

Addressing child sexual abuse in Latin America as a means to stop HIV/AIDS

Clifton P. Thornton
MSN, BS, RN, CNMT, CPNP

Dr. Tener Goodwin Veenema
PhD, MSN, MPH, RN, FAAN, CPNP

Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing

Background

- 2014 U.S. border crisis
- Worldwide inadequate representation of child sexual abuse (CSA) research¹
- Children have unique social and biological vulnerabilities¹
- A sentinel event of abuse can introduce lifelong health consequences²

1. Veenema, Thornton, & Corley. (2014). The public health crisis of child sexual abuse in low and middle income countries: An integrative review of the literature. *International Journal of Nursing Studies*, 52(4). 864-881. doi: 10.1016/j.ijnurstu.2014.10.017

2. Siegal, R. M., Schubert, C. J., Myers, P. A., & Shapiro, R. A. (1995). The prevalence of sexually transmitted diseases in children and adolescents evaluated for sexual abuse in Cincinnati: Rationale for limited STD testing in prepubertal girls. *Pediatrics*, 96(6), 1090-1094.

Defining the Problem

- 2.4 million people with HIV/AIDS in Latin America^{1,2}
 - 94,000 new infections in 2013
 - 1,800 in children (<15 years)
- Overall prevalence is decreasing; childhood rates are increasing
- Complex relationship between CSA and HIV transmission

1. United Nations Aids Foundation. (2014). Global Statistics. Retrieved from

<http://www.unaids.org/en/resources/campaigns/2014/2014gapreport/factsheet/>

2. United Nations Children's Fund. (2014). HIV/AIDS and children. *UNICEF Oficina Regional para America Latina y el Caribe*. Retrieved from http://www.unicef.org/lac/overview_4168.htm

Defining the Problem

- 15% of CSA cases cause STIs¹
- Children who experience CSA have lifelong increased risk for contracting HIV^{2,3,4,5,6}
 - Earlier onset of sexual activity
 - More lifetime/frequent partners
 - Increased rates of sex with strangers
 - 4x more likely to work in prostitution
 - Decreased lifetime condom use
 - More likely to be sexually coercive
 - Less knowledge of HIV and STIs

1. Siegal, R. M., Schubert, C. J., Myers, P. A., & Shapiro, R. A. (1995). The prevalence of sexually transmitted diseases in children and adolescents evaluated for sexual abuse in Cincinnati: Rationale for limited STD testing in prepubertal girls. *Pediatrics*, 96(6), 1090-1094.
2. Lindegren, M. L., Hanson, C., Hammett, T. A., Beil, J., Fleming, P. L., & Ward, J. W. (1998). Sexual abuse of children: Intersection with the HIV epidemic. *Pediatrics*, 102(4), e46.
3. Hammerschlag, M. R. (1998). Sexually transmitted diseases in sexually abused children: Medical and legal implications. *Sexually Transmitted Infections*, 74, 167-174
4. Fergusson, D., Horwood, J., & Lynksey, M. (1997). Childhood sexual abuse, adolescent sexual behaviors, and sexual revictimization. *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 21(8), 789-803
5. Greenberg, J. B. (2001). Childhood sexual abuse and sexually transmitted diseases in adults: A review of and implications for STD/HIV programmes. *International Journal of STD & AIDS*, 12(12), 777-783. Doi: 10.1258/09564262011924380
6. Lalor, K., & McElvaney, R. (2010). Child sexual abuse, links to later sexual exploitation/high-risk sexual behavior, and prevention/treatment programs. *Trauma, Violence, and Abuse*, 11, 159-177

Defining the Problem

- Men who survive CSA are 2x more likely to have HIV¹
- Higher lifetime rate of all STIs²
- Negative consequences are greater for males than females²
- The literature demonstrates a link between CSA and HIV, but does not address children from Latin America

1. Zierler, S., Feingold, L., Laufer, D., Velentgas, P., Kantrowitz-Gordon, I., & Mayer, K. (1991). Adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse and subsequent risk of HIV infection. *American Journal of Public Health, 81*(5), 572-575.

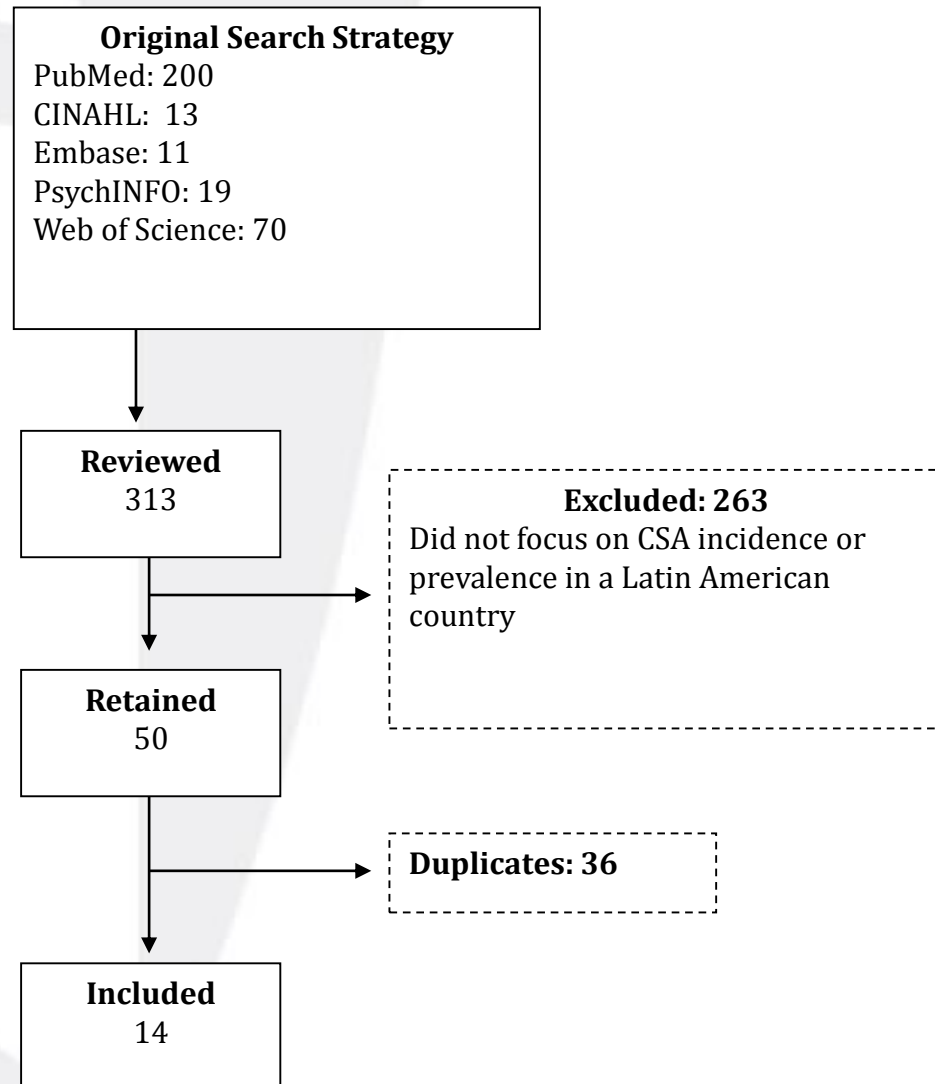
2. Greenberg, J. B. (2001). Childhood sexual abuse and sexually transmitted diseases in adults: A review of and implications for STD/HIV programmes. *International Journal of STD & AIDS, 12*(12), 777-783. Doi: 10.1258/09564262011924380

Purpose

Elucidate the means by which children are identified as victims, present prevalence data, and identify themes contributing to CSA.

Methods and Results

- Integrative review
- 6 Databases searched
- 313 articles reviewed
- 14 articles met inclusion criteria
- Represent 9 out of 24 countries



Findings

- **Statistical Reports of Prevalence**
 - Ranges from 1 to 18.7% of children
 - Large variations within and between countries
 - Varied study methodologies, definitions of CSA, and outcome measures
 - Example: Brazil

Findings

- Machismo
 - Cultural ideal of masculinity supported by many families¹
 - Creates a roadblock for male victims to report abuse¹
 - Induces potential abuse of power by adult males
 - One study in Colombia showed a correlation between machismo and abuse²

1. Cáceres, C., Vanoss Marín, B., & Hudes, E. S. (2000). Sexual coercion among youth and young adults in Lima, Peru. *Journal of Adolescent Health, 27*(5), 361-367

2. Ramírez, C., Pinzón-Rondón, A. M., & Botero, J. C. (2011). Contextual predictive factors of child sexual abuse: The role of parent-child interaction. *Child Abuse and Neglect, 35*(12), 1022-1031. Doi: 10.1016/j.chiabu.2011.10.004

Findings

- HIV and CSA
 - Supports idea that sexual abuse increases risk factors for HIV^{1,2,3,4,5}
 - Increased number of partners
 - Condom avoidance
 - Less knowledge of safe sex practices
 - Higher rates of intravenous drug use
 - Increased chance of becoming a perpetrator
 - CSA correlates with increased HIV rates in adulthood

1. Cáceres, C., Vanoss Marín, B., & Hudes, E. S. (2000). Sexual coercion among youth and young adults in Lima, Peru. *Journal of Adolescent Health, 27*(5), 361-367
2. Ramos-Lira, L., Saldívar-Hernández, G., Medina-Mora, M. E., Rojas-Guiot, E., & Villatoro-Veázquez, J. (1998). Prevalence of sexual abuse in students and its relation to drug use. *Salud Pública de México, 40*(3), 221-234
3. Olsson, A., Ellsberg, M., Berglund, S., Herrera, A., Zelaya, E., & Peña, R. (2000). Sexual abuse during childhood and adolescence among Nicaraguan men and women: A population-based anonymous survey. *Child Abuse & Neglect, 24*(12), 1579-1589
4. Ishida, K., Klevens, J., Rivera-García, B., & Mirabal, B. (2013). Child maltreatment in Puerto Rico: Findings from the 2010 National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System. *Puerto Rico Health Science Journal, 32*(3), 124-131
5. Bassani, D. G., Palazzo, L. S., Béria, J. U., Gigante, L. P., Figueiredo, A. C. L., Aerts, D. R. G. C., & Raymann, B. C. W. (2009). Child sexual abuse in southern Brazil and associated factors: A population-based study. *BMC Public Health, 9*(133)

Findings

- Perpetrators
 - Most are males well known to the family
 - Not fathers and step-fathers¹
 - Most live in the same communities^{2,3,4}
 - Most frequent perpetrators against boys are women well known to the family²
 - No study address age, SES, mental health, or other variables of perpetrators

1. Barthauer, L. M., & Leventhal, J. M. (1999). Prevalence and effects of child sexual abuse in a poor, rural community in El Salvador: A retrospective study of women after 12 years of civil war. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 23(11), 1117-1126.
2. Olsson, A., Ellsberg, M., Berglund, S., Herrera, A., Zelaya, E., & Peña, R. (2000). Sexual abuse during childhood and adolescence among Nicaraguan men and women: A population-based anonymous survey. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 24(12), 1579-1589
3. Pineda-Lucatero, A. G., Trujillo-Hernández, B., Millán-Guerrero, R. O., & Vásquez, C. (2008). Prevalence of childhood sexual abuse among Mexican adolescents. *Child: Care, Health, and Development*, 35(2), 184-189
4. Krugman, S., Mata, L., & Krugman, R. (1992). Sexual abuse and corporal punishment during childhood: A pilot retrospective survey of University Students in Costa Rica. *Pediatrics*, 90(1), 157-161

Findings

- Role of gender
 - 18.7% incidence in 1,000 Mexican students, no difference between genders¹
 - No statistical difference between genders in Nicaragua victims (20% vs 26%)²
 - Nearly 50% of college students in Mexico engaged in unwanted sex, no gender difference³
 - Brazilian study found 21% of males and 15% of females have been victimized (statistically significant)⁴

1. Pineda-Lucatero, A. G., Trujillo-Hernández, B., Millán-Guerrero, R. O., & Vásquez, C. (2008). Prevalence of childhood sexual abuse among Mexican adolescents. *Child: Care, Health, and Development*, 35(2), 184-189

2. Olsson, A., Ellsberg, M., Berglund, S., Herrera, A., Zelaya, E., & Peña, R. (2000). Sexual abuse during childhood and adolescence among Nicaraguan men and women: A population-based anonymous survey. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 24(12), 1579-1589.

3. Cáceres, C., Vanoss Marín, B., & Hudes, E. S. (2000). Sexual coercion among youth and young adults in Lima, Peru. *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 27(5), 361-367

4. Oliveria Aded, N. L., Galluzzi da Silva Dalcin, B. L., & Cavalcanti, M. T. (2007). Sexual abuse of children and adolescents in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil: An incidence study. *Cadernos de Saude Publica*, 23(8), 1971-1975

Findings

- Role of gender
 - Males more likely to experience physical violence in addition to intercourse^{1,2,3}
 - Females more likely to experience intercourse, touching, and exhibition^{1,2,3}
 - Male victims infrequently labeled non-physical sexual violation as sexual abuse⁴
 - Rates in males decrease with age but increase with age in females⁵

1. Krugman, S., Mata, L., & Krugman, R. (1992). Sexual abuse and corporal punishment during childhood: A pilot retrospective survey of University Students in Costa Rica. *Pediatrics*, 90(1), 157-161
2. Oliveria Aded, N. L., Galluzzi da Silva Dalcin, B. L., & Cavalcanti, M. T. (2007). Sexual abuse of children and adolescents in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil: An incidence study. *Cadernos de Saude Publica*, 23(8), 1971-1975
3. Olsson, A., Ellsberg, M., Berglund, S., Herrera, A., Zelaya, E., & Peña, R. (2000). Sexual abuse during childhood and adolescence among Nicaraguan men and women: A population-based anonymous survey. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 24(12), 1579-1589
4. Pineda-Lucatero, A. G., Trujillo-Hernández, B., Millán-Guerrero, R. O., & Vásquez, C. (2008). Prevalence of childhood sexual abuse among Mexican adolescents. *Child: Care, Health, and Development*, 35(2), 184-189
5. Bassani, D. G., Palazzo, L. S., Béria, J. U., Gigante, L. P., Figueiredo, A. C. L., Aerts, D. R. G. C., & Raymann, B. C. W. (2009). Child sexual abuse in southern Brazil and associated factors: A population-based study. *BMC Public Health*, 9(133)

Findings

- Southwest Border Crisis
 - Unaccompanied children
 - 2012: 13,625¹
 - 2013: 24,668¹
 - 2014: >60,000 (47,000 by June)²
 - Leading cause for children to enter the US is to escape violence^{1,3}
 - Refugee minors are at increased risk for violence, child labor, and sex trafficking⁴

1. Administration for Children and Families. (2014). *Unaccompanied children's services*. United States Department of Health and Human Services. Retrieved from <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/programs/ucs>

2. United Nations Children's Fund. (2014). *Dramatic increase of unaccompanied children seeking to enter the United States*. Retrieved from http://www.unicef.org/media/media_73755.html

3. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. (2014). *Children on the run: Unaccompanied children leaving Central America and Mexico and the need for international protection*. United Nations; Washington DC

4. Derluyn, I., & Broekaert, E. (2008). Unaccompanied refugee children and adolescents: The glaring contrast between a legal and psychological perspective. *International Journal of Law and Psychiatry*, 31, 319-330

Discussion

- Analysis of the prevalence and incidence of CSA in Latin America is sparse and varies widely
- Nine of 24 Latin American countries were discussed in the literature; a complete representation of the region has not been achieved
- This review confirms that CSA is a huge risk factor for HIV for Latin American Children

Discussion

- The only identified culturally-specific issue related to CSA in Latin America is machismo ideals
- The most frequent perpetrator of CSA is a male well known to the family
- Perpetrators and their actions may be influenced by the gender of the child
- There is emerging evidence to suggest males may be affected as frequently as females

Moving Forward With Nursing

- Nurses sit in a unique position to stop the spread of HIV
- Nursing is best-suited to address this issue
- WHO's revised HIV guidelines promote international task-shifting
- Call to action for interprofessional collaboration
- Future research
 - Identifying victims
 - Screening programs
 - Educating victims

Search Strategy

	Terms	PubMed	CINAHL	EMBase	PsycINFO	Web of Science
A	Prevalence OR incidence	2,219,286	170,232	1,326,716	112,217	921,658
B	Child sexual abuse, assault, victimization, violence, exploitation, and trafficking	13,858	4,790	17,498	8,374	11,082
C	[A + B]	4,720	422	2,798	788	2,036
D	Latin American Countries	458,292	47,516	20,024	80,864	420,604
E	[A + B + D]	200	13	11	19	70
F	Relevant	13	3	2	4	10