

What does the research say?

Safeguarding for Coaches
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- ▶ Canadian and international advocate for safeguarding
- ▶ Safe Sport International Founding Board
- ▶ Olympian – rowing 1976; FISA umpire (retired)

- ▶ Researcher in safe sport since 1993
 - IOC Consensus Statement developments (2005, 2016)
 - UNICEF – violence against children publications
 - First national study in world on sexual harassment and abuse in high performance sport

Why?

- ▶ FISA believes that it is a fundamental right of all individuals involved with FISA to be able to participate in a non-violent, safe and respectful environment.
- ▶ FISA acknowledges its duty of care in this regard and is committed to creating and supporting an environment and a culture free from harassment and abuse. The welfare of all individuals involved with FISA is paramount. Behaviour and actions that constitute harassment and abuse will not be tolerated.



A. Science

- ▶ **Evidence-based research on gender-based violence in sport (empirical)**

- Prevalence research

- Focus on incidents

- No studies on lifetime prevalence

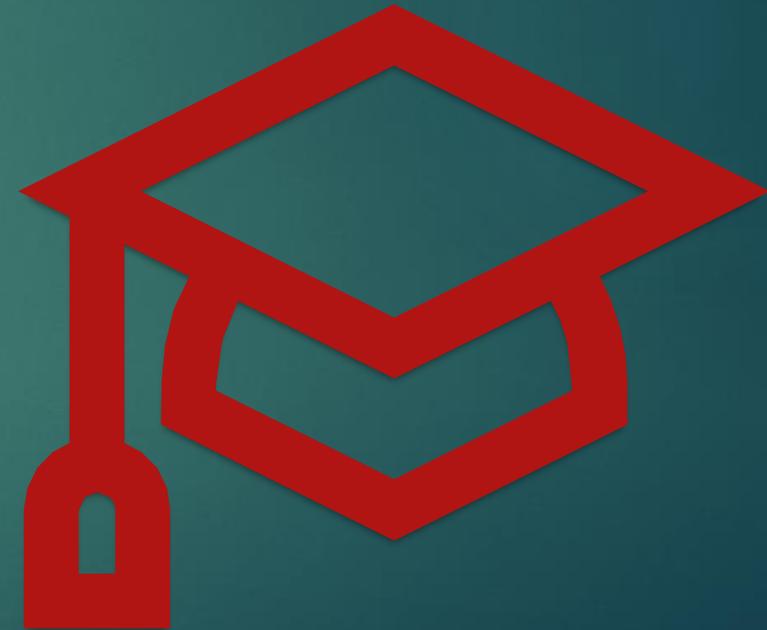
- Studies on special populations

- Limited studies on 'potential aggressors'

- Studies comparing inside and outside sport

- Most studies cross sports/ very few in a sport

- Global gaps



Science

▶ **Importance of reliable data:**

Setting priorities

Guiding programs

Designing and monitoring progress

Advocacy to help raise awareness (Brackenridge 2017; Hartill et al. 2019)

“Information puts pressure on individuals and organizations to identify the problems, to work on them and to know if they are being successful” (Hartill et al., 2019)

Sport and safety?

Depending on whose hands sport is in...

Sport is not always a safe endeavor

Sport may have a certain privileged status → escape scrutiny?

Sport-related efforts and initiatives for safe sport are often fragmented, piece-meal & uncoordinated, with redundancy and working at cross purposes



*“There can be no keener revelation of
a society’s soul than the way it treats its
children”
-Nelson Mandela*

Safe Sport

Goal: An athletic environment that is respectful, equitable and free from all forms of violence to all

Safe Sport

All athletes have the right to Safe Sport. Sport which is fair, equitable and free from harassment and abuse

(HRH Prince Feisal al Hussein (IOC Webinar #1))

Protecting all athletes

All ages and types of athletes are susceptible to intended harm – especially:

Elite athletes

Children, particularly the girl child

Para athletes

Athletes with lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgendered identity

Indigenous athletes (many nations)

Economically,, geographically, linguistically, ethnically etc. marginalized athletes

* Note: overlapping categories

Uniqueness of sport



PROGRESS
THROUGH SPORT
ACHIEVEMENT



COACH
INVOLVEMENT IN
ATHLETES' LIVES



COACHES'
AUTHORITY
UNQUESTIONED
(STIRLING AND KERR
2009)



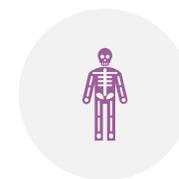
PERSONS IN
AUTHORITY (PIA) OR
TRUST INVOLVED
WITH ATHLETES'
WELL-BEING



LACK OF
SUPERVISION, LACK
OF SCRUTINY



REDUCED SCRUTINY
WHEN ATHLETES
SUCCESSFUL



TOLERANCE OF
"...ISMS"

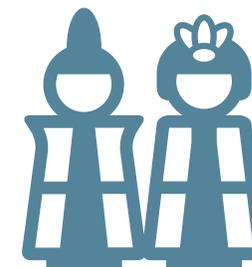
B. Definitions



Violence - 'all forms of physical or mental violence, injury and abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse' (article 19 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child)



Gender-based violence (GBV) – abuse and power over another person based on their gender, gender identity, expression or perceived gender



Any **unwanted or unwelcome conduct** of a sexual nature, whether verbal, non-verbal or physical (Mountjoy et al 2016:3) based on their gender, gender identity, expression or perceived gender

Other words you will see

- **Safeguarding** – the actions we take to ensure ALL are safe
 - ▶ from harm in our sports
- **Child protection** - a set of activities required for SPECIFIC children who are at risk of/or are suffering significant harm
- **Abuse** - acts of commission or omission leading to athletes
 - ▶ experiencing harm
- **Harm** - negative impact or consequences upon the athlete; includes intended harm

CULTURAL CONTEXT

TYPES OF NON-ACCIDENTAL VIOLENCE

IMPACTS (INDICATIVE)

DISCRIMINATION



HARASSMENT



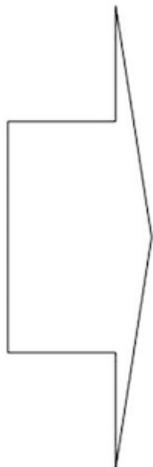
ABUSE



Based on power differentials in:

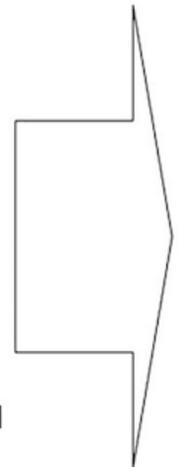
Sex
Gender
Sexual orientation
Race
Ethnicity
Indigeneity
(Dis)ability
Age
Athletic ability
Athletic longevity
Faith
Socio-economic/
Financial status

... or combinations of these



**Psychological
+
Physical
Sexual
Neglect**

MECHANISMS:
Contact
Non-contact/verbal
Cyber
Negligence
Bullying
Hazing

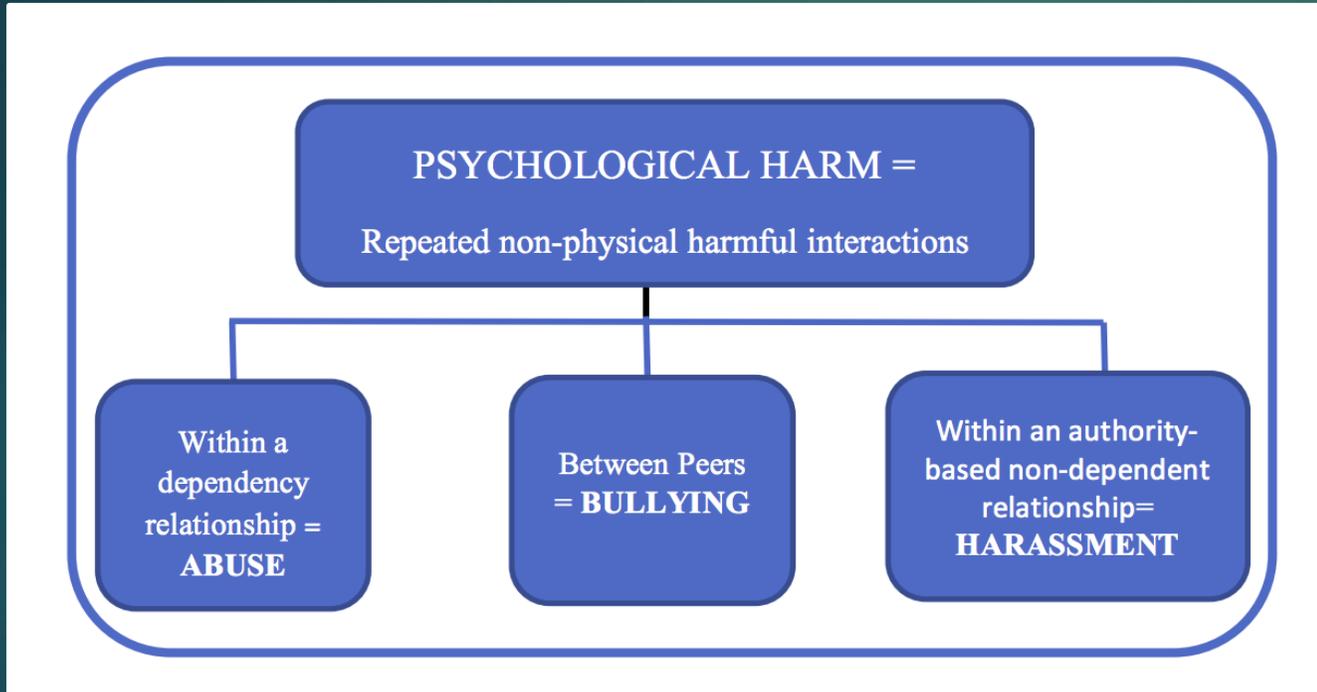


ATHLETE IMPACTS:

Physical e.g. illnesses and injuries, performance loss, disordered eating/EDs, PTSD, self-harm, STIs
Cognitive e.g. low self esteem
Emotional e.g. volatile mood states
Behavioural e.g. drop out, more likely to cheat
Mental health e.g. anxiety, depression, suicide
Relational e.g. social exclusion/marginality
Economic losses

ORGANISATIONAL IMPACTS:

Reputational damage
Loss of players and fans
Loss of sponsorship
Reduced medal tally
Reduced public confidence
Loss of trust
Asset depreciation



Kerr,
Willson &
Stirling,
2019: 14

Adults at risk



Self-neglect
Modern slavery
Domestic abuse
Discriminatory environment
Organization
Physical
Sexual
Financial/material
Neglect and acts of omission
Emotional or psychological

(references: Tiivas 2018; UK legislation, the Care Act 2014)

Note on maltreatment

- ▶ Volitional acts that have the potential to result in physical, psychological or social harm
 - ▶ Sexual, psychological and physical abuse
 - ▶ Neglect
 - ▶ Harassment
 - ▶ Bullying
- ▶ Type of maltreatment depends on **relationship** in which behaviours occur
- ▶ Can be seen as **integrity failures** as opposed to good governance (i.e. the sport sector is slow to move) (Alm 2013)
- ▶ **Intent** of perpetrator is irrelevant in all cases

TYPES OF ABUSE:



EMOTIONAL deliberate actions that lead to any psychological or emotional harm to a child or athletes health and development



PHYSICAL deliberate actions that cause physical harm or injury



SEXUAL deliberate use of a child or vulnerable person by an abuser for sexual pleasure and self gratification



NEGLECT failing to meet the basic needs of a child/athlete that may likely lead to the impairment of a child's health and development



BULLYING or 'Harassment' repeated aggressive domination, using intimidation, threats, coercion and/or force to create feelings of fear and helplessness: often a form of peer abuse

C. DATA: International Landscape

22.8% of high performance athletes had sexual intercourse with persons in a position of authority over them in sport (Kirby & Greaves 2000)

2-8% of children in sport are victims of sexual abuse (Parent & Hlimi 2012)

81% of ~10,000 participants experienced homophobia in sport (verbal 13-16%; physical 13-23%); 86-89% closeted; 70% unsafe (Denison & Kitchen 2015)

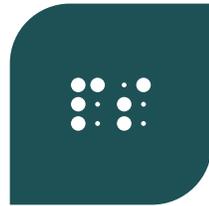
65-85% athletes experience psychologically abusive coaching practices (Kerr & Stirling 2019)

Disabled 31% vs 9% non-disabled children victimized (about 4X) (Sullivan & Knutson 2000)

Data



+50% OF ATHLETES (GER) EXPERIENCED SOME FORM OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN THEIR LIFETIME (UNPUBLISHED)



MOST PERPETRATORS ARE MALE (BRACKENRIDGE ET AL 2010)



77% PERPETRATORS WERE MALE COACHES AGED 31-50 YEARS IN 323 CASES (VERTOMMEN, SCHIPPER-VAN VELDHOVEN, HARTILL & VAN EEDE 2008)



98% OF TIME PERPETRATORS WERE COACHES, TEACHERS, INSTRUCTORS AGED 16-63 YEARS (BRACKENRIDGE, BISHOPP, MOUSSALI & TAPP 2008)

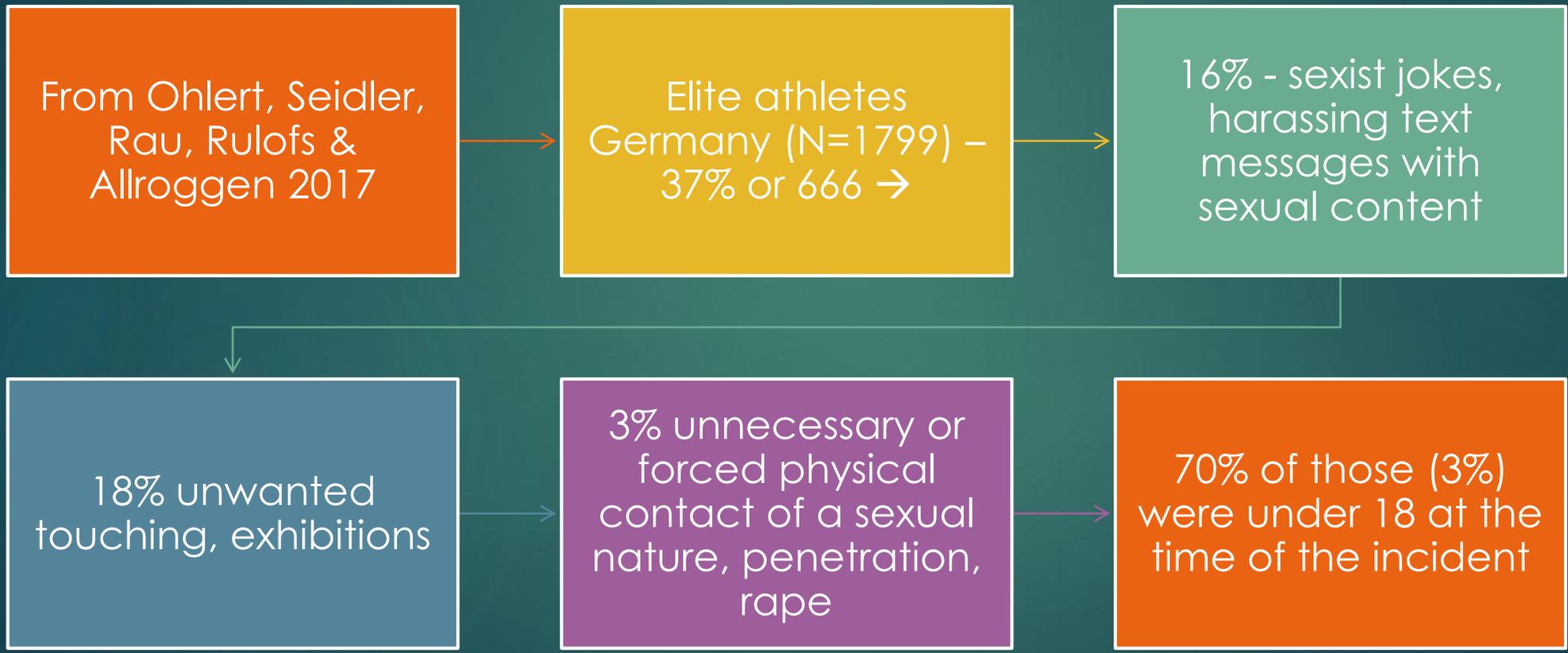


PEER ATHLETES MAY PERPETRATE ABUSE (MOUNTJOY ET AL. 2016; KERR ET AL 2019)

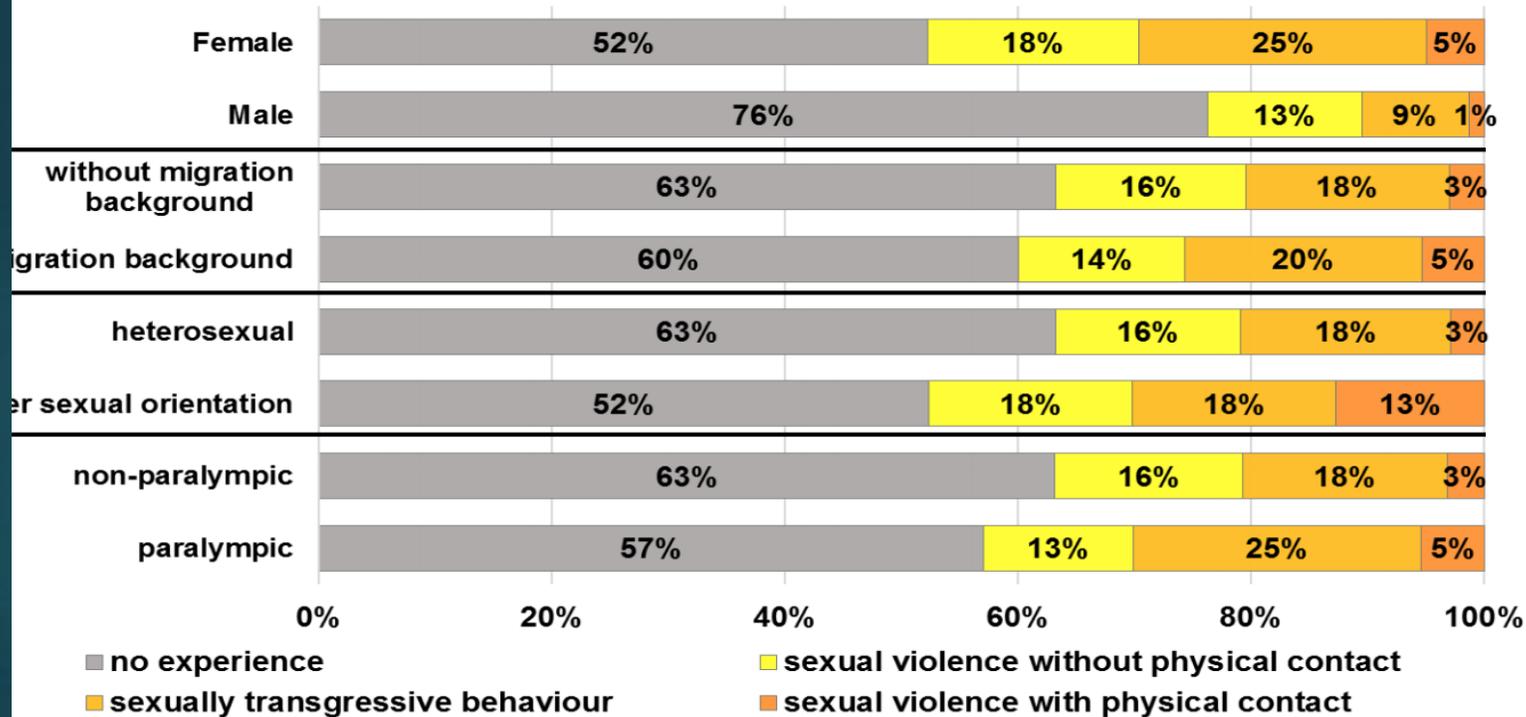


IN CANADA, INDIGENOUS ATHLETES IN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS- **LEVELS UNKNOWN** (TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION REPORT)

Data



Experiences of sexual violence among elite athletes in Germany (N = 1799)



From Hartill, Rulofs and Vertommen, 2019

Source: Ohlert, Seidler, Rau, Rulofs & Allroggen (2019)

Recent data from Belgium

[Vertommen *et al.*, 2015]



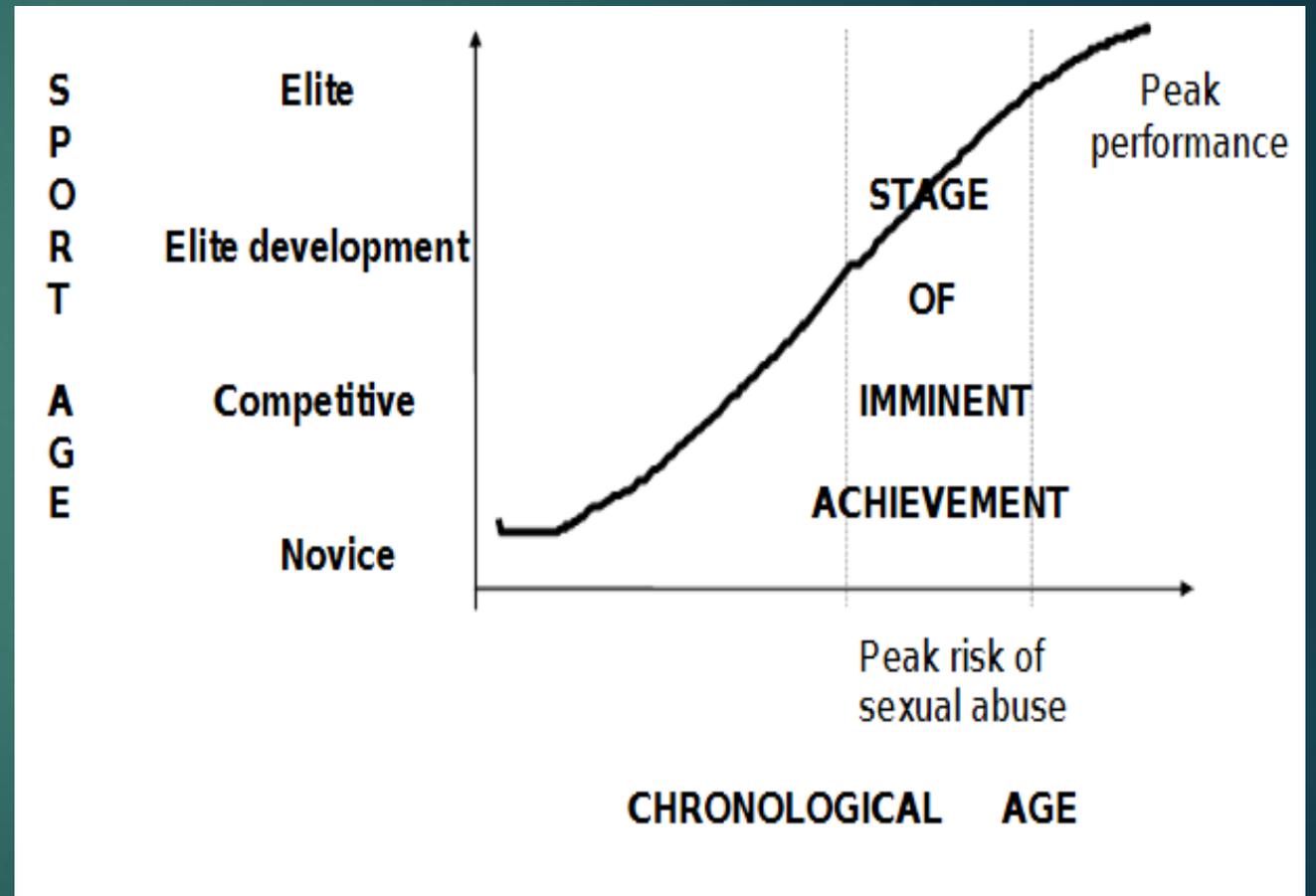
Type of IV	TOTAL SAMPLE % N = 4043	ETHNIC MINORITY % N=334	LGB ATHLETES % N=308	ELITE ATHLETES % N = 112	DISABLED ATHLETES % N=183
Psychological Moderate or severe experiences	26,1	24,8	34,6*	42,0*	41,6*
Physical Moderate or severe experiences	10,2	16,4*	18,2*	23,2*	30,3*
Sexual Moderate or severe experiences	12,8	17,6*	24,4*	25,9*	31,4*

Kerr et al. Maltreatment Study (2019)- ~1000 athletes

- ▶ 79% of athletes experienced at least 1 form of maltreatment (only 15% had reported this)
- ▶ 60% athletes worried about repercussions if they were to report
- ▶ Of those who reported, 27% felt concerns addressed effectively.
- ▶ Top harmful behaviours / current and retired
 - neglect (67; 76%);
 - psychological (59%, 62%);
 - sexual (20%, 21%) and
 - physical (12%, 19%)
- ▶ Top negative health outcomes: current and retired athletes
 - disordered eating (15%; 22%);
 - self harm (5%, 6%);
 - suicidal thoughts (13%, 20%)
- ▶ Females reported far more harmful health outcomes than men
- ▶ Conclusion: need for fully independent body to address the broad spectrum of sport issues

Stage of Imminent Achievement: Brackenridge and Kirby

- ▶ For rowing:
- ▶ Age of recruitment?
- ▶ Age of elite development?
- ▶ What does their experience look like at that age: what are they doing in rowing and where?
- ▶ Disclosures in sport/
disclosures in rowing
unknown



Disclosures?

- ▶ Policies set up for athlete's disclosure
- ▶ Who knows what and for how long?
- ▶ Who doesn't say and who does (whistleblowers)?
- ▶ When are disclosures made?
- ▶ If disclosures are made – to whom?
- ▶ Individual and organizational responsibility – prior, during and after disclosure?
- ▶ The role of preventative efforts by the IFs (e.g. FIFA Women's' World Cup 2019; FISA Safeguarding Officers at World Events)

Non-recent/historic abuse



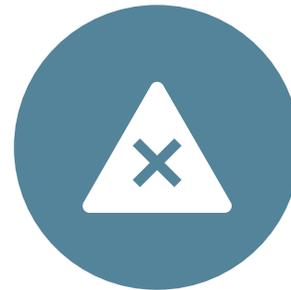
Lifelong impact



Affects individual, families, friends & team mates

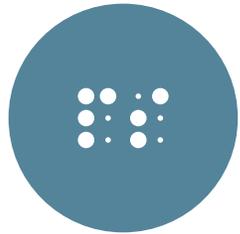


Revictimization is an issue – victims who come forward often get revictimized by what then happens to them



Of historic abuse cases that are finally reported, there is still a very high level of risk to current athletes.

Where are we now?



GAPS IN RESEARCH –
CONTINENTS,
POPULATIONS, AGE-
GROUPS, SPORTS ETC.
BEING ADDRESSED



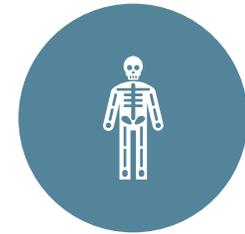
INTERNATIONAL
LEADERSHIP EMERGING:
IOC, IFS – SKI, ROWING,
TENNIS, EQUESTRIAN



NATIONAL LEADERSHIP
E.G. UK SPAIN GERMANY
AUSTRALIA TRINIDAD
ZAMBIA LAOS NORWAY
CANADA



PROJECTS AND
PROGRAMMES COMING
FROM RESEARCH E.G.
ERASMUS AND “I-
PROTECT”



COUNCIL OF EUROPE –
LANZAROTE CONVENTION
STANDARDS: “ALL IN -
GENDER EQUITY PROJECT”
(2018)

International Landscape:



IOC

Consensus Statements (2007, 2016)

IOC Awareness and Animation (2009) and Online Educational Tool (2014)

Athlete Protection Toolkit (2017); Athlete Protection Working Group (HRH Prince Feisal al-Hussein led)



UN

UN Global Study on Violence Against Children – (and subsequent SSI report 2014)

International Safeguards for Children in Sport (50 countries) – BRUNEL/ UNICEF



Other

Safe Sport International

IFs (including FISA) and their expanding safeguarding efforts

International Symposium on Elite Child Athlete Welfare (2010 International Council for Coaching Excellence)

Respect-based programs for adults and minor athlete safety (e.g. CPSU UK; Respect in Sport CAN)

International Centre for Child Security: Sport Integrity Unit

Summary



WE CAN ALWAYS BE CALLED UPON TO DO RESEARCH OR TO PROVIDE DATA



MORE RESEARCH IS NEEDED AROUND THE WORLD



ORGANIZATIONS DON'T NEED TO WAIT FOR MORE DATA TO ACT – EVERY SPORT HAS A PROBLEM



NEED FOR DATA – GOOD STRONG ROBUST DATA PROPERLY COLLECTED



NEED FOR PROACTIVE AND PREVENTATIVE RESEARCH AND EDUCATION BY IFS



INVITATIONS TO INTERNATIONAL FEDERATIONS TO WORK TOGETHER AND TO WORK WITH RESEARCHERS