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Factors associated with victimization and perpetration of sexual aggression in Chilean university students

Factores asociados con victimización y perpetración de agresión sexual en estudiantes universitarios chilenos

ABSTRACT

Introduction: Sexual aggression is a type of violence considered a public health problem that can affect people at any time of their lives. This investigation had three objectives: 1) to know the prevalence of victimization and perpetration of sexual aggression and its subtypes in the Chilean university context, 2) to identify the association of sex on the prevalence of victimization and perpetration of sexual aggression and its subtypes, and 3) to identify the association of alcohol consumption and victim-perpetrator relationship in the subtypes of victimization and perpetration of sexual aggression based on sex. **Materials and methods:** Descriptive cross-sectional study, with a sample of 1728 students (65.3% women) with a median age of 22 years. **Results:** 42.6% and 8.3% of the students reported at least one incident of victimization and perpetration of sexual aggression respectively in the last 12 months; an association of sex with the victimization of sexual aggression $\chi^2(1, N = 1728) = 101,425, p < .001$ and its subtypes was identified; no sex association was identified with the perpetration of sexual aggression, but with sexual coercion $\chi^2(1, N = 1728) = 5,122, p < .05$. In the case of alcohol consumption and victim-perpetrator relationship, they were associated with some subtypes of victimization and perpetration of sexual aggression. **Conclusion:** the findings contribute to the estimation of the magnitude of sexual aggression and associated factors in the university context, which should be explored in depth in order to create preventive programs for victimization and perpetration of sexual aggression.



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Keywords: sexual aggression, university students, victimization, perpetration, associated factors.

RESUMEN

Introducción: La agresión sexual es un tipo de violencia considerada un problema de salud pública que puede afectar a las personas en cualquier momento de sus vidas. La presente investigación tuvo tres objetivos: 1) conocer la prevalencia de victimización y perpetración de agresión sexual y sus subtipos en el contexto universitario chileno; 2) identificar la asociación del sexo en la prevalencia de victimización y perpetración de agresión sexual y sus subtipos; e 3) identificar la asociación entre el consumo de alcohol y las relaciones de poder en los subtipos de victimización y perpetración de agresión sexual en función del sexo. **Materiales y método:** estudio descriptivo de tipo transversal, con una muestra de 1728 estudiantes (65,3% mujeres) con una mediana de edad de 22 años. **Resultados:** El 42,6% y el 8,3% de los estudiantes reportó al menos un incidente de victimización y perpetración respectivamente en los últimos 12 meses, y se identificó una asociación del sexo con la victimización de agresión sexual $\chi^2 (1, N = 1728) = 101,425, p < ,001$ y sus subtipos. No se identificó una asociación del sexo con la perpetración de agresión sexual, pero sí con la coerción sexual $\chi^2 (1, N = 1728) = 5,122, p < ,05$. En el caso del consumo de alcohol y las relaciones víctima-perpetrador, estas tuvieron asociación con algunos subtipos de victimización y perpetración de agresión sexual. **Conclusión:** Los hallazgos contribuyen a la estimación de magnitud de la agresión sexual y factores asociados en el contexto universitario, los cuales deben explorarse en profundidad con el fin de crear programas preventivos de victimización y perpetración de agresión sexual.

Palabras clave: agresión sexual, estudiantes universitarios, victimización, perpetración, factores asociados

INTRODUCTION

Sexual aggression is a type of violence considered a public health problem that can affect people at any time in their lives, generating serious consequences at the physical, psychological and occupational levels^(12, 34, 72). This and other types of violence can be used and experienced by family members, friends, acquaintances, study or work colleagues and unknown persons, both in public and private spheres^(53, 72).

Sexual aggression is defined as the use of some mechanisms such as physical force, intimidation or other coercive acts to force men or women to have some sexual encounter despite their lack of will, violating their sexual freedom through coercion, manipulation and deceit^(42, 61).

Sexual aggression is composed of a series of behaviors that vary in severity, including sexual contact, sexual coercion, attempted rape and rape^(27; 71). Sexual contact is defined as the sexual union of two

people without penetration through verbal pressure, the exploitation of the victim's inability to resist and the use or threat of use of physical force. Sexual coercion is the use of practices that include subtle psychological and verbal pressure to obtain a sexual encounter and achieving oral, vaginal or anal penetration. Attempted rape is the attempt of oral, vaginal or anal penetration through the exploitation of the victim's inability to resist, or the use or threat of use of physical force. Rape is the most serious type of sexual aggression; it is carnal, vaginal, anal or oral access through the use of physical force or intimidation, or when the victim is deprived of consciousness by taking advantage of the inability to resist (Ministerio de Justicia y Derechos Humanos, 1999).

Determining the prevalence of sexual aggression has been a work of more than thirty years⁽³⁷⁾. It is reported that the victimization and perpetration of sexual aggression in this context ranges from 0.4% to 85% and from 0.6% to 46.2% respectively. The highest victimization rates are among women and men who were in the early years of university^(17, 28).

Analysis of various studies on sexual aggression has made it possible to identify that this phenomenon has been increasing^(36, 46, 61, 63, 68), which may be due to the fact that it is indeed a problem that is occurring more frequently, or that today there is a greater exposure of a phenomenon that until recently was invisible in the university context, considered as a safe space for students⁽⁷⁾.

Current figures on sexual aggression and its subtypes in the university context should be seen as an estimate of the magnitude of the problem. According to a recent report by the American College Health Association in 2018, on cases of violence in the university context, sexual touching without consent (N = 26.181; 10.4%) is the second type of violence and vulnerability experienced by students in the last 12 months, followed by an emotionally abusive intimate relationship (9.4%)⁽⁵⁾. It cannot be assured that all people who have been victims or perpetrators of sexual aggression have reported it in investigations, not even in the case of victims. Nevertheless, it is certain that they have reported the incident to an institution or body in charge while they were studying at university⁽⁴⁰⁾.

A large percentage of studies on the prevalence of sexual aggression in higher education have been conducted in the United States and Europe^(10, 11, 19, 55, 68). In the specific case of Chile, research on sexual aggression has been minor, but it has been able to identify the existence of this problem in Chilean universities^(32, 41, 62). In 2015, Schuster *et al.*⁽⁶²⁾ evaluated the prevalence of sexual aggression perpetration and victimization in a sample of 1135 university students (M = 22 years). The results were based on sex, victim-perpetrator relationship (partner/partner, friend/acquaintance, unknown) and according to the coercive strategy used (use or threat of use of force, use of the victim's inability to resist and verbal pressure). The results indicated that, considering all coercive strategies and all victim-perpetrator relationships, 33.4% (n = 273) of women and 41.5% (n = 98) of men indicated at least one incident of sexual victimization in the last twelve months. As for the identified cases of perpetration, 11% (n = 90) of women and 19.8% (n = 47) of men reported at least one incident of sexual perpetration in the last 12 months of university life⁽⁶²⁾.

Various factors may increase or decrease the risk of being a victim and/or perpetrator of sexual aggression. In the case of emerging adulthood we can find alcohol consumption, drugs, age, sex, self-control, belonging to fraternities, gender stereotypes and myths of rape^(8, 9, 16, 19, 23, 49, 55, 57). This study took into account the integrated theory of Marshall & Barbaree, which has a biosocial orientation, characterized by some basic assumptions about the origin and development of the propensity to sexual assault. Its plot line is related to the statement that the tendency to sexual assault is determined by four types of factors (biological, developmental, sociocultural and situational) which can promote the disinhibition of behavior and can interfere in the learning and development of these inhibitory mechanisms^(44, 45). The following factors will be considered for this study:

Sex. Some studies have shown that the prevalence of sexual aggression victimization is higher in women than in men with significant percentage differences^(11, 62); however, other studies, such as that conducted in Chile by Schuster, Krahe, *et al.*⁽⁶²⁾, point out that this difference tends to disappear, showing that both men

and women are victims of sexual aggression and that, depending on the subtype of this, men reported greater victimization than women in the last 12 months of their university life. A review by Krahé, Tomaszewska, Kuyper, and Vanwesenbeeck⁽³⁸⁾ found that the rate of reported sexual aggression perpetration was higher for men (62.2%) than for women (48.2%).

Alcohol consumption in the sexual aggression situation. Research in the United States reported that alcohol consumption has been linked to the vast majority of cases of victimization and perpetration of sexual aggression^(10, 21, 55, 62, 66, 68). In this sense, alcohol consumption in contexts of interaction is seen as a factor that increases the likelihood of suffering and/or perpetrating sexual aggression^(3, 11, 14, 49, 55, 63). In approximately half of the reported cases of sexual aggression, the perpetrator, victim or both were under the influence of alcohol⁽³⁾. The effect of alcohol alters cognitive processes that allow the person to recognize danger signs in the case of victimization, and, in the case of perpetration, inhibits the faculty of self-control and reality judgment^(3, 11, 14, 49, 55, 63).

Victim-perpetrator relationship. Previous studies have shown that in reported cases of sexual aggression, the victim was in a lower position than the perpetrator^(1, 43, 73). Research by Malamuth *et al.*⁽⁴³⁾ showed that the need for power and dominance was an often characteristic of sexual aggression perpetrators. Power relationships have two key characteristics; firstly, that it is a relational phenomenon, which means that it involves a relationship between people, and the second is that this relationship is asymmetric⁽⁴⁸⁾. The existence of this disparity of power can be observed in romantic relationships, when one partner is being assaulted, or when only one of two partners pays during a date^(51, 73). In the university context the power differences can be observed when the perpetrator belongs to a higher grade or is a teacher. The power relationship in different studies has been seen as a risk factor for the perpetration of sexual aggression because people with power are not empathetic to others^(2, 59); they feel free from social restrictions and are therefore more able to behave according to their wishes and dispositions^(39, 70).

Having power means having the opportunity to do what is desired⁽⁶⁰⁾, increasing the likelihood of dehumanizing others, seeing them as objects and not as individuals⁽²⁶⁾. Taking into account the above, this study considered the victim-perpetrator relationship as a variable of interest. However, it is important to note that this variable does not allow knowing if there is a power relationship directly, it only gives an approach to this, to be contrasted with previous studies.

This study had three objectives: 1) to know the prevalence of victimization and perpetration of sexual aggression and its subtypes in the Chilean university context, 2) to identify the association of sex on the prevalence of victimization and perpetration of sexual aggression and its subtypes, and 3) to identify the association of alcohol consumption and victim-perpetrator relationship in the subtypes of victimization and perpetration of sexual aggression based on sex in Chilean university students.

METHOD

This is a quantitative study, its design was descriptive and cross-sectional study, with a non-probabilistic sampling⁽⁶⁾. The prevalence of sexual aggression was determined considering victimization and perpetration cases and their subtypes in the Chilean university context.

UNIVERSE/SAMPLE

The universe was made up of university students who had been enrolled in any degree course at two universities belonging to the Council of Rectors of Chilean Universities (CRUCH) of the Bío-Bío region for more than a year. The sample consisted of 1728 students ($n = 1128$, 65.3% women; $n = 600$, 34.7% men) with a mean age of 22.13 years ($SD = 2.64$); since the distribution was not normal, it was also reported median = 22 (IQR = 20-23). The sociodemographic characteristics of the participants are detailed in Table 1.

Table 1. Sociodemographic characteristics (n=1.728)

Variable	Summary measure
Sex	n (%)
Woman	1128 (65.3)
Man	600 (34.7)
Age	Mdn (IQR)
	22 (20-23)
Marital status	n (%)
Single	880 (50.9)
With couple	778 (45)
Married	20 (1.2)
Cohabiting	50 (2.9)
Widower	0 (0)
Sexual orientation	n (%)
Heterosexual	1.369 (79.2)
Homosexual	82 (4.8)
Bisexual	166 (9.6)
Asexual	9 (0.5)
Pansexual	49 (2.8)
Not reported	53 (3.1)

Note: The response rate was 6.4% (n=1,728; 7.9% University 1 and 3.3% University 2).

INSTRUMENTS

Sexual aggression and subtypes: These variables were measured through the Sexual Experiences Scale (SES) (37); the translated and adapted version for student population by Moyano and Sierra (50) was used, which neutralizes the gender. This scale evaluates sexual experiences of sexual aggression or victimization, distinguishes 4 types of sexual aggression: unwanted sexual contact, sexual coercion, attempted rape and rape. These are combined with tactics that include verbal coercion, substance use, threat or use of physical force. It is a Likert scale type of 6 points between 0= never and 5= 5 or more times. Higher scores indicate higher frequency of victimization or perpetration of sexual aggression. For the present investigation the reliability of the test-retest with the Kappa coefficient was .86, the Cronbach's Alpha was not calculated, considering the recommendations of Koss, Abbey *et al.* (35). Previous investigations have shown reliability of test-retest (33).

Consumption of alcohol. For those who reported at least one incident of sexual aggression (victimization and/or perpetration), after each item of sexual

aggression, it was asked: Was alcohol consumed on any of these occasions? The response options were the following: 0) none consumed alcohol, 1) yes, I did, 2) yes, the other person did, and 3) yes, we both did. The measurement of this variable was made considering previous studies where the person was asked if at the time of the victimization/perpetration any of the people involved consumed alcohol (62).

Victim-perpetrator relationship. For those who reported at least one incident of sexual aggression (victimization and/or perpetration), after each item of sexual aggression, it was asked: Which of the following persons received/performed the behavior described above? The response options were: 1) my boyfriend/girlfriend, 2) a teacher, 3) a partner of the same semester, 4) a partner of a higher course, 5) a partner of a lower course, 6) an unknown person. With this variable it was intended to inquire about victim-perpetrator relationship that have been evidenced in previous studies of sexual aggression (1, 43, 73).

PROCEDURE

The instruments were managed through virtual platform services. The data collection began on July 2018 by sending the invitation to participate in the research through the institutional mails of students from the selected universities and ended in September 2018. In parallel to the data collection, and automatically, the population of an online database was carried out, for subsequent export to the SPSS program for Windows.

DATA ANALYSIS

Univariate analysis was carried out to explore the behavior of the data using graphing techniques and the establishment of central trend measures with the respective dispersion measures. In the case of categorical variables, percentages and frequencies were established. After this, the association between the variables was determined by an analysis of χ^2 . All analyses were performed in SPSS version 25 licensed for Universidad del Valle.

ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

The research was based on the principles of the Helsinki Declaration of Charity, Justice, Autonomy. The approval and authorization of the Ethics Committee was obtained from the authorities of the selected universities. Data collection was done online by sending mass messages to the institutional emails of students. This collection took place between July and September 2018. Before responding to the online toolkit, participants had to agree to give informed consent on the first page of the tool, which contained the research objectives, ethical considerations of confidentiality, will and integrity of the study. Similarly, given the sensitive nature of research, participants were told that if they needed professional guidance and support, they could contact the principal researcher to be referred as a matter of priority to a specialized center for psychological care.

RESULTS

PREVALENCE OF VICTIMIZATION OF SEXUAL AGGRESSION AND SUBTYPES

In this research, 42.6% (n = 736) of the sample reported at least one incident of sexual aggression victimization in the past 12 months. According to the subtypes of sexual aggression, the most frequent was sexual contact (n = 590; 34.1%) followed by sexual coercion (n = 392; 22.7%), attempted rape (n = 225; 13%) and rape (n = 128; 7.4%).

An association was identified between sex and sexual aggression victimization χ^2 (1, N = 1728) = 101,425, $p < .001$, where women reported higher victimization figures (51.3%), compared to men (26.2%). As for the types of victimization of sexual aggression it was identified that there is a statistically significant association between sex and sexual contact χ^2 (1, N = 1728) = 83,709, $p < .001$, sexual coercion χ^2 (1, N = 1728) = 56,159, $p < .001$, attempted rape χ^2 (1, N = 1728) = 29,420, $p < .001$ and rape χ^2 (1, N = 1728) = 6,729, $p < .01$, where more women than men indicated higher victimization rate for all subtypes of sexual aggression (Table 2).

Table 2. Prevalence of sexual aggression victimization by sex (ntotal = 1728; nw = 1128; nm = 600)

Sex	Sexual Aggression*	Summary measure n (%)
Woman	General sexual aggression	579 (51.3)
	Sexual contact	471 (41.8)
	Sexual coercion	318 (28.2)
	Attempted rape	183 (16.2)
	Rape	97 (8.6)
Man	General sexual aggression	157 (26.2)
	Sexual contact	119 (19.8)
	Sexual coercion	74 (12.3)
	Attempted rape	42 (7)
	Rape	31 (5.2)

Note: ntotal = total sample; nw = sample women; nm = sample men. * The data reported may correspond to same person for each type of sexual aggression victimization

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH SEXUAL AGGRESSION VICTIMIZATION SUBTYPES

In order to identify the association of alcohol consumption and victim-perpetrator relationship with subtypes of sexual aggression according to sex, further analysis was performed only with the cases of participants reporting at least one incident of sexual aggression victimization in the last twelve months (n = 736). The most recurrent was sexual contact (80.2%), followed by sexual coercion (53.3%), attempted rape (30.6%) and rape (17.4%).

In the case of alcohol consumption, 48.9% of women (n = 283) and 54.1 % of men (n = 85) indicated that they, the aggressor, or both consumed alcohol in at least one of the incidents of sexual aggression victimization reported in the past 12 months. Association was identified between sex and the victimization of attempted rape χ^2 (1, N = 736) = 4.333, $p < .05$ when there was alcohol consumption, where more women than men indicated that alcohol consumption was involved in at least one attempted rape incident (11.4% and 5.7% respectively); other types of sexual aggression such as sexual contact ($p > .831$), sexual coercion ($p > .427$), and rape ($p > .647$) showed no association with sex when alcohol consumption occurred.

In terms of victim-perpetrator relationship, 63.2% of women (n = 366) and 51% of men (n = 80)

indicated that, in at least one incident of sexual aggression victimization, the perpetrator of the behavior was the couple/ex couple, a teacher or a classmate from a higher course (Table 3). For subtypes of sexual aggression, it was identified that there is an association between sex and sexual contact victimization $\chi^2 (1, N = 736) = 5,367, p < .05$ and sexual coercion $\chi^2 (1, N = 736) = 8,202, p < .005$; when the perpetrator was the couple/ex couple, teacher or a student from a higher course, the disparity was higher among women

who reported any incidents of sexual aggression victimization. The other types of sexual aggression, namely, attempted rape ($p > .137$) and rape ($p > .235$) showed no association when the perpetrator was the couple/ex couple, teacher or upper-year student.

Table 4 shows the frequency of alcohol consumption and the victim-perpetrator relationship reported by women and men who were victims of at least one incident of some form of sexual aggression.

Table 3. Victim-perpetrator relationship* (ntotal = 736; nw = 579; nm = 157)

Type of sexual Aggression	Woman			Man		
	Cou	Tea	Upp	Cou	Tea	Upp
Sexual contact	229 (39.6)	5 (0.9)	31 (5.4)	49 (31.2)	1 (0.6)	4 (2.5)
Sexual coercion	251 (43.4)	0 (0)	9 (1.6)	48 (30.6)	1 (0.6)	2 (1.3)
Attempted rape	55 (9.4)	0 (0)	10 (1.7)	9 (5.7)	0 (0)	2 (1.3)
Rape	46 (7.9)	0 (0)	5 (0.9)	7 (4.5)	0 (0)	2 (1.3)

Note: * = The data reported may correspond to more than one perpetrator for each type of sexual aggression victimization; Cou = couple/ex couple; Tea = teacher; Upp = upper-year student.

Table 4. Alcohol consumption and victim-perpetrator relationship according to the type of sexual aggression Victimization (ntotal = 736; nw = 579; nm = 157)

Type of sexual aggression *	Alcohol consumption				Victim-perpetrator relationship			
	Woman n (%)		Man n (%)		Woman n (%)		Man n (%)	
	Yes	Not	Yes	Not	Yesa	Not	Yesa	Not
Sexual contact	223 (38.5)	356 (61.5)	59 (37.6)	98 (62.4)	255 (44)	324 (56)	53 (33.8)	104 (66.2)
Sexual coercion	71 (13.2)	508 (87.7)	23 (14.6)	134 (85.4)	258 (44.6)	321 (55.4)	50 (31.8)	107 (68.2)
Attempted rape	66 (11.4)	513 (88.6)	9 (5.7)	148 (94.3)	64 (11.1)	515 (88.9)	11 (7)	146 (93)
Rape	23 (4)	556 (96)	5 (3.2)	152 (96.8)	50 (8.6)	529 (91.4)	9 (5.7)	148 (94.3)

Note: ntotal = total sample; nw = sample women; nm = sample men. * = The data reported may correspond to more than one perpetrator for each type of sexual aggression victimization. a = the sexual aggression was carried out by the couple/ex couple, a teacher and / or a student from a higher grade.

Table 5. Prevalence of sexual aggression perpetration by sex (ntotal = 1728; nw = 1128; nm = 600)

Sex	Sexual Aggression*	Summary measure n (%)
Woman	General sexual aggression	85 (7.5)
	Sexual contact	52 (4.6)
	Sexual coercion	50 (4.4)
	Attempted rape	9 (0.8)
	Rape	3 (0.3)
Man	General sexual aggression	58 (9.7)
	Sexual contact	32 (5.3)
	Sexual coercion	42 (7)
	Attempted rape	5 (0.8)
	Rape	1 (0.2)

Note: ntotal = total sample; nw = sample women; nm = sample men. * The data reported may correspond to same person for each type of sexual aggression perpetration

PREVALENCE OF SEXUAL AGGRESSION AND SUBTYPES

In this research, 8.3% of the sample (n = 143) reported at least one incident of sexual aggression in the past 12 months. Sexual coercion (n = 92; 5.3%), followed by sexual contact (n = 84; 4.9%), attempted rape (n = 14; 0.8 %) and rape (n = 4; 0.2%) were the most common cases of sexual aggression. A significant association between sex and perpetration of sexual aggression was not identified ($p > .126$). As for the types of perpetration of sexual aggression, an association between sex and sexual coercion was identified $\chi^2 (1, N = 1728) = 5,122, p < .05$, where more men than women reported a higher rate of perpetration of sexual coercion (7% and 4.4%, respectively), the other types were not significant ($p > .05$). Table 5 shows the prevalence of sexual aggression and its subtypes by sex.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH SUBTYPES PERPETRATING SEXUAL AGGRESSION

In order to identify the association of alcohol consumption and victim-perpetrator relationship with subtypes of sexual aggression based on sex, further analysis was performed only with the cases of persons reporting at least one incident of sexual aggression perpetrated in the last twelve months (n = 143) where the most recurrent was sexual coercion (n = 92; 64.3%), followed by sexual contact (n = 84; 58.7%), attempted rape (n = 14; 9.8%) and rape (n = 4; 2.8%).

In the case of alcohol consumption, 45.9% (n = 39) of women and 29.3% (n = 17) of men indicated that they, the victim or both consumed alcohol in at least one of the incidents of sexual aggression reported in the past 12 months. According to the types of sexual aggression, association was identified only between sex and the perpetration of sexual contact $\chi^2 (1, N = 143) = 5,957, p < .05$ when there was alcohol consumption, where more women than men reported that alcohol consumption was involved in at least one incident of sexual contact (27.1% and 10.3% respectively).

In terms of victim-perpetrator relationship, 72.9% of women (n = 62) and 75.9% of men (n = 44) indicated that in at least one incident of sexual aggression the person who received the behavior was the couple/ex couple. No association was identified between sex and sexual contact ($p > .952$), sexual coercion ($p > .089$), attempted rape ($p > .147$) and rape ($p > .797$).

Table 6 shows, according to sex, the frequency of alcohol consumption and victim-perpetrator relationship reported by the perpetrators.

DISCUSSION

PREVALENCE OF SEXUAL AGGRESSION VICTIMIZATION AND PERPETRATION

In this study it was possible to determine that the prevalence of victimization was 42.6%. Sexual contact (34.1%) was identified as the most common type of victimization in the total number of cases, followed

Table 6. Alcohol consumption and victim-perpetrator relationship according to the type of sexual aggression perpetration (ntotal = 143; nw = 84; nm = 58)

Type of sexual aggression *	Alcohol consumption				Victim-perpetrator relationship			
	Woman n (%)		Man n (%)		Woman n (%)		Man n (%)	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yesa	No	Yesa	No
Sexual contact	23 (27.1)	62 (72.9)	6 (10.3)	52 (89.7)	40 (47.1)	45 (52.9)	27 (46.6)	31 (53.4)
Sexual coercion	16 (18.8)	68 (81.2)	8 (13.8)	50 (86.2)	39 (45.9)	46 (54.1)	35 (60.3)	23 (39.7)
Attempted rape	1 (1.2)	84 (98.8)	0 (0)	58 (100)	6 (7.1)	79 (92.9)	1 (1.7)	57 (98.3)
Rape	1 (1.2)	84 (98.8)	0 (0)	58 (100)	2 (2.4)	83 (97.6)	1 (1.7)	57 (98.3)

Note: ntotal = total sample; nw = sample women; nm = sample men. * = The data reported may correspond to more than one type of sexual aggression perpetrated by the same person. a = the sexual aggression was carried out by the couple/ex couple.

by sexual coercion (22.7%), attempted rape (13%) and rape (7.4%). Similarly, a significant association of sex with the victimization of sexual aggression was identified, with more women (51.3%) than men (26.2%) reporting at least one victimization incident in the past 12 months. According to the types of sexual aggression, a significant association of sex with sexual contact was identified (41.8% women; 19.8% men), sexual coercion (28.2% women; 12.3% men), attempted rape (16.2% women; 7% men) and rape (women 8.6%; men 5.2%).

Regarding the perpetration of sexual aggression, it was identified that 8.3% of participants indicated at least one incident of perpetration in the past 12 months; according to the perpetration subtypes, sexual coercion was identified as the most frequent (5.3%) followed by sexual contact (4.9%), attempted rape (0.8%) and rape (0.2%). No significant association of sex with the perpetration of sexual aggression in general was identified, but with the perpetration of sexual coercion which is more in men (7%) than women (4.4%).

The prevalence results of both victimization and perpetration of sexual aggression agree with previous research that identified sexual contact and coercion as the most common types of sexual aggression, with figures ranging from 1.2% and 43.6% for victimization^(19, 21, 32, 47, 62) and between 6% and 14.6% for perpetration^(54, 62, 63). These results indicate that at least half of the university students involved have been victims of some form of sexual aggression. Similarly, it is important to note that the proportion of cases of victims and perpetrators of sexual aggression in this study is similar to the reports in other research conducted in Latin America^(13, 32, 62). With regard to the association of sex with the victimization of sexual aggression and its subtypes, this showed to be significant, which agreed with previous studies where the rate of victimization was higher for women than for men^(4, 61-63).

As for the findings of the association of sex with the perpetration of sexual aggression, specifically with sexual coercion, the model proposed by Schwartz and DeKeseredy⁽⁶⁴⁾ found that being male increased the likelihood of sexual aggression, but without emphasis on some subtype of aggression⁽⁶⁵⁾. A previous research, which included other variables, has shown that being a

man and having stereotypes of traditional gender roles, increases the likelihood of pressuring people to have sex despite the refusal^(55, 62, 63). It is possible that the socio-cultural characteristics of a country may be a factor that explains this behavior; for example, living in a society whose gender roles are traditional could favor some forms of sexual coercion⁽³²⁾.

Although the prevalence of perpetration of sexual aggression was low compared to that of reported victimization, this result must be interpreted with caution given the social desirability of questions about the performance of any type of violence, especially sexual violence, which is an event of negative nature which may inhibit the person when indicating the performance of such behavior⁽⁶⁷⁾.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH SUBTYPES OF SEXUAL AGGRESSION VICTIMIZATION AND PERPETRATION.

From the total number of reported cases, it was identified that 48.8% of women and 54.1% of men reported that they, the other person, or both consumed alcohol in at least one incident of reported sexual aggression victimization. Similarly, a significant association of sex and the victimization of attempted rape was found (women 11.4%; men 5.7%) when there was alcohol consumption; these results agree with other studies where alcohol use was linked to increased victimization and exposure to more severe forms of sexual violence^(15, 58, 69).

In the case of perpetration, 45.9% of women and 29.3% of men indicated that they, the other person, or both consumed alcohol in at least one incident of reported sexual aggression. A significant association of sex and the perpetration of sexual contact was also identified (27.1% women; 10.3% men) when alcohol consumption was involved. These results are consistent with previous investigations where alcohol consumption was involved in both the victim's and the perpetrator's sexual aggression incidents, with figures ranging from 0.5% to 21%^(29, 31, 32, 52, 55).

Alcohol consumption can be considered as a risk factor since it inhibits some people's behaviors, increasing the need for immediate satisfaction, where the

judgment can be altered in both the victim and the perpetrator⁽¹⁹⁾. This statement is confirmed by studies by Romeo-Sánchez and Megías⁽⁵⁷⁾ and by Pegram *et al.*⁽⁵⁵⁾, who found that being a man with sexist stereotypes and using alcohol as a strategy to weaken the will of the victim increased the likelihood of having some sexual approach without consent.

In terms of victim-perpetrator relationship, when there was at least one incident of victimization of some type of sexual aggression, it was identified that the couple/ex couple was the one who exerted verbal, physical and/or psychological pressure to have sexual contact (39.6%), sexual coercion (43.4%), attempted rape (9.4%) and rape (7.9%). Other incidents of victimization were perpetrated by teachers and classmates in higher education, but by a smaller percentage.

With regard to the reported cases of sexual aggression, it was identified that it was the couple/ex couple who committed the most sexual aggression (74.1%). These results are consistent with several research that have found that the couple/ex couple was the main aggressor, with figures ranging from 33.2% to 46.6%^(24, 32, 46, 62). Previous studies have found that the main aggressor was a friend/acquaintance who did not necessarily have a loving relationship with the victim, with figures ranging from 11.8% to 96.8%^(4, 20, 22, 25, 56). Either way, there is a coincidence that the perpetrator has, more often than not, a close relationship of either love or friendship with the victim. These results reaffirm indirectly that the possession of power, that is to say, to be considered a “subject” in a relationship to another that it considers an “object”, increases the probability of sexual aggression because the perpetrator is considered superior⁽²⁶⁾, thus leaving behavior uninhibited, acting in a more unbridled way, compared to people who have no power^(18, 30). From the integrated theory, the victim-perpetrator relationship can be conditioned to situational and contextual factors that must be evaluated in depth, considering that a person can be a victim or perpetrator in a given situation and environment, thus having a double role^(44, 45).

LIMITATIONS

This study presented several limitations, the first of which is related to the way of obtaining information since the self-report could have affected the responses given by individuals due to the social desirability that this type of collection generates despite the anonymity. Likewise, the submission of the answers could be affected by the date when the link to participate in the study was sent, due to the historical moment that Chilean universities were going through. This is because there were feminist strikes that, although they made the existing problems visible, it could have made the probability of specifically recognizing an act of perpetration smaller and that the reporting of victimization cases increased, which could alter the responses given on the online battery. Considering this, future research should consider the use of a mixed methodology to obtain more precise data, focusing on the impact of different situational variables, on the victimization and perpetration of sexual aggression and its subtypes, with a view to creating programs to prevent sexual aggression in the university context.

This study revealed the association of sex, the victim-perpetrator relationship and alcohol consumption with sexual assault in Chilean university students at a certain time before the pandemic. Therefore, this study became an important contribution to research in Social Sciences and Public Health, evidencing a high prevalence of victimization and perpetration of sexual assault associated mainly with sex and alcohol consumption. It is important to carry out future studies to determine whether such associations continue after confinement, as well as the importance of directly assessing the power relationships between victims and perpetrators.

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