

SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND NIGHTLIFE: A SYSTEMATIC LITERATURE REVIEW



Project co-funded by the Rights, Equality and Citizenship (REC) Programme (2014-2020) of the European Union.

This project has been produced with the financial support of the Rights, Equality and Citizenship (REC) Programme (2014-2020) of the European Union. The contents of this presentation are the sole responsibility of the STOP-SV partnership and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Commission.

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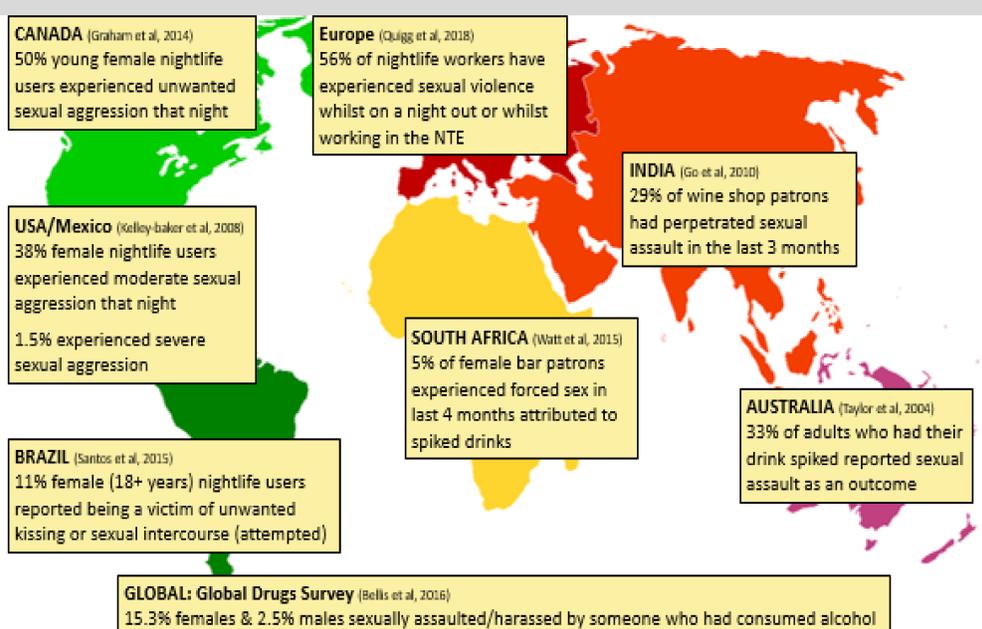
BACKGROUND

Preventing and responding to sexual violence in nightlife settings is increasingly of global concern. The EU STOP SV (sexual violence) project aimed to train staff working in the night-time economy (NTE) to recognise and prevent sexual violence in nightlife. The first stage in this project, a systematic literature review was undertaken. The review aimed to identify peer-reviewed articles that describe the nature and extent of NRSV; associated factors; and, interventions to prevent and respond. This would then inform the STOP SV intervention.

KEY FINDINGS

- **62** studies were ultimately included.
- The majority of studies had been conducted in high-income countries (**85.2%**). Two thirds (**66.1%**) were from the Region of the Americas (mostly the USA, **46.7%**).
- Seven in ten (**71.0%**) had been published over the last ten years (2009-2018).
- Whilst most studies included males and females (**54.8%**), a third (**32.3%**) included females only
- **29** studies explored or reported on the nature of nightlife-related sexual violence.
 - **22** provided information on extent.
 - **3** alluded to potential consequences.
 - **38** discussed its associations.
- Only **5** studies originated from low or middle-income countries
- Prevalence rates for experiencing SV during a night out ranged between **10%** and **50%**

Prevalence of sexual violence across the globe



OBJECTIVE: To identify the prevalence, consequences and risk factors for sexual violence and harassment in nightlife settings and methods of intervention, to further inform the Stop SV intervention.

METHODS

- 5 bibliographic databases searched.
- Search terms for ‘sexual violence’ combined with terms for ‘nightlife’ or ‘alcohol drinking settings’
 - e.g. (“sexual violence” or “sexual aggression” ...) AND (pub or club or “drinking establishment” ...)
- Title/abstract screening undertaken by 1 reviewer
 - 10% screened by a 2nd reviewer & disagreements discussed.
- Full text article screening undertaken by 1 reviewer
 - Decisions discussed with 2 reviewers.

Characteristics of included studies (n=62)

Characteristics	N	%	
Year published	<2009	18	29.0
	2009-2018	44	71.0
Study country income level	High income	52	85.2
	Low/middle income	5	6.6
	Mixed	5	8.2
Region of study	Region of the Americas	41	66.1
	European Region	11	17.7
	South-East Asia Region	1	1.6
	Western Pacific Region	5	8.1
	African Region	2	3.2
	Global	2	3.2
Data type	Qualitative	20	32.3
	Quantitative	33	53.2
	Mixed	9	14.5
Sample population	General/sub-population (other)	13	21.0
	General/sub-population (nightlife users)	16	25.8
	Not applicable	6	9.7
	Nightlife users/workers	19	30.6
	Students	8	12.9
Sample gender	Female	20	32.3
	Male	7	11.3
	Mixed	33	54.8
	Not applicable	1	1.6
Provides information on:	Nature	29	46.8
	Extent	22	35.5
	Consequences	3	4.8
	Associations	38	61.3
	Prevention/response	20	32.3

CONCLUSION

Developing an understanding of nightlife-related sexual violence is increasingly being prioritised across high-income countries, and efforts to prevent and respond to such harms have increased in recent years. However, gaps in the evidence remain, particular in relation to prevention and response. Critically, this review highlights that nightlife-related sexual violence is related to a combination of factors, many of which are also related to broader harms in nightlife and sexual violence at a population level. Consequently, preventing sexual violence should form part of a suite of programmes that aim to prevent harms in nightlife settings more broadly.