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A Comparative Study of Adolescent Sexual Victimization in South Korea and the United States

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ABSTRACT

This study examines the relationship between victim/offender characteristics and sexual victimization among adolescents in South Korea and the United States. Quantitative methodology, involving the chi-square test and binary logistic regression model, is applied to the Korean Crime Victim Survey (KCVS) – Juvenile Victimization and the sub-sample of National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), consisting of adolescent girls age 13 to 18. In the individual risk factor analysis, three variables are explored: age, family structure, and country. The findings show that American girls are at greater risk of being sexually victimized than Korean girls. Both the United States and South Korea adolescents living with neither parent are at the highest risk of sexual victimization. Only in the United States, older adolescent girls are at greater risk of being sexually victimized. In the incident analysis, the tendency of the victim to engage in self-protection and some offender characteristics (age and single offender relationship) are different for the two countries. Findings suggest: i) American girls use more physical resistance during the incident compared to Korean girls, ii) American girls are more victimized by younger adults than Korean girls, and iii) American girls are more victimized by their intimate partners than Korean girls. Opportunity Theories and conservativeness on sexuality are used to explain that opportunities for sexual victimization differ in South Korea and the United States.

Keywords: *adolescent, sexual victimization, cross-national, South Korea, United States*

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Introduction

Adolescent sexual victimization is a critical issue with profound implications for the well-being and development of young individuals across the globe. In South Korea and the United States, which share the same economic-political systems but different social backgrounds, adolescents face distinct, yet interconnected challenges related to sexual victimization. However, there is not much research specifying and comparing sexual victimization between the two countries. Therefore, this research is motivated to find whether female adolescent sexual victimization in South Korea and the United States is similar or different through multilevel analyses of demographic features and victim-oriented characteristics. A total of 9,378 individuals and 382 sexual victims in both countries' nationally representative victimization survey were asked about their experience of sexual violence. Descriptive statistics, crosstabulation, and binary logistic regression models were utilized to find the statistical association among the variables.

Literature Review

Theoretical Frameworks

The vulnerability of adolescents can be understood within the framework of Routine Activities Theory and Lifestyle-exposure Theory. Often referred to as theories of opportunity, these approaches address that situations create crimes and, eventually, victims (Rountree, Land, and Miethe 1994). Particularly, the Routine Activities Theory discusses that crime occurs when three components converge: a potential offender, a suitable target, and the absence of a capable guardian. Individuals could be victimized based on the assessment of the offender and the context of the crime, highlighting that if offenders are given the opportunity to find a target that meets their interests, anyone can become a victim (Cohen and Felson 1979). In the examination of adolescent sexual victimization, Leclerc and Felson (2014) emphasized that sex offenses against children are associated with a specific environment. The researchers discovered that both adult and adolescent offenders follow certain routine activities, such as luring the child into domestic settings and approaching victims without parental supervision.

Similarly, Hindelang, Gottfredson, and Garofalo (1982) explored the lifestyle of individuals that expose them to the risk of victimization. Differences in lifestyle account for types of victimization as the Lifestyle-exposure Theory concentrates on the situational aspect of lifestyle that elevates the risk of victimization. Connecting to the victimization of adolescents, Lauritsen, Laub, and Sampson (1992) discussed that youths who have a delinquent lifestyle are found to have the highest risk of victimization. In terms of violent crimes, once sociodemographic features and delinquencies are taken into account, conventional activities (e.g., studying, sports activities, etc.)

have little effect on the risk of victimization. Thus, the researchers argued that involvement in delinquent activities and differences in demographic characteristics could become influential factors in determining the risk of juvenile victimization.

In this research, Opportunity Theories are not directly tested but will be used to explain why some individuals are at more risk than others. Considering the individual demographics and victim/offender characteristics, such a theoretical framework creates a foundation for understanding national differences in sexual victimization.

Cultural Assumptions

For cross-national comparison between two distinctive nations, South Korea and the United States, it is important to understand the difference in their underlying socio-cultural contexts. Historically, South Korea has had a collectivist Confucian ideology and patriarchal family structure. However, starting in the 1970s, the nation experienced rapid economic growth as well as exposure to the Westernized lifestyle. Due to this modernization, adolescents were raised in a less conservative society, possessing different attitudes and behaviors toward sexual activities compared to the older generations (Youn 1996). Still, as the country remained sexually conservative, the discussion of sexual victimization was considered taboo. Formal sex education was not established until the 1980s, and sexuality was perceived as prohibited among Korean adolescents (Kim 2015). Lee et al. (2006) reported that more than half of Korean adolescents expect women to be sexually conservative and remain virgins until their marriage. As the Confucian philosophy highlights that boys and girls need to be separated after age seven, South

Korea is a country where social attitudes and context surrounding adolescent sexual activity are significantly different from that of the United States.

Adolescents in South Korea have more sexually conservative viewpoints compared to the United States, where sexuality is more openly discussed, even in educational settings. Studies reported that formal sex education is associated with the youth's sexual health outcomes, such as the use of contraception and delayed age of intercourse (Kirby 2008). Beginning in the 1980s, primary schools implemented sexual education and prevention programs in the United States (Casper 1999). Even though sex education is not standardized and varies by state, district, or school boards, most schools in the United States incorporate various topics of HIV/AIDS and the effect of alcohol and drugs on sexual behaviors (Woo et al., 2011). While sex education is also mandatory in schools in South Korea, the programs provide a lack of practical knowledge, such as the usage of contraception and the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases. Most teenagers learn information about sex through peers, pornography, or social media (Kim, Yeom, and Kim 2018). Though adolescents in the present day are more aware and open-minded to the discussion of sexuality, public sex education in South Korea fails to meet such a trend of changes in perception (Shin, Lee, and Min 2020).

In this research, cultural assumptions offer additional context for understanding adolescent sexual victimization in two countries. Overall, South Korea and the United States are different in terms of attitudes toward sexuality. Since Koreans have a more conservative viewpoint on female sexuality and sex education than Americans, cultural settings could help explain the difference in characteristics of adolescent sexual victimization. Thus, besides the theoretical framework, cultural factors could provide an alternative interpretation of why adolescents in one country are more vulnerable than the other.

Risk Factors

Age

The age of adolescents plays a significant role in their risk of sexual victimization. Connecting to the Routine Activities Theory, research has revealed that young women are more vulnerable to sexual victimization than older women as they frequently interact with their peers, even in environments that most likely put them in danger (Felson and Cundiff 2013; Warr 1993). Felson and Cundiff (2013) discussed that age had the strongest effect on the risk of victimization due to the fact that younger ages induce greater sexual attractiveness to the offender. In addition, the findings suggest that female adolescents age 10 – 14 are at greater risk of sexual victimization compared to women in their 20s. One of the reasons is that young women are more vulnerable not only physically but mentally, meaning that they are more easily manipulated (Felson and Cundiff 2014). Supporting the notion that the age of individuals affects their risk of sexual victimization, Felson and Moran (2023) found that offenders are more likely to target individuals who are 15 years old when committing sexual assault. Particularly, the rate of sexual assault increases and hits the peak at age 15, then decreases. This shows that compared to other age groups, like children and emerging adults, individuals at age 15 are at the most risk of sexual victimization.

Other existing studies mostly consent to the idea that adolescents are at greater risk for sexual victimization than other age groups. Adolescents and young adults are found to have a higher possibility of becoming victims of sexual assault compared to children and older adults (Rickert et al. 2004). In sum, it is notable that the age of adolescents influences the risk of getting sexually victimized, and individuals with specific age ranges are at higher odds.

For Korean adolescents, only a few studies examined the relationship between the age of the victim and the sexual abuse. However, the statistics show that the mean age is 14 for female adolescents who have been sexually abused (Ministry for Health, Welfare, and Family Affairs 2008). The report also indicates that adolescents whose ages are 13 to 15 experienced most of the rape (37.8%) compared to other age groups. Similar to the United States, the age of Korean girls who have been sexually victimized falls between 13 to 15.

Prior research from the United States suggests that female adolescents are at most risk of being sexually victimized compared to other age groups, especially at the age of 15. Korean literature also implies similar results; girls whose ages are 14 are most vulnerable to sexual victimization. Due to the Korean age data, which has one or two years age gap compared to the age in the United States, those age 14 to 16 are most likely to be sexually victimized. Hence, the first hypothesis is as follows: individuals at age 14-16 are at the most risk of getting sexually victimized in both countries.

Family Structure

Family structure is another risk factor that could impact the sexual victimization of adolescents. In other words, whether the individuals are in intact or non-intact families affects the likelihood of their victimization. If a girl lives without their mother, the girl is more likely to have a higher risk for sexual abuse (Finkelhor 1980). It also reveals that the quality of the father's relationship with their daughter, whether natural or stepfather, creates changes in the risk of sexual victimization. Similarly, findings unveil that older children were at greater risk of sexual victimization in father-only families. Daly and Wilson (1985) found that children living with single

parent are more likely to become the victims of sexual abuse cases than ones who are living with two natural parents. This applies to living with either one natural or one stepparent, indicating that non-intact family increases the risk of sexual abuse.

Another type of non-intact family, households that include non-related parent figures, increase the likelihood of sexual and physical abuse. McRee (2008) illustrated that the presence of parent figures influences the relative risk of victimization. The research found that youths living with non-related adults have a higher probability of abuse compared to homes with a single natural parent, two natural parents, or a natural parent and an adult relative. In support of the literature, Freeman and Temple (2009) developed the idea that there was an association between adolescents' sexual victimization and their family structure. The youths in non-traditional households, such as living with grandparents and other known people, were more likely to report rape than adolescents living with both parents.

Compared to the United States, there was less research in South Korea that explored whether the family structure of female adolescents influences the likelihood of sexual victimization. In fact, compared to the United States, divorce or living with a single parent or neither parent is not as frequent in South Korea due to the continuing emphasis on traditional family structure. The report published by Sung, Kim, and Song (2011) stated that Korean adolescents who are in non-intact families have a higher likelihood of engaging in delinquent activities, such as underage drinking and running away from home. In addition, the report found that more sexual assault cases were prevalent for adolescents in non-intact families than adolescents living with both parents.

Past research indicates that individuals living with non-intact families are at the most risk of being sexually victimized. Especially for adolescents who live with non-related adults, they are

expected to be more vulnerable compared to the ones living with single or both parents. Even though there is a lack of Korean literature that studied adolescents' family structure, family structure likely plays a significant role in adolescent sexual victimization. Adolescents who are in non-intact families have more delinquent lifestyles, and such lifestyles put them at higher risk of becoming vulnerable targets to sex offenders. Thus, the second hypothesis is as follows: individuals who are in non-intact families are at the most risk of getting sexually victimized in both countries.

Characteristics

Self-protection

Self-protection often takes place as the offense is against one's will, as well as to reduce the risk of being victimized. Using self-protective behaviors during a sexual offense is a form of *self-help* that happens when one tries to protect oneself from being the victim of the crime (Woolnough 2009). Physical self-protective actions occur when the victim uses a device against the offender; this includes physical resistance like attacking, kicking, hitting, or chasing the perpetrator (Bachman et al. 2002). Also, physical self-protective behaviors could help reduce the severity of sexual victimization. Ullman and Knight (1993) discovered that rape is less likely to be completed when the victim fights back against the offender.

In addition to physical self-protection, non-physical action is another type that individuals could implement to avoid victimization. Non-physical self-protection mainly involves verbal resistance, such as yelling, warning, or pleading. Regarding physical resistance, sexual assault

victims who utilized physical protection had a higher likelihood of injury than the non-resisters or those who resisted in a non-physical way (Wong and Balemba 2016). Results also suggest that individuals who used any type of resistance during the incident were associated with a higher risk of physical injury above and beyond rape or sexual assault. Such findings highlight that self-protection is one of the key factors that could explain the victim's behaviors when sexual offenses occur.

Most existing studies regarding self-protective behavior or even any kind of behavior during the crime are based on samples from the United States. As there is less prior research in South Korea, challenges remain. However, gender roles are likely to be associated with self-protective behaviors in South Korea. Ha and Kim (2012) suggested that Korean women who satisfy the idea of "Women need to be quiet" have a higher risk of suppressing self-expression. In terms of female adolescents who encounter authoritarian figures that emphasize subordinate behaviors, girls are likely to conform to unwanted sexual activity. As the cultural background of South Korea still underlines the notion of a Confucianist and patriarchal society, the findings imply that women are less likely to resist when faced with sexual assault or rape. In fact, the statistics show that 64% of female victims who have been sexually abused ran away and escaped the scene (Korea Ministry of Gender Equality and Family 2019). Also, among the victims who did not perform self-protection during the incident, 44% reported that they did not know how to protect themselves, and 24% reported that they did not realize that they were victimized at that moment.

Previous studies indicate that self-protection behaviors can be interpreted differently depending on whether girls use physical or non-physical behaviors. Also, compared to the United States, Korean women are more likely to meet the idea of being less aggressive during sexual

abuse. Therefore, the hypothesis regarding self-protection is as follows: victims in the United States more actively resist during the incident than victims in South Korea.

Age of Offender

Understanding the age of the adolescent sexual offenders is also another essential characteristic. As the younger age indicates higher sex drives, female adolescents are likely to be at higher risk of being victimized by young male adults. Bureau of Justice Statistics (2000) reported that young adults (18-24) consist of 35% of the total forcible rapes. Overall, the age profile of offenders in sexual assault crime showed that the single age with the greatest number of offenders is age 14. Nevertheless, not only young male adults but also older men target young girls, too. Felson and Cundiff (2014) suggested that older men have a strong sexual attraction to younger women just as much as younger men. Though older offenders are more likely to target young victims when committing sexual offenses, the statistics show that offenders age 12-17 and 18-29 take up most of the adolescent sexual assault incidents; around 45% of offenders who are 12-17 target female adolescence and around 38% of offenders age 18-29 assault female emerging adults. Therefore, both older and younger male offenders target young female individuals, but younger males compose almost half of the female adolescent sexual assault.

Overall, the mean age for sexual offenders in South Korea is 42.6 (Korean Institute of Criminology and Justice 2022). However, when considering the offenders who only target female adolescents, their mean age tends to drop. The literature presents that for the girls who have been sexually victimized, 44% of the incidents were committed by offenders who are less than 25 years old. However, it was unclear whether every young man victimize women regardless of them being

minor or non-minor. A study conducted by Han, Jung, and Cho (2020) analyzed that adults are the most pronounced offenders that target female adolescents. The result showed that adults assault most children-adolescents as they take up 91% of the total victimization. In sum, similar to American girls, Korean girls have a higher risk of being sexually victimized by young male adults who are in their 20s.

The existing research underscores that female adolescents are at the most risk of being sexually abused by young male offenders in both countries. Consistent with the literature, the hypothesis regarding the age of the offender is as follows: offender(s) are in their 10s – 20s in both countries.

Number of Offenders

Sexual offenses could either be done by single or multiple offenders. Regarding adolescent sexual victimization, there have been mixed results regarding whether the offenders are single or multiple. Bureau of Justice Statistics (2000) reported that among offenders who committed rape and sexual assault, only 10% consisted of more than one offender. However, some of the literature suggests that regarding female sexual assault, perpetrators are easily influenced by group dynamics, such as peer pressure and showing off masculinity. Some of them may not have committed the offense if they were alone (Framis et al., 2022). Woodhams, Gillett, and Grant (2007) also examined that juvenile sex offenders who offend as a group tend to show more physical violence when they are acting as a group. Thus, for the number of sexual offenders targeting female adolescents, it is likely that it would mostly consist of single offenders. Still, group offenders would come into play when the offense is more violent with greater use of physical abuse.

In comparison to the literature that used samples from the United States, there was a lack of studies undertaken in South Korea. However, several findings for the number of offenders in Korea suggest that single offenders are prominent in adolescent sexual offenses. According to a publication by the Supreme Prosecutor's Office in the Republic of Korea (2021), 82% of offenders who were arrested for targeting adolescents committed alone. In addition, studies show that there are fewer accomplices when it comes to sexual victimization. Shin et al. (2017) reported that among teenage girls who have experienced sexual assault, 67% of offenders acted solo. Thus, it is likely that offenders who target adolescent girls commit crimes alone.

Though there are mixed results in the United States and a lack of research completed in South Korea, the statistics from both countries suggest that most sex offenders who target female adolescents usually commit crimes alone. Therefore, the hypothesis regarding the number of offenders is as follows: the offender commits crime alone rather than involving multiple participants in both countries.

Victim-Offender Relationship

The victim-offender relationship is widely explored in the United States. Among the sexual abuse cases reported, 93% of the juvenile victims already recognized the perpetrator. (Bureau of Justice Statistics 2000). 59% were acquaintances, 34% were family members, while only 7% of offenders comprised strangers. Other literature also supports the idea that individuals are more likely to be raped by acquaintances than strangers (Vaughan 2001). Regarding younger women, Siddique (2016) suggested that the risk of victimization is more prominent for acquaintance and intimate partners. Such studies on victim-offender relationship indicate that female adolescents

have higher chances of being victimized by offenders that they recognize rather than ones that they have never encountered before.

Diving deeper into the idea that girls are more victimized by their acquaintances, it is most likely that such acquaintances could be their boyfriends or romantic partners. Vicary et al. (1995) stated that 23% of female adolescents had experienced unwanted sexual activity from their dates/boyfriends, and 15% experienced date rape. This illustrates that girls who have intimate partners are at higher risk of getting sexually victimized as they are one of the closest acquaintances. Another statistic from the Bureau of Justice (2000) also reported that 33% of the sexual victimization that targets adolescents is committed by a current or former spouse or boyfriend. The result implies that it is most likely the case for American girls to be victimized by people that they already know, especially the ones who are more intimate than other known people.

In the case of girls in South Korea, the victim-offender relationship shows similarities to the ones in the United States. Research conducted by Choi et al. (2015) found that most of the adolescent sexual abuse was from extrafamilial perpetrators (e.g., teachers, neighbors, friends, and strangers). Similar research specified the extrafamilial relationship of victim-offender among female adolescents who have been victimized. 62% recognized the offender, and 92% of the victimization was committed by extrafamilial offenders (Shin et al., 2017). However, compared to the United States, it is unlikely that most of the sexual victimization involves dates or boyfriends as the primary offender. Due to the high emphasis on academic success, Korean parents restrict their children from having dating partners and even fear that they would engage in premarital sex (Youn 2001). This brings about the result that only 6% of Korean girls had their sexual debut earlier than their 19th birthday (National Evidence-based Healthcare Collaborating Agency 2023), compared to the mean age of American girls who have their first sexual debut in approximately 17

years (Magnusson, Nield, and Lapane 2015). Thus, as Korean girls face parental pressure that they are not allowed to date, it is likely that they have less chance of having a boyfriend and eventually have less risk of being victimized by their boyfriend.

Based on the prior findings, both Korean and American girls are at the most risk of being victimized by a known person. In particular, the literature suggests that American girls are victimized by their dates or boyfriends. Hence, the hypothesis regarding victim-offender relationships is as follows: offender(s) are acquaintances in both countries, more likely to be intimate partners in the United States.

Current Study

Based on the understanding of the literature review, the current study aims to address three objectives: i) which country has higher sexual victimization, ii) how are the risk factors similar or different in two countries, and iii) how are the incidents similar or different in two countries.

In particular, this research design is shaped in two phases: individual risk analysis and incident analysis. Individual risk analysis focuses on the respondents' demographics in relation to their risk of sexual victimization. Hypotheses are as follows: **(a)** individuals at age 14-16 are at the most risk of getting sexually victimized in both countries, **(b)** individuals who are in non-intact families are at the most risk of getting sexually victimized in both countries.

Shifting to the incident analysis, this study delves into the association between country and victim/offender characteristics. Hypotheses are as follows: for the ones who have been victimized, **(c)** victims in the United States more actively resist during the incident compared to the victims in South Korea, **(d)** offender(s) are in their 10s – 20s in both countries, **(e)** the offender commits crime alone rather than involving multiple participants in both countries, and **(f)** offender(s) are acquaintances in both countries, more likely to be intimate partners in the United States.

Data and Methods

Data

To make a cross-national comparison between South Korea and the United States, the two primary datasets implemented in this research are the Korean Crime Victim Survey – Juvenile Victimization (KCVS) and the sub-sample of the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS). Each phase of this study consists of a different sample in relation to the types of analyses, and multiple years have been merged to provide a sufficient sample size in both countries. Regarding the sample, since victims of sexual offenses are mostly female, male respondents in both surveys were excluded. The age ranges of adolescents that apply to both nations were ages 13 to 18, and respondents outside the given range were also eliminated. Taking these into account, in the first phase, all female survey *respondents* ages 13 to 18 are used (n=9,378) in both merged and separated versions of the KCVS (n=8,221) and the NCVS (n=1,157) datasets for general and cross-national comparison. The second phase of research includes all female sexual *victims* ages 13 to 18 (n=382) in the KCVS (n=188) and the NCVS (n=194).

The KCVS was administered by the Korean Institute of Criminology (KIC). The survey was conducted biannually to measure the accurate crime statistics, victimization characteristics, and public attitude toward crime in South Korea. (Kim and Hong 2022). As KCVS concentrates on persons age 14 or older from a nationally representative sample of households, KCVS conducts a follow-up study, Juvenile Victimization. Beginning in 2008, it focuses on children and adolescents ages 11 to 18. The sample was collected through four stages: a survey of school students, a survey of out-of-school youths, an interview of adolescents who have been victimized,

and a focus group interview of victims with a counselor. All stages were used step by step; after

the youth took the survey, focused interviews were conducted for those victimized. Later, the

results were coded into the datatsets. The survey questions asked adolescents about their

demographics, perception of crime, and experiences of victimization during the previous year.

Three survey datasets (2008, 2014, and 2018) were publicly accessible for the analyses. All of

them were merged, including responses about adolescents' demographic information and their

experiences of sexual victimization.

The NCVS was launched by the U.S. Census Bureau on behalf of the Bureau of Justice

Statistics since 1973. It collects data from all persons ages 12 or older from a nationally

representative sample of households, and survey respondents are interviewed either direct face-to-

face or via telephone. The survey asks respondents about their victimization experience in the past

six months and is conducted twice a year to create a validated annual crime report. In this research,

publicly accessible 1992-2018 concatenated file that consist of both personal and incident records

are analyzed. Similar to questionnaires in KCVS, it includes responses about participants'

demographics and descriptions of their victimization. In order to have respectively recent trends

and match the time consistency of the KCVS dataset, only years from 2000 to 2018 are considered.

Individual Risk Factor Measurements

The dependent variable in the first phase of this research is the sexual victimization of

respondents. In this study, sexual victimization includes three sexual offenses: rape, rape attempt,

and sexual assault. Offenses other than these three were not available for both countries. The

KCVS directly asked respondents about the *incident*: "Have you experienced rape or rape attempt

during the past year?" For 2008 and 2014 KCVS, rape and rape attempt were asked in the same question, which did not divide two types of misconduct. However, 2018 KCVS and the NCVS asked separate sets of questions asking rape or rape attempt, then coded individually. In the case of NCVS, the survey question asked about the *behavior*. Based on the description of the victimization, the interviewer coded whether the participants actually experienced "rape" or "sexual assault." First, they asked, "Has anyone attacked or threatened you in any of these ways?" Among the list of attacks/threats, there was "Any rape, attempted rape or other type of sexual attack." If the respondent answered that they had been sexually attacked, they were asked to describe the incident(s), and the response was later coded as sexual offenses. Also, a follow-up question asked, "Any attack or threat or use of force by anyone at all? Please mention it even if you are not certain it was a crime." Even if the respondents were unsure about the victimization, they were asked to describe the incident. If their response was applicable to sexual offenses, it was coded as rape or attempted rape.

To reach consistency in both countries, rape and rape attempt are merged into one variable, which later collapsed into the sexual victimization variable. Regarding sexual assault, all KCVS questionnaires asked, "Have you experienced mild or severe sexual assault?" Even though KCVS distinguished the severity of sexual assault, it was not the case for the NCVS. This allowed to merge two kinds of sexual assault and create a single category. Rape, rape attempt, and sexual assault were then operationalized to be defined as sexual victimization and coded as a dichotomy (0=not sexually victimized; 1=sexually victimized).

The first independent continuous variable in the initial phase is the age of respondents. As Koreans used to adopt their distinctive way of counting ages, assuming an individual is one year old when they are born and age as the year changes, there were discrepancies of one or two years

within the ages of NCVS respondents. All KCVS datasets presumed the ages of individuals in the Korean age system, so the ages were recalculated using the following equation: *(Year of Survey) – (Year of Birth) = Age of Respondents*. Aside from new measurements, the age of respondents in NCVS ranged from 12 and above. Therefore, all the respondents who did not fall under 13 to 18 years old were deleted to match the recalculated age range in the South Korea dataset.

Next, the independent variable is the family structure of respondents, which each country has a different categorization of measurement. All KCVS datasets were asked to identify whether the respondents are living with certain individuals (e.g., mother, father, siblings, etc.). On the other hand, the NCVS asked for the actual structure of the family, without additional information about the relationship to the respondents. Family structure was coded as the combination of *married/lone + male/female reference person + male/female partner + children/relative(s)/non-relative(s)*, which resulted 32 kinds of different family structures. To make such various combinations of labels consistent with the KCVS, family structure has been recoded as follows: (i) living with both parents, (ii) living with a single parent, and (iii) living with neither parent. In this research, parent has been operationalized to include both natural and non-related parents. Regarding NCVS, living with both parents consisted of family combinations that include married reference persons, partners, and children. In this sense, labels that involve lone reference person and children are renamed as living with a single parent, and the residues were automatically referred to as living with neither parent.

Incident Measurements

The second phase of this study examines incident characteristics, which include victim (self-protection) and offender (age, number, relationship to victim) features. It focuses on whether incident characteristics are observed as similar or different between two countries. In this sense, the independent variable is the country of victims, which is coded as a dichotomy (0=South Korea; 1=United States).

For self-protection, every KCVS dataset asked the victims to select either single or multiple actions done in the scene (e.g., yelling to get help from others, persuading the offender(s) to quit, fleeing the scene, etc.). Though the definition of the self-protection variable in the NCVS was similar to that of the KCVS, the categories were not identical. Stemming from the classification discussed by Bachman et al. (2002), self-protection has been recoded into three categories: physical, non-physical only, and none. In particular, physical self-protection touches on physical interaction between the victim and the offender. Non-physical is defined as any protective actions not involving a direct physical relationship with the offender.

Regarding the offender characteristics, the first measurement is the age of the offender. In terms of multiple offenders' ages, the oldest was used in the analyses. Both the KCVS and the NCVS consist of questionnaires asking whether the offense involved single or multiple offenders. Still, the two datasets were inconsistent when measuring the age range. The age of offender(s) was a nominal variable in both countries, thereby more comprehensive categorization was crucial to address the different sets of ages. It was then recoded as <20, 20 – 29, and 30 and above, but inconsistencies still existed since the NCVS listed age 18 – 20 in a single category. Due to the

overlapping age range in the recoded category, the 20 – 29 category incorporated 18 – 20 in the NCVS.

Moreover, number of offenders is one of the characteristics recognized in both countries. Both the KCVS and the NCVS asked the respondents about the number of offenders. As the number of offenders was coded differently between the KCVS and the NCVS, it has been remeasured as single or multiple.

Lastly, offender relationship to victims have been divided based on the number of offenders that the victimization involved. Every KCVS dataset asked the victims to select their relationship to the offender(s), which was inconsistent compared to the United States. Specifically, the NCVS had a more detailed grouping of relationship, including more than 10 categories. However, in this research, the victim-offender relationship is merged into five categories to become consistent with the KCVS. Based on the new codification, multiple offender relationships were also filtered out to apply the single most intimate relationship to the victim, indicating the most intimate to least intimate in such sequence: i) family, ii) relatives, iii) friend or (ex) boyfriend/spouse, iv) acquaintance, and v) stranger.

Results

Individual Risk Factor Analysis

The first phase of this research examines the relationship between the characteristics of respondents (age, family structure, and country) and sexual victimization in each country. As preliminary analyses, descriptive statistics and crosstabulations are used to find the basic information about the independent variables as well as whether there is a statistical association between independent and dependent variables. To do a multivariate analysis, the regression model is implemented to analyze whether the characteristics of respondents could become meaningful predictors for sexual victimization in both countries.

Descriptive Statistics

For the first phase, the descriptive statistics are presented by showing the percentages of each independent variable in the total sample (n=9,378). Regarding age, the sample in the United States has more 18-year-olds, while the Korean sample has more 14 to 17-year-olds. The statistics of family structure show that most of the respondents in South Korea (87%) and almost half of the respondents in the United States live with both of their parents (48%). The merged dataset consisting of both countries also reveals that more than the majority of the respondents live with their parents (81.4%) and less portion living with single (14.3%) or neither parent (4.3%). Thus, Korean families are much more likely to be intact than American families.

Table 1. Individual Risk Factor Descriptive Statistics

	Total Sample (n=9,378) %	South Korea (n=8,226) %	United States (n=1,157) %
Age			
13	9	8.1	14.8
14	18.8	19.3	16.1
15	19.9	20.4	16.7
16	23.5	24.4	17.9
17	23.7	24.9	16.3
18	5.1	2.9	18.2
Family Structure			
Living with both parents	81.4	87	48
Living with single parent	14.3	10.2	38.6
Living with neither parent	4.3	2.8	13.4
Country			
South Korea	87.7	—	—
United States	12.3	—	—

Crosstabulations

Crosstabulations depict the statistical association between independent variables (age and family structure of respondents) and dependent variables (sexual victimization). First, looking at the total victimization rate, it suggests that 2.3% of Korean girls and 16.8% of American girls have been sexually victimized. When two countries are combined, the total victimization rate is 4.1%. Hence, girls in the United States have a higher victimization rate compared to the ones in South Korea.

Table 2 shows that individuals whose ages are 18 have the highest percentages of sexual victimization in both South Korea and the United States. The analytical result suggests that the relationship between age and sexual victimization is statistically significant at the $p<.05$ level in South Korea ($\chi^2=11.313$, $df=5$, $p=.046$). Additionally, the findings show statistically significant

associations in the United States (χ^2=31.257, *df*=5, *p*=.000) and both nations (χ^2=129.968, *df*=5, *p*=.000) at the *p*<.001 level. This highlights that individuals in both South Korea and the United States are most vulnerable to sexual victimization when they are 18 years old. Also, the risk increases as they age from 13 to 17.

Table 2. Crosstabulation of Sexual Victimization by Age of Respondents

Country	Sexual Victimization	Age of Respondents						
		13	14	15	16	17	18	Total
South Korea	Yes	6 0.9%	35 2.2%	38 2.3%	47 2.3%	51 2.5%	11 4.5%	188 **2.3%**
	No	648 99.1%	1,548 97.8%	1,642 97.7%	1,962 97.7%	2,000 97.5%	233 95.5%	8,033 97.7%
United States	Yes	11 5.7%	22 12.1%	38 20.4%	40 20.6%	28 16.7%	55 23.5%	194 **16.8%**
	No	182 94.3%	160 87.9%	148 79.6%	154 79.4%	140 83.3%	179 76.5%	963 83.2%
Both Nations	Yes	17 2%	57 3.2%	76 4.1%	87 3.9%	79 3.6%	66 13.8%	382 **4.1%**
	No	830 98%	1,708 96.8%	1,790 95.9%	2,116 96.1%	2,140 96.4%	412 86.2%	8,996 95.9%

Note. A chi-square test was used to determine if a significant relationship exist between the two variables. South Korea is significant at the *p*<.05 level. The United States and both nations are significant at the *p*<.001 level.

Crosstabulation between sexual victimization and the family structure of respondents is presented in Table 3. For every country, including the merged sample, individuals living with neither parent have the highest percentages of being sexually victimized. In contrast, the results also indicate that respondents living with both parents have the lowest percentages of experiencing sexual victimization. Each South Korea (χ^2=6.551, *df*=2, *p*=.038) and the United States (χ^2=9.247, *df*=2, *p*=.01) sample show a statistically significant relationship at the *p*<.05 level. Results for both

nations show a statistically significant association at the $p<.001$ level ($\chi^2=151.270$, $df=2$, $p=.000$), as well as supporting the idea that individuals who live with neither parent are most sexually vulnerable in both South Korea and the United States.

Table 3. Crosstabulation of Sexual Victimization by Family Structure of Respondents

| Country | Sexual Victimization | Family Structure of Respondents | | | |
		Living with both parents	Living with single parent	Living with neither parent	Total
South Korea	Yes	153 2.1%	25 3%	10 4.3%	188 2.3%
	No	6,989 97.9%	821 97%	223 95.7%	8,033 97.7%
United States	Yes	73 14.8%	79 16%	42 24.7%	194 16.8%
	No	420 85.2%	415 84%	128 75.3%	963 83.2%
Both Nations	Yes	226 3%	104 7.8%	52 12.9%	382 4.1%
	No	7,409 97%	1,236 92.2%	351 87.1%	8,996 95.9%

Note. A chi-square test was used to determine if a significant relationship exist between the two variables. South Korea and the United States are significant at the $p<.05$ level. Both nations were found to be significant at the $p<.001$ level.

Binary Logistic Regression

In order to discover how well the age and family structure of respondents predict sexual victimization, binary logistic regression (Table 4) is implemented in this study. The dependent concept has been coded as a dichotomous variable (0=not victimized; 1=victimized), and independent variables consisting of continuous (age of respondents) and categorical variables (family structure of respondents and country).

Table 4. Regression of Risk Factors of Sexual Victimization

Predictor	b	S.E.	OR
Both Nations			
Age	2.271**	.844	9.687
Age x Age	-.068*	.027	.935
Family Structure			
Living with single parent	.158	.14	1.171
Living with neither parent	.576**	.193	1.778
Country			
Korea	-2.09***	.127	.124
Constant	-20.586**	6.538	—
South Korea			
Age	.574	1.322	1.775
Age x Age	-.014	.043	.986
Family structure			
Living with single parent	.318	.219	1.374
Living with neither parent	.67*	.335	1.955
Constant	-9.27	10.184	—
United States			
Age	3.421**	1.104	30.601
Age x Age	-.103**	.035	.902
Family structure			
Living with single parent	.05	.179	1.051
Living with neither parent	.501*	.245	1.651
Constant	-29.77***	8.617	—

*$p<.05$; **$p<.01$; ***$p<.001$

As age remains a continuous independent variable, the logistic regression model assumes that the variable is linearly related. However, as depicted in Figure 1, the percentage of sexual victimization shows a curvilinear shape in both South Korea and the United States, concaving upward at age 18. The line graph also demonstrates that the overall percentage of sexual victimization is higher in the United States, illustrating that the lowest victimization percentage in the United States (5.7%) is greater than the highest percentage in South Korea (4.5%). Regarding

such results, age and age-squared *(*age x age*)* have been applied in the regression model to reflect the curvilinearity of the age variable in the two countries. In addition, family structure and country are sets of dummy variables; living with both parents and respondents in the United States are the reference categories in the analysis.
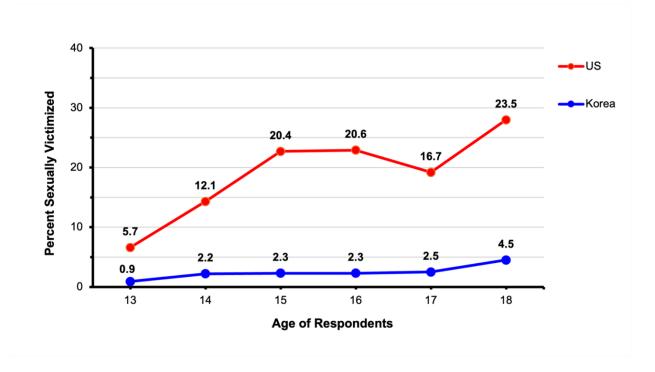

Figure 1. Line Graph of Percent Sexually Victimized by Age of Respondents

The logistic regression model described in Table 4 shows a statistically significant relationship in terms of the age of respondents only in the United States and the merged dataset. Age has a positive relationship with sexual victimization, indicating that older individuals are at the most risk of getting sexually victimized. The result of age-squared conveys that the effect of age is positive until the respondents reach a certain point, showing a negative relationship thereafter. Along with age and age-squared indicating significant p-value, the relationship between sexual victimization and respondents living with neither parent is statistically significant in both

datasets, which predicts that individuals who live with neither parent are at most risk of getting sexually victimized. Regarding the comparison of both nations, the regression model demonstrates that respondents in the United States are more likely to get sexually victimized compared to the ones in South Korea.

In sum, for both nations, individuals in the United States who are older and living with neither parent are at the highest risk of experiencing sexual victimization. When considering each country, Korean respondents living with neither parent and American respondents whose ages are older and living with neither parent are most vulnerable to sexual victimization.

Incident Analysis

The second phase of this research is more concentrated on the cross-cultural comparison of adolescent sexual victimization in South Korea and the United States. The sample consists of the victims who have been sexually victimized to discover the relationship and whether the country influences the characteristics of victims and offenders. Self-protection and the offenders' age, number, and relationship to the victims are included in chi-square statistics. If a statistically meaningful relationship is found within the crosstabulations, it conveys that the characteristics of victims and offenders show differences between the two countries.

Crosstabulations

In incident analysis, crosstabulation is implemented to discover the statistical association between the independent concept (country) and the dependent concept (victim and offender characteristics). The victim characteristic considered in this phase of research is self-protection. Victims who used only non-physical actions were prominent in South Korea, while physical self-protection was the highest among victims in the United States. The result yields a statistically significant association at the $p<.001$ level ($\chi^2=39.381$, $df=3$, $p=.000$), also showing that the two nations differ.

Table 5. Crosstabulation of Country by Self-protection of Victims

Self-protection	Country		
	South Korea	United States	Total
Physical	24 15.6%	70 36.1%	94 27%
Non-physical only	93 60.4%	56 28.9%	149 42.8%
None	37 24%	63 32.5%	100 28.7%
Other	—	5 2.6%	5 1.4%
Total	154 100%	194 100%	348 100%

Note. A chi-square test was used to determine if a significant relationship exist between the two variables. The relationship between country and self-protection of victims is found to be significant at the $p<.001$ level.

The first offender characteristic, age of offender(s), is also analyzed to find the relationship within the country. The oldest offender's age was considered in the examination for victimizations involving multiple offenders. It appears that victims in South Korea are mostly victimized by

offenders who are 30 and above. On the contrary, victims in the United States reported that they

have been mostly victimized by offenders age from 20 to 29, which also exclusively includes

offenders age from 18 to 19 due to inconsistent variable categorization within South Korea. The

chi-square result suggests that two independent and dependent concepts are significant at the

$p<.001$ level ($\chi^2=76.389$, $df=2$, $p=.000$), which demonstrates that the two nations are different in

their age of offender(s).

Table 6. Crosstabulation of Country by Age of Offender(s)

	Country		
Age	South Korea	United States	Total
<20	39 32.8%	51 29.8%	90 31%
20 – 29	16 13.4%	99 57.9%	115 39.7%
30 and above	64 53.8%	21 12.3%	85 29.3%
Total	119 100%	171 100%	290 100%

Note. A chi-square test was used to determine if a significant relationship exist between the
two variables. The relationship between country and age of offender(s) is found to be
significant at the *p<*.001 level.

Table 7 presents a crosstabulation of the country by the number of offenders. As single

offender composes most of the victimization cases, there was not much of a national difference

when it comes to how many offenders were involved during the incident. Both South Korea and

the United States were similar, showing the highest percentages of single offender as well as no

statistically significant relationship between country and age of offender(s) ($\chi^2=.063$, $df=1$, $p=.802$).

Thus, it is concluded that the two countries are alike regarding their number of offenders.

Table 7. Crosstabulation of Country by Number of Offenders

Number	Country		
	South Korea	United States	Total
Single	120 90.2%	168 89.4%	288 89.7%
Multiple	13 9.8%	20 10.6%	33 10.3%
Total	133 100%	188 100%	321 100%

Note. A chi-square test was used to determine if a significant relationship exist between the two variables. No significant relationship is found between the country and the number of offenders.

Crosstabulations for offender relationship to victims have been divided into two sections: single and multiple offenders. For the cases that fall into multiple offenders, the categories have been collapsed to represent the most intimate relationship to the victim. Family and relatives have been excluded from the multiple offender relationship analyses, implying that offenders in kinship groups perpetrate as solo offenders in both countries.

Regarding the single offender relationship, stranger has the highest frequency in South Korea, while it is friend or (ex) boyfriend/spouse in the United States. The chi-square test yields a statistically significant relationship at the $p<.001$ level ($\chi^2=73.998$, $df=4$, $p=.000$). This adds to the notion that South Korea and the United States depict different images when considering single offender relationships.

In terms of multiple offender relationships, it appears to have a smaller sample size (n=29), which could possibly affect the sensitivity of the chi-square result. Results indicate strangers are also prominent in South Korea in multiple offender relationship, but a higher portion for acquaintances in the United States. There is no statistically significant association ($\chi^2=4.516$, $df=2$, $p=.105$), and both nations do not show remarkable differences in multiple offender relationship.

Table 8. Crosstabulation of Country by Relationship to Offender

Relationship	Country		
Single	South Korea	United States	Total
Family	4 3.4%	5 3.2%	9 3.3%
Relative	3 2.5%	6 3.9%	9 3.3%
Friend or (ex) boyfriend/spouse	17 14.3%	87 56.5%	104 36.1%
Acquaintance	20 16.8%	32 20.8%	52 19%
Stranger	75 63%	24 15.6%	99 36.3%
Total	119 100%	154 100%	273 100%
Multiple			
Friend or (ex) boyfriend /spouse	4 30.8%	6 37.5%	10 34.5%
Acquaintance	2 15.4%	7 43.8%	9 31%
Stranger	7 53.8%	3 18.8%	10 34.5%
Total	13 100%	16 100%	29 100%

Note. A chi-square test was used to determine if a significant relationship exist between the two variables. The relationship between country and single offender relationship is found to be significant at the $p<.001$ level. No significant relationship is found between country and multiple offender relationship.

Discussion

In this research, the aim was to discover the similarities and differences between South Korea and the United States in terms of adolescent sexual victimization. It is motivated by the research question of how each individual's demographic information and victim/offender characteristics influence their risk of sexual victimization and to what extent such outcome differs by country. The associated hypotheses have been tested based on the merged and separated versions of KCVS and NCVS datasets and variables of individual (age, family structure, and country) and victim/offender features (self-protection, age of offender, number of offenders, victim-offender relationship) were considered. Overall, the findings revealed statistically significant relationships between independent and dependent variables: Both American and Korean girls living with neither parent are at the most risk of sexual victimization. American girls who are older and living with neither parent are at greater risk of sexual victimization than in South Korea. Significant differences were observed in most cases regarding victim/offender characteristics. First, American girls are more likely to use physical resistance during the incident than Korean girls. Second, the offender tends to be older in South Korea than in the United States. Lastly, American girls are more victimized by dates and boyfriends than Korean girls.

First of all, the higher sexual victimization of American female adolescents (16.8%) compared to Korean adolescents (2.3%) could be explained by the fact that the United States has higher rates of violence generally. Based on the reported crime incidents in South Korea and the United States, the United States has a crime index of 49.3, whereas South Korea is 24.9 (Numbeo 2024), indicating that the United States has overall higher crime rates than South Korea. Nevertheless, this brings about the question of whether sexual violence exclusively has a higher

victimization rate than other types of misconduct. When comparing adolescents' physical violence victimization rate, South Korea was 7.2% (Hong 2008), while the United States was 17.4% (U.S. Department of Justice 2003). This shows that the type of misconduct does not matter, but the violence itself is more prevalent in the United States.

Another possible explanation for the higher sexual victimization in the United States can be the difference in survey methods. Even though this research mainly focused on consistent cross-national comparison, the survey questions differed in each country. In the United States, the survey asked about specific *behaviors*, and the interviewer coded the incident based on the case description of the interviewee. NCVS was taken twice a year, asking if the victimization happened within six months. However, in South Korea, the respondents were asked about actual *incidents*: "rape," "rape attempt," and "sexual assault." The survey was taken once a year, asking if the victimization happened within one year. As the respondents self-report the specific sex offenses in South Korea, there could be cases where the individuals do not even recognize whether they have been victimized or not. Also, KCVS uses survey questions asking longer reference periods with less frequency than the United States. This could reduce the validity of the information as well as contribute to fewer reports of sexual victimization than in the United States. Thus, the differences in survey questions and time frame could yield greater differences in the sexual victimization rate between the two countries.

Regarding the hypothesis, the findings failed to support hypothesis **(a)**: individuals at age 14-16 are at the most risk of getting sexually victimized in both countries. The regression model suggested that the effect of age was statistically related to female adolescents only in the United States. Older girls in the United States are at the most risk of sexual victimization, showing that the percentage of victimization strikes upward when girls reach 18. This phenomenon could be

explained through the Routine Activities Theory, indicating that the absence of a guardian creates the opportunity for adolescents to be at higher risk of sexual victimization. Compared to the 18-year-old Korean girl, American girls are more likely to live alone and move out of the house when they turn 18. Without the presence of a capable guardian and being a sexually attractive target, they are more likely to be victimized by the offender. However, unless the adolescents move out to attend colleges outside of their hometown, it is unlikely for Korean girls to live alone. As parental protection is emphasized in South Korea, even when adolescents reach adulthood, older adolescents live with their parents, and this lessens the likelihood of being sexually victimized.

The results support the hypothesis **(b)**: individuals who are in non-intact families are at the most risk of getting sexually victimized in both countries. The regression model indicated that family structure is a significant risk factor for both nations, highlighting that individuals living with neither parent are at the most risk. It is consistent with the findings from the literature, which emphasized that adolescents living with non-intact families increase the risk of sexual victimization. Such an outcome could also be explained through the Routine Activities Theory, as living with neither parent implies the absence of a capable guardian. For both South Korea and the United States, the parent figure plays a significant role as a protective factor for reducing the risk of sexual victimization. Consequently, adolescents who live without single or both parents have a higher likelihood of being victimized.

Moving on to the incident analysis, hypothesis **(c)** is supported: victims in the United States more actively resist during the incident than victims in South Korea. The crosstabulation presents that more than half (60.4%) of Korean victims use non-physical self-protection, while victims in the United States utilize physical resistance. Such findings can be explained based on the cultural assumptions suggested in the literature review. In comparison to American girls, Korean girls are

likely to have less practical knowledge of self-protection due to a lack of sex education. 24% of female adolescents reported that they do not know the strategy to protect themselves, which makes them escape the scene instead of fighting against the offender (Korea Ministry of Gender Equality and Family 2019). However, in the United States, teaching self-protection against violence started at home and preschool to high school, which is referred to as the Primary Prevention Program (U.S. Department of Justice 2008). Thus, it is likely that due to the difference in sex education, Korean victims resist as much, but they do not use violent resistance as much as the American victims.

Hypothesis **(d)**, for the ones who have been victimized, offender(s) are in their 10s – 20s in both countries, is partially supported. The result showed that more than half of the offenders in the United States are around 20 – 29. Such a finding is consistent with the literature. Stemming from the Routine Activities Theory, it is also likely that young male offenders have more access to young victims compared to older offenders. In addition, it is quite often in the United States that adolescent girls date men who are in their 20s. Since American girls are likely to have more frequent contact with young men in their 20s as dating partners, it increases their likelihood of getting sexually victimized.

On the other hand, the offender in the Korean datasets were most likely age 30 and above. This refutes the literature review, as most of the studies suggested that female adolescents are sexually victimized by young males in both countries. The discrepancies could be explained through the way the variable is coded; for the multiple offenders, the age of the oldest was taken into account. Also, the age range is not only inconsistent but also too broad. In this sense, it is likely that offender(s) in South Korea are not as old as the result suggested. Offenders who are in their 30s are in the same category as the ones who are in their 60s.

Next, hypothesis **(e)** is supported: for the ones who have been victimized, the offender commits the crime alone rather than involving multiple participants in both countries. The findings indicate that both South Korea and the United States do not show statistically meaningful differences, implying that the two countries show similarities in having single offender taking up most of the sexual victimizations. The crosstabulation results show that 90.2% of Korean and 89.4% of American victims are victimized by single offenders. This is consistent with the prior studies that suggest single offenders are most prominent in adolescent sexual offenses.

Lastly, hypothesis **(f)**, offender(s) are acquaintances in both countries, and more likely to be intimate partners in the United States, is supported. In the United States, more than half (56.5%) of female adolescents have been victimized by friend or (ex) boyfriend/spouse, and this finding is consistent with the previous studies that stated American girls are more likely to be victimized by their intimate partners. In addition, American girls date more frequently in their adolescence, and their dating partners are often in their 20s. This places a greater likelihood of getting sexually victimized by boyfriend and dating partners. It is likely that if age and relationship are controlled, there may not have been much victimization.

However, contrary to previous research, Korean girls are most likely to be victimized by strangers (63%). It also refutes the literature suggesting that Korean girls are more likely to be victimized by acquaintances. One of the possible explanations could be the different format of survey questions and Korean girls having less awareness of being victimized by acquaintances. Han, Jung, and Cho (2020) discovered that Korean male offenders who already know the children or adolescents implement sexual grooming. Korean girls face frequent and long-term sexual abuse as they are often groomed by the offenders. They are both physically and emotionally manipulated, without even realizing that they are actually being sexually abused. Incorporating this notion with

the survey method, it is likely that Korean girls would report more sexual offenses done by strangers because they often believe that only strangers commit sexual crimes. In other words, for Korean girls, "rape" and "sexual assault" could be the offenses that strangers commit against them. Thus, they have less awareness of whether they have been victimized by their known person and are likely to end up not reporting the victimization during the survey.

Conclusion

The current study extends the examination of sexual victimization in adolescence to international perspectives. Implementing victimization surveys from South Korea and the United States and making comparisons through quantitative techniques yield findings that are not prevalent in the existing literature.

The results show that adolescents in the United States are at higher risk of sexual victimization compared to the ones in South Korea. Also, adolescent girls living with neither parent are at the highest risk of getting sexually victimized in both countries. One of the possible explanations is that the absence of a guardian increases the opportunity for sexual victimization. Moreover, only in the United States, older girls are more likely to experience sexual victimization. Frequent dating experiences and dating with older individuals are likely to be risk factors for girls in the United States.

For the incident analysis, self-protection, age of offender, number of offenders, and victim-offender relationship are examined. American girls use more physical resistance than Korean girls. This could be because Korean girls are more likely to follow traditional viewpoints as well as receive sex education that does not cover much of self-protection strategies. Additionally, American girls are sexually victimized by younger offenders. Frequently dating men who are in their 20s could put American girls at more risk than Korean girls. Next, single offenders commit most of the sexual crimes in both countries. This is consistent with the findings from the literature that single offender takes up most of the adolescent sexual victimization. Lastly, offenders in the United States are more likely to be intimate partners than the ones in South Korea. Such findings could also be explained by the fact that American girls date more during adolescence. Based on

the insights that two different countries pose both similarities and differences in terms of their adolescent sexual victimization, further research could provide a better understanding of the comparison of different natures of violence in diverse cultural backgrounds.

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