

Research on sexual crimes against minors

Methodology

In Romania, sexual crimes have been scarcely tackled in criminological studies so that, at present, there has only been disparate data and statistics regarding this type of crime. In the context of accurate information being the basis to ensure efficient preventive endeavours as well as having in view the fact that the prevention of sexual crimes against minors is one of the priorities of the Romanian Police in the field of crime prevention, The Crime Research and Prevention Institute has conducted a research on the detailed characteristics of sexual crimes against minors.

The **objectives** of the research were:

- to describe the characteristics of the victims and offenders;
- to identify risk factors;
- to identify solutions to diminish victimal risks and the risk of deviant sexual behaviour amongst minors.

Research methods used:

- *documents analysis* (criminal investigations concluding documents). On basis of a case file of the sexually abused minor, data has been collected referring to the characteristics of offenders, victims and circumstances in which the crime was committed for which the criminal investigation proceedings have been finalized in the year 2011 in a number of 36 counties/municipalities and the capital city Bucharest. Data was collected by sociologists and crime prevention officers working within the territorial crime analysis and prevention offices in the mentioned areas in Romania.
- *specialist interviews*:
 - In 9 counties/municipalities an interview guide was applied to criminal investigation police officers, a psychologist involved in counselling and victim assistance in sexual abuse cases and a representative of the General Directorate for Social Assistance and Child Protection.
 - In Bucharest municipality, the interview was conducted with one criminal investigation officer, a representative of the General Directorate for Social Assistance and Child Protection - sector 5 and a psychiatrist specialized in deviant behaviour of sexual nature (Romanian famous psycho-therapist Cristian Andrei).

The sexual crimes investigated by this research were: rape with a minor victim, sexual rapport with a minor, sexual corruption, seduction and sexual perversion.

Data collection has been performed on basis of criminological case file and specialist interviews in the time period 10 April-16 May 2012.

Methodologic limitations

Data collection on basis of the criminological case file has encountered difficulties in finding information regarding the protagonists of the offence (offenders and victims alike) since

there is little about their life history, relationships, context of living, their needs, types of reactions to certain situations, personal convictions that facilitated the investigated behaviour, etc in the recordings of such crimes. These elements are necessary in order to understand the personal conditions and the context in which the activation of the criminal behaviour took place, having in view the fact that *prevention does not address actual criminality, but potential one*. Furthermore, their educational pathway, living conditions and family background, medical history, are important to develop a coherent profile and determine the most efficient intervention methods.

Under the circumstances, only valid responses have been analyzed, disregarding non-answers.

Statistical evolution of sexual crimes against minors

One of the shortcomings of studying this phenomenon is mainly the black figure of the crime which is, according to the interviewed specialists, quite high, meaning that, based on prejudice, such crimes are still considered taboos, perceived as shameful both by the victim and his/her family so that, in some cases, the family would pressure the victim not to report the crime or the child will not tell about the abuse out of fear of punishment from parents, shame or lack of awareness regarding the meaning of the abuse.

In addition, there is fear of repercussions from the abuser as well as threats or manipulation of the victim – they receive compensation in order to keep the abuse a secret or are emotionally manipulated, threatened to be abandoned, left alone, etc. Another situation is when the abuser is part of the family, therefore s/he is protected by hiding the truth.

Moreover, another cause of the unreported abuses is the lack of involvement of the community, people in the victim's proximity, who are still reluctant in reporting such crimes based on the concept that it's the business of the family to react and outside intervention would be inadequate.

The reality of communities where „marriage” is arranged at very early ages should not be ignored either as in such cases abuse is unlikely to be reported.

Demotivation of the victims in reporting such abuse is facilitated as well by the treatment of the victim by the judicial system (some crimes, except rape, are treated with superficiality and lack of interest), there is a lack of finality in the punishment or the punishment is too lenient as compared to the gravity of the crime, procedures of investigation and trial are stressful, the victim being interviewed in turns by the investigating officer, the district attorney, etc, thus having to re-live the trauma over and over again.

To avoid the re-traumatization of the victim, Bucharest Municipal Police came up with a positive initiative, that is recording victim testimony but, in court, there is the chance that the victim will have to face her/his abuser, thus feeling the terror of being re-abused.

The interviewed specialist observed that there have been positive changes in the awareness raising among children and the community at large regarding sexual crimes mainly due to the information campaigns targeting students in schools developed by: child protection services, police, teachers and a series of non-governmental organizations.

Thus, the dynamics of recorded sexual offences which reveals an increasing trend can be explained by the increase of reporting, the community being aware of the consequences of such offences and informing authorities in order for proper measures to be taken.

The tabel below shows the increase in the recorded sexual offences in the past years from **1234** in 2008 to **1910** in 2011, representing **54,8%** and the fact that sexual crimes were **27%** of the total recorded crimes in 2008 and became **49,2%** in the first 7 months of the year 2012.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012 (7 months)
Sexual crimes - total	4585	4774	4554	4436	2860
Of which against minors	1234	1533	1866	1910	1406
% of sexual crimes against minors from total sexual crimes	27	32	41	43	49,2

Results of research

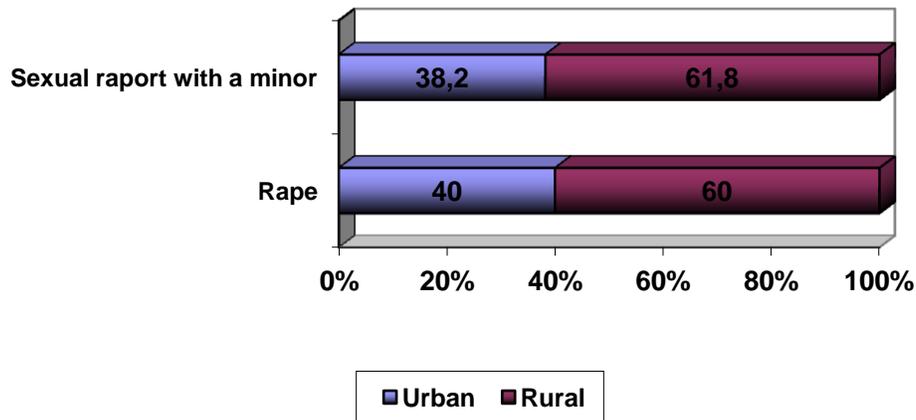
Having in view the fact that the vast majority of sexual crimes documented in the analized time period have been **rape (37.1%)** and **sexual raport with a minor (56,4%)¹**, the other crimes against minors (seduction – **0,6%**, sexual corruption – **7,3%**, sexual perversion - **1,2%** and incest – **4,7%**) being less reprezentative, we considered only these two crimes.

A. Data on the abuser

565 sexual offenders have been identified, out of which **218** have been charged with **rape** and **306** with **sexual raport with a minor**.

The vast majority of these abusers were Romanian citizens (**99,6%**), male offenders (**99,3%**), only 4 female offenders (**0,7%**) being involved in rape cases with a minor victim, about **60%** of the offenders coming from rural areas.

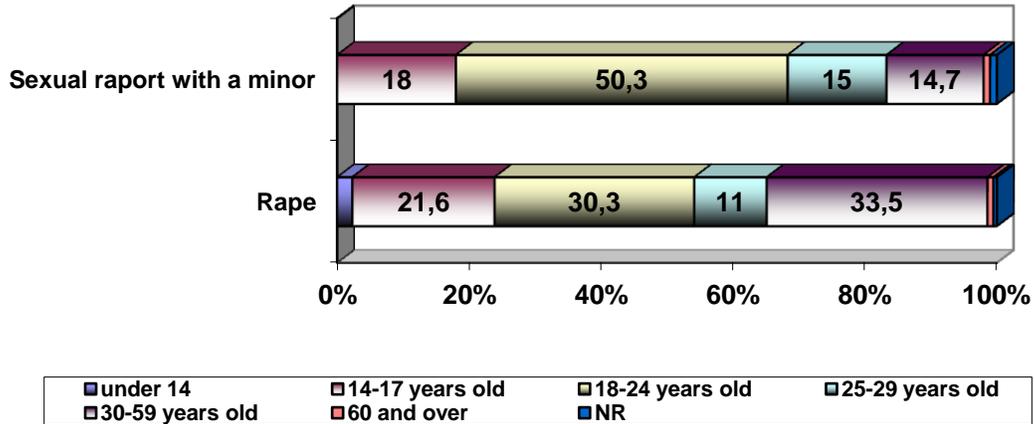
Figure 1 Area of residence of sexual offenders



As far as age of offenders is concerned, almost half of the rapists (**45,4%**) are over 24, about a quarter (**24%**) are minors and **30,3%** between 18 and 24 years old.

In cases of sexual raport with a minor, offenders are generally young, **7 out of 10** of them being under 25 years old: almost 1/5 (**18%**) minors and half (**50,3%**) between 18 and 24 years old.

Figure 2 Offender age groups



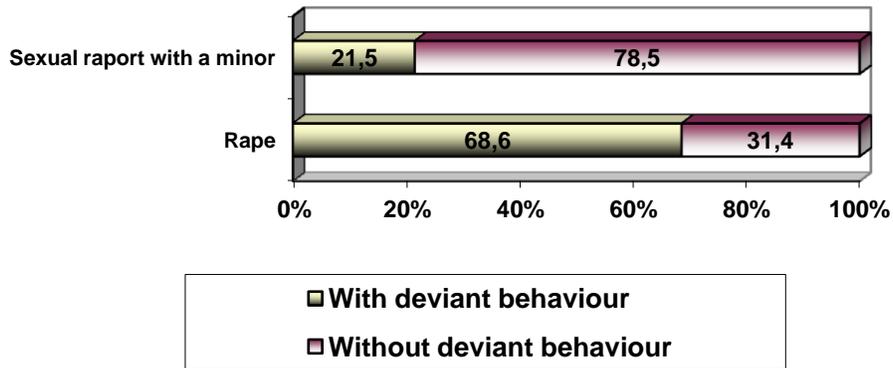
Having in view the fact that in a sexual raport with a minor some sort of consent is required, even if it is corrupted by the reduced judgement of the child, it is only natural to find most offenders in the 18-24 age span, this being the period in which they are old enough to be independent of parental authority, able to promise the continuation of the relation, even marriage to their victims.

The following observation should be made regarding the 14-15 years old category, in cases of sexual raport with a minor: the law allows sexual intercourse starting the age of 15, after 14 with certain penal accountability; therefore, in cases of consented sexual raport between minors in this age category, both will be regarded as offender and victim in the same time.

Out of the total number of rapists, **56** have been found with a criminal record (majority with theft and robbery charges and 2 rape cases), out of which 14 offenders had a history of sexual crimes. **68,6%** of the rapists have been known in their communities as displaying deviant behaviour, such as: violence, alcohol abuse, family disputes.

Out of the total number of offenders charged with sexual raports with a minor, **41** had a criminal record, 8 of which have previously been charged with sexual crimes. As far as behaviour in the community is concerned, only **21%** of sex offenders were known as antisocial.

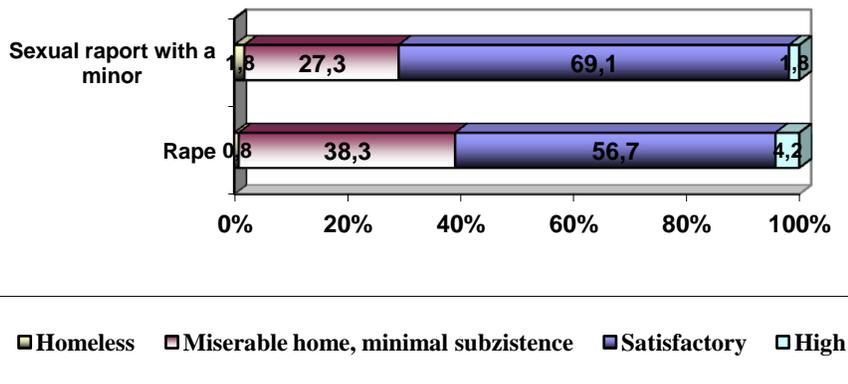
Figure 3 Offender behaviour in the community



Few rapists (16 offenders) had a medical history in terms of personality disorders and mental retard, while only 3 offenders charged with sexual raport with a minor had such disabilities.

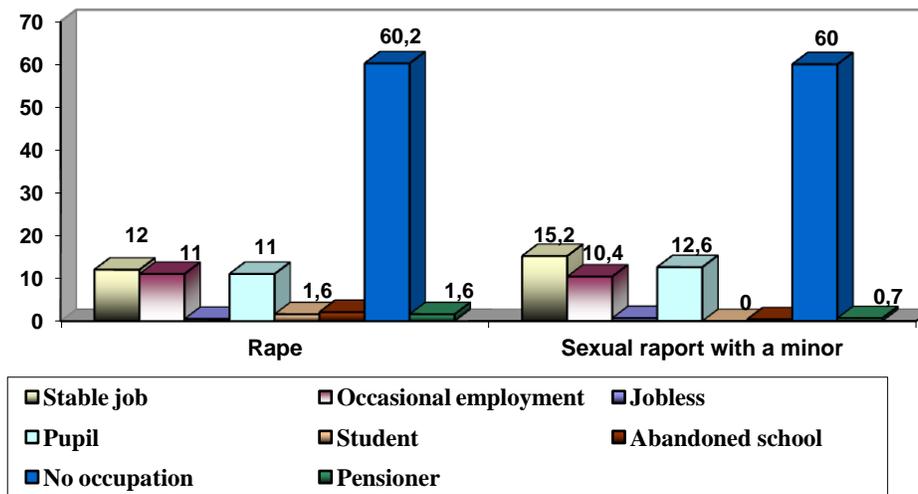
One of the risk factors associated in literature with criminal behaviour is poverty/living conditions. The results of the research, however, demonstrated a lesser impact of this factor on child sexual abuse. Most offenders' living conditions have been appreciated as satisfactory (56,7% of the rapists and 69% of offenders charged with sexual raport with a minor), about 40% of the rapists were living in misery, as compared to only 27% of the offenders charged with sexual raport with a minor.

Figure 4 Offender living conditions



However, a major factor in the ethiology of any crime – **joblessness** – is significant in the profile of sexual offenders as well. Thus, 60,2% of rapists had no occupation and 11% had occasional petty jobs. 60% of the other category of offenders were jobless and 10,4% had occasional petty jobs.

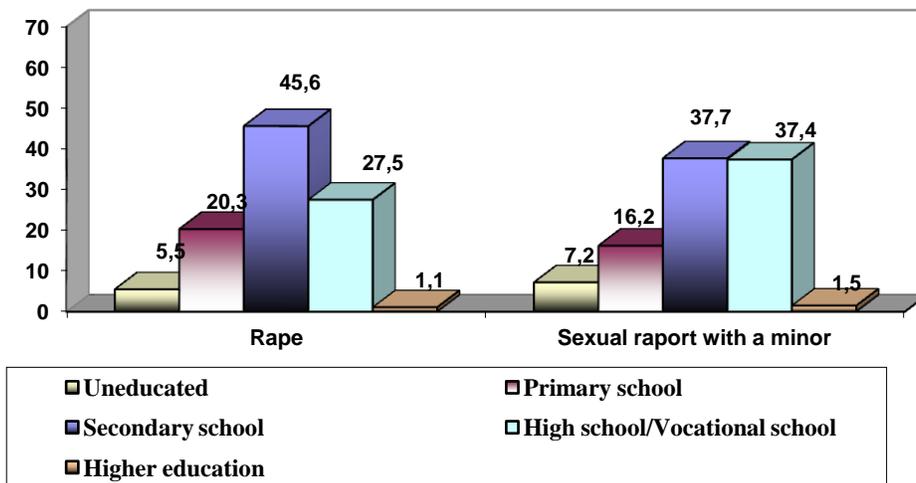
Figure 5 Offender occupation



To this, level of school education is added. Thus, **45,6%** of rapists graduated secondary school, **20,3%** only primary school and **27,5%** graduated high school or a vocational school.

In cases of sexual raport with a minor, **37,7%** offenders graduated secondary school, **37,4%** high school or vocational schools and **16,2%** only graduated primary school.

Figure 6 Offender level of education



In terms of offender-victim relationship, the situation is as follows: about a quarter of the rape cases (26,6% -58 cases) the victim and offender were related; in majority of cases the offender was the father who raped his daughter/son (23 cases), the uncle who raped his niece/nephew (11 cases) or the mother's concubine (6 cases).

In almost half of the number of cases (**47,2%**), the rapist and victim knew each other as friends/neighbours and only in **14,7%** of the situations (32 cases) they had not been acquainted before the crime.

In cases of sexual raport with a minor, the situation is different: in only 19 cases, about **6%** the victim and offender were related, mostly as victim of mother's concubine (6 cases);

12,5% of the situations (39 cases) the victim and offender did not know each other prior to the crime, while in **21,2%** of the cases they have had consented sex before; in **62%** of the cases they were friends/neighbour.

This demonstrates the fact that sexual predators look for their victims in their proximity and make use of the victim's trust or habit of seeing them around in order to develop the seduction process or facilitate the desired scenario for rape.

Favourable circumstances to commit the crime have been depicted as follows:

In rape cases:

1. Child lack or improper supervision: in **26,2%** of the cases the victim was playing in the playground or was returning from school/friends' house unsupervised and in **17,1%** of cases the minor lacked proper care, education or parental supervision.

2. Offender-victim relationship -in **23,2%** of the cases the offender was living in the same house with his victim and in **11%** of the cases was a friend of the family of the victim circumstances allowing him to remain alone with the victim as well as the necessary time to complete his crime.

3. Improper behaviour of the victim – facilitated the crime against them – especially adolescents displaying improper behaviour in clubs, discotechs, etc.

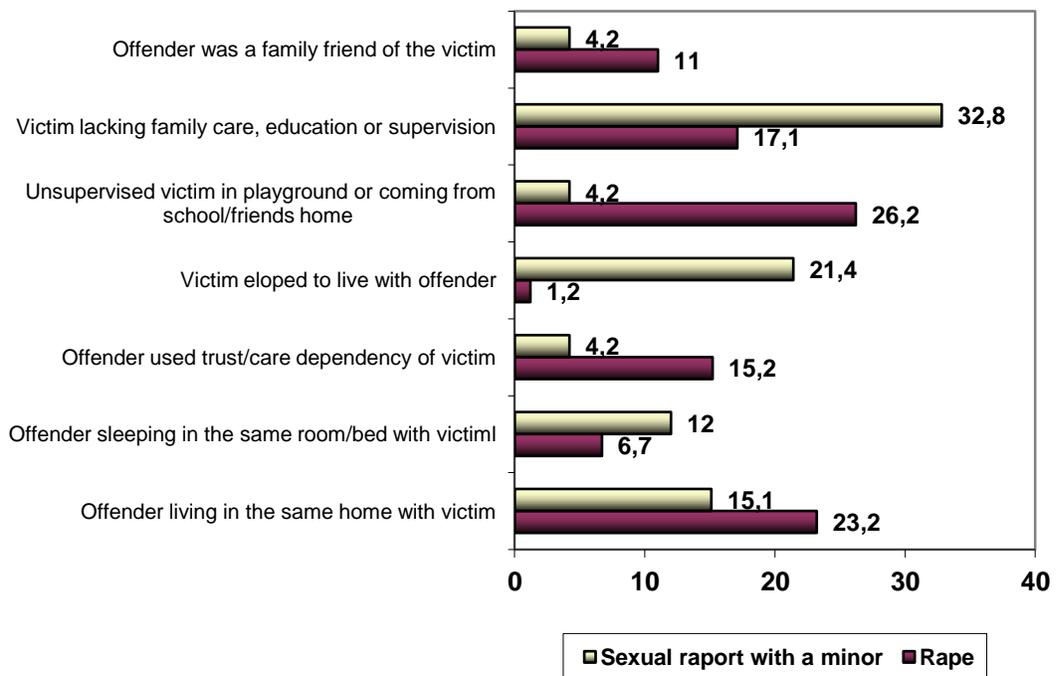
4. Victim abduction from the streets or approaching the victim when entering their apartments or faking a friendly relationship with the victim in order to ensure privacy in a safe place **13%** of the rapists luring the victim in a location of their choice before the attack.

In sexual raport with a minor cases:

This type of crime implies the consent of the victim, in about 1/5 of the cases the girls left home to live with their abuser. The specialists interviewed noted the fact that such seductive behaviour of the victim is a way to satisfy her needs for attention, acceptance, affection, a material need and less of a sexual nature.

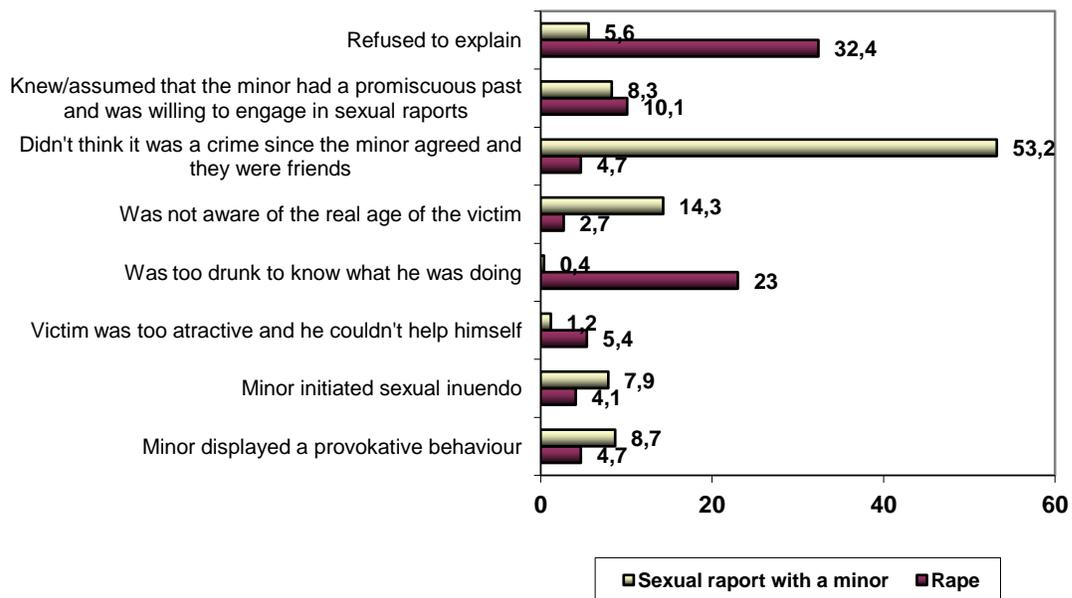
There are as well communities in which, according to customs and traditions, young girls live with a partner since the age of 12 or13, such promiscuity being accepted by the group. The abuse only gets reported when the minor child remains pregnant, in most cases by medical personnel who assissted the delivery of the baby. In more than one tenth of cases the girls family aproved of the relationship and even after the abuse they agree to continue the relationship, which in fact happens.

Figure 8 Favourable circumstances to commit the crime



The tabel below points out the explanations/justifications offenders gave to investigators regarding their crimes.

Figure 7 Offender justifications of crime

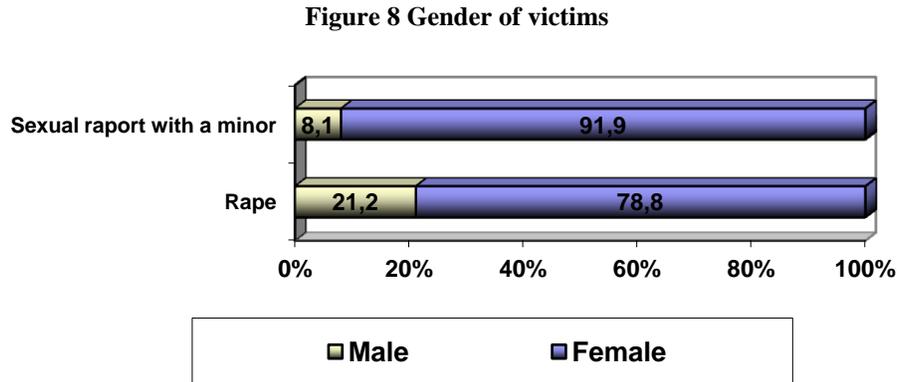


In **86,5%** of rape cases, there was a single abuser but a significant percentage of victims (**31,3%**) have been raped several times, at different time intervals. Specialists reported cases in which a minor has been raped repeatedly over a long period of time, even 4-5 years.

B. Data on the victims

The research was conducted regarding **524** victims of sex crimes, out of which **186** rape victims and **273** victims of sexual raport with a minor.

Sexual raport with a minor has mainly female victims (**91,9%**), as does rape (**78,8%**), but **one fifth of rapes involved male victims**.



In **22,6%** of rape cases the victims were extremely young, 5-9 years old, followed by 10-13 years old (**38,4%**) and 14-17 years old (**39%**).

In sexual raport with a minor cases, most victims were of 14 years old (**132 cases**), 13 (**84 cases**) and 12 years old (**23 cases**).

One of the risk factors in such crimes is the mental health of the victim which makes abusers take advantage of their vulnerability. However, the research revealed the fact that in sexual raports, the victims did not have such disabilities (**97,8%**) while in rape cases **12,8%** of cases the victims suffered from mild mental retard, oligophrenia or other mental disabilities.

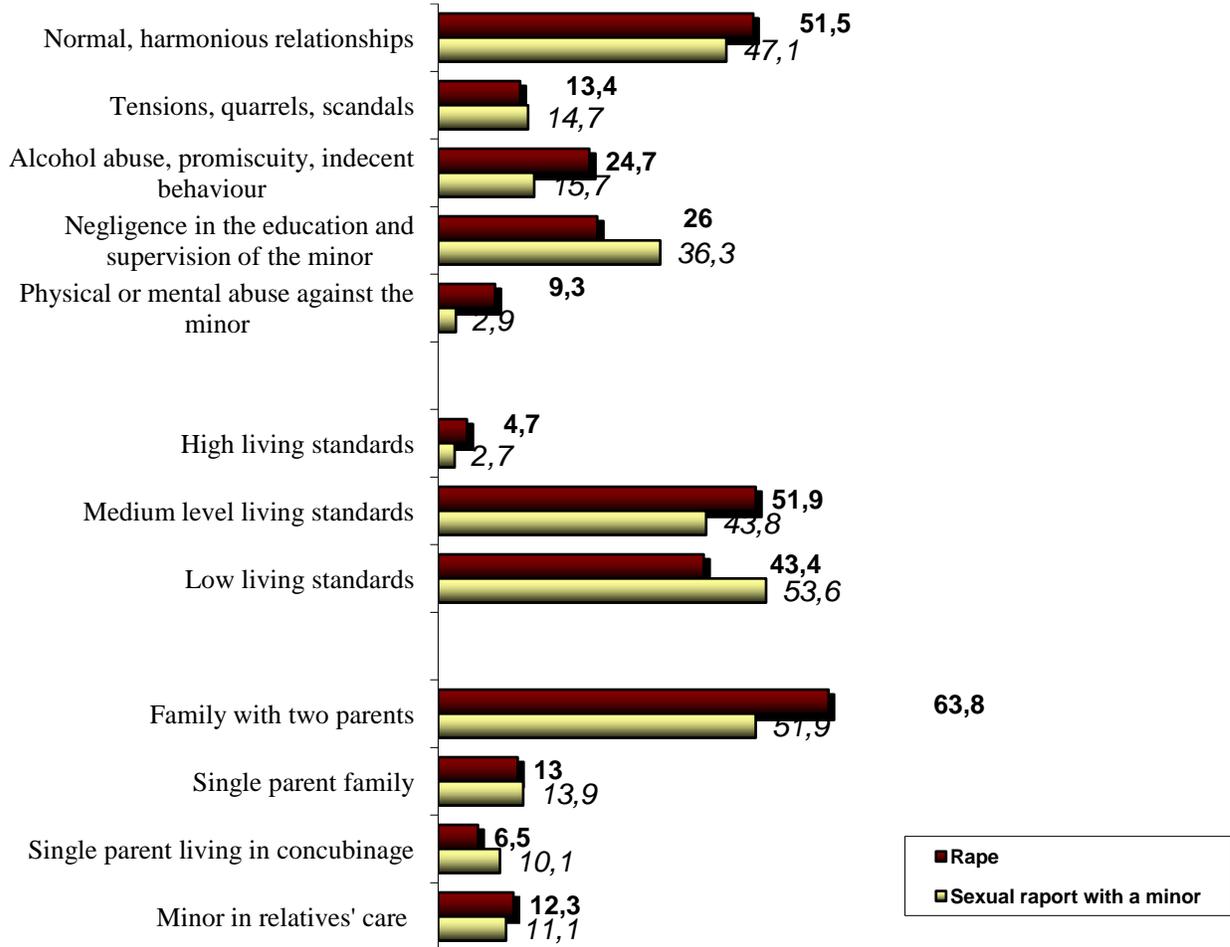
In **36,7%** of cases the victim played truant drom school or has abandoned school but it could not be determined if such behaviour was prior the abuse or had developed as a way the victim found to remain in the offender's habitation as she was in love with him, thus losing interest in education and willing to start a new life.

Furthermore, it has been established that one third of sexual raport with a minor victims (**33,2%**) and one tenth of rape victims (**9,7%**) have had consented sex before. In addition, **11%** of rape victims have been abused before unlike **3,8%** of the victims in sexual raport cases..

The family of the victims in most rape cases was made up of both parents (**63,8%**), with a proper family climate (**51,55%**) and a medium standard of living (**51,9%**).

In sexual raport cases, the family and climate proved to be the same as with rape cases but with a low standard of living (see tabel below).

Figure 9 Characteristics of the victim's family



Sexual crimes have a powerful negative impact on the victims, as interviewed specialists pointed out. They made reference mainly to the psychological effects the abuse has on the child which can manifest in: post traumatic stress, anxiety, insomnia, nightmares, nervous breakdown, cognitive disorder, social alienation, destructive behaviour and perpetuation of sexual behaviour.

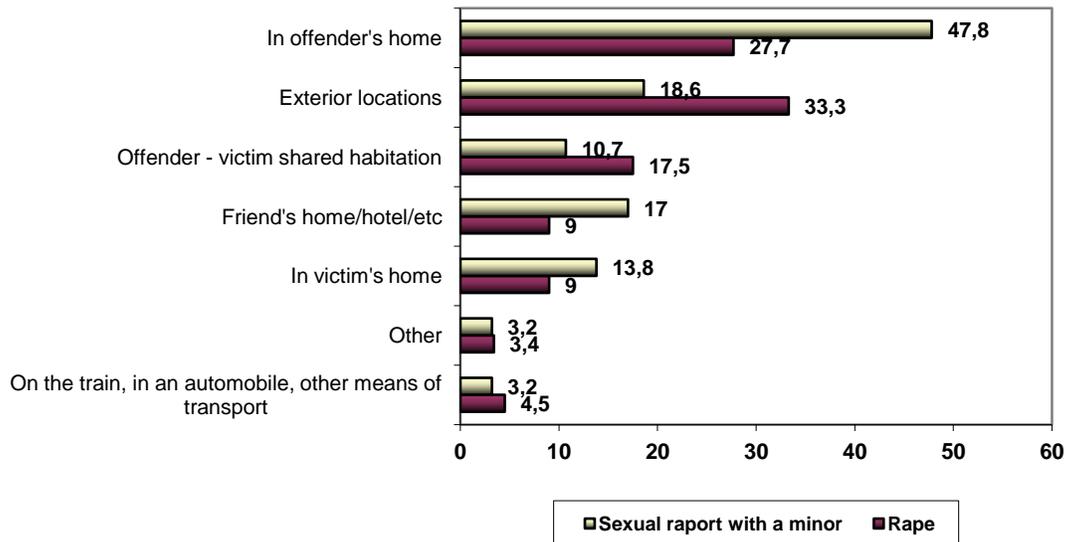
The data collected for the research revealed the fact that, after the abuse, **64** of the rape victims and **17** of the sexual report victims displayed various psychic trauma symptoms but in most cases such signs were not known or recorded.

The intensity of the trauma depends on the manner in which the child's family interprets and reacts to the gravity of the abuse, a supportive family being able to reduce the negative consequences of the crime. Counselling and therapy has a major role as well and it has been observed that small children, under 10, react better to such treatments, the trauma fading in time. Older children need treatment and their post traumatic behaviour to be monitored over a longer period of time.

The analysis of the place where the crime was committed revealed the fact that sexual reports have been committed most often in the offender's home (**47,8%**), then in the victim's home (**13,8%**) and less frequently in exterior locations (in the fields, in the woods etc. – **18,6%**).

33% of the rapes took place in exterior locations (in the fields, in the woods, on construction sites etc.), 27,7% in the offender's home and 17,5% in the common habitation of the victim and offender. In 9% of the cases the rape took place in the victim's home thus revealing the high level of aggression the offender displayed.

Figure 10 Scene of the crime



Most rapes were reported immediately after happening (52,5%) or the day after (14,1%). However, many cases were reported after some days (13%), after more than a month (13,6%) or even more than a year (6,8%). These are cases in which the crime has been repeated over a long period of time, has started at an early age of the victim who had the courage to come forward at an older age or the crime was discovered accidentally by other persons.

In sexual raports, most are discovered after more than a month (49,2%) or more than a year (14%), due to the fact that the minor tries to hide the relationship from other or her family have agreed to the relationship. In 15,4% of cases the crime was discovered/reported immediately after it happened or the next day, such as of minors who ran away from home and their parents at first reported them missing.

II. Etiology of sexual crimes with minor victims

A. Causes of criminal sexual behaviour

Based on the data from the present research and general criminological research, we can group the causes/conditions that influence pathologic/criminal sexual orientation as follows:

1. Disfunctional families

Conflicts in the family can take many shapes, from mild ones such as quarrels, disagreements, failure to support the family, to complex physical aggression, banishing from the home, adultery.

The conflict situation may be triggered and sustained by alcohol abuse, promiscuity, criminal record.

Such an environment is characterized by:

- Neglecting the emotional needs of the child so that s/he will not be able to develop empathy and will become insensitive and emotionally indifferent;
- Neglecting subsistence needs in the family so that permanent frustrations arise and the habit to obtain by force what s/he needs is developed;
- Frequent alcohol abuse;
- Tensions, quarrels and repeated battery administered to the child will cause traumas that will determine him/her to build a defense system defined by aggression, suspicion and violence;
- Negative role models since the child tends to copy parental behaviour;
- In case of running away, the child will associate with street gangs which will inoculate their criminal behaviour.

2. Faulty educational system

School education does not lay focus on the development of social skills, of communication, trust and self respect, these being left rather in the hands of the family or centres for institutionalized children. Or it is simply expected that students cope on their own with learning competences for a socially desirable life.

Schools do not yet have the intervention tools to tackle educational deficiencies regarding sexuality, relationships, relationships in a couple. Although there is a vast literature dealing with the issues of relationships in a couple, the link between sexuality and affectivity, the role and importance of sexual relations in the life of the individual, the definition of love and its substitutes, adolescents are not presented with such information at the right time and, thus, they enter intimate relationships and develop sexual relationships at random, thus perpetuating the dysfunctional climate onto their future children, in a continuous succession.

Generally speaking, the natural interest for the knowledge of one's sexuality appears at an early stage in the life of the individual, charged with feelings of shame and guilt, thus penciling the premises to explore it under promiscuous circumstances. Schools have faint attempts to educate in this respect and are focusing mainly on hygiene and contraception. Under such circumstances, youth, determined by their own nature to uncover their sexuality, will crave for information and will turn to their similarly confused peers to get it, will respond to the ignorance and rigidity of society by retreating in promiscuity or, on the contrary, in defiant behaviour, and the repression of their natural interest about sexuality will lead them to pathologic curiosity, driven by pornographic materials.

3. Feeble support, financially and in terms of human resources, and training, of agencies specialized in the social re-insertion of individuals with deviant behaviour. Lacking such support, there is the permanent risk of repeating the same clichés of thought and action, thus fostering re-offending.

4. Increased social permissiveness. The lack of public reaction against unethical or undesirable behaviour in various situations leads to the increase of danger that such behaviour will exceed the capacity of agencies to react and control the phenomenon efficiently. The involvement of the

community in the narrowing down of criminality is a *sine qua non* condition for the success of the battle against crime, Police alone not being able to reach to the crest of such phenomena.

5. Mental disorder, especially associated to alcohol abuse.

According to the World Health Organization reports, Romania is on one of the highest positions in Europe in terms of mental disorders, and specialists observed that about 20% of the population suffer from some sort of mental disorder, while about 30% of the population are liable to develop such conditions in their lifetime.

Alcohol abuse is at endemic levels, especially in certain regions of the country, mainly in the rural areas. Hospital recording show an earlier debut in alcoholism at the ages of 20-25.(*source* – the Internet).

Neurosis, driven by stressors like poor socio-economic resources and alcohol abuse at an early stage in the life of the individual, even in childhood, to which mistaken models of cognition and representation of reality are added, are the basis of many criminal behaviours.

6. Precarious socio-economic conditions.

The impossibility to purchase or build a decent home, the large number of family members compelled to share the same room or even the same bed sometimes, determine the occurrence of sexual tensions even between family members conscious to a certain point of the wrong of such relations, especially between brother and sister.

Many times, poverty is associated with alcohol abuse and lack of interest in education, and casual sex by exerting power over the most vulnerable member of the family, is viewed as the only gratification amongst day to day suffering.

7. Sexuality in society.

Although it may sound too harsh, we cannot refrain from saying that sex is overrated. There is an abundance of pornographic materials, nudity in publications and on television, sexual allusions in publicity, TV shows with sexual connotation, and a large interest in potency medicines.

In addition, sex crimes, to which prostitution and trafficking in human being can be added, sexual scandals involving individuals from all walks of life and levels of education, scandals due to adultery, due to inappropriate sexual behaviour of representatives of education and public moral (teachers, priests, doctors, politicians, etc) – are omnipresent in the media.

On the other hand, the media interest in showing teenage girls talk freely about sexuality or display an explicit sexual behaviour, of sexually explicit videos posted online by teens, leads to the early sexualization of children and offers false role models in terms of social success due to sexual favours or sexual behaviour, thus contradicting the natural interest areas for their age thus „teaching” them to imitate adult behaviour and causing distortions in their minds and reactions. For instance, when children of 12 to 14 years old were forced to practice oral sex, it is more than obvious that they were copying the behaviour they have seen in porn viewed online or in adult programmes on television.

B. Risk situations in sexual abuse against children:

1. Lack of supervision of the child's entourage, play grounds, time spent outside the family home, is a major risk factor that facilitates rape or engaging the minor in premature sexual relations.

2. Neglect of the child's needs: lack of attention or interest for the child's needs for affection, material needs and communication ones from her/his parents too busy with work or personal problems, thus the child feeling unwanted or ignored, ending up in being impressed by the attention s/he is given by a stranger, even if this involves sexual activity.

3. Violence in the family or protection centres, inflicted by the parents, one of the parents' concubine, siblings, colleagues in the protection facility or even staff, will lead to escape/flight of the child, especially girls. The majority of the girls who chose elopment, refuse when found to return home or hesitate in doing so, so there is evidence that they will repeat the gesture. For them, to live with a man means more than satisfying their sexual needs. They seek the fulfilment of their needs for affection and escape from critical situations at home, such as: poverty, violence, conflicts, lack of attention and affection.

4. Poverty, which produces frustrations, a powerful uncertainty regarding the improvement of quality of life, can determine young girls especially to run away from home and attach themselves to men who promise resolution of their problems, thus increasing the number of sexual abuse and human trafficking cases.

5. Lack of monitoring school progress of children, in terms of school attendance and interest for their studies. Such a monitoring would show parents' interest and school progress would be an indicator of the child's issues, and ultimately, raise parents' awareness on the child's behaviour.

6. Lack of proper communication and forceful assertion of family values/standards related to the choice of friends, especially in cases of teenage girls who wish to experiment on sexual relations.

7. Distorted behaviour models/patterns in the family: lack of interest in education, beggary, faulty conflict resolution, parents' criminal history, frequent alcohol abuse, adultery and multiple sexual partners of one or both of the parents.

8. Excessive permissivity of some parents in allowing their children to go to places which are inadequate for their age: discotechs, clubs, pubs, which increases the risk of becoming victims of sexual abuse (rape), engagement in sexual activities (child pornography) or the development of dangerous relationships with adults, that will lead to sexual rapport with a minor.

9. Victim's risk behaviour.

Even though some of the interviewed specialists consider that the victim cannot be blamed for her/his own victimization, other opinions state the fact that there are minor girls who deliberately display a provocative behaviour, who desire casual sexual activities from an early age. Needless to say, they are victims of lack of educational supervision from parents but, in some cases, teenage girls are aware of the inadequacy of their behaviour but build up a set of motivations to justify their desire to engage in early casual sexual activities. There were cases in which the abuser admitted to knowing the victim's age but also noted the fact that she was known as having the reputation of a minor prostitute in the community.

III. Proposals for prevention

The prevention of sexual abuse, in general, and child sexual abuse in particular, is one of the most difficult institutional endeavours.

Usually, preventive programmes are not polyvalent, reuniting multiple social actors which could contribute. The informative endeavour, especially performed by police prevention units, should be sustained by social preventive actions with a double orientation: on one hand, towards the inhibition of factors that lead to the inadequate development of the individual and his family, and on the other hand, towards the improvement of children's life competences, elimination of parental flaws, the creation of proper intellectual and moral evolution in the family and improvement of the educational environment of the child.

Thus, public protection services and educational facilities should intervene *ante factum* by developing social and educational preventive programmes, especially in the risk areas described in the present research.

Based on the elements of ethiology this research has pointed out, some preventive directions may be outlined, some initiated solely by the specialized crime prevention police units, others by the joint efforts of social protection services, educational facilities/schools and local public authorities.

A. By Police:

1. Awareness raising campaigns regarding the severity of the trauma suffered by sexually abused children in order to increase the number of reported cases to the proper authorities and to increase social responsibility in terms of the education and behaviour of youth.
2. Informing teachers, school counsellors and parents in regard to the signs of sexual abuse in the child's behaviour as well as signs of unnatural interest towards a child.
3. Thorough investigation of the circumstances of runaways, both from the family home and from protection centres, to determine whether the flight occurred due to prior sexual abuse or whether the abuse followed the child's running away.
4. Target group training in issues regarding child sexual abuse both from the perspective of crime and from the perspective of victimization, as well as from a psychological one in order to raise awareness of children on risk factors and self protection factors.
5. Informing children on the dangers of engaging in communication with strangers or accepting gifts, sweets, etc in exchange for information or behaviour that may lead to abuse.
6. Informing parents on the risks of lack of supervision of their children, especially young ones, in primary and secondary school; focusing on the necessity to supervise young girls in the stage of sexual development who can be targeted by sexual predators.
7. Operational surveillance by Police of all known sexual predators, mentally disturbed individuals recorded by the Public Health Directorates and of released convicts with a criminal history in sexual crimes, irrespective of the victim's age.
8. Cooperation between Police and Probation Services within the Ministry of Justice in order to elaborate efficient control and guidance programmes for such individuals, thus limiting the risks of crime.

B. By cooperation with other agencies

1. Developing educational-preventive programmes in joint venture with Child Protection Services and the Ministry of Education, such as the project „ Parents’ School”, focusing on healthy sexual relations and the risks of inadequate sexual behaviour.
2. Informing parents, by police, psychologists and school counsellors, about the risks of exposure to pornographic materials on their children’s mental health.
3. Joint venture with Child Protection Services and local authorities in identifying, especially in rural areas, the families which appear to cumulate multiple risk factors for the occurrence of sexual abuse and taking the necessary child protection measures. For instance, the identification of families with a large number of members sleeping in crowded rooms or even in the same bed, with low standards of living, lack of occupation of parents or adult children, alcohol use and/or domestic violence is imperative.
4. Adequate examination of child protection centres, focusing on the quality of the environment children live in, level of supervision by staff as well as staff behaviour towards the children in these facilities in order to improve job descriptions and apply the necessary sanctions should there be inadequacies found.

Romanian General Police Inspectorate - Crime Research and Prevention Institute

- Crime Research Department -