



Disclosure of sexual violence among girls aged 13-24 years: Results from national surveys in Nigeria and Malawi

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Prevalence of sexual violence



- ❑ Sexual violence prevalence and disclosure range from country to country
 - 4% among girls in Cambodia to 38% among girls in Swaziland

Health service utilization



- <10% of sexual violence survivors received health services
- Disclosure is important for recovery, social support, and medical intervention

Objective

- Assess rates of disclosure and factors associated with nondisclosure of sexual violence among girls in Nigeria and Malawi

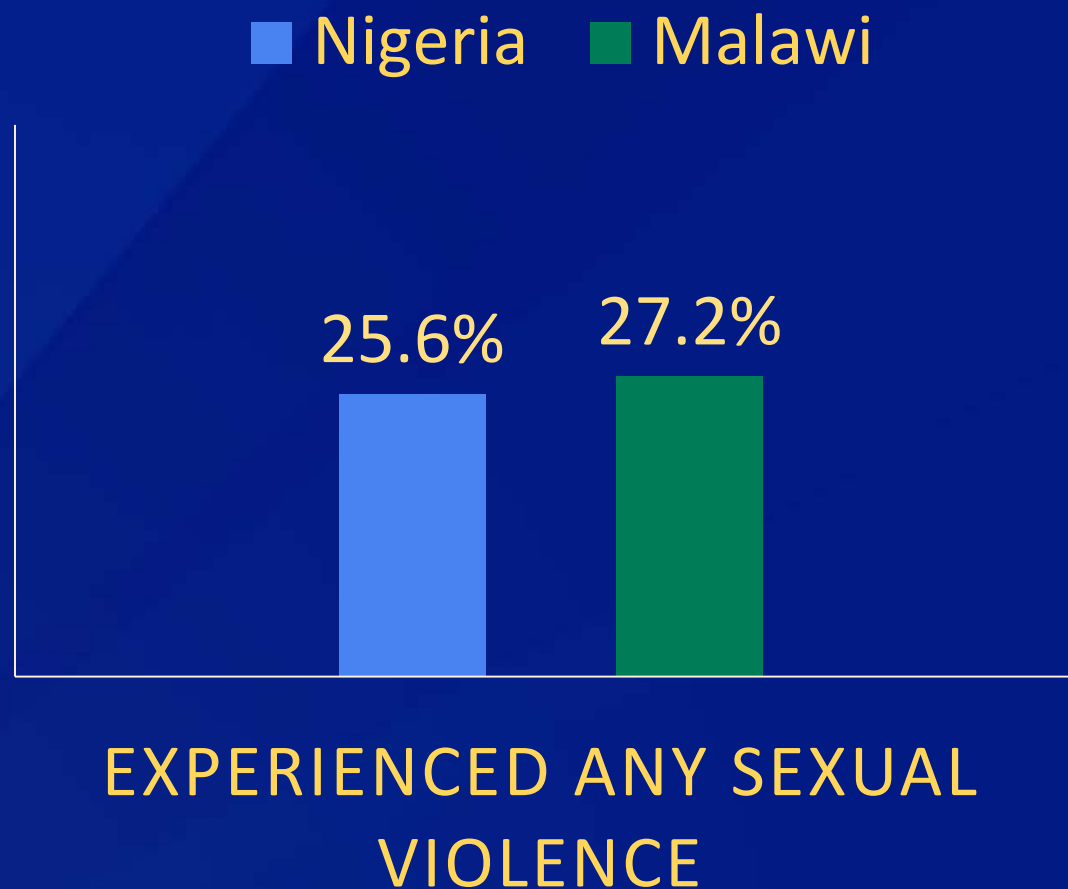


Violence Against Children

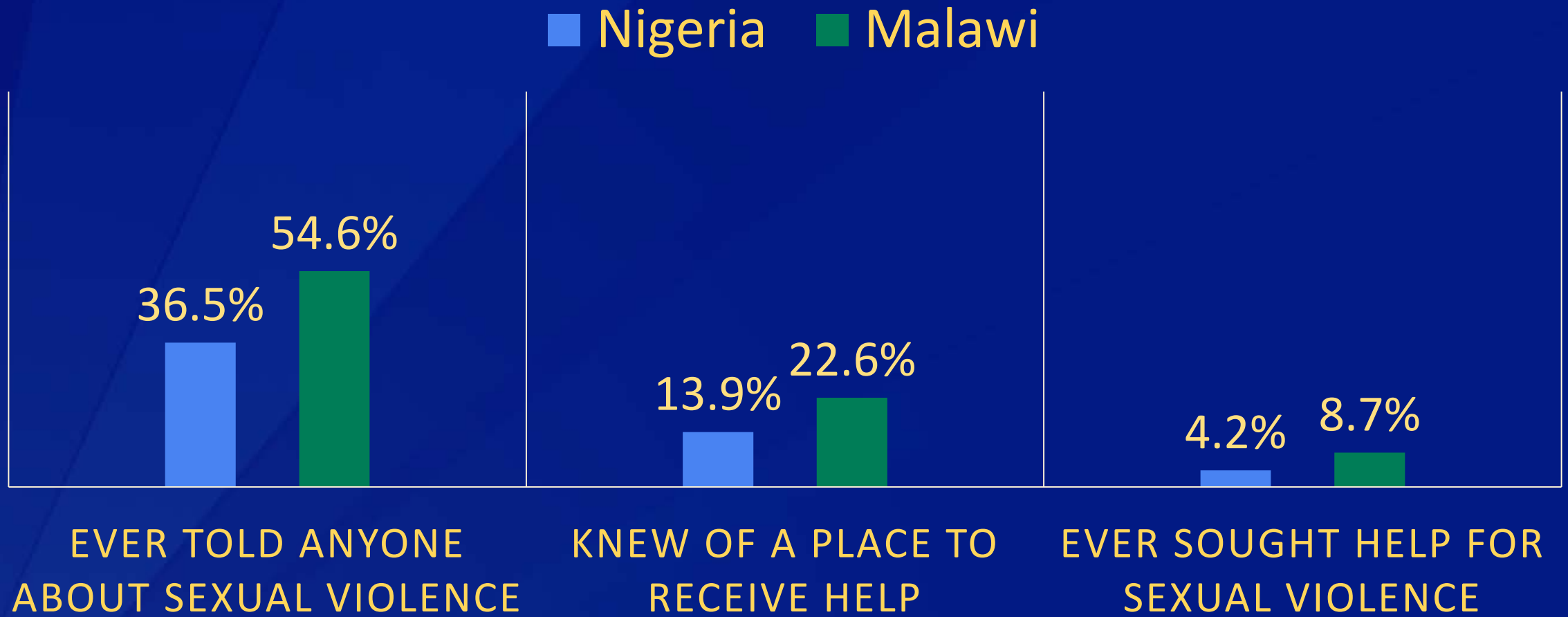
- ❑ Multistage, cluster household surveys
- ❑ Nationally representative
- ❑ Face to face interviews were conducted with youth age 13-24
- ❑ **Nigeria**
 - 1,766 girls
 - Response rate: 93.7%
- ❑ **Malawi**
 - 1,029 girls
 - Response rate: 84.4%



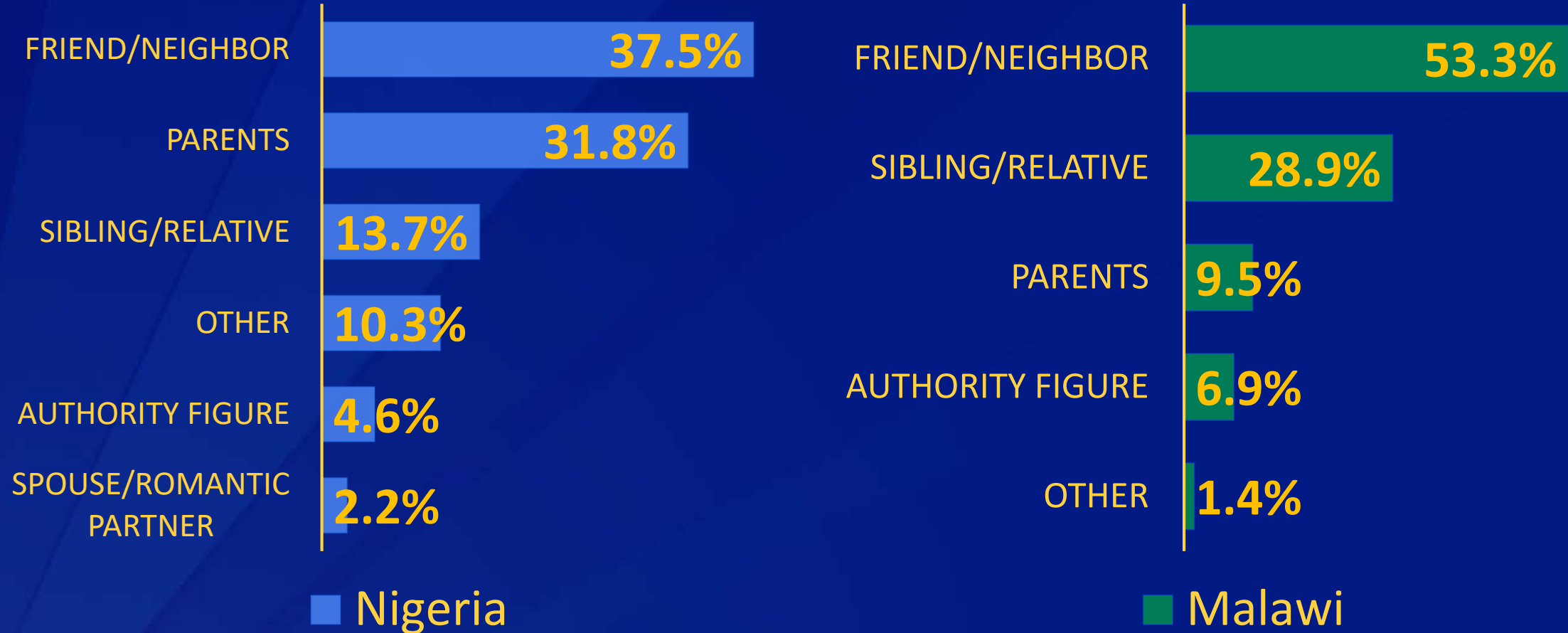
Prevalence of sexual violence among girls 13-24 in Nigeria and Malawi, Violence Against Children Surveys



Disclosure and help seeking behaviors among female victims of sexual violence



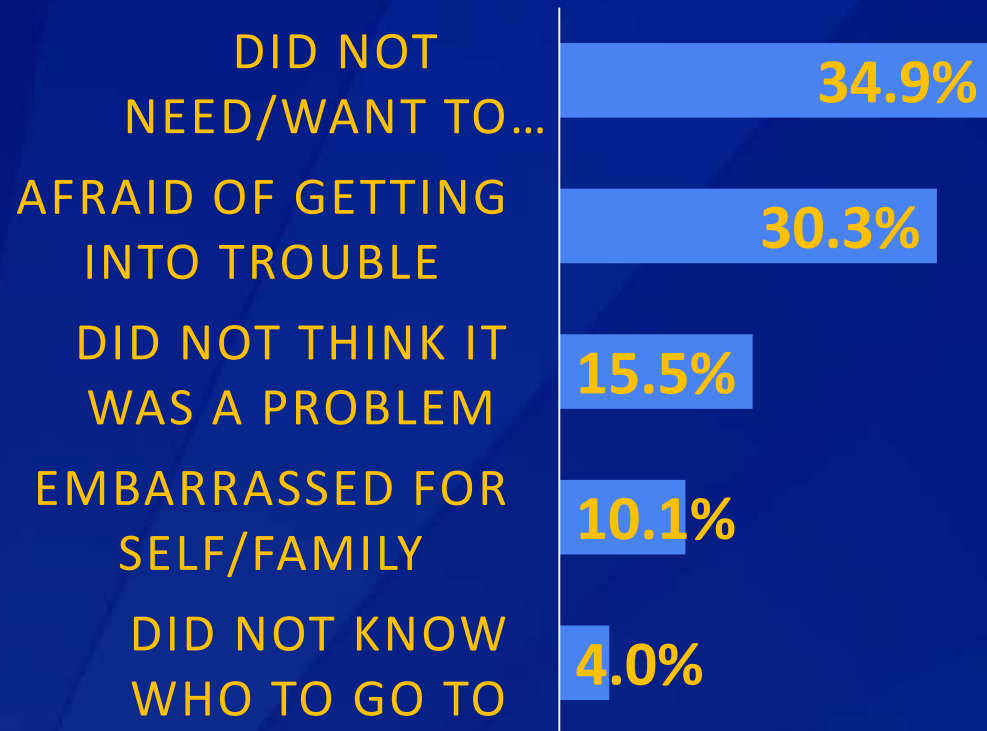
Person told about sexual violence*



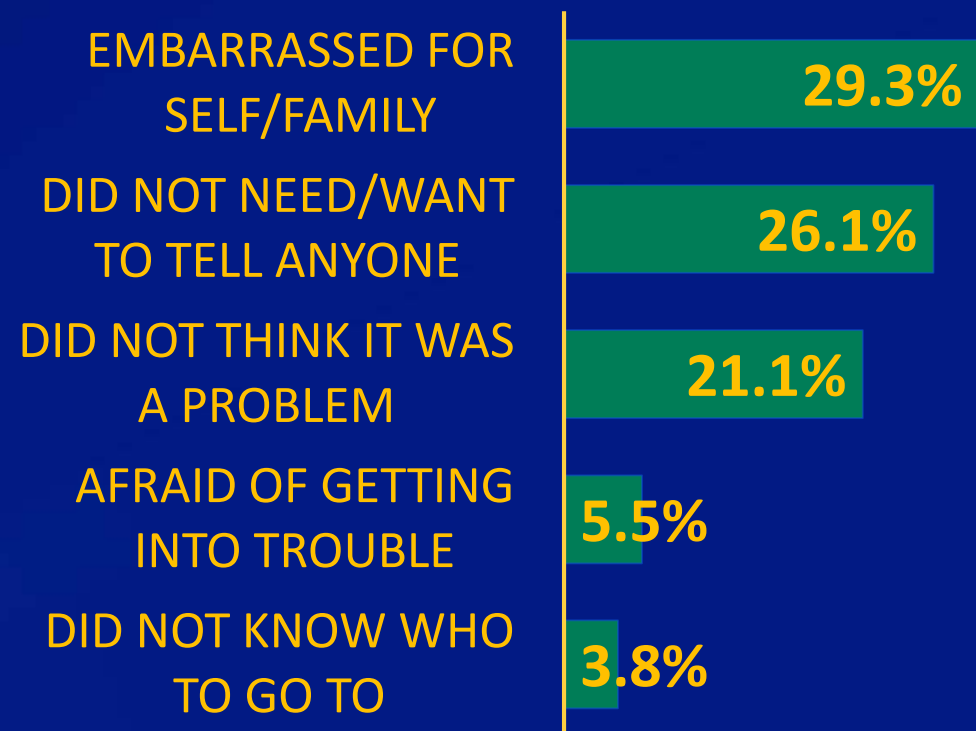
*Among girls ages 13-24 who disclosed to someone about sexual violence

Top five reasons for non-disclosure of sexual violence*

NIGERIA

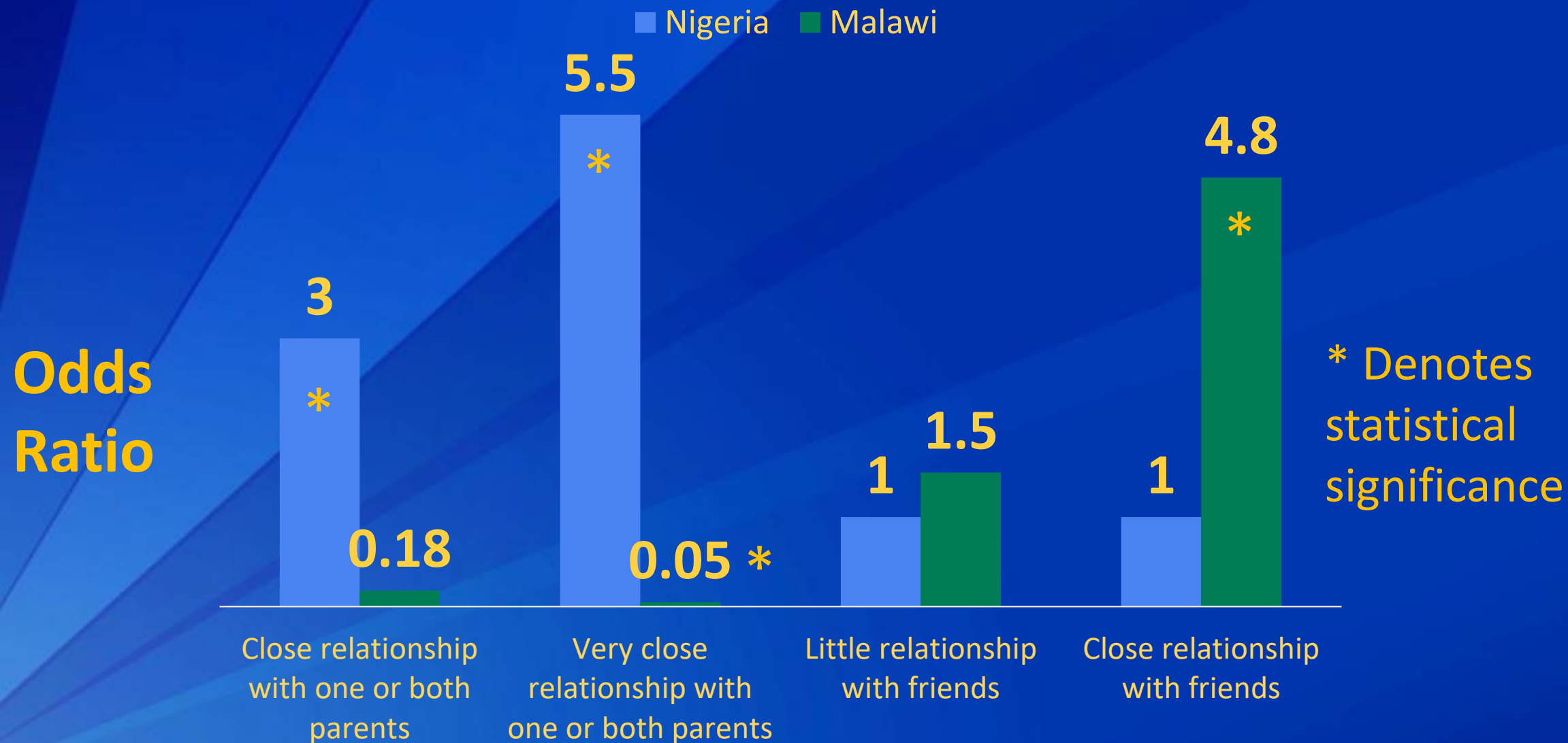


Malawi



*Among girls ages 13-24 who did not disclose to someone about sexual violence

Factors associated with disclosure



Discussion

- Over a quarter of girls experience sexual violence in Nigeria (25.6%) and Malawi (27.2%)
- Fewer than 5% and 10% of female survivors of sexual violence in Nigeria and Malawi sought help
- Knowledge of where to get help was low (14% in Nigeria and 23% in Malawi)
- Common reasons for non-disclosure
 - Feelings of embarrassment or shame (Malawi: 29.3%, Nigeria: 10.1%)
 - Fear of getting in trouble (Nigeria: 30.3%, Malawi: 5.5%)



Discussion



Nigeria

- Girls were significantly more likely to tell their parents (31.8%) than girls in Malawi (9.5%).
- Girls with close or very close relationships with their parents were significantly more likely to disclose.

Malawi

- Girls were more likely to tell a friend or neighbor (53.3%) or a sibling or relative (28.9%) than a parent (9.5%).
- Girls with very close relationships with their parents were less likely to disclose.

Conclusions



- Social support contributes to disclosure rates of sexual violence among girls in Nigeria and Malawi
- Need to reduce barriers to disclosure to improve the recovery process for survivors and reduce re-victimization and psychological distress.
- Ending the cycle of violence against children involves a collective effort to change cultural norms and develop strategies to respond to the needs of victims.



Thank you

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The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.