

Sexual violence against women in the Democratic Republic of the Congo:
Population-based estimates and determinants

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Abstract

Reports from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) indicate that sexual violence (SV) is widespread, but data-based estimates are limited. We use nationally-representative household survey data from 3,436 women ages 15 to 49 from the 2007 DRC Demographic and Health Survey in conjunction with population estimates to analyze country-wide levels of sexual violence and perform multivariate logistic regressions to analyze correlates of sexual violence. Approximately 1.69 – 1.80 million women report being raped in their lifetime (407,397 – 433,785 in the last 12 months), and 3.07 – 3.37 million women report experiencing intimate partner sexual violence in a country of approximately 63.23 – 66.97 million. Reports of sexual violence are largely independent of individual-level background factors. However, women in Nord-Kivu are significantly more likely to report all types of sexual violence. Sexual violence, including intimate partner sexual violence, is more generalized than previously thought.

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