

**SAY
SOMETHING**

A Study of Students'
Experiences of Harassment,
Stalking, Violence
& Sexual Assault



Union of Students in Ireland
Aontas na Mac Léinn in Éirinn

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome,

The Union of Students in Ireland decided to conduct this study as there was a lack of research on students' experiences of violence. We hope that the results will help to shed some light on this area and inform future campaigns in relation to students' experiences of violence, including physical violence, sexual violence, harassment, stalking and obsessive behaviour. This study is the first online study of its kind and scale to be conducted in Ireland.

The victim is never to blame.

USI hopes that this study will contribute to counteracting the culture of victim blaming that exists in this country. We also hope that it will help to open up more dialogue around these issues among the student body.

The findings will now inform a national campaign aimed at raising awareness of the supports available to students who experience violence. USI will also organise training for Students' Unions and college support staff around these issues to equip them on how to best support students.

USI looks forward to continuing to work with Cosc and the Public Awareness Sub-Committee (PASC) of The National Steering Committee on Violence Against Women to develop guidelines for students around the issue.

On behalf of USI, I wish to thank Cosc for supporting USI in carrying out this survey, particularly Philip McCormack and Paula Connolly. I would like to thank Dr. Gerard Horn for carrying out the research. USI also thanks the National Union of Students in the UK for giving us permission to use the template of their 2010 'Hidden Marks' survey.

This study would not have been possible without the help of our member Students' Unions.

Yours Sincerely,



Laura Harmon

Vice – President for Equality and Citizenship

Union of Students in Ireland

Acknowledgements

- Cosc – The National Office for the Prevention of Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
- Philip McCormack, Researcher with Cosc
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- The Department of Justice and Equality
- USI member Students' Unions
- National Union of Students in the UK



The National Office for the Prevention of Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence
An Oifig Náisiúnta um Fhoréigean Baile, Gnéasach agus Inscnebhunaithe a Chosc

The National Office for the Prevention of Domestic Sexual and Gender-based Violence.

Cosc continues to work to improve the delivery of a well co-ordinated effective response to domestic, sexual and gender-based violence in Ireland as it affects women and men. We do this by facilitating action for the prevention of these crimes, the protection of victims and the provision of services for those affected. Cosc is responsible for driving the implementation of the National Strategy for the Prevention of Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence, 2010 - 2014.

Cosc has been working to support the inclusion of suitable material on gender-based violence in the curricula of third-level courses such as medicine and social science. Further action aims to promote healthy relationships and develop among young people, including third level students, an intolerance of sexual and gender-based violence.

Cosc was delighted to be in a position to support the roll-out of this particular study of both male and female student experiences undertaken by the Union of Students in Ireland (USI). One extremely important outcome of this research has been the direction setting for future awareness raising and informed decision making in the area. This is the first time that a study of this type and magnitude has been undertaken in Ireland. It is a significant milestone in Cosc's goal to fill the gap of empirical evidence relevant to the lived experiences of the Irish population as a whole and, in particular, third-level students.

Practical information and guidance material will be developed, in consultation with USI, for third-level institutions and student unions in order to inform students of the risks of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence, and to provide them with practical information on how and where to get help. The current research will significantly inform much of the work on guidance material.

Cosc thanks USI for taking on this body of work and for its commitment to tackling these most sensitive issues. We also look forward to working with the USI into the future.

Greg Heylin

Director of Cosc

August 2013.

For more information on the work of Cosc and for information on support services for those affected by domestic or sexual violence go to www.cosc.ie.

KEY FINDINGS

Unwanted Sexual Experiences

- 11 per cent of the Women who responded noted that they had been subject to unwanted sexual contact.
- In addition, 5 per cent of Women recorded that they were the victims of rape and a further 3 per cent were victims of attempted rape.
- A significantly lower proportion of Men reported similar experiences with less than 1 per cent reporting either rape or attempted rape.
- 16 per cent of students reported having experienced some form of unwanted sexual experience while in their current educational institution.
- Of these 38 per cent of students reported that these unwanted sexual experiences had occurred on more than one occasion and 36 per cent noted that the unwanted sexual experience that they reported had occurred either 'several times' or 'many times'.
- The largest proportion of victims of unwanted sexual experiences identified the perpetrators as being 'acquaintances'.
- Unwanted experiences occurred predominantly in 3 location categories. They most frequently occurred in public buildings that were not part of the respondent's college or university, with this being the location for 36 per cent of the incidents. This was followed in frequency by the number of incidents which occurred in victims' friends' homes (23 per cent) or their own homes (20 per cent).
- In over six in ten cases (61 per cent for Women, 68 per cent for Men) the perpetrator was believed to be under the influence of alcohol.
- In over six in ten cases (64 per cent for Women, 62 per cent for Men) the victim themselves were under the influence of alcohol at the time.
- 5 per cent of those who had reported unwanted sexual experiences recorded that they had been given drugs or alcohol against their will before the incident. A further 34 students were unsure whether or not this had occurred.
- The lack of reporting was even more pronounced in this area. Only 3 per cent recorded that they had reported these incidents to an official within their college or university. This represented just 3 per cent of those who suffered such incidents compared to 5 per cent who had experienced physical violence or 9 per cent of those who had experienced obsessive behaviour.
- Only 3 per cent reported experiencing these incidents to

the Gardaí. When asked for explanations of why they did not report matters to the Gardaí the two most frequent responses were (i) that they did not believe the incident was serious enough to report (57 per cent); and (ii) that they did not think that what happened was a crime (44 per cent).

- Unlike the other categories of experience, however, there was a large proportion of victims who did not report these incidents because they were ashamed or embarrassed (29 per cent); because they thought that they would be blamed for what happened (22 per cent); or because they did not want their parents or family to find out (21 per cent).
- 49 per cent of victims discussed the incident with someone else. For those who did discuss the incident with someone, 91 per cent did so with a friend.
- The highest proportion of students (59 per cent) noted that they didn't think that the experience had affected them. This was a marginally higher figure than was the case for victims of obsessive behaviour and lower by 10 per cent than was the case for victims of physical mistreatment.
- Slightly less than 10 per cent of those who had an unwanted sexual experience, recorded that it had impacted upon their studies.
- Most frequently, the incidents resulted in attendance and grades suffering although, for those whose studies were affected, over half no longer participated in social activities and 40 per cent had thought about leaving college.

Physical Mistreatment

- 85 per cent of students indicated that they had not been subject to any hitting or physical mistreatment.
- The largest number of victims of physical mistreatment described their relationship to the perpetrator as 'Other'. Ninety-eight per cent of these provided a description of their relationship with the perpetrator and, of these, 75 per cent described the person involved as not being known to them.
- A greater proportion of students (10 per cent) reported physical violence to the Gardaí than reported obsessive behaviour (6 per cent), or unwanted sexual experiences (3 per cent).
- The two most frequently cited reasons why students did not report incidents of physical mistreatment to An Garda Síochána were that (i) students did not believe that the incident was serious enough to report (56 per cent); and that (ii) they did not believe that what had occurred was a crime (32 per cent).
- As with the other problems surveyed, students were most likely to discuss their experiences with someone who was not a college representative or member of the Gardaí. In

total 58 per cent of victims did. The vast majority of these (89 per cent) discussed the issue with one of their friends.

Harassment

- 9 per cent of Women students reported experiencing comments with a sexual overtone which made them feel uncomfortable while in a learning environment. Thirteen per cent reported experiencing this in their Students' Union, Student Centre or On-Campus bar and over one in five reported having had such an experience while elsewhere on campus.
- Over 30 per cent of Women or Other respondents reported feeling harassed or intimidated while at their current institution.
- Research findings suggest a lack of shared understandings among students about acceptable language and dialogue around sex and sexuality and, in particular, a failure on the part of some students to recognise that what they say, and how they say it, impacts on their peers.
- Harassment was not limited to verbal behaviour. Most strikingly one in eight Women or Others experienced having their bottom groped, pinched or smacked without consenting to this while in their Students' Union or Student Centre with 11 per cent of them experiencing this in other areas of their campus.
- Seven per cent of Women or Others recorded that they had their breasts groped without consenting to it.
- Almost 6 per cent of Men were also subjected to similar harassment while in campus areas other than the class room or their Students' Union.
- 19 per cent of Men and 17 per cent of Women had been photographed or filmed without their consent. In addition, just over 10 per cent of Men and 8 per cent of Women had photographs or videos of them circulated on-line.
- In the majority of cases for both Women and Men the person carrying out the obsessive behavior was a student.
- While 12 cent of male victims had reported such incidents to campus authorities, just less than 8 per cent of female victims did so.
- In total, just 6 per cent of those who experienced obsessive behavior reported it to An Garda Síochána. The reasons which were most common in deterring reporting to the Gardaí were (i) students didn't believe the incidents were serious enough to report (63 per cent of all cases); and (ii) students believed that they could handle it themselves (50 per cent of all cases).
- Perhaps the most worrying statistic was that 16 per cent of those who experienced obsessive behaviour, but did not report it to the Gardaí failed to do so as they were afraid of reprisals.
- While 79 per cent of Women had discussed the matter with someone else, only 64 per cent of Men had done so. All gender categories most frequently confided in friends (68 per cent of those who spoke to someone), family members other than a spouse (28 per cent), or a partner or spouse (23 per cent).
- Three-in-ten of those who reported experiencing obsessive behavior believed that the experience had affected their mental health and well being, while over 40 per cent of victims believed that their relationships had been impacted and a similar number believed that their studies had been impaired.
- Of those that said that their studies had suffered as a result of the obsessive behaviour, 52 per cent recorded that their grades had suffered, with the same percentage recording that they had thought about leaving their course. Thirty-one per cent of these students no longer participated in college social activities and a further 13 per cent recorded that they had been ignored or picked on by other students.
- One serious issue raised during this research was the prevalence of social media and modern technology as a means through which obsessive behaviour is carried out.

Obsessive Behaviour

- 10 per cent of the Women who completed the survey reported that they had experienced obsessive behaviour that made them afraid or concerned for their safety.
- 5 per cent of Men also reported that they too had similar experiences.
- 12 per cent of perpetrators of obsessive behavior were described as acquaintances by those who reported being harassed.

Information on Campus

- Just under half of the respondents discuss the issue of sexual violence with their friends. Whereas 51 per cent of the Women surveyed discussed the issue with their friends only 38 per cent of Men did.
- Students appear to be unclear as to what the situation is in relation to the supports available to students who have been the victims of violence, sexual assault or harassment with significant minorities in all gender categories acknowledging that they are unsure whether or not their universities, colleges or their students' unions provide information about victims support.

SECTION ONE:

Introduction & Methodology

1.1 Methodology

This study replicated the on-line questionnaire used by the National Union of Students in the United Kingdom to produce their “*Hidden Marks*” (NUS) report in 2010. With permission from the NUS the original survey was adapted to Irish conditions, with the main changes being around some of the names and terminology used for officials and institutions. For example, the word police was changed to the “Gardaí” or “An Garda Síochána” throughout. Similar changes were made in relation to institutional titles that were more suitable to Irish conditions, such as “Welfare Officers” being introduced. One important difference between the NUS survey and this work, however, is that unlike *Hidden Marks* this work did not limit responses to students who identified themselves as being Women.

The questionnaire was run on the *LimeSurvey* web-platform from 10 January 2013 to 15 February 2013. Access to the survey was available to the public and it was promoted through social media and students’ unions affiliated to Union of Students in Ireland. The survey settings allowed us to set cookies to prevent repeated participation which was done, and also allowed for the use of CAPTCHA technology to filter out automated responses. In total 4,181 responses were received of which 2,752 were completed. The report below limits itself to figures that are based only on completed responses. The quantitative analysis was carried out using both the functionality within the *LimeSurvey* platform and the open-source data analysis system PSPP.

1.2 Respondent Profile (Educational Details)

Students were asked questions about their educational backgrounds which allowed us to build a profile of those who responded to the survey. The survey was completed by 2,590 Irish students and 162 International Students. The largest proportion of respondents attended universities (55.31 per cent), but the sample included a sizeable cohort of students from Institutes of Technology (43.39 per cent), with smaller groups from teacher-training colleges and other institutions.

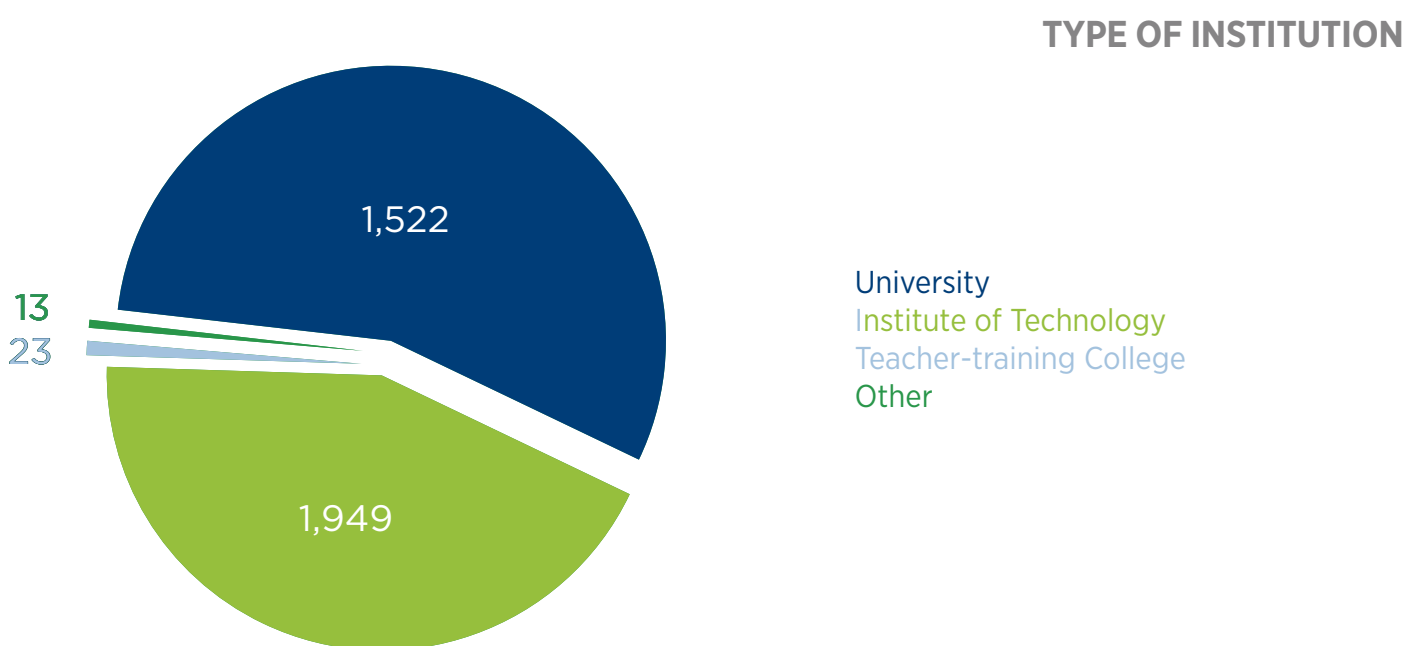


FIGURE 1: QUESTION ASKED - WHAT TYPE OF INSTITUTION DO YOU STUDY IN? N= 2,752

NUMBER OF STUDENTS BY LEVEL OF STUDY

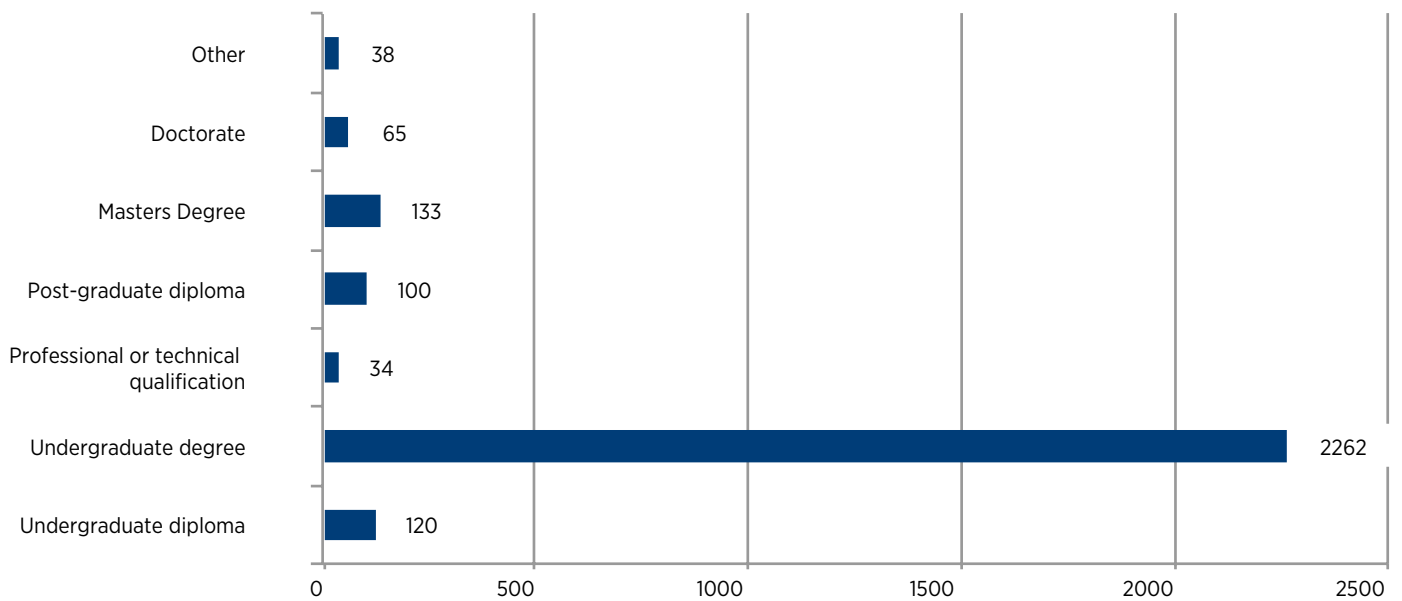


FIGURE 2: QUESTION ASKED - WHAT IS YOUR LEVEL OF STUDY? N= 2,752

Responses to the survey were recruited for through Union of Students in Ireland affiliated students' unions. As a result, the institutions from which respondents were drawn reflect that and just sixty responses of the 2,752 came from students outside institutions that were affiliated to USI in January 2013. As set out in Figure 2 above, 82 per cent of those who completed the survey were undergraduates. In addition, 95 per cent of complete responses came from full-time students.

1.3 Respondent Profile (Personal Details)

Students were asked about some of their personal details, again so as to build a profile of respondents and so that comparisons could be made regarding the different categories of students in terms of the experiences being examined.

Analysis of the differing experience of students of different genders is central to the analysis that follows and so it is necessary to set out these figures from the outset. 1,811 of the respondents described themselves as Women, 926 as Men and a further 15 chose the Other option to that question. In a separate question 24 students described themselves as having a transsexual history, being Trans or, although they did not identify with the word "Trans" themselves, their experience/background might be described by others as Trans. As sexual orientation is used as a category of analysis in a later section it is also necessary to note at this point that 405 of the respondents described themselves as Lesbian, Gay or Bisexual.

The median age of students who completed the survey was 21 years. Just 17 per cent of them were responsible for the care of children under eighteen years of age. Eleven per cent identified themselves as having a long-term health condition which affected their day-to-day life and 5 per cent considered themselves to have a disability. Reflecting perhaps their generally young age, the overwhelming majority of respondents either lived with their parents or in a house or flat with friends. See Figure 3 below.

NUMBER OF STUDENTS BY TYPE OF LIVING ARRANGEMENT

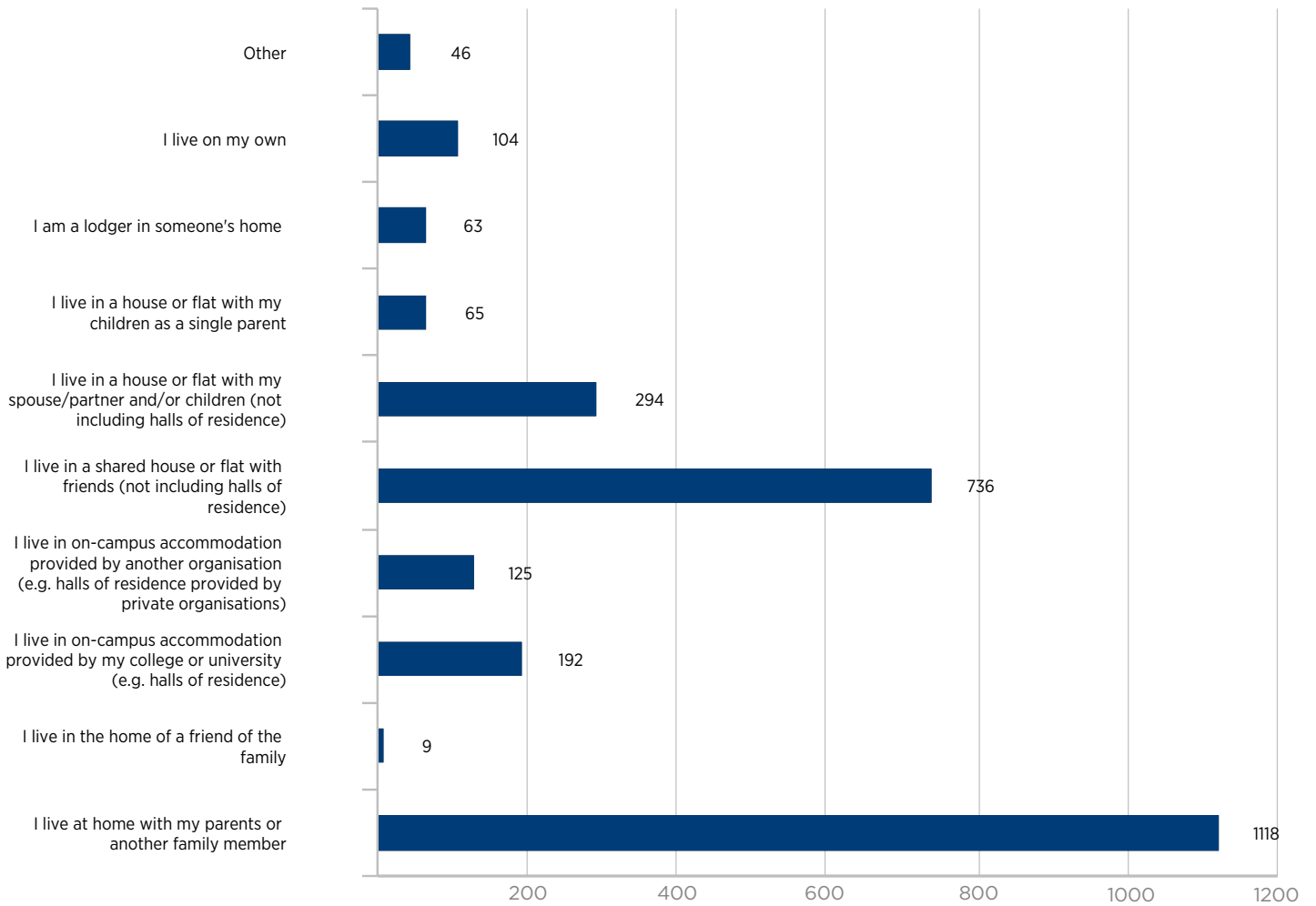


FIGURE 3: QUESTION ASKED - WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS BEST DESCRIBES YOUR LIVING ARRANGEMENTS DURING TERM TIME? N=2,752

SECTION TWO:

Personal Safety

2.1 Personal safety

The questionnaire asked students a series of questions about their personal safety on-campus and in particular whether they felt safe and what sorts of things made them feel less safe. The figures and charts below set out the proportions of how students feel about walking around their college campuses during the day and at night. They suggest that whereas a high proportion, 99 per cent feel safe always or most of the time during the day this proportion falls considerably at night-time when over one in five students do not fall into one of these two categories.

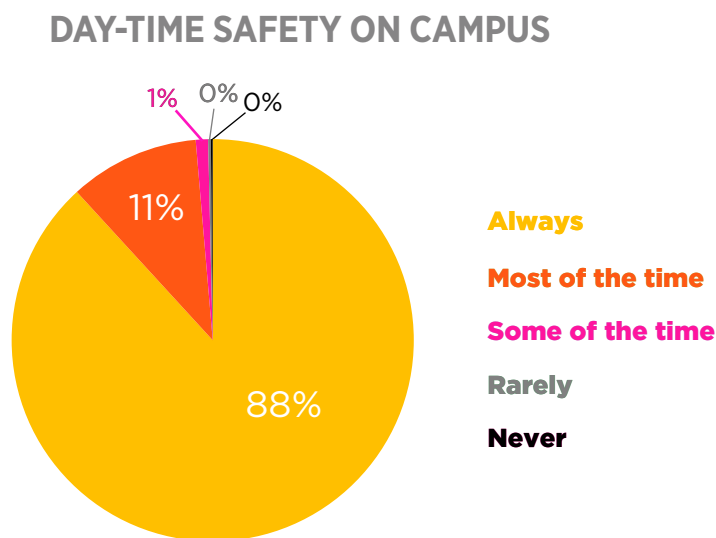


FIGURE 4: QUESTION ASKED - DO YOU FEEL SAFE WALKING AROUND CAMPUS DURING THE DAY?
N=2,736

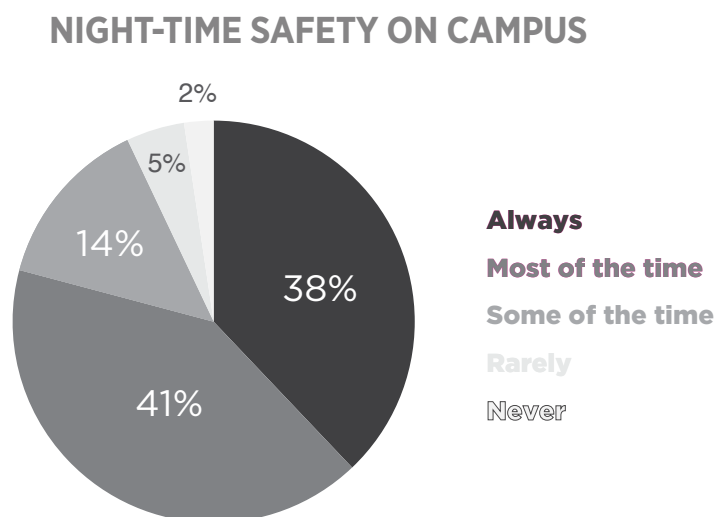


FIGURE 5: QUESTION ASKED - DO YOU FEEL SAFE WALKING AROUND CAMPUS DURING AT NIGHT?
N=2,411

The biggest concern for students in relation to their on-campus safety at night was being alone. Of those students who were on campus at night and did not always feel safe, 52 per cent cited inadequate street lighting as a concern. This was followed by two other major categories of concern: inadequate street lighting about which 38 per cent expressed a concern; worry about being approached or intimidated which concerned 34 per cent of this group. See

NUMBER OF STUDENTS BY THINGS THAT MADE THEM FEEL UNSAFE ON CAMPUS

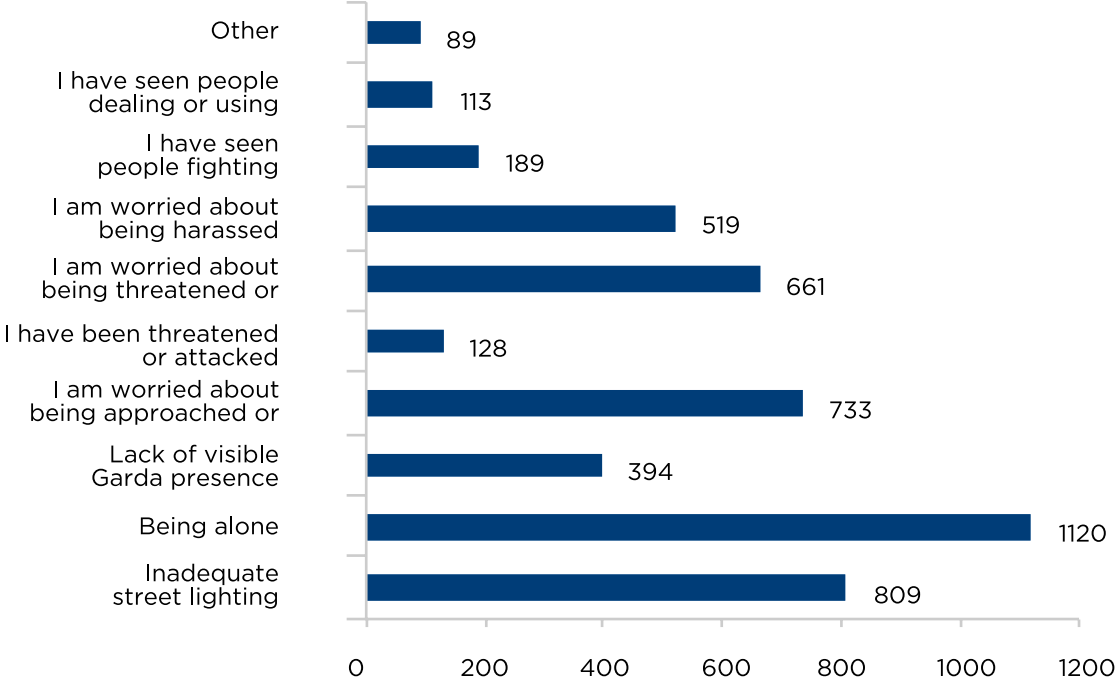


FIGURE 6: QUESTION ASKED - WHAT MAKES YOU FEEL UNSAFE AT NIGHT?, N=2,129.

Among other things students were asked whether or not they felt safe in their Student’s Union, Student Centre or On-Campus Bar at night. The majority of those who responded to the survey, 88 per cent recorded that they did feel safe within this environment. Indeed, those who appear to have felt unsafe represented just 4 per cent of those who completed the survey. See figure 7 below.

SAFETY IN STUDENTS’ CENTRE/STUDENTS’ UNION/ON-CAMPUS BAR

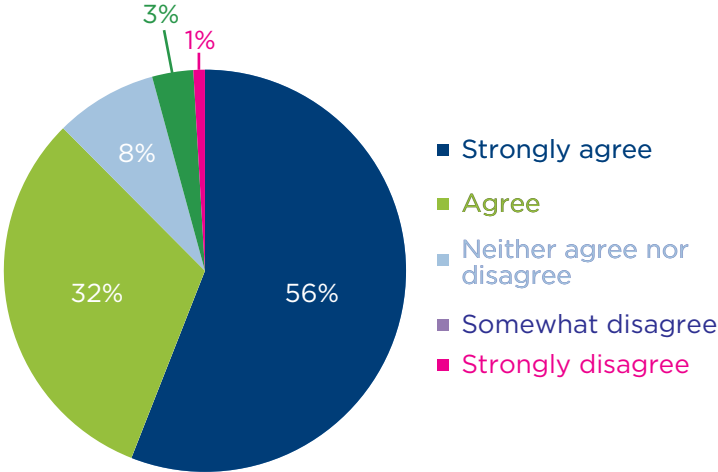


FIGURE 7: STATEMENT - I FEEL SAFE IN THE AREA OF MY STUDENTS’ CENTRE/STUDENTS’ UNION OR ON-CAMPUS BAR AT NIGHT. N=2,055

NUMBER OF STUDENTS BY THINGS THAT MADE THEM FEEL UNSAFE

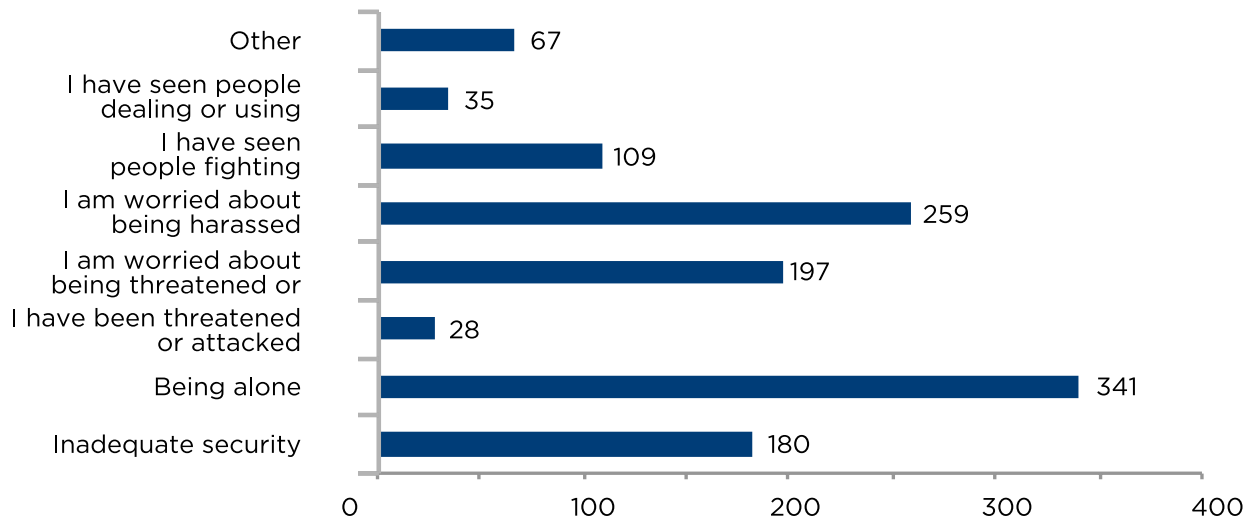


FIGURE 8: QUESTION ASKED - WHAT MAKES YOU FEEL UNSAFE (IN THE AREA OF MY STUDENTS' CENTRE/STUDENTS' UNION OR ON-CAMPUS BAR)? N=905

Once again the main concern raised by those students who had concerns regarding their safety was being alone with 38 per cent citing it as a concern. Twenty-nine per cent of those students who did not believe strongly that they felt safe in their Student's Union Bar also suggested that they were worried about being harassed, with a slightly smaller proportion (22 per cent) concerned with being threatened and 20 per cent being worried about inadequate security.

SECTION THREE:

Experiences on-campus:

Woman (38): *I have had people who are curious about my personal life making very crude and derogatory comments about my body and parts of my anatomy making jokes about how I'm "uptight" and "need to get laid" and "get a sense of humour" when I'm stressed by the constant on-campus bullying that I experience. I also have male classmates insisting that they are "just being friendly" when they hug me in a way that makes me uncomfortable. When I ask nicely that they don't hug me then they are making snide remarks about me - in my hearing while I am still in the room. They make more crass comments when they think I am out of earshot. It's persistent harassment [sic]. Others in the class see it happening and say nothing to help me because they are scared that they will be targeted next if they voice any objection.*

3.1 Harassment

This section of the questionnaire asked respondents to describe any experiences of harassment that they experienced on campus. The survey listed a number of such behaviours which may have happened to students and asked them to identify if they had experienced them while enrolled in their current course of study. If so, they were also asked to identify the setting. There was a slight difference in how the questions were asked to different genders. Those who identified as Women and Others [see section 1.3 above] were asked eight questions including whether they had experienced someone groping, pinching or touching their breasts when they did not agree to them doing so and also if they had experienced someone lifting up their skirt in public without them agreeing. Those who identified as Men [see section 1.3 above] were asked seven questions. There was no equivalent to the question about groping, pinching or touching breasts and they were asked about someone pulling down their trousers in public as an alternative to a skirt. All gender categories were also asked to identify whether or not they had experienced some forms of on-line harassment while attending college.

TABLE 1: ON-CAMPUS HARASSMENT AS EXPERIENCED BY THOSE WHO DESCRIBE THEIR GENDER AS 'WOMEN' OR 'OTHER' N=1,826

Those who defined themselves as 'Women' or 'Other'	This occurred in:		
Whilst you have been a student at your current institution, have you ever experienced any of the following?	A Learning Environment	Students' Union Area/SU Bar or Student Centre	Other Areas on Campus
Someone making comments with a sexual overtone that made you feel uncomfortable	9.36%	13.14%	20.70%
Someone wolf whistling, cat calling or making noises with sexual overtones	5.09%	14.95%	25.52%
Someone exposing their sexual organs to you when you did not agree to see them	0.27%	2.30%	4.38%
Someone groping, pinching or smacking your bottom when you did not agree to them doing so	1.15%	12.76%	11.28%
Someone groping, pinching or touching your breasts when you did not agree to them doing so	0.49%	3.61%	4.65%
Someone lifting up your skirt in public without you agreeing	0.05%	1.92%	2.25%
Someone asking you questions about your sex or romantic life when it was clearly irrelevant or none of their business	8.16%	13.36%	15.94%
Someone asking you questions about your sexuality when it was clearly irrelevant or none of their business	5.26%	7.06%	8.11%

TABLE 2: ON-CAMPUS HARASSMENT AS EXPERIENCED BY THOSE WHO DESCRIBE THEIR GENDER AS 'MEN' N=926

Those who defined themselves as 'Men'	This occurred in:		
	A Learning Environment	Students' Union Area/ SU Bar or student centre	Other Areas on Campus
Whilst you have been a student at your current institution, have you ever experienced any of the following in:			
Someone making comments with a sexual overtone that made you feel uncomfortable	6.37%	6.70%	12.42%
Someone wolf whistling, cat calling or making noises with sexual overtones	4.21%	7.56%	10.15%
Someone exposing their sexual organs to you when you did not agree to see them	0.76%	2.81%	3.67%
Someone groping, pinching or smacking your bottom when you did not agree to them doing so	1.51%	4.00%	5.72%
Someone pulling down your trousers in public without you agreeing	0.86%	1.73%	2.05%
Someone asking you questions about your sex or romantic life when it was clearly irrelevant or none of their business	6.91%	8.75%	14.04%
Someone asking you questions about your sexuality when it was clearly irrelevant or none of their business	5.72%	7.99%	11.66%

The results relating to the section on harassment are set out in the tables above with those who defined their gender as 'Women' or 'Other' in Table 1 and those who identified themselves as 'Men' in Table 2. The survey suggests that a high proportion of respondents were subject to treatment with which they were uncomfortable or found intimidating. This was particularly the case for Women students with 9 per cent experiencing comments with a sexual overtone which made them feel uncomfortable while in a learning environment, 13 per cent experiencing this in their Students' Union Area/SU Bar or Student Centre and over one in five having such an experience while elsewhere on campus. The extent to which the questionnaire suggests that this activity pervades campus life was masked slightly by the formatting of this question. When the responses were aggregated across the three possible places where such intimidating experiences might have occurred, they suggested that over three in ten women or other respondents (31 per cent) were intimidated in this way. In other words 570 of the 1811 Women or Other respondents reported that they had experienced this type of behaviour in one or more of the on-campus areas.

This type of inappropriate verbal behaviour was not limited to comments and also included students being asked inappropriate questions about their sex or romantic lives, or their sexuality. The former was experienced more frequently by Women and Other respondents, while Men were more often subject to the latter. Students also had the opportunity to elaborate on their experiences of verbal harassment or intimidation with several of them providing comments which ranged from being inappropriate to being menacing.

Woman, 22: *[S]omeone making comments saying they'd like to see me in tight, short clothes, not in a nice way either*

Woman, 22: *A group of males essentially bullied me over my past romantic history which consisted only of kissing a small number of people over a long period of time, nothing more, but I was called a slut etc., in college and at student organised events.*

Their experiences also suggest the lack of shared understandings among students about acceptable language and

dialogue around sex and sexuality and, in particular, a failure on the part of some students to recognise that what they say, and how they say it, impacts on their peers.

Harassment was not limited to verbal behaviour. Most strikingly one in eight Women or Others experienced having their bottom groped, pinched or smacked without consenting to this while in their Students' Union or Student Centre with 11 per cent of them experiencing this in other areas of their campus. In addition, almost 6 per cent of Men were also subjected to this while in campus areas other than the class room or their Students' Union.

Woman, 27: *Working in the Student's Union Bar was particularly horrid. Working in most bars [is] pretty horrid if you're a woman who doesn't just shrug sexual harassment off. You adjust obviously, but you shouldn't have to. I couldn't walk around lifting glasses without someone groping me. Typically at night though.*

Woman, 21: *I have had my bottom smacked from a car window in the area surrounding the main campus by a car full of other male students. It was humiliating and physically hurt me.*

Man, 19: *On several occasions a female member of the Student Council while intoxicated has taken to groping my genitals and I have been rather offended by each incidence however don't see it as severe enough to report.*

When the responses across locations were aggregated 7 per cent of Women or Others recorded that they had had their breasts groped without consenting to it. This occurred most frequently in other areas on-campus (4.69 per cent), less frequently in Students' Union or Student Centres (3.64 per cent) and occasionally in class settings (0.50 per cent).

3.2 On-line harassment

The survey also asked a series of questions which sought to ascertain whether students had experienced different forms of on-line harassment. Just less than 80 per cent of students of all genders recorded that they had not experienced any of the forms of on-line harassment that they were questioned about. That said, a significant minority of students, 19 per cent of Men and 17 per cent of Women had been photographed or filmed without their consent. In addition, just over 10 per cent of Men and 8 per cent of Women had had photographs or videos of them circulated on-line. See figure 9 below

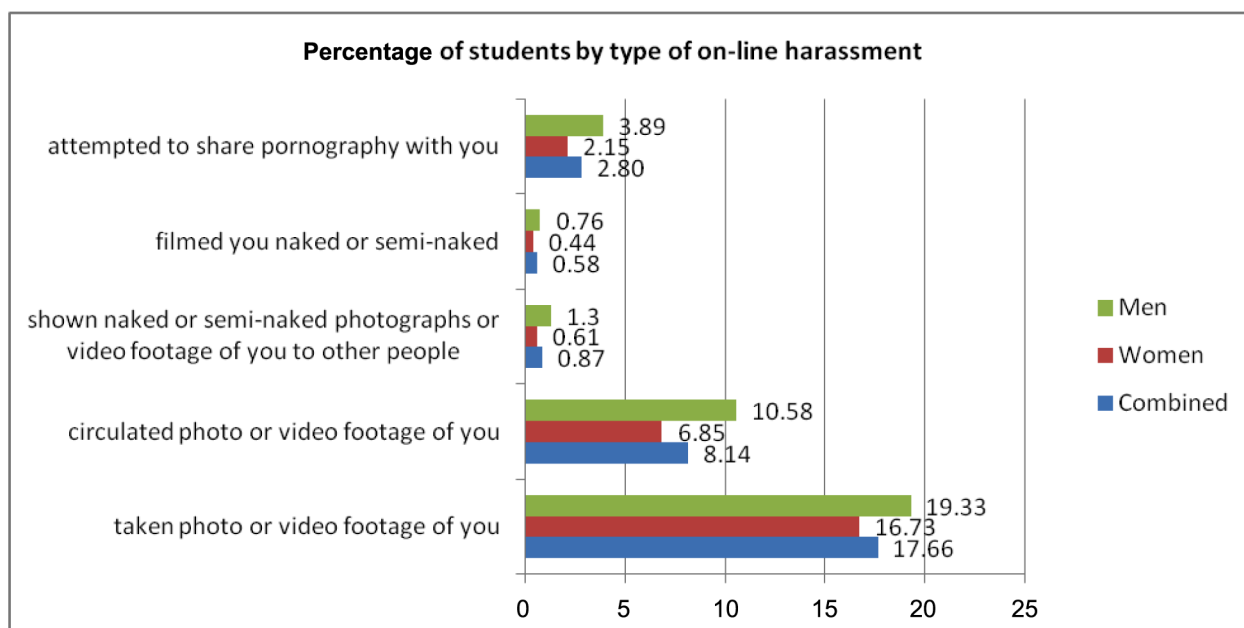


FIGURE 9: PERCENTAGE OF WOMEN AND MEN EXPERIENCING FORMS OF ON-LINE HARASSMENT (OTHERS NOT INCLUDED IN THIS FIGURE)

Where students related instances of on-line harassment they talked about the misuse of social media by some of their peers. Whether or not the examples below are representative is unknown. They do, however, provide an indication of the ways in which some students experience the negative aspects of social networking media.

Woman, 21: *I have been cyber-bullied via the 'Spotted' Facebook page, have had things thrown at me, lastly had a guy back me into a corner and refuse to leave me alone until I agreed to go somewhere with him.*

Man, 21: *I once had a hate page created against me on a social networking site.*

Woman, 20: *Just on Facebook, I had previous roommates making me feel uncomfortable and commenting with nasty things on my wall for all my friends to see.*

Man, 20: *Harassment of a friend on Facebook (in the class group) and of others in e-mail. In our class Facebook group I was also targeted once. I told the people to cop on or the college authorities would be contacted and it stopped.*

3.3 Further issues

A final issue which emerges in the student comments related to this section of the questionnaire is the sense in which those on the receiving end of these behaviours feel as though their concerns are dismissed by those around them and the behaviours are explained away as being friendly or humorous.

Woman, 20: *A lot of it is just 'typical lad' alcohol-related behaviour, which IS unacceptable, but is often passed off as 'banter'.*

Woman, 20: *For most people it's sadly considered normal but personally I cannot stand when I go on a night out and so many men have these attitudes towards women like we're pieces of meat. I went out last night and I am in a relationship so it's not like I was looking to get with anyone or find a fella – I just wanted to dance with my friend. Yet so many times throughout the night my ass was slapped or grabbed or people perved putting their hands on my waist. Most people would say "lighten up" or "it's just a laugh" but it really makes me feel uncomfortable.*

This raises questions worthy of further research and consideration, in particular the extent to which popular culture contributes to these phenomena. For example, does on-line harassment represent a continuation of existing types of bullying albeit carried out through different media or has the development of social media changed something in Irish youth culture which, in turn, has led to bullying on a scale and with a viciousness that were previously rare? Addressing these questions goes beyond the scope of this research, but doing so is a crucial next step in providing responses to the issues raised by it.

SECTION FOUR:

Obsessive Behaviour

He started off just watching me whilst I was working and then found me through a social media site and managed to get my number somehow. He texts me and messages me on Facebook a lot and has recently showed up to a party I was attending.

- Woman, 20

4.1 Occurrences

In order to gauge the extent to which students experienced obsessive behaviour, respondents were asked whether, in their current place of study, anyone had repeatedly followed them, watched them, phoned them, texted, written, e-mailed, communicated with them through social networking sites, or communicated with them in other ways that seemed obsessive or made them afraid or concerned for their safety. Ten per cent (10.27 per cent) of the Women who completed the survey reported that they had experienced this kind of behaviour, with a further 3.59 per cent recording that they were unsure whether or not they had. Men also reported that they too had had similar experiences although they were proportionately less likely to have had them with 5.40 per cent confirming that this had occurred and a further 2.70 per cent saying that they were unsure whether or not it had happened. Three of the 15 respondents who described their gender as Other also experienced this kind of behaviour with a further 4 who were uncertain whether or not it had occurred.

In total 300 respondents suggested a length of time for which this behaviour lasted. This included those who positively identified the behaviour as occurring and those who were unsure. The median length of time for which it occurred was 84 days and the mean 201 days. In 24 of the cases that were recorded, the behaviour lasted for more than one year. In the 239 cases where students confirmed that they had experienced obsessive behaviours they were also asked whether or not the behaviour involved more than one individual. Twenty-five of the respondents confirmed that there was more than one person involved in the behaviour and a further 17 respondents were unsure. In the 25 cases involving more than one perpetrator the median number of perpetrators recorded was 3 and the maximum was 6. In addition to this, 8 of the students who responded to the survey recorded that they had been subject to a second experience of obsessive behaviour.

4.2 Perpetrators

Students were asked to describe the person who carried out the obsessive behaviour, especially in terms of their relationship to the respondent. While in the cases of both Men and Women the person engaged in the obsessive behaviour was most likely to be described as an acquaintance, there were clear differences in the relationships that students from either of those genders had to the perpetrators (see Table 3 below). Whereas ex-partners or ex-spouses accounted for the second highest proportion of incidents reported by Women (17.13 per cent) they featured much less prominently among those reported by Men (6.67 per cent). Men, on the other hand were more likely to describe the person responsible for the actions as a friend or someone at their course placement. Twenty-seven per cent (26.7 per cent for Women and 28 per cent for Men) of perpetrators were described as acquaintances by those who reported being harassed.

Woman, 17: *I left and broke it off with him but [I] was being bombarded with calls and texts during the day as early as my alarm clock at 7. [I] never needed to set it because [I] knew the second he wakes up in the morning he would be trying to catch my attention reminding me [I] could never get away from him as easy as [I] prepared for. He was sure to send me at least 30 missed calls every day having to delete all my inbox messages*

nearly twice a day and [I] could never have the time to text a friend back because [I]’d assume it was just him texting me again and not looking at my phone. It came to the point where [I] never used my phone anymore turned it off and started using [F]acebook and [S]kype more to avoid him... Every day [I] became more and more shelled in on myself couldn’t get out of bed in the morning. He started ringing me on private numbers and the second [I]’d answer he’d hang up. It was always him so [I] stopped answering my phone anymore and began my road to a major downer. He always text to say he was at a river and was going to drown himself if [I] only say the words or [I] can save his life by getting back with him and living our lives together. [I] was so scared for my life. Everyone would blame me if he passed away. [I] was the bitch for leaving and getting on with my own life, but he was always obsessive and suicidal towards me. [I] was used to it. Sad as it sounds it was my routine... I stopped going to college. My attendance quickly subsided in the middle of my first semester, just when [I] was getting used to the place.

TABLE 3: RELATIONSHIP TO PERPETRATORS OF OBSESSIVE BEHAVIOUR N=333

At the time of the incident what was your relationship to this person?	Percentage of total incidents	Percentage of total incidents recorded by Women	Percentage of total incidents recorded by Men	Number of incidents recorded by Others
Current partner (boyfriend or girlfriend) or spouse (husband or wife)	2.10%	2.79%	0.00%	0
Ex-partner (boyfriend or girlfriend) or ex-spouse (husband or wife)	15.02%	17.13%	6.67%	2
Friend	12.01%	9.96%	18.67%	1
Family member (other than spouse)	0.60%	0.80%	0.00%	0
Acquaintance	27.03%	26.69%	28.00%	2
Date or dating partner	5.41%	5.58%	5.33%	0
Someone at your work	0.60%	0.80%	0.00%	0
Someone at your course placement	9.91%	8.76%	13.33%	1
Member of academic staff (lecturer, tutor, teacher)	0.60%	0.40%	1.33%	0
Member of non-teaching staff (caretaker, administrator, security, board member)	0.30%	0.40%	0.00%	0
Neighbour	1.80%	1.59%	2.67%	0
Unsure	11.71%	10.76%	14.67%	1
Other	12.91%	14.34%	9.33%	0
Total Number	333	251	75	7

In the majority of cases for both Women (69.72 per cent) and Men (76.00 per cent) and in all cases for those who described their gender as Other the person carrying out the obsessive behaviour was a student. Of those perpetrators who were clearly identified as students, the overwhelming majority for all three gender categories were students who were attending the same institution as the individual subjected to the obsessive behaviour. This was the case for 88.57 per cent of those Women who identified another student as being responsible for the behaviour, 87.72 per cent of Men and all seven of the Others.

NUMBER OF STUDENTS BY WHETHER PERPETRATOR WAS STUDENT

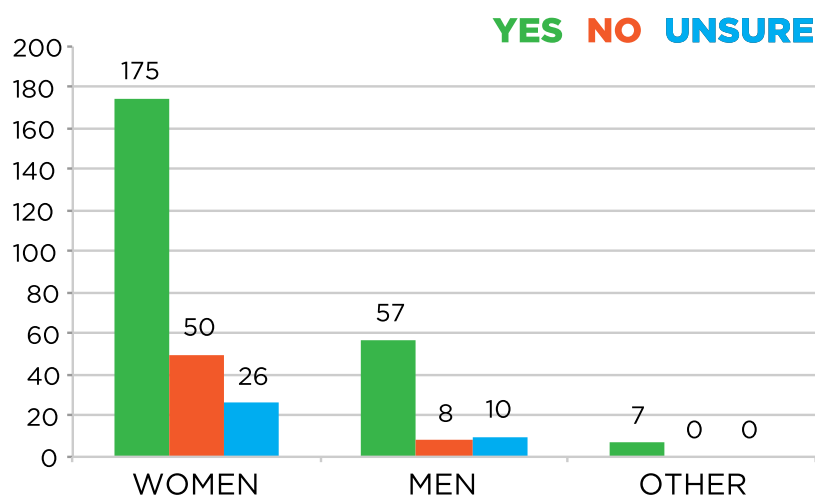


FIGURE 10: QUESTION ASKED - AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT, WAS THE PERSON WHO DID THIS A STUDENT? N=333

Woman, 17: *A fellow student whom I had befriended as an acquaintance who was in my course seemed rather clingy but I self-concluded that this was just due to common insecurities. However, as the days, weeks went by, I remember sitting with other friends in the presence of this guy who insisted upon sitting beside me. He then somehow found an excuse to brush against my legs, my bottom, my breasts and snidely comment on sexually-related personal affairs to which I regularly dismissed as inappropriate. His behaviour persisted and made me very uncomfortable as he continuously texted me, e-mailed me. I never gave him my e-mail address and would be less and less subtle in his attempts to 'feel' certain body parts or sit uncomfortably close to me.*

4.3 Reporting

So as to ascertain the extent to which these incidents were reported and to learn something about the success or otherwise of the reporting processes facilitated through educational institutions and the legal system students were asked a number of questions about whether or not they had reported these incidents, their experiences of reporting and - if they had not reported the incident - their reasons for not doing so.

When asked whether or not they had reported obsessive behaviour to someone in their educational institution those Men who had been subjected to obsessive behaviour appear to have been marginally more likely to have done so than Women. While 12 per cent of male victims had reported such incidents to campus authorities, just less than 8 per cent of female victims and none of those describing themselves as Others did so. Students were also asked who on campus they reported the behaviour to. The numbers reporting were too low to provide meaningful descriptive statistics. It might be noted in passing, however, that of the 29 students who did report this behaviour to someone from their institution the highest number (8) reported to academic staff. This was followed in popularity by non-academic staff, such as administrators (6) and institutional student support staff (5).

An even lower proportion of those who experienced obsessive behaviour reported this to the Gardaí. In total, just 6.31 per cent of those who experienced obsessive behaviour took this route. This figure held across those who described their gender as Women (6.37 per cent) and Men (6.67 per cent). None of the 7 victims who described their gender as Other reported to the Gardaí. Those students who had experienced obsessive behaviour but who did not report it to the Gardaí, were asked to explain the reasons why they did not do so. The students could select multiple reasons from a set of choices in the questions. The responses, set out in Table 4 below suggest 4 reasons which were most common in deterring reporting to the Gardaí: (i) students didn't believe the incidents were serious enough to report (63.14 per cent of all cases); (ii) students believed that they could handle it themselves (50.32

per cent of all cases); (iii) students didn't believe that what happened was criminal (47.76 per cent of all cases) and (iv) students believed that the problem would go away by itself (also 47.76 per cent of all cases). There were also a number of factors which were cited by between 10 and 20 per cent of victims as causes for their non-reporting to the Gardaí which suggest clear possibilities for improvement. 10 per cent of victims said that they did not know where or how to report the obsessive behaviour; 12 per cent feared that they would not be believed; a similar number to those who felt that they would not be comfortable talking to the Gardaí, while 14 per cent of victims thought that they would be blamed for what happened. Perhaps the most worrying statistic was that 16 per cent of those who experienced obsessive behaviour but did not report it to the Gardaí failed to do so as they were afraid of reprisals.

TABLE 4: QUESTION ASKED - IF YOU DIDN'T REPORT THIS TO THE GARDAÍ, WHY WAS THIS? N=333

	COMBINED		WOMEN		MEN		OTHER
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count
<i>If you didn't report this to the Gardaí, why was this?</i> <i>Please select as many as apply</i>							
I felt guilty for ending the relationship	18	5.77%	14	5.96%	3	4.29%	1
I felt ashamed or embarrassed	35	11.22%	29	12.34%	6	8.57%	0
I didn't want the relationship to end	7	2.24%	5	2.13%	1	1.43%	1
I didn't know how or where to report it	33	10.58%	31	13.19%	1	1.43%	1
I didn't think that what happened was a crime	149	47.76%	123	52.34%	22	31.43%	4
I was scared of reprisals or retaliation from the person involved	51	16.35%	42	17.87%	8	11.43%	1
I didn't want my parents/family to find out	28	8.97%	25	10.64%	3	4.29%	0
I didn't think I would be believed	38	12.18%	30	12.77%	7	10.00%	1
I didn't want my boyfriend or girlfriend to find out	8	2.56%	7	2.98%	1	1.43%	0
I didn't want my friends to find out	17	5.45%	13	5.53%	4	5.71%	0
I thought I would be blamed for what had happened	44	14.10%	38	16.17%	4	5.71%	2
I didn't think it was serious enough to report	197	63.14%	155	65.96%	37	52.86%	5
I thought I could handle it myself	157	50.32%	119	50.64%	33	47.14%	5
I didn't think I would feel comfortable talking to the Gardaí about it	39	12.50%	27	11.49%	11	15.71%	1
I didn't want the person involved to get in trouble	64	20.51%	44	18.72%	15	21.43%	5
I thought the problem would go away by itself	149	47.76%	113	48.09%	33	47.14%	3
Other	27	8.65%	16	6.81%	11	15.71%	0

Finally, students were also asked if they discussed their experience with other people, and if so, with whom. There was a notable difference in this regard between the experience of victims who were Men and those who were Women or Others. While 79 per cent of Women and all of those who described themselves as Others who had experienced obsessive behaviour had discussed the matter with someone else, only 64 per cent of Men had done so. All three gender categories most frequently confided in friends (67.87 per cent of those who spoke to someone), family members other than a spouse (28.23 per cent), or a partner or spouse (22.82 per cent).

TABLE 5: QUESTION ASKED: DID YOU REPORT IT DO OR DISCUSS IT WITH ANYONE ELSE? IF YES, WHO?

<i>Did you report it to or discuss it with anyone else?</i>	<i>WOMEN</i>	<i>MEN</i>	<i>OTHER</i>
Partner (boyfriend or girlfriend) or spouse (husband or wife)	32.32%	25.00%	0
Ex-partner or ex-spouse	5.05%	6.25%	0
Friend	90.91%	87.50%	4
Family member (other than spouse)	39.90%	25.00%	3
Someone at work	7.07%	12.50%	0
Member of academic staff (lecturer, tutor, teacher)	3.03%	10.42%	0
Member of non-teaching staff (caretaker, administrator, security, board member)	1.01%	2.08%	0
Neighbour	1.52%	2.08%	0
Religious leader/chaplaincy	2.02%	2.08%	0
Doctor	1.52%	4.17%	0
Welfare Officer in Students' Union	2.53%	4.17%	0
Other Students' Union official or student representative	2.53%	12.50%	0
Counsellor/Support worker/student officer in your college or university	5.56%	6.25%	0
Telephone helpline	0.00%	0.00%	1
Other	2.02%	2.08%	0

4.4 Impact

The final section of the questionnaire relating to obsessive behaviour asked those students who had been subject to this behaviour to record whether or not they believed that their experience had caused them any problems. Most of those who responded to this part of the study believed that the experience had not caused them any problems. When broken down by gender, 56.46 per cent of Women, 57.33 per cent of Men and 3 of the 7 victims who described themselves as Others believed this. This, however, was far from being the case for all victims: approximately 30 per cent of them believed that the experience had affected their mental health and well being, while over 40 per cent of victims believed that their relationships had been impacted and a similar number believed that their studies had been impaired. Figure 11 below gives the aggregate figures for those who answered the question.

Woman, 31: *A mutual friend who I was socialising with appeared to develop feelings towards me. These were never addressed or expressed by the person, but began to show through in outbursts of rage and verbal abuse during social gatherings. I addressed these issues with the person on a one-to-one level explaining to them how they had begun to treat me and how it was not acceptable. This conversation proved to be unsuccessful in rectifying the problem and only proved to display the person's obsession and obvious possessive attitude which had developed towards me. The friend's obsession increased and became more out of control to which point I feared to be on my own in a social situation with the person. It added sufficiently to my stress levels with my studies as it peaked around the time classes were finishing and deadlines were due. It also put a huge strain on the social dynamics of the group which underwent a change.*

NUMBER OF STUDENTS BY TYPE OF IMPACT ON STUDIES

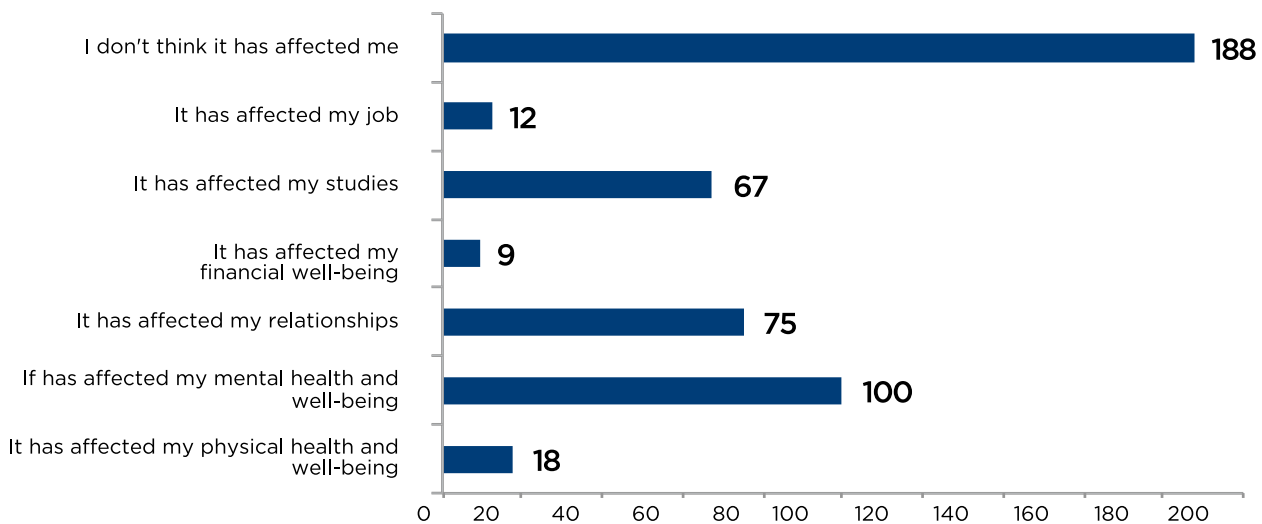


FIGURE 11: QUESTION ASKED - DO YOU HAVE ANY PROBLEMS, OR HAVE YOU HAD ANY, THAT YOU BELIEVE ARE ATTRIBUTED TO THIS INCIDENT (ALL GENDERS)? N=333

The 67 students who suggested that their studies had suffered as a result of the obsessive behaviour were asked, in a further question, to identify the ways in which this had occurred. Thirty-eight of them recorded that their attendance had suffered as a result of the behaviour. Thirty-five recorded that their grades had suffered, with the same number recording that they had thought about leaving their course. Twenty-one of these students no longer participated in college social activities and a further 9 recorded that they had been ignored or picked on by other students. Six students listed other ways in which the matter had affected them including increased stress levels; leaving college for a year; having to find alternative accommodation; being cautious around fellow students; unable to make new friends; and having other students behave differently towards them.

A final issue that might be noted is the prevalence of social media and modern technology as a means through which obsessive behaviour was carried out. While the survey did not ask specific questions about this, it was a recurrent feature of the comments that the students provided.

Woman, 22: *It began with a conversation with someone who had added me on Facebook after seeing we attended the same University and had similar political beliefs. I was uncomfortable with the direction the conversations were leading so I stopped speaking to the person and blocked them. By that stage though they knew what course I was in and used to wait outside the classroom after they knew I had class. I didn't go to this class for a couple of months for fear of seeing this person. I also couldn't go to the political society I belonged to as he would be there. In the end, I answered one of his many phone calls (a person I had believed to be my friend had given him my number) and threatened him if he did not leave me alone. I haven't heard from him since.*

Social media is clearly not the only issue at play in the above example. That said, there may be scope for Students' Unions and others to do more to impress upon students that the manner in which they behave in the virtual environment of the internet potentially has significant consequences for those with whom they interact and that it is no less necessary for them to treat their peers with respect on-line than it is off-line. This point is made, in a wider context, by the Union of Students in Ireland (USI) in their 2013 cyber-bullying policy which outlines a series of ways in which students should expect to behave on-line and suggests a number of contributions which the organisation intends to make in the area of cyber-bullying.

SECTION FIVE:

Educational Support

5.1 Financial Support

The questionnaire included a section which asked respondents whether or not they had been subjected to threats with regard to their third-level education. They were asked whether or not anyone had threatened to withhold financial support that they needed for their education using threats or violence. They were also asked whether or not anyone had tried to influence their choice of institution or course by using threats or violence.

In terms of the first question, pertaining to the withholding of financial support, just 2.76 per cent of Women students, just under 1 per cent of Men (0.97 per cent) and one of the fifteen Others described that they were treated in this way. In 5 of the 60 cases that were reported, the person who threatened to withhold financial support was a current or ex-partner of the student. In all of these cases the student under threat was a woman. The largest proportion (47 of 60) of those recorded as threatening to withhold financial support was the category of family members. Students were also asked, in a free textbox, to describe which family members were involved. Of the 37 students who completed this section 15 identified their father as threatening them; 10 identified their mother; 5 noted that it was a parent without specifying which one; while 7 recorded that both of their parents were responsible for the threats.

5.2 Influence of education choices

A smaller number of students recorded that someone had attempted to influence their educational choices using threats or violence. Of the 1,811 Women who completed the survey 34 recorded that this had occurred with a further 15 who were unsure. A fractionally smaller proportion of Men, (10 out of 926) recorded that they had suffered from such threats with a further 7 who were unsure, while one of the 15 people of Other gender was a victim of this type of activity. Of the 45 students who could confirm that they had undergone this sort of experience 27 had been subjected to it by another family member. 25 of this group identified family members and did so as follows: Brother (1); Brother and Father (1); Father (7); Father and Sister (1); Mother (10); Parent (2); Parents (2); Stepfather (1). In 11 cases, the spouses, partners, ex-spouses or ex-partners of students were responsible for the threats or violence, while in a further 7 cases an 'other person' was described as being responsible.

SECTION SIX:

Physical Mistreatment

Woman, 21 : *I was hit in the forehead with a glass that was thrown at me. It has left me with a scar in the middle of my forehead after 3 months with a wound there. It has shattered my confidence and appearance and I'm struggling to adjust to it.*

6.1 Extent of Physical Mistreatment

Students who were completing the questionnaire were asked whether or not they had experienced physical violence or mistreatment during their time at their current institution of study. Students were first asked whether anyone had physically hit or mistreated them, with eighty-nine per cent responding in the negative. This proportion was the same for both Women and Men. While the number of students who described their gender as Other was too small to draw wider conclusions it is worth noting that in this instance only 10 of the 15 students who defined their gender in this way responded that they had not been subjected to hitting or physical mistreatment while in college.

Students were also asked a second question which asked them to choose from a selection of physical abuses which they may have experienced. The responses for specific types of violence are outlined in Figure 12 below. It was also possible for them to select an option that they had not experienced any of the types of mistreatment listed in the question and should be noted that, in response to this question, a lower proportion of students (85 per cent in total and for both Women and Men) indicated that they had not been subject to any of the types of mistreatment outlined than was suggested in the initial question regarding hitting and physical mistreatment.

NUMBER OF STUDENTS BY TYPE OF PHYSICAL VIOLENCE

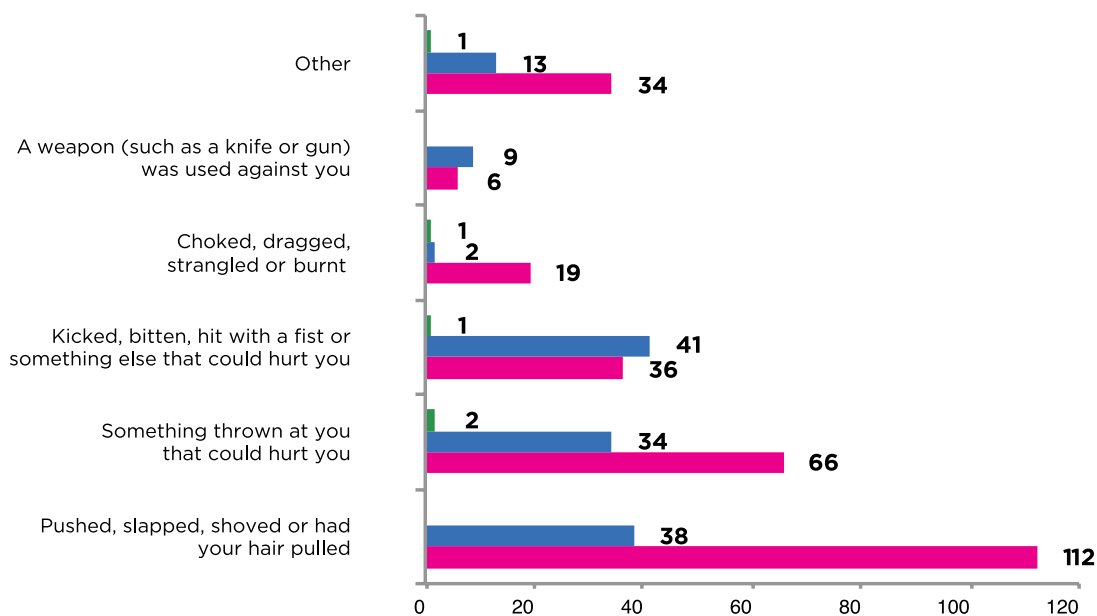


FIGURE 12: QUESTION ASKED - HAVE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING EVER HAPPENED TO YOU, WHILST YOU HAVE BEEN A STUDENT AT A CURRENT INSTITUTION? N=415

The results suggest that, of those students who had experienced such acts of physical mistreatment, Women were more likely to record that they had been pushed, slapped, shoved or had their hair pulled than Men with 41.02 per cent of Women victims reporting this as opposed to 27.73 per cent of Men. Similarly, Women victims (6.95 per cent) were more likely to be choked, dragged strangled or burnt than Men (1.45 per cent). In contrast, a higher proportion of Men who had experienced physical mistreatment were likely to have been kicked, bitten or hit with a fist (29.92

per cent as against 13.18 per cent of Women victims). Male victims were also more likely to have had a weapon used against them (6.56 per cent compared to 1.45 per cent of Women victims). Almost 6 out of 10 (58.07 per cent) students who recorded that they had been subject to this kind of violence noted that they had experienced it on only one occasion. A further 28 per cent experienced this behaviour on several occasions while 6 per cent reported that they had experienced violence many times.

6.2 Perpetrators

The data relating to those who had been responsible for the physical mistreatment of students showed a different pattern to the other forms of mistreatment examined in the questionnaire. In particular students seemed less likely to know the perpetrator of this sort of act than they were in relation to the other areas examined. The largest number of victims of physical mistreatment, 123 described their relationship to the perpetrator as 'Other'. One hundred and twenty of these provided a description of their relationship with the perpetrator and, of these, ninety described the person involved as not being known to them. There was a further large cohort of people (24.34 per cent) who had experienced physical mistreatment who were unsure about their relationship to the person responsible and two smaller, but numerically significant groups, who described the perpetrators as friends (12.53 per cent) or acquaintances (also 12.53 per cent). Forty-one of the 415 victims reported that they had suffered violence at the hands of an intimate partner (19 students) or ex-intimate partner (22 students). Of this group of 41 students 26 were Women, 3 were Men and 2 described themselves as Other.

MULTIPLE OFFENDERS

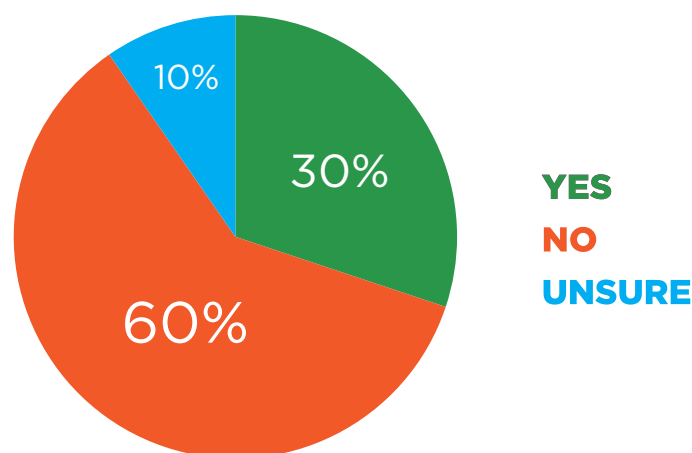


FIGURE 13: QUESTION ASKED - DID THIS INCIDENT INVOLVE MORE THAN ONE PERSON (ALL GENDERS)? N=415

In the majority of cases where students recorded that they had been physically mistreated, they noted that there was only one person involved in the mistreatment. That said, at least thirty per cent of cases involved more than one person. Across all genders, where there was more than one perpetrator involved, the median number of those involved was 3. This figure was higher for incidents where the survey respondent was a Man, with the median figure being four perpetrators. There was also a small difference between Women, Men and Other victims, in the proportion of students who were responsible for the physical mistreatment. In the case of Others 4 of the 5 victims identified their assailant as a fellow student; 58.24 per cent of Women did likewise, while for Men the proportion was smaller at 51.82 per cent. In line with the other sections of the questionnaire the majority of those who identified students as being responsible for physical mistreatment, 82.05 per cent noted that they attended the same institution.

6.3 Reporting

Students appear to have treated the reporting of physical mistreatment in a slightly different manner to the other issues they were asked them about. A smaller proportion, just 20 of the 415 victims, reported the incidents to an official within their educational institution compared to those who experienced obsessive behaviour. That said, a greater proportion of students (9.88 per cent) reported physical violence to the Gardaí than reported obsessive behaviour (6.31 per cent), or unwanted sexual experiences (2.79 per cent). Figure 14 below details the reasons cited for failing to report the incident to the Gardaí. The 3 most frequently cited reasons were that students did not believe that the incident was serious enough to report (55.88 per cent); that they did not believe that what had occurred was a crime (31.92 per cent); or they believed that they could handle the matter themselves (31.28 per cent). As with the other problems which students were surveyed about they were most likely to discuss their experiences with someone who was not a college representative or member of the Gardaí. In total 239 or 57.59 per cent of victims did. The vast majority of these (89.12 per cent) discussed the issue with one of their friends.

NUMBER OF STUDENTS BY REASON FOR NOT REPORTING TO GARDAÍ

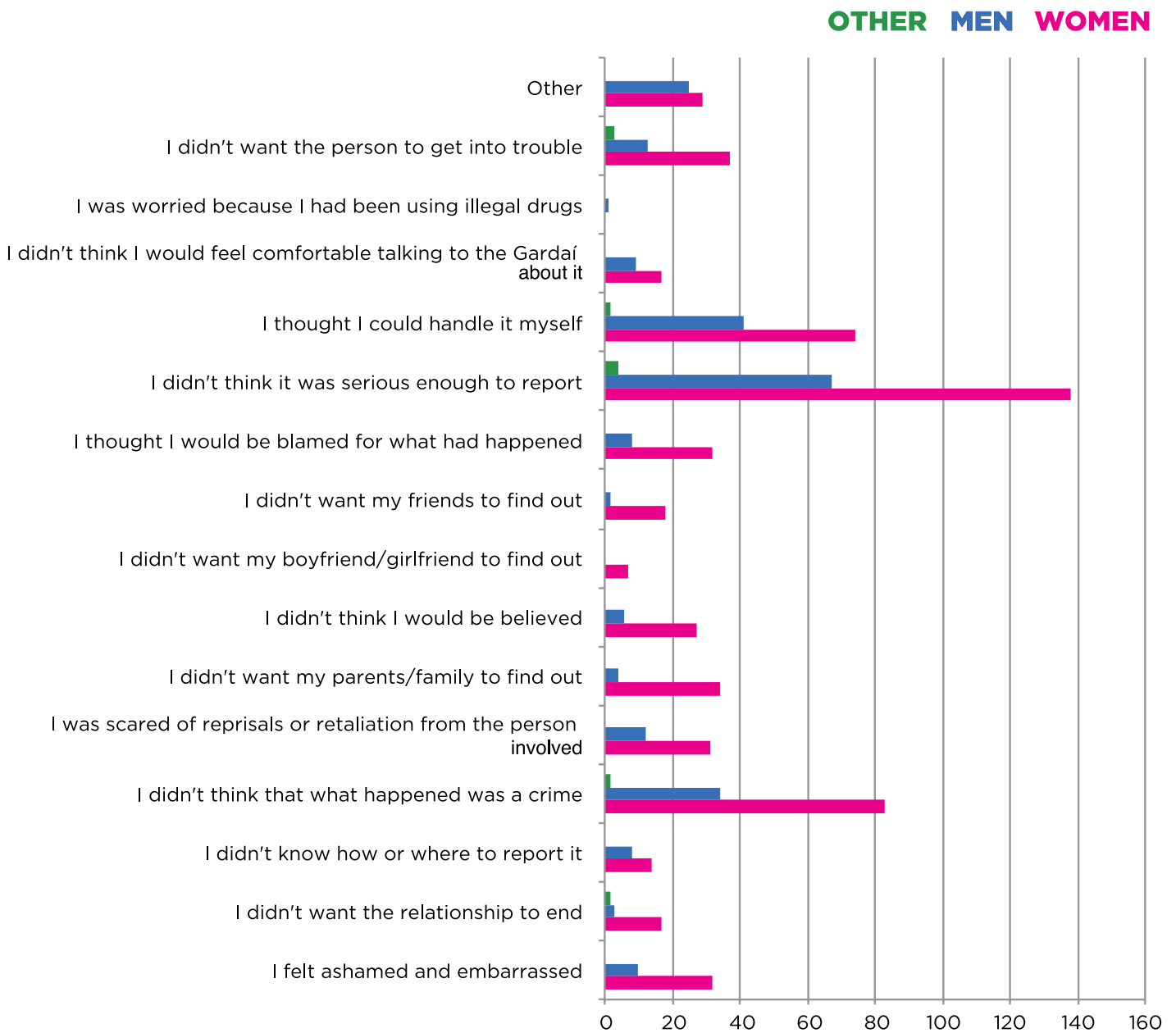


FIGURE 14: QUESTION ASKED - IF YOU DIDN'T REPORT THIS TO THE GARDAÍ, WHY WAS THIS? N=374 (STUDENTS COULD SELECT AS MANY REASONS AS THEY FELT APPROPRIATE)

Woman, 23: *I have always been a bit of a panicker and this was always something I feared. Thank God it wasn't as bad as it could [have] been, but equally I was very shocked when it happened. I reported it to the Gardaí and I don't think they really cared too much. I'm still waiting to hear back from them!*

Woman, 25: *A friend was attacked in a nightclub (we were sober) and the security staff threw us all out to fend for ourselves on the street. We were attacked again and my friend was knocked to the ground and hurt their back and an ambulance had to be called. I saw these girls around college and I was scared of what would happen to me. I probably should have reported it to the Gardaí and the college. I wouldn't know who to tell in college*

Woman, 19: *I didn't want to seem weird or stupid for reporting or telling people about it because there are people who suffer with worse violence.*

6.4 Impact

Almost 7 out of 10 students who reported experiencing physical mistreatment claimed to have been unaffected by it. Figure 15 below sets out the percentage responses of the 415 students who noted that they had been victims of physical mistreatment. It might be noted that this percentage reduced only fractionally to 67.74 per cent when those who reported being pushed, slapped, shoved or having their hair pulled were excluded from the calculation.

Woman, 25: *I can't stop thinking about it. It flashes into my brain at times if [I] see something on TV... [I] don't think [I] will ever be over it.*

Woman, 21: *I had nightmares. I don't feel safe where I live.*

PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS BY TYPE OF IMPACT

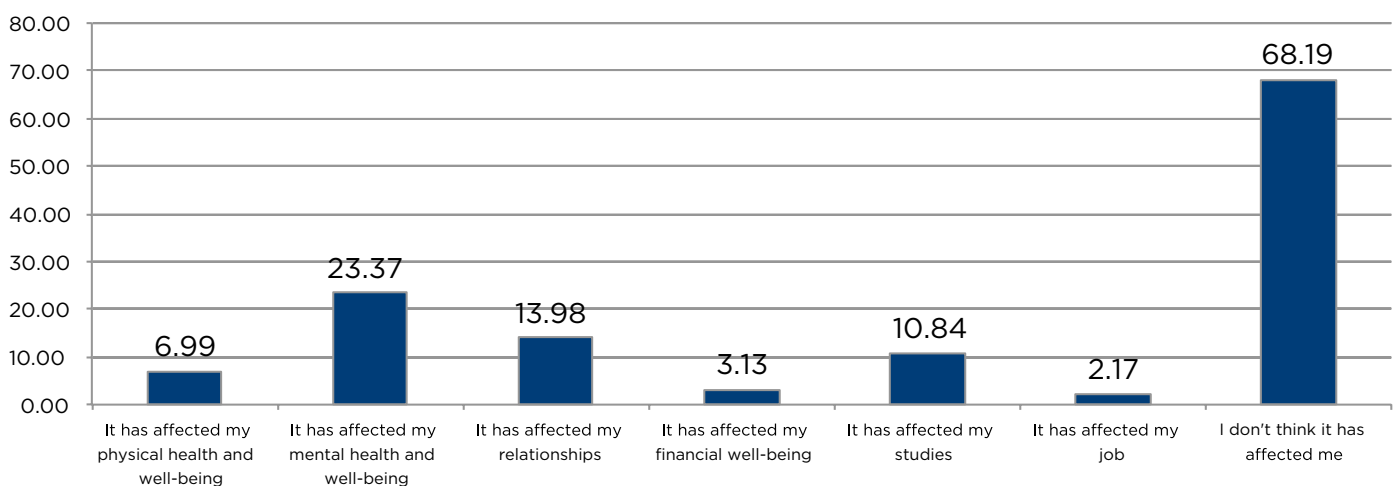


FIGURE 15: PERCENTAGE RESPONSES, ALL GENDERS, TO THE QUESTION: 'DO YOU HAVE PROBLEMS NOW, OR HAVE YOU HAD ANY, THAT YOU BELIEVE ARE ATTRIBUTED TO THIS INCIDENT? PLEASE TICK AS MANY AS APPLY.' N=415

Of the 132 students who said that they were affected by physical mistreatment 97 suggested that their mental health was affected; 58 that their relationship had been affected and 45 suggested that their studies had been impacted. The responses of the latter group to a further question about how their studies had been affected are set

out in Figure 16 below. Respondents could select as many options as they felt appropriate with most suggesting that their grades and attendance had suffered.

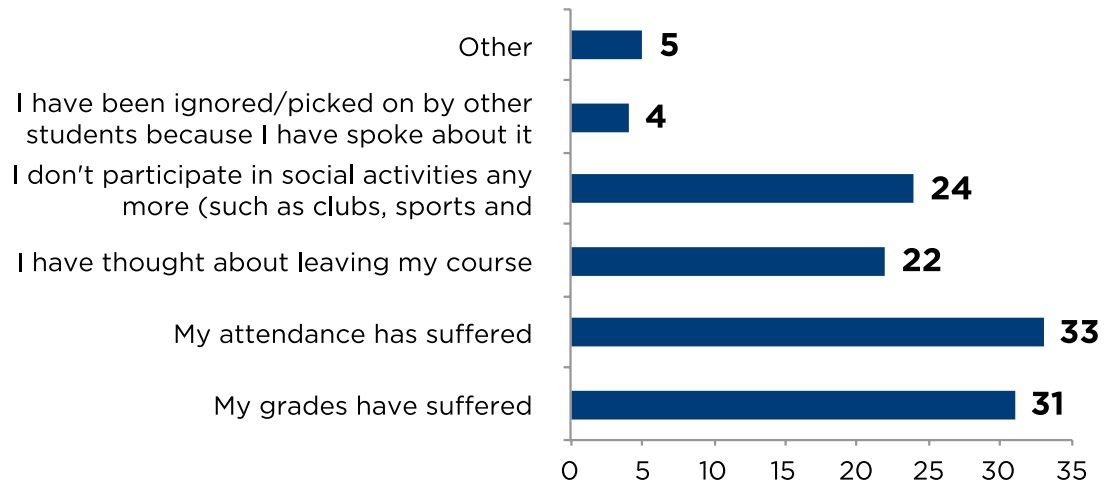


FIGURE 16: QUESTION ASKED - PLEASE INDICATE THE WAYS IN WHICH YOUR STUDIES HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY THIS INCIDENT, TICKING AS MANY AS APPLY. N=45

SECTION SEVEN:

Unwanted Sexual Experiences

Woman, 24 : *Coming to terms with the realisation that it wasn't my fault, that I was extremely drunk and he should have known better and that any of my friends wouldn't have let that happen should they have been around, took a very long time to do and I still struggle 3 years on with not blaming myself, with accepting that he did know that I was too drunk to give consent having been getting sick and passing out, but that he was an a[**]hole. Even writing this today I still feel the need to justify and explain myself.*

7.1 Frequency of Unwanted Sexual Experiences

In the final section about student experiences, respondents were asked whether they had had unwanted sexual experiences while students in their current place of study. An initial question for the section asked if students had, during this time, ever had sexual intercourse when they were or felt unable to say no. Eighty-seven (87.24) per cent of the Women who responded to the survey said that this had not happened to them as did 94.92 per cent of the Men and 10 of the 15 people who self-defined their gender in the Other category. In a subsequent question, a number of potential unwanted sexual experiences were listed and students were asked to indicate if they had experienced any of these. The most popular available option was that they had not undergone any of the suggested experiences with 80.07 per cent of Women, 93.20 per cent of Men and 9 of the 15 people of Other gender identities choosing this.

NUMBER OF STUDENTS BY TYPE OF UNWANTED SEXUAL EXPERIENCE

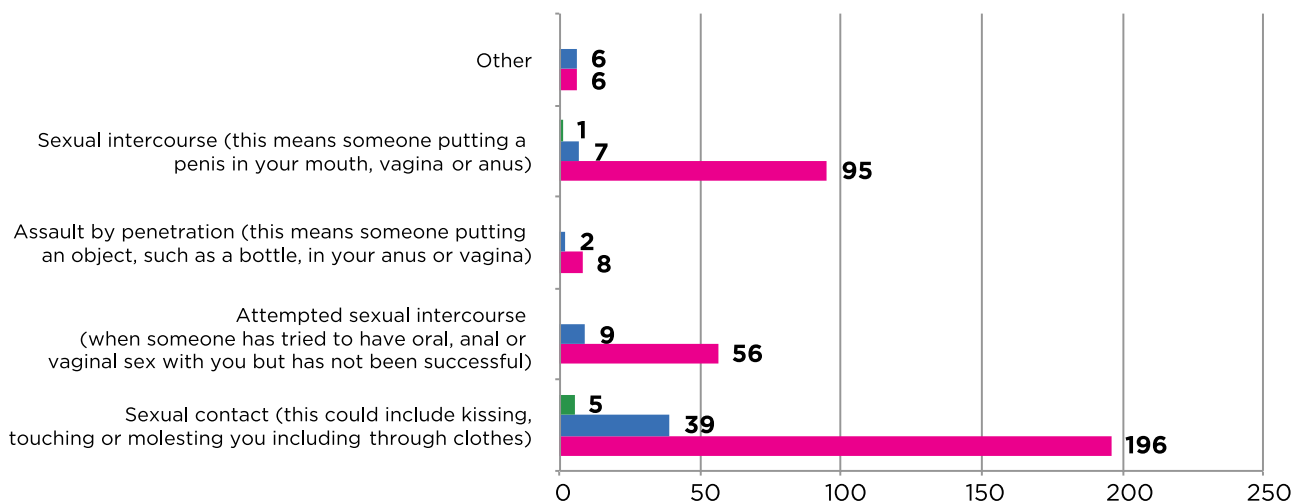


FIGURE 17: QUESTION ASKED - WHILST YOU HAVE BEEN A STUDENT AT YOUR CURRENT INSTITUTION, HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED ANY OF THE FOLLOWING WHEN YOU DID NOT CONSENT? N=430

In terms of the breakdown of unwanted sexual experiences which students reported in the questionnaire 10.82 per cent (196) of the Women who responded noted that they had been subject to unwanted sexual contact. In addition 5.25 (95) per cent of Women recorded that they were the victims of rape described in the survey question as “unwanted sexual intercourse involving someone putting a penis in their mouth, vagina or anus without their consent”, and a further 3.09 (56) per cent were victims of attempted rape. A significantly lower proportion of Men reported similar experiences with less than one per cent reporting either rape (0.76 per cent) or attempted rape (0.97 per cent). Of the 15 people who described their gender as Other 1 had experienced rape, with none reporting attempted rape.

NUMBER OF STUDENTS BY TYPE OF UNWANTED SEXUAL EXPERIENCE

TABLE 6: UNWANTED SEXUAL EXPERIENCES

	Combined		Women		Men		Other
	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total
I have not had any kind of unwanted sexual experience whilst I have been a student	2322	84.38%	1450	80.07%	863	93.20%	9
Sexual contact (this could include kissing, touching or molesting you including through clothes)	240	8.72%	196	10.82%	39	4.21%	5
Attempted sexual intercourse (when someone has tried to have oral, anal or vaginal sex with you but has not been successful)	65	2.36%	56	3.09%	9	0.97%	0
Assault by penetration (this means someone putting an object, such as a bottle, in your anus or vagina)	10	0.36%	8	0.44%	2	0.22%	0
Sexual intercourse (this means someone putting a penis in your mouth, vagina or anus)	103	3.74%	95	5.25%	7	0.76%	1
Other	12	0.44%	6	0.33%	6	0.65%	0

In total, the study recorded 430 students who had experienced some form of unwanted sexual experience while in their current educational institution. The proportion across all genders are set out in Figure 18 below. They suggest that for at least 37 per cent of students these unwanted sexual experiences had occurred on more than one occasion. One hundred and fifty-seven students noted that the unwanted sexual experience that they reported had occurred either 'Several times' or 'Many times'. In 115 of these multiple cases the experience was non-consensual sexual contact. There were 19 multiple cases of students being the victims of non-consensual attempted sexual intercourse; 3 cases of assault by penetration; 15 of non-consensual sexual intercourse and 5 who described other experiences which happened on multiple occasions.

NUMBER OF TIME THIS HAPPENED (ALL GENDERS)

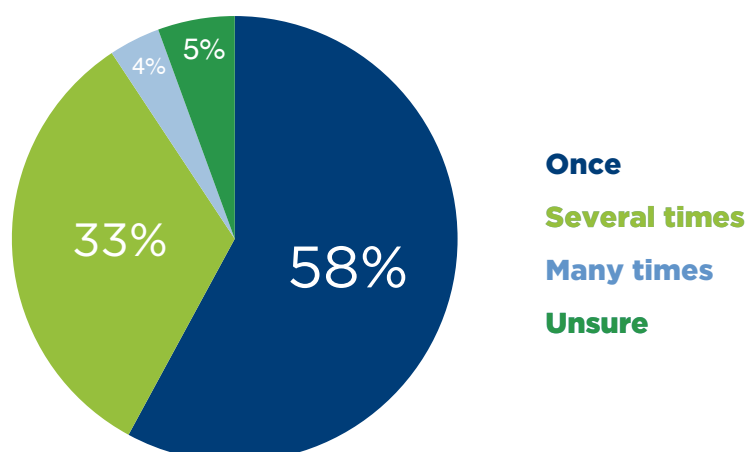


FIGURE 18: QUESTION ASKED - HOW MANY TIMES DID THIS HAPPEN? N=430

7.2 Perpetrators

The largest proportion of victims of unwanted sexual experiences identified the perpetrators as being ‘acquaintances’. This description accounted for 31 per cent of the incidents recorded. As set out in the Figure 19 below, the next largest group were described by students as ‘Other’. Seventy of the 75 people who described their assailant as such provided a further description. It was possible to re-classify 52 of these as strangers. The other two major categories was a large number of people who were unsure of the person responsible. Forty-nine of the 63 cases where the victim was unsure of their relationship to the perpetrator referred to incidents of unwanted sexual contact, suggesting the possibility that the victim did not know the identity of the individual responsible. When these responses were further coded, 45 of these 49 incidents occurred in public buildings, 41 of which were off-campus.

NUMBER OF STUDENTS BY RELATIONSHIP TO PERPETRATOR

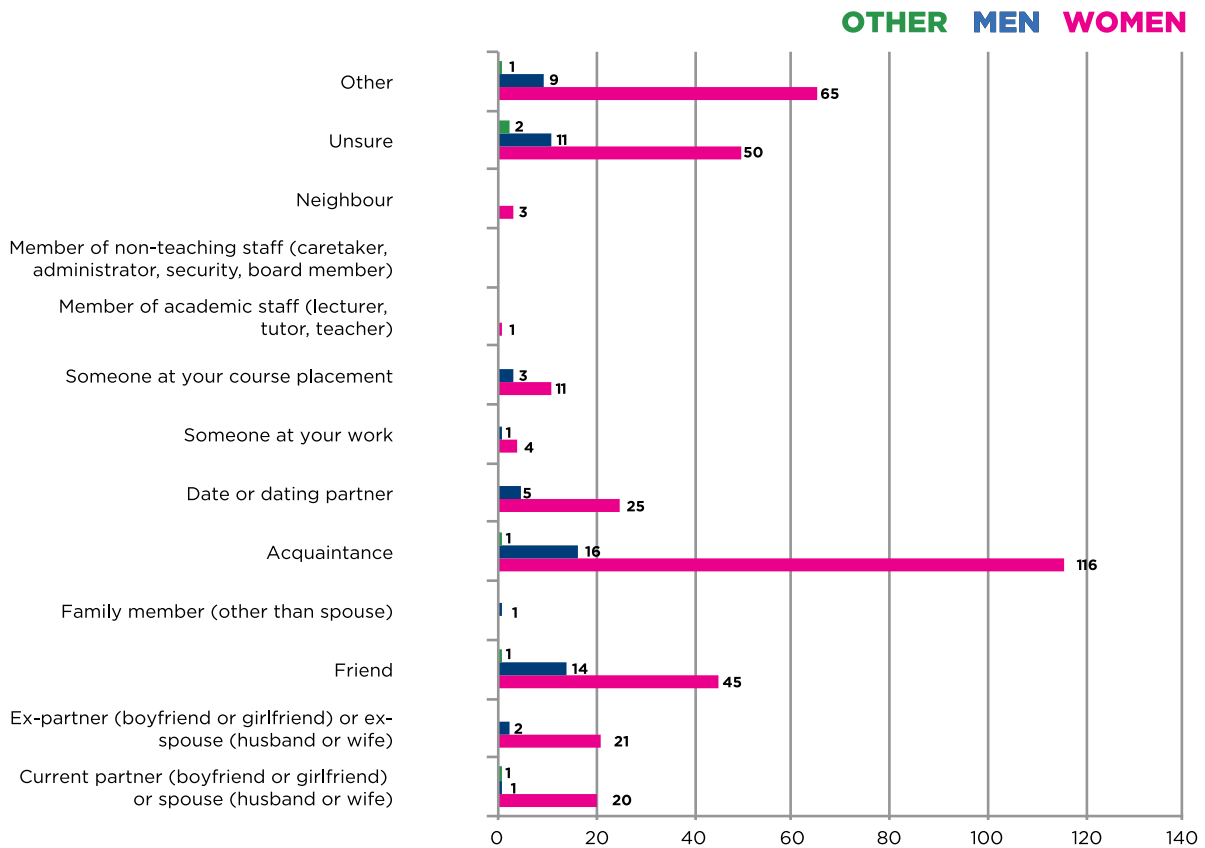


FIGURE 19: QUESTION ASKED - WHAT WAS YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO THIS PERSON? N=430

NUMBER OF STUDENTS BY PLACES WHERE INCIDENT OCCURRED

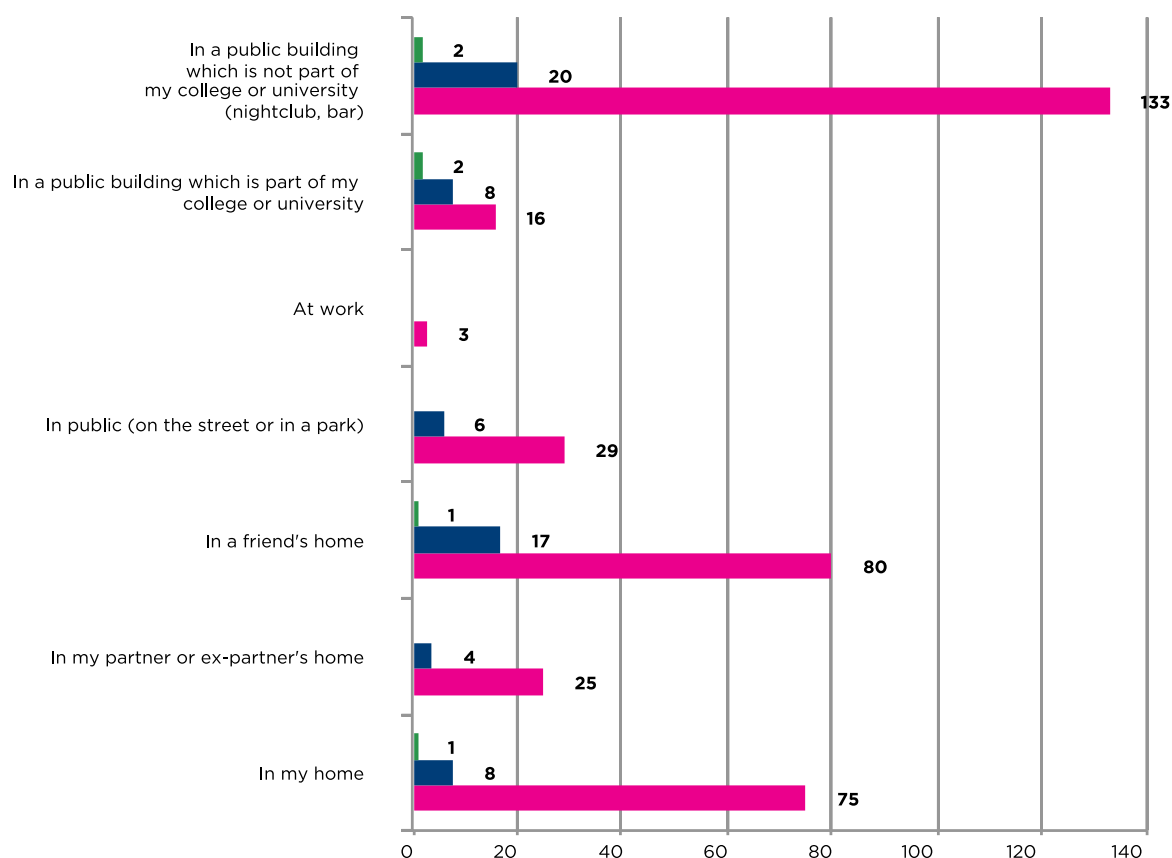


FIGURE 20: QUESTION ASKED - WHERE DID THIS HAPPEN? N= 430

These unwanted experiences occurred predominantly in three location categories. As evidenced in the Figure 20 above they most frequently occurred in public buildings that were not part of the respondent's college or university, with this being the location for 36.05 per cent of the incidents. This was followed in frequency by the number of incidents which occurred in victims' friends' homes (22.79 per cent) or their own homes (19.53 per cent). Incidents appear to have occurred less frequently in the other categories examined.

Woman, 23: *This has happened multiple times. It's common place in clubs and bars from just groping, to molestation under clothes.*

Woman, 22: *It's made me more aware of who's around me when I go out to bars/clubs and I am pickier about the friends I go out with. I have to trust that friends will see when I'm in trouble and be able and willing to help me out. I also don't like going to clubs now because it seems like every time I go guys try to grope me and don't take no for an answer. My roommates have had similar experiences and also avoid the club scene.*

Woman, 20: *General groping and inappropriate, non-consensual contact in clubs and bars has become acceptable and is to be expected, it seems. Any such incident to me is discomforting and upsetting.*

Students were also asked who had experienced these incidents whether or not they or the person responsible was under the influence of alcohol or drugs at the time the incident took place. The aggregate figures returned are set out in Table 7 below. It is noteworthy that in over six in ten cases (60.94 per cent for Women, 68.25 per cent for Men and for 4 of the 6 Others) the perpetrator was believed to be under the influence of alcohol. These figures (see Table 8) were similar to those provided when students were asked if they themselves were under the influence of alcohol at the time (Women, 63.71 per cent; Men, 61.90 per cent; Others, 4 of 6). Twenty-two of the 430 students who reported an unwanted experience recorded that they had been given drugs or alcohol against their will before the incident, while a further 34 students were unsure whether or not this had occurred.

TABLE 7: QUESTION ASKED - AT THE TIME OF THIS INCIDENT, WAS THE PERSON THAT DID THIS TO YOU UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL OR DRUGS? N=430

At the time of this incident, was the person that did this to you under the influence of alcohol or drugs?	Women	Men	Other	Total
Yes, the person was under the influence of alcohol	220	43	4	267
Yes, the person was under the influence of drugs	4	1	0	5
Yes, the person was under the influence of drugs and alcohol	24	3	0	27
No	62	5	0	67
Unsure	51	11	2	64

TABLE 8: QUESTION ASKED - AT THE TIME OF THIS INCIDENT, WERE YOU UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL OR DRUGS? N=430

At the time of this incident, were you under the influence of alcohol or drugs?	Women	Men	Other	Total
Yes, the person was under the influence of alcohol	230	39	4	273
Yes, the person was under the influence of drugs	2	2	0	4
Yes, the person was under the influence of drugs and alcohol	8	3	0	11
No	112	17	2	131
Unsure	9	2	0	11

7.3 Reporting

The low levels of reporting described elsewhere in the study also occurred in relation to unwanted sexual experiences. Indeed, the lack of reporting was even more pronounced in this area. Only 14 of the 430 victims (3.25 per cent) recorded that they had reported these incidents to an official within their college or university. This represented just 3 per cent of those who suffered such incidents compared to 5 per cent who had experienced physical violence or 9 per cent of those who had experienced obsessive behaviour.

Woman, 22: *Although I generally feel fine following the incident, I do regret not reporting it to the Gardaí as I am worried the man involved may hurt other women, and even though the college club we were in subsequently banned him from attending events and parties, I don't think he really got the message that what he did was wrong.*

NUMBER OF STUDENTS BY REASONS FOR NOT REPORTING TO GARDAÍ

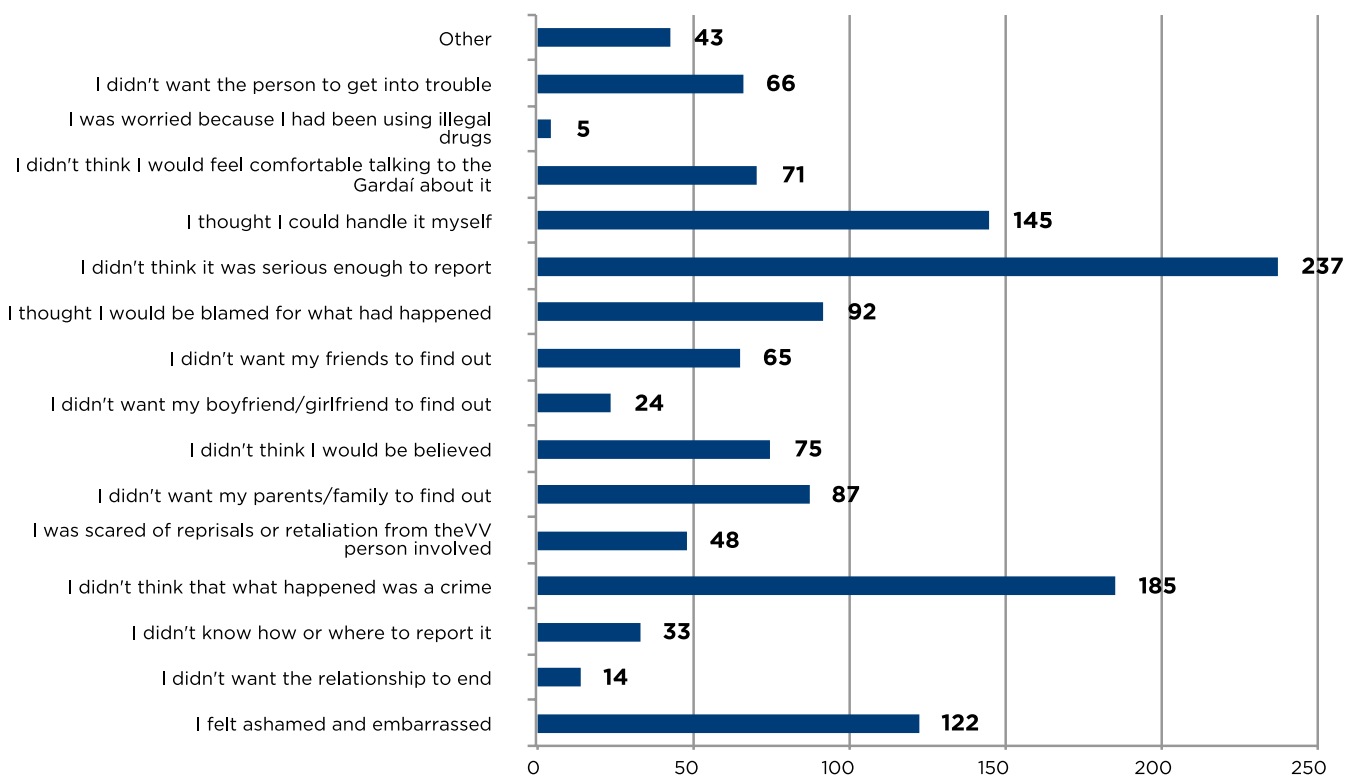


FIGURE 21: QUESTION ASKED - IF YOU DIDN'T REPORT THIS TO THE GARDAÍ, WHY WAS THIS? N=418

An even smaller proportion of students (12 or 2.79 per cent) reported experiencing these incidents to the Gardaí. When asked for explanations of why they did not report matters to the police the most frequent responses, as with the other areas of the study, were (i) that they did not believe the incident was serious enough to report (56.70 per cent); (ii) that they did not think that what happened was a crime (44.26 per cent); or (iii) that they thought they could handle it themselves (34.69 per cent). Unlike the other categories of experience studied, however, there was a large proportion of victims who did not report these incidents because they were ashamed or embarrassed (29.19 per cent); because they thought that they would be blamed for what happened (22.01 per cent); or because they did not want their parents or family to find out (20.81 per cent). Seventeen (16.98) per cent also noted that they would feel uncomfortable reporting this to the Gardaí.

It might be noted that several of the students who had reported to the Gardaí and chose to comment on their response were positive about Garda reactions:

Woman, 22: *They were excellent. They were very helpful and extremely kind.*

Woman, 25: *They were very helpful, but I could not attend the identity parade out of fear of seeing the man again.*

Woman, 20: *[V]ery helpful but [I] sense that they are doubtful that even with it being an extreme case with a lot of evidence. There is a statistic, [I] think 1 in 10 cases go to court and even less than that ever win. That is painful for me.*

Although not asked specifically, 2 of the 7 students who took the opportunity to comment on their experience felt that the Garda reaction to their reporting was inadequate:

Woman, 21: *It has been over two months since I reported and nothing has been done. The [G]ardaí requested (six weeks after the report) that I meet with them, but the station was closed when I arrived. I have since received another phone call but am currently studying abroad and so cannot meet with a Garda until I return home.*

Woman, 20: *They did not believe anything I said when they found out I was 18. I was not taken to hospital or taken seriously, I felt.*

PROPORTION OF STUDENTS REPORTING TO SOMEONE ELSE

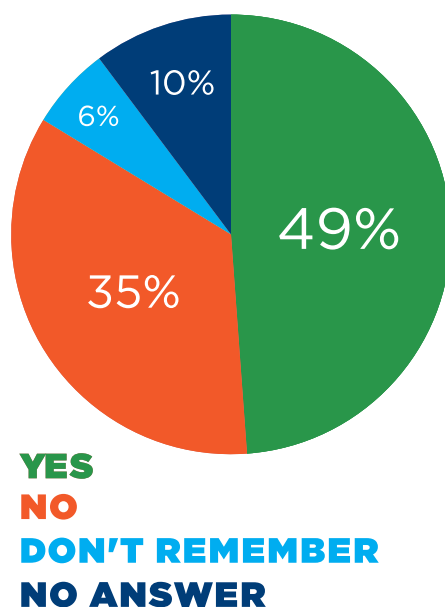


FIGURE 22: QUESTION ASKED - DID YOU REPORT IT OR DISCUSS IT WITH ANYONE ELSE (ALL GENDERS)? N=430

A smaller proportion of victims also discussed these incidents with people other than officials on-campus and the Gardaí. As Figure 22 above suggests 48.83 per cent of victims discussed the incident with someone else. For those who did discuss the incident with someone, 91 per cent did so with a friend. This proportion was similar across the gender categories.

7.4 Impact

As with the other issues examined, students were asked to tell us about the impact which these unwanted sexual experiences had had on them. Their responses are outlined in Figure 23 below. The highest proportion of students (58.37 per cent) who answered this question noted that they didn't think that the experience had affected them. This was a marginally higher figure than was the case for victims of obsessive behaviour and lower by ten per cent than was the case for victims of physical mistreatment. In relation to this question there was a marked difference between those who categorised themselves as Women and Men. Fifty-six (56.23) per cent of the Women who reported an unwanted sexual experience believed that they were unaffected by it whereas 71.42 per cent of Men believed that to be the case. Three of the 6 people who defined their gender as Other also believed this to be the case.

Woman, 21: *[The incident] has made me be closed off to people I should normally trust. [It] makes me cautious about going out at night. ... Makes me cautious about taking food or drink off people. [It] also has made me scared of people being angry or aggressive and willing to pin me down.*

Woman, 21: *It has affected, I believe, both my mental health and well-being. I had a recurrence of depression after the incident, trouble sleeping, panic attacks and flashbacks. It took me several months to recover to such a stage where sexual relations with my partner returned to normal. I still occasionally have flashbacks and have to stop.*

Woman, 20: *I suffer from depression. I can't be with people anymore. I can't let people touch me and I'm afraid to go places in case he is there.*

NUMBER OF STUDENTS BY TYPE OF IMPACT

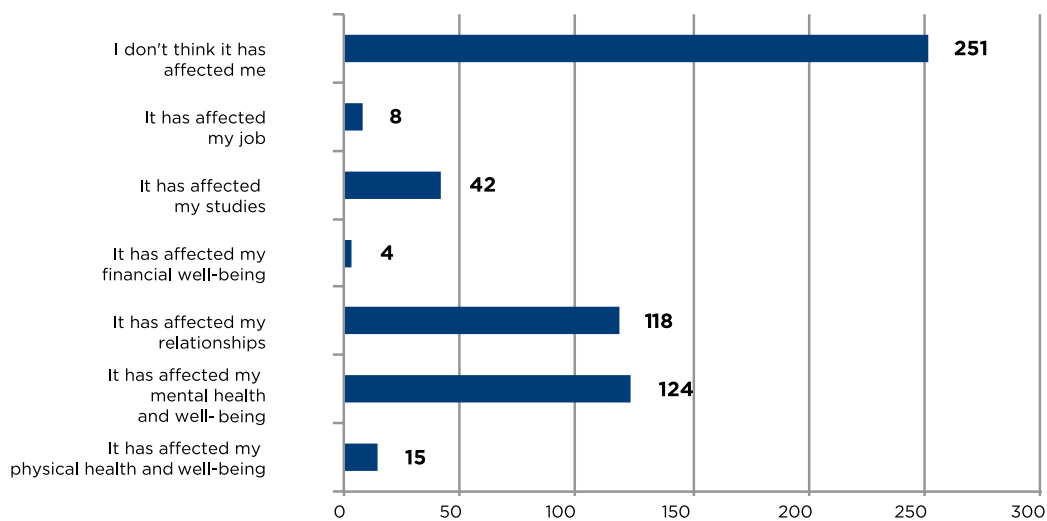


FIGURE 23: QUESTION ASKED - DO YOU HAVE PROBLEMS NOW, OR HAVE YOU HAD ANY, THAT YOU BELIEVE ARE ATTRIBUTED TO THIS INCIDENT? PLEASE TICK AS MANY AS APPLY (ALL GENDERS). N=430

The most notable ways in which students believed that they had been affected were in the areas of their mental health and well-being (28.84 per cent), and that of their relationships (27.44 per cent). Women were proportionately more likely to identify these as problems than men (Mental health: Women, 31.03 per cent, Men, 15.87 per cent; Relationships: Women, 28.80 per cent, Men, 19.04 per cent).

NUMBER OF STUDENTS BY TYPE OF IMPACT ON STUDIES

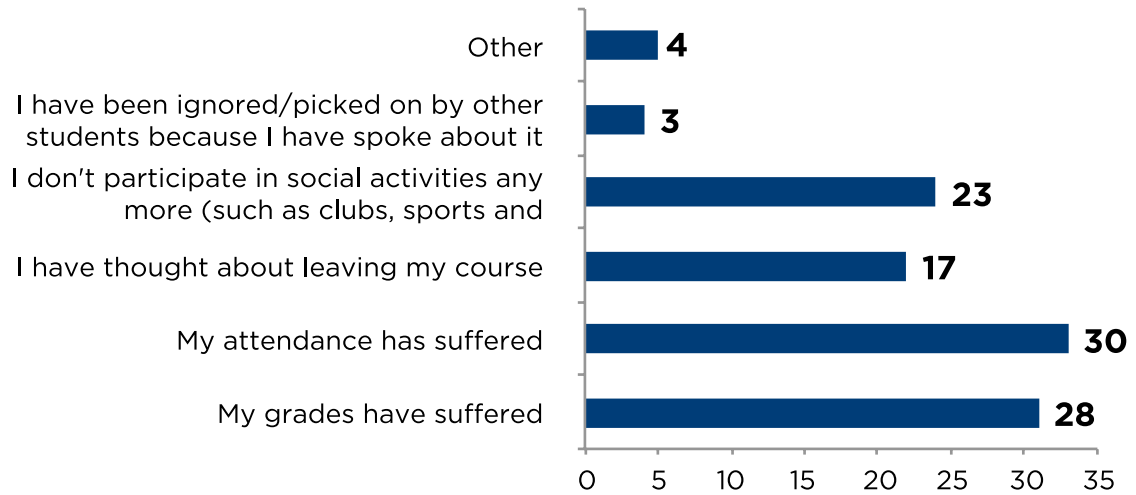


FIGURE 24: QUESTION ASKED - HOW HAVE YOUR STUDIES BEEN AFFECTED BY THIS? N=42

Figure 24 suggests that slightly less than 10 per cent of those who had an unwanted sexual experience recorded that it had impacted upon their studies. The figure also shows that, most frequently, the incidents resulted in attendance and grades suffering although, for those whose studies were affected over half no longer participated in social activities and seventeen of the 42 had thought about leaving college.

SECTION EIGHT:

Information on Campus

8.1 Availability of Information

The final section of the study asked respondents about awareness of issues of harassment, physical and sexual violence on campus; whether they discussed these issues with their friends and whether there were supports and campaigns put in place by their institution or their students' union.

The data, outlined in Figure 25 below, suggests that just under half of the respondents discuss the issue of sexual violence raised with their friends. The responses showed a marked difference in this regard between Women and Others on the one hand and Men on the other. Whereas 51 per cent of the Women surveyed and 11 of the 15 Others discussed the issue with their friends only 38 per cent Men did.

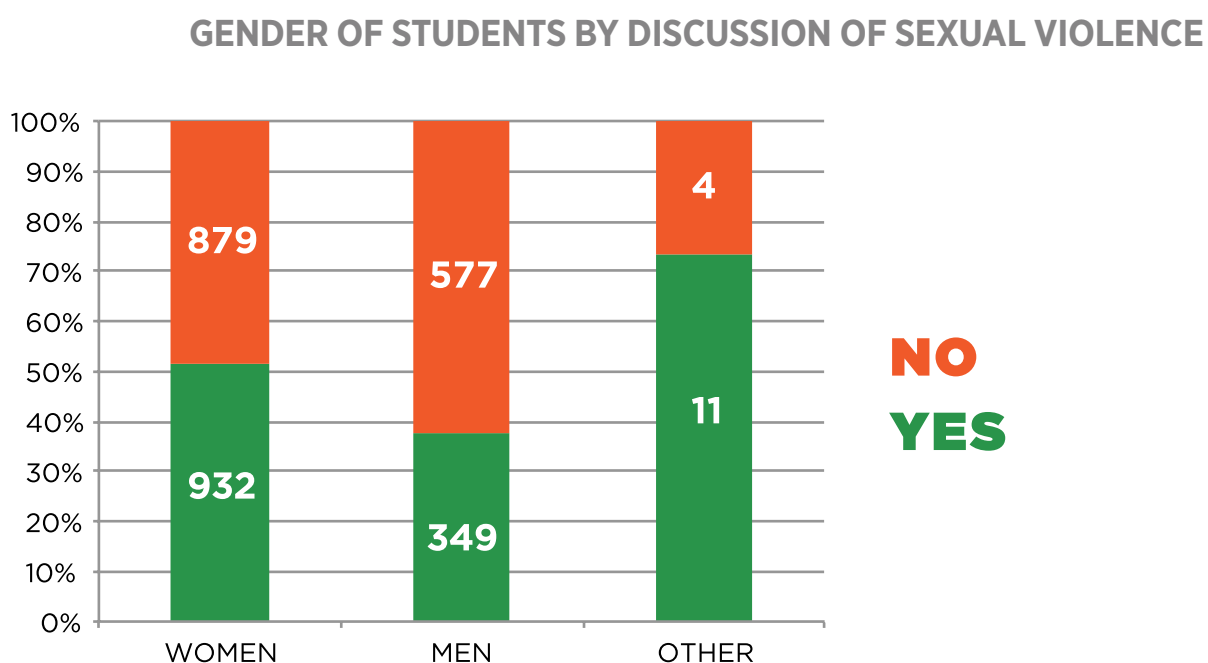


FIGURE 25: QUESTION ASKED - DO YOU EVER DISCUSS THE ISSUE OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE WITH YOUR FRIENDS? N=2,752

In contrast, it is interesting to note (Figure 26) that Men appear to be more aware than Women of awareness raising campaigns and programmes that are run either by the institution which they are attending or by their Students' Union around the issues of sexual violence and the accountability of the perpetrator. Whether this reflects reality, perception or the self-selection bias within the sample is unknown.

GENDER OF STUDENTS BY AWARENESS OF CAMPAIGNS

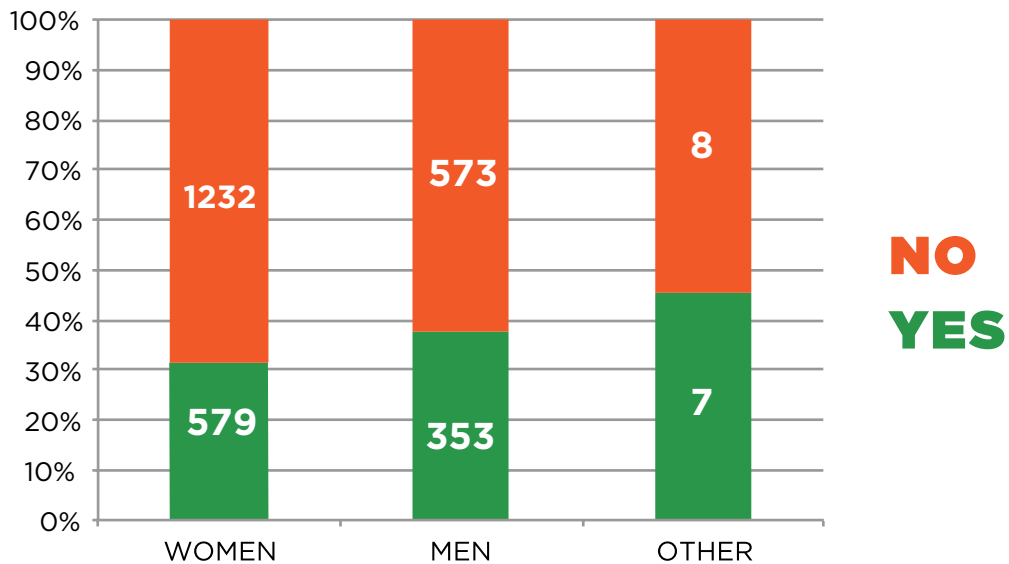


FIGURE 26: QUESTION ASKED - ARE YOU AWARE OF ANY EDUCATION AND AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS AT YOUR CURRENT INSTITUTION ABOUT SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND THE ACCOUNTABILITY OF THE PERPETRATOR? N=2,752

GENDER OF STUDENTS BY AWARENESS OF PROGRAMMES

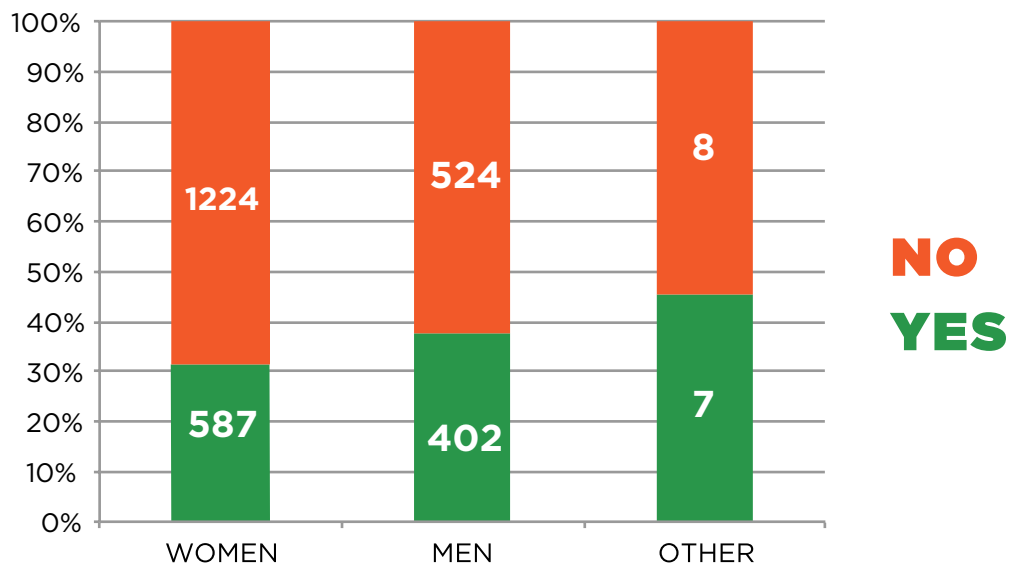


FIGURE 27: QUESTION ASKED - ARE YOU AWARE OF ANY PROGRAMMES AT YOUR CURRENT INSTITUTION WHICH SEEK TO RAISE AWARENESS AMONGST STUDENTS IN RELATION TO VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT AND HARASSMENT? N=2,752

Students appear to be far less clear of what the situation is in relation to the supports available to students who have been the victims of violence, sexual assault or harassment with significant minorities in all gender categories acknowledging that they are unsure whether or not their universities, colleges or their Students' Unions provide information about victims support.

GENDER OF STUDENTS BY AWARENESS OF VICTIM SUPPORT INFORMATION PROVIDED BY INSTITUTION

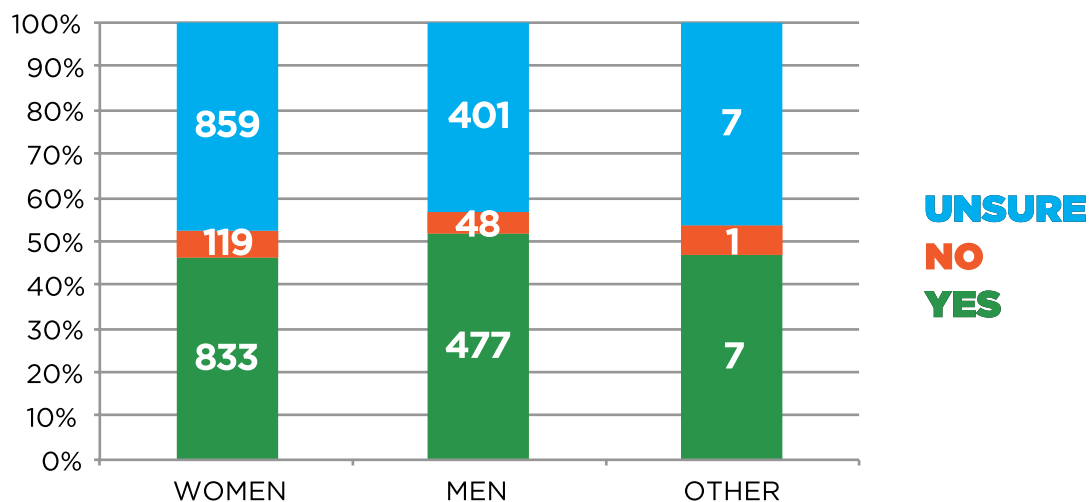


FIGURE 28: QUESTION ASKED - DOES YOUR UNIVERSITY OR COLLEGE PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT WHERE VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT OR HARASSMENT CAN GO FOR HELP AND SUPPORT? N=2,752

GENDER OF STUDENTS BY AWARENESS OF VICTIM SUPPORT INFORMATION PROVIDED BY STUDENTS' UNION

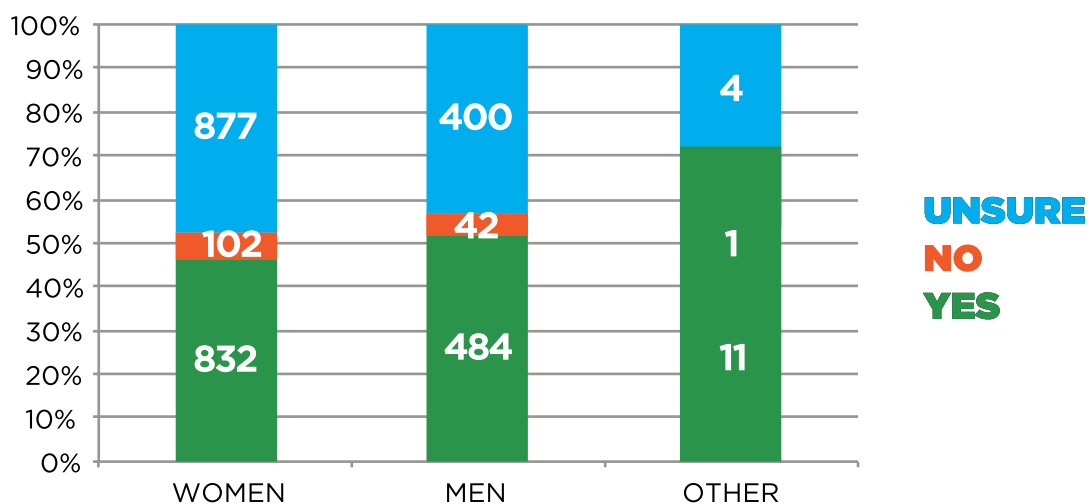


FIGURE 29: QUESTION ASKED - DOES YOUR STUDENTS' UNION PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT WHERE VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT OR HARASSMENT CAN GO FOR HELP AND SUPPORT? N=2,752

8.2 Respondents suggestions for institutions and Students' Unions

Finally, students were asked for some of their suggestions as to how the issues raised in the study might be made more relevant to them. Following are a selection of their responses:

Woman, 21: *In my particular institution, Students' Unions can support such victims by freely allowing political activity on the part of student societies whose political campaigns have been dramatically circumscribed. This sends a message to vulnerable students that the college does not care about their concerns. Colleges should also continue to resist all attempts to introduce gender-segregated, elitist American-style frat culture into our colleges... Stress the point that is NOT the victims fault. Many people would not think to go to a counsellor/ health care professional after an attack. They should feel more welcomed and that they will not be judged.*

Woman, 18: *I think it would be helpful to have a group or nurse or someone to talk to before going straight to the Gardaí. I am not from Dublin originally so I wouldn't really feel comfortable going straight to a Garda station I've never been into to report anything. It would be nice to have someone to help you go to the guards and tell you what to do next.*

Woman, 21: *Promoting an end to the stigma associated with reporting sexual assault, especially if alcohol is involved. The 'Don't be that Guy' campaign is an example of great progress in ending the victim blaming, which is so prevalent both among men and women themselves.*

Woman, 20: *[S]topping lad culture and stopping PR companies using 'rapey' and hyper-sexualised adverts to promote anything.*

Woman, 27: *Having clear and pronounced 'respect' campaigns encouraging students to have respect for themselves and others. Having the SU plastered in posters that show harassment as ignorant, disgusting and shameful creating stigma around the perpetrator and not the victim!!!*

SECTION NINE:

LGBT Experiences

So as to further explore the experiences of LGBT students responses were compared on several of the headline questions in the survey to those of other students. This was done by cross tabulating the results of two questions: 'Do you identify as Trans or have a Trans background?' and 'What best describes your sexual orientation?'.

The responses below therefore compare those who answered the question on Trans identity as follows:

- Yes, I have a transsexual history
- Yes, I am Trans
- I do not identify with the word Trans, but my experience/background might be described by others as Trans

To those who answered it with the following responses:

- No. I don't identify as Trans or have a Trans background
- Prefer not to select

For the sake of brevity in the analysis that follows, the first group will be described as Trans and the second as non-Trans. It should be noted that only 24 of the respondents included themselves in the three groups that are included in the Trans category. Because of this small sample size it is necessary to avoid talking about their experience in proportional terms and use the aggregate figures instead.

The responses also compare those who described their sexual orientation as best described as 'Lesbian/Gay' or 'Bisexual' with two other groups: the first was those who described themselves as 'Heterosexual or straight' or who indicated that they 'Would prefer not to say'; the second was those who described their sexuality as 'Other'. In the analysis below these categories will be presented as LGB, non-LGB and Other.

TABLE 9: QUESTION ASKED - HOW DO DEFINE YOUR OWN GENDER?

How do define your own gender?	Sexuality			Trans	
	LGB	Non-LGB	Other	Trans	Non-Trans
Woman	218	1571	22	8	1803
Man	182	730	14	7	919
Other	5	5	5	9	6

Before continuing to an analysis of experiences of violence, it should be pointed out that there was a notable difference in the gender composition of LGB respondents compared to non-LGB ones. Nineteen per cent of Men who completed the survey compared to 12 per cent of Women who did so were LGB. As a result, Men made up a significantly higher proportion of LGB respondents (44.94 per cent) than they did of non-LGB respondents (31.66 per cent). The situation for Trans respondents was different again with 9 of the 24 describing their gender as Other.

TABLE 10: QUESTION ASKED - HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED OBSESSIVE BEHAVIOUR?

Obsessive behaviour	Sexuality			Trans	
	LGB	Non-LGB	Other	Trans	Non-Trans
Yes	48	185	6	4	235
No	337	2052	30	16	2403
Unsure	20	69	5	4	90

Responses to the questionnaire suggest that a greater proportion of LGBT students experienced harassment,

violence and unwanted sexual behaviour than either non-LGB students or non-Trans students. Whereas 89 per cent of non-LGB students had not experienced any obsessive behaviour, this was the case for only 83 per cent of LGB students and 73 per cent of those who described their sexuality as Other. If the Trans figure was reproduced in a larger sample it would suggest that Trans students were experiencing such harassment at a higher level again with just 16 of the 24 students recording that they had not experienced these behaviours.

Woman, 28: *I've encountered a lot of indirect sexism, homophobia and racism. Students even in a class discussion will giggle about anything pertaining to being "gay".*

Man, 19: *I've experienced people questioning my sexuality but I haven't been uncomfortable answering it. However some people question not that I'm LGBT but that I'm bisexual. They question (somewhat accusatory) that I'm really gay/straight. I don't think they fully understand that Bisexuality is a sexual preference.*

Man, 23: *I was attacked because I'm gay so I had no intention on going to the Guards or anybody else about it when it would be ignored or looked at like dirt.*

Unspecified Gender, 19: *There was a long time where I was on the brink of being forced out of the family home for being gay.*

TABLE 11: QUESTION ASKED - HAVE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING EVER HAPPENED TO YOU WHILST YOU HAVE BEEN A STUDENT AT YOUR CURRENT INSTITUTION?

	Sexuality			Trans	
	LGB	Non-LGB	Other	Trans	Non-Trans
You were pushed, slapped, shoved or had your hair pulled	26	119	5	1	149
You had something thrown at you that could hurt you	26	74	2	2	100
You were kicked, bitten, hit with a fist or something else that could hurt you	20	56	2	2	76
You were choked, dragged, strangled or burnt	6	16	0	2	20
A weapon (such as a knife or gun) was used against you	2	13	0	0	15
I have not experienced any kind of physical mistreatment or violence whilst I have been a student	315	1994	28	16	2321
Other	10	34	4	1	47

This pattern was repeated in the question around types of physical mistreatment where 78 per cent of LGB students and 68 per cent of those with Other sexualities were not the victims of violence compared to 86 per cent of non-LGB students. Again, just 16 of the 24 Trans students had not experienced violence. It also was present in the data on unwanted sexual experiences where 75 per cent of LGB students and 71 per cent of other students had not had unwanted sexual experiences compared to 86 per cent of non-LGB students. In this instance eighteen of the 24 Trans students reported not being victims of an unwanted sexual experience.

The survey data suggests then that LGBT students are more prone to experience the range of unwanted and violent behaviours examined in the questionnaire. To put it more starkly, while LGB students represented 14.72 per cent of the total number of completed surveys, they accounted for 24 per cent of the total number of acts of unwanted sexual intercourse and 26 per cent of the acts of biting, kicking or hitting with a fist. Their experiences point to the need for urgent consideration to be given.

SECTION TEN:

Comparisons with National Union of Students, UK (NUS) 'Hidden Marks' (2010) Survey

As the questionnaire administered was based on one used by the National Union of Students in the UK on which they based their report "*Hidden Marks*"(2010), this piece of work compared some of the main areas in that study to the figures in this work. To do this this study focussed on 2 issues, the extent of unwanted experiences and the levels of reporting. As the NUS study referred only to those who identified their gender as Women, the Irish figures in this part of the report refer only to Women students.

The *Hidden Marks* Report can be found at:

http://www.nus.org.uk/Global/NUS_hidden_marks_report_2nd_edition_web.pdf

Comparing the two reports suggested broadly comparable figures between Ireland and the United Kingdom in terms of the negative experiences that students had around obsessive behaviour, physical violence and sexual violence. Whereas 12 per cent of Women surveyed in the NUS work had been victims of stalking in Ireland the figure was marginally lower at 10 per cent. This pattern of a fractionally smaller proportion of Irish women reporting these behaviours held across the range of options that students were given for types of physical violence which they might have experienced with the exception of the category 'Other' .

TABLE 12: EXPERIENCES OF VIOLENCE COMPARING IRISH TO UK DATA. IRISH FIGURES BASED ON A SAMPLE SIZE OF 1,811. UK FIGURES BASED ON A SAMPLE SIZE OF 2,053 AND EXTRAPOLATED FROM THE FIGURES IN THE HIDDEN MARKS REPORT, P. 15.

	Count		Percentage	
	Ireland	UK	Ireland	UK
Pushed, slapped, shoved or had your hair pulled	112	143	6.18%	6.95%
Something thrown at you that could hurt you	66	82	3.64%	3.98%
Kicked, bitten, hit with a fist or something else that could hurt you	36	69	1.99%	3.35%
Choked, dragged, strangled or burnt	19	38	1.05%	1.85%
A weapon (such as a knife or gun) was used against you	6	32	0.33%	1.55%
Other	34	13	1.88%	0.63%
Total Woman experiencing violence	273	377	15.07%	18.32%

The comparison in regard to sexual violence is more mixed. In general Irish women students appear to have experienced less unwanted sexual behaviour. The proportional differences, however, were mainly in the category of sexual contact which the NUS classified as 'Less Serious Sexual Assault'. A higher proportion of Irish Women students had experienced attempted rape than their UK peers. The NUS figures were rounded so it is difficult to be precise, but it appears that comparable numbers, 5 per cent and 0.4 per cent, were subject to rape and assault by penetration respectively.

TABLE 13: EXPERIENCES OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE COMPARING IRISH TO UK DATA. IRISH FIGURES BASED ON A SAMPLE SIZE OF 1,811. UK FIGURES BASED ON A SAMPLE SIZE OF 2,053 AND EXTRAPOLATED FROM THE FIGURES IN THE HIDDEN MARKS REPORT, P. 17.

	Percentage	
	Ireland	UK
I have not had any kind of unwanted sexual experience whilst I have been a student	80.07%	75%
Sexual contact (this could include kissing, touching or molesting you including through clothes)	10.82%	16%
Attempted sexual intercourse (when someone has tried to have oral, anal or vaginal sex with you but has not been successful)	3.09%	2%
Assault by penetration (this means someone putting an object, such as a bottle, in your anus or vagina)	0.44%	0.40%
Sexual intercourse (this means someone putting a penis in your mouth, vagina or anus)	5.25%	5%
Other	0.33%	1%

TABLE 14: COMPARING PROPORTION OF INCIDENTS REPORTED ACROSS LOCATION TYPES OF UNWANTED EXPERIENCE BETWEEN IRELAND AND UK. UK FIGURES TAKEN FROM HIDDEN MARKS REPORT, P. 21

	Ireland Institution	UK Institution	Ireland Garda	UK Police
Less Serious Physical Violence	3.57%	1%	6.25%	7%
Serious Physical Violence	7.09%	11%	12.59%	17%
Less Serious Sexual Assault	5.10%	2%	3.57%	2
Serious Sexual Assault	1.26%	4%	1.89%	10%
Stalking	10.22%	21%	8.06%	13%

Perhaps the most notable difference between the two surveys was the difference in reporting of these matters to both educational institutions and to the police services. In every category, with the exception of that classified by the NUS as 'Less Serious Sexual Assault', Irish Women students were less likely to report experiences which they had had than Women students in the UK. This was particularly notable in the areas of serious sexual assault and stalking and suggests the need for improved strategies in helping women to approach either educational authorities or the Gardaí to discuss these issues.

List of Support Services and Agencies

Relevant State Agencies

Garda Victim Liaison Office

Community Relations & Community Policing Section,
Garda Headquarters,
Harcourt Square,
Dublin 2.
Tel: +353 1 6663880 / 6663883
Fax: +353 1 6663801
E-mail: crimevictims@garda.ie

An Garda Síochána

Garda Headquarters
Phoenix Park, Dublin 8
Tel: 01 666 0000
Web: www.garda.ie
Includes listings of all Garda stations throughout the country

Garda Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Investigation Unit

Harcourt Square, Dublin 2
Contact is by referral only through the complainant's local Garda station, where appropriate.

Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission

150 Abbey Street Upper, Dublin 1
LoCall: 1890 600 800
Tel: 01 871 6727
Fax: 01 814 7023
E-mail: info@gsoc.ie
Web: www.gardaombudsman.ie

Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions

Infirmiry Road, Dublin 7
Tel: 01 858 8500
Fax: 01 642 7406
E-mail: dpp@dppireland.ie
Please note that for reasons of confidentiality the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions cannot accept correspondence relating to criminal prosecution files by e-mail. Any correspondence relating to criminal prosecution files should be in writing and forwarded by post to the above address.
Web: www.dppireland.ie

The Courts Service

15-24 Phoenix Street North
Smithfield, Dublin 7
Tel: 01 888 6000
Web: www.courts.ie

Department of Justice and Equality

94 St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2
LoCall: 1890 221 227
Tel: 01 602 8202
Fax: 01 661 5461
E-mail: info@justice.ie
Web: www.justice.ie

National Crime Victims Helpline

Free Phone: 116 006
Text: 085 133 77 11
E-mail: crimevictimshelpline.ie
Web: info@crimevictimshelpline.ie

Law Society of Ireland

Blackhall Place, Dublin 7
Tel: 01 6724800
E-mail: general@lawsociety.ie

Legal Aid Board

Head Office, Quay Street
Cahirciveen, Co Kerry
Tel: 066 947 1000
Lo Call: 1890 615 200
E mail: info@legalaidboard.ie
DUBLIN OFFICE
47 Upper Mount Street, Dublin 2
Tel: 01 644 1900

Cosc – The National Office for the Prevention of Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence Department of Justice and Equality

2nd Floor,
Montague court,
Montague Street, Dublin 2
Telephone: 1476 8680
E-mail: cosc@justice.ie

Victims of Crime Office

The Victim of Crime Office
Department of Justice and Equality
2nd floor, Montague Court, Montague Lane,
Dublin 2.
Telephone: 1 476 8676
Email: vco@justice.ie

Irish Prison Service:

IDA Business Park,
Ballinalee Road,
Longford
Co, Longford.
Telephone: 43 33 35100
E-mail: info@irishprisons.ie

Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme:

Second floor, 7-11 Montague Court, Montague Street,
Dublin2.
Telephone: 1 476 8670
E-mail: criminalinjuries@justice.ie

Support Service Contact Information

One in Four

2 Holles Street, Dublin 2
Tel: 01 662 4070
Fax: 01 611 4650
E-mail: oneinfour.org

Sexual Assault Treatment Units (SATUs)

Cork SATU

South Infirmary Victoria University
Hospital, Cork
Tel: 021 4926297
Tel: 021-492611 hospital administration
E-mail: satu@sivuh.ie

Dublin SATU

Rotunda Hospital, Parnell Street
Dublin 1
Tel: 01 873 0700 hospital administration
E-mail: satu@rotunda.ie

Letterkenny SATU

Letterkenny General Hospital
Letterkenny, Co Donegal
Tel: 074 9125888 hospital administration
Tel: 074 9104436
Mobile: 0870664593
Fax: 074 22824
E-mail: jane.casserley@hse.ie

Waterford SATU

Waterford Regional Hospital
Dunmore Road, Waterford
Tel: 051 848000 hospital administration
Tel: 051 842157
Fax: 051 879495
E-mail: sinead.boyle@hse.ie

Mullingar

Midlands Regional Hospital, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath
Tel: 044 9340221 hospital administrator
Tel: 044 9394239
Mobile: 0860409952
E-mail: satu.mrhm@hse.ie

Galway

Hazelwood House, Parkmore Rd. Galway
Tel: 091 757631 hospital administrator
Tel: 091765751
Mobile: 0876338118
E-mail: Eleanor.comer@hse.ie

Limited services are also available in Limerick and Tralee:

Limerick

Mid Western Regional Hospital
Dooradoyle, Limerick
Tel: 061 301111 all departments
061 482120 accident and emergency
Fax: 061 301165

Tralee

Kerry General Hospital
Tralee, Co Kerry
Tel: 066 7184000 hospital administration
Fax: 066 712624

Support Service Contact Information (cont.)

Women's Aid

5 Wilton Place
Dublin 2
Freephone Helpline: 1800 341 900
Phone: 01-6788858
Fax: 01-6788915
Email: info@womensaid.ie

Rape Crisis Centres

Athlone Midlands Rape Crisis Centre

Suites 5 and 6 Townhouse Centre, St. Marys Square,
Athlone,
Co. Westmeath
Freephone: 1800 306 600
Business: 09064 73862
Fax: 09064 91888
E-mail: amrcc@eircom.net
Web: www.amrcc.ie

Carlow and South Leinster Rape Crisis Centre

72 Tullow St, Carlow.
Freephone: 1800 727 737
Business: 05991 33344
Fax: 05991 33344
E-mail: Info@carlowrapecrisis.ie
Web: www.carlowrapecrisis.ie

CORK Sexual Violence Centre

5 Camden Place, Cork
Freephone: 1800 496 496
Business: 021 4505577
Fax: 021 4504690
E-mail: info@sexualviolence.ie
Web: www.sexualviolence.ie

Donegal Sexual Abuse and Rape Crisis Centre

2A Grand Central Canal Rd, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal
Freephone: 1800 448 844
Business: 074 912 8211
Fax: 074 912 0642
E-mail: rapecrisis@eircom.net
Web: www.donegalrapecrisis.ie

Dublin Rape Crisis Centre

70, Lower Leeson St, Dublin 2
Freephone: 1800 778 888
Business: 01 661 4911
Fax: 01 661 0873
E-mail: rcc@indigo.ie
Web: www.drcc.ie

Galway Rape Crisis Centre

The Lodge, Foster Court, Galway.
Helpline: 1800 355 355
Business: 091-564800
E-mail: administrator@galwayrcc.org
Web: www.galwayrcc.org

Kerry Rape & Sexual Abuse Centre

5 Greenview Terrace, Princes Quay,
Tralee, Co. Kerry
Freephone: 1800 633 333
Business: 066 712 3122
Fax: 066 712 0247
E-mail: krcc@eircom.net
Web: www.krsac.com

Kilkenny Rape Crisis and Sexual Abuse Counselling Centre

1, Golf View Terrace, Off Grangers Rd,
Kilkenny
Freephone: 1800 478 478
Business: 056 775 1555
Fax: 056 775 1538
E-mail: kkrc@eircom.net
Web: www.kilkennyrcc.com

Limerick Rape Crisis Midwest

Phoenix House, Punch's Close, Rosbrien Rd, Limerick
Freephone: 1800 311 511
Business: 061 311511
Fax: 061 312682
E-mail: limerickrcc@oceanfree.net
Web: www.rapecrisis.ie

Rape Crisis North East

PO Box 72
Dundalk
Co. Louth
Freephone: 1800 212 122
Business: 042 933 9491
Fax: 042 938 1968
E-mail: racsacne@eircom.net
Web: www.rcne.ie

Mayo Rape Crisis Centre

Newtown, Castlebar, Mayo
Freephone: 1800 234 900
Business: 094 902 5657
Fax: 094 902 7188
E-mail: mayorcc@eircom.net
Web: www.mayorapecrisiscentre.ie

Rape Crisis and Sexual Abuse Counselling Centre Sligo, Leitrim and West Cavan

42 Castle St, Sligo
Freephone: 1800 750 780
Business: 07191 71188
Fax: 07191 71268
E-mail: info@srcc.ie
Web: www.srcc.ie

Tipperary Rape Crisis and Counselling Centre

20 Mary St, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary
Freephone: 1800 340 340
Business: 052 6127676
Fax: 052 6129171
E-mail: trcc@eircom.net

Tullamore Sexual Abuse and Rape Crisis Counselling Service

10a Patrick St
Tullamore, Co Offaly
Freephone: 1800 323 232
Business: 05793 22500
Fax: 05793 22501
E-mail: tullamorerapecrisiscentre@eircom.net
Web: www.tullamorercc.ie

Waterford Rape & Sexual Abuse Centre

2A Waterside, Waterford
Freephone: 1800 296 296
Business: 051 873362
Fax: 051 850717
E-mail: wrcc@indigo.ie
Web: www.waterfordrsac.ie

Wexford Rape & Sexual Abuse Support Service

Clifford St, Wexford
Freephone: 1800 330 033
Business: 053 9122722
Fax: 053 9152853
E-mail: wexrapecrisis@eircom.net
Web: www.wexfordrapecrisis.com

Belfast Rape and Sexual Assault Centre

29, Donegall Street,
BT1 2FG 29, Belfast
County Antrim
Phone: 028 90329002
Fax: 028 90329001
Women's Aid
5 Wilton Place
Dublin 2
Freephone Helpline: 1800 341 900
Phone: 01-6788858
Fax: 01-6788915
Email: info@womensaid.ie

Amen

St. Anne's Resource Centre
Railway Street
Navan,
Co. Meath
Phone: 046 9023718
E-mail: info@amen.ie

National Network Organisations

Rape Crisis Network Ireland

4 Prospect Hill
Galway
Phone: 091 563676
E-mail: info@rcni.ie

SAFE Ireland

Unit 5 Centre Court
Blyry Business Park
Co. Westmeath
Ph: 090 6479078
E-mail: office@safaireland.ie



Union of Students in Ireland
Aontas na Mac Léinn in Éirinn

Union of Students in Ireland (USI)
Ceann Áras na Mac Léinn,
Portview House
York Road,
Dublin 4