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INJURY CONTROL RESEARCH CENTER

Honor Killing of Women in Pakistan— 2008

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Background

- **Multi-country study by WHO on women's health and domestic violence**
 - **Lifetime prevalence of physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner—15% to 71%**
 - **Associations between lifetime experiences of partner violence and poor health, memory loss, dizziness, emotional distress, suicidal thoughts, suicidal attempts**

Garcia-Moreno et al. Lancet 2006;368:1260-9

Ellsberg et al. Lancet 2008;371:1165-72

Background

■ Study in Bangladesh

- Illiteracy and poverty increased a married women's risk of being sexually abused

■ United Nations study in Pakistan

- 50% of married women physically battered
- 90% are emotionally and verbally abused

Hadi. J Interpers Violence 2000;15(8):787-805
Tinker. World Bank, Karachi. 1999.

Background

- **Honor Killings in Pakistan—2004–2007**
 - 1957 total events
 - Adults (82%)
 - Married (88%)
 - Alleged extramarital relations (92%)
 - Husbands (38%)
 - Firearms (55%)
 - Mean HK rate (15.0 per million)

Importance

- Honour killing (HK) problem of public health concern
- Domestic violence is common and HK occurs but is poorly described
- Published data limited and many cases likely go unrecognised

Honour Killing

- **“Honour Killing (HK) is a form of domestic violence that has been described as a custom in which mostly women and sometimes men are murdered after accusations of sexual infidelity”**
- **Killers seek to avenge the shame that victims are accused of bringing to their families**

PAKISTAN



Tor Tora

Sinyah Kari

Kala Kali

Karo Kari

Objectives

- High risk groups for HK
- Reasons and circumstances leading to HK
- Weapons / method employed in HK
- Compare rates with 2004-2007

Methods & Materials

- **Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP)**
 - Independent & Voluntary
 - Non-profit organization
 - Not associated with government or political party

- **Mission HRCP**
 - Awareness raising of human rights
 - Mobilizing public opinion
 - Collecting and disseminating knowledge about human rights abuses

Methods & Materials- Data Sources

■ National daily newspapers

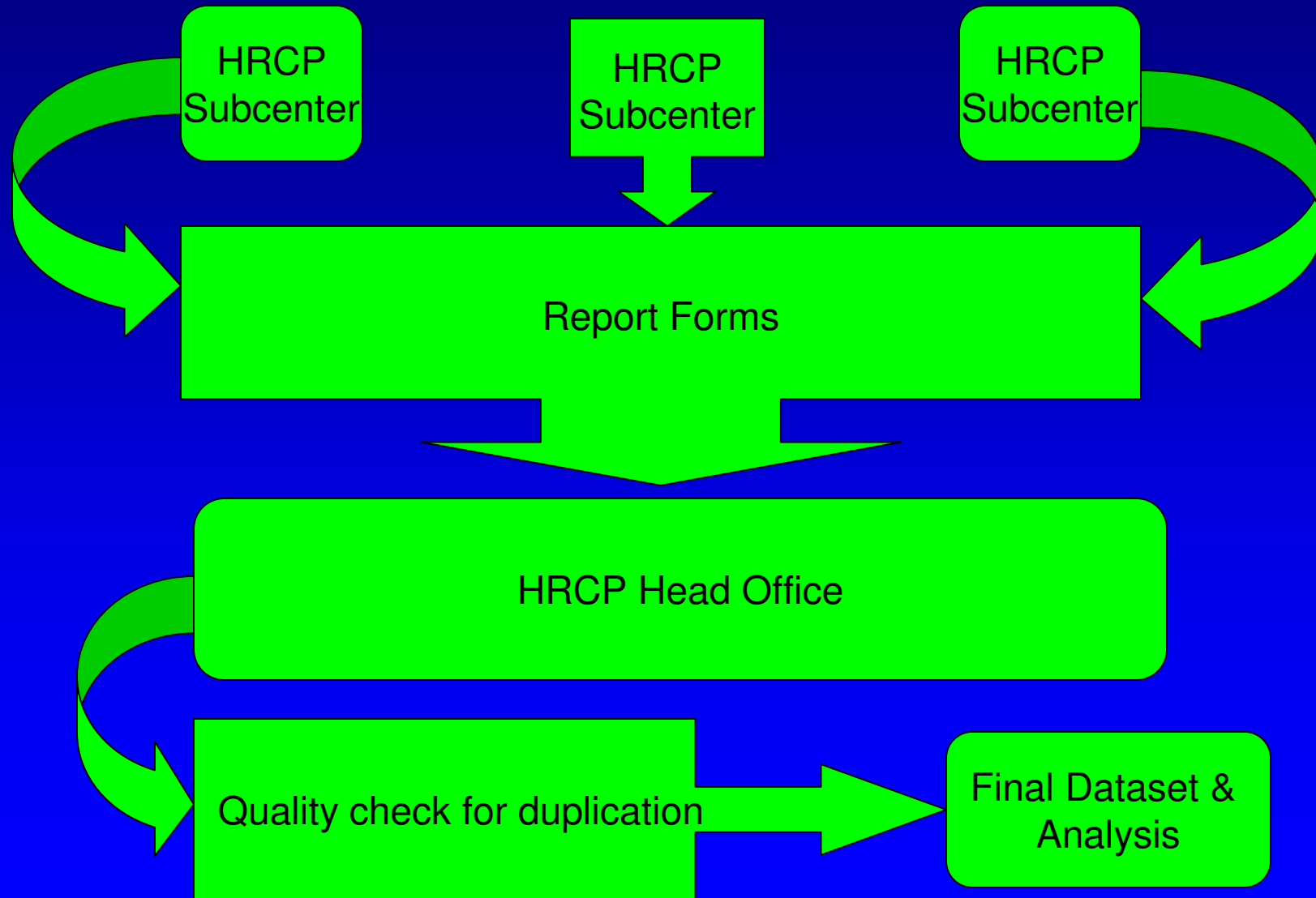
- English

- DAWN, NEWS, NATION

- Urdu

- JANG, NAWA-E-WAQAT, KHABRAIN

Methods & Materials- Data Collection



Methods & Materials- Data Management

- **HRCP provided aggregated data on HK events**
- **January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008**
- **Microsoft Excel**

Methods & Materials- Data Management

- **Descriptive analysis**
- **Estimated the rates of HK per year**
 - **Pakistan's female population age 15-64 years for year 2008**
 - **15-64 years females considered vulnerable**
 - **Total number of HK in 2008 divided by respective estimated female population of 2008**

Results

- **573 total events during 4 years**
- **Age group was available for 281 (49%)**
- **Out of known age group**
 - 233 (83%) adults (≥ 18 years)
 - 48 (17%) minors (< 18 years)
- **Alleged extramarital relations**
 - 95%, n=521/548
- **Women married by their own choice**
 - 4%, n=22/548

Results

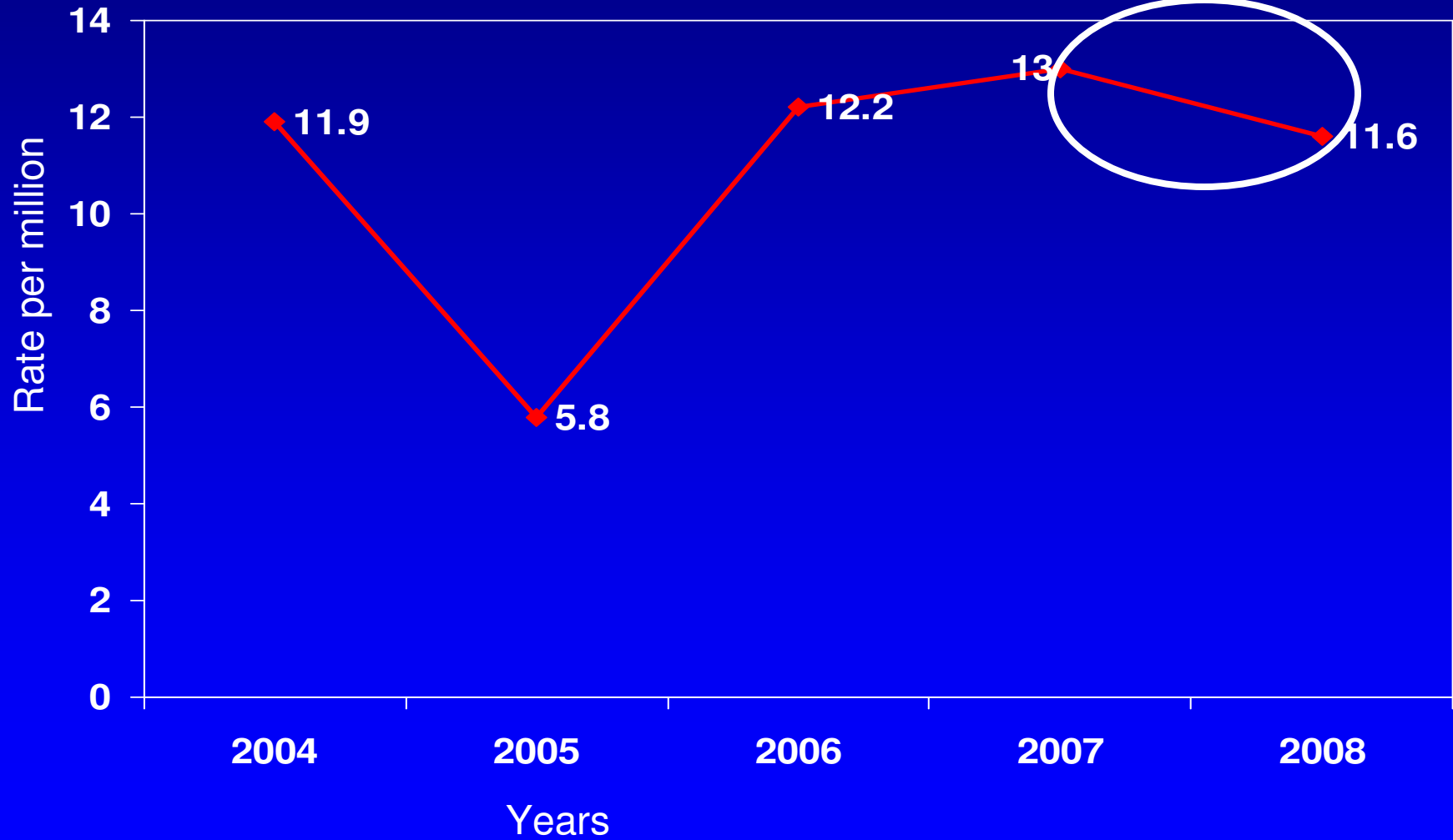
- **Marital status was available for 407 events (71%)**
- **Out of known marital status**
 - **Married 88%, n=356**
 - **Unmarried 9%, n=36**
 - **Divorced 2%, n= 8**
 - **Widowed 2%, n=7**
- **Minorities: 7 instances (5 Christians, 2 Hindu)**

Perpetrators	N (%)
Husbands	203 (38%)
Brothers	139 (26%)
Close relatives	60 (11%)
In-laws	33 (6%)
Fathers	44 (8%)
Sons	27 (5%)
Local residents	6 (1%)
Neighbors	4 (0.8%)
Employers	1 (0.2%)
Not known	43 (8%)

Method Used for HK	N (%)
Firearms	309 (54%)
Axe	56 (10%)
Strangulation	54 (9%)
Edged tool	49 (9%)
Stabbing	13 (2%)
Stick	9 (2%)
Torture	8 (1%)
Poisoning	6 (1%)
Hanging	4 (0.7%)
Others	5 (0.9%)
Not known	58 (10%)

Rates of Honour Killing in Pakistan and Karo Kari in Sindh per million

◆ Honour Killing



Law Situation

- **Pakistan's Criminal Law (Amendment) Act 2004**

- **Qisas and Diyat laws of Sharia**
 - **Open to compromise as a private matter between two parties by providing for Qisas (retribution) or Diyat (blood-money)**
 - **Section 309- Heirs can forgive the murderer in the name of God without receiving any compensation**
 - **Section 310- Compromise after receiving compensation**

Limitations

- Limited information in newspapers
- Under estimation of true incidence
- No direct access to perpetrators or their relatives
- No follow up with perpetrators or victims' relatives
- Denominator in rate determination of HK constitute only females between ages 15-65 years

Main Findings

- 573 total HK events
- Out of known age group 83% adults
- Out of known marital status 88% married
- Major cause of HK is alleged extramarital relations (95%)
- Husbands (38%) and brothers (26%) main perpetrators
- Firearms (54%), axe (10%), strangulation(9%) major methods used for killing
- HK rate in females 15-64 years was 11.6 per million in 2008

Prevention

- **Enforcement of the existing law on HK**
- **Means of sentence to the perpetrators**
- **Increase in education opportunities**
- **Reduction in gender inequality in a society**

Prevention

- **Raising public awareness and advocacy**
- **Financial, legal and support services for women fleeing honor crimes**
- **Community program focusing on pre- and post- marital counseling of the couple**
- **Facilitation of understanding among the extended families of the couple**

Conclusions

- **Newspaper a good source of surveillance when information is limited or difficult to access**
- **Urgent need of systematic data collection**
- **Prevention plan for high risk group**
- **Enforcement of the existing law on HK along with means of sentence to the perpetrators**

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