



National consultation into the sexual assault and harassment experienced or witnessed by students and graduates from universities across the UK – full breakdown of results below.

Consultation conducted by Revolt Sexual Assault and The Student Room, generating a final sample of 4,491 students and recent graduates across 153 different institutions.

STUDENTS' EXPERIENCE OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE

62% of all students and recent graduates surveyed have experienced sexual violence

50% have experienced sexual harassment

42% have experienced sexual assault

70% of **female** students and recent graduates surveyed have experienced sexual violence

57% have experienced sexual harassment

48% have experienced sexual assault

26% of **male** students and recent graduates surveyed have experienced sexual violence

19% have experienced sexual harassment

17% have experienced sexual assault

61% of **non-binary** students and recent graduates surveyed have experienced sexual violence

55% have experienced sexual harassment

46% have experienced sexual assault



73% of students and recent graduates surveyed with a disability have experienced sexual violence

62% have experienced sexual harassment

54% have experienced sexual assault

Groping and unwelcome/unnecessary touching in a sexual manner is the most commonly experienced form of sexual assault.

8% of female students who responded to the consultation report having been raped whilst at university

*The Office of National Statistics (ONS) estimates that 4% of the female population of England and Wales has been raped. This survey and the [ONS survey](#) were conducted with different methodologies and sample sizes, and in different years, therefore they cannot be directly compared, but there is a clear indication that the incidence of rape is more likely in the student population than the general population.

39% of students that have been sexually assaulted or harassed were made to feel responsible for the incidents

35%
of females

9%
of males

34%
non-binary people

...have felt pressured into sexual activity

The most common locations on campus where students experienced sexual assault are;

28%
halls of residence

24%
social events

23%
university social space



STUDENTS' REPORTING OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE

6% of those who had experienced sexual assault or harassment reported their experience of sexual violence to the university

6% of those who had experienced sexual assault or harassment reported their experience of sexual violence to the police

When asked why they didn't report sexual crimes to their university;

56%
thought it
'wasn't serious
enough'

35%
felt too
ashamed

29%
didn't know how
to make a report

2% of those experiencing sexual violence felt both able to report it to their university and were then satisfied with the reporting process



CONSEQUENCES OF EXPERIENCING SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Students reported significant impact on self-confidence, mental health, studies and social life as a result of experiencing sexual violence.

Academic consequences include respondents considering or engaging in;

25% skipping lectures, tutorials, changing or dropping certain modules to avoid the perpetrators

16% suspending their studies or dropping out of their degree

SEEKING SUPPORT

9% of students turned to student support services. The majority turn to friends for support

7% of students living in halls of residence who have experienced sexual assault or harassment turned to someone responsible for welfare

56% of the perpetrators were known to the victim

7% of students know a lot about their university's sexual violence policy



ATTITUDES TOWARDS SEXUAL VIOLENCE ON UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES

- 51%** of respondents believed there was an understanding of what does and doesn't constitute consent
- 53%** agree that there is a belief that going home with someone means you want to sleep with them
- 55%** agree that there are attitudes and behaviours that sexualise and objectify women
- 56%** agree that certain people believe they are entitled to sex
- 78%** agree that certain people blame the victim for the sexual violence they experienced
- 42%** agree that actions constituting sexual assault and harassment had become normalised at university
- 35%** agree that there is a belief that sexual assault and harassment are 'not a big deal'
- 47%** agree that there is a belief that groping is sexual assault
- 45%** agree that there is a belief that people make false reports of sexual assault or harassment
- 33%** have no knowledge or very little knowledge about where to seek support if they experience sexual violence



WITNESSES AND BYSTANDER INTERVENTION

31% have also witnessed sexual assault or harassment at university

Of those who witnessed and intervened in incidents of sexual violence;

72%



talked to the victim

4%



reported the incident(s) to the university

2%



called the police

47%



of those who did not intervene simply did not know what to do

16%

of all students believe incidents of sexual violence are regularly discussed



METHODOLOGY

The survey was distributed and promoted by Revolt Sexual Assault and The Student Room via their websites and social media platforms, and by higher education institutions and student unions through emails and social media, between 13 December 2017 and 18 February 2018.

The data was 'cleaned' by Blue Marble Research to ensure all respondents were current students and recent graduates of universities in the UK aged 18+ giving complete and valid responses to the survey questions. This resulted in a final sample of 4,491 respondents across 153 different institutions.

ABOUT REVOLT SEXUAL ASSAULT

Revolt Sexual Assault is a newly created campaign for charitable purposes founded by recent graduates with the purpose to hand back the power and give a voice to survivors of sexual violence.

We are working to identify the true nature and extent of sexual assault and harassment experienced by former and current students at university in the United Kingdom, and to campaign for the policy reform required at a national level to address this issue.

Further information about the campaign is available on the Revolt Sexual Assault [website](#).

Contact Hannah Price, founder of Revolt Sexual Assault on Hannah@revoltsexualassault.com and **07920161465** or contact@revoltsexualassault.com and **07584 258423** with any enquiries.

ABOUT THE STUDENT ROOM

The Student Room is the largest, most useful and best-loved online student community in the UK. The natural destination for peer-to-peer discussion; it's home to over 10 million monthly users turning to us first for information, advice and support on their educational journey and life around learning.

We're passionate about flying the flag for young people, and making the world a better place by helping them be the best versions of themselves.

That means we're uniquely privileged to connect educators, recruiters and consumer brands to switched-on young people actively seeking answers and meaningful connections.

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ABOUT BLUE MARBLE RESEARCH

Revolt Sexual Assault commissioned Blue Marble Research to validate the findings of this consultation.

Company Partners of the Market Research Society, Blue Marble is an independent research agency working for public, private and not for profit organisations. Clients include government agencies, a wide range of consumer brands, and a variety of charities including RNIB, NSPCC and CAFOD. Further information on Blue Marble and its team can be found on its [website](#).

