

SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND HARASSMENT IN UK UNIVERSITIES

Total respondents		5,649			
Age		Gender		Sexual orientation	
18-20 years	70%	Male	32%	Straight	76%
21-24 years	26%	Female	66%	Gay	5%
25 + years	4%	Other	2%	Bisexual	13%
				Other	6%

Unwanted behaviours

Women were more likely to have experienced unwanted behaviours than men.

Unwanted behaviour	Men	Women
Wolf whistled at	3%	49%
Touched inappropriately	3%	49%
Been followed	4%	20%
Sent explicit messages	12%	26%
Exposed to sexual conversation	10%	24%
Pressured into a sexual act	6%	16%
Forced into a sexual act:	1%	4%
Forced into penetrative sex	1%	3%

Reporting

Reporting of unwanted behaviours is extremely low.

Unwanted behaviour	Total % of respondents who reported behaviour
wolf whistled at	3%
Touched inappropriately	5%
Been followed	10%
Sent explicit messages	4%
Exposed to sexual conversation	3%
Pressured into a sexual act	4%
Forced into a sexual act	18%
Forced into penetrative sex	25%

THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF REPORTING IS IN FORCED PENETRATIVE SEX, AND THIS IS ONLY 1/4 OF CASES.

Confusion

What is sexual harassment?

56% claim to have experienced at least one of the unwanted behaviours listed, yet only 15% claim to have experienced sexual harassment or sexual violence

Consent and alcohol

Only 52% know that it is not possible to give consent when you are drunk

Feeling obliged

Many students felt obliged into replying to messages and sharing contact details, but in addition to this, 1 in 5 felt obliged to kiss someone and **1 in felt 10 obliged to have sex with someone.**

Felt obliged to do the following:	Men	Women
Go on a date	11%	13%
Give someone contact details	24%	32%
Kiss someone	16%	19%
Go back to someone's room with them	12%	10%
Go further than I felt comfortable	9%	12%
Have sex with someone	10%	10%

Saying no

90% of all students felt confident to say no to unwanted sexual advances, however, **of those that did not feel confident saying no to sexual advances, 52% said it was because they were afraid it would leave to violence.**

Relationships and sex education (RSE)

Sex education in schools still centres around the reproduction and sexually transmitted infections (STIs). **Only half have been educated on consent and under a third in harassment.**

RSE topic	Total % of respondents who received education at school
Contraception	77%
STIs	71%
Reproduction	69%
Online safety	57%
Consent	50%
Healthy relationships	42%
Pregnancy choices (including abortion)	38%
Where to go for testing and treatment	35%
Sexual harassment	31%
Where to go for support	21%
LGBT relationships	14%
Pleasure	10%
None	10%

About the survey

The online survey was sent via the Dig In database to thousands of students across the UK. A total of 5,649 responses were received between 10 January and 18 January 2019.