



2022 GHANA DEMOGRAPHIC AND HEALTH SURVEY

SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST GIRLS AND WOMEN



This factsheet presents findings on forced sex against women aged 18–29 in Ghana using data from the 2022 Ghana Demographic and Health Survey (GDHS). It highlights prevalence, age at first experience, and key socio-demographic factors such as household composition, education, wealth, residence, and regional differences. The findings show that many young women experience forced sex before age 18, often by someone they know, underscoring both the scale of the issue and the need for targeted interventions.

Forced Sex: This refers to the first time a woman is forced to have sexual intercourse or perform any other sexual acts by any person without their consent, regardless of their relationship to the woman. In this brief, forced sex is used to measure sexual violence.

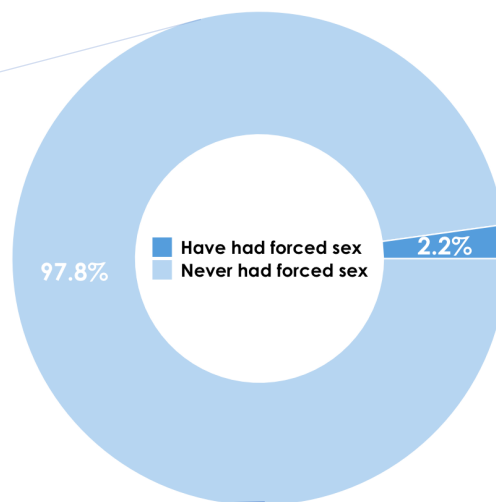
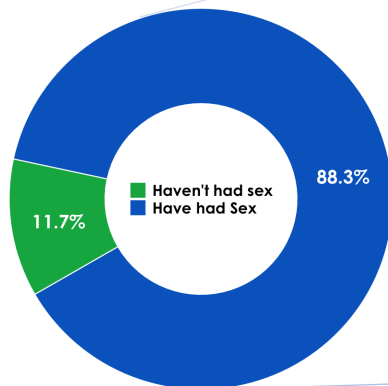
Perpetrator: This refers to a person who forced a woman to have sexual intercourse with him or perform any other sexual acts without her permission.

Prevalence of Forced Sex

Percentage of forced sex among women aged 18-29 who have ever had sex

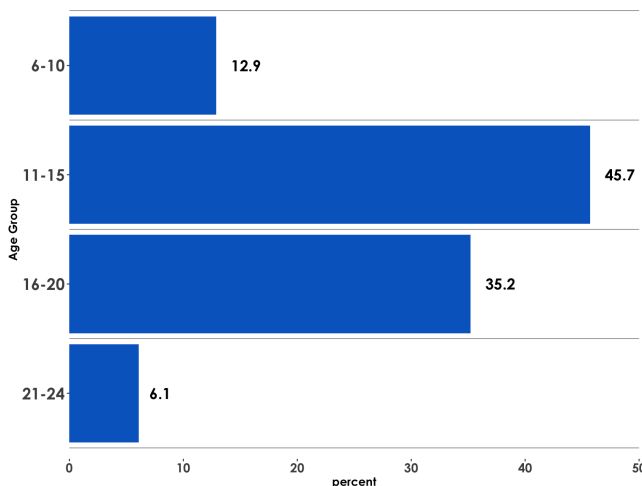
Percentage of women aged 18-29 who have ever had sex

More than 80 percent of women aged 18 to 29 have ever had sexual intercourse.

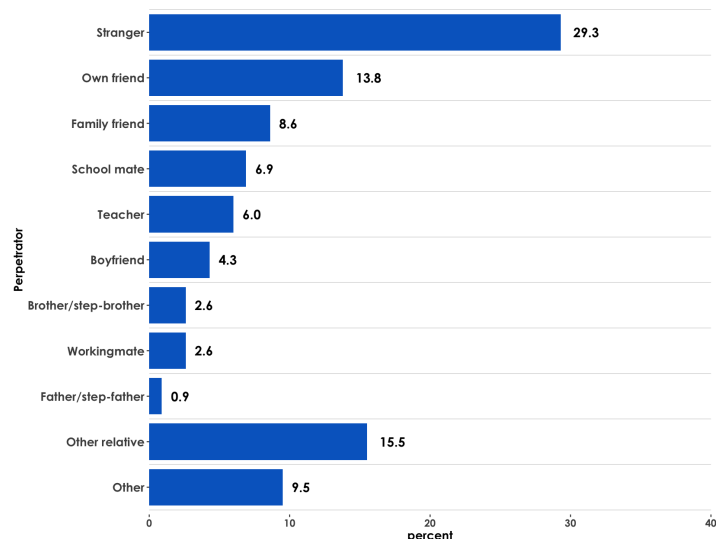


Nationally, 2.2 percent of women aged 18 to 29 who have ever had sexual intercourse reported experiencing forced sex in their lifetime.

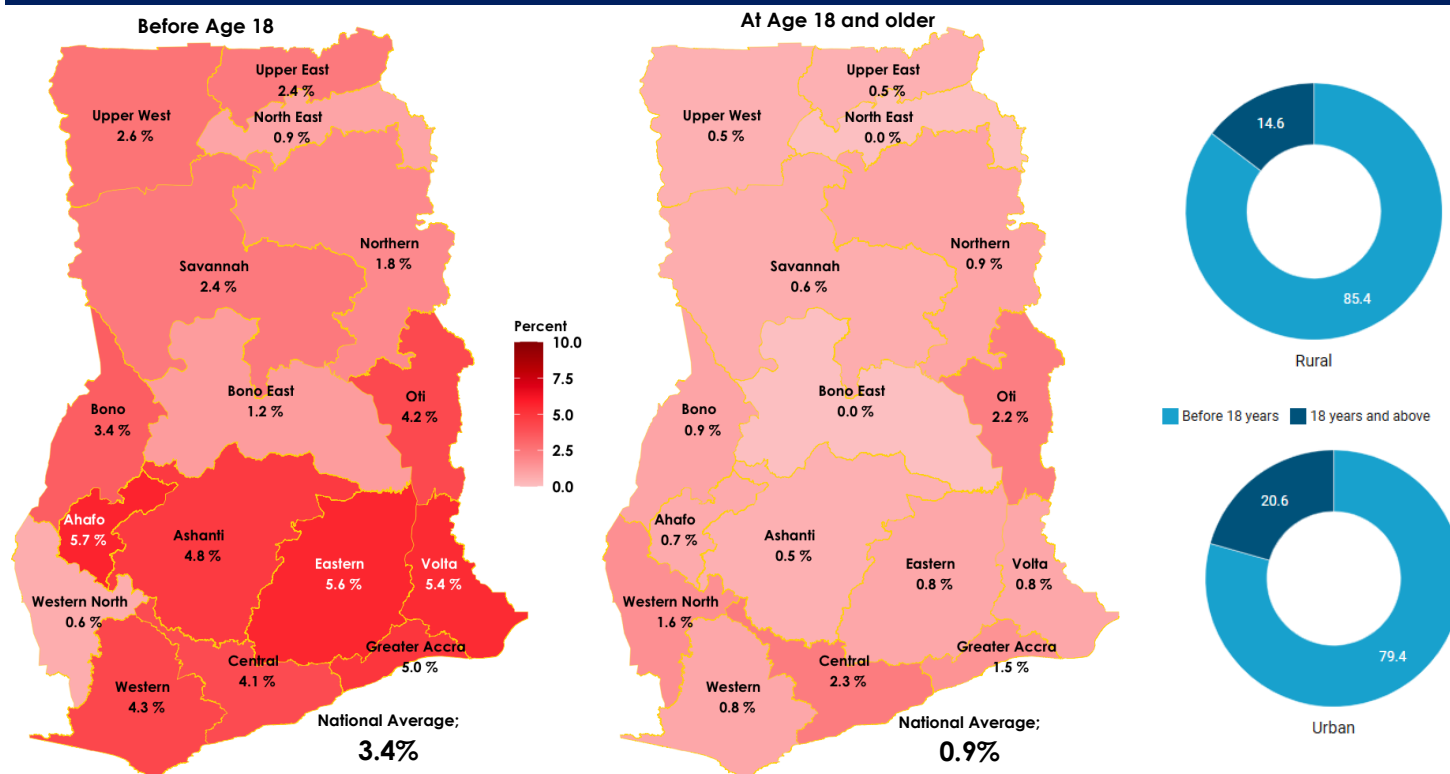
Age at first forced sex among women aged 18-29



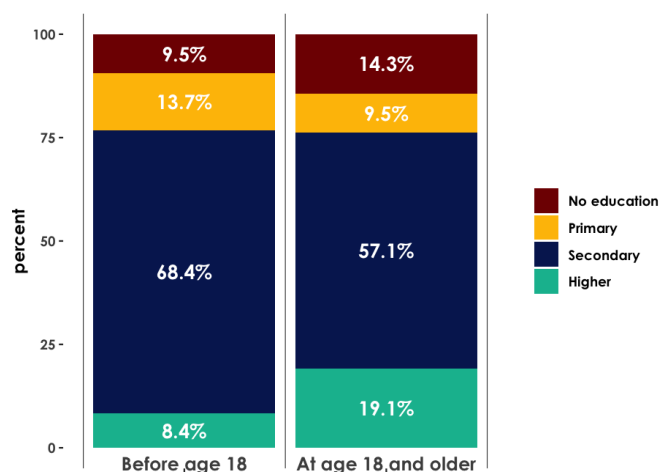
Perpetrators of forced sex among women aged 18-29



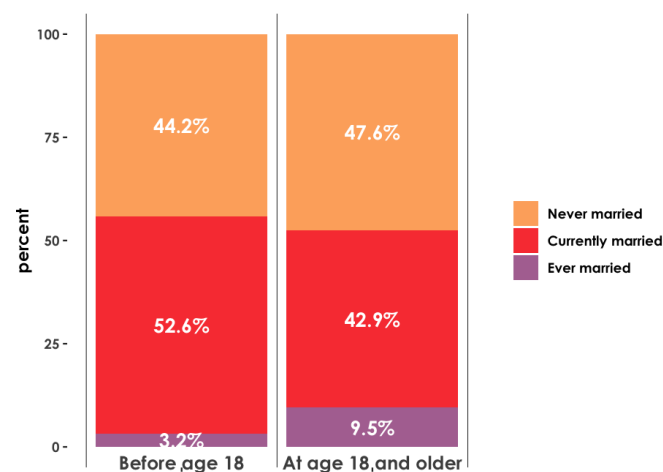
Women Aged 18 To 29 Who Experienced Forced Sex



By Educational Level



By Marital Status



Key takeaways and Policy Recommendations

Key Takeaways

1. **Forced sex affects 2.2% of Ghanaian women aged 18–29**, with most incidents occurring **before age 18**, highlighting early vulnerability.
2. Rural women face higher risk before age 18, while urban women report more incidents at age 18 or older, showing different exposure pathways across settings.
3. Married women report more incidents before age 18, while never-married women face greater risk at age 18 or older.

Policy Recommendations

1. **Implement existing laws** on violence against children and women more rigorously, particularly those relating to sexual violence
2. Expand nationwide campaigns on sexual violence against children and women, with targeted messaging for communities where early-age vulnerability is highest