

ADOLESCENTS AND DRUG-FACILITATED SEXUAL ASSAULT: A PRELIMINARY STUDY

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INTRODUCTION

Regrettably, in recent years there has been an increase in sexist attitudes and behaviours and, by extension, of using drugs as facilitators of sexual assaults. These drugs are mainly alcohol or other substances such as the popular “burundanga” (Isorna and Rial, 2015; Isorna, Souto, Rial, McCartan, and Alías, 2017). In Spain, there are scarcely any empirical studies that provide reliable data or analyse this issue. The present study has a twofold objective: (1) to provide data on possible uses of drugs as facilitators of sexual assault by adolescents and young people, and (2) to characterise and to get a better understanding of possible patterns of use and profiles of victims, as well as related variables. This information could translate into more effective preventive efforts.

METHODS



Selective methodology: a survey of Compulsory Secondary Education (upper secondary education: 3rd and 4th year), baccalaureate students, vocational training students and university students from the North West region of Spain (Galicia)

Convenience sampling: 16 educational centers

Final sample: 1,568 students aged between 14 and 24 ($M = 16.61$; $SD = 2.52$). 51.5% females



All statistical analyses were conducted using IBM SPSS Statistics 24

After a descriptive analysis, a bivariate tabulation was carried out using Chi-square test of independence for the comparison of percentages in qualitative variables.

Ad hoc questionnaire



Ad hoc questions exploring DFSA

Screening tests for risky uses

- Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test [AUDIT]
- Substance Abuse Screening Test [CRAFT]
- Problematic Internet Use in adolescents [PIUS-a]

Consumption habits for alcohol and other drugs

- National Survey on Drug Use in Secondary School students in Spain [ESTUDES]
- European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs [ESPAD]

Online risky practices

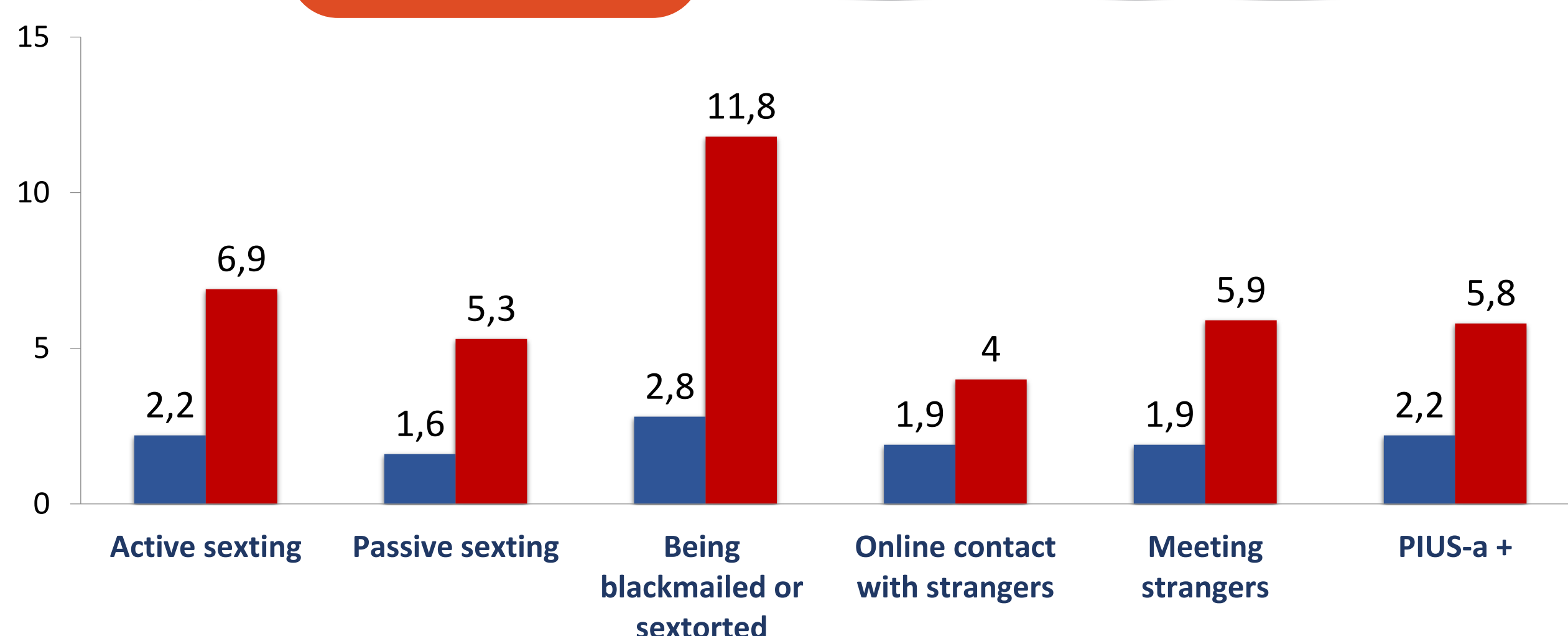
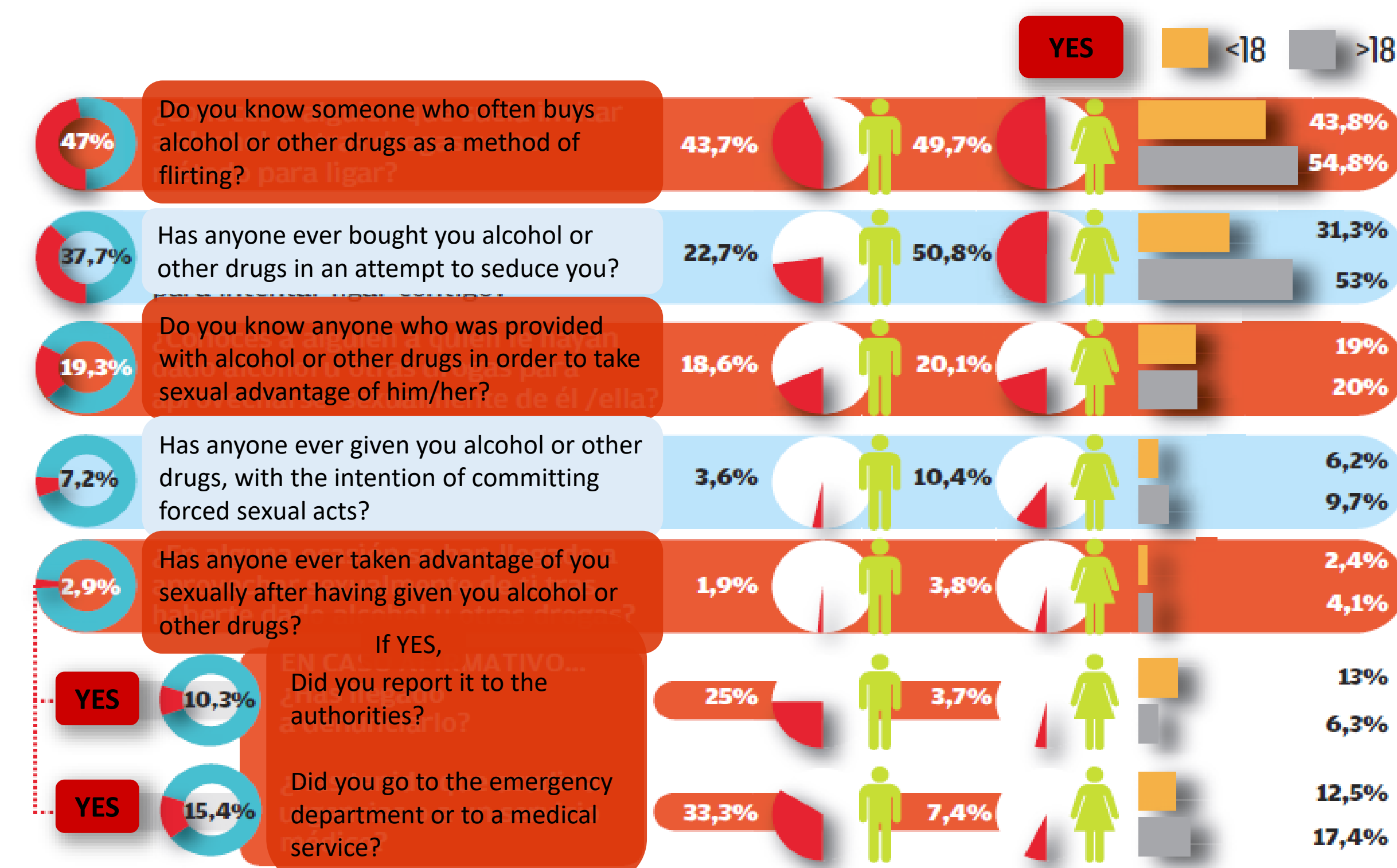
Sociodemographic variables



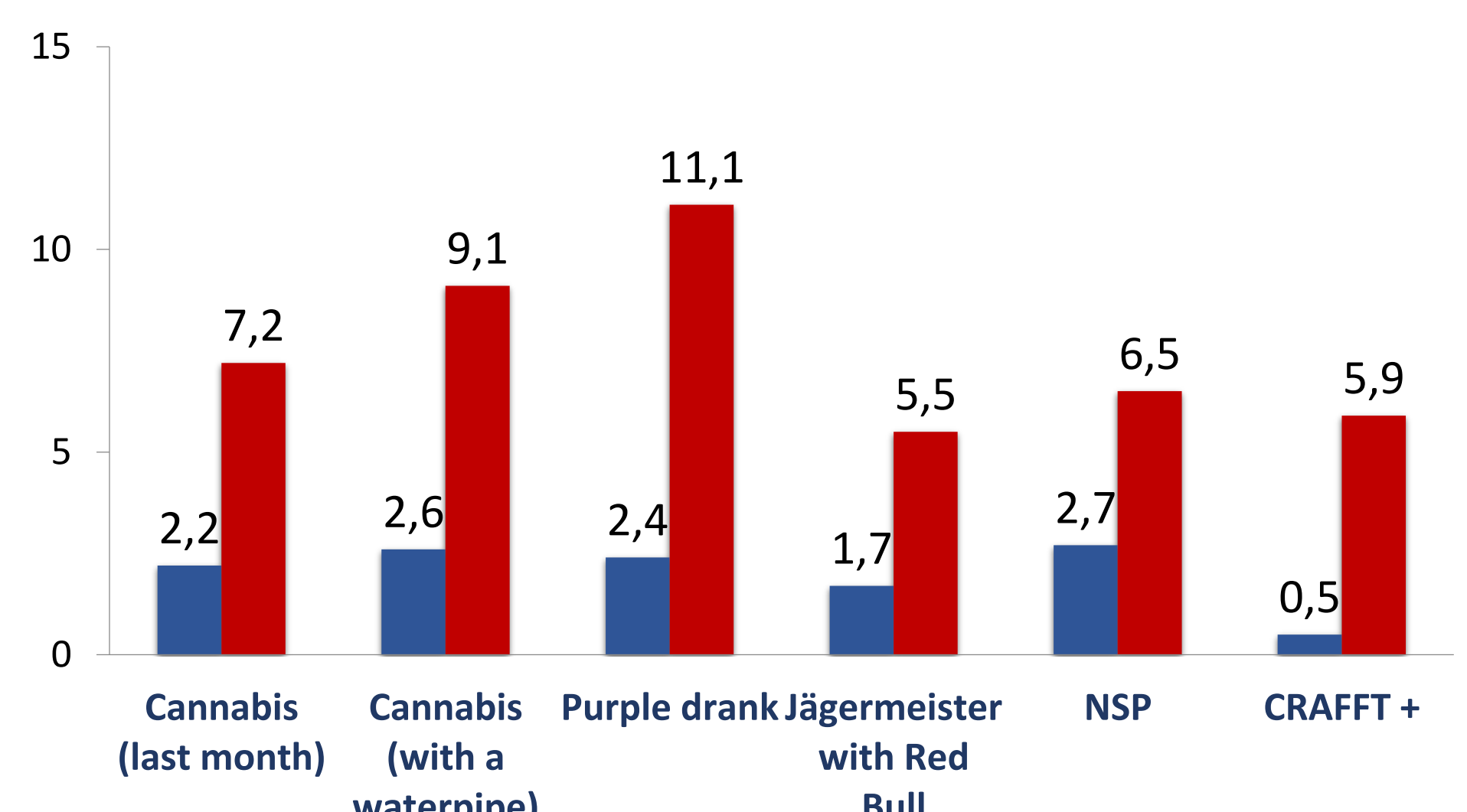
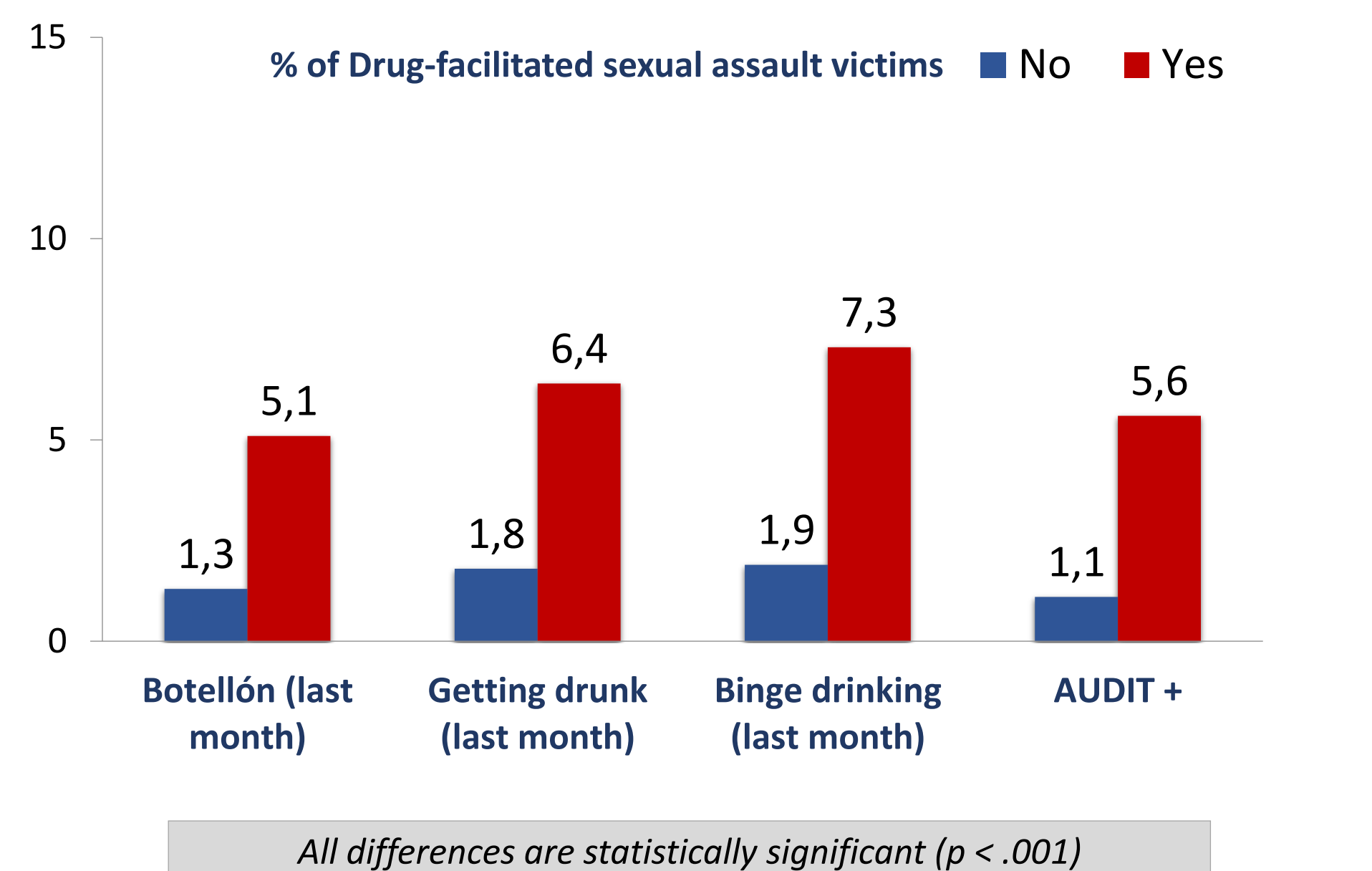
Data were collected in their own classrooms in small groups, through a self-administered paper-and-pencil questionnaire that each student completed individually.

- The information was collected by a group of psychologists from the Universidade de Santiago de Compostela with extensive experience in carrying out this type of work.
- All participants were informed of the purpose of the study, as well as of the complete anonymity and confidentiality of their responses. Participation was voluntary.
- This study was carried out with the consent and cooperation from both the school leadership and respective parents' associations.
- The Bioethics Committee of the Universidade de Santiago de Compostela approved this study.

RESULTS



POSSIBLE RISK FACTORS



DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

Although this is an exploratory study, the findings reveal that we face a very worrying problem. The victims are mostly women (3 out of 4), 1 in 3 are underage, and 90% of cases are not reported to the authorities. Participating in ‘botellón’, getting drunk, or binge drinking increased the risk of suffering a sexual assault between three or five times, which coincides with most part of scientific literature that points out that the main facilitating drug of sexual assault is alcohol. Victims present a risk profile in terms of internet use and substance use and, consequently, in terms of vulnerability. This cannot be interpreted as a justification of deplorable behaviour such as sexual assault (an intensive work with aggressors is indispensable), but as a characterisation of the context where it is usually carried out, thus enabling the improvement of prevention strategies. This issue should be focused with specific politics in terms of prevention. Having used a non-probabilistic sample limits the external validity of the results. Results must be interpreted with caution.



- Isorna, M. & Rial, A. (2015). Drogas facilitadoras de asalto sexual y sumisión química [Drug facilitated sexual assault and chemical submission]. *Health and Addictions*, 15, 137-150.
- Isorna, M., Souto, C., Rial, A., McCartan, K., & Alías, A. (2017). Drug-Facilitated Sexual Assault and Chemical Submission. *Psychology, Society & Education*, 9, 263-282.



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