



**UNIVERSITA' DI TORINO  
DIPARTIMENTO DI SCIENZE DELLA SANITA'  
PUBBLICA E PEDIATRICHE  
LABORATORIO DI SCIENZE CRIMINALISTICHE  
"CARLO TORRE"**



**CITTA' DELLA SALUTE E DELLA SCIENZA DI TORINO  
PRESIDIO OSPEDALIERO S. ANNA  
CENTRO SOCCORSO VIOLENZA SESSUALE  
(SVS)**

# **ANALYSIS OF 58 CASES OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE BEARING FORENSIC INTEREST WITH AN ASSESSMENT OF THE CONGRUENCE BETWEEN THE VICTIM'S REPORT AND THE DATA FROM LABORATORY ANALYSES.**

**Albanese E., Canavese A., Pattarino B., Robino C., Omedei M., Castagna P., Gino S**

# **VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

- **Violence against women is “gender –based violence” and recognised as a form of human rights abuse. It is a violation of human dignity.**
- **Violence against women exists in every society and includes different forms of physical, sexual, psychological, economic and cultural abuse.**
- **In 2014, the results of the survey on violence against women carried out by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) showed that 33 % of women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence since they were 15 and 22% have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by a partner since the same age.**

# IN HOSPITAL

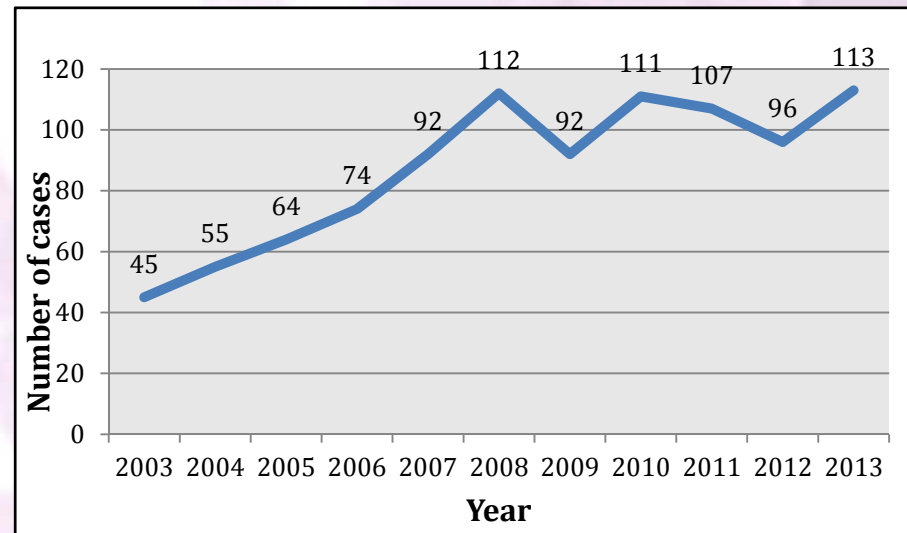
- **In hospitals, the receiving of women who have suffered some form of violence is a fundamental moment that requires high level of professionalism.**
- **The assistance provided by specialised healthcare personnel to victims of sexual violence cannot focus just on the clinical intervention appropriate for lesions suffered by the patient, but must also take legal and forensic needs into account .**
- **Anamnestic data are important to guide doctors in retrieving biological material on the victim's body.**
- **Case histories represent a crucial step towards finding forensic evidence.**

# THE AIM OF THE STUDY

- **It's a retrospective study based on cases recorded in the "Centro Soccorso Violenza Sessuale" at Sant'Anna Hospital in Turin (SVS) and in the Laboratory of Forensic Genetics at the University of Turin.**
- **The SVS is open 24/seven and takes care of women over the age of 14 with a multidisciplinary team, made up of gynecologists, midwives, psychologists, social workers and medical examiners.**
- **We evaluated the congruence between case histories from abused women and laboratory data in order to verify how stories and cytological examination results should be taken into account by judicial authorities when deciding whether or not to proceed with forensic genetic investigations to identify perpetrators.**

# THE STUDY

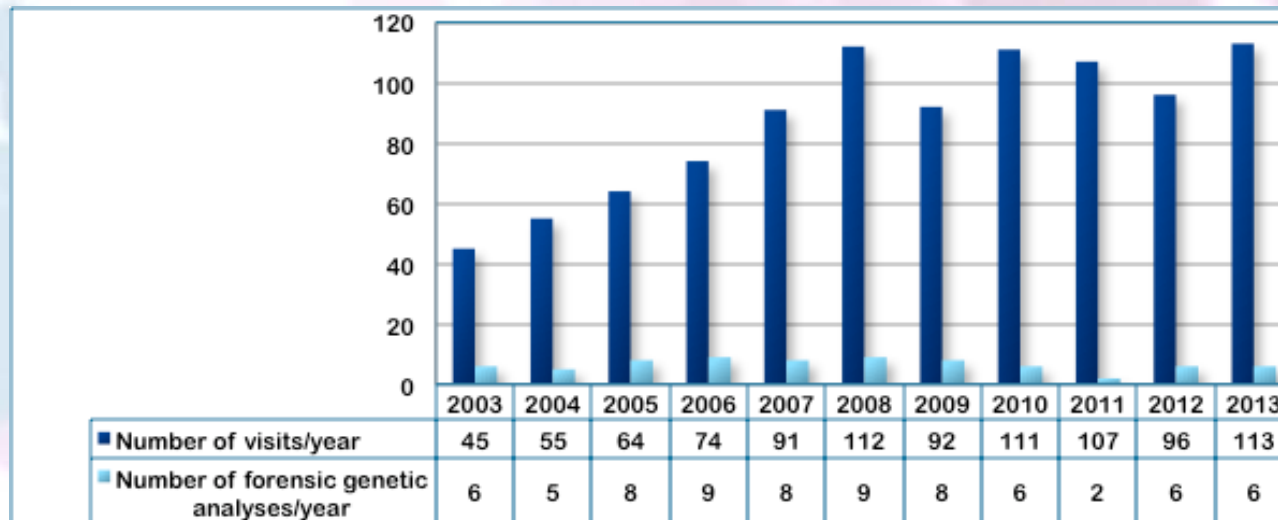
- **960 medical records related to sexual violence that reached SVS between 2003 and 2013.**



**NUMBER OF VISITS PER YEAR**

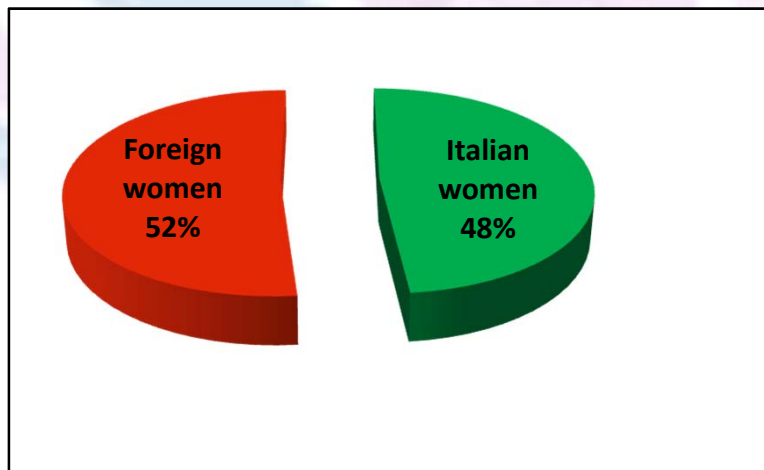
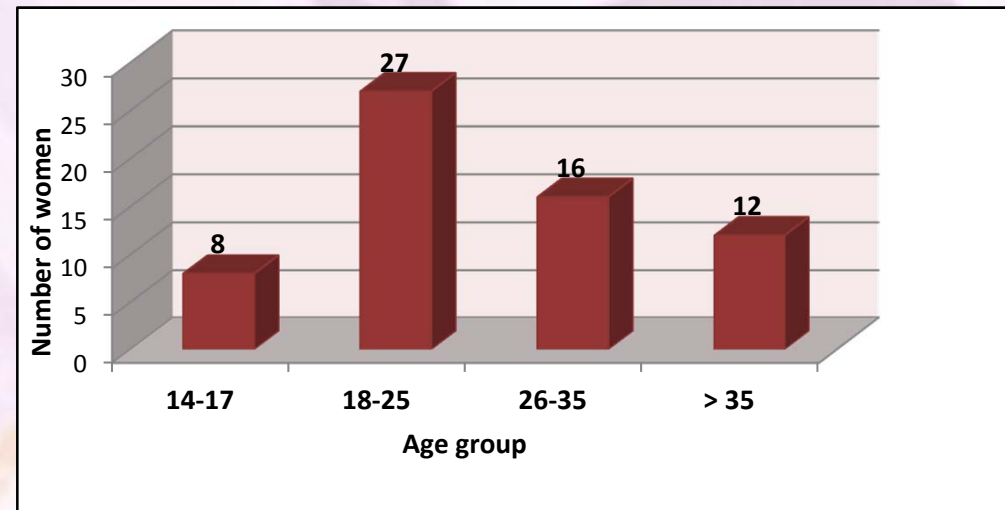
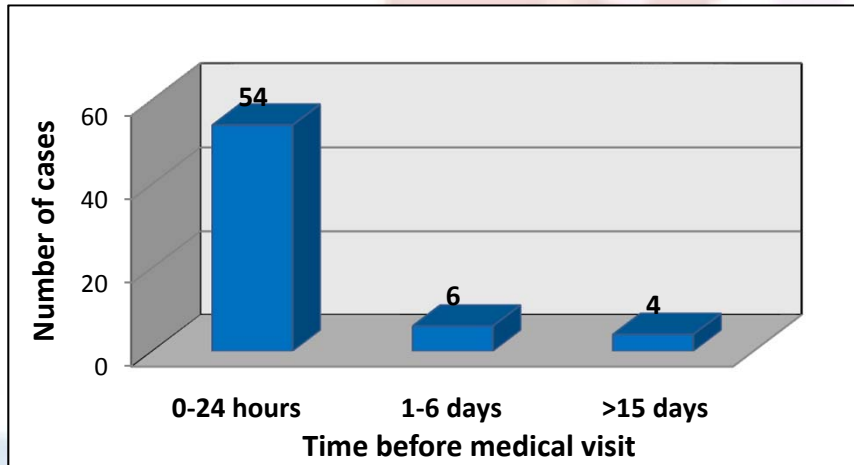
# THE STUDY

- **73 medical records related to cases for which the local Judicial Authority had asked for expert advice on biological material acquired during the visit to the SVS.**



**NUMBER OF VISITS PER YEAR RELATED TO  
NUMBER OF FORENSIC GENETIC ANALYSES PER YEAR**

# THE STUDY



# THE STUDY

- **In only 58 cases was it possible to retrieve the results of forensic genetic examinations requested by judicial authorities.**
- **Five cases were not included and the remaining 53 cases were divided into two different categories on the basis of whether the victims recalled (27 of 53) or couldn't recall (26 of 53) what had happened.**

**We looked at the results of:**

- **the cytological examination performed on Thin-prep to identify the presence of sperm cells;**
- **the body fluid identification obtained by immunochromatography aimed at identifying the presence of semen;**
- **the DNA quantitation performed with Realtime PCR.**



# THE STUDY

	<b>WOMAN RECALLED INCIDENT (27/53)</b>	<b>POSITIVE SPERM IDENTIFICATION</b>	<b>NEGATIVE SPERM IDENTIFICATION</b>	<b>FLUID IDENTIFICATION NOT PERFORMED</b>	<b>MALE DNA AT QUANTITATION</b>
<b>POSITIVE CYTOLOGIC EXAMINATION</b>	<b>7/27</b>	<b>3/7</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4/7</b>	<b>7/7</b>
<b>NEGATIVE CYTOLOGIC EXAMINATION</b>	<b>14/27</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>9/14</b>	<b>5/14</b>	<b>2/14</b>
<b>CYTOLOGIC EXAMINATION NOT PERFORMED</b>	<b>6/27</b>	<b>4/6</b>	<b>2/6</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4/6</b>

# THE STUDY

	<b>WOMAN DID NOT RECALL INCIDENT (26/53)</b>	<b>POSITIVE SPERM IDENTIFICATION</b>	<b>NEGATIVE SPERM IDENTIFICATION</b>	<b>FLUID IDENTIFICATION NOT PERFORMED</b>	<b>MALE DNA AT QUANTITATION</b>
<b>POSITIVE CYTOLOGIC EXAMINATION</b>	<b>14/26</b>	<b>7/14</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7/14</b>	<b>13/14</b>
<b>NEGATIVE CYTOLOGIC EXAMINATION</b>	<b>10/26</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8/10</b>	<b>2/10</b>	<b>2/10</b>
<b>CYTOLOGIC EXAMINATION NOT PERFORMED</b>	<b>1/26</b>	<b>0/1</b>	<b>1/1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0/1</b>

# CONCLUSIONS

- **Forensic investigations should be carried out independently from recollection of the traumatic events on the victim's part.**
- **Forensic investigations should also be pursued in the presence of a negative cytologic examination.**
- **Characterisation of body fluids might be carried out to assess the completeness of the collected data with the case histories and therefore to establish the dynamic of the event in question.**

The background of the slide is a light purple color, overlaid with numerous handprints in various colors including orange, blue, pink, and yellow. The handprints are scattered across the page, some overlapping each other, creating a sense of community and diversity.

**Thanks for your attention!**