

## **Correlates of Forced First Intercourse among Women in the Philippines**

Yujiro Sano<sup>1\*</sup>, Alice P. Sedziafa<sup>2</sup>, Eric Y. Tenkorang<sup>3</sup>, and Jonathan Amoyaw<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Sociology, University of Western Ontario

<sup>2</sup> Department of Gender Studies, Memorial University of Newfoundland

<sup>3</sup> Department of Sociology, Memorial University of Newfoundland

\* Corresponding author, [ysano@uwo.ca](mailto:ysano@uwo.ca)

**Abstract:** Sexual coercion is a global public health and basic human right concern. While a few studies document women's experience on sexual coercion in the Philippines, their findings largely remain descriptive. Using the Philippines Demographic and Health Survey, we examine factors associated with forced first intercourse among Filipino women. Findings show that Cebuano and Ilonggo women are more likely to describe sexual debut as forced than their Tagalog counterparts. Also, while richer women are less likely to report forced first intercourse than their poorest counterparts. Moreover, currently married women are less likely to report forced at sexual debut than never married women. Older women are also less likely to describe first intercourse as forced than younger women. Finally, early sexual initiation is a risk factor for coerced sexual debut. Based on these findings, we provide some suggestions for policymakers and other interested stakeholders.

## **Introduction**

First sexual experience has been studied extensively in academic research (Hulton et al. 2000; Jejeebhoy 2011; Jejeebhoy and Bott 2003; Tenkorang et al. 2011; Maticka-Tyndale and Tenkorang 2008). Early sexual initiation is linked to risky behaviours, such as sexual engagement with multiple partners, non-use of contraceptive methods, and binge drinking, with implications for HIV transmission and unintended pregnancies (Erulkar 2004; Hulton et al. 2000; O'Donnell et al. 2001). While the consequences associated with first consensual intercourse are widely explored, evidence shows that coerced sexual debut has received limited scholarly attention, although increasing globally, particularly among women (Jejeebhoy 2011; Jejeebhoy and Bott 2003; Jejeebhoy et al. 2005). Geary et al. (2008) note, for instance, that first sexual intercourse through physical force, verbal pressure, or as an obligation for marriage is not uncommon among young women in Uganda. Similarly, 20% to 30% of females mention they were verbally persuaded and physically forced at their first sexual experience in South Africa (Buga et al. 1996; Jewkes et al. 2001). Evidence from other sub-Saharan African countries, such as Kenya and Ghana, indicates that as a result of some prevailing sociocultural practices, non-consensual early sexual experience is often considered normative, acceptable, and forgivable (Erulkar 2004; Tenkorang and Owusu 2013).

However, coerced first intercourse has deleterious consequences and can lead to serious complications for victims (Caceres et al. 2000; Khawaja and Hammoury 2008). For instance, in the Central African Republic, victims of coerced first sexual initiation are significantly less likely to use condoms in subsequent experiences (Somse et al. 1993). Furthermore, Erulkar (2004) finds in Kenya that female victims who experienced sexual debut under violence tend to engage in forced sexual activities more frequently and repetitively. The experience of forced first

intercourse also results in decreased sexual desire, fear of intimacy, lack of sexual pleasure, depression, feelings of worthlessness, and thoughts of suicide (Atherton and Metcalf 2004; Heise et al. 1999; Khawaja and Hammoury 2008; Koenig et al. 2004). In addition, women who experience forced first intercourse are also more likely to suffer genital tract infections (Jejeebhoy 2011).

Some studies in the Philippines show that nearly 30% of young women describe their first sexual encounter as consensual but unwanted, whereas 2% report their sexual debut as physically and verbally forced, commonly by their intimate partners (Ramiro 2005; Ramiro et al. 1998; Raymundo and Cruz 2004). Evidence also shows that unwanted sex in the Philippines is predominantly perpetrated by strangers and immediate family members (Ramiro et al. 1998; Vilorio 1990). While these studies are helpful in understanding sexual coercion, they largely remain descriptive, and as a result fail to capture the complex nature of non-consensual sexual intercourse in the Philippines. This is unfortunate given the health implications that victims of such sexual ordeals suffer. Thus, by examining factors associated with coerced first sexual intercourse, our study adds to the scant but growing body of scholarship in this area, particularly for the Philippines.

## **Background**

Defining sexual coercion is challenging because women's perceptions of sexuality are heavily influenced by social and cultural expectations within their respective social environments (Jejeebhoy and Bott 2003). Given this challenge, earlier research has defined sexual coercion as any forceful sexual behaviour that involves violence, threat, verbal insistence, deception, cultural expectation, or economic circumstance (Heise et al. 1995). It is important to note that this can include intercourse that is not consensual or is consensual but unwanted (Moore et al. 2007). In

the Philippines, the Anti-Rape Law passed in 1997 prohibits any sexual engagement through force, threat, or intimidation, yet the evidence shows that Filipino women continue to be victims of coercive sexual acts, such as rape, verbal abuse, humiliation, and sex trafficking (Lopez et al. 2004; Ramiro et al. 1998; Ramiro 2005). The literature points to both individual and structural factors contributing to women's exposure to sexual coercion (Adhikari and Tamang 2010; Tenkorang and Owusu 2013). At the structural level, ethnocultural norms are considered influential to sexual violence. Nwabunike, Tenkorang and Sedziafa (2014) find significant ethnic variations in incidence of sexual violence in Nigeria, largely due to differences in ethnocultural norms that create an enabling environment for sexual violence against women. Also, some ethnocultural norms can be linked to the expression of traditional masculinity, which is considered a rooted cause for men's sexual coerciveness (Vandello and Cohen 2003; Price 2005).

In the Philippines, expression of masculine ideals is highly prized among various ethnic groups. For example, masculinity is traditionally expressed through sexual dominance over women in the Cebuano culture (Aguilar 2005), while interpersonal relations in traditional Ilonggo society often involve an emphasis on male power (Camposano 2012). Religion is also another important ethnocultural factor that influences sexual violence. In the Philippines, the largest religious denomination is Roman Catholicism, followed by Protestantism and Islam. Other minority religious groups include Aglipay, Iglesia ni Kristo, Born Again, and Jehovah's Witnesses. Religious norms can lead to unequal gender relations, given that they often emphasize patriarchal ideals (Heise et al. 1995). Also, religion can provide an acceptable basis for women's passivity and unchallenged availability to male partners (Minka-Premo 2010). Due to these considerations, we expect ethnic and religious variations in forced sexual debut among women in the Philippines.

Economic and gender inequality that creates unequal power dynamics between men and women also exist in the Philippines. For example, Aguilar (2005) argues that gender inequality in the Philippines is created through societal expectation that men fulfill their educational needs in order to be future breadwinners for their families. Moreover, it is widely acknowledged that such socioeconomic disparities may increase women's dependence on men and provide platforms for sexual aggression and coercion (UNICEF 2000; Brent et al. 2000; Tenkorang and Owusu 2013). In line with this argument, several studies examine whether significant differences in sexual experiences exist between women belonging to different socioeconomic groups. In these studies, the socioeconomic characteristics of women are operationalized using women's educational background and wealth status (Koenig et al. 2004; Moore et al. 2007; Peterman et al. 2011). Consistent with these studies, we examine whether any associations exist between women's experience of forced sexual debut and their socioeconomic characteristics.

Demographic and life course factors, including union formation and the timing of sexual debut, are documented as important correlates of forced sexual intercourse (Erulkar 2004; Peterman et al. 2011; Santhya et al. 2007). In the Philippines, it has been observed that married women underreport sexual violence, as reporting such cases may have far-reaching implications, including possible marital dissolution (The U.S. Department of State 2007). In other jurisdictions, research indicates that sexual violence is not only common among never-married women but also among the married (Glover et al. 2003; Jejeebhoy and Bott 2003; Khawaja and Hammoury 2008; Santhya et al. 2007). Regarding age, it is noted that younger women are more likely to experience forced first intercourse through threat and deception than their older counterparts (Jejeebhoy and Bott 2003). Similarly, early sexual debut is often coercive, given that the self-efficacy and decision-making skills of young people are usually not fully developed at this stage

of the life course, and that youth may also lack the skills to negotiate for safer sex (Koenig et al. 2004; Santhya et al. 2007). Thus, the literature suggests that women may experience first forced sexual intercourse based on their individual-level socio-economic characteristics, their normative beliefs and their characteristics at different stages of the life course.

## **Data and methods**

To examine first forced sexual intercourse among Filipino women, we use data from the 2008 Philippines Demographic and Health Survey (PDHS). The PDHS is a nationally representative dataset of Filipino women aged 15-49 conducted by the National Statistical Office (NSO) of the Philippines between August and September 2008, under the auspices of the Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) program. The PDHS provides high quality and reliable information on basic demographic indices and sexual violence, including the circumstances surrounding first sexual experience. The PDHS employs a three-stage sampling framework in which systematic sampling with probability proportional to size was applied. A total of 13,594 women were identified and interviewed nationwide, with a response rate of 98%. From these respondents, a subset of women ( $n = 9,316$ ) who were a part of the Domestic Violence Modules were selected. We restrict our sample to only sexually active women ( $N = 7,377$ ).

### *Dependent variable*

The dependent variable used here is dichotomous and asked women of their experience of coerced first sexual intercourse. Specifically, respondents were asked, “the first time you had sexual intercourse, would you say you had it because you wanted, or because you were forced to have it against your will?” Response categories for this variable were “wanted” and “forced,” coded (0 = wanted; 1 = forced).

### *Independent variables*

Three sets of independent variables (ethnocultural, demographic, and socioeconomic) are included in the analysis. Ethnocultural variables include ethnicity (0 = Tagalog; 1 = Cebuano; 2 = Ilocano; 3 = Ilonggo; 4 = other) and religion (0 = Roman Catholic; 1 = Protestant; 2 = Islamic; 3 = other). Three demographic and one life course variable are further included. These are timing of first sexual intercourse (0 = 15 years or below; 1 = 16 years or above; 2 = at union), age of respondents (measured in completed years), marital status (0 = never married; 1 = currently married; 2 = formerly married), and urban-rural residence (0 = urban; 1 = rural). Socioeconomic predictors include wealth status (0 = poorest; 1 = poorer; 2 = middle; 3 = richer; 4 = richest) and educational background (0 = higher education; 1 = secondary education; 3 = primary education; 4 = no education).

#### *Statistical analysis*

While the outcome variable is dichotomous, the cases are unequally distributed as evidenced in Table 1. Thus, using a simple logit link function which assumes symmetry could potentially produce biased parameter estimates (Tenkorang and Owusu 2010). As the lower response category is more probable, we use a negative log-log model, which is suited for dependent variables with an asymmetrical distribution. Results are reported in odds ratios. Odds ratios larger than 1 indicate higher odds of reporting forced first intercourse, whereas those less than 1 indicate lower odds of reporting forced first intercourse. Also, due to the multistage sample design, complex population-based surveys such as the PDHS usually have some degree of dependence among the observations. This is problematic as the assumption of independence is required for estimating accurate standard errors (Raudenbush and Bryk 2002). We address this potential bias by accounting for clustering, which adjusts the standard errors and produces statistically robust parameter estimates.

## **Results**

### *Univariate analysis*

Table 1 shows univariate results for selected dependent and independent variables used for analysis. The majority of respondents (95.38%) describe their sexual debut as wanted, although 4.62% describe theirs as forced. Tagalog (22.71%) and Cebuano (24.32%) are the two largest ethnic groups in the sample, followed by Ilocano (10.07%) and Ilonggo (9.29%). In addition, the majority of respondents (76.81%) report they belong to the Roman Catholic religion, whereas 4.72% and 6.4% are identified as Protestant and Muslim, respectively. The average age of respondents is 33.55 years old. For the timing of first intercourse, 77.21% of respondents indicated experiencing their sexual debut at the age of 16 or later, while 6.48% and 16.31% report sexual debut at the age of 15 or earlier and within marriage, respectively. It is noteworthy that 91.38% report they are currently married, while only 3.21% are never married. The majority of women live in rural areas (55.36%) than urban areas (44.64%). Regarding wealth status, we observe that 24.51% and 22.15% of women are in the poorest and poorer quintiles, respectively, and only 15.01% of the respondents are in the richest quintile. For education, a substantial portion of women indicate they have secondary education (44.35%) and higher education (28.49%), while only 2.05% of the respondents do not have any formal education.

### *Bivariate analysis*

Results from bivariate analysis are shown in Table 2. The bivariate findings indicate that socioeconomic, ethnocultural, life course and demographic factors are significantly associated with women's experience of coerced first intercourse in the Philippines. For ethnicity, Cebuano and Ilonggo women and women from other ethnic groups, compared to Tagalog women, are 45.9%, 18.8%, and 30.1% more likely to report first intercourse as unwanted, respectively.

Compared to the Roman Catholics, women who report they belong to other religions are 9% more likely to report forced first intercourse. Regarding the timing of first sexual intercourse, we find that compared to women who had sexual debut at the age of 15 or earlier, those who did at the age of 16 or above and those at union are significantly less likely (38% and 52.2%, respectively) to report being forced at their sexual debut. Also, a year's increase in the age of women increases the odds of reporting first intercourse as coerced by 1%. Currently and formerly married women are 33.7% and 19.9% less likely to report coercion at their first sexual encounter than the never married, respectively. Also, we find that women in rural areas are 16.9% more likely to describe first intercourse as forced than their counterparts in urban areas. For socioeconomic variables, wealth status and education are significantly associated with forced first intercourse. Compared to the poorest women, their middle, richer, and richest counterparts are 13.6%, 24.4%, and 21.8% less likely to report forced first sexual intercourse, respectively. Similarly, women with secondary and primary education are 17.5% and 16.5%, respectively, more likely to describe their sexual debut as forced than those without higher education.

### *Multivariate analysis*

Bivariate results are useful but limited because they only represent the gross effects of independent variables on the outcome variable. As other variables are controlled, the multivariate models shown in Table 3 provide the net effects of independent variables on the outcome variable. Model 1 controls for cultural variables, such as ethnicity and religion. Consistent with the bivariate results, Model 1 indicates that Cebuano and Ilonggo women and women belonging to other ethnic groups are 45.9%, 19.2%, and 29.4% more likely to describe first intercourse as forced than their Tagalog counterparts. Also, compared to those belonging to Roman Catholicism, women belonging to other religious groups are 10.3% more likely to report forced first

intercourse.

Model 2 further controls for life course and demographic variables. For the timing of first intercourse, we find that women who report sexual debut at age 15 or earlier and at union are 35.6% and 48.5% less likely to report forced sexual debut than those who report sexual debut at the age 15 or earlier. Demographic variables also remain statistically robust. A year's increase in the age of women increases the odds of reporting first intercourse as coerced by 0.8%. Also, compared to never married women, their currently married counterparts are 33.2% less likely to report forced sexual debut. Consistent with the bivariate result, we find women in rural areas are 15.8% more likely to report forced intercourse than women in urban areas. It is noteworthy that the significant impact of belonging to other religious groups on forced sexual debut vanishes after controlling for life course and demographic variables (see Models 1 and 2 of Table 3). A further analysis (results not shown here) indicates that it is the timing of first intercourse that removes its significant effect, as women belonging to other religious groups are more likely to experience premarital intercourse than those who identify as Roman Catholics, Protestant, and Muslim.

In Models 3, we include socioeconomic variables (wealth status, educational background, and employment status) and find that the significant effects of socioeconomic variables are largely attenuated (see Table 2 and Model 3 of Table 3). However, wealth status remains statistically significant. Compared to the poorest women, their richer counterparts are 15% less likely to describe first intercourse as forced.

### **Discussion and conclusions**

Sexual violence is a global public health issue, due largely to its association with sexual, physical, and psychological health among the victims (WHO 2002). While consensual first

sexual intercourse is extensively studied in academic research, there is a growing yet scant body of literature on women's experience of forced first intercourse in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa (Jejeebhoy 2011; Jejeebhoy and Bott 2003; Jejeebhoy et al. 2005). A few studies note that Filipino women are vulnerable to sexual coercion (Lopez et al. 2004; Ramiro 2005; Ramiro et al. 1998; Raymundo and Cruz 2004; Vilorio 1990), but these have largely remained descriptive and do not explore the complex nature of coerced first intercourse in the Philippines. We fill this research gap in the literature.

We find that ethnicity is significantly associated with unwanted first intercourse in the Philippines. Results indicate that Cebuano and Ilonggo women are more likely to report forced first intercourse than their Tagalog and Ilocano counterparts. Sexual violence committed by men against women—such as forced sexual debut—may be explained by several factors including societal interrelations that are grounded in patriarchal ideologies in the Philippines (Hunt and Ana-Gatbonton 2000). These factors may create an atmosphere that favours male sexual entitlement and offer women limited options to refuse unwanted sexual intercourse with men (Bennett, Manderson and Astbury 2000). Similar to studies in other jurisdictions (see Nwabunike, Tenkorang and Sedziafa 2014; Tenkorang and Owusu 2013), ethnic variation in self-reported coerced sexual debut in the Philippines may be attributed to different ethnocultural norms that may perhaps create extreme patriarchal environments for high incidence of sexual violence (Hunnicut 2009). Therefore, higher likelihood of self-reported forced sexual debut among Cebuano and Ilonggo ethnic groups compared to Tagalog may be linked to an extreme expression of patriarchy or other structural factors. For instance, Aguilar (2005) asserts that male power is strongly linked to active expression of sexuality among Cebuano women in the Philippines and this may even encourage risky sexual behaviour. Men can easily get away with

risky sexual acts including coerced sex because society often overlook these risky acts as this fits into the concept of maleness (Angeles, 2001).

In addition, our analysis indicates that those belonging to other religious groups are more likely to experience forced first intercourse compared to those belonging to Roman Catholic, due to their high prevalence of early sexual intercourse. Majority of the study participants identify as Roman Catholic which is the dominant faith in Filipino culture. Religion presents patriarchal interpretation of traditions and teachings that provide vulnerable spaces for violence against women, which includes coerced sexual coitus (Fortune, Salma and Dratch, 2010; Hajjar, 2004). Most importantly, in a qualitative study involving Filipino women who were mainly practising the Roman Catholic faith, Wells et al. (2013) demonstrate that Roman Catholic traditions provide religious or special services and resources that discourage violence against women. Most of these religious services or resources available in the Roman Catholic religious group inculcate moral standards into members that discourage them from premarital sex (Carlota, 2014), and even serve as buffers against forceful sexual intercourse. It is noteworthy that early timing of first intercourse among women of other minority religious groups is a predominant predictor of coerced first sex. Although we do not determine the frequency of religious participation among the study participants, Ellison, Bartkowski and Anderson (1999) find that regular attendance at religious services is inversely associated with self-reported perpetration of domestic violence for both men and women. This may have implications for coerced first debut particularly among those who belong to other minority religious groups, as these minority cults may lack the economic ability to organize regular teachings around anti-violence against women for members.

The finding that currently married women are less likely to report forced sexual debut than their never married counterparts is also important. This finding is consistent with the report

from the U.S. Department of State (2007), which shows that although sexual violence may be common among married women in the Philippines, they are often not reported as they have far-reaching implications, such as possible marital dissolution. This is particularly important in the Philippines, given that divorce is illegal and marital dysfunction is considered extremely deviant due to cultural ideologies derived from Catholicism, familism, and collectivism (Yodanis 2005). While the Anti-Violence Against Women and Anti-Rape Law of 2004 and 1997 respectively prohibit forced sex both outside and within marriage in the Philippines (United Nations 2008), married women may not report forced first intercourse that happened prior or post marriage due to the sociocultural consequences of reporting such cases.

Furthermore, women who experienced first intercourse at the age of 16 or later or at union are significantly less likely to report their first event as forced than those who experienced it at the age of 15 or below. Similarly, we find that younger women are more likely to experience forced first intercourse than their older counterparts. Our findings corroborate previous studies that argue that younger girls are exposed to sexual violence, largely because they lack sexual negotiation power and self-efficacy to reject coerced sex making them vulnerable to their perpetrators who mostly use threats and deception (Jejeebhoy and Bott 2003; Koenig et al. 2004; Santhya et al. 2007). This is concerning, especially as formal sex education does not exist in the Philippines (de Irala et al. 2009), thus making teenage girls vulnerable to coerced sexual intercourse due to lack of related knowledge about their own sexuality. Also, we find women in rural areas are more likely to report first intercourse as forced than those in urban areas. This may be linked to lack of access to information and resources about sexual and reproductive rights that makes women in rural areas particularly vulnerable to forced first intercourse (Wibulpolprasert 1999).

While the effects of socioeconomic variables are largely attenuated, we find richer women are less likely to encounter forced sexual debut than their poorer counterparts. This finding demonstrates how socio-economic inequality affects the sexual health of women, in particular, forced sexual intercourse. Socio-economic inequality may increase women's financial dependence on men often creating environments in which women are sexually exploited (UNICEF 2000; Brent et al. 2000; Tenkorang and Owusu 2013). This may particularly be the case in the Philippines where there is a strong traditional gender stereotype that men should fulfill their educational needs to be future breadwinners, while women rely on their husband's economic success (Aguilar 2005).

Our findings may be useful in implementing programs that help women and men recognize and prevent sexual violence in the Philippines. For example, we find that the poorest women are particularly vulnerable to forced sexual debut, which implies that providing economic opportunities for women might be important in reducing, if not eradicating, sexual violence against women. Also, Given that most teenagers in the Philippines learn about sexuality from their parents and friends (de Irala et al. 2009), interested stakeholders could deliver formal sex education to inform youth about the risks of early sexual initiation, including how this is linked to forced sexual intercourse. Rural dwellers in the Philippines may benefit immensely from information related to their own sexual reproductive health and rights. Importantly, given the ethnic differences in self-reported forced sexual debut and the gender expectations that might inform these differences, community-based programs can play an important role in encouraging redefinition of gender roles and socializations among women and men. This study may also be helpful in creating awareness about the vital role that religion can play in the fight against all forms of violence against women. Religious and professional pre-marital counselling could also

create spaces for educating couples on Anti-Violence Against Women and Anti-Rape Law, perhaps this may encourage reporting of coerced sexual debut in the Philippines.

Although these findings may be useful for policymakers and interested stakeholders, there are some noteworthy limitations. First, the Philippines Demographic and Health Survey consists of cross-sectional data collected contemporaneously, indicating that causal relationships between dependent and independent variables cannot be established. Therefore, our findings are limited to mere associations. Future studies may use longitudinal and qualitative studies to understand causations between forced first intercourse and its related factors. Concerns are also raised about the reliability of surveys based on self-reports, especially when they border on sensitive and stigmatized issues such as sexual violence. It is thus possible that forced sexual debut is underreported.

## References

- Adhikari, R., & Tamang, J. (2010). Sexual coercion of married women in Nepal. *BMC women's health*, 10(1), 31.
- Aguilar, T. (2008). Voluntary Vasectomy: Rethinking Pagkalalaki Among Married Cebuano. *Philippine Population Review*, 5(1), 25-56.
- Atherton, J., & Metcalf, J. (2004). Forced sexual intercourse among american high school students: Statistical correlates from a national survey. *Electronic Journal of Human Sexuality*, 7(6).
- Buga, A., Amoko, H., & Ncayiyana, J. (1996). Sexual behaviour, contraceptive practice and reproductive health among school adolescents in rural Transkei. *South African medical journal*, 86(5), 523-527.
- Caceres, C. F., Marin, B. V., & Hudes, E. S. (2000). Sexual coercion among youth and young adults in Lima, Peru. *Journal of adolescent health*, 27(5), 361-367.
- Camposano, C. C. (2014). Enacting Embeddedness through the Transnational Traffic in Goods: The Case of Ilonggo OFWs in Hong Kong. *Review of Women's Studies*, 21(2).
- UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre. (2001). *Domestic Violence Against Women and Girls*.
- de Irala, J., Osorio, A., del Burgo, C. L., Belen, V. A., de Guzman, F. O., Calatrava, M. C., & Torralba, A. N. (2009). Relationships, love and sexuality: what the Filipino teens think and feel. *BMC Public Health*, 9(1), 282.
- Eaton, L., Flisher, A. J., & Aarø, L. E. (2003). Unsafe sexual behaviour in South African youth. *Social science & medicine*, 56(1), 149-165.
- Erulkar, A. S. (2004). The experience of sexual coercion among young people in Kenya. *International Family Planning Perspectives*, 182-189.
- Peterman, A., Palermo, T., Bredenkamp C. (2011). Estimates and determinants of sexual violence against women in the Democratic Republic of Congo. *American Journal of Public Health*, 101(6), 1060–1067.
- Geary, C. W., Baumgartner, J. N., Tucker, HT, Johnson, L., & Wedderburn, M. (2008). Early sexual debut sexual violence and sexual risk-taking among pregnant adolescents and their peers in Jamaica and Uganda. *Family Health International Youth Research Working Paper Series*, No 8.
- Glover, E. K., Bannerman, A., Pence, B. W., Jones, H., Miller, R., Weiss, E., & Nerquaye-Tetteh, J. (2003). Sexual health experiences of adolescents in three Ghanaian towns. *International family planning perspectives*, 32-40.
- Heise, L., Ellsberg, M., & Gottemoeller, M. (1999). Ending violence against women. Population Reports. *Series L: Issues in World Health* (11), 1-43.
- Hulton, L. A., Cullen, R., & Khalokho, S. W. (2000). Perceptions of the risks of sexual activity and their consequences among Ugandan adolescents. *Studies in Family Planning*, 31(1), 35-46.
- Jejeebhoy, S. (2011). Protecting young people from sex without consent.
- Jejeebhoy, S., & Bott, S. (2005). *Non-consensual sexual experiences of young people in developing countries: an overview. Sex without Consent: Young people in Developing Countries*. Zed Books: London and New York.
- Jejeebhoy, S., Shah, I., & Thapa, S. (2005). *Sex without consent: Young people in developing countries*: Zed Books: London and New York
- Jewkes, R., Vundule, C., Maforah, F., & Joraaan, E. (2001). Relationship dynamics and teenage pregnancy in South Africa. *Social Science & Medicine*, 52(5), 733- 744.

- Khawaja, M., & Hammoury, N. (2008). Coerced Sexual Intercourse Within Marriage: A Clinic-Based Study of Pregnant Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon. *Journal of Midwifery & Women's Health*, 53(2), 150-154.
- Koenig, M. A, Zablotska, I., Lutalo, T., Nalugoda, F., Wagman, J., & Gray, R. (2004). Coerced first intercourse and reproductive health among adolescent women in Rakai, Uganda. *International Family Planning Perspectives*, 156-163.
- Lucea, M. B., Hindin, M. J., Kub, J., & Campbell, J. C. (2012). HIV risk, partner violence, and relationship power among Filipino young women: Testing a structural model. *Health care for women international*, 33(4), 302-320.
- Mathews, S., Abrahams, N., Jewkes, R., Martin, L. J., Lombard, C., & Vetten, L. (2008). Intimate femicide-suicide in South Africa: a cross-sectional study. *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*, 86(7), 542-558.
- Moore, A. M, Biddlecom, A. E., & Zulu, E. M. (2007). Prevalence and meanings of exchange of money or gifts for sex in unmarried adolescent sexual relationships in sub-Saharan Africa: original research article. *African journal of reproductive health*, 11(3), 44-61.
- O'Donnell, L., O'Donnell, C. R., & Stueve, A. (2001). Early sexual initiation and subsequent sex-related risks among urban minority youth: the reach for health study. *Family planning perspectives*, 268-275.
- Price, L. S. (2005). *Feminist frameworks: Building theory on violence against women*: Fernwood.
- Sahoo, S. (2010). *Sensible Sensuality*: Authors Press: Delhi.
- Santhya, KG, Haberland, N. Ram, F, Sinha, RK, & Mohanty, SK. (2007). Consent and coercion: Examining unwanted sex among married young women in India. *International Family Planning Perspectives*, 124-132.
- Sedziafa, P., & Tenkorang, E. (2014). *Kin norms, power and violence against married women in Ghana*. Unpublished master's thesis, Memorial University of Newfoundland.
- Ramiro, L. S. (2005). Physical intimacy and sexual coercion among adolescent intimate partners in the Philippines. *Journal of Adolescent Research*, 20(4), 476-496.
- Ramiro, L. S., Madrid, B., & Santos Ocampo, P. (1998). *A socio-epidemiological study of child abuse in the Philippines*. Manila: University of the Philippines Manila.
- Raymundo, C. M., & Cruz, G. T. (2004). *Youth sex and risk behavior in the Philippines*. Quezon City: University of the Philippines Population Institute.
- Somse, P., Chapko, M. K., & Hawkins, R. V. (1993). Multiple sexual partners: results of a national HIV/AIDS survey in the Central African Republic. *Aids*, 7(4), 579-584.
- Tenkorang, E. Y, & Owusu, A. (2010). Correlates of HIV testing among women in Ghana: some evidence from the Demographic and Health Surveys. *AIDS care*, 22(3), 296- 307.
- Tenkorang, E. Y., & Owusu, A. (2013). Coerced First Sexual Intercourse Among Women in Ghana: Evidence from the Demographic and Health Survey. *Sexuality & Culture*, 17(1), 167-184.
- The U.S. Department of State: Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor. (2007). *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices*.
- Vandello, J. A., & Cohen, D. (2003). Male honor and female fidelity: implicit cultural scripts that perpetuate domestic violence. *Journal of personality and social psychology*, 84(5), 997.
- Wolff, B., Blanc, A. K., & Gage, A., J. (2000). Who decides? Women's status and negotiation of sex in Uganda. *Culture, Health & Sexuality*, 2(3), 303-322.
- Yodanis, C. (2005). Divorce Culture and Marital Gender Equality A Cross-National Study. *Gender & Society*, 19(5), 644-659.

Table 1 Descriptive statistics of dependent variable and selected independent variables

	Percentage distribution (N = 7,301)
<b>Was first sex forced?</b>	
No	95.4
Yes	4.6
<b>Ethnicity</b>	
Tagalog	22.7
Cebuano	24.3
Ilocano	10.1
Ilonggo	9.29
Other	33.6
<b>Religion</b>	
Roman Catholic	76.8
Protestant	4.72
Muslim	6.40
Other	12.1
<b>Timing of first intercourse</b>	
15 or below	6.48
16 or above	77.2
At union	16.3
<b>Age of respondents (mean)</b>	33.6
<b>Marital status</b>	
Never married	3.21
Currently married	91.4
Formerly married	5.41
<b>Urban-rural residence</b>	
Urban	44.6
Rural	55.4
<b>Wealth index</b>	
Poorest	24.5
Poorer	22.2
Middle	19.9
Richer	18.5
Richest	15.0
<b>Education</b>	
Higher education	28.5
Secondary education	44.4
Primary education	25.1
No education	2.05

Table 2 Bivariate results of forced first intercourse among women aged 15-49 in the Philippines, 2008

	OR (SE)
<b><u>Ethnocultural</u></b>	
<b>Ethnicity</b>	
Tagalog	1.00
Cebuano	1.46 (.076)***
Ilocano	1.03 (.067)
Ilonggo	1.19 (.080)*
Other	1.30 (.065)***
<b>Religion</b>	
Roman Catholic	1.00
Protestant	1.08 (.080)
Muslim	1.10 (.067)
Other	1.09 (.047)*
<b><u>Life course and demographic</u></b>	
<b>Timing of first intercourse</b>	
15 or below	1.00
16 or above	0.62 (.042)***
At union	0.48 (.039)***
<b>Age of respondents</b>	0.99 (.002)***
<b>Marital status</b>	
Never married	1.00
Currently married	0.66 (.052)***
Formerly married	0.80 (.079)*
<b>Urban-rural residence</b>	
Urban	1.00
Rural	1.17 (.049)***
<b><u>Socioeconomic</u></b>	
<b>Wealth index</b>	
Poorest	1.00
Poorer	0.97 (.036)
Middle	0.86 (.041)**
Richer	0.76 (.036)***
Richest	0.78 (.037)***
<b>Education</b>	
Higher education	1.00
Secondary education	1.18 (.043)***
Primary education	1.17 (.048)***
No education	1.18 (.116)

Note: \*  $p < .05$ , \*\*  $p < .01$ , \*\*\*  $p < .001$ ; odds ratios adjusted for clustering; robust standard errors in brackets

Table 3 Negative log-log models of forced first intercourse among women aged 15-49 in the Philippines, 2008

	OR (SE)		
	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3
<b><u>Ethnocultural</u></b>			
<b>Ethnicity</b>			
Tagalog	1.00	1.00	1.00
Cebuano	1.46 (.074)***	1.43 (.086)***	1.39 (.085)***
Ilocano	1.02 (.067)	1.03 (.068)	1.01 (.067)
Ilonggo	1.19 (.080)**	1.21 (.088)**	1.17 (.089)*
Other	1.29 (.064)***	1.26 (.067)***	1.25 (.066)***
<b>Religion</b>			
Roman Catholic	1.00	1.00	1.00
Protestant	1.06 (.080)	1.00 (.076)	1.00 (.075)
Muslim	1.06 (.069)	1.08 (.075)	1.08 (.075)
Other	1.10 (.054)*	1.09 (.052)	1.09 (.052)
<b><u>Life course and demographic</u></b>			
<b>Timing of first intercourse</b>			
15 or below		1.00	1.00
16 or above		0.64 (.040)***	0.65 (.040)***
At union		0.52 (.042)***	0.52 (.043)***
<b>Age of respondents</b>		0.99 (.002)***	0.99 (.002)**
<b>Marital status</b>			
Never married		1.00	1.00
Currently married		0.67 (.053)***	0.64 (.052)***
Formerly married		0.87 (.086)	0.84 (.082)
<b>Urban-rural residence</b>			
Urban		1.00	1.00
Rural		1.16 (.046)***	1.12 (.049)**
<b><u>Socioeconomic</u></b>			
<b>Wealth index</b>			
Poorest			1.00
Poorer			1.01 (.045)
Middle			0.94 (.050)
Richer			0.85 (.039)***
Richest			0.91 (.057)
<b>Education</b>			
Higher education			1.00
Secondary education			1.08 (.045)
Primary education			0.99 (.048)
No education			0.88 (.105)
Total	7,377	7,377	7,377
Log pseudo-likelihood	-1346.907	-1275.123	-1267.302

Note: \* p < .05, \*\* p < .01, \*\*\* p < .001; odds ratios adjusted for clustering; robust standard errors in brackets