

Lifetime Victimization Experiences Among a Sample of College Men and Women

Presenter

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Presenter Disclosures

Melissa A. Sutherland

- (1) The following personal financial relationships with commercial interests relevant to this presentation existed during the past 12 months:

“No relationships to disclose”

Purpose of this analysis

Describe the lifetime victimization experiences and self-reported mental health difficulties of a sample of college men and women.

Variables for the Analysis

- ▶ *Experiences of sexual victimization*
 - *Child (< 11 yo)*
 - “Has anyone ever touched the sex organs of your body when you did not want this?”
 - “Has anyone ever made you touch the sex organs of their body when you did not want this?”
 - “Has anyone ever forced you to have sex when you did not want this?”

Reference: Leserman, 1995

Experiences of sexual victimization

- *Early adolescence (11- 14 yo)*
 - "Has anyone ever touched the sex organs of your body when you did not want this?"
 - "Has anyone ever made you touch the sex organs of their body when you did not want this?"
 - "Has anyone ever forced you to have sex when you did not want this?"

Reference: Leserman, 1995

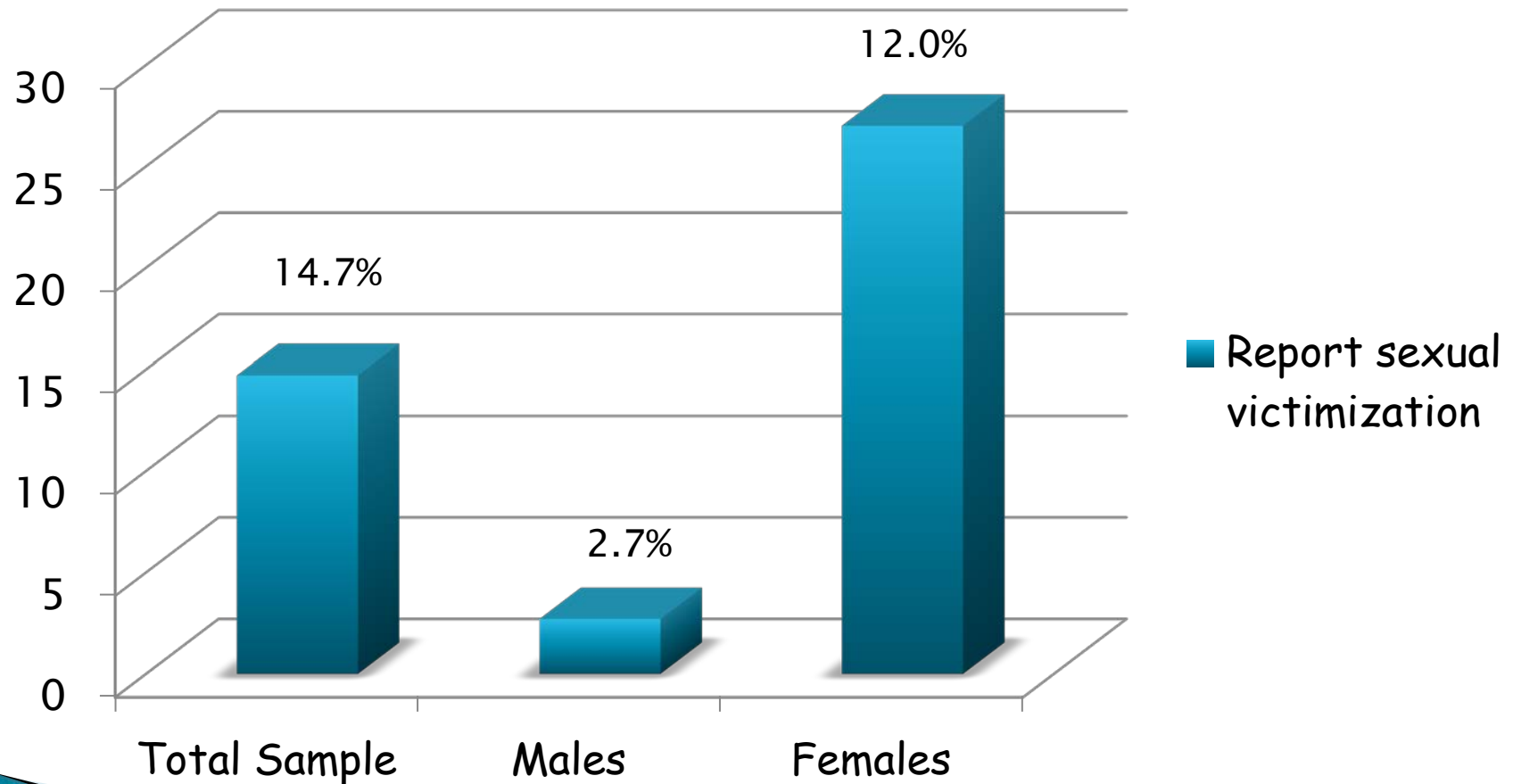
- *Late adolescence (18 - 22 yo)*
 - Determined by answering yes to any of the 8 acts of victimization or the two additional questions about alcohol and sexual acts.

Reference: Koss et al., 2006

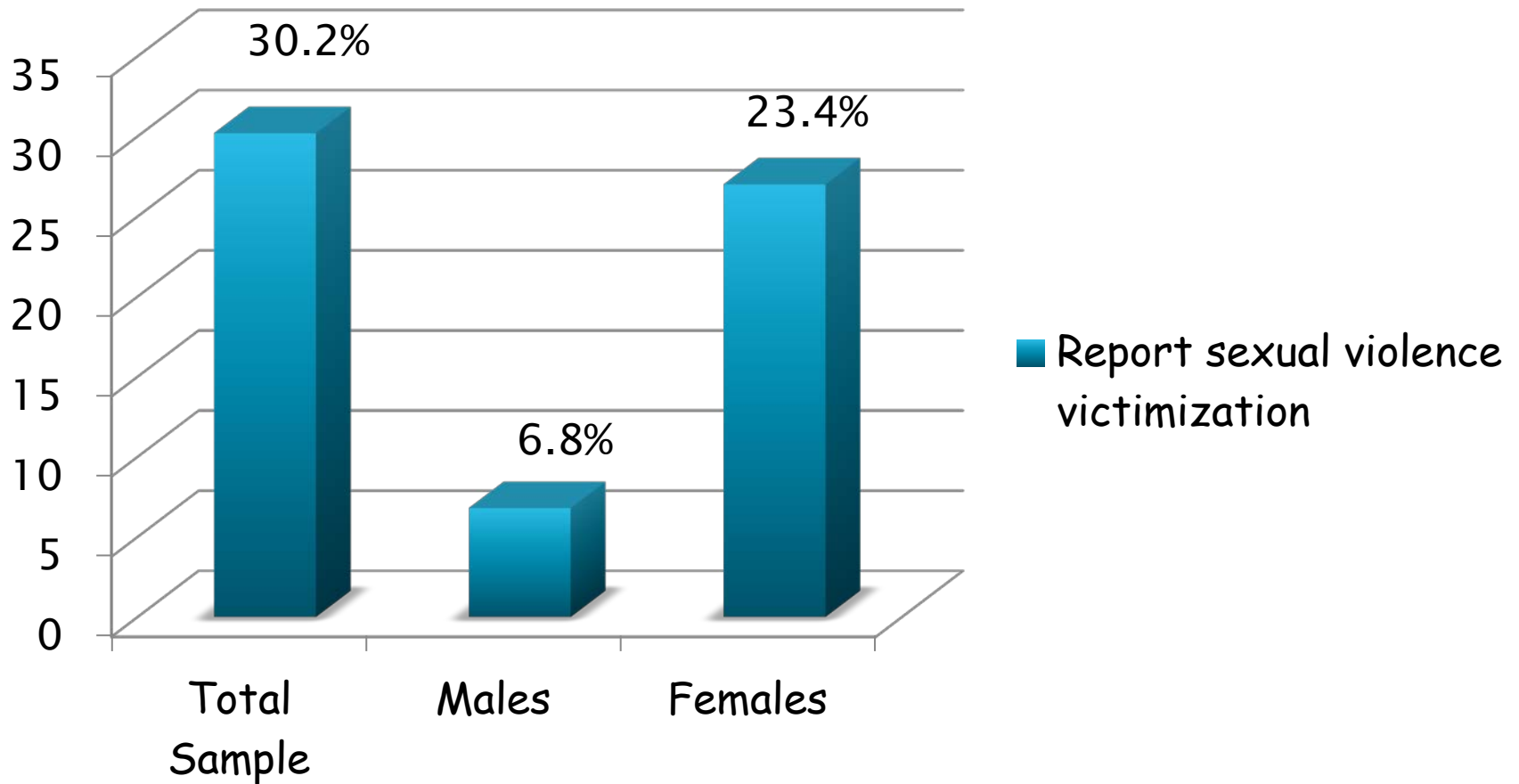
Questions Posed in the Study

- ▶ 1. What percentage of males and females report sexual violence victimization during childhood, early, and late adolescence among a sample of college students?
- ▶ 2. What percentage of males and females report lifetime experiences of sexual victimization among a sample of college students?
- ▶ 3. Are there a difference in mental health difficulties (as measured by Impact of Events subscales) among those reporting lifetime experiences of sexual violence victimization?
- ▶ 4. Are there differences in mental health difficulties between male and female college students?

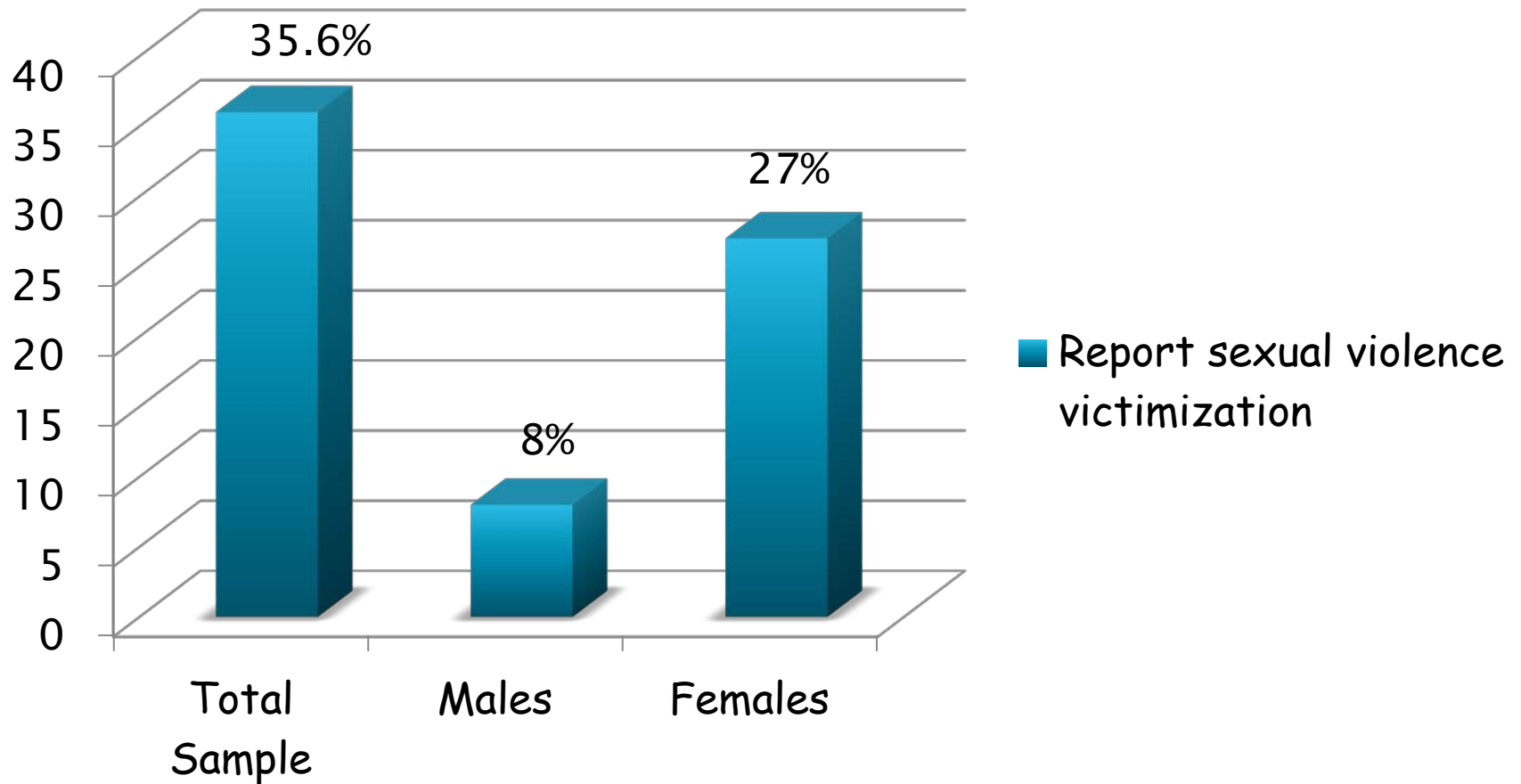
Q1. Sexual Victimization- Childhood



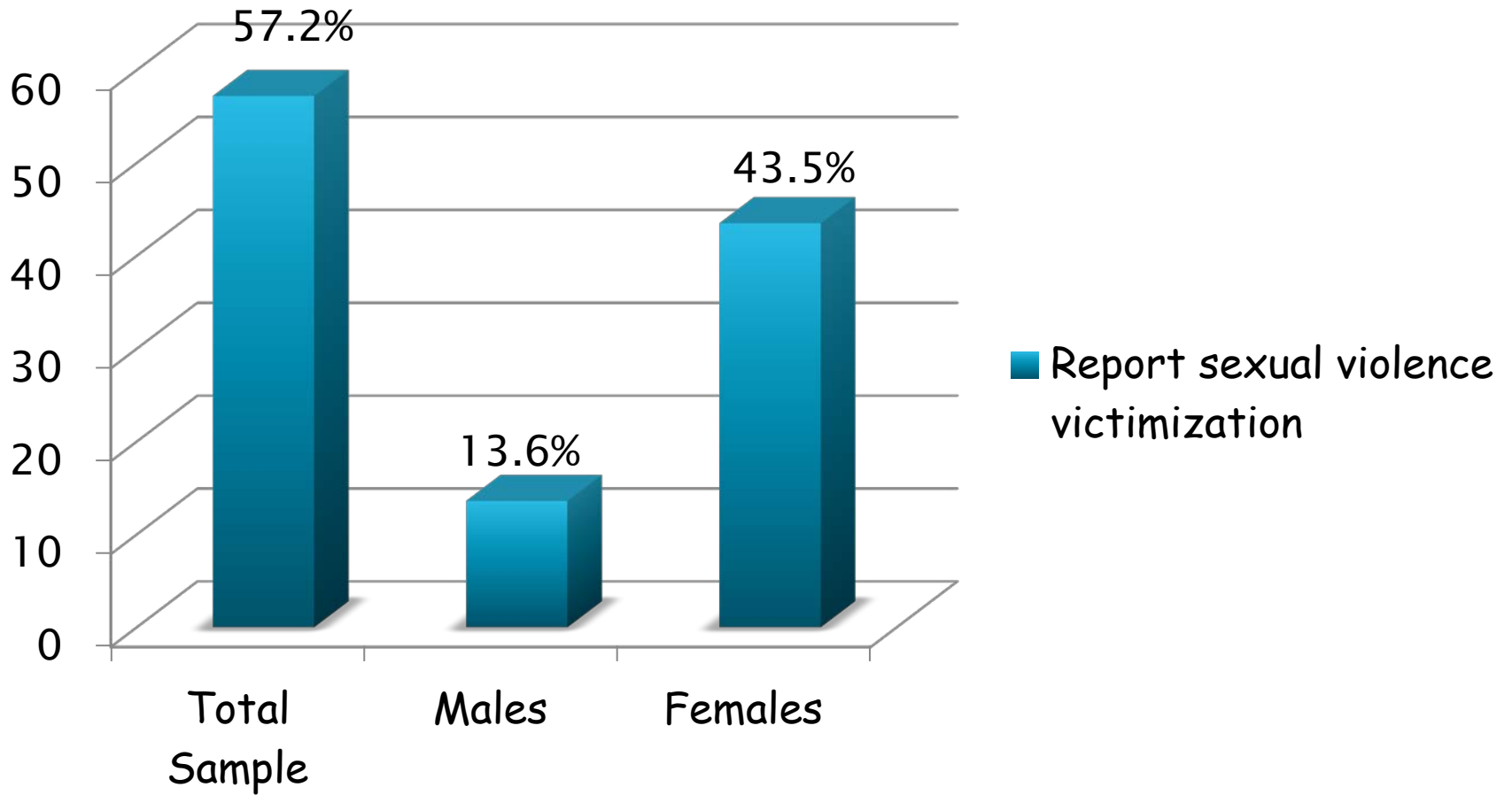
Q1. Sexual Victimization- Early Adolescence



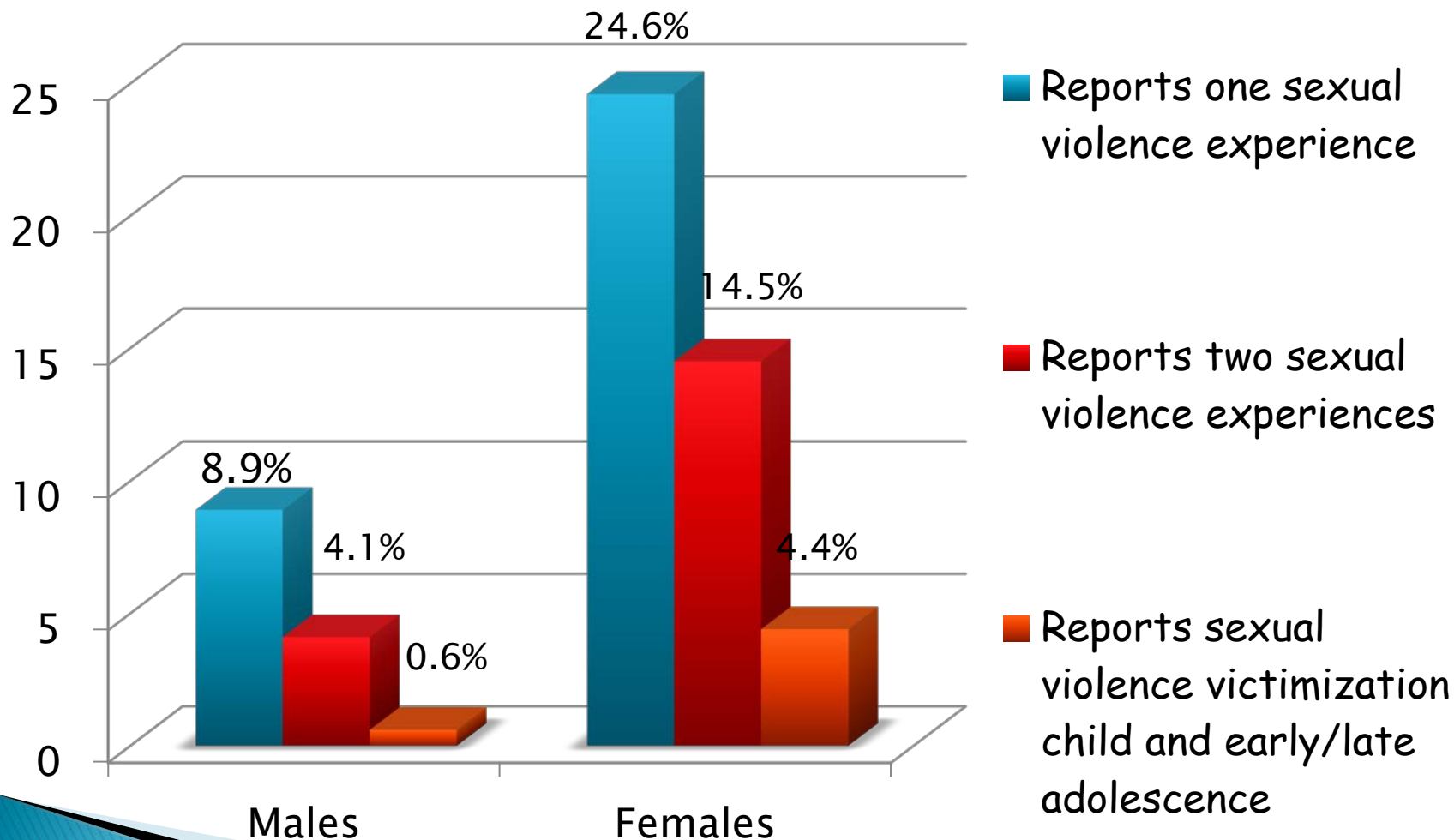
Q1. Sexual Victimization- Late Adolescence



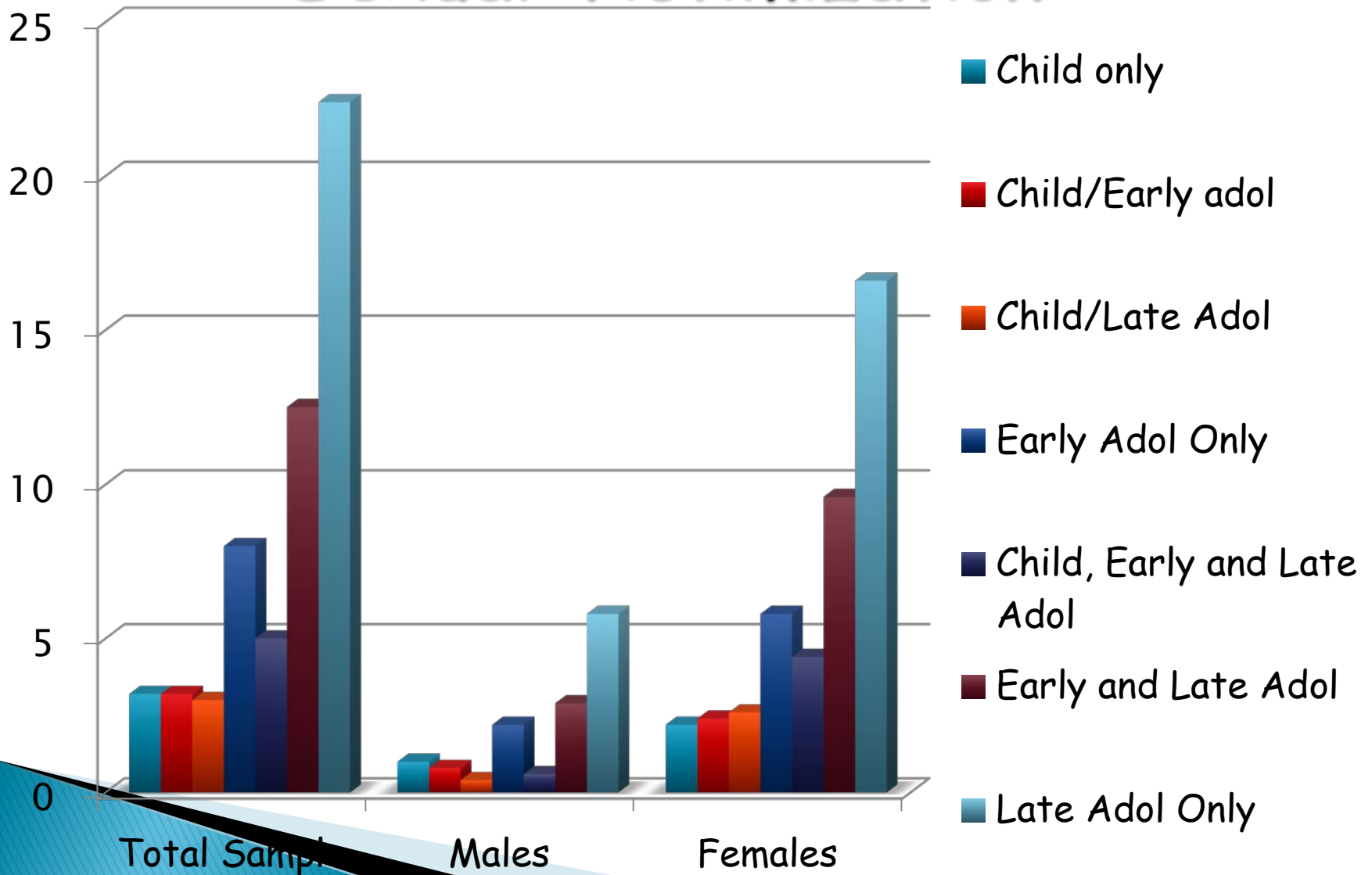
Q1. Lifetime Victimization



Q2. Lifetime Victimization by Gender



Q3. Lifetime Experiences of Sexual Victimization



Q4. Lifetime experiences of sexual victimization and IOE subscales

Males (*mean scores)

	Avoidance*	Hyperarousal*	Intrusion*
No victimization	0.12	0.04	0.25
One experience	0.32	0.12	0.15
Two experiences	0.29	0.27	0.37
Three experiences	----	1.5	2.75

Females (*mean scores)

	Avoidance*	Hyperarousal*	Intrusion*
No victimization	0.38	.09	0.12
One experience	0.57	0.32	0.36
Two experiences	0.75	0.38	0.38
Three experiences	1.25	0.96	0.87

Q4. Sexual victimization and mental health

- ▶ Two-way ANOVA examining gender and experiences of sexual victimization (SV) on subscales (avoidance, hyperarousal, intrusion) of the Impact of Events Scale (Weiss, 2006)
 - Avoidance
 - Interaction between gender and SV experiences: Not Sig
 - Gender: Not sig
 - Experiences of victimization: Sig ($p < .002$)
 - Hyperarousal
 - Interaction between gender and SV experiences: Not Sig
 - Gender: Not sig
 - Experiences of victimization: Sig ($p < .003$)
 - Intrusion
 - Interaction between gender and SV experiences: SIG
 - Gender: Sig ($p < .007$)
 - Experiences of victimization: Sig ($p < .001$)

- ▶ Men reporting sexual victimization during childhood, early and late adolescence experienced the following symptoms (moderate to extreme):
 - I had dreams about it.
 - I thought about it when I didn't mean to.
 - I was jumpy and easily startled.
 - My feelings about it were kind of numb.
 - I had strong waves of strong feelings about it.

- ▶ Women reporting reporting sexual victimization during childhood, early and late adolescence experienced the following symptoms (moderate to extreme):
 - I had trouble concentrating.
 - I felt watchful and on-guard.
 - I tried not to talk about it.
 - I tried not to think about it.
 - I tried to remove it from my memory.

Summary of Findings

- ▶ Experiences of sexual violence- prevalent among college men and women.
- ▶ As expected, there is a cumulative effect of violence on mental health.
- ▶ Gender differences in the mental health difficulties experienced by men and women.

Conclusions

- ▶ The pervasiveness of sexual violence victimization in this sample further stresses the need for early identification.
- ▶ Identifying best methods for assessment of lifetime victimization important.
- ▶ Linkages to treatment and resources during college years may impact future health.
- ▶ College campuses and college health providers are in a unique position to identify and refer.