

## DEPICTING THE TREND OF RAPE IN LIBERIA FROM 2016 TO MID-2020: MYTHS, CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

*Rape cases in Liberia are seemingly skyrocketing amidst rising public outcries against this heinous crime. The Revised Penal Code of Liberia on Rape (2005) defines rape as any penetration on any openings of the body beneath the age of eighteen (18) or above without the consent of the victim as well as towards people with mental illnesses. However, there remain lots of unanswered questions that need to be answered to provide remedy to this awful situation of escalating rape cases. Howbeit, this paper showcases the trend of rape cases in Liberia as per data captured from geographical locations relative to the female gender from 2016 to mid-2020. This paper further provides policy interventions where necessary to curb the consequences of rape as well as to provide safety nets for rape victims. This paper is based on data captured from areas coordinated by the Sexual Gender-Based Violence and Crime Unit of the Ministry of Justice, Republic of Liberia accordingly: Montserrado, Hub 1: Bong, Lofa, and Nimba counties, Hub 2: Maryland, RiverGee, and Grand Kru counties, and Hub 3: Sinoe and Grand Gedeh counties.*

*The study of rape cases unveils that most of the cases were predominantly statutory rape ranging from 63.29% in Hub 2 (Maryland, River Gee, and Grand Kru counties) to 91.02% in Montserrado County. Interestingly, the trend was generally upward in all of the data captured areas. The percentages of indicted rape cases range from 56.0% in Hub 1 to 66.6% in Montserrado county while the percentages of rape cases that were found unworthy, range from 33.4% in Montserrado county to 43.99% in Hub 1. The percentages of rapists convicted, range from 21.57% in Hub 3 to 65.22% in Hub 2 while the percentages of alleged rapists acquitted, range from 1.02% in Montserrado county to 11.76% in Hub 3. The percentages of prosecution range from 22.08% in Hub 3 to 50.9% in Montserrado County. The paper is consistent with Idoko (2020) and Robertson (1998) that rape cases are under-reported which may be the case in Liberia because of the stigmatizations that victims fear. Also, this study accounts for alleged threats and manipulations by some perpetrators through financial settlements of the victims' families, alleged bribery at the institution of reportage and apparent alleged relaxation of the Revised Penal Code of Liberia on Rape (2005), as well as the Rape Laws (2006) applicability in mostly the interior parts of Liberia, are reasons responsible for the under-reporting of rape cases in Liberia.*

*This paper concurs with WHO (2017) on the reasons why victims are raped by perpetrators, that are: being young, consuming drugs or alcohol, poverty-stricken, lower levels of education, firm*

*belief in male sexual entitlement, weak legal sanctions against perpetrators, etc., are all reasons why victims are rape. Meanwhile, this paper depicts that rape exposes its victims to vulnerabilities such as degeneration into depression, alienation and substance abuse which most often deprive them of contributing towards productive economic activities that they previously contributed to, thus making them highly inefficient to equip themselves with adequate skills, trainings, knowledge, etc., necessary to prepare them for challenges of today and the future. Additionally, the paper pinpoints the aftermaths of the horrendous state of the victims of rape on the economy. Some of these points reflect to the decline in the quality of the labor force, the inability to sustainably prepare victims of statutory rapes for the medium to long-term recovery as their victimization dominates the findings herein as well as fall in household income, increase in the dependency ratios, pressure on health facilities from the aftermath health effects of rape cases (diseases, sicknesses, unwanted pregnancies, mental illnesses, etc.), increased dropout rate from schools, high crime rate, prostitutions, etc.*

*Based on the tally of reported rape cases in Liberia for females from 2016 to mid-2020 from data capture areas, despite the trend of rape being on an increase, it does not reflect the outcries of rapes which have been reportedly very alarming. Albeit, it appears that rape cases are being under-reported despite the public outcries. Subsequently, can we assume that most of the rape allegations are fake and without scientific evidence? Thus, based on the findings and analyses of this study, this analytical report proffers the following policy recommendations:*

- *The executive consults and or collaborates with the judicial arm of the Liberian government to reinforce and implement the 2006 Rape Laws of Liberia relative to the stipulated definition of rape as defined in the Revised Penal Code of Liberia on Rape (Ch.14, sec 14.70, 2005). By implication, a network comprising institutions of interests including the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection; the Ministry of Justice; Ministry of Health; and the requisite NGOs should be established and decentralized as a means to exhaustively capture all reported rape cases and process them to the court for prosecution.*
- *The Liberian government should increase the budgetary allocations for the Sexual Gender-Based Violence and Crime Unit at the Ministry of Justice as well as the Women and Children Protection Section of the Liberia National Police to enable these entities fully operate throughout the country unlike their current areas of coverage. An increased budgetary allocation to the aforementioned entities shall equip them to smoothly work with rape victims irrespective of location. Incentivizing these key Institutions shall also enhance the execution of the prosecution rate of rape cases far beyond its current 50.9% at the court, which was attained in Montserrado as the highest.*
- *The Liberian government in collaboration with stakeholders should embark on massive awareness to discourage the myths as to why perpetrators rape, by disclosing the consequences that rape causes society adversely as well as its uncompromising stance towards perpetrators of rape sustainably. This can be done through robust measures to stimulate the 2006 rape law of Liberia to expedite the prosecution of rape cases as well as to instill harsher punishments on convicts despite the already non-billable*

*stance.*

- *The Liberian government in collaboration with its stakeholders relative to the escalation of rape should formulate a robust Social Policy with economic implications that would adequately address all issues surrounding rape victims, thus providing protection, rehabilitation, prompt responses to health complications, reintegration, security, education, employment and the comprehensive well-being of the individual.*

**Key Terms: Rape, Sexual Gender-Based Violence and Crime, Victim, Perpetrator, Statutory Rape.**

## **INTRODUCTION:**

Rape has been an age-long form of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) and a social vice that has bewildered the world. For Instance, South Africa has recorded a peak of sexual assaults affecting adolescent girls from ages ranging from 12 to 17 years (Paterson, Bhana & Mckay, 2005). This problem had been very rampant in South Africa to an extent that it was referred to as the “Capital of Rape” (Human Rights Watch, 1995). Similarly, rape cases were seen on an increase from 3,481 in 2009 to 4,450 in 2010, 5,446 in 2011, and an alarming 2,195 cases between January and May of 2012 only; of these, 470 cases were recorded in May 2012 alone and Fifteen (15) women were raped in Zimbabwe every day - one in every 90 minutes (Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency, 2012).

Consistent with Liberia, the revised Penal Code of Liberia on Rape (Chapter 14, section 14.70, 2005) defined rape as any penetration on the openings of the body beneath the age 18 as well as above the age of 18 without the consent of the victim(s) and also people with mental illnesses. According to FPA (2020), the SGBV and Crime-Unit of the Ministry of Justice, Republic of Liberia, tallied the number of rape cases administered in court during the first half of 2020 totaled an amount of one hundred and seven with forty four convictions while the acquittals stood at forty two as the result of the lockdown due to Covid-19. Furthermore, these data were generated from the following counties: Montserrado, Nimba, Grand Gedeh, Bong, Lofa, Maryland, River Gee, and Grand Kru counties. Additionally, the perpetrators ranged from “Men of God” to Police Officers as six hundred and two cases were documented during the first half of 2020. The alarming rate of rape cases in Liberia sparked widespread concerns that led to a three-day anti-rape march in August of 2020.

Based on the foregoing, this paper focuses on rape relative to the female gender, utilizing authorized data from data captured areas of the Sexual Gender-Based Violence and Crime-Unit of the Ministry of Justice, Republic of Liberia: Montserrado, Hub 1: Bong, Lofa, and Nimba counties, Hub: 2 Maryland, River-Gee, and Grand Kru counties and Hub 3: Grand Gedeh and Sinoe counties. The paper shall provide answers to the following questions: What is the trend of rape cases received in Liberia from 2016 to mid-2020? What are the most victimized aged groups? Which of the counties rape trend is the lowest or highest? What are the percentages of prosecution of rape in the country? What are the percentages of rape cases won in the counties? What are the percentages of rape cases lost by the prosecutors in the counties? Why rape cases may be under-reported in Liberia? What are the myth surrounding the perpetrators raping the

victims? What are the economic consequences of rape in Liberia? Moreover, the paper shall contribute to the research environment, professionals and the public in order to get firsthand knowledge on the trend of rape cases in Liberia from 2016 to mid-2020 and to also provide policy-interventions where necessary to curb the consequences of rape as well as to provide safety-nets for rape victims. The paper shall also divulge some of the causes and implications of rape in Liberia. However, this paper is restricted only to the alleged rape cases reported to the Liberia National Police for investigation and subsequently submitted to the court for persecution with the involvement of the Sexual Gender Based Violence and Crime Unit of the Ministry of Justice, Republic of Liberia

## METHODOLOGY:

This paper shall utilize both simple quantitative and qualitative tools to provide results and analyses to answer questions as well as to formulate policy prescriptions from the findings. The qualitative form of this paper shall be based on the revision of past works on the subject matter as well as experiences. On the other hand, the quantitative aspect of this paper shall be in the form of analyses of secondary data on the subject matter from the Sexual Gender-Based Violence and Crime Unit of the Ministry of Justice, Republic of Liberia. The data shall be analyzed in the form of graphs, charts, percentages, and trend/trend line.

## DATA ANALYSES AND FINDING:

### Rape Cases Per Year in Montserrado

**Table 1 : Rape Case Year in Monsterrado**

Year	Number of Rape cases Received per Year	Number of cases indicted Per year	Number of Rapist Convicted	Number of Rapist Acquitted/ Cases lost	Number of Female Victims	Number of Male Victim
2016	114	89	11	1	114	0
2017	76	49	2	2	73	3
2018	141	51	82	1	137	4
2019	136	92	70	0	132	4
Jan-Jun 2020	123	112	31	0	123	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>590</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>579</b>	<b>11</b>

Data Source: SGBV-Crime Unit/MOJ, Republic of Liberia

**Table 2: Age Range of Victim in Monsterrado**

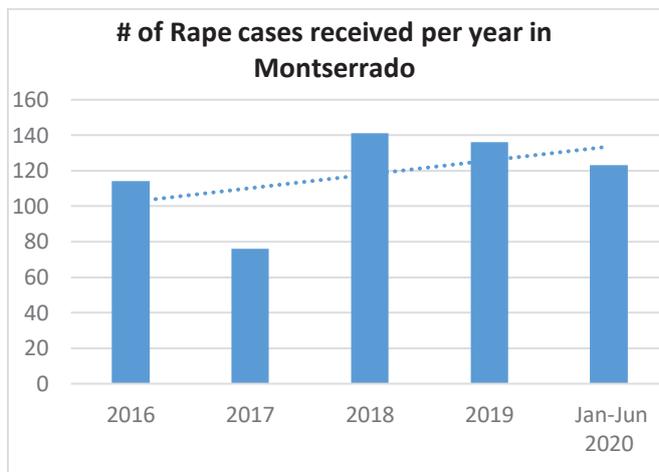
Year	0-5	6 to 12	13-17	Statutory Rape	18+(Rape)
2016	1	40	66	107	7
2017	3	30	36	69	7
2018	3	50	81	134	7
2019	4	35	75	114	22
2020	5	31	77	113	10
<b>Total</b>				<b>537</b>	<b>53</b>

Data Source: SGBV-Crime Unit/MOJ, Republic of Liberia

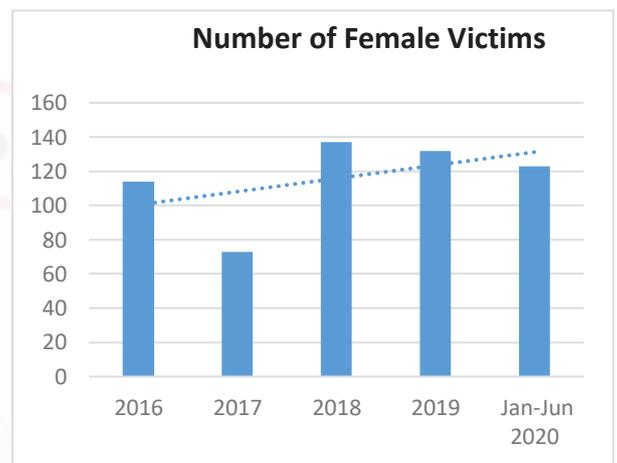
According to Table 1 and Table 2, out of the total number of rape cases received (590 rape cases) in Montserrado, there were 537 cases of statutory rape recorded from 2016 to the close of June 2020 at a percentage of 91.02% while the percentage of rape cases forwarded to court for prosecution was 66.6% at 393. By implication, 33.4% of the rape cases received were found unworthy. The percentage of rapists convicted yet from the total number of rape cases forwarded for prosecution was 49.9%.

Data collected on alleged rapists acquitted from the total number of rape cases forwarded for prosecution was 1.02%. Out of 393 rape cases received within Montserrado County, only 200 cases were prosecuted at 51%. From the year 2016 to mid 2020, the highest number of Statutory rape cases was seen in 2018 in the age group 13-17 at a percentage of 24.9%.

**Figure 1: Rape Cases Received Per Year in Montserrado**



**Figure 2: Number of Female Victims**



Data Source: SGBV-Crime Unit/MOJ, Republic of Liberia

According to Figure 1 the trend line for the number of rape cases received from 2016 to mid 2020 in Montserrado County indicates an upward movement, as there were significant widespread of rape cases in 2018. Similarly, the trend line for the number of female victims of rape cases received from 2016-mid-2020 in Montserrado County also shows an upward movement especially of the same year of 2018.

**Hub 1(Bong, Lofa, and Nimba)**

**Table 3: Number of Rape Cases Received in Hub 1**

Year	Number of Rapecases received per year	Number of cases Indicted per year	Number of Rapist Charged	Number of Rapist Acquittal/cases lost	Number of Female Victims	Number of male victim
2016	33	17	10	2	28	5
2017	42	53	12	4	40	2
2018	52	17	14	2	48	2
2019	90	43	15	5	86	4
Mid 2020	74	33	8	4	74	0
<b>Total</b>	291	163	59	17	276	13

Source: SGBV-Crime Unit- Ministry of Justice, Republic of Liberia

**Table 4 : Category of Rape in Hub 1**

Year	StatutoryRape	Gang Rape	Rape	Sodomy	Sexual Assault	Corruption of Minor
2016	22	1	10	0	0	0
2017	30	1	9	2	0	0
2018	34	2	14	2	0	0
2019	54	12	15	4	3	0
2020	53	13	7	0	0	2
Total	193	29	55	8	3	2

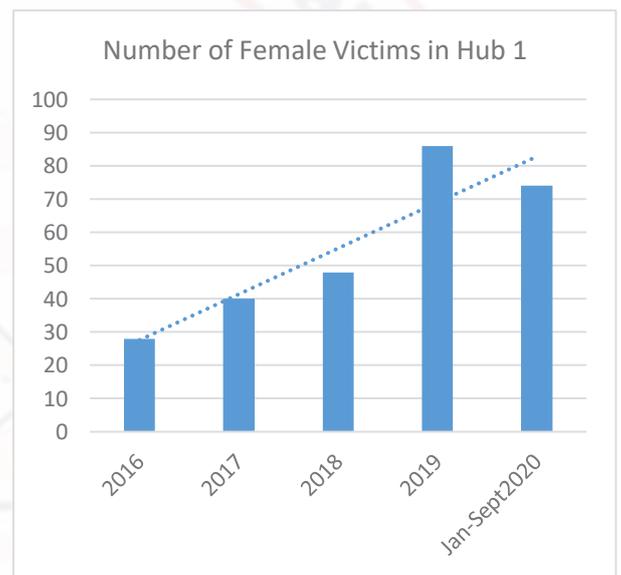
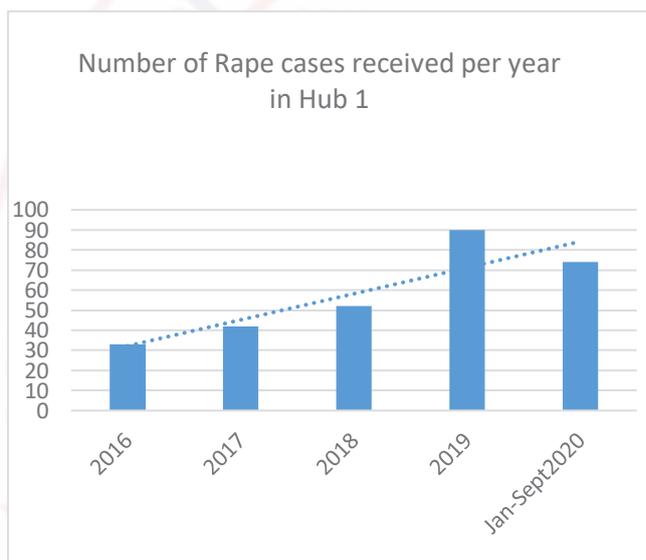
Source: SGBV-Crime Unit/LNP- Ministry of Justice, Republic of Liberia

Analyses from Table 3 and Table 4 depict that out of 291 rape cases received from 2016 to the close of June, 193 statutory rape cases were recorded at a percentage of 66.32%, as rape cases forwarded to the court constitute 56.01%. Cases that were found unworthy represent 43.99%. Rapists that were convicted yet from the total number of rape cases forwarded for prosecution were 36.2%. By implication, almost 36.2% of the rape cases forwarded for prosecution were won by the prosecutors.

The Percentage of alleged Rapists acquitted from the total number of rape cases forwarded for prosecution was 10.43%. Out of 163 rape cases received within hub 1, only 76 cases were prosecuted. The percentage of prosecution was 46.63%.

**Figure 3: Cases Received per year in Hub 1**

**Figure 4: Female Victims in Hub 1**



Source: SGBV-Crime Unit- Ministry of Justice, Republic of Liberia

The trend line for the number of rape cases received from Figure 3 in 2016- mid 2020 in Hub 1 indicate an upward movement as significant widespread of rape was recorded in 2019. The trend line for the number of female victims received from 2016-mid-2020 in Hub 1 also indicates an upward movement as 2019 peaked the highest of the same year.

## Hub 2 (Maryland, RiverGee, and Grand Kru)

**Table 5: Rape Cases Received in Hub 2**

Year	Number of Rape cases received per Year	Number of cases Indicted per year	Number of Rapist Charged	Number of Rapist Acquittal/cases lost	Number of Female Victims	Number of Male victim
2016						
2017	17	12	13	1	17	0
2018	18	5	12	2	18	0
2019	28	19	4	1	28	0
Jan-Jun2020	16	10	1	0	15	1
Total	79	46	30	4	78	1

Source : SGBV-Crime Unit- Ministry of Justice, Republic of Liberia

NB: there were no data provided for 2016 in Hub 2

**Table 6: Category of Rape in Hub 2**

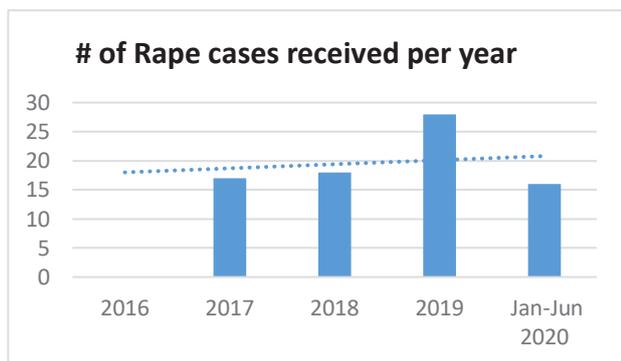
Year	Statutory Rape	Gang Rape	Rape	Sodomy	Sexual Assault	Corruption of Minor
2016						
2017	11	3	1	0	2	0
2018	9	1	1	0	0	0
2019	20	3	5	0	0	0
2020	10	2	4	0	0	0
Total	50	9	11	0	2	0

Source: SGBV-Crime Unit-Ministry of Justice, Republic of LiberiaNB: There were no data provided for hub 2 in 2016.

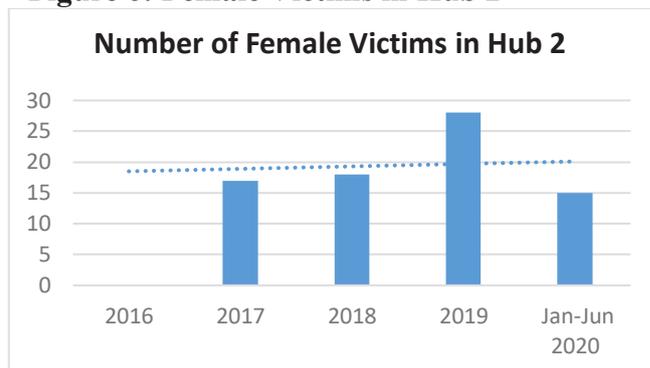
### Analyses from

Table 6 indicate that from the total number rape cases (79) received from 2017 to the close of June 2020, there were 50 cases of statutory rape at the percentage of 63.29%. The number of rape cases forwarded to court from the total number of rape cases received by the Liberian National Police was 58.23%. By implication, 41.77% of the rape cases received were found unworthy. Rapists convicted yet from the total number of rape cases forwarded for prosecution were 65.22%. Alleged Rapists acquitted from the total number of rape cases forwarded for prosecution were 8.69%. Out of 79 rape cases received within hub 2, only 34 cases were prosecuted. The percentage of prosecution was 43.04%.

**Figure 5: Cases Received per year in Hub 2**



**Figure 6: Female Victims in Hub 2**



Source : SGBV-Crime Unit- Ministry of Justice, Republic of Liberia

According to Figure 5, the number of rape cases received per year in Hub 2 from 2016 to mid-2020 has an upward trend line although data were not presented in 2016. The trend was at its peak in Hub 2 in 2019. On the other hand, Figure 6 depicts that the number of female victims per year in Hub 2 from 2016 to mid-2020 has an increasing trend line as 2019 maintained the highest peak similarly.

### Hub 3 ( Grand Gedeh and Sinoe)

**Table 7: Rape Cases Received Per Year in Hub 3**

Year	Number of Rape cases received per year	Number of cases indicted per year	Number of Rapist Charged	Number of Rapist Acquittal/cases lost	Number of Female Victims	Number of male victim
2016						
2017	8	9	3	3	8	0
2018	8	14	3	1	8	0
2019	34	12	2	2	34	0
Jan-Jun 2020	27	16	3	0	26	1
Total	77	51	11	6	76	1

Source: SGBV-Crime Unit/ Ministry of Justice, Republic of Liberia NB: There were no data provided for hub 3 in 2016

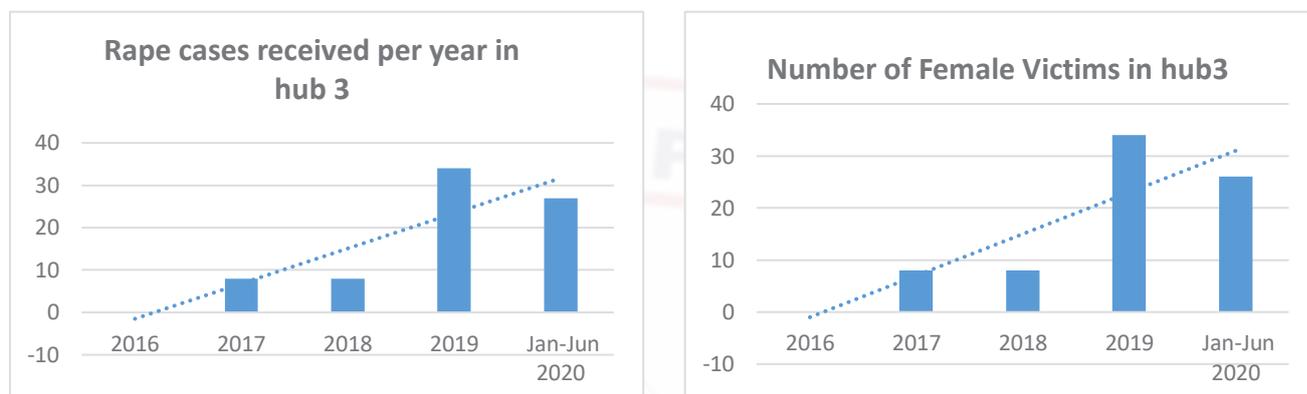
**Table 8 : Category of Rape Cases Received Per Year**

Year	Statutory Rape	Gang Rape	Rape	Sodomy	Sexual Assault	Corruption of Minor
2016						
2017	8	0	0	0	0	0
2018	4	2	3	0	0	0
2019	28	4	2	0	0	0
Jan Jun,2020	20	2	1	1	0	2
Total	60	8	6	1	0	2

Source: SGBV-Crime Unit/Ministry of Justice, Republic of Liberia NB: There were no data provided for hub 3 in 2016.

According to Table 8, 60 persons were recorded as victims of statutory rape constituting 78% of rape cases received from 2016 to the close of June 2020. Despite the Liberian National Police receiving 77 rape cases, only 51 cases were forwarded to the court for prosecution from 2016 to the close of June 2020 at 66.23%. Rape cases received that were found unworthy were 33.77%. The percentage of Rapists convicted yet from the total number of rape cases forwarded for prosecution was 21.57%. In addition, the percentage of alleged Rapists acquitted from the total number of rape cases forwarded for prosecution was 11.76%. Therefore, out of 77 rape cases received within hub 3, only 17 cases were prosecuted. The percentage of prosecution was 22.08%.

**Figure 7: Rape Cases Received per year in Hub 3**      **Figure 8: Indicates Number of Female Victims in Hub 3**



Source : SGBV-Crime Unit- Ministry of Justice, Republic of Liberia

The trend line for the number of rape cases received per year in Hub 3 from 2016-mid-2020 has an increasing trend line movement, although data were not presented in 2016 and data were collected up to mid-year of 2020. The trend was highest in Hub 3 in 2019. Meanwhile, the trend line for the number of female victims from 2016-mid-2020 in Hub 3 indicates an increasing movement similarly. Also, 2019 recorded the highest female victims in Hub 3.

## FINDINGS

### Trend of Rape Cases Received In Liberia from 2016 to Mid-2020

Generally, the trend of rape in Liberia for data captured areas is on an increase. In Montserrado County, the trend line from 2016 to mid-2020 for the number of rape cases received indicate a significant widespread of rape cases although data were collected up to mid-year 2020.

By sectors, in Hub 1 (Bong, Lofa, and Nimba counties), Hub 2 (Maryland, Rivergee, and Grand Kru counties), and Hub 3 (Grand Gedeh and Sinoe counties), the trend line for the number of rape cases received from 2016 to mid-2020 indicates upward but not as compared to the trend of rape cases seen in Montserrado although data were not presented in 2016 for hub 2 and hub 3 as well as all sectors data were partially provided up to mid-year 2020.

### **What are the most victimized aged groups?**

Generally, the most victimized aged groups are beneath 18 years, which constitute statutory rape. There were 537 statutory rape in Montserrado County from 2016 to mid- 2020. In Hub 1, there were 193 statutory rape from 2016 to mid-2020. In Hub 2, there were 50 statutory rape from 2016 to mid-2020. Finally, in Hub 3, there were 60 statutory rape from 2016 to mid-2020.

### **Which of the county or hub is the trend of rape highest and lowest?**

The trend is highest in Montserrado at 141 in 2018 and the lowest in Hub 3 at 8 in 2017 and 2018.

### **What are the percentages of prosecution of rape?**

Generally, the percentages of prosecution of rape range from 22.08% to 50.9%. Montserrado received the highest percentage of prosecution at 50.9%, followed by Hub 1 at 46.63% and Hub 2 at 43.04% and lastly by Hub 3 at 22.08%.

### **What are the percentages of rape cases won and lost in the county or hub?**

The percentages of rape cases won in the county or hub generally, range from 21.57% to 65.22%. The percentage of rape cases won by persecutors in Hub 2 was 65.22%, in Montserrado county, 49.9%, in Hub 1, 36.2% and in Hub 3, 21.57%, while the percentage of rape cases lost by the prosecutors ranges from 1.02% to 11.76%; Hub 3 received 11.76%, Hub 1, 10.43%, hub 2 and Montserrado at 1.02%.

### **Why rape cases maybe under-reported in Liberia?**

Consistent with Idoko (2020) and Robertson (1998) rape cases maybe under-reported because most of the rape victims fear the stigmas associated with being tagged as a raped victim. This is no exception to Liberia also. Moreover, most perpetrators suppress their victims from speaking out. This is endemic of the fact that lots of grown up men are having sexual affairs with under-aged girls in mostly the interior parts of Liberia and allegedly some “Big shots “are involved in sexual intercourse with females under-age in many cities in Liberia which constitute rape according to the definition of rape as stipulated in the Revised Penal Code of Liberia (Chapter 14, section 14.70, 2005) on Rape. For instance, older men are marrying young girls under the age of eighteen as well as having sexual intercourse. Furthermore, rape cases maybe under-reported in Liberia due to the state of Penury of most victims, which are compromised by financial settlements of victim’s family and also the influences of “Big Shots” who perpetuate this heinous crime. Additionally, rape cases maybe under-reported in Liberia due to poor infrastructures and inadequate resources for victims to reach out to reporting institutions as well as lack of adequate coordination among institutions of interests (Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, NGOs, etc.) and institution of processing and reporting (Liberia National Police) in conjunction with institution of prosecution (The Court).

### **What are the myth surrounding the perpetrators raping the victims?**

WHO (2017) indicates that being young, consuming drugs or alcohol, poverty-stricken, lower levels of education, firm belief in male sexual entitlement, weak legal sanctions against perpetrators, etc., are all reasons why victims are raped by perpetrators. According to Idoko (2020), perpetrators rape victims because of the myth that sexual intercourse with under-aged females' serves as a cure for HIV/AIDS. Robertson (1998) opines that rape is mostly widespread in society because of societal attitudes. Additionally, rape myths like: "men rape because of lack of ability to control their sexual lusts", "rape is encouraged by women", "rapists are usually strangers", etc., are all reasons accountable for why perpetrators rape victims. Also, the victims are raped by perpetrators because of some apparent relaxations of the definition of rape as stipulated in the Revised Penal Code of Liberia on rape (2005) as well as weak institutional framework to implement the 2006 Rape Laws of Liberia.

### **What are the economic consequences of rape in Liberia?**

Consistent with Loya (2015), the economic consequences of rape are enormous in Liberia in that the victims of rape usually undergo protracted trauma, which degenerates into depression, dissociation and substance abuse and these most often deprive the victims of contributing towards productive economic activities. Also, these circumstances contribute to the magnitude of their survival as well as making them unable to equip themselves with adequate skills, trainings, knowledge, etc., necessary to prepare them for challenges of today and the future. Furthermore, quite often the victims have to take off time from their jobs due to the fear that the perpetrators live within the same environment of work or better still the fear of the stigma of rape hunting them within the working environment or the trauma from rape experienced by the victims which leads them to perform poorly at jobs and eventually plummet to job losses or long-term inability to work. Additionally, the victims could easily abandon schools or businesses for fear that they do not want to be seen in public given the stigma and the trauma they suffer from and their inability to cope mentally. Based on the aforesaid, society becomes vulnerable to economic consequences such as: the decline in the quality of the labor force or the potential labor force, the inability seemingly to sustainably prepare victims of statutory rapes for the medium to long-term as their victimizations dominate the findings of this paper, the fall in household income, increase in the dependency ratios, increase pressures on health facilities from the aftermath health effects of rapes (diseases, sicknesses, unwanted pregnancies, mental illnesses, etc.), increased dropout rate from schools, high crime rate, prostitutions, etc.

**LIMPAC**

## CONCLUSION

Generally, the trend of female rape in Liberia from 2016 to mid-2020 is on the increase, which is consistent with other papers reviewed herein. Rape in Liberia according to the Revised Penal Code of Liberia on Rape (2005) is classified as any penetration on any openings of the body beneath the age of eighteen (18) or above without the consent of the victim as well as towards people with mental illnesses. Statutory rape constituted most of the rapes that unfolded in Liberia between 2016 and mid-2020. Rape cases by sector, in Montserrado County indicate a peak trend at 141 in 2018 while in Hub 3, cases were at the lowest at 8 percent in 2017 and 2018. Rape cases in Montserrado indicate a peak trend at 141 in 2018 while in Hub 3 cases was at the lowest at 8 percent in 2017 and 2018. The percentages of statutory rape cases range from 63.29% in Hub 2 to 92.02% in Montserrado. The percentages of rape cases forwarded to the court from the total number of rape received range from 56.0% in Hub 1 to 66.6% in Montserrado, were as 33.4% of the rape cases received were found unworthy, range from 33.4% in Montserrado to 43.99% in Hub 1. The percentages of rapists convicted from the total number of rape cases forwarded for prosecution range from 21.57% in Hub 3 to 65.22% in Hub 2. Alleged rapists acquitted from the total number of rape cases forwarded for prosecution range from 1.02% in Montserrado County to 11.76% in Hub 3. Finally, the percentages of prosecution of rape cases range from 22.08% in Hub 3 to 50.9% in Montserrado County.

Consistent with Idoko (2020) and Robertson (1998), rape cases are under-reported which may be the case in Liberia because of the stigmatizations that victims' fear. Rape cases maybe under-reported in Liberia because of the threats and manipulations by some perpetrators through financial settlements of victims' families, alleged bribery at the institution of reportage and apparent relaxation of the Revised Penal Code of Liberia on Rape (2005) as well as the 2006 Rape Laws applicability in mostly the interior parts of Liberia. Additionally, rape cases maybe under-reported in Liberia because of poor infrastructures and inadequate resources of victims to reach out to reporting institutions as well as lack of adequate coordination among institutions of interests and institution of prosecution. The paper concurs with WHO (2017) that being young, consuming drugs or alcohol, poverty-stricken, lower levels of education, firm belief in male sexual entitlement, weak legal sanctions against perpetrators, etc., are all reasons why victims are raped by perpetrators. Moreover, the paper agrees with Charlotte (2005) that rape is widespread in society because of societal attitudes towards rape and rape myths. Meanwhile, the paper also exposes the economic vulnerabilities of victims as well as the economic consequences of rape on the Liberian society.

Despite the public outcries about the alarming rate of rape in Liberia, the statistics on rape in Liberia do not represent these alarming outcries of rapes widely in Liberia. It appears like rape cases are being under-reported despite the public outcries or most rapes' allegations are fake or without scientific evidence. Consequently, based on the findings and analyses of this paper, the paper shall proffer the following policy recommendations:

- *The executive consults and or collaborates with the judicial arm of the Liberian*

government to reinforce and implement the 2006 Rape Laws of Liberia relative to the stipulated definition of rape as defined in the Revised Penal Code of Liberia on Rape (Ch.14, sec 14.70, 2005). By implication, a network comprising institutions of interests including the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection; the Ministry of Justice; Ministry of Health; and the requisite NGOs should be established and decentralized as a means to exhaustively capture all reported rape cases and process them to the court for prosecution.

- The Liberian government should increase the budgetary allocations for the Sexual Gender-Based Violence and Crime Unit at the Ministry of Justice as well as the Women and Children Protection Section of the Liberia National Police to enable these entities fully operate throughout the country unlike their current areas of coverage. An increased budgetary allocation to the aforementioned entities shall equip them to smoothly work with rape victims irrespective of location. Incentivizing these key Institutions shall also enhance the execution of the prosecution rate of rape cases far beyond its current 50.9% at the court, which was attained in Montserrado as the highest.
- The Liberian government in collaboration with stakeholders should embark on massive awareness to discourage the myths as to why perpetrators rape, by disclosing the consequences that rape causes society adversely as well as its uncompromising stance towards perpetrators of rape sustainably. This can be done through robust measures to stimulate the 2006 rape law of Liberia to expedite the prosecution of rape cases as well as to instill harsher punishments on convicts despite the already non-billable stance.
- The Liberian government in collaboration with its stakeholders relative to the escalation of rape should formulate a robust Social Policy with economic implications that would adequately address all issues surrounding rape victims, thus providing protection, rehabilitation, prompt responses to health complications, reintegration, security, education, employment and the comprehensive well-being of the individual.

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