

Sexual Violence Campus Climate Survey 2023

This anonymous online survey was run in Spring 2023 to gain an insight into how often our students are subjected to sexual violence and their awareness and perceptions of the support the University offers.

Response rate:

- 861 Students from the University of Sheffield responded to the survey (3% of our student body)
- 67% of respondents fully completed the survey

Demographics of respondents:

- 69% were undergraduate students and 27% were postgraduate students
 - 69% were female, 26% were male, 4% were non-binary, and 1% preferred not to say
 - 30% of respondents were LGBTQ+, 17% were black and minority ethnic (BAME)
 - 18% were disabled, 17% were international students, 15% were mature students
- This means that female and LGBTQ+ students were overrepresented in the sample and male, BAME and international students were underrepresented in the sample.

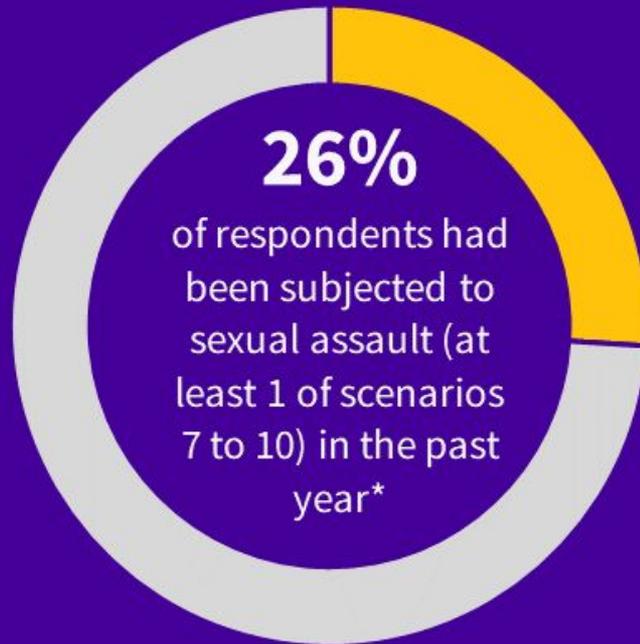
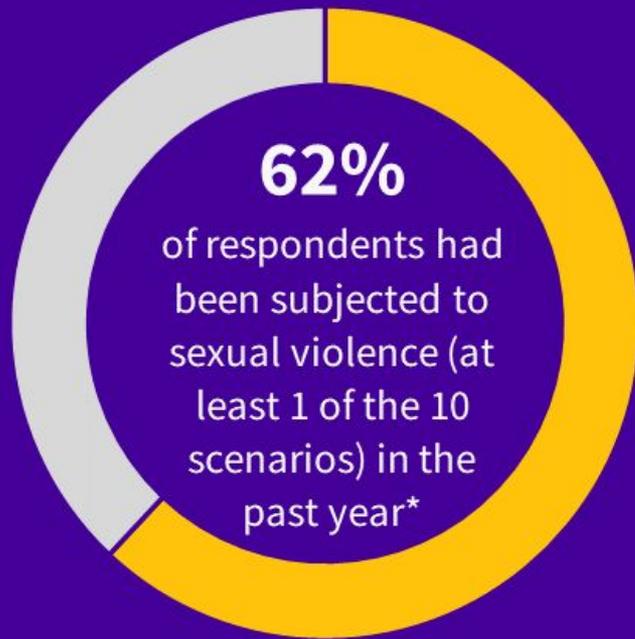
Terms of reference:

- **Sexual violence** is any sexual act, whether the act is physical or psychological in nature, that is committed, threatened or attempted against a person without that person's consent. Sexual violence includes: unwanted touching, sexual harassment, sexual assault, or rape.
- **Sexual assault** is an umbrella term that describes sexual contact or behaviour that occurs without your explicit consent. Examples of sexual assault include but are not limited to unwanted sexual touching, kissing without consent, assault by penetration, attempted rape and rape.
- **Consent** means an active, direct, voluntary and conscious choice and agreement to engage in sexual activity.
- **Disclosing sexual violence** simply involves telling someone about an incident.
- **Reporting sexual violence** involves making a formal report with allegations that will be acted on or investigated (e.g. by the police or the University).

Prevalence

Respondents were asked to indicate if they had been subjected to any of the following 10 scenarios in the past year* whilst they were a student here:

Scenarios 1-10	Number who had been subjected	% who had been subjected
1: Inappropriate sexual comments or someone tried to talk about sex when I didn't want to	285	45%
2: Subjected to unwanted exposure of genitals or other parts of the naked body (in person or online)	54	9%
3: Shared intimate photos or videos of me without my consent	19	3%
4: Repeatedly asked me to go on dates or spend time with them even after I said no	85	14%
5: Offered me a bribe to engage in a sexual/romantic relationship	20	3%
6: Stalked, followed, or repeated unwanted contacted	75	13%
7: Unwanted fondling, kissing, rubbing against private areas of body, or removal of clothing	124	22%
8: Made to perform or receive unwanted oral sex	18	3%
9: Attempted unwanted oral sex or sexual penetration	30	5%
10: Unwanted sexual penetration	29	5%



Female, non-binary, under 25, undergrads, LGBTQ+, disabled, home and white students were all more likely to indicate that they had been subjected to sexual violence than their comparison groups.

*Please note that 'in the past year' refers to the period of spring 2022 to spring 2023.

When weighting to correct for the overrepresentation of females in the sample, the prevalence figures are **55%** subjected to sexual violence in the past year* and **21%** subjected to sexual assault in the past year*.

Perpetrators of sexual violence:

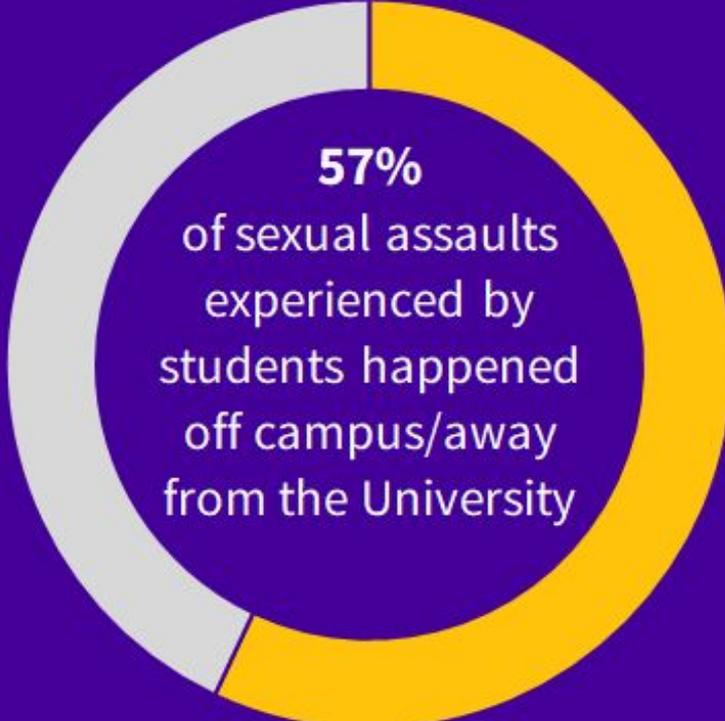
- Gender of perpetrator
 - 88% of sexual violence and 87% of sexual assault was reported as being committed by males.
- Relationship to perpetrator
 - 52% of students subjected to sexual violence knew their perpetrator.
 - 59% of students subjected to sexual assault knew their perpetrator.
 - For Scenarios 8-10 (performing or receiving unwanted oral sex, attempted unwanted sexual penetration, and unwanted sexual penetration), 91% of students subjected to these scenarios knew their perpetrator.

- Location

- 47% of sexual violence experienced by students happened off campus/away from the University, 32% happened on university campus**, and 20% happened online/digitally.
- 57% of sexual assaults experienced by students happened off campus/away from the University, and 43% happened on campus**.

**Please note on campus includes University accommodation and Students' Union nightclubs

Location

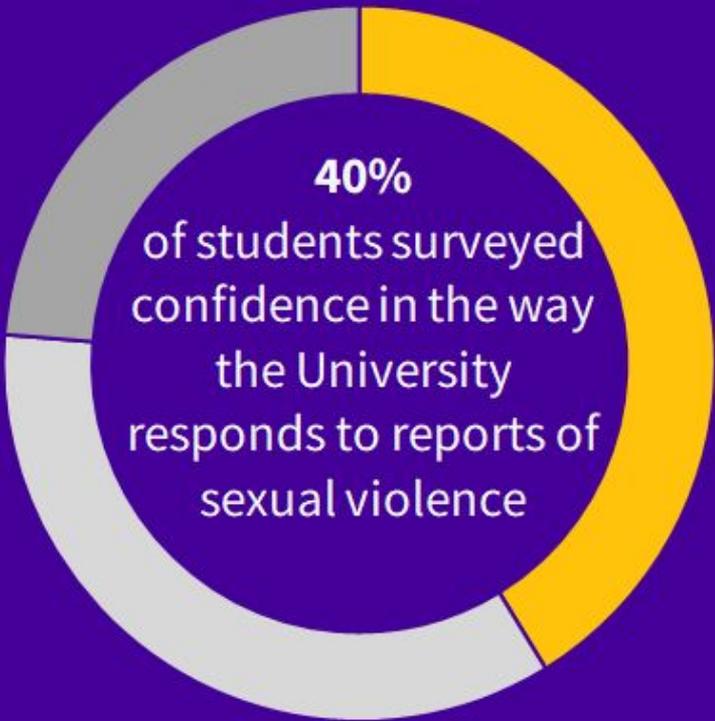
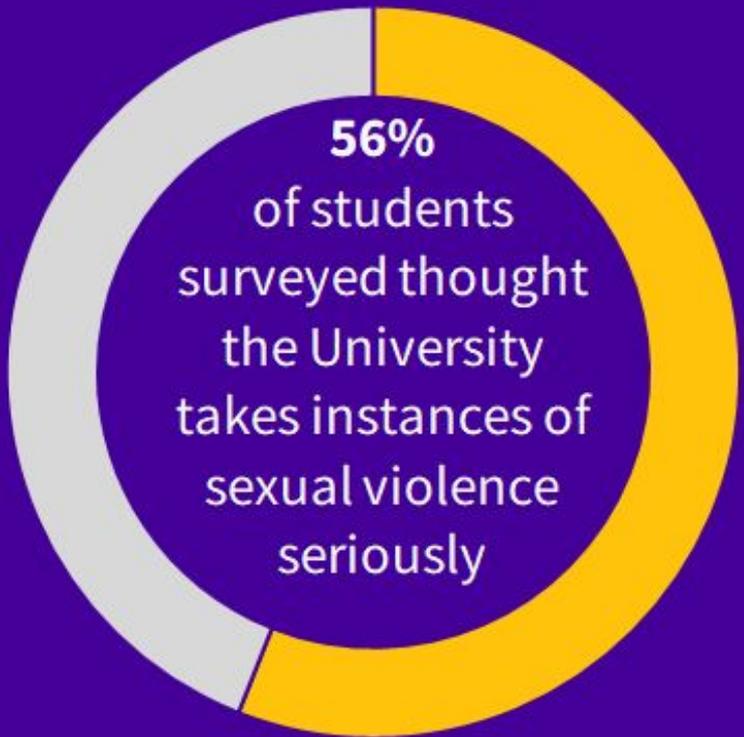


32% happened on university campus**
20% happened online/digitally

43% happened on university campus**

**Please note on campus includes University accommodation and Students' Union nightclubs

Perception of how the University handles sexual violence:



38% didn't have an opinion. 23% didn't have confidence in how the University responds to reports of sexual violence

Reporting and Disclosing

Respondents who indicated that they were subjected to a sexual violence scenario in the past year*, whilst they were a student here, were asked if they had reported or disclosed it.

Scenarios 1-10	Disclosed	Disclosed to the Uni	Reported	Reported to the Uni
1: Inappropriate sexual comments or someone tried to talk about sex when I didn't want to	25 (9%)	14 (5%)	4 (1%)	2 (1%)
2: Subjected to unwanted exposure of genitals or other parts of the naked body (in person or online)	8 (15%)	3 (6%)	5 (9%)	0 (0%)
3: Shared intimate photos or videos of me without my consent	2 (11%)	1 (5%)	1 (5%)	0 (0%)
4: Repeatedly asked me to go on dates or spend time with them even after I said no	6 (7%)	3 (4%)	1 (1%)	1 (1%)
5: Offered me a bribe to engage in a sexual/romantic relationship	4 (20%)	2 (10%)	1 (5%)	1 (5%)
6: Stalked, followed, or repeated unwanted contacted	17 (23%)	6 (8%)	7 (9%)	0 (0%)
7: Unwanted fondling, kissing, rubbing against private areas of body, or removal of clothing	17(14%)	8 (7%)	5 (4%)	0 (0%)
8: Made to perform or receive unwanted oral sex	2 (11%)	2 (11%)	1 (6%)	0 (0%)
9: Attempted unwanted oral sex or sexual penetration	5 (17%)	5 (17%)	5 (17%)	3 (10%)
10: Unwanted sexual penetration	6 (21%)	5 (17%)	3 (10%)	1 (4%)

Reporting and Disclosing:

- Out of 739 instances of sexual violence, students disclosed 92 (13%), of which 49 (7%) were disclosed to the University.
- Out of 739 instances of sexual violence, students reported 33 incidents (5%), of which 8 (1%) were reported to the University.

Students who had not been subjected to a particular sexual violence scenario were asked: if they were subjected to that scenario in the future would they disclose and report it?

- 60% anticipated that they would disclose the incident if they were subjected to sexual violence in the future.
- 55% anticipated that they would report the incident if they were subjected to sexual violence in the future.

This large gap between the anticipated reporting and disclosing rates and the actual reporting and disclosing rates may indicate that many students are not aware of the potential barriers which might prevent them disclosing and reporting in the future...

Barriers to disclosing and reporting:

The overall most common reason why students didn't report an incident was that they didn't think it was serious enough...

Scenarios 1-10	% who didn't report because they didn't think it was serious enough
1: Inappropriate sexual comments or someone tried to talk about sex when I didn't want to	69%
2: Subjected to unwanted exposure of genitals or other parts of the naked body (in person or online)	52%
3: Shared intimate photos or videos of me without my consent	50%
4: Repeatedly asked me to go on dates or spend time with them even after I said no	65%
5: Offered me a bribe to engage in a sexual/romantic relationship	65%
6: Stalked, followed, or repeated unwanted contacted	45%
7: Unwanted fondling, kissing, rubbing against private areas of body, or removal of clothing	60%
8: Made to perform or receive unwanted oral sex	35%
9: Attempted unwanted oral sex or sexual penetration	33%
10: Unwanted sexual penetration	19%

The next most common reasons for not reporting sexual violence were:

- I didn't think I could prove the behaviour took place
- I didn't think the University would take it seriously
- At the time I did not recognise the behaviour as sexual harassment or sexual assault
- I was concerned the process would be hard/stressful for me
- I felt partly to blame for what happened
- I wanted to forget it had happened
- I felt embarrassed/ashamed

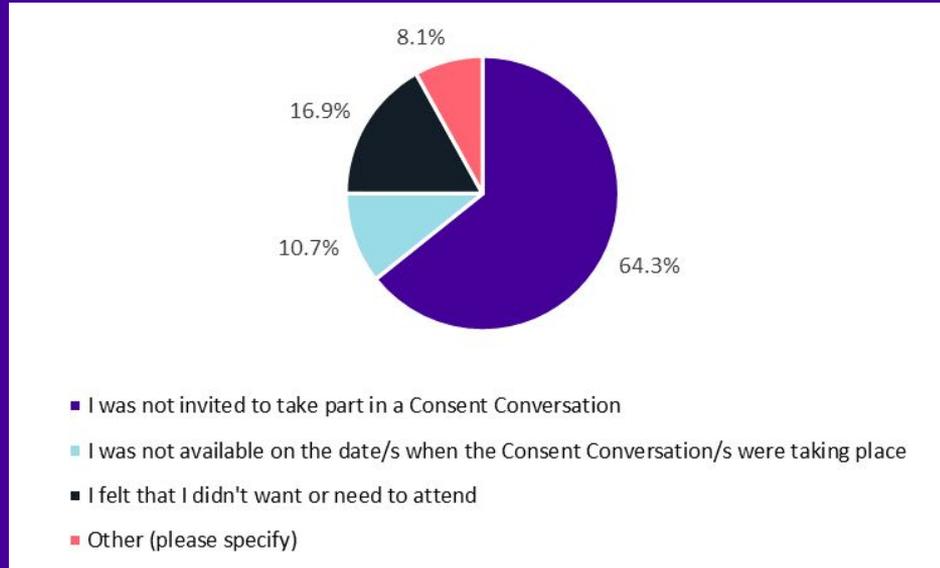
These last 3 reasons were particularly common for those who had been subjected to sexual assault.

Awareness of support:

- Only 42% of students surveyed were aware of the Report and Support website
- 57% of students surveyed indicated that they understood the difference between reporting and disclosing an incident of sexual harassment or sexual assault to the University
- Only 30% of students surveyed were aware of and understood what happens following a report of sexual violence to the University
- 43% of students surveyed indicated that they knew how to access support from the University for sexual assault and sexual harassment
- Non-binary and LGBTQ+ students were significantly less likely to be aware of the available support
- 41% of respondents who required mental health support/counselling in relation to sexual violence were unable to access the support they needed. Waiting times were frequently cited as a barrier to accessing support.

Consent Conversations:

- Less than a third of students (30%) said that they had taken part in a consent conversation whilst at the University of Sheffield.
- The majority of respondents who had not taken part in a consent conversation (64%) said that this was because they were not invited to take part.



You said, we did:

You said:

- Low reporting rates for instances of sexual violence
- Low student awareness of Report and Support website
- Few students understanding the difference between reporting and disclosing
- Few students understanding what happens following a disclosure or report

We did:

- We've worked closely with the SU to encourage students to report sexual violence of any kind - including historic cases - to normalise reporting incidents of sexual violence
- We have launched a campaign to promote the Report and Support Website, what it does, and what happens following a disclosure or report
- To increase transparency we will be making data on the number of reports and their outcomes available on our website

You said, we did:

You said:

- Some students don't think the University takes this issue seriously and lacks transparency

We did:

- A commitment to running a large scale sexual violence survey every 2 years to:
 - Continually monitoring the issue
 - Allow for regular student input
 - Assess how support, activities, and procedures are currently working and identify priorities for improvement
 - Increase transparency by sharing the results on our website

You said, we did:

You said:

- Non-binary and LGBTQ+ students are less likely to seek sexual violence support from the University

We did:

- Conducted research with members of the LGBTQ+ community to explore ways in which barriers to support seeking can be overcome. We hope to be able to implement recommendations from this research in the coming academic year

You said:

- Many students struggle to access mental health support for sexual violence

We did:

- New provision has been made available in the University Counselling Service with a dedicated sexual violence pathway