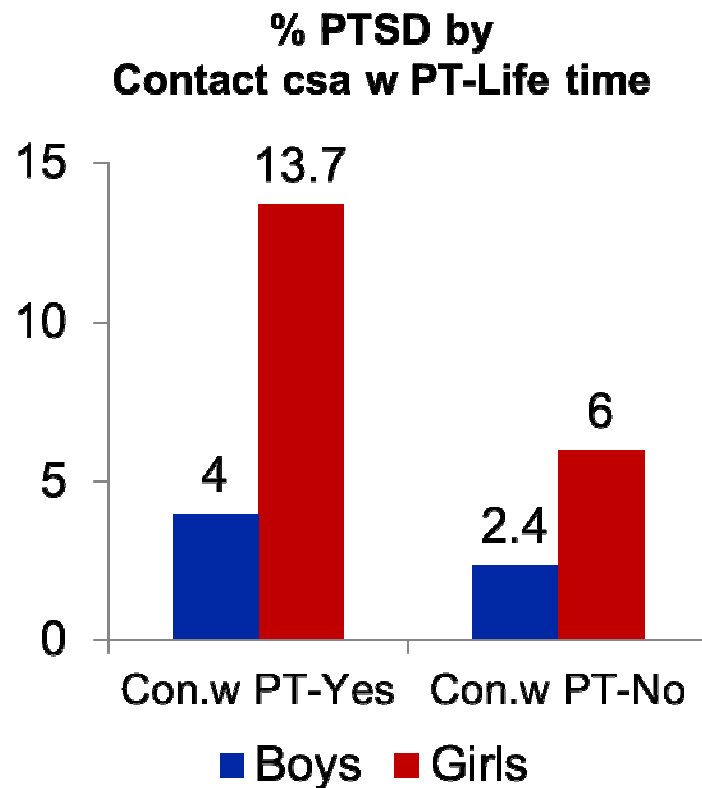
B-OR=3.7(1.7-8.1), G-OR=3.7(2.5-5.4)



B-OR=4.6(2.0-10.7), G-OR=3.3(2.2-4.9)



Effect of PTSD & Contact CSA with Penetration



B-OR=1.7(0.2-13.8), G-OR=2.5(1.3-4.7) B-OR=2.1(0.3-17.0), G-OR=2.7(1.2-6.2)



Odds Ratio predicting PTSD among CSA victims

	OR
Any CSA, lifetime	3.7[2.7-5.2]
female	1.9[1.4-2.6]

	OR
Non contact,LT	3.5[2.5-4.8]
female	2.0[1.5-2.7]

	OR
Any CSA, past year	3.5[2.7-4.7]
female	2.2[1.6-2.9]

	OR
Non contact,py	3.4[2.6-4.5]
female	2.2[1.7-3.0]



Odds Ratio predicting PTSD among CSA victims

	OR
Con,w/o PT, lifetime	3.7[2.7-5.0]
female	2.2[1.7-2.9]

	OR
Con,w PT, lifetime	2.4[1.3-4.3]
female	2.6[2.0-3.4]

	OR
Con w/o PT, past year	3.5[2.5-4.9]
female	2.4[1.8-3.2]

	OR
Con w PT, past year	2.6[1.2-5.6]
female	2.6[2.0-3.5]



Key Message

- CSA is not rare event among adolescents
- Children with all types of CSA experiences are more likely to report PTSD symptoms
- limitations
 - Causal relationship can not be determined
 - Other traumatised events were not ruled out