CLEEN FOUNDATION
Justice Sector Reform

National Crime & Safety Survey 2012:

Policy Brief 001: February, 2013

Decreasing Priority to Victims of Rape in Nigeria

Key findings:

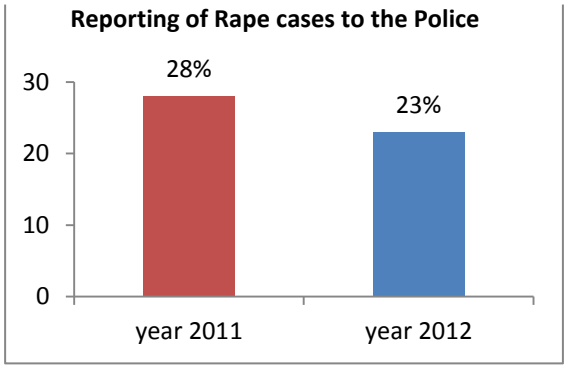
- Generally, incidents of rape are higher in the South-South States than other geo political zones in Nigeria. Only 23% of rape incidents in Nigeria were reported to the Police. About 33% of those who reported were not satisfied with how their cases were handled.
- About 38% said the most important reason for dissatisfaction is because the Police did not do enough to apprehend the offender.

The Research:

- A National Representative Survey in all 36 states of Nigeria and the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja
- 11,518 participants, 50% female, 50% male all 18 yrs. and above were interviewed
- Stratified multi-stage random sampling procedure with face-to-face interviews

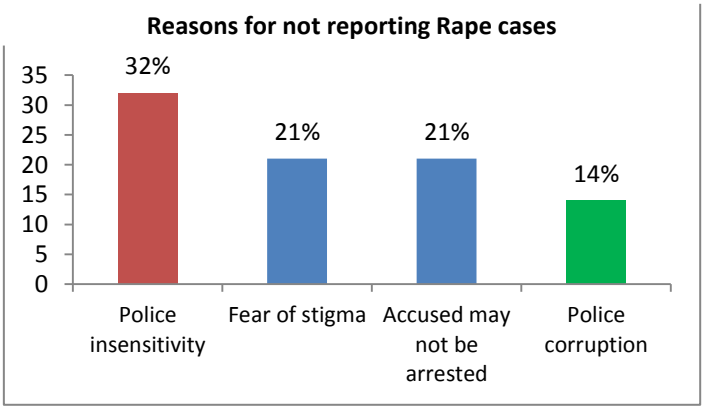
Finding 1 Section 357 of the Criminal Code defines the offence of Rape and Section 358 prescribes 'life imprisonment' as punishment for the offence. However most offenders go unpunished in Nigeria.

- About 77% of Rape cases go unreported and those who manage to report their cases had no treatment or better services from the Police.



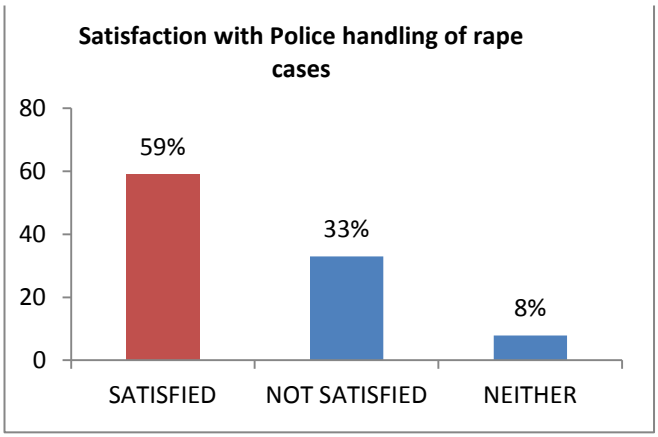
Finding 2: Most Victims said they do not report rape cases to the police because the police officers are usually insensitive in handling of reported cases

- Most offenders are reported to have been close friends 16%, ex-boyfriends 10%, and spouse or ex-partner 7% of victims.



Finding 3: Perceptions of how widespread rape is remain 8% and only 1% admitted to have been raped and 3% said there were attempts but not successful.

32% of the survivors in the rural areas were confident about reporting their cases to the police compared to 16% of those living in the urban areas.



- **Finding 4:** Different reasons identified by the interviewees for rape; Provocative dressing by young women 76%, Lack of self-control by men 53%, , influence of alcohol and drugs 35%, influence of media presentation 26%, mental illness or insanity on the part of the perpetrators 25% and influence of alcohol and hard drugs 35%.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The Human Rights Desks in the different police formations should have designated officers that would be trained to handle rape and other gender based violence.
- The Ministries of Women Affairs, Health, Youth and Social Welfare should provide adequate support structures to complement and or improve the services being provided by the NPF for victims of rape.
- Family support units should be set up in police stations.

For a full report of the National Crime & Safety Survey 2012 see www.cleen.org or email cleen@cleen.org