

the royal women's hospital

Child Sexual Abuse Reported by Young Australian Women

THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

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Algorithm for addressing reports of sexual abuse

A protocol for the protection of participants, who report

USE, was developed to ensure their safety (Figure 1).

Not just certain

Reporting

occupational groups

Duty to disclose only

young person is/was

<16 years and other

person ≥ 18 years

Police already

fear for the safety of any

person other than the

Information came from

the young woman who

the time she provided

she requested that the

Information is privileged

(eg. under confession)

Young person attained

the age of 16 years

the information AND

information not be

was 16 years or older at

alleged offender,

contacted:

arises where

as with Mandatory

Mandatory reporting for

children < 17 years

currently at risk in Vic:

Doctors, nurses.

midwives, teachers,

or principals should

call child protection

determine whether

the perpetrator is in a

or if the young person

influence of drugs etc

so did not consent.

position of authority

If child is 17 years

was under the

A 'sexual offence' is:

assault;

Incest;

Rape, indecent

Sexual offences

· Sexual offences

a cognitive

impairment;

against children;

against a person with

Various other sexual

offences including:

render the person

administering a drug to

incapable of resisting

abduction with intent

that the person will

an act of sexual

Sexual servitude.

A 'sexual offence' also

includes attempts, or

assaults with intent to

commit, the above

offences.

armed;

marry or take part in

penetration; bestiality; sexual offence while

old, need to

services or the police

INTRODUCTION

- Young women are under-represented in health research despite their transitioning a life stage critical for future health outcomes.
- Sexual abuse has become a critical issue, globally, leading to significant long term morbidity.

AIM

To investigate the prevalence of unwanted sexual experiences (USEs) in young women, residing in Victoria, Australia.

METHODS

- The Young Female Health Initiative (YFHI) and Safe-D are comprehensive studies of physical, sexual, reproductive, and mental health of young females.
- Women aged 16-25 living in Victoria were randomly recruited via targeted advertising on Facebook from May 2010. They were then directed to a secure website.

Tell us what you think

are important to you, fill in a

survey and help improve the

health and wellbeing of

young Victorian women



Are you 16-25 years and live in Victoria? We want to know what you think about health.

Health Questions? Ask the Expert

Copyright © 2015 SafeDstudy

If you're female, aged between 16 and 25 years and

University of Melbourne and the Royal Women's Hospital are looking for ways prove the health of young women in Australia through a new study called the **ng Female Health Initiative** that will explore lifestyle, behaviour, nutrition,

You are invited to complete a survey about health. It's quick

easy, confidential and you could win great prizes just for taking

So what are you waiting for?

Contact Us to get involved.

Safe-D website http://www.safedstudy.org

Find out more and

living in Victoria, we want to hear from you!

Tell us what health issues

Examples of Facebook advertisements

and nutrition

Mental health

Sexual and

teart health

& diabetes

Bone & joint

Web Design by Vision Factor Design

A web-based questionnaire was used to collect information on participant demographics, USEs, knowledge of STIs and HPV vaccination status

disclosed: information is a "confidential communication" Information came from the public domain;

1. Any person > 18

years

2. Forms a

reasonable

belief a sexual

<16 and >18

3. Must notify

police as soon

4.BUT "exceptions

may apply

as practicable

offence occurred

between persons

before 27 October 2014 Figure 1. Algorithm for responding to reports of sexual abuse. Source: Crimes Act of Australia, section YFHI website http://www.yfhi.org 327 Duty to disclose*.

> *This algorithm was adapted from information provided by Dr. Anne Smith and Karen Cusack, corporate counsel for The Royal Women's Hospital, after changes to the Crimes Act 1958 introduced new provisions obliging any person to disclose certain circumstances to police.

RESULTS

- Of 398 participants (YFHI: N=178; Safe-D: N=220) ~ 14% recalled an USE when they were < 16 years.
- Of those with USE < 16 years from both studies:
 - 64% suffered from depression
- 23% were diagnosed by a clinician with a sexually transmitted infection (Table1).

Table 1. Socio-demographic and lifestyle factors for YFHI & Safe-D participants reporting USE < 16 (n = 56)

	,
Variable	N (%)
Age, Mean (SD)	21 (3)
Depression (self-reported)*	
Yes	35 (64)
No	20 (36)
Sexual debut†	
6–13 years	4 (9)
14–16	28 (60)
≥17	15 (31)
Number of partners to date, median (Q1-	6 (2–11)
Q3)	
Ever been paid for sex?‡	
Yes	4 (8)
No	42 (92)

*Missing data for one participant. † Missing data for nine participants. ‡ Missing

Told by a health professional that you had

data for ten participants. § Missing data for eight participants.

an STI?§

Yes

No

Of those reporting an USE < 16 years 32% reported penile-genital contact and 89% reported having their breasts or genitals touched (Figure 2).



Figure 2. Responses to questions on unwanted sexual experiences faced < 16 years (YFHI n= 34; Safe-D n = **22**)

In women who recalled a USE between 16-18 years of age (60/398, 15%), 42% stated they felt pressured into sexual intercourse with a man, and 28% reported having been raped (Table 2).

Table 2. Responses to questions on unwanted sexual experiences faced < 18 years (YFHI & Safe-D combined n = 60)

In relation to the unwanted sexual

before? †

11 (23)

37 (77)

experience between 16 and 18 years of

N (%)

lg	e:		
	Was there any penile-genital contact? *	32 (53)	
	Had a man misinterpreted the level of	40 (67)	
	sexual intimacy you desired? †		
	Did you feel like it was useless to stop	28 (47)	
	a man's sexual intentions because he		
	was so aroused? †		
	Had sexual intercourse because you	25 (42)	
	felt pressured in to it? †		
ła	ave you ever been raped? *	17 (28)	
la	eve you disclosed information about	45 (75)	
0	ur experience(s) to anyone else		

*Missing data for six participants. † Missing data for two participants. ‡ Missing data for four participants.

CONCLUSIONS

- To our knowledge this is the first Australian study in which USE in women as young as 16 years has been assessed.
- Prevalence of childhood USE was lesser in other Australian community studies (25–30%).
- This may be related to age or reluctance to disclose.
- USEs should be researched further in this population, to develop appropriate intervention strategies to assist young women through these traumas.
- The HPV vaccination should also be offered, when USE is reported, at an age prior to the school-based program of 12–13 years.

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Safe-D Home Join us today About the stud About Us Are you 16 to 25 years of age? MELBOURNE If you're female, aged between 16 and 25 years and living in Victoria, we want to hear from you! The Royal Melbourne Hospital The University of Melbourne and the Royal Melbourne Hospital are looking for ways to improve vitamin D status and related health in young women. This new study, known as Safe-D, will explore relationships between vitamin D status, sun exposure, muscle and bone health, allergies, physical activity and mental health. You are invited to participate in this important study. It's quick, easy and confidential – and your contribution will make a huge difference! Click here to find out more about the study and contact us to get involved now!