Sext dissemination: A systematic review and research agenda

Panel

Image-based sexual abuse: Observations and new trends

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Outline

- Project background
- Systematic review
  - Methodology
  - Results
- Future steps and new directions
  - Survey study
  - Overarching model(s)

Project background

PhD Study, entitled:

*Predicting and explaining non-consensual dissemination of sexts**
Risk and protective factors among adolescents and emerging adults

*non-consensual dissemination of sexts = NCDS

NCDS: risk and protective factors among adolescents and emerging adults

- Start of 2nd PhD year
  - No empirical data yet
  - Preparing quantitative survey research

NCDS: risk and protective factors among adolescents and emerging adults

- Non-consensual dissemination of sexts
  - Form of non-consensual dissemination of intimate images (NCII)
    - Images obtained through other means, e.g. hacking, voyeurism
    - Images obtained through the depicted person, i.e. sexting
      - Most common?
      - Young people
- Risk and protective factors
  - Different categories, e.g. sociodemographics, contextual factors, personality, sexuality, sexting, …
  - Victimisation and perpetration
    - single vs. multiple victim
    - primary vs. secondary perpetrator
    - first time offender vs. recidivist

NCDS: risk and protective factors among adolescents and emerging adults

- Quantitative research
  - RQ1: *Which are static and dynamic risk and protective factors for perpetration of NCDS?*
  - RQ2: *Which are static and dynamic risk and protective factors for victimisation of NCDS?*
- Survey
  - 1,500 respondents
  - Living in the Flemish part of Belgium, Dutch speaking, aged 14 to 25
- Systematic review
  - Identified, associated factors
  - Further exploration

Systematic review

Identified risk and protective factors of victimisation and perpetration of NCDS

Methodology

- 15 November 2022 – 5 January 2023 (3 February 2023)
- Databases

Databases
Google Scholar
Limo (KU Leuven)
Scopus
Web of Science
PubMed

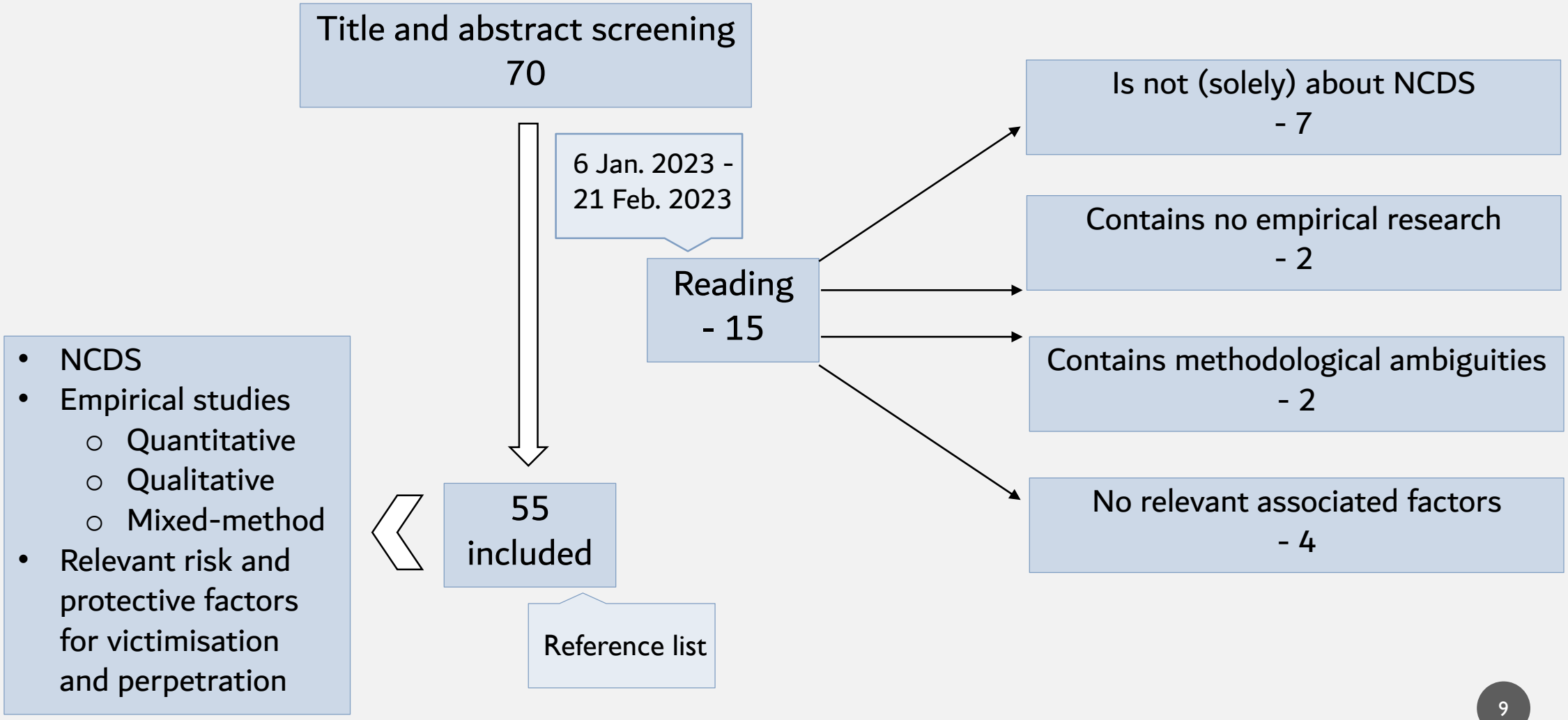
Search terms

Search term 1
“Non-consensual dissemination of sexts”
“Sext dissemination”
“Sext sharing”
“Secondary sexting”
“Nonconsensual sexting”
“Shame sexting”

AND

Search term 2
“predictors”
“correlates”
“associations”
“factors”

Methodology



Results

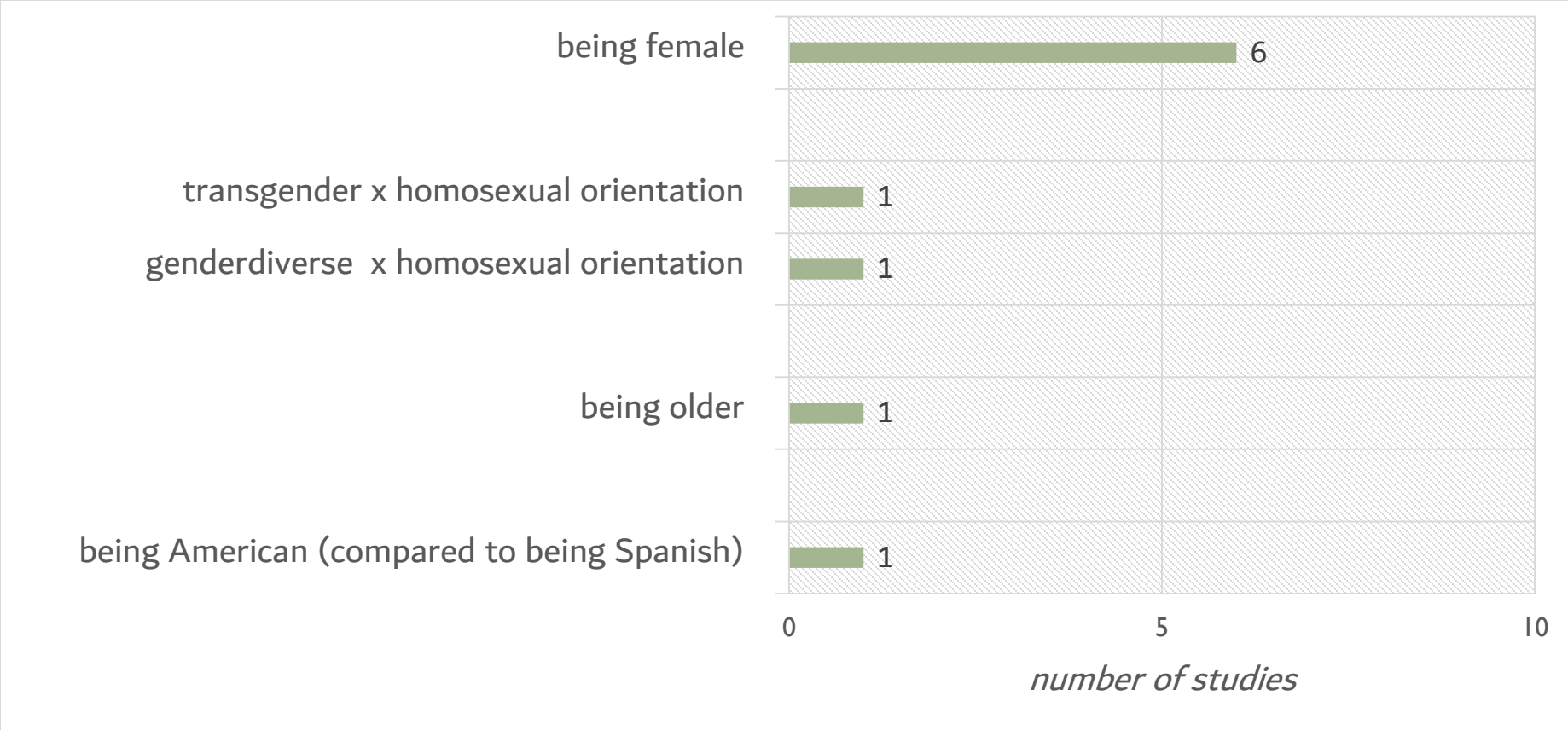
- 9 broad themes

1. Sociodemographic factors
2. Background factors
3. Contextual factors
4. Personality factors
5. Sexuality
6. Social media use
7. Sexting activity
8. Factors related to NCDS
9. Victimisation and perpetration history

➢ different risk and protective factors for victimisation and perpetration of NCDS

Risk factors of victimisation of NCDS

1. Sociodemographic risk factors:



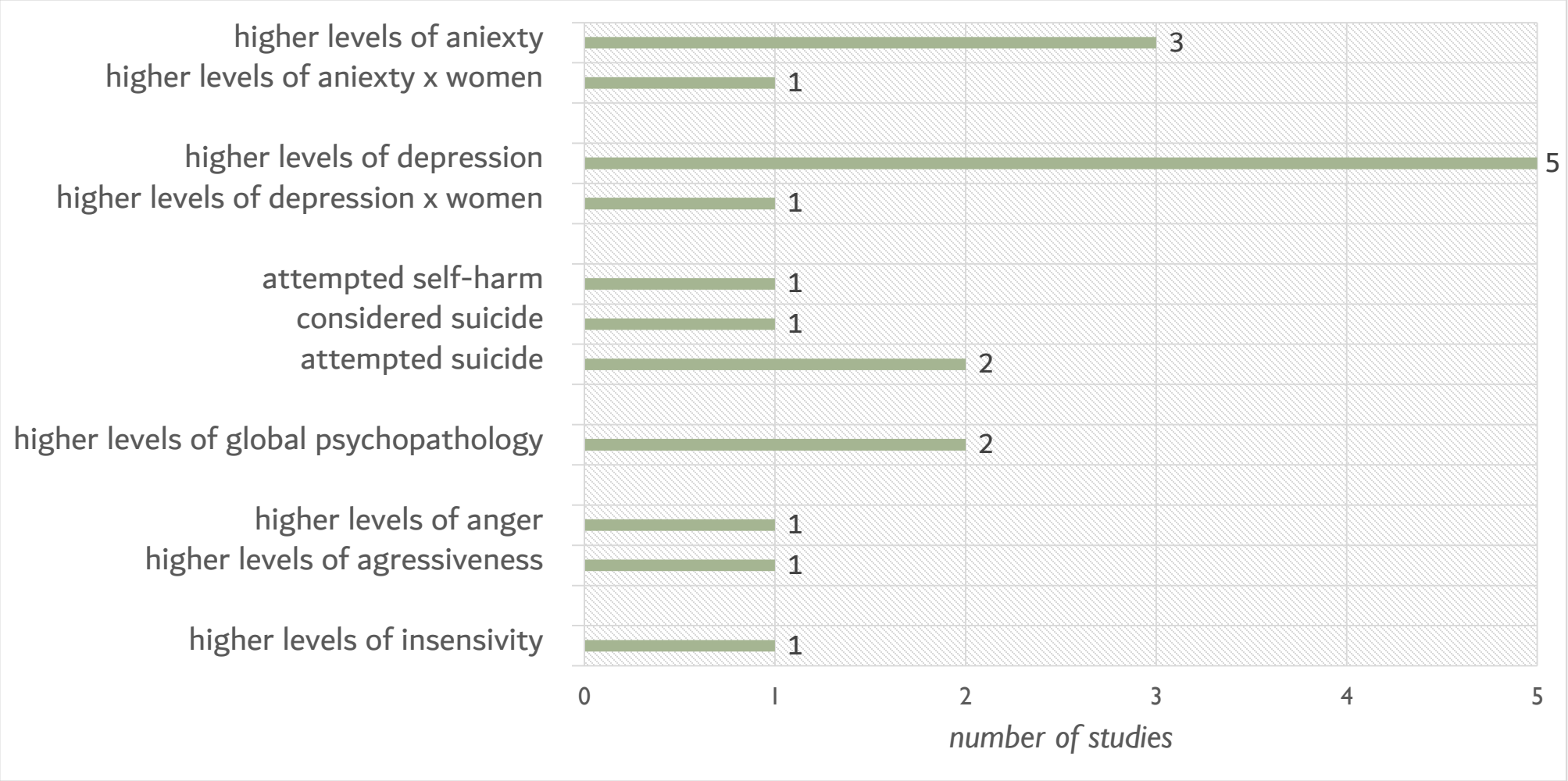
2. Background risk factors:

- Child of single parent family (1 study)
- Feeling unsafe in living area (1 study)

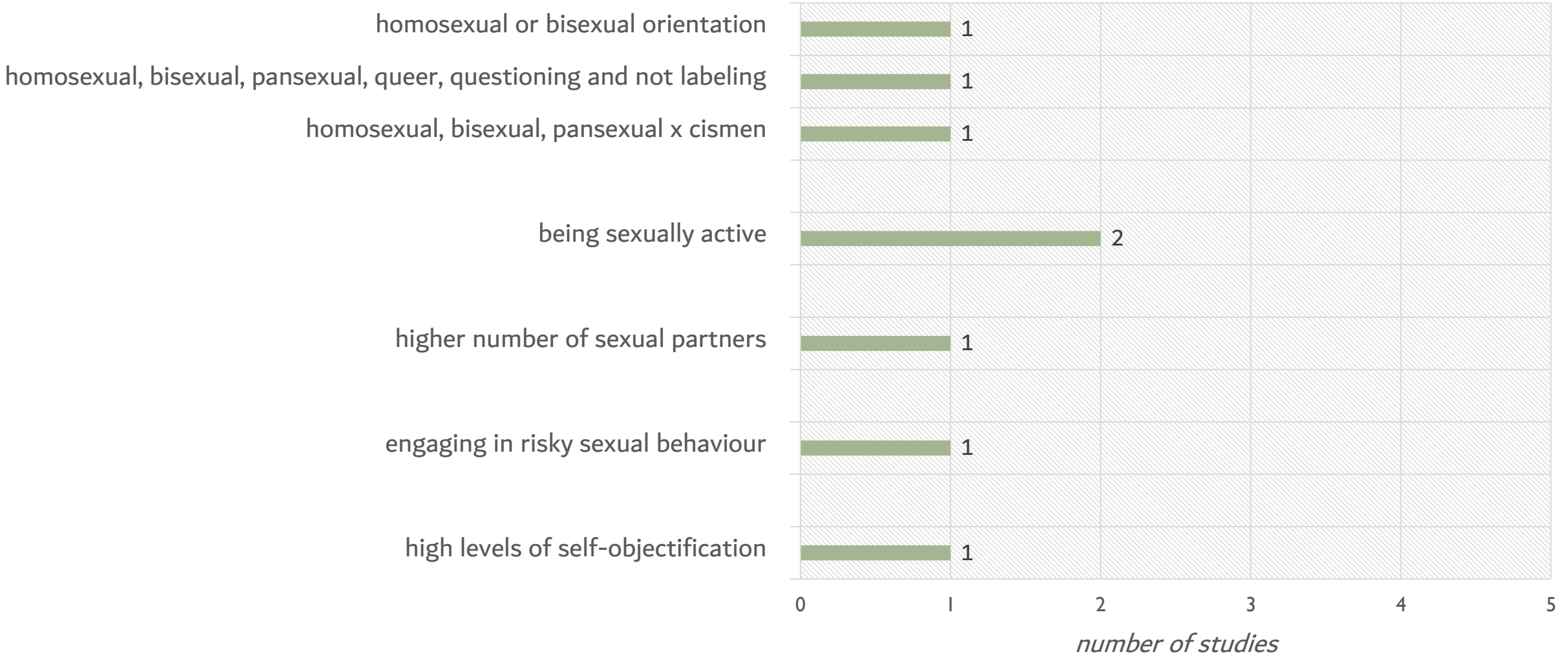
3. Contextual risk factors:

- Childhood history of emotional neglect (1 study)
- Childhood history of physical neglect (1 study)
- Lots of conflicts within relationships (1 study)
- Lots of passion and conflicts within relationships (1 study)

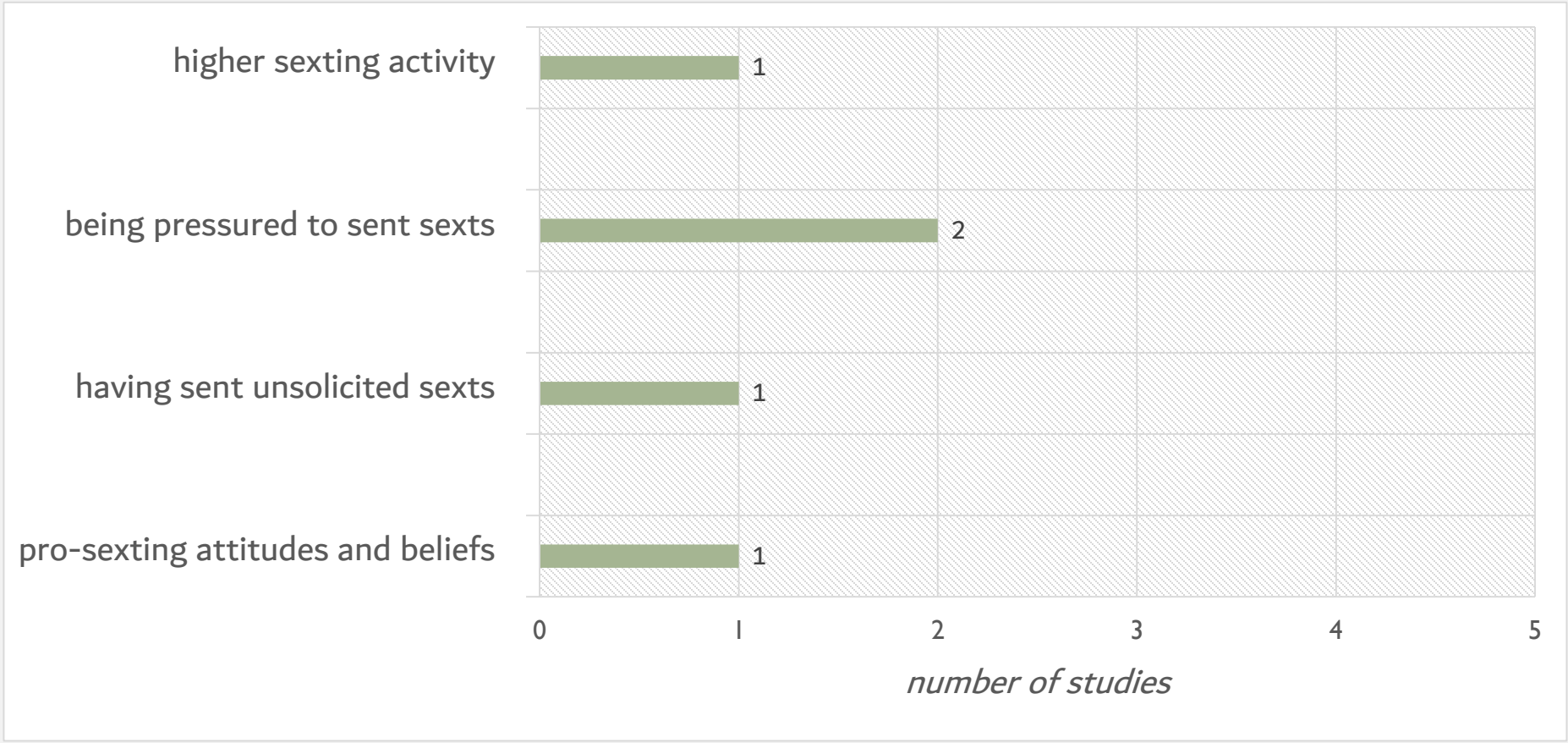
4. Personal risk factors:



5. Sexual risk factors:

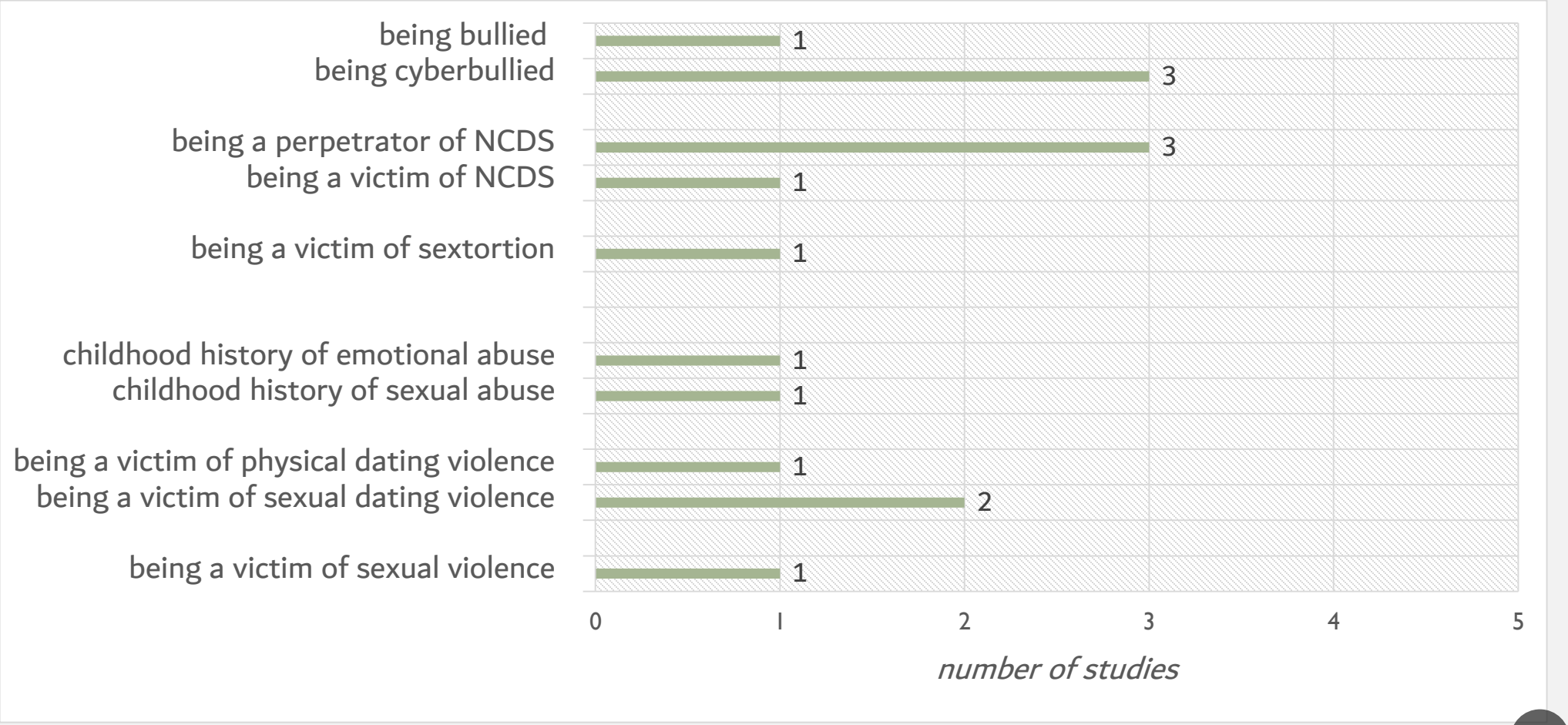


6. Risk factors related to social media use: /
7. Risk factors related to sexting activity:



8. Risk factors related to NCDS: /

9. Risk factors related to previous victimisation and perpetration:

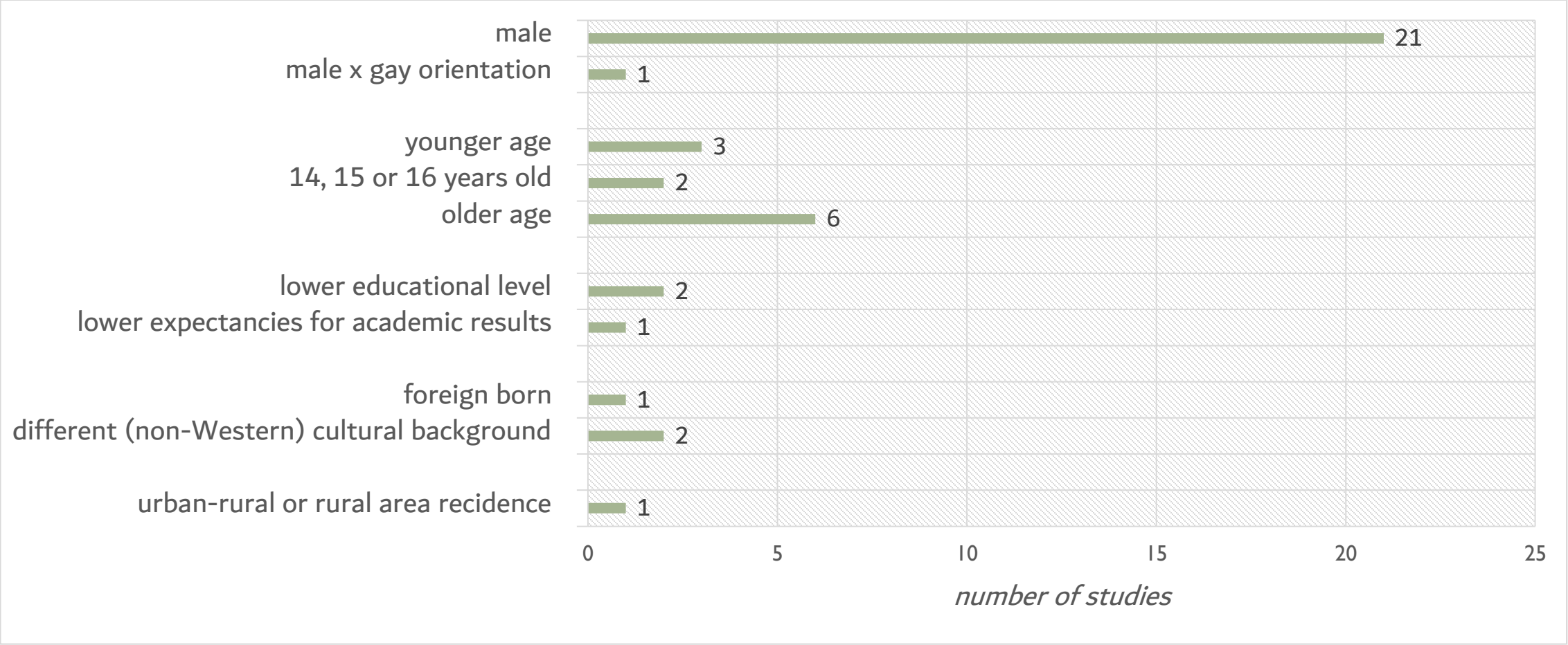


Protective factors of victimisation of NCDS

1. Sociodemographic protective factors: /
2. Background protective factors: /
3. Contextual protective factors:
   - More passion in the relationship (1 study)
   - More commitment in the relationship x high level of conflicts (1 study)
4. Personal protective factors: /
5. Sexual protective factors:
   - Asexual orientation (1 study)
6. Protective factors related to social media use: /
7. Protective factors related to sexting activity: /
8. Protective factors related to NCDS: /
9. Protective factors related to previous victimisation and perpetration:
   - No victim of NCDS (1 study)

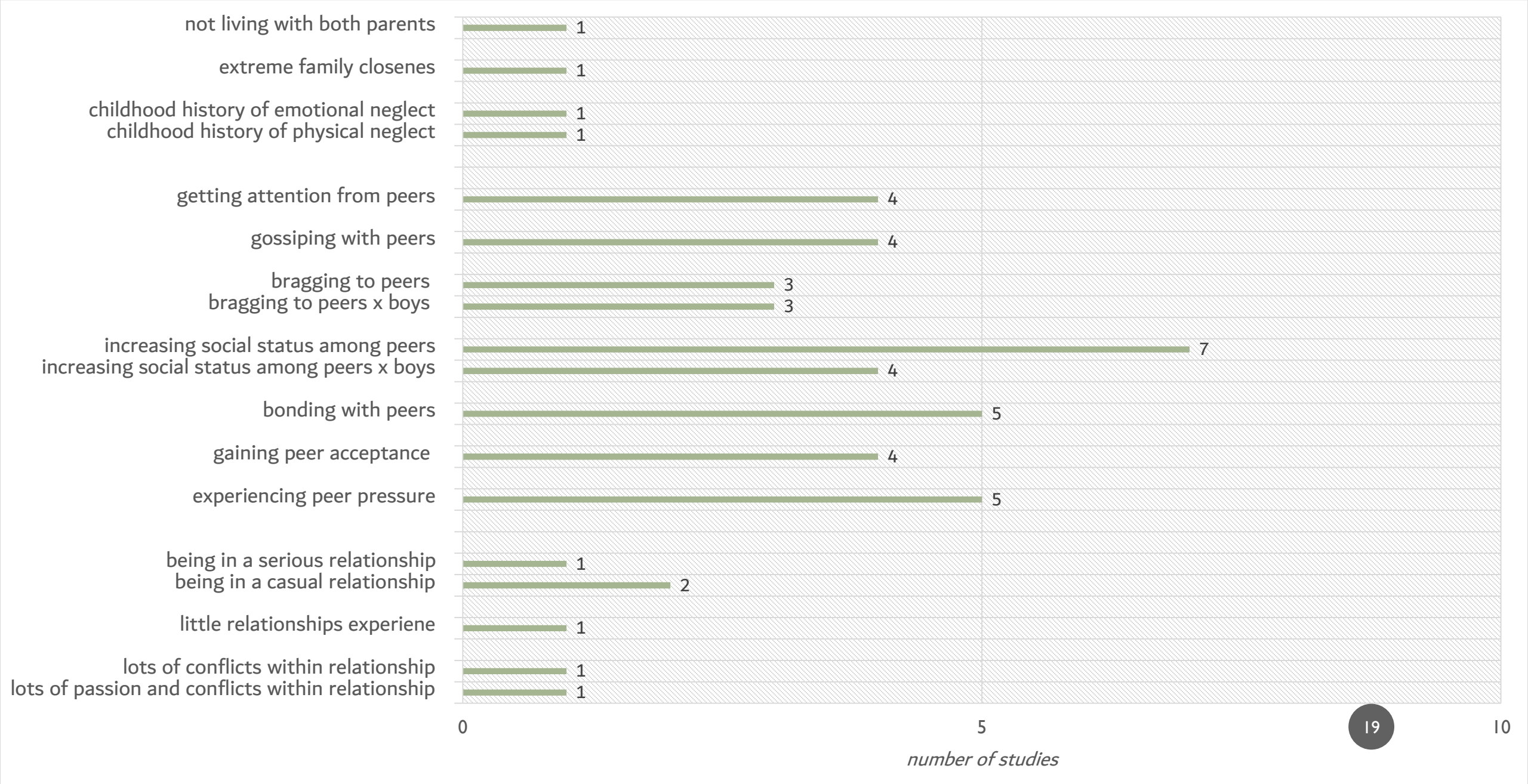
Risk factors of perpetration of NCDS

1. Sociodemographic risk factors:

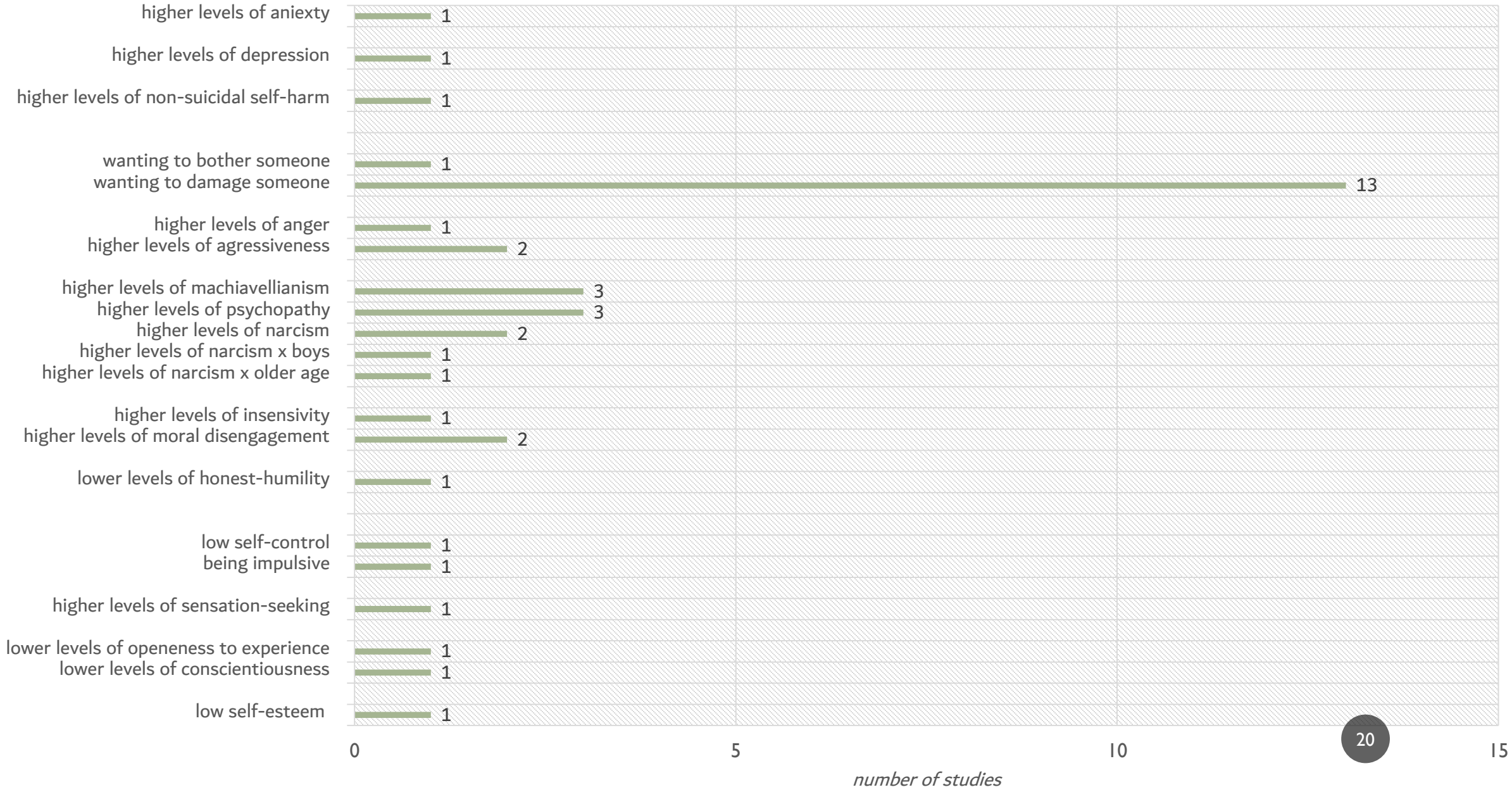


2. Background risk factors: /

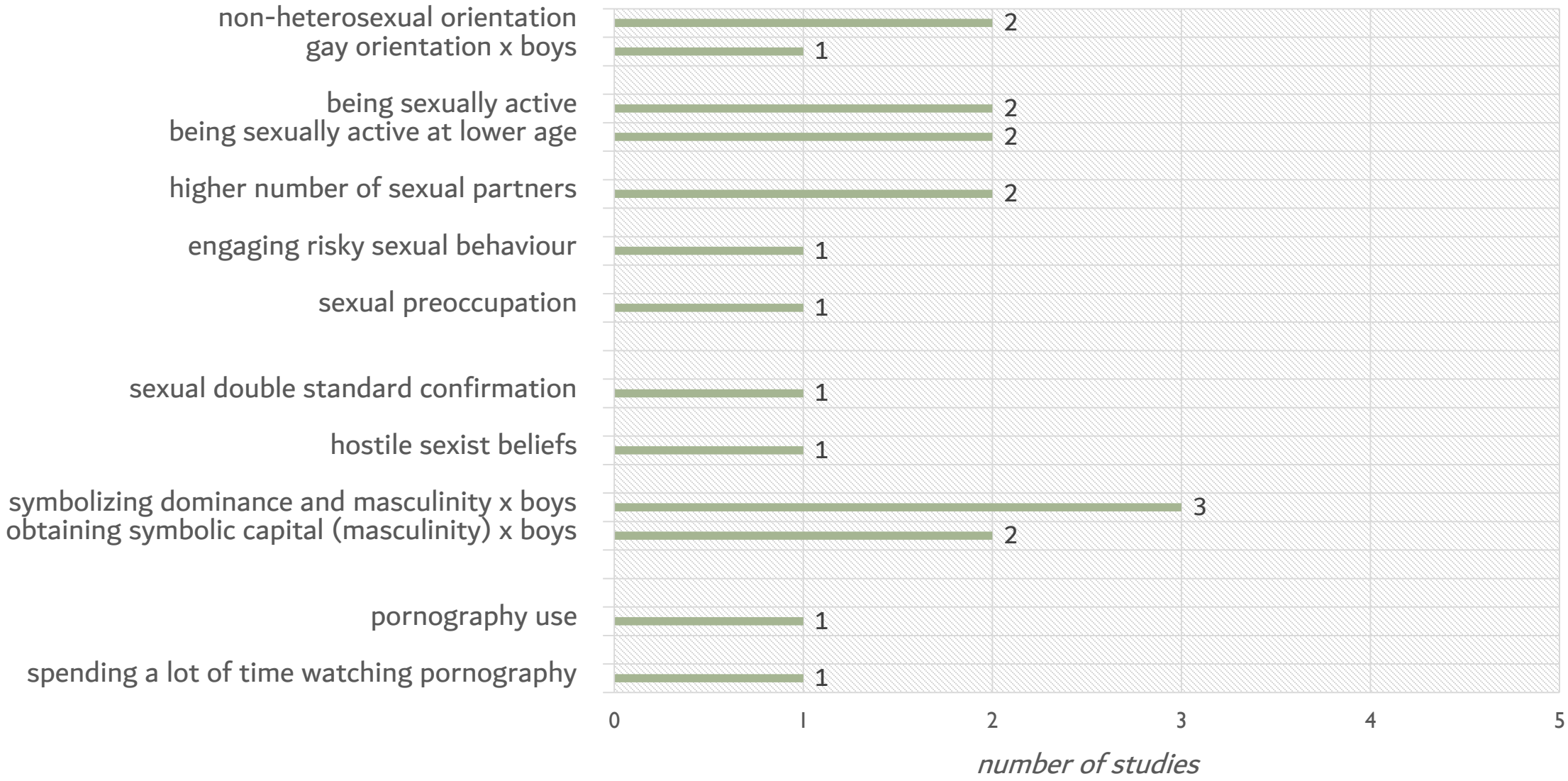
3. Contextual risk factors



4. Personal risk factors



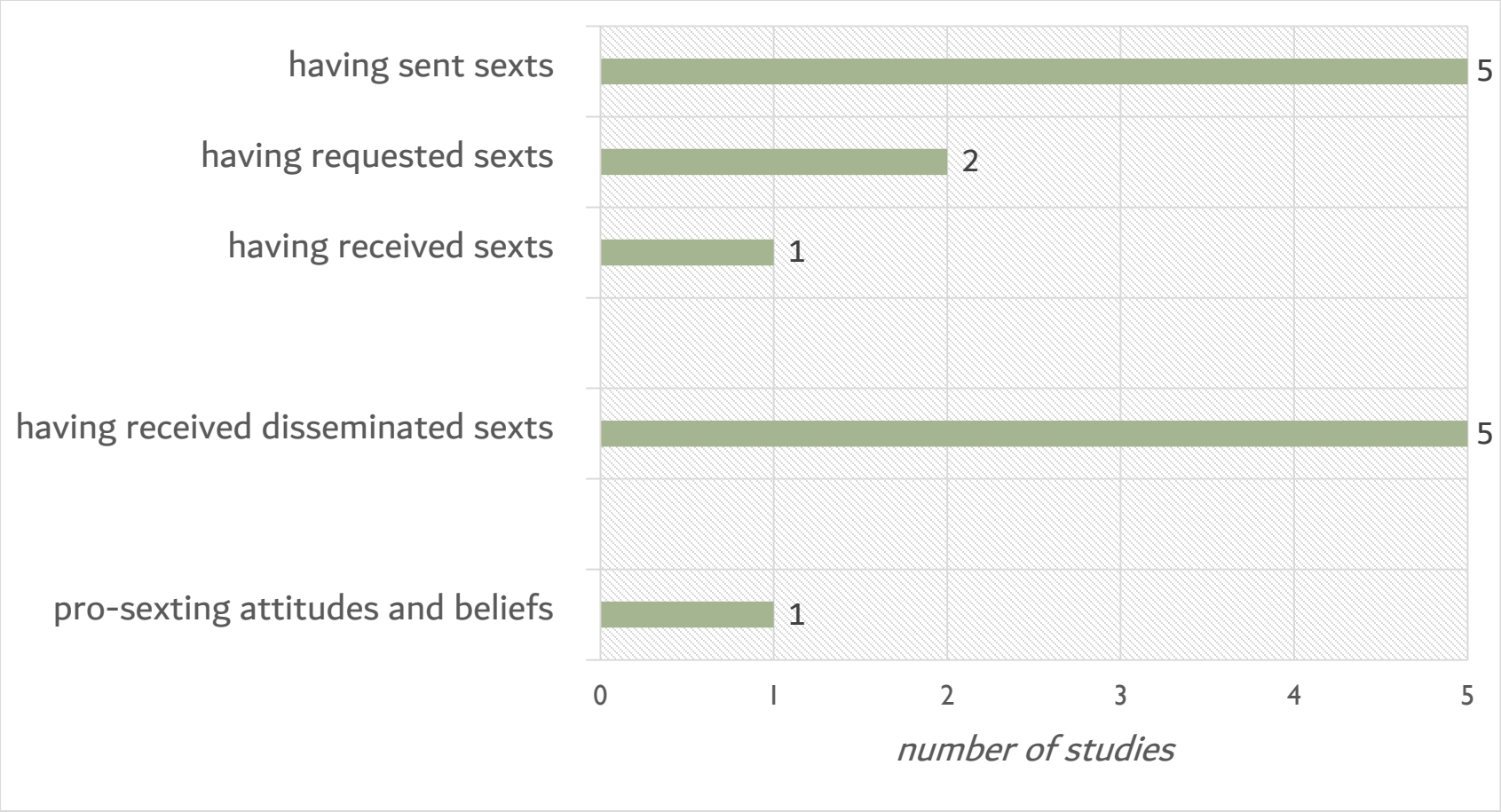
5. Sexual risk factors



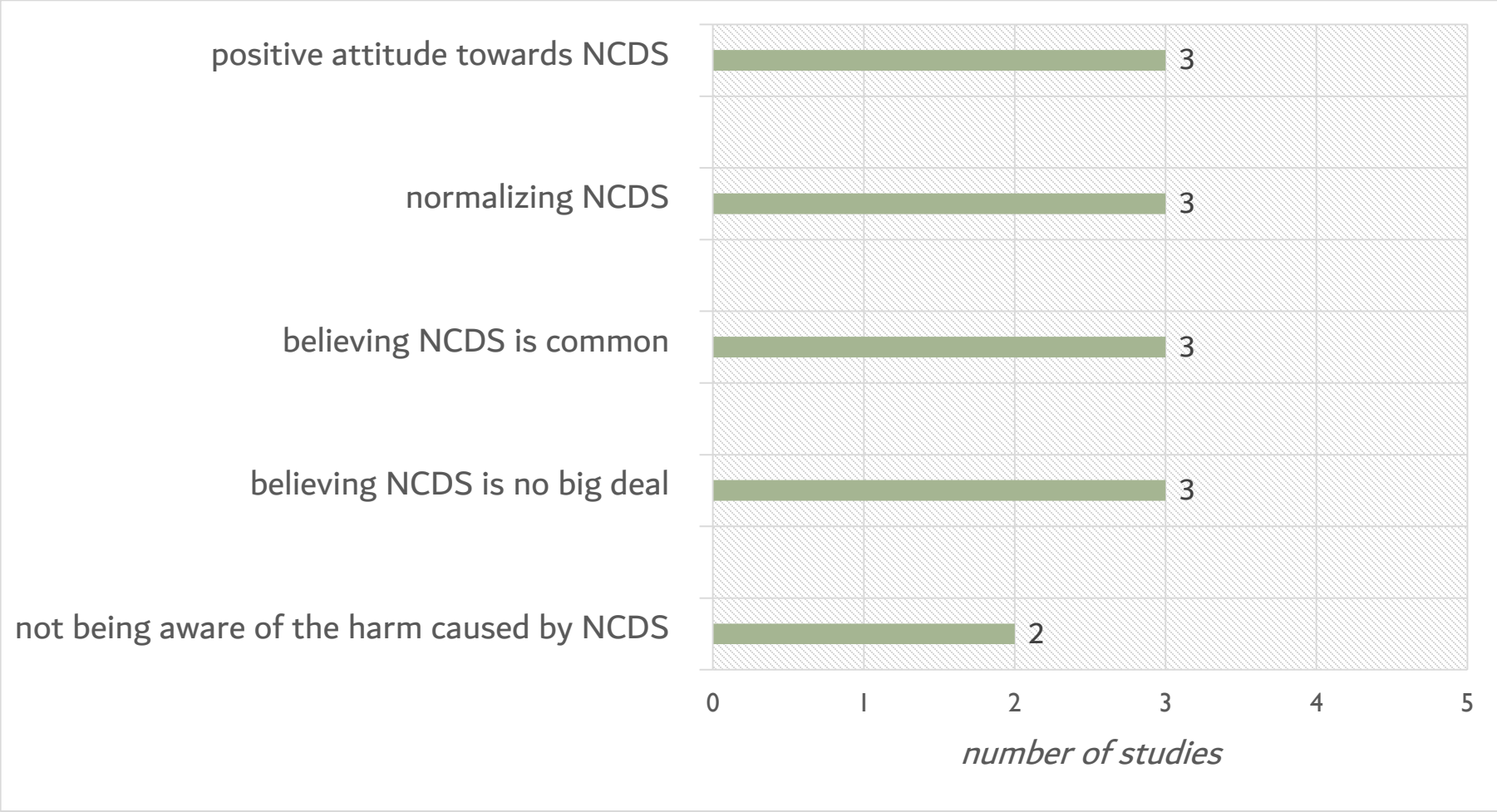
6. Risk factors related to social media use

- Frequent social media use (1 study)
- Using many social media platforms (1 study)

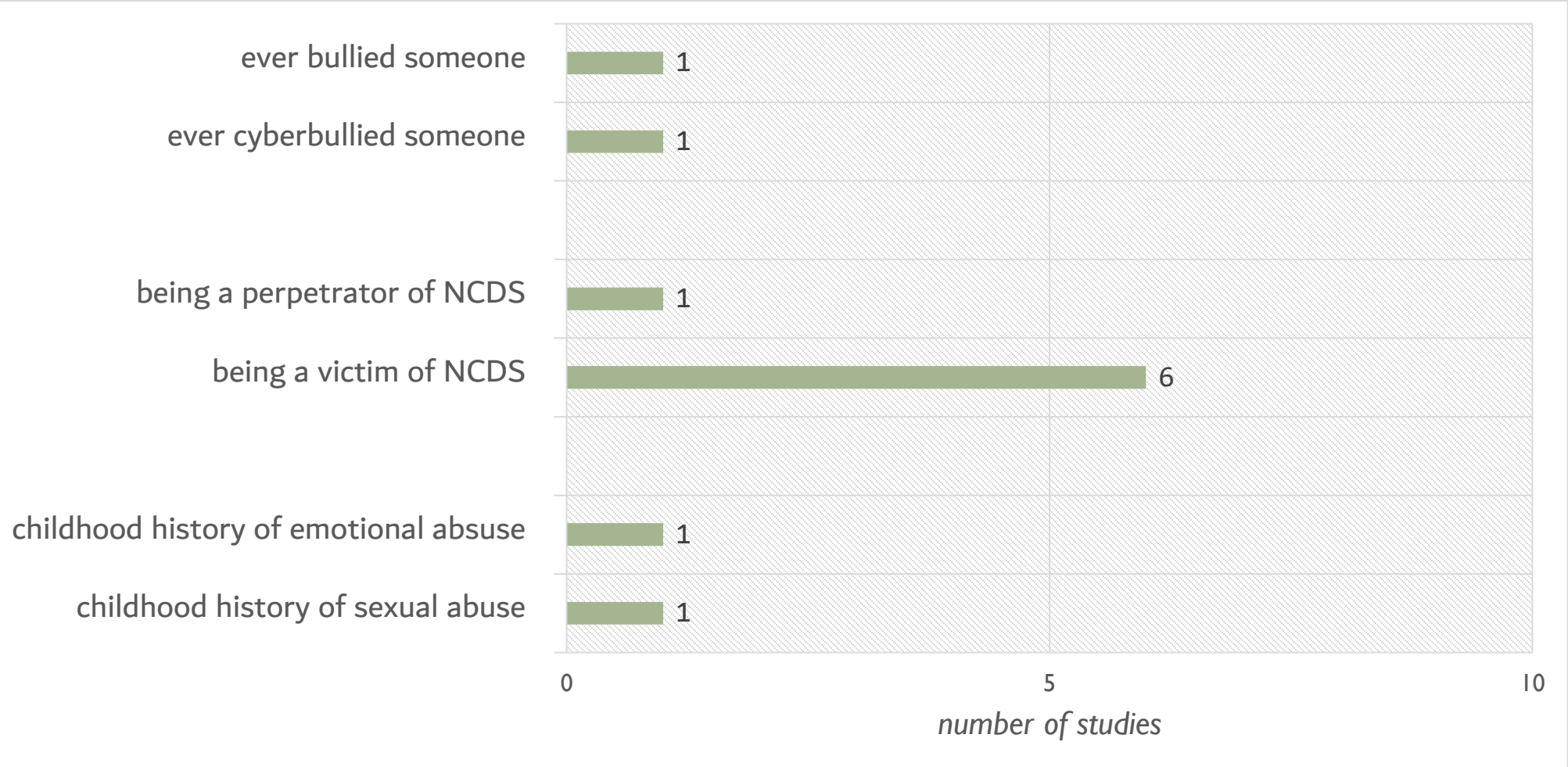
7. Risk factors related to sexting activity



8. Risk factors related to NCDS

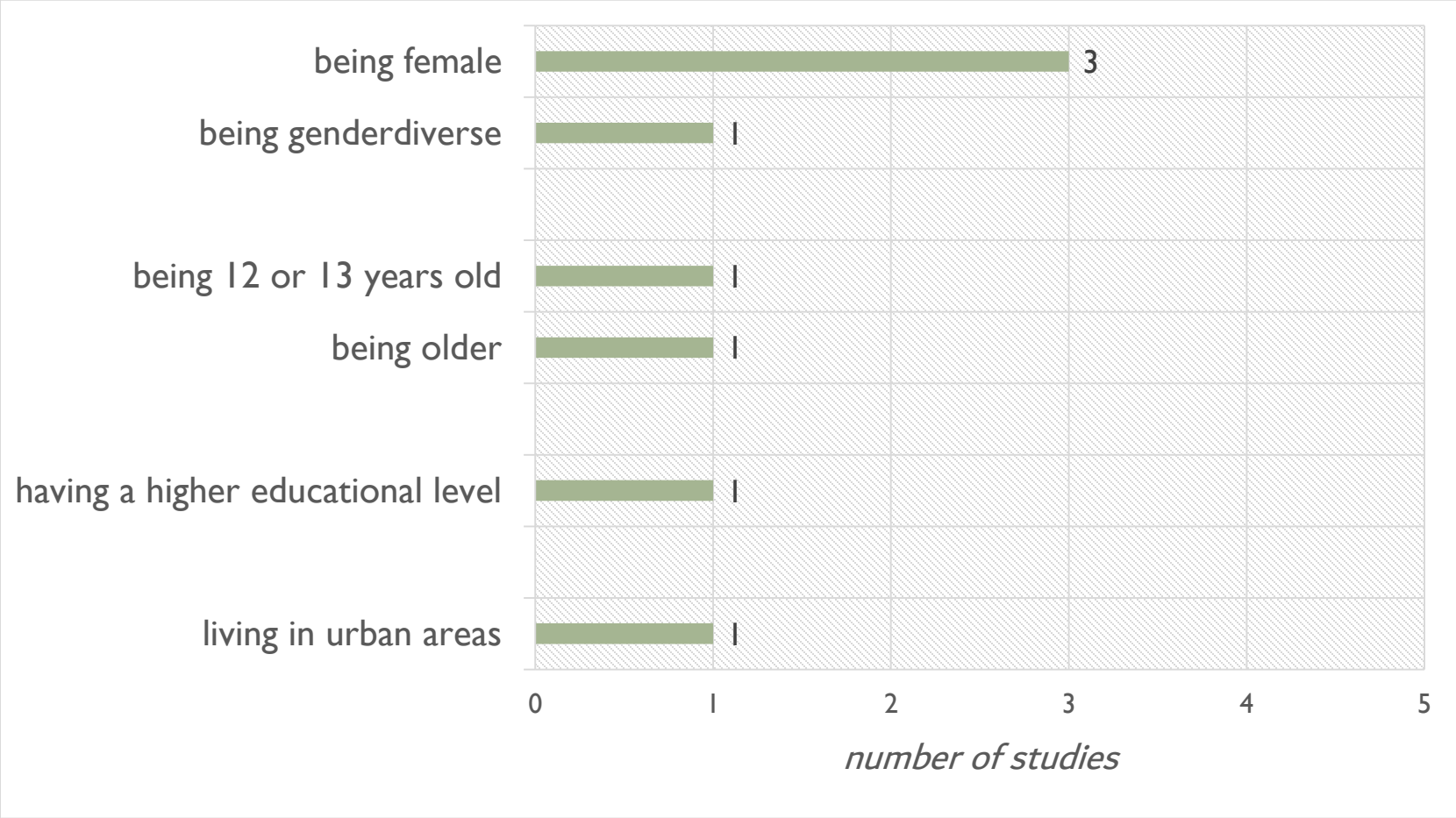


9. Risk factors related to previous victimisation and perpetration



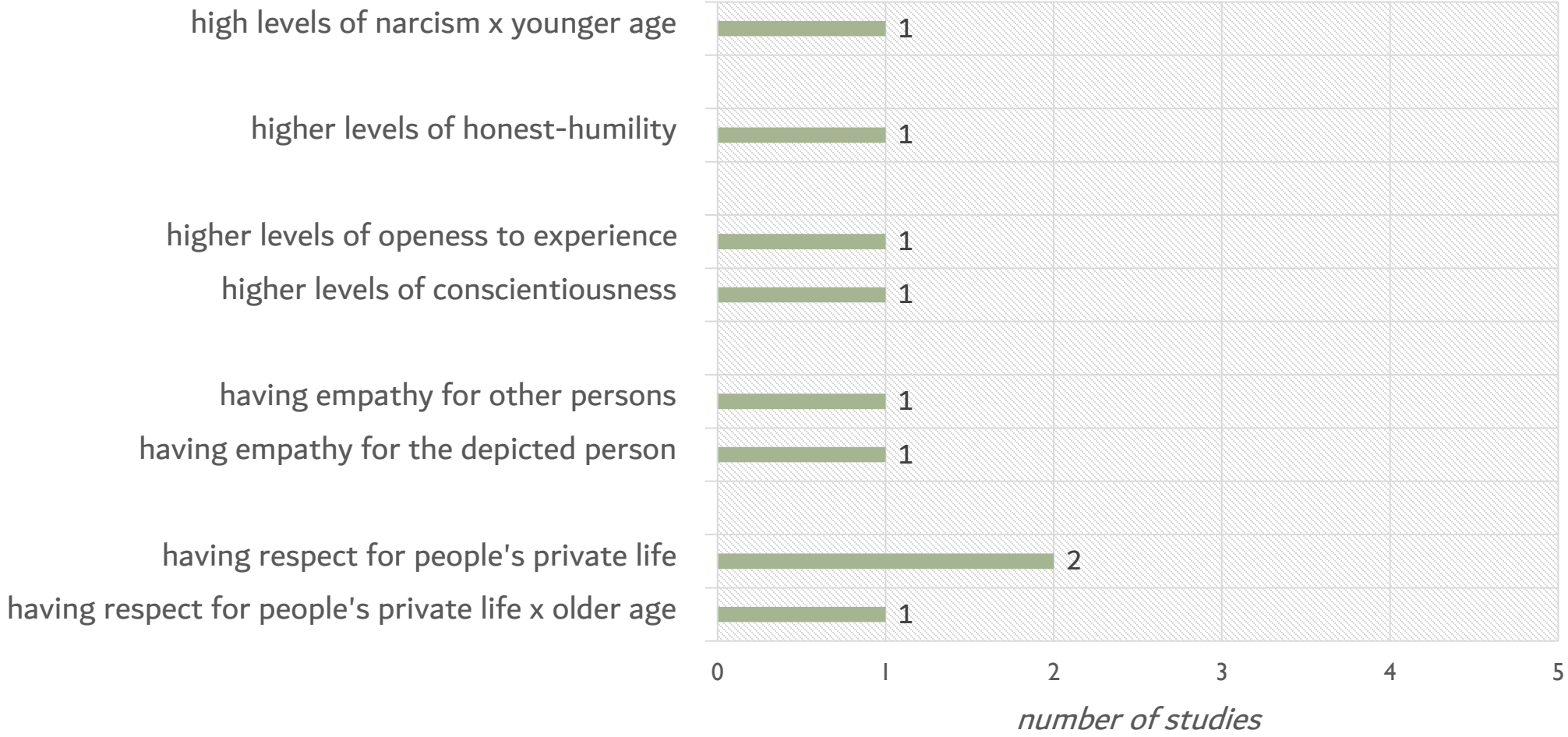
Protective factors of perpetration of NCDS

1. Sociodemographic protective factors:



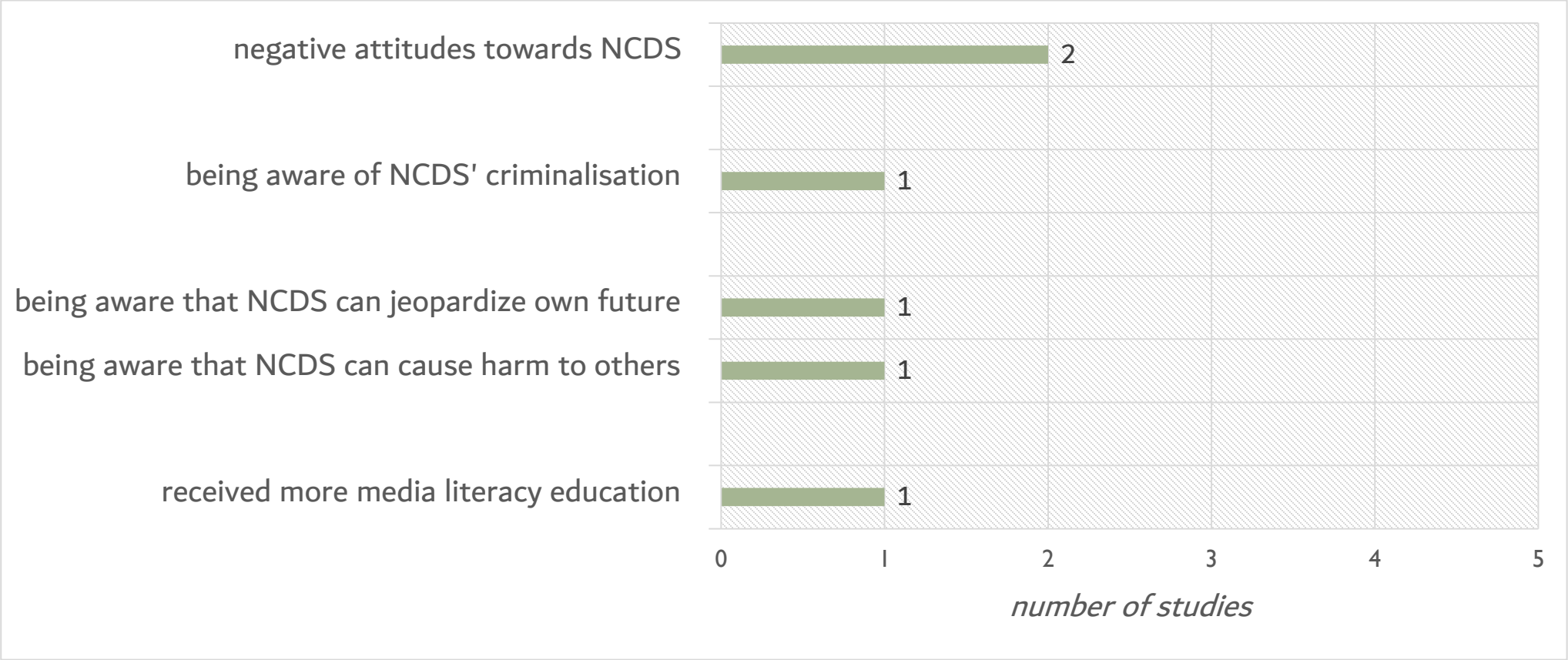
2. Background protective factors: /
3. Contextual protective factors:
   - Being in a serious relationship with the sexting partner (1 study)
   - Having relationship experience (1 study)
   - More passion in the relationship (1 study)
   - More commitment in the relationship x high level of conflicts (1 study)

4. Personal protective factors



5. Sexual protective factors:
   - Asexual orientation (1 study)
   - No experience with partnered sex (1 study)
   - No casual sexual relationships (1 study)
   - Being less sexually curious (1 study)
   - Benevolent sexist beliefs (1 study)
6. Protective factors related to social media use:
   - Low online activity (1 study)
7. Protective factors related to sexting activity:
   - Perceiving trust as a key element of sexting (1 study)
   - Experienced negative consequences from sending sexts (1 study)

8. Protective factors related to NCDS:



9. Protective factors related to previous victimisation and perpetration

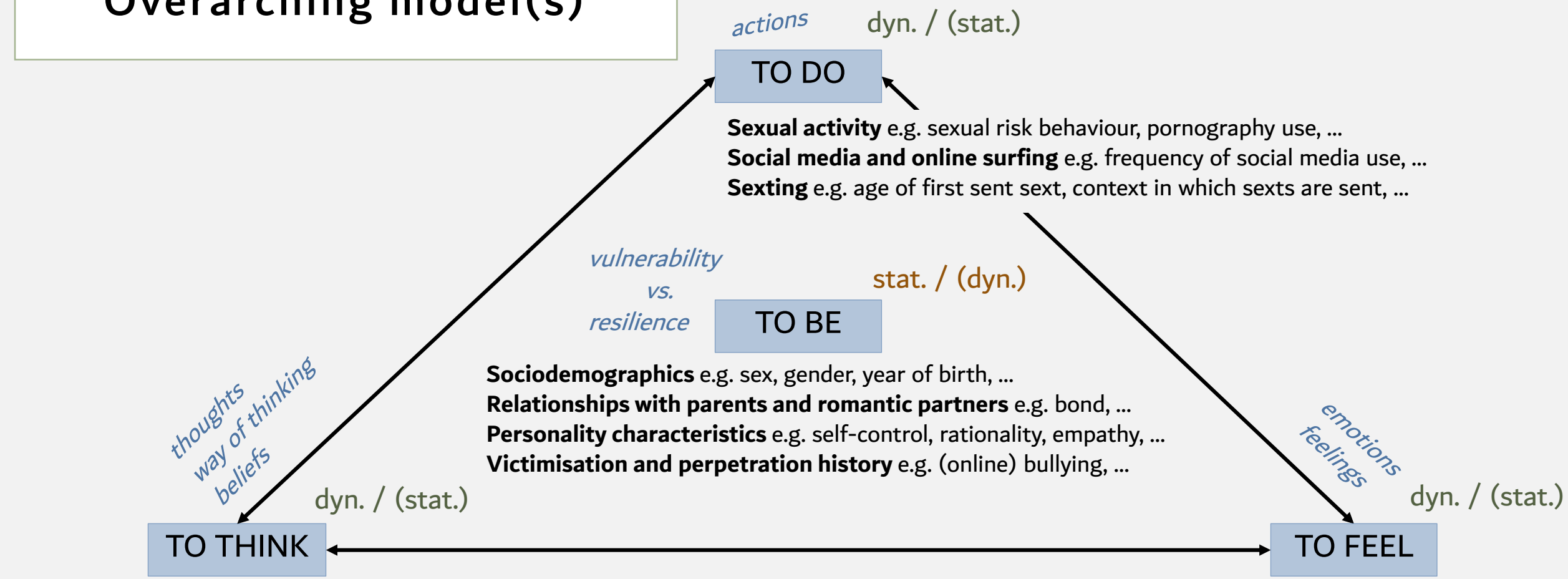
- Not being a perpetrator of NCDS (1 study)

Future steps and directions

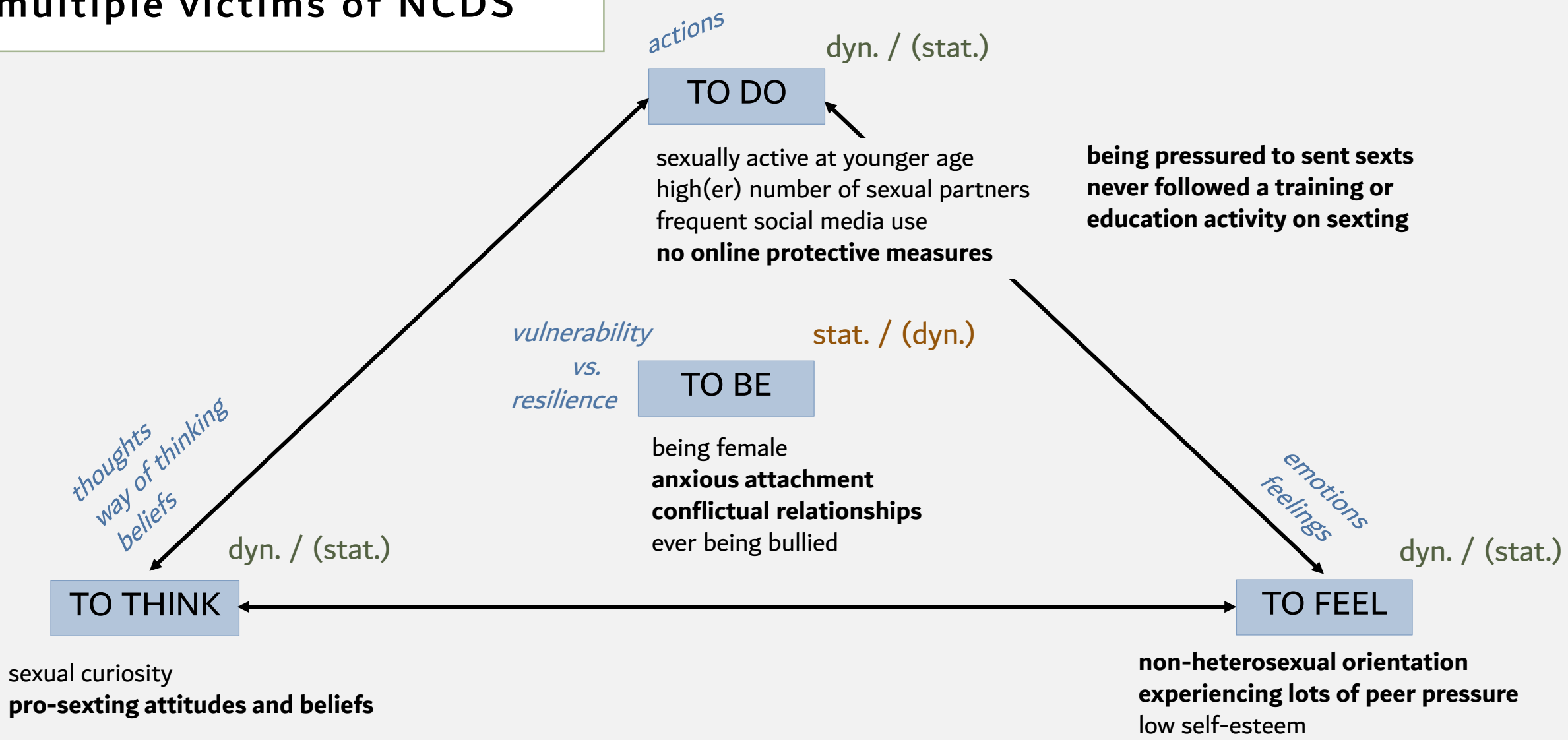
Survey study

- Research questions
  - RQ1: *Which are static and dynamic risk and protective factors for perpetration of NCDS?*
  - RQ2: *Which are static and dynamic risk and protective factors for victimisation of NCDS?*
- Respondents
  - 1,500 Dutch speaking 14 to 25 years old, living in the Flemish part of Belgium
- Questioned variables
  - Risk and protective factors of victimisation and perpetration of NCDS, as identified in the systematic review analysis
    - e.g. educational level, peer pressure, impulsiveness, sexual curiosity, sexting frequency, attitudes towards NCDS, ...
  - New, potential risk and protective factors of victimisation and perpetration of NCDS
    - e.g. online (un)safety feelings, parental control, attachment style, rationality, intensity of pornography use, used social media platforms, body image, ...

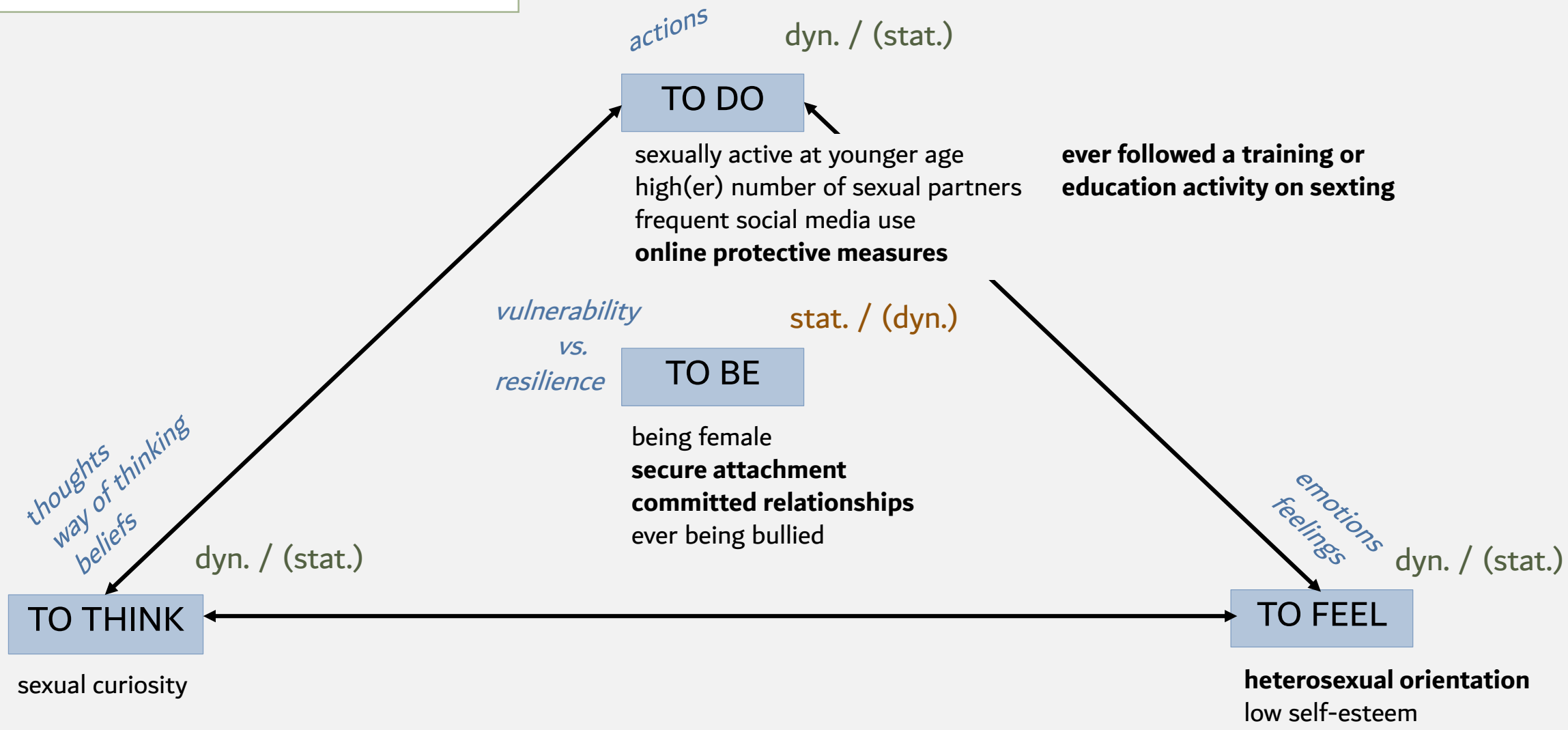
Overarching model(s)



Hypothetical model for multiple victims of NCDS



Hypothetical model for single victims of NCDS



Thank you!

Questions?

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