

A Preliminary Report of Gender, Religion, Papua New Guinea's Four Regions and Academic Performance Among Students Studying at the University of Papua New Guinea in 2018

By

Marai, L., Assa, J., Montoru, G., Ayius, A., Kale, A., & Sakai, M.

University of Papua New Guinea

**PNG UPDATE 2019
“Development and Diversity”**



1. Dr. Leo Marai, PhD, Psychology Strand, SHSS
2. Mr. Jack Assa, M.Si, Public Policy Management Strand, SBPP
3. Mr. Gordon Montoru, MBA, Human Resource Management Strand, SBPP
4. Mr. Albert Ayius, MA., MBA, Public Policy Management Strand SBPP
5. Mr. Asali Kale, Med, Psychology Strand, SHSS
6. Mr. Moses Sakai, BBM, Public Policy Management Strand SBPP

Outline of Presentation

- Background of the Study
- Aims of the Study
- Research Methods
- Analysis and Results
- Discussion
- Conclusions
- General conclusion

Background of the Study

- This report is a part of a wider study focusing on psychological attributes and academic performance of students at the University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG) conducted in 2018 (Marai, et al, 2018, in progress).
- In that regard, this presentation discusses two sets of data:
 - i. The demographic backgrounds of the students and their academic performance from our wider study.**
 - ii. 2018 enrolment selection data for non school leavers from one of the Schools at UPNG focusing on background variables and Grade Point Average (GPA) scores.**

Aims of the Study

There are three aims for this report:

- i. To report on the demographic variables (e.g. gender, province, regions, etc.) and academic performance (GPA) of undergraduate students at UPNG in 2018.
- ii. To report on the 2018 enrolment selection against demographics and GPA of the non-school leavers from one of the Schools.
- iii. To amalgamate the relationship between this two sets of data and make robust and relevant conclusions.

Methodology – Study 1

Participants (N=300) Under-graduate UPNG Students (2018)	F= 92
	M= 207
Participants from 4 Schools	SBPP = 127
	SHSS = 141
	SOL = 4
	SNPS= 26
Age	Mean = 25.36 Years
	SD= 6.8 Years
Year of Study	Year 1 = 12
	Year 2 = 109
	Year 3 = 75
	Year 4= 99
Religion	N=31
Region	Southern = 55
	Momase = 89
	NGI = 37
	Highlands = 117

Cont.

- **Measure for Study 1**

- ✓ Survey Questionnaire consist of three (3) sections. **Section 1 = Demographics and GPA scores of Participants**, and Section 2 and 3 = Psychological attributes.

- **Procedure for Study 1**

- ✓ A Total of 600 questionnaires were distributed to participants during class by lecturers in 2018.
- ✓ Participants were awarded 2 marks for completing the survey form in the course.
- ✓ The survey was completed in two weeks.
- ✓ 300 questionnaires were completed successfully for analysis (Return rate of 50%).

Data Analysis & Results – Study 1

- **Data Analysis**

Data analyzed using SPSS 16.0

- **Results**

Descriptive and Correlation statistics

Table 1. Mean Scores for Demographic Variables and GPA

Item No	Variables	GPA Mean Scores	
1	Gender	Male	2.81
		Female	2.71
2	Year of Study	1 st Yr	2.58
		2 nd Yr	2.73
		3 rd Yr	2.87
		4 th Yr	2.78
3	School	SBPP	2.82
		SHSS	2.78
		SNPS	2.70
		SOL	2.42
4	Province	NCD- (Highest)	3.4
		Northern Province – (Lowest)	2.34
5	Region	Southern	2.82
		Momase	2.86
		New Guinea Islands	2.76
		Highlands	2.71
6	Religion	Christian Life Center – (Highest)	3.46
		Pentecostal Church, Restoration Fellowship International, Bible Fellowship Church, Bible Missionary Church- (Lowest)	2.00
7	Grand Mean Score of the Total Participants (N=300)		2.78

Correlation

- Age negatively correlated with GPA score ($r = -.328, p < .01, 2\text{-tailed}$) meaning as age rises, GPA falls.
- Young students tend to do better than older students.
- Other correlations among demographics and GPA were not statistically significant.

Methodology - Study 2

- Participants (Non School Leavers Applicants; N=4300)
- Age (Mean= 20.95 years: SD =2.54 years)
- Regions (Southern: n =145; Momase: n = 65; NGI: n = 67; Highlands: n = 234)

Cont.

- **Measure for Study 2**

2018 UPNG Non-School leavers application forms.

- **Procedure for Study 2**

Enrollment data for UPNG Non-School Leavers of 2018 was collected from the School and analyzed. (**Note:** The consent School granted permission to use the data in Study 2).

Data Analysis and Results – Study 2

- **Data Analysis**

SPSS 16.0 was used to analyze the data

- **Results**

Descriptive statistics

Table 3. Fraud Applications Descriptive Statistics

Variables	Total		Percentage (%)
Gender	Female	65	12.7
	Male	445	87.1
Province	SHP	68	13.3
	WNB	10	2.0
Regions	Southern	145	28.4
	Momase	65	12.7
	NGI	67	13.1
	Highlands	234	45.8
Religion	Catholic	119	23.3
	Baptist & Paliau	7	1.4
		7	1.4
Total Fraud Applicants	N=511		

Notes:

- ❖ 4300 Applications received in 2018
- ❖ 511 (11.9%) Applications were Fake/Fraud – rejected
- ❖ 3700 (86.01%) – Not eligible – low GPA
- ❖ 89 (2.1%) - eligible and accepted

Figure 1. Frequency of Fraud Applications for Gender

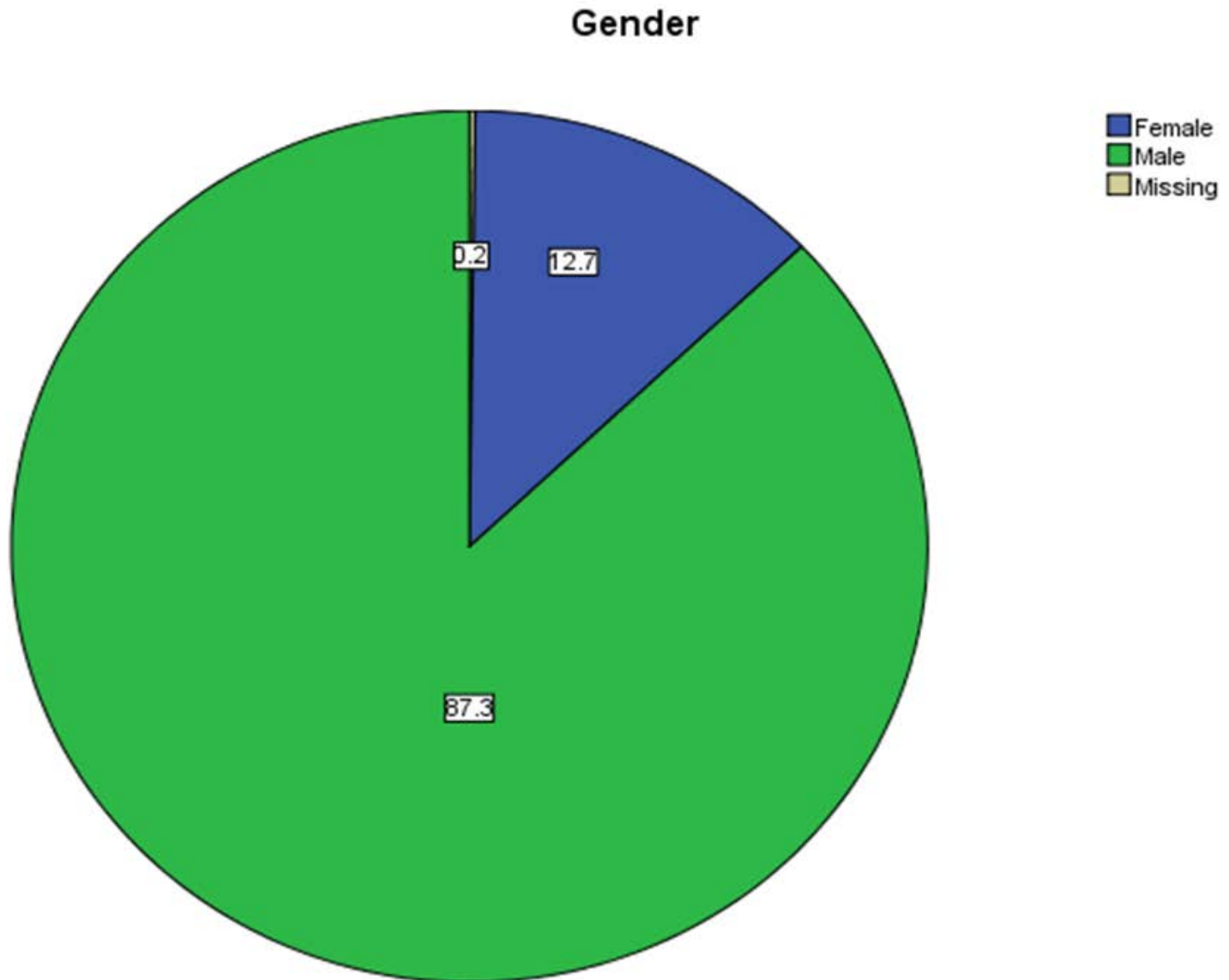


Figure 2. Frequency of Fraud Applications for Provinces

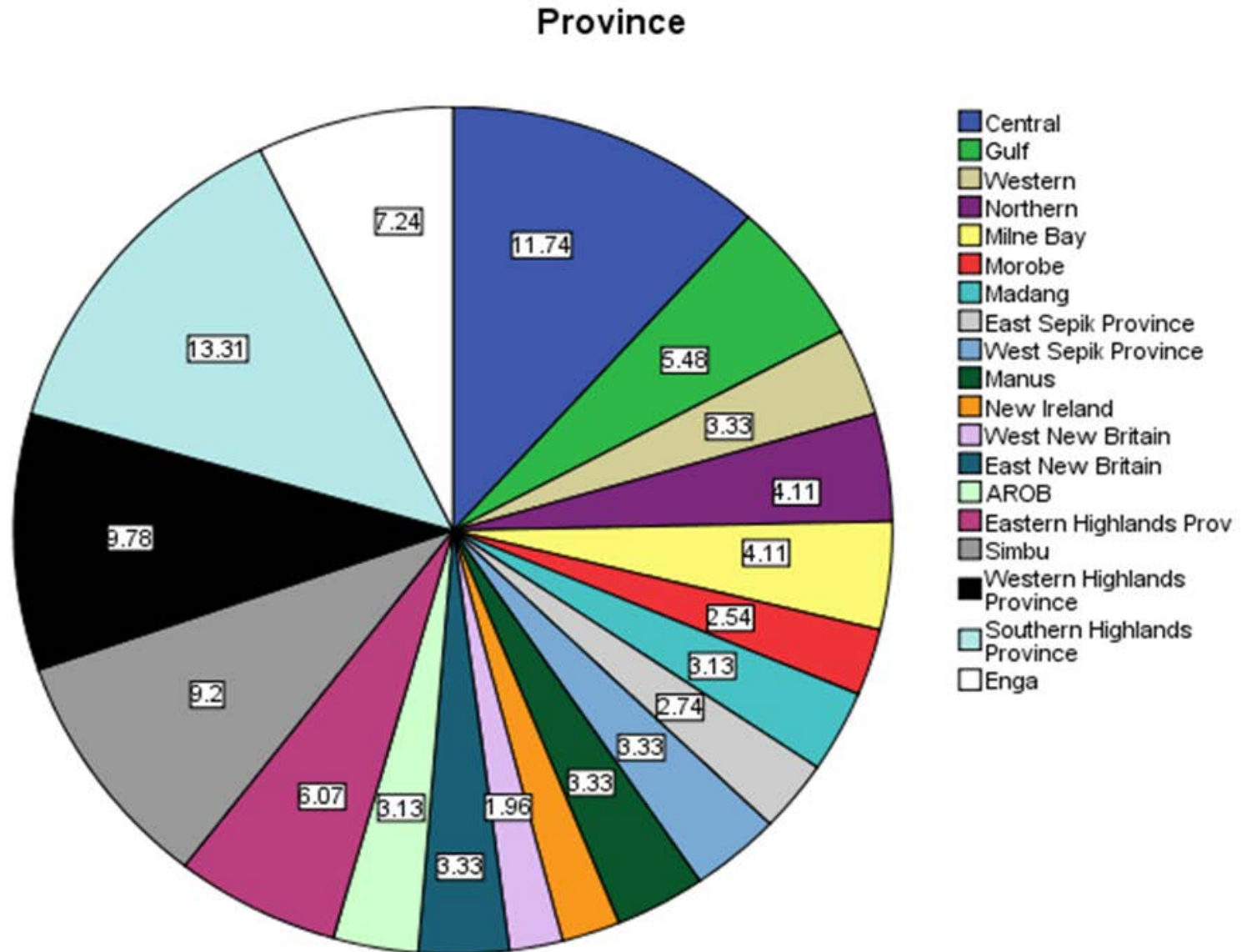


Figure 3. Frequency of Fraud Applications for Religion

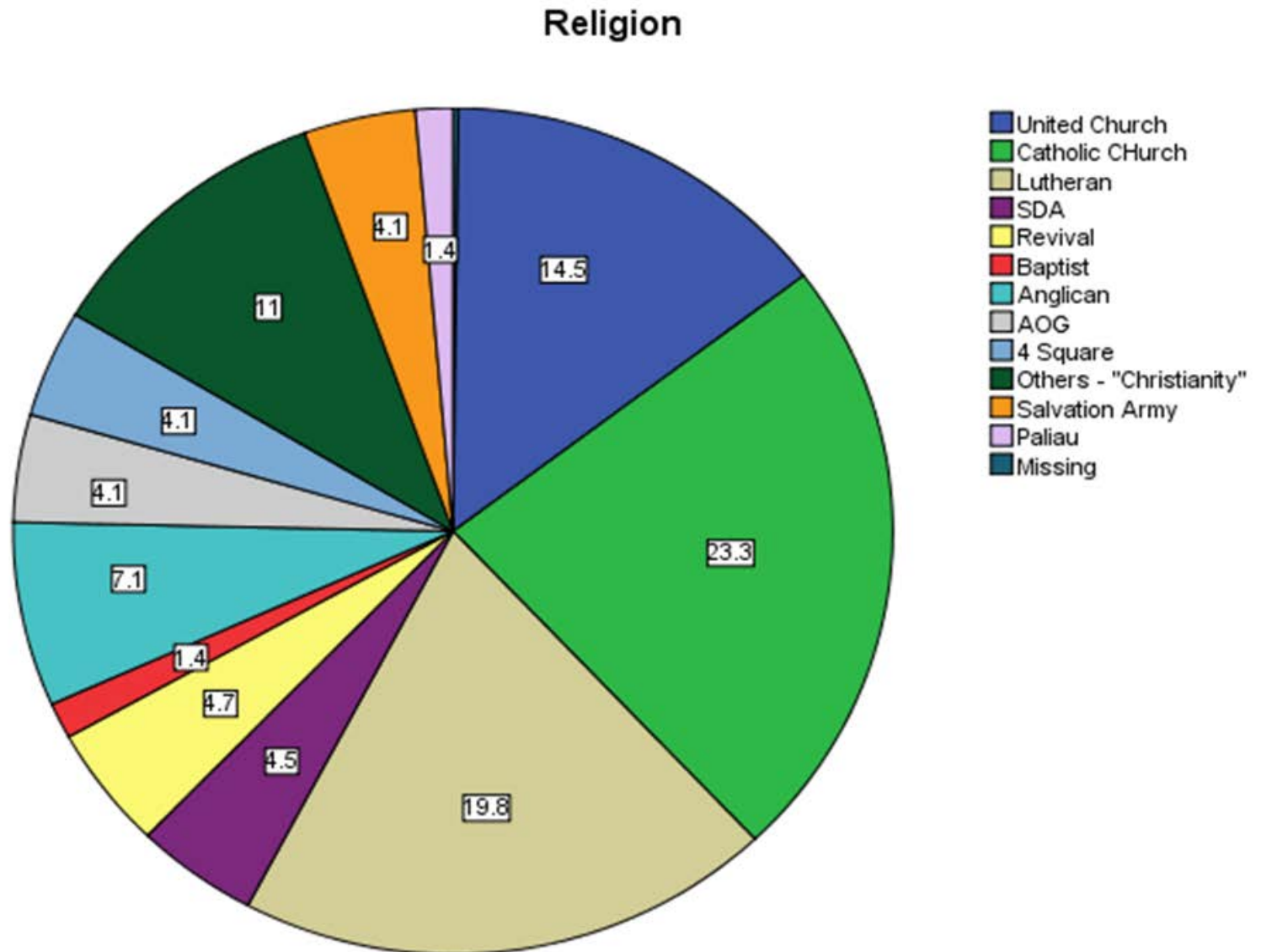
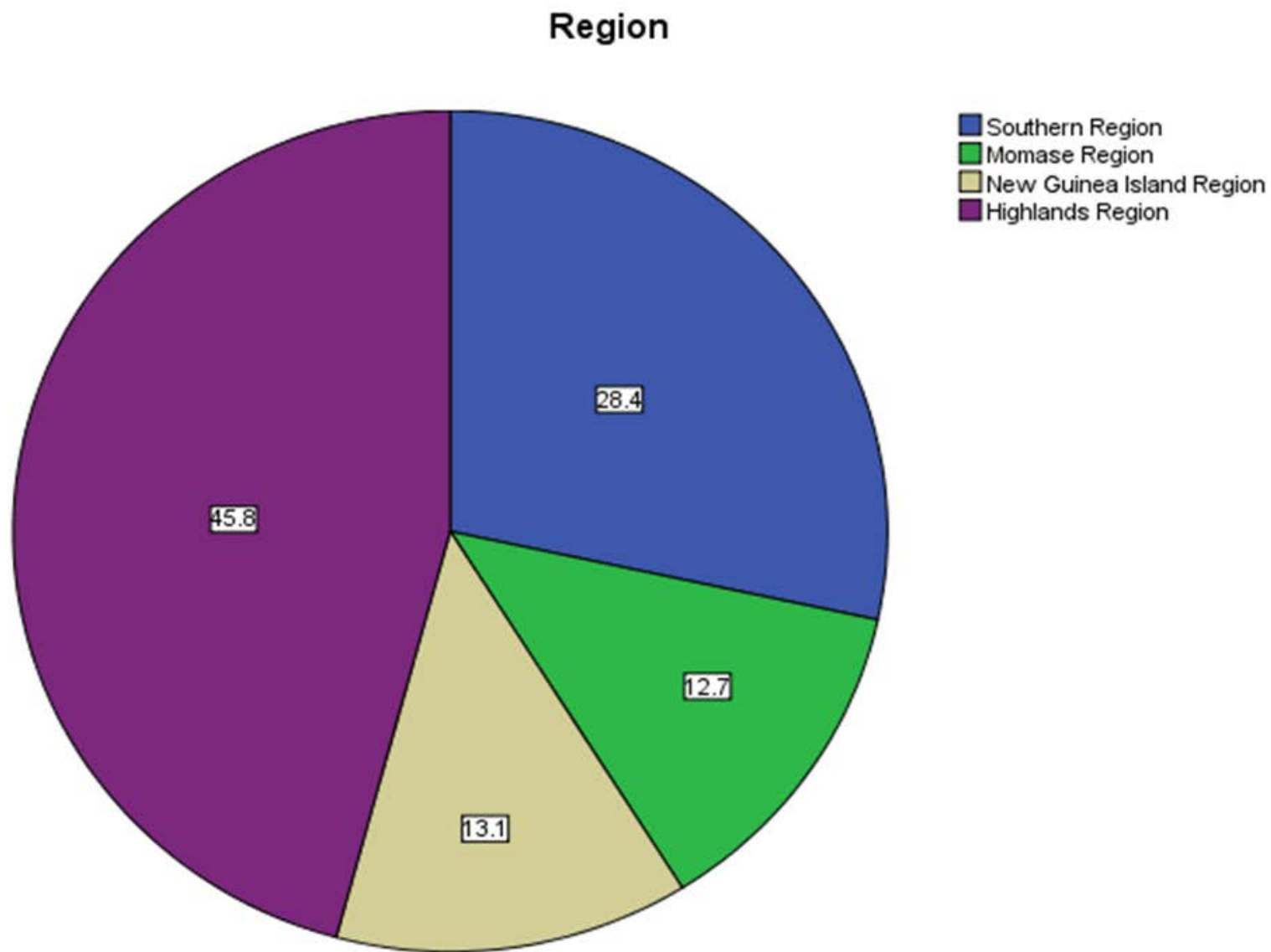


Figure 4. Frequency of Fraud Applications for Region



Discussion

- **Study 1 and 2**

For both studies , the analysis shows that certain gender, provinces, regions and religion performed better than others.

- **Limitation in Study 1:** GPA was self-reported and it may not be an accurate score. However, we did asked the participants to be honest in their responses in the survey form.

- **Limitation in Study 2:** We don't have data for the other four schools to make comparison among schools in order to draw firm conclusions in terms of our statistics.

Conclusions – Study 1

- Average GPA for students in our study was 2.78 (Pass Grade)
- Males performed better than females
- SBPP performed better than other 3 Schools
- Third year students performed better than the other years.
- Christian Life Centre students performed better than the other denominations.
- NCD students performed better than the other provinces.
- Momase students performed better than the other 3 regions.

Conclusions – Study 2

- Average GPA for fraud applicants =3.5 and their real GPA is =1.7.
- Male applicants did more fraud applications than females.
- Southern Highlands Province applicants did more fraud applications than other Provinces.
- Highlands Region did more fraud applications (45.8%) than the other 3 regions.
- Catholic applicants did more fraud applications than other religions.

General Conclusion

- Our data from the 2 studies reveals a trend that certain regions, provinces, religions and gender performed better and did more fraud applications than others.
- **WAY FORWARD: POLICY IMPLICATIONS**
Universities, Colleges and Education Ministries need to develop appropriate policies and strategies to address fraud applications for enrollment and enhance students learning and performance.

The End!

Thank you everyone for listening



Acknowledgements

1. We acknowledge UPNG students who participated in Survey for Study 1
2. We acknowledge officials of the School for lending us the data for Study 2