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(n = 20). (n = ), (n = 1 )  
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Study setting

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Recruitment and data collection

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would be worse if there were girls around because you don't want to be embarrassed in front of women."

( 2 02)

"When you walk around they [men] call you...Yes and say things such as 'my size, hey my size come here,' I will give you money." ( 0 0 )

' "too touchy-touchy [laughter]" ( 0 0 ).  
(1 - )

"Every time I come to Hillbrow, I am scared that I might meet him. [...] When I see him I have to kiss him, like really...I'm scared he will hit me, like really bad. [...] Yes! 'I will slap you, if you don't kiss me now like really I will point you, I will take out my knife, I will stab you...'"

am lying, that I want to take her man from her, so she beat me after the lady left... she told me that I am lying and called me a 'whore.'" ( )

"You see the problem here is that so many girls have these problems [sexual abuse] and they don't talk. They keep it a secret...these children are small, but they are scared of people. They know that if they speak something, uncle will kill me...The children are living in fear." ( 0 , )

, "they didn't come",

"My dad abuses my mom when he is drunk... He swears at my mom and it happens every time he is drunk...It makes me feel terrible, bad and sad. I try to stop him and he always tells me not to defend my mother because he will hit me." ( , 1 - )

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You know people still need to be convinced as to why do we need this service.” ( 10 )



report on violence and health. ( ).  
2002. . 1–21).  
2 10

Study limitations

Abbreviations

CBO: Community-based organisation; CM: Community mapping;  
IDI: In-depth interview; IPV: Intimate partner violence; KI: Key informant;  
NGO: Non-governmental organisation; PTSD/S: Post-traumatic stress  
disorder/syndrome; WAVE: Well-being of adolescents in vulnerable  
environments study

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Conclusions

Availability of data and materials

The datasets analysed during the current study are available from the  
corresponding author on reasonable request, and with permission of the  
WAVE Study Coordinators and Publications Committee.

Authors’ contributions

SDM, EV, HB and KM designed the study and secured ethical approval, while  
SDM and EV led data collection. FS and DB analysed and interpreted the  
data, with assistance from SDM and EV. FS and DB prepared the first draft of  
the manuscript, and all co-authors provided input and assisted in finalising  
the paper. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

Consent for publication

Not applicable.

Ethics approval and consent to participate

The study received ethics approval from the Human Research Ethics  
Committee at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. Written  
informed consent was obtained from adolescents aged 18 and 19 years.  
Adolescents aged 15–17 years gave written assent and their parents or legal  
guardians gave written consent. Those who reported personal experiences  
of violence were referred for counselling and care at local centres. All participants  
were reimbursed 50 ZAR (3.25 USD) as stipend.

Endnotes

1

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