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RESEARCH CONFERENCE
NEXT GENERATION INSIGHTS ON
INTRACTABLE NATIONAL AND
GLOBAL CHALLENGES

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Understanding Child Sexual Offending (CSO) in Johannesburg: Evidence from 20 Case Files

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Equitable Education and Economies



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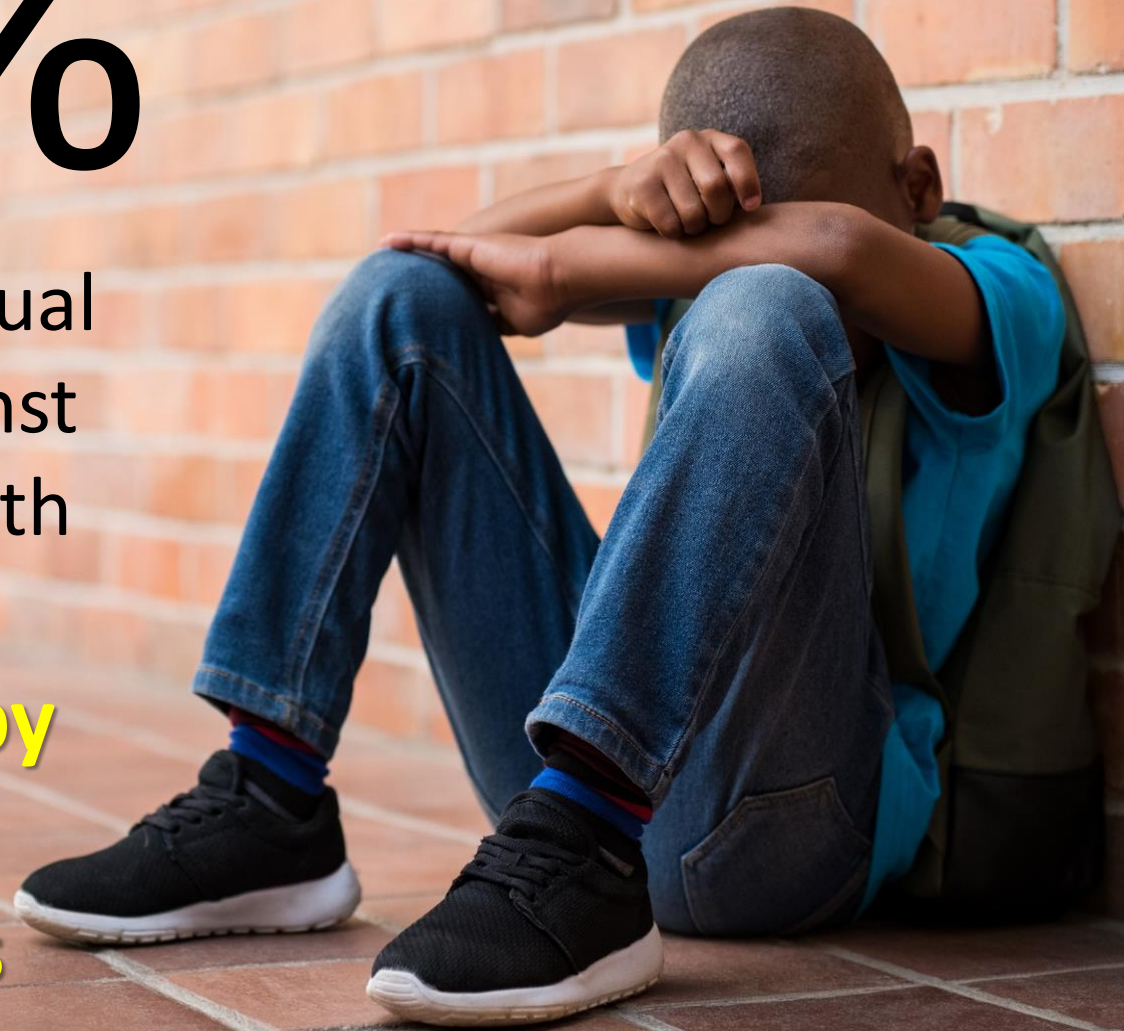


42%

of recorded sexual
violations against
children in South

Africa are

**committed by
children
themselves**



What do we know about CSO from literature?



Male

Majority 13 to 17

Psychiatric disorder

Learning disability

Sexual attitudes



Lack of impulse control

Substance abuse

Victim of sexual abuse

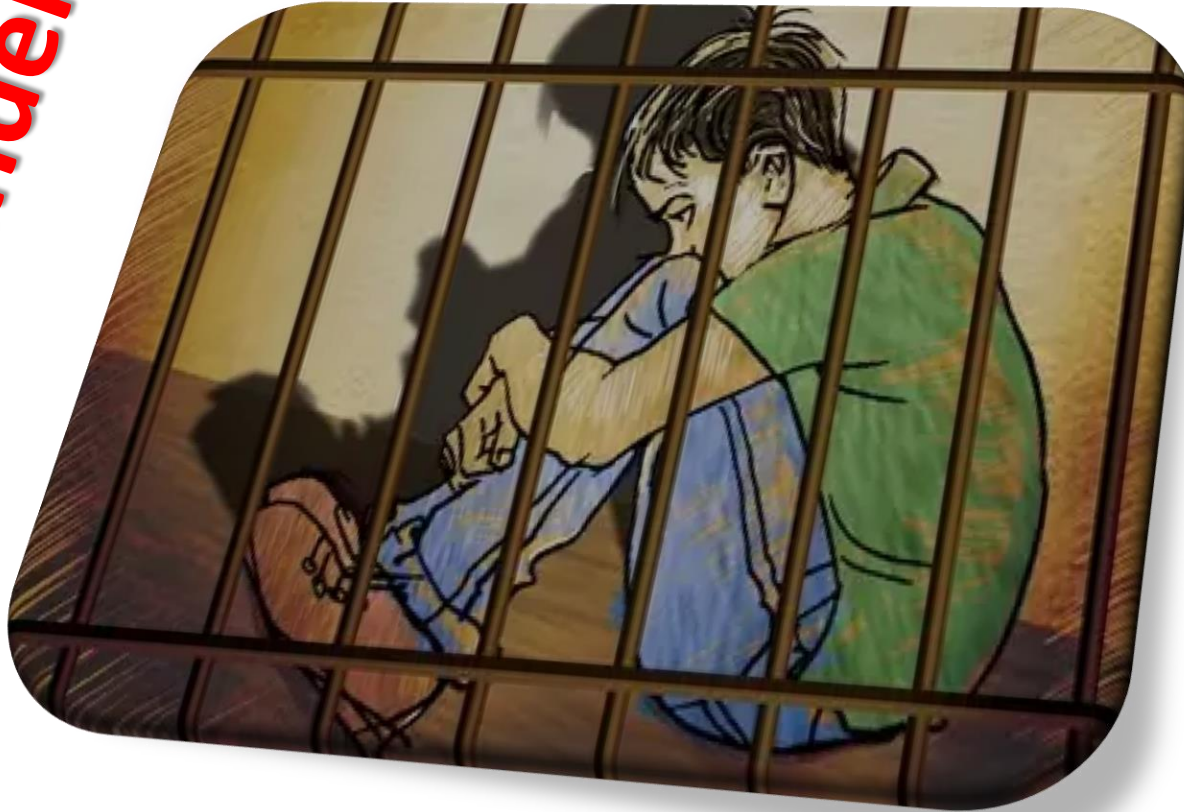
Victim of physical abuse

Exposure to pornography

Current Typologies



Adult offender



PAEDOPHILE

These are Adult representations!!!

Understanding of “typical offender” guides approach to **intervention**



Intervention methods include:

1. Court preparation
2. Diversion through community service
3. Recreation activities
4. Psychometry and psychotherapy



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But context is more complicated



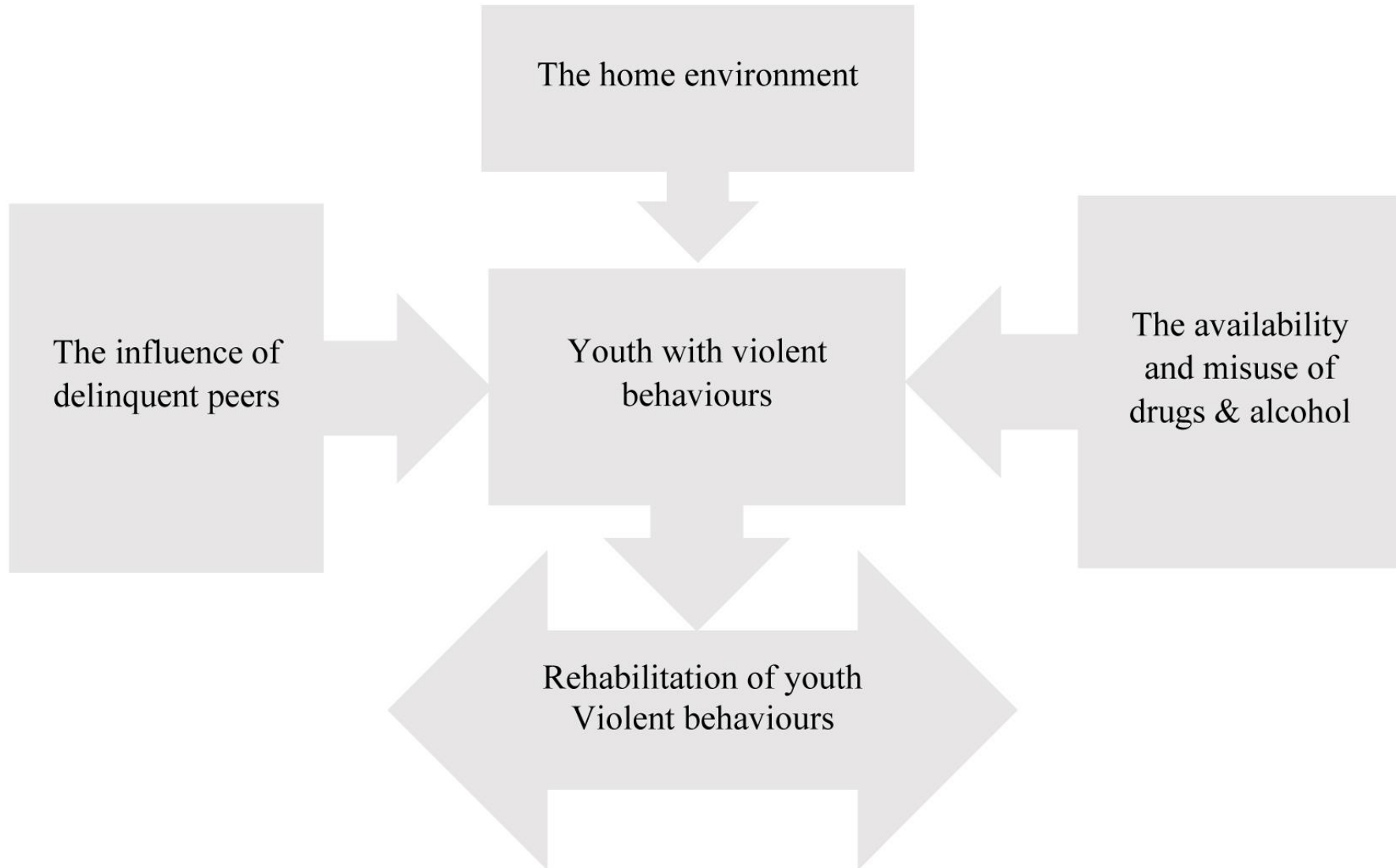
The home environment

The influence of
delinquent peers

Youth with violent
behaviours

The availability
and misuse of
drugs & alcohol

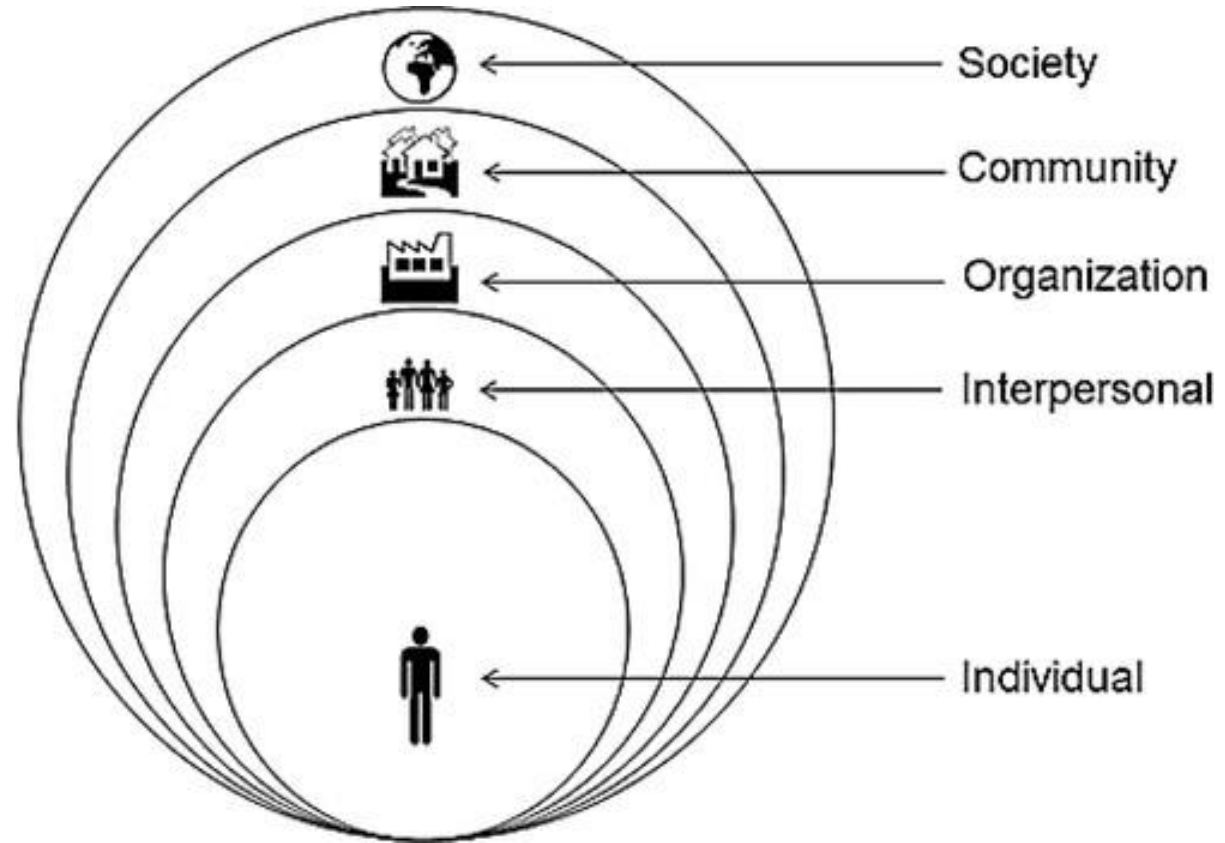
Rehabilitation of youth
Violent behaviours



Understanding of CSO guides approaches to intervention



- This study looks **beyond individual cases** to understand contextual circumstances
- To inform contextually **relevant interventions**



Methodology



- ① Theories: Social Learning, Sociocultural Cognitive, The General Theory of Crime
- ① Mixed Methods
- ① **20 case files**
- ① Committed a sexual offence and attended a diversion programme
- ① Thematic analysis



FINDINGS

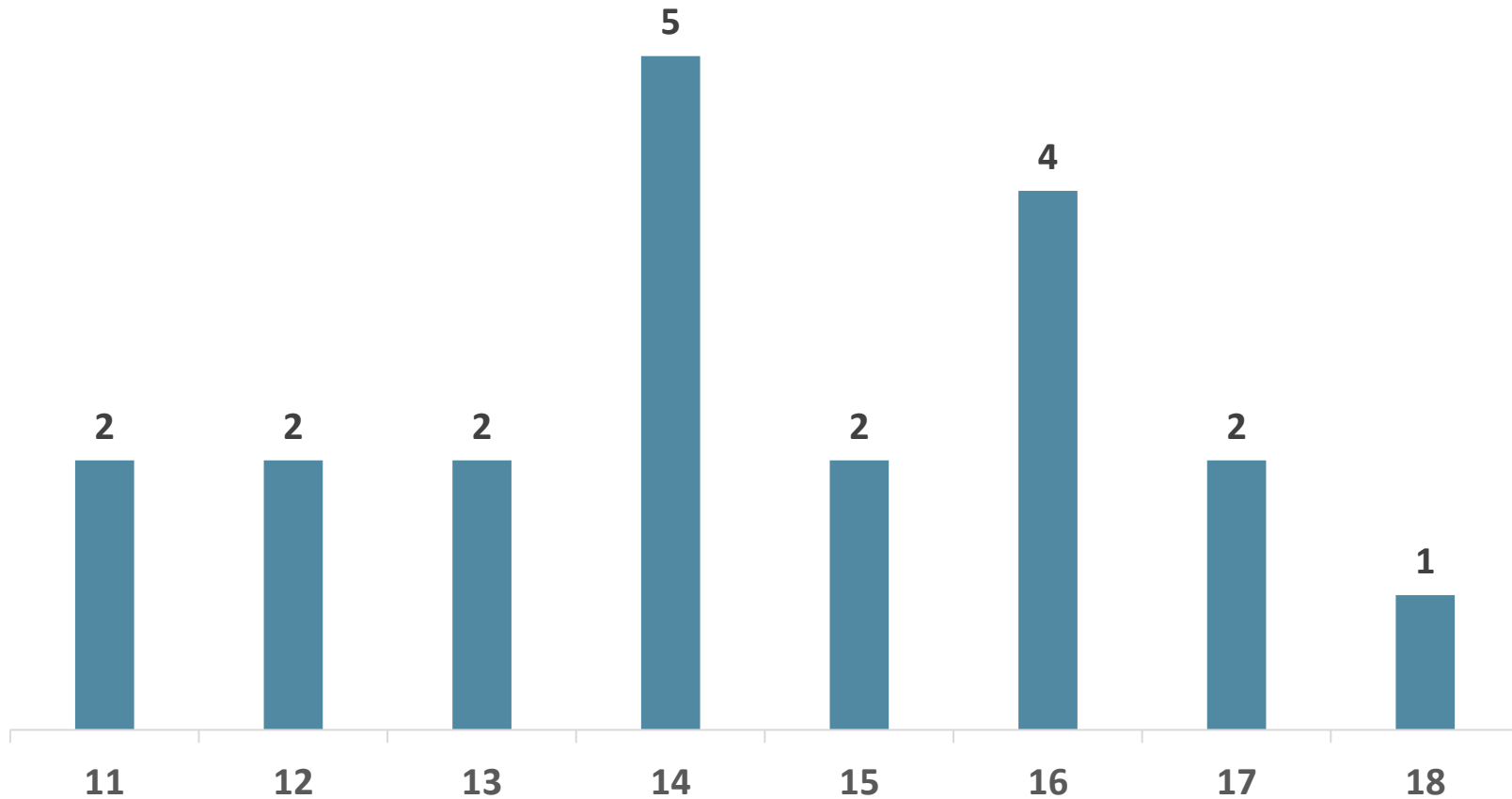
1. Not all perpetrators are the same
2. Not all offences are the same
3. Difference in motive



Perpetrators aged from 11 to 18



1. Not all perpetrators are the same



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Age



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Mainly from single-mother headed households



...and blended families



1. Not all perpetrators are the same



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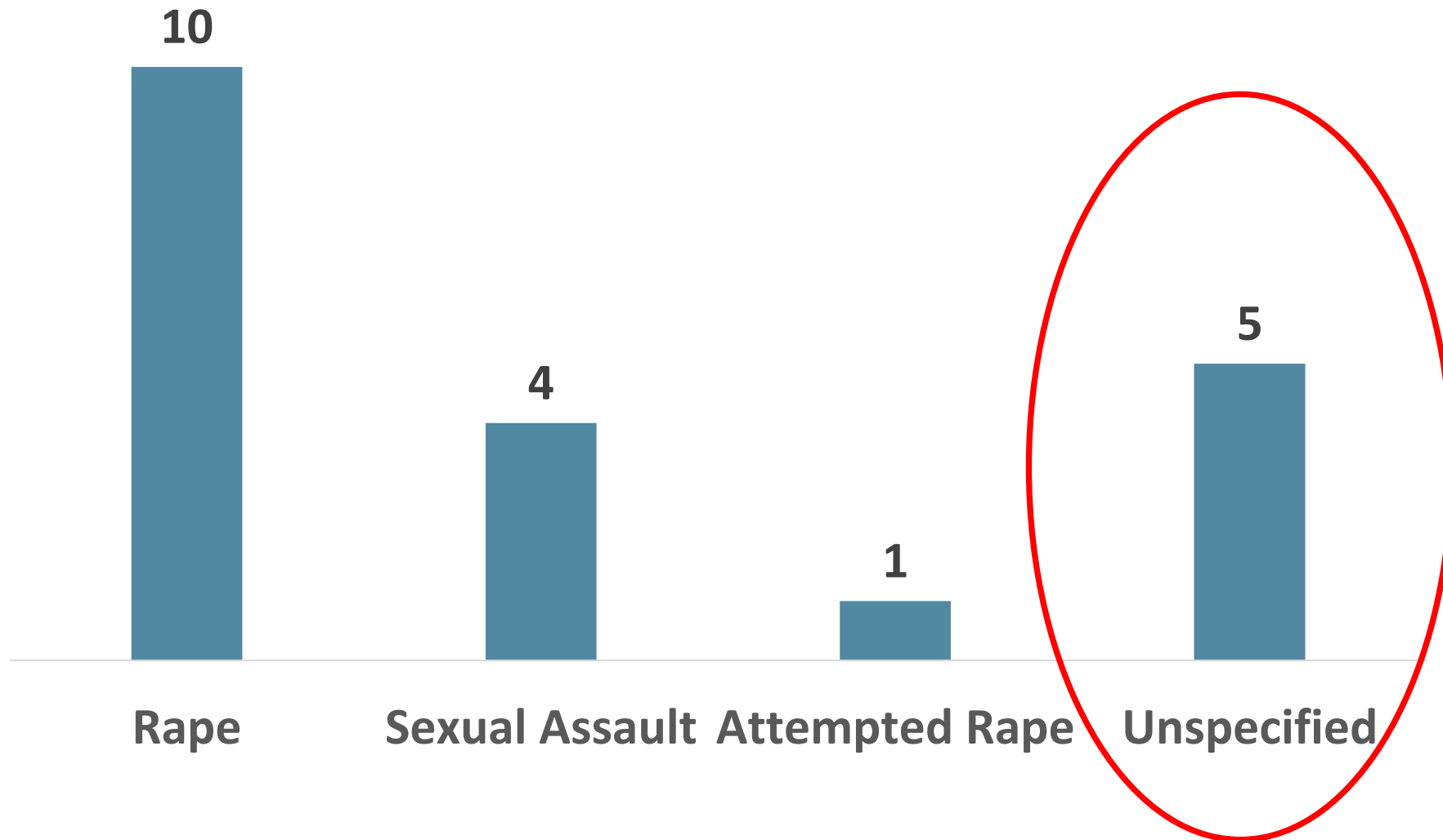
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FAMILY COMPOSITION



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Most offences are rape



2. Not all offences are the same

Offenders seldom recognized the offence



3. Difference in motive

“Thabiso mentioned that they were playing hide and seek with his friends. He said they asked [the victim] to have sex with her and she agreed.”

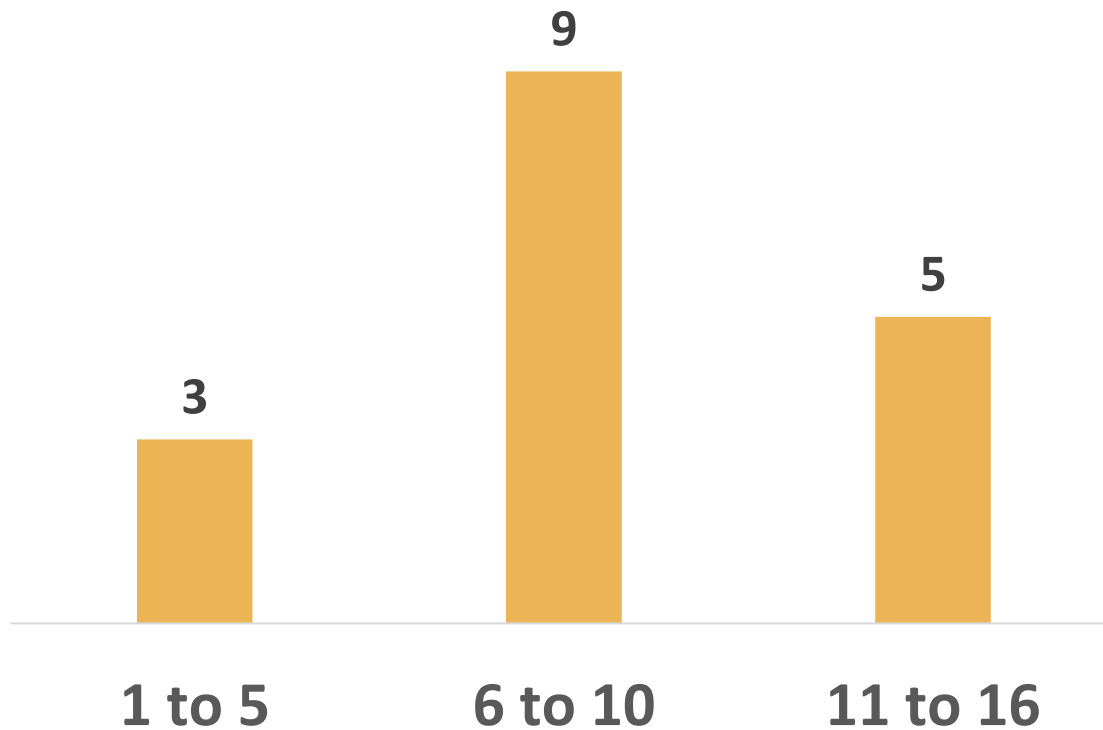
~ *Social worker*



Most victims were younger than the offenders



Age of victims



1. Most victims age **6 to 10**
2. Most perpetrators **14 to 16**
3. One case: 17 year old perpetrator, 2 year old victim

2. Not all offences are the same

Victims were “WEAKER”



6 Male



15 Female



1. Majority of **female victims** and 6 male victims
2. Victims differed in biological sex but were **younger** and **smaller**
3. Easily **overpowered** by the perpetrator

2. Not all offences are the same

Consent versus Secrecy



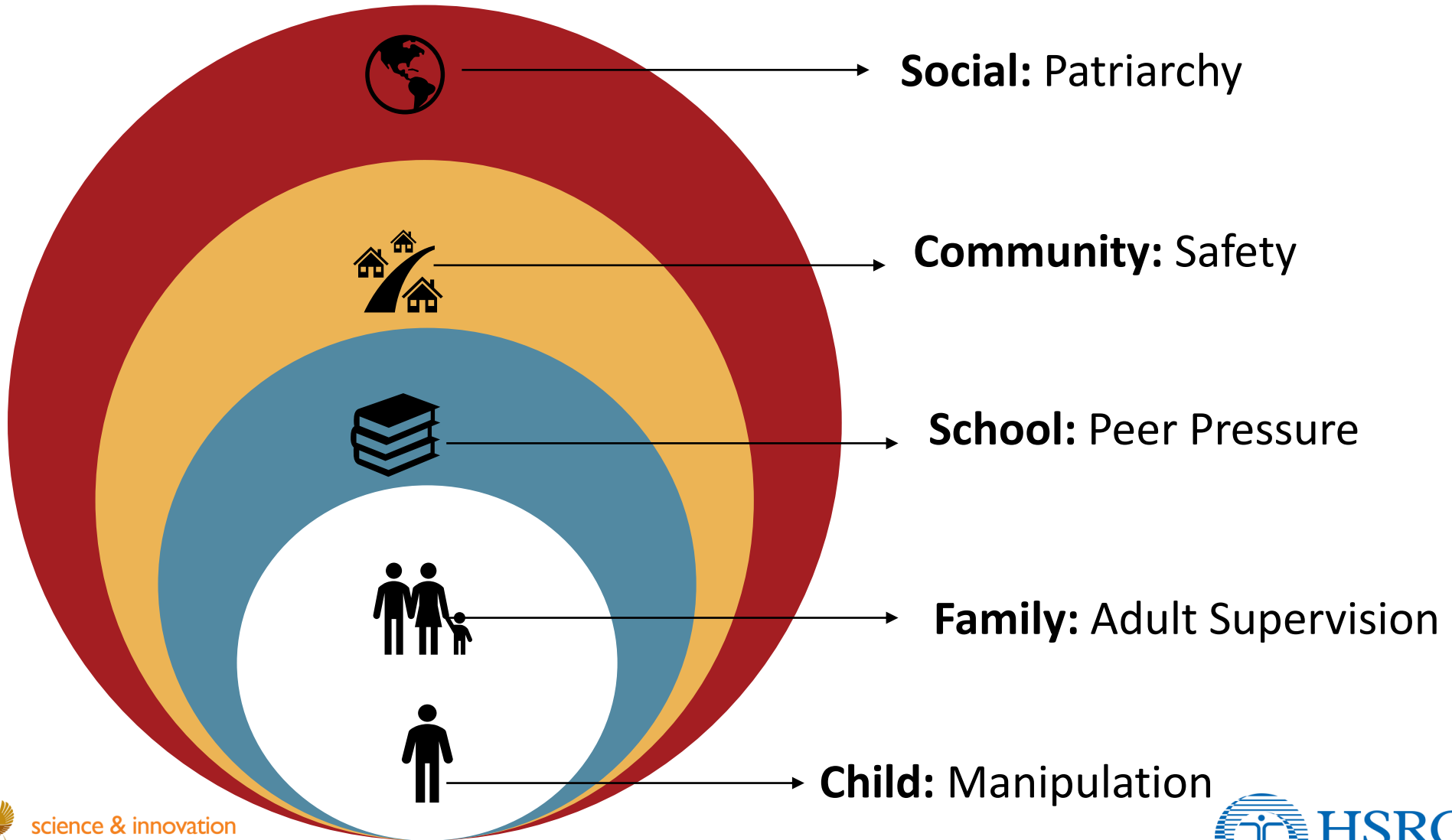
“Mark maintained that he had sex with his cousin a few times, mostly in the afternoons when there was no one at home. He said it was consensual and the victim agreed to keep this a secret.”

”

“

¼ of the perpetrators maintained there was consent and held their victims to secrecy → contradicts concept of consent

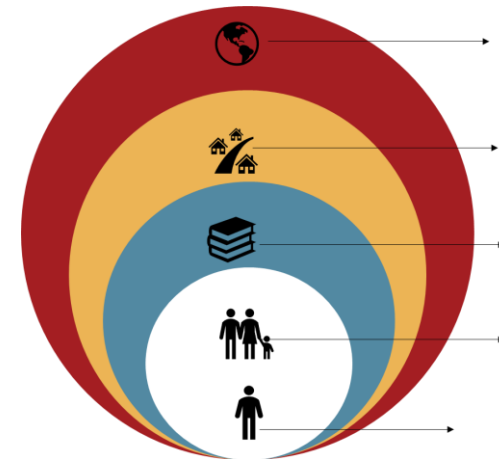
The role of context in CSO



Actions for change



- ① Individual → Informed decision making/
boundaries during play
- ② Family → Supervision
- ③ School → Educate effectively
- ④ Community → Patriarchy/ Increased
recreational activities
- ⑤ Society → Administration and
Childcare policy



#ContextualinterventionforCSO



Powerhouse 
@Khetho_m

Study uncovers the profound influence of a child's upbringing on behaviour, particularly in #CSO cases. A crucial wake-up call for child protection! Let's revolutionize our strategies, understanding the critical role of a child's social environment in shaping solutions for sex education and childcare.

[#Sexualoffending](#) [#Childprotection](#) [#Shareyourthoughts](#)

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