

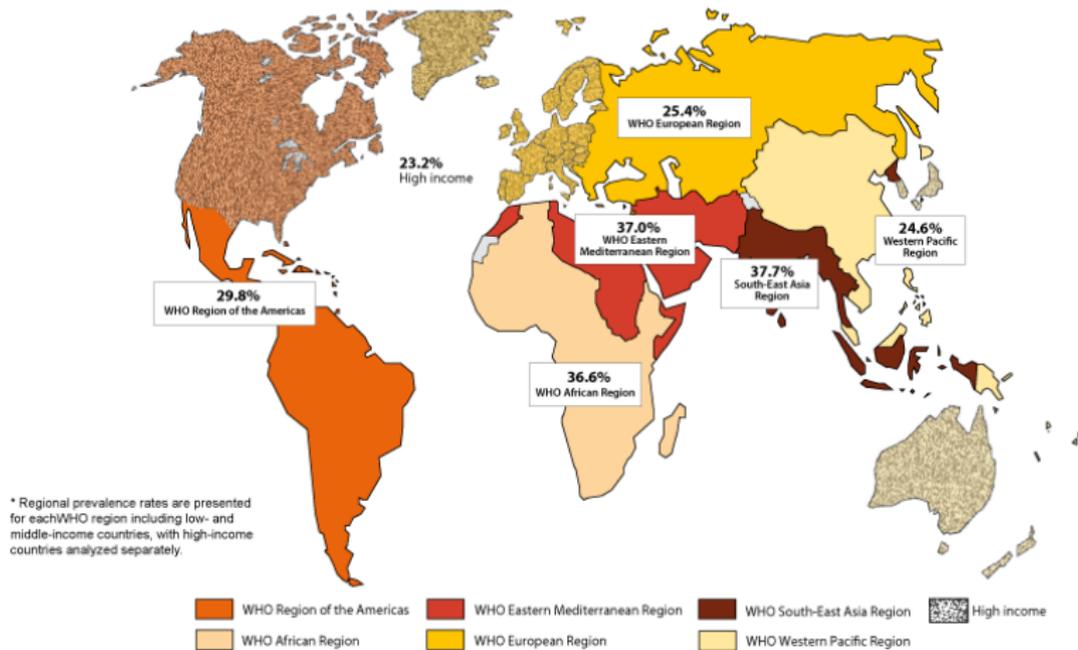
Non-Verbal Response Cards:
A new method for questions about
traumatic sexual life events among adolescents
in rural Burkina Faso

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Till Bärnighausen, David Lindstrom

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PAA, Austin

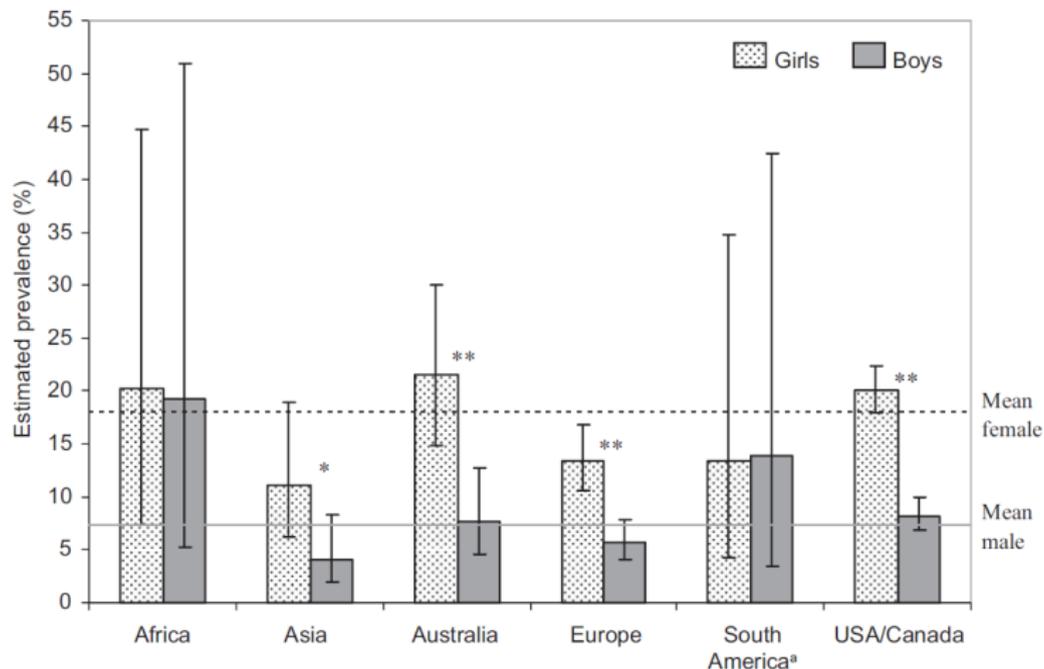
Sexual violence is pervasive

Prevalence rates of intimate partner violence by WHO region*, 2010



Global & regional estimates of violence against women. 2013. WHO: Geneva

Sexual violence is pervasive even in youth



Stoltenborgh et al., 2011. *Child Maltreatment*; 16(2): 79-101

Stigmatized events are under-reported

- Respondents do not want to tell themselves
 - Inability to process feelings
 - Imposes a burden to act
- Respondents do not want to tell others
 - Does not fit with persona (e.g., strength, purity)
 - May identify perpetrator, put self/others at risk

Interviewer-led interviews

- Trained interviewers improve data quality
 - By softening questions
 - By clarifying uncertainty
 - By guiding recall
- But may also exacerbate mis-reporting
 - Verbalization
 - To a stranger
 - Often in public
 - Recorded for posterity

Existing workarounds are limited

- Self-completed responses
 - On paper
 - On a computer or tablet
 - **Requires literacy**
- Unlinkable responses
 - Random response
 - List randomization
 - **Lose individual response**
- Ballot boxes

Non-verbal response cards



Lindstrom et al., 2010. *Studies in Family Planning*, 41(4): 251-62
Lindstrom et al., 2012. *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 50(6): 614-20

Non-verbal response cards

20 ● 	0 ●	1 ● 	2 ● 	3 ● 	4 ●
5 ● 	6 ● 	7 ● 	8 ● 	9 ● 	10 ●
11 ● 	12 ● 	13 ● 	14 ● 	15 ● 	16 ●
17 ● 	18 ● 	19 ● 	20 ● 	0 ●	1 ●
2 ● 	3 ● 	4 ● 	5 ● 	6 ● 	7 ●

Yes ● Oui	No ● Non
No ● Non	Yes ● Oui
No ● Non	Yes ● Oui
Yes ● Oui	No ● Non
Yes ● Oui	No ● Non

Non-verbal response cards

101 •	529 •
229 •	379 •
504 •	346 •
636 •	765 •
828 •	218 •

897 •	295 •	181 •	125 •	345 •	979 •
488 •	285 •	718 •	139 •	275 •	448 •
486 •	649 •	340 •	904 •	682 •	170 •
470 •	166 •	435 •	491 •	723 •	506 •
735 •	813 •	628 •	966 •	222 •	422 •

Study setting



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Nouna ARISE study

- Broad adolescent health survey
- Random sample of 12-19 year olds
- From 10 villages, 1 sector of Nouna town
- Representative of Centre de Recherche en Santé de Nouna HDSS
- Stratified by ethnicity & thus by religion
- 1644 respondents

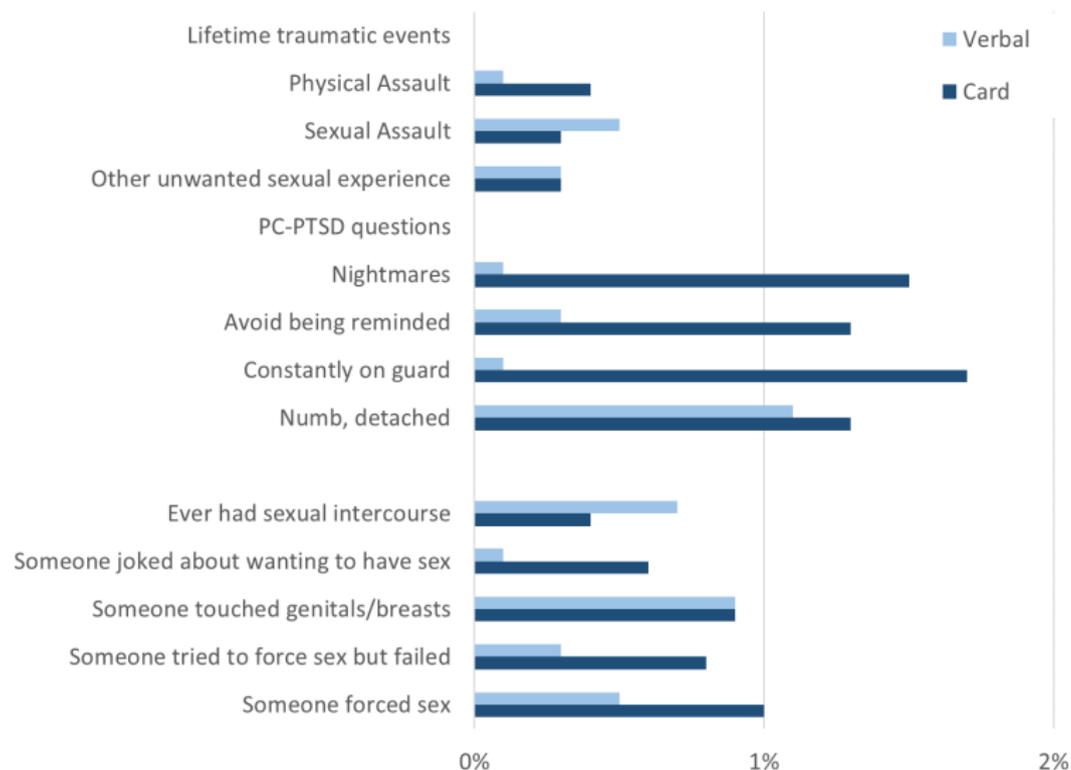
Randomized experiment

- Participants pre-randomized 1:1 to face-to-face or card
- Four practice questions
- A range of sensitive topics
 - Self-harm & suicidal thoughts/actions
 - Traumatic life events
 - Primary Care PTSD questionnaire
 - Sexual history
 - Experiences of sexual violence

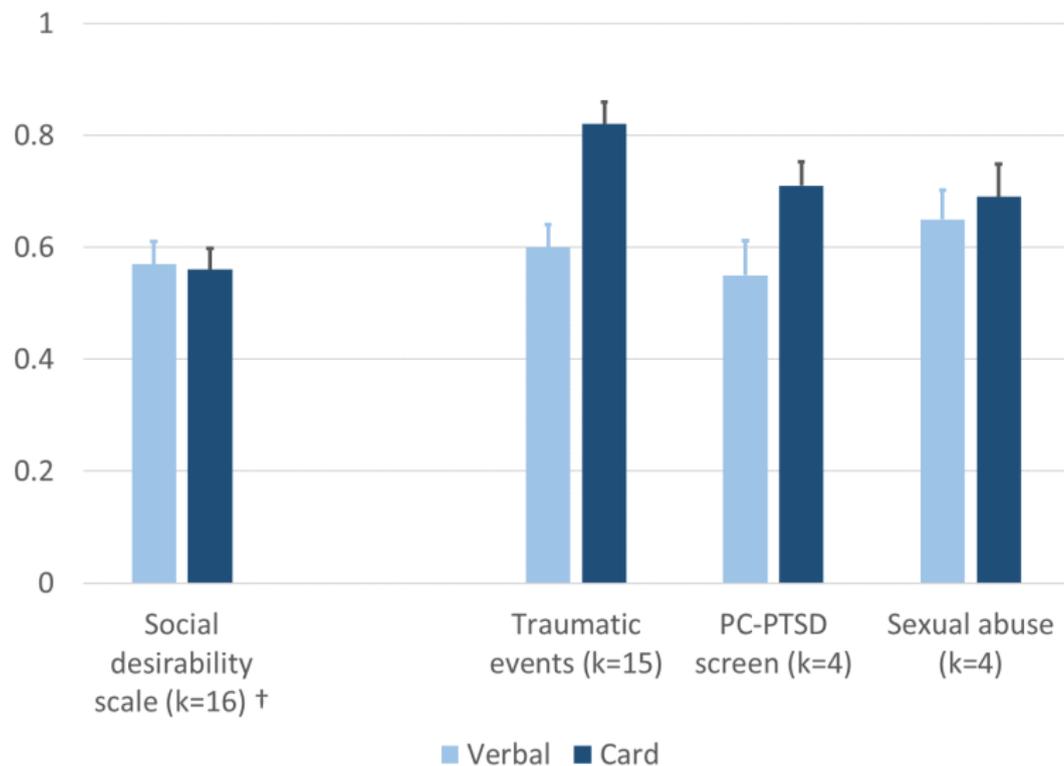
Study sample

Female	12-15 years	25.0%
	16-17 years	9.8%
	18+ years	7.5%
Male	12-15 years	32.4%
	16-17 years	13.8%
	18+ years	11.5%
Currently in school		50.0%
Marital status	Engaged to be married	2.7%
	Ever married	6.8%
Religion	Muslim	69.2%
	Catholic	20.7%
	Protestant	6.9%
	Animist	3.2%

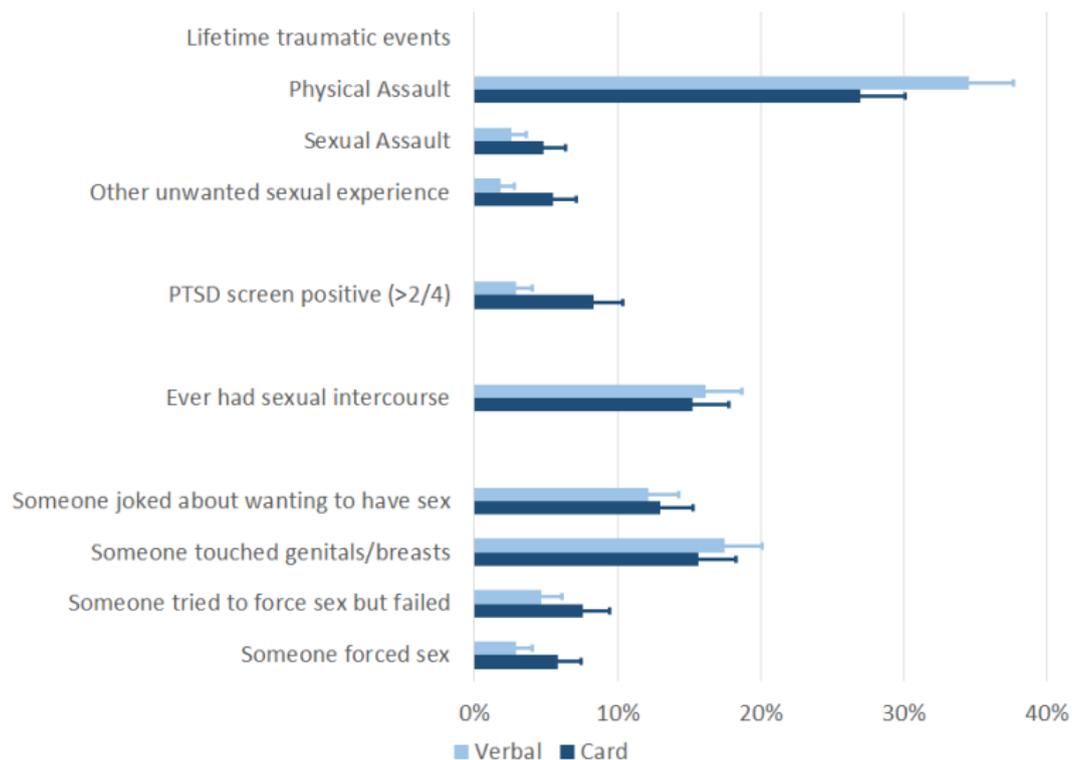
1. Validity: gross errors



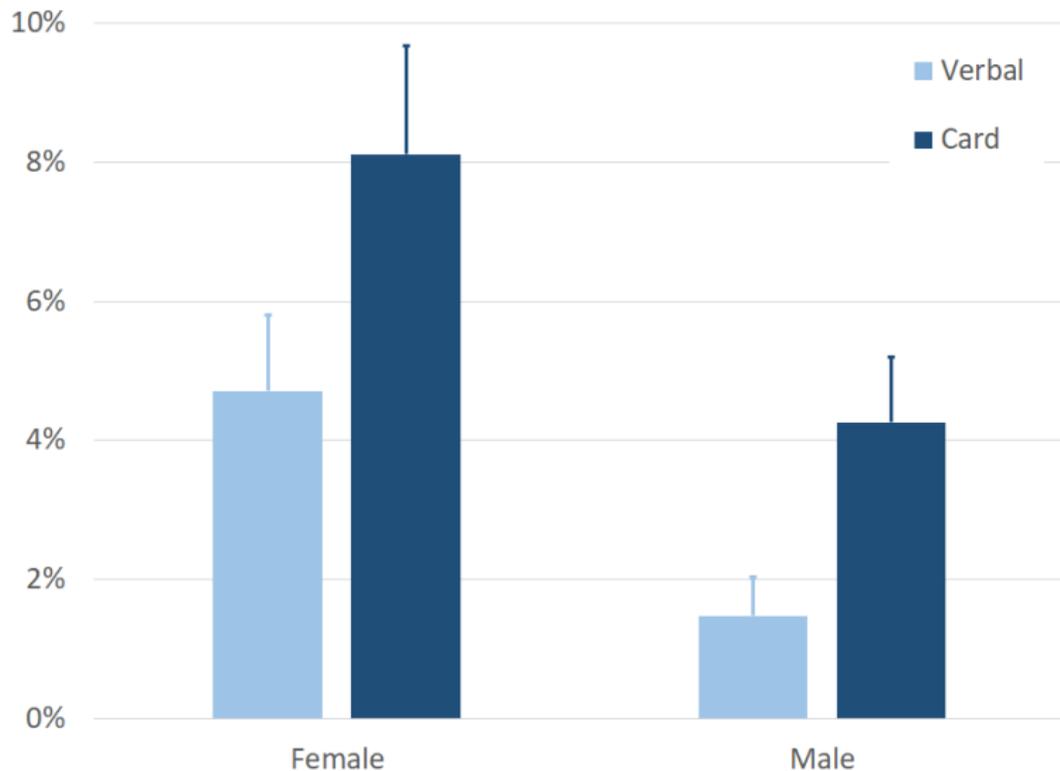
2. Reliability: Cronbach's alpha



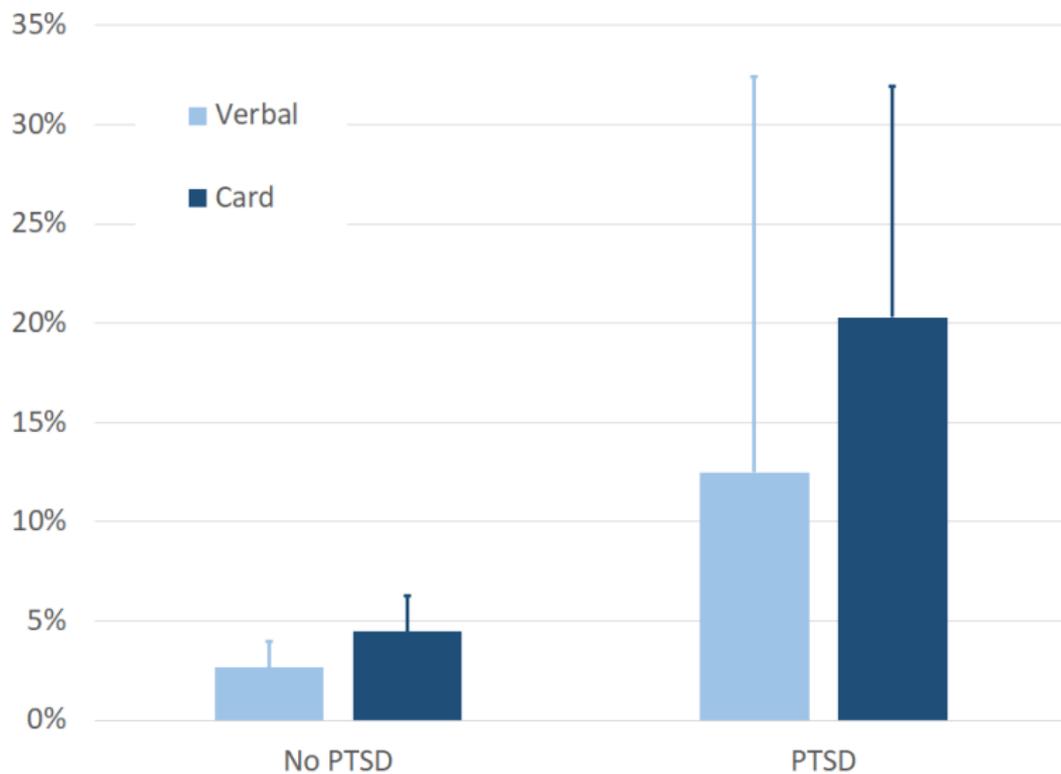
3. Affirmative responses



4. Forced sex: subgroup probabilities



4. Forced sex: subgroup probabilities



Discussion

1. Validity/reliability no lower than face-to-face methods
2. Increased reporting of sensitive experiences & feelings
3. Variation in effect by sub-groups

Next steps

- Validate in other settings & populations
 - Older adults in low-literacy cohorts?
- Evaluate which component(s) of cards matter
 - Pointing cards in wave II
 - Non-verbal or privacy of response?

Thank you

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- Till Bärnighausen at Heidelberg University
- Ali Sié & Mamadou Bountogo at CRSN
- David Lindstrom at Brown University

Contact

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Additional material

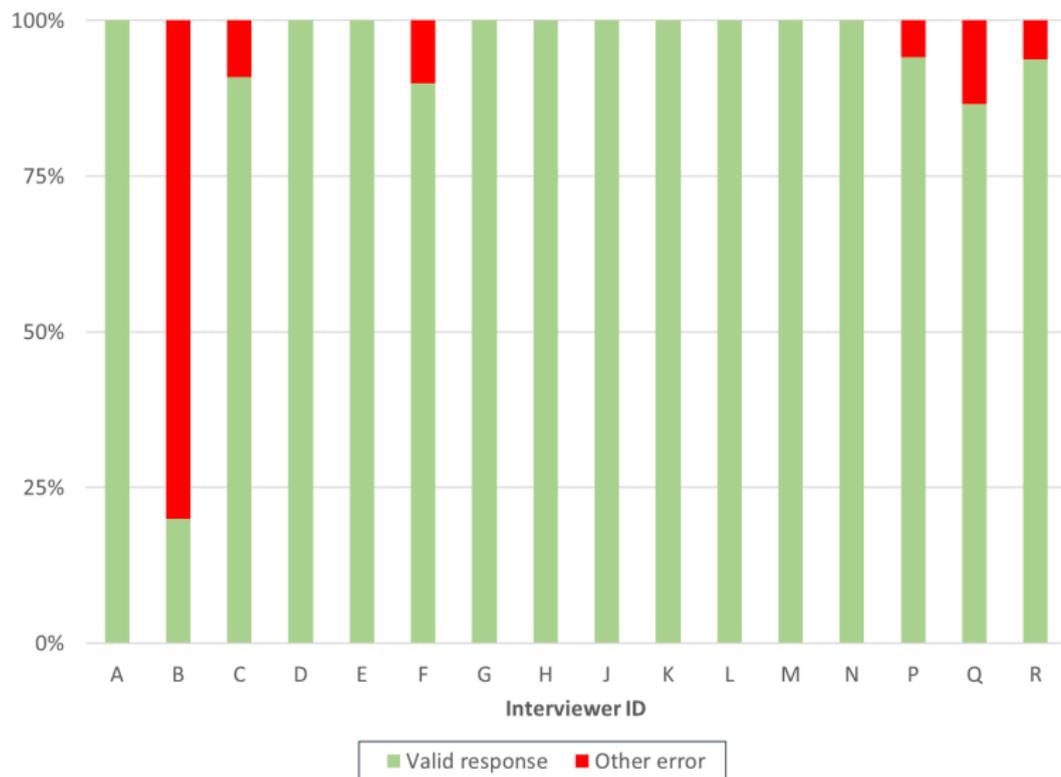
Trauma-related questions

- In all of your life, have you ever experienced:
 - Physical assault?
 - Sexual assault?
 - Other unwanted or sexual experiences?
- In your life, have you ever had any experience that was so frightening, horrible, or upsetting that, in the 30 days, you:
 - Have had nightmares about it or thought about it when you did not want to?
 - Tried hard not to think about it or went out of your way to avoid situations that reminded you of it?
 - Were constantly on guard, watchful, or easily startled?
 - Felt numb or detached from others, activities, or your surroundings?

Trauma-related questions

- The following acts happen to many although people often don't like to talk about it. Can you tell me if any of the following ever happened to you?
 - Someone made verbal jokes about wanting to have sex with you
 - Someone touched you on your genital or breast when you did not want to be touched
 - Someone forced you to have sex against your will but you escaped
 - Someone forced you to have sex against your will
- Have you ever had sexual intercourse?

Warning: monitor interviewers



Warning: reinforce training

