

Office for
Students



Office for Students Sexual misconduct prevalence survey pilot 2023

Analysis report

Reference OfS 2024.09

Enquiries to smsurvey@officeforstudents.org.uk

Publication date 25 July 2024

Contents

Summary	2
Prevalence	2
Introduction	3
Survey results	4
All outcomes	4
Prevalence of unwanted behaviours of a sexual nature (sexual harassment)	4
Prevalence of unwanted sexual contact (sexual assault/violence)	6
Impact of experiences	7
Experiences of reporting	7
Student-staff relationships	7
Methodology	9
Survey methodology	9
Data quality	10
Response rates and non-response bias	11
Weighting	13
Rounding and suppression	14
Populations	15

Summary

1. This document sets out the results of the Office for Students (OfS) sexual misconduct prevalence survey pilot which aimed to investigate the prevalence of these issues by sampling a subsection of the higher education sector and to test whether such a survey could be carried out on a wider basis.
2. The survey was carried out by IFF Research in autumn 2023 at 12 providers, all of whom volunteered to be part of the project, with a total response rate to the survey of 4 per cent.
3. The survey followed a poll analysis carried out by Savanta to test the questionnaire developed for this work.¹

Please note: This report refers to behaviours including sexual violence, sometimes using explicit language. The same is true of the accompanying dashboard.

4. This work is based on the principle that students should be able to participate in higher education without fear of being subjected to sexual misconduct, as set out by the OfS in a statement of expectations² 'for preventing and addressing harassment and sexual misconduct affecting students in higher education'. It was expected, however, that some students do experience these issues and that they could impact their health, well-being and studies.

Prevalence

5. The proportion of students who have experienced unwanted behaviours of a sexual nature (sexual harassment) during the period between 1 September 2022 and 1 September 2023 was 20 per cent. This is out of the number of people who responded to the survey and who did not drop out of the survey after being asked about their experiences of unwanted behaviours of a sexual nature since being a student (5,090 respondents).
6. The proportion of students who have experienced unwanted sexual contact (assault/violence) during the period between 1 September 2022 and 1 September 2023 was 9 per cent. This is out of the number of people who responded to the survey and who did not drop out of the survey after being asked about their experiences of unwanted sexual contact since being a student (4,795 respondents).
7. The proportion of students who have experienced a student-staff relationship during the period between 1 September 2022 and 1 September 2023 was 1 per cent. This is out of all students who responded to the survey and who had not quit the survey by this question (2,845 respondents).

¹ See Analysis of findings from poll conducted in August 2023, at www.officeforstudents.org.uk/publications/sexual-misconduct-prevalence-survey-pilot-2023-evaluation/.

² See www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/student-wellbeing-and-protection/prevent-and-address-harassment-and-sexual-misconduct/statement-of-expectations/.

Introduction

8. In April 2021 the Office for Students (OfS) issued a statement of expectations³ 'for preventing and addressing harassment and sexual misconduct affecting students in higher education'. This included a range of recommendations aimed at supporting higher education providers to address these issues, such as a drive to clearly communicate behavioural expectations to students, staff and visitors. The OfS subsequently commissioned an independent evaluation⁴ of this guidance in the following year. Among other recommendations, the findings from this advocated for a sector-wide prevalence survey. The OfS then initiated a project to implement a sexual misconduct prevalence survey pilot.
9. The first phase focused on the development of a set of questions for the pilot prevalence survey using advice from the OfS's external advisory group (comprising sector experts on harassment and misconduct). The questions were then cognitively tested with students by Shift Insight to ensure they were understood and appropriately worded.
10. In the second phase, two separate surveys were conducted using the questionnaire designed in phase 1. Initially an incentivised poll was conducted by Savanta to test the questionnaire with a student audience and gain an early insight into the responses we might receive.
11. In 2023, IFF Research was commissioned to conduct the second survey in phase two, a pilot exercise exploring the feasibility of running a prevalence survey in this space, using the same questionnaire. This larger scale survey tested the process of delivering the survey, the appetite of students to respond to it and the feasibility of collecting provider-level data. The aim was to establish a robust set of questions designed to unpick the prevalence of sexual misconduct in higher education in England. It would also explore the best methodological approach to (1) provider liaison and contact detail collation, (2) survey communications and (3) response rate maximisation.
12. The survey was carried out on behalf of the OfS by IFF Research. The survey was online only using a personalised link, and students were contacted initially through their academic email address and later additionally on their personal email address. This was done due to initial low response rates. The survey was open for six weeks commencing 2 September 2023 and closing on 3 November 2023.
13. In total 12 providers volunteered to take part in the survey with a total returned population of 129,220 students (when excluding poor quality data returns). This includes all years of study, modes of study and students undertaking distance learning. The providers involved range in size from 630 to 28,460 students. The providers that took part were: Buckinghamshire New University, University of Northumbria at Newcastle, De Montfort University, Arts University Plymouth, Richmond, the American International University in London, Inc., University for the Creative Arts, the University of Westminster, Roehampton University, the University of Essex, SAE Education Limited, St Mary's University, Twickenham, and Hartpury University.

³ See www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/student-wellbeing-and-protection/prevent-and-address-harassment-and-sexual-misconduct/statement-of-expectations/.

⁴ See www.officeforstudents.org.uk/publications/evaluation-of-statement-of-expectations-final-report/.

Survey results

14. The results presented below are from those students who responded to the survey from the 12 providers that volunteered to take part in the survey.

All outcomes

15. For a full overview of all survey outcomes, please refer to the accompanying dashboard.⁵

16. Here, we present a selection of the results to give an overview of findings from the five main sections of the survey:

- i. Unwanted behaviours of a sexual nature (sexual harassment)
- ii. Unwanted sexual contact (assault/violence)
- iii. Impact of experiences upon students
- iv. Experiences of seeking support from the provider
- v. Student-staff relationships

17. More information about responses to questions not reported here, as well as further breakdowns by student characteristic, can be found in the Sexual misconduct prevalence survey pilot data dashboard referred to above.

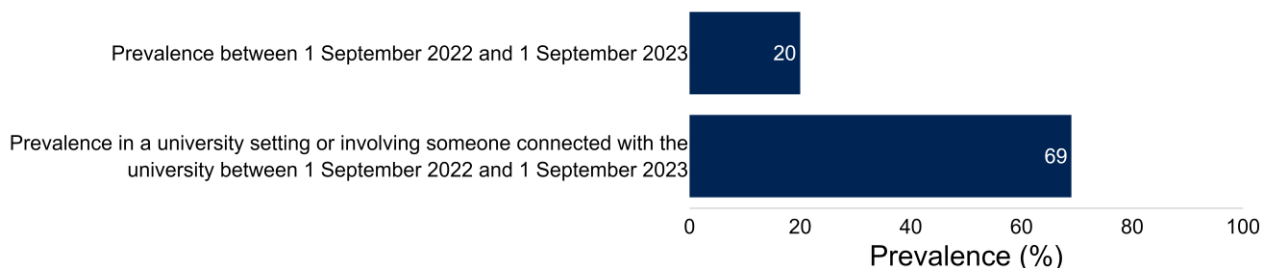
Prevalence of unwanted behaviours of a sexual nature (sexual harassment)

18. Students were initially asked if they had any experience of unwanted behaviours of a sexual nature. This term refers to examples of sexual harassment. The prevalence of respondents who experienced unwanted behaviours of a sexual nature (taking into account if a respondent had experienced any behaviour from the list provided) in the period between 1 September 2022 and 1 September 2023 was 20 per cent. Of those reporting an experience, 69 per cent went on to say that the experience involved someone connected with the university, occurred in a university setting, or both (see Figure 1).

Figure 1: Prevalence of respondents who experienced unwanted behaviours of a sexual nature (sexual harassment) in the 12-month period between 1 September 2022 and 1 September 2023 and prevalence among those incidents of connection with the respondent's university

⁵ See www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/student-wellbeing-and-protection/harassment-and-sexual-misconduct/survey-of-sexual-misconduct/sexual-misconduct-prevalence-survey-pilot-2023-data/.

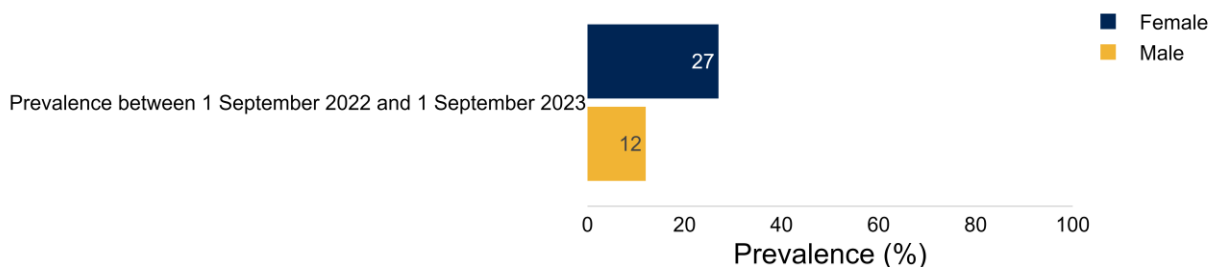
Prevalence of respondents who experienced unwanted behaviours of a sexual nature



19. The prevalence of female respondents who experienced unwanted behaviours of a sexual nature in the period between 1 September 2022 and 1 September 2023 was 27 per cent. The prevalence of male respondents who experienced unwanted behaviours of a sexual nature in the same period was 12 per cent (see Figure 2).

Figure 2: Prevalence of respondents who experienced unwanted behaviours of a sexual nature (sexual harassment) in the 12-month period between 1 September 2022 and 1 September 2023 by sex of the respondent

Prevalence of respondents who experienced unwanted behaviours of a sexual nature



20. Some data characteristic splits indicate a greater prevalence of respondents who experienced unwanted behaviours of a sexual nature than the total figure of 20 per cent, including female respondents (27 per cent), respondents with a disability (32 per cent), those who are bisexual (37 per cent) or gay/lesbian (34 per cent), and those under 21 (31 per cent).

21. Unwanted behaviours of a sexual nature were commonly experienced from another student at the same university (85 per cent of respondents who had experienced unwanted behaviour in the 12-month reporting period either in a university setting or by someone connected to the university). This was the case regardless of characteristic split.

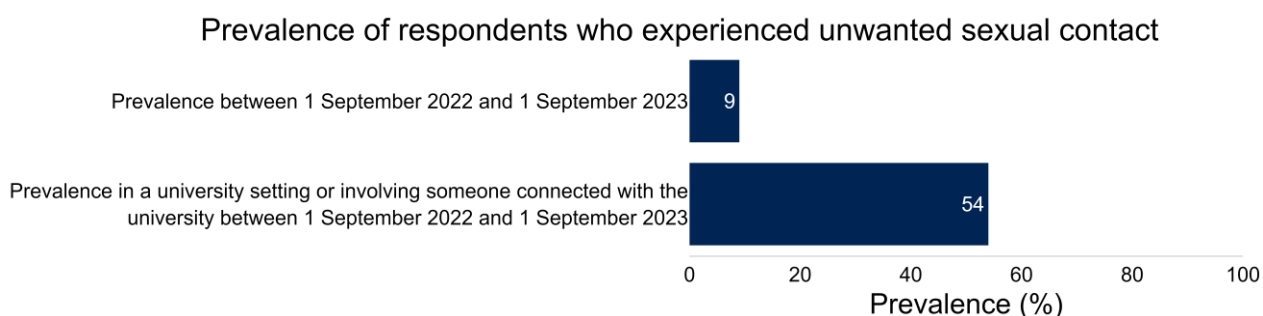
22. The perpetrators were described as 'A man/men' by 79 per cent of respondents who had experienced unwanted behaviours of a sexual nature in the 12-month reporting period in a university setting or by someone connected with the university. This is fairly consistent across the characteristic splits aside from male respondents, where 32 per cent of respondents said that the perpetrator was 'A man/men' compared with 42 per cent who said it was 'A woman/women' and 23 per cent who said it was 'Both men and women'. The response options for this question were 'A man/men', 'A woman/women', 'Both men and women', 'Don't know/Can't remember' and 'Prefer not to say'.

23. Of respondents who had experienced unwanted behaviours of a sexual nature in the 12-month reporting period in a university setting or by someone connected with the university, 12 per cent indicated that they sought support from the university and 21 per cent indicated that they sought support from outside the university, most often from a friend.

Prevalence of unwanted sexual contact (sexual assault/violence)

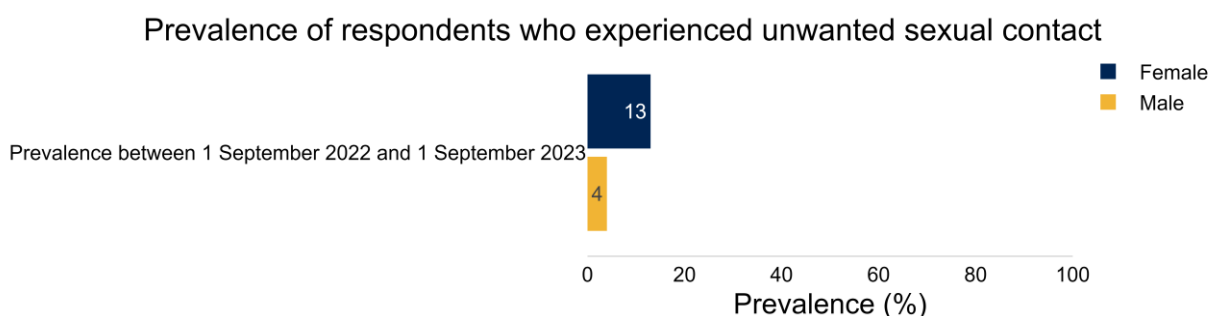
24. In section 2 of the survey students were asked about experiences of unwanted sexual contact. This refers to examples of sexual assault and/or violence.
25. The prevalence of respondents who experienced unwanted sexual contact (assault/violence) (taking into account if a respondent had experienced any type of unwanted contact from the list provided) in the period between 1 September 2022 and 1 September 2023 was 9 per cent. Of those students who responded that they had experienced unwanted sexual contact (assault/violence) in the specified 12-month reporting period, 54 per cent went on to say that the experience involved someone connected with the university, occurred in a university setting, or both (Figure 3).

Figure 3: The prevalence of respondents who experienced unwanted sexual contact (assault/violence) in the 12-month period between 1 September 2022 and 1 September 2023 and prevalence among those incidents of connection with the respondent's university



26. The prevalence of female respondents who experienced unwanted sexual contact in the period between 1 September 2022 and 1 September 2023 was 13 per cent. The prevalence of male respondents who experienced unwanted sexual contact in the same period was 4 per cent (see Figure 4).

Figure 4: The prevalence of respondents who experienced unwanted sexual contact (assault/violence) in the 12-month period between 1 September 2022 and 1 September 2023 by sex of the respondent



27. The prevalence was higher among some groups of students than the overall prevalence of 9 per cent including: female respondents (13 per cent), respondents with a disability (18 per cent), those who are bisexual (22 per cent) or gay/lesbian (21 per cent), and those under 21 (16 per cent).
28. 'A student from the university' was involved in 49 per cent of responses (out of those who had experienced unwanted sexual contact in the 12-month reporting period either in a university setting or by someone connected to the university).

29. The perpetrators in most cases were described as 'a man/men', with this category making up 85 per cent of unwanted sexual contact perpetrators. This is fairly consistent across the splits by characteristic, aside from male respondents where 47 per cent said that the perpetrator was 'A man/men' compared with 46 per cent who said it was 'A woman/women'. As in the case of the question relating to unwanted behaviours of a sexual nature, the response options for this question were 'A man/men', 'A woman/women', 'Both men and women', 'Don't know/ Can't remember' and 'Prefer not to say'.

Impact of experiences

30. Out of those students who reported experiencing some form of unwanted behaviour of a sexual nature (sexual harassment) or unwanted sexual contact (assault/violence) in the period between 1 September 2022 and 1 September 2023, 23 per cent responded that it had not had an impact on them. However, 46 per cent of students responded that they had 'Stopped trusting people or experienced difficulty in relationships', 44 per cent responded that they had 'Experienced poor mental health or emotional problems' and 37 per cent respondent that they had 'Stopped going out so much'. Students also reported other impacts relating to their interaction with the university and their course.

Experiences of reporting

31. Overall, 52 per cent of all students felt confident that they knew where to seek support within their university relating to experiences of sexual harassment or misconduct.

32. Similarly, 50 per cent of all students said they would feel confident about how to make a formal report or complaint to the university about the experience.

33. These figures are both out of all respondents who had not quit the survey by the time this question was reached.

Student-staff relationships

34. Students were asked whether they had been in a student-staff relationship, had ever been pressured into a student-staff relationship and whether they knew of any other student-staff relationships.

35. Once they had completed the main questionnaire students could choose not to respond to this section. Therefore, the number of respondents is lower than that for the main survey (2,885 responses for question M1 which asked respondents how comfortable or uncomfortable they are for a member of university staff to behave in 13 different ways). Details of each question can be found in the survey questionnaire document.⁶

36. Of the 2,845 respondents who answered question M2 ('During your time as a student between 1 September 2022 and 1 September 2023, have you ever had an intimate relationship with a member of staff at your university?'), 1 per cent overall said that they had been in some form of intimate student-staff relationship in the period between 1 September 2022 and 1 September

⁶ See the questionnaire, available at www.officeforstudents.org.uk/publications/sexual-misconduct-prevalence-survey-pilot-2023-evaluation/.

2023 (see Figure 5). This one per cent figure is consistent across the different splits by characteristic aside from where it increases to 2 per cent. For example, the proportion of male and female respondents who reported experiencing a staff-student relationship in the reporting period is 2 per cent and 1 per cent respectively (see Figure 6).

Figure 5: The prevalence of student-staff relationships in the 12-month period between 1 September 2022 and 1 September 2023

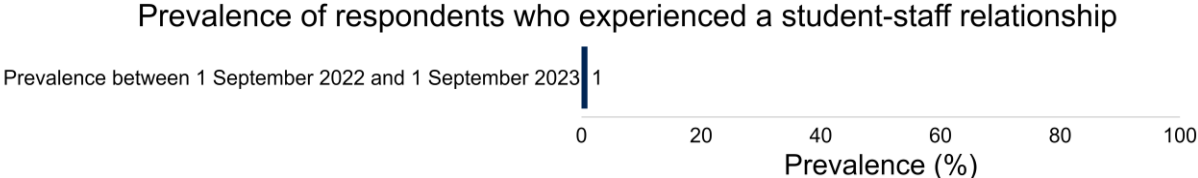
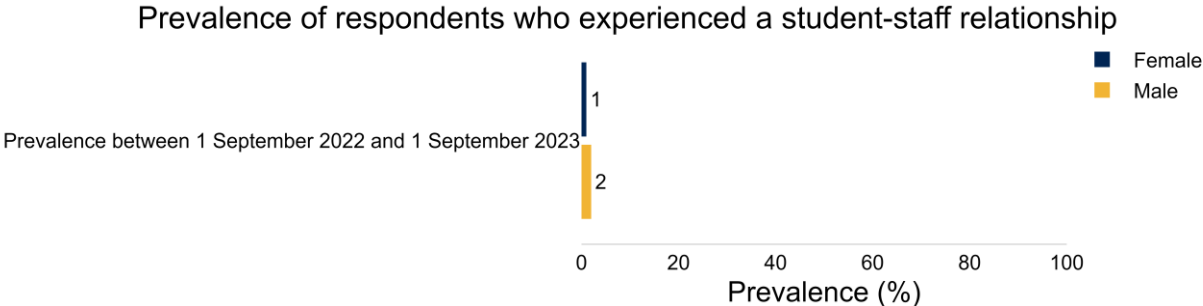


Figure 6: The prevalence of student-staff relationships in the 12-month period between 1 September 2022 and 1 September 2023 by sex of respondent



Methodology

37. This section of the report describes the nature of the survey sample, aspects of the research design including the process for collecting student data from providers, and the structure of the questionnaire. It also describes some of the procedures used to ensure data quality, and an exploration of response rates and survey weighting. The algorithms for derived fields used as part of the outputs can be found at the end of this section.

Survey methodology

38. Certain students were excluded from the provider data returns as follows:

- a. Anyone under the age of 18 on starting their course
- b. Anyone who started after 1 January 2023
- c. Anyone not on a higher education course
- d. Incoming exchange students or those studying mainly overseas
- e. Students who were dormant (inactive), writing up or intercalating (study not counted towards their main qualification)
- f. Students who were not still actively studying by 1 April 2023.

39. This meant that the survey excluded those students who had just started at the provider in the 2023-2024 academic year but included those on all other years who were still actively studying on 1 April 2023.

40. The survey was composed of five main sections:

- i. Unwanted behaviours of a sexual nature
- ii. Unwanted sexual contact
- iii. Impact of experiences upon students
- iv. Experiences of seeking support from the provider
- v. Student-staff relationships.

41. In sections i. and ii., respondents were presented with an initial question about experiences of unwanted behaviours of a sexual nature (sexual harassment) or unwanted sexual contact (assault/violence) since being a student. If they responded yes to this initial question, they were then directed to answer a question about whether their experience occurred in the last 12 months and routed appropriately from there. Similarly, in section v., there were follow-up

questions if respondents answered that they had a student-staff relationship. For full routing, please see the survey questionnaire document.⁷

42. Respondents could choose to answer questions or select 'Prefer not to say' to skip questions they did not wish to answer. Students could also choose to skip sections by responding 'Prefer not to say' to the initial question in that section.
43. The survey included pointers (signposting) to support resources and these were highlighted on the landing page as well as later in the survey prior to the opening question about unwanted sexual contact.
44. For more information regarding the implementation of the survey please refer to the IFF Research technical report.⁸
45. The results are from a pilot survey carried out at a sample of 12 providers that volunteered to take part. These providers had a range of sizes and locations but were all in England. The results presented here are indicative of what may be found at the sector level, but the same patterns may not be observed were this survey to be carried out on a wider scale.

Data quality

46. 5430 students responded to the first survey question. Respondents who quit the survey before reaching the end did so at different points, but most often this was after opening the survey webpages and at the start of new sections at questions A1 and F1, as well as before the optional final section, question M1 and onwards. This resulted in only 2,885 people responding to the student-staff relationships section of the survey.
47. Where figures are given, they are based on all responses to that particular question.
48. Providers could choose to return student characteristics as they would to the designated data body (DDB), HESA (Higher Education Statistics Authority), using either Legacy Student (C21051)⁹/Student Alternative record (C21054)¹⁰ or Data Futures Student (22056)¹¹ record codes through the provider return template. Please see the data collection template for a full list of all fields returned by providers to IFF Research.¹²
49. At the time of data collection, the OfS held the Legacy Student and Student Alternative record information which was used to check the provider returns where a student should have been

⁷ See the questionnaire, available at www.officeforstudents.org.uk/publications/sexual-misconduct-prevalence-survey-pilot-2023-evaluation/.

⁸ See Sexual misconduct prevalence pilot survey: Technical report to the OfS, at www.officeforstudents.org.uk/publications/sexual-misconduct-prevalence-survey-pilot-2023-evaluation/.

⁹ See the DDB specification for the Student (C21051) 2021-22 return: [HESA Collections | HESA](#).

¹⁰ See the DDB specification for the Student Alternative (C21054) 2021-22 return: [Student Alternative record 2021/22 | HESA](#).

¹¹ See the DDB specification for the Student (22056) return: [Home | HESA Coding Manual](#).

¹² See Sexual misconduct prevalence pilot survey: Technical report to the OfS, available at www.officeforstudents.org.uk/publications/sexual-misconduct-prevalence-survey-pilot-2023-evaluation/.

present already (start date before 1 August 2022). Where these students could not be identified in the relevant data return, or any previous year, they were excluded.

50. The collection of Data Futures Student (22056) codes was carried out shortly after Data Futures collection began and there is a higher than normal risk of data quality issues. However, on comparison with previous years of data we are broadly reassured by the data quality we have observed. The combining of the Legacy and Data Futures records meant that mode, distance learning and subject of study were not reported on in the outcomes.
51. Due to the collection of student data for all eligible students, we have a good understanding of the demographic make-up of the student population at each provider. Importantly, this includes both those who did and did not respond to the survey.
52. Where the personal characteristics of a student were unknown, these splits were not included in the results.

Response rates and non-response bias

53. The total response rate for this survey is 4 per cent with fluctuations between 3 and 9 per cent depending on characteristic. These differences can be seen in Table 1. It is possible that this means non-response bias could be introduced if people who respond to the survey are systematically different from those who do not take part.
54. The use of personal email addresses provided an uptick in responses and could be used if the survey is carried out again, alongside consideration of survey timing, to improve overall response rate. However, the response rate achieved was similar to that of the incentivised Savanta poll¹³ and so it could be that surveys of this nature might be expected to achieve a lower response.
55. Once again, numbers in the IFF outputs may be different because of different categorisations of response and our removal of those individuals who could not be identified in our 2021 data sources.

Table 1: Response rates to survey by characteristic and split

Note: Students were counted as a respondent if they answered at least one question.

Characteristic	Split	Response rate (%)	Number of responses
Sex	Male	3%	1,905
Sex	Female	5%	3,510
Sex	Other	9%	15
Sexual orientation	Bisexual	7%	400
Sexual orientation	Gay or lesbian	6%	210
Sexual orientation	Heterosexual or straight	4%	3,620

¹³ See Analysis of findings from poll conducted in August 2023, available at www.officeforstudents.org.uk/publications/sexual-misconduct-prevalence-survey-pilot-2023-evaluation/.

Characteristic	Split	Response rate (%)	Number of responses
Sexual orientation	Other sexual orientation	6%	225
Sexual orientation	Prefer not to say	5%	655
Sexual orientation	Not available	3%	325
Gender identity	Same as the sex registered at birth	4%	4,685
Gender identity	Not the same as the sex registered at birth	7%	205
Gender identity	Unknown	4%	545
Disability	No disability reported	4%	4,355
Disability	Disability reported	6%	1,080
Ethnicity	Asian	3%	485
Ethnicity	Black	4%	550
Ethnicity	Mixed	4%	220
Ethnicity	Other	4%	130
Ethnicity	Unknown	5%	1,685
Ethnicity	White	4%	2,365
Age on entry	21 years and over	5%	2,940
Age on entry	Under 21 years	4%	2,490
Level of study number	Level 5 / HND level	4%	50
Level of study number	Level 6 / Bachelors' level	4%	3,815
Level of study number	Level 7 / Masters' level	4%	1,390
Level of study number	Level 8 / Doctoral (PhD) level	7%	170
Religion or belief	No religion	4%	1,700
Religion or belief	Buddhist	6%	80
Religion or belief	Christian	4%	1,800
Religion or belief	Hindu	5%	380
Religion or belief	Muslim	4%	715
Religion or belief	Sikh	4%	60
Religion or belief	Any other religion or belief	5%	270
Religion or belief	Unknown	4%	420
Domicile	Non-UK	5%	1,625
Domicile	UK	4%	3,805

Weighting

56. From the response rates detailed in Table 1, we know that not all groups of students are responding equally to the survey. This difference between responses could have an impact on the results.
57. To try to account for this, weighting was undertaken based on the characteristics available in the data collection template. The Inverse Probability Weighting (IPW) technique was used to assign higher weights to the responses of respondents who were underrepresented and, vice versa, lower weights to those individuals who were over-represented. If no weighting is applied everyone in the sample is treated equally. However, once again, we know from the response rate results above that not all groups of students surveyed are responding equally which could affect the representativeness of the results.
58. To find the weights, a logistic regression analysis was performed using the variable for whether or not the student has responded to any question in the survey to investigate which variables might be having an effect on the probability that an individual will respond.
59. Before performing the logistic regression, small groups were collated with a characteristic split with the most similar response rate, using response rate information as found in Table 1. Unknown characteristics were retained during weighting.
60. Fields tested as part of the weighting estimation were:
 - a. Age on entry (broad age grouping)
 - b. Disability (broad grouping)
 - c. Ethnicity (5 groups and 3 groups)
 - d. Gender identity
 - e. Religion or belief (7 groups and 3 groups)
 - f. Sex
 - g. Sexual orientation (5 groups and 2 groups).
61. Different groupings of characteristics with more splits were tested as indicated above.
62. The results for the final weighting analysis can be seen in Table 2 below. An asterisk (*) denotes that an interaction between those two variables has been applied. Other interactions between variables tested are not included in the final model.
63. Variables considered but not included as part of weighting testing were: mode, distance learning, domicile and subject of study.

Table 2: Summary of IPW model

Effect	ProbChiSq
Sex	<.0001
Age on entry (broad)	<.0001
Sex * Age on entry (broad)	<.0001
Disability	<.0001
Sexual orientation	<.0001
Sexual orientation * religion or belief	<.0001
Gender identity	<.0001
Ethnicity	0.0022
Age on entry (broad) * ethnicity	<.0001
Level of study	<.0001
Religion or belief	0.0006

64. We can only account for differences based on characteristics that have been recorded; that is, those we have access to as part of the data collection template.
65. All percentages presented in the accompanying data dashboard and the results section of this document are weighted estimates.

Rounding and suppression

66. As with other OfS publications, the data here and in the accompanying harassment and sexual misconduct data dashboard are subject to rounding and suppression.
67. All response numbers have been rounded to the nearest 5. Percentages have been rounded to the nearest 1 per cent. If fewer than 10 students were present in the response group, then the output has been suppressed.
68. An extra suppression step has been applied in the outputs to ensure that no sensitive information is disclosed. This occurs when one or more response options received fewer than 10 responses and are part of an exclusive response set. In such cases, these responses have been grouped together with an option with more than 10 responses, or with all options under 10 responses if no such response exists.
69. No suppression has been conducted on low response rates. Given that there is a low response across the board, and the nature of the survey, no suppression has been carried out on response rates – as happens for the Graduate Outcomes and National Student Survey (NSS)¹⁴ outputs.

¹⁴ These suppressions follow from our 2022 consultation on the construction of the student outcome and experience measures used in OfS regulation. See www.officeforstudents.org.uk/publications/student-outcomes-and-teaching-excellence-consultations/outcome-and-experience-data/.

70. All calculations were performed prior to rounding and suppression.

Populations

71. The information returned via provider data collection templates was categorised as detailed in this section. All providers that took part in the survey were in England and so no codes for Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland have been included in the derivations below.

72. Mode and distance fields were not used in results owing to the difficulty of combining the Legacy Student, Legacy Student Alternative and Data Futures Student records gathered as part of the template.

73. Fields starting with the prefix IP or SMS have been derived. Where a derived field with the prefix IP has been referenced, please refer to the 'Technical algorithms for student outcome and experience measures' document for Legacy Student (C21051) and Student Alternative (21054) derivation¹⁵ and to the '2022-23 Student data checking tool SC22 data summary' technical document¹⁶ for the Student (22056) derivation.

Level of study

74. The information we have access to in the provider return templates allows us to define level of study according to IPLEVELNUM. We therefore end up with the following groupings:

- a. Level 5 – Foundation degrees, diplomas of higher education and other higher diplomas
- b. Level 6 – Bachelors' degrees, graduate certificates and diplomas
- c. Level 7 – Masters' degrees, postgraduate diplomas, postgraduate certificates
- d. Level 8 – Doctoral degree.

Age on entry

75. Age refers to the age of the student on 31 August in the year they commenced their studies (see IPSTARTAGEBAND). In this case we have used and reported the broad age categories.

Disability – SMSDISABLE

76. Disability is self-reported by students upon starting their course. Here we have used and reported the broad disability category based on Disable (HESA Legacy field) and Disability (this is a Data Futures field where students can record more than one disability outcome).

Value	Description	Definition HESA Legacy	Definition Data Futures
Y	Disability reported	Disable in (8,51,53,54,55,56,57,58,96)	DISABILITY_1 in (51,53,54,55,56,57,58,59,96) or

¹⁵ See www.officeforstudents.org.uk/publications/description-and-definition-of-student-outcome-and-experience-measures/.

¹⁶ See documentation at www.officeforstudents.org.uk/data-and-analysis/data-checking-tool/2022-23-student-data-checking-tool/.

Value	Description	Definition HESA Legacy	Definition Data Futures
			DISABILITY_2 in (51,53,54,55,56,57,58,59,96)
N	No disability reported	Otherwise	Otherwise

Domicile – SMSDOM

77. Here we have reported domicile as two broad groupings 'UK' and 'Non-UK' based on domicile.

Value	Description	Definition HESA Legacy	Definition Data Futures
UK	Student is domiciled in the UK	Domicile in (XF,XG,XH,XI,XK)	PERMADDCOUNTRY in (XF,XG,XH,XI,XK)
UNKNOWN	Domicile of the student is unknown	Domicile in (ZZ, 97, BLANK)	PERMADDCOUNTRY in (Z9, 97, BLANK)
Non-UK	Student is domiciled outside the UK	Otherwise	Otherwise

Ethnicity

78. Ethnicity is self-reported by students upon starting their course. For this report we have used five ethnicity groups (see IPETHNIC).

79. Ethnicity information is restricted to UK domiciled students.

Gender identity – SMSGENDERID

80. The student indicates whether their gender identity is the same or different to their sex registered at birth. The HESA legacy terminology is 'the same or different to the gender originally assigned at birth'.

Value	Description	Definition HESA Legacy	Definition Data Futures
01	Yes	GENDERID = 01	GENDERID = 01
02	No	GENDERID = 02	GENDERID = 02
98	Unknown	GENDERID = 98, 99, BLANK	GENDERID = 98, 99, BLANK

Religion or belief – SMSRELBLF

81. Records the religion or belief of the student based on their own assessment.

Value	Description	Definition HESA Legacy	Definition Data Futures
01	No religion	RELBLF = 1	RELIGION = 20
02	Buddhist	RELBLF = 2	RELIGION = 21
03	Christian	RELBLF = 3	RELIGION = 22
10	Hindu	RELBLF = 10	RELIGION = 29

Value	Description	Definition HESA Legacy	Definition Data Futures
11	Jewish	RELBLF = 11	RELIGION = 30
12	Muslim	RELBLF = 12	RELIGION = 31
13	Sikh	RELBLF = 13	RELIGION = 33
80	Any other religion or belief	RELBLF = 14, 80	RELIGION = 80
U	Unknown	Otherwise	Otherwise

Sex

82. Reported as 'Male', 'Female' or 'Other sex'. Unknowns have been excluded from our reports. See IPSEX.

Sexual orientation

83. Sexual orientation of the student, based on their own self-assessment.

Value	Description	Definition HESA Legacy	Definition Data Futures
10	Bisexual	SEXORT = 01	SEXORT = 10
11	Gay or lesbian	SEXORT in (02,03)	SEXORT = 11
12	Heterosexual or straight	SEXORT = 04	SEXORT = 12
19	Other sexual orientation	SEXORT = 05	SEXORT = 19
98	Prefer not to say	SEXORT = 98	SEXORT = 98
NA	Not available	Otherwise	Otherwise

Start date

84. This field assigns the start date of the student. See IPCOMDATE.

Survey response – SMSRESPONSE

85. This field assigns whether the individual responded to the survey in any form, though it excludes those individuals who opened the survey but did not engage beyond looking at the introductory material.

Value	Description	Definition
1	Student has responded to at least the first survey question	A101 ≠ BLANK
0	Student has not responded to any survey questions	Otherwise

QA1 overall

86. This field indicates whether a student has experienced any form of unwanted behaviour of a sexual nature since being a student.

Value	Description	Definition
1	Student experienced some form of unwanted behaviour of a sexual nature since being a student.	A101 = 1 or A102 = 1 or A103 = 1 or A104 = 1 or A105 = 1 or A106 = 1 or A107 = 1 or A108 = 1 or A109 = 1
0	Student has not experienced some form of unwanted behaviour of a sexual nature since being a student.	A110 = 1 or A111 = 1 or A112 = 1
<i>BLANK</i>	Student has not answered the question.	Otherwise

QB1 Prevalence of experience of unwanted behaviours of a sexual nature between 1 September 2022 and 1 September 2021

87. This field shows, out of all respondents to the question, whether a student has experienced some form of unwanted behaviour of a sexual nature between 1 September 2022 and 1 September 2023.

Value	Description	Definition
1	Student experienced some form of unwanted behaviour of a sexual nature between 1 September 2022 and 1 September 2023.	B1 = 1
0	Student has not experienced some form of unwanted behaviour of a sexual nature between 1 September 2022 and 1 September 2023.	B1 ≠ 1 and (B1 ≠ <i>BLANK</i> or F11 ≠ <i>BLANK</i>)
<i>BLANK</i>	Student has not answered the question.	Otherwise

QB3&5 university association – Prevalence of experiences of sexual harassment in a university setting or by someone connected to the university

88. This field combines the outputs of questions B3 and B5 to show whether a student has experienced some form of unwanted behaviour of a sexual nature in a university setting or by someone connected to the university. This is only when a student has previously reported experiencing some form of unwanted behaviour of a sexual nature between 1 September 2022 and 1 September 2023.

Value	Description	Definition
1	Student experienced some form of unwanted behaviour of a sexual nature between 1 September 2022 and 1 September 2023 in either a university setting or by someone connected to the university.	B3 in (1,3) or B5 = 1
0	Student has not experienced some form of unwanted behaviour of a sexual nature between 1 September 2022 and 1 September 2023 in either a university setting or by someone connected to the university.	B3 in (2,4,5) and B5 in (2,3,4)

Value	Description	Definition
BLANK	Student has not answered the questions.	Otherwise

QD3

89. Information about how the responses to question D3 'Overall, how good or poor was your experience of receiving support from your university?' have been categorised.

Value	Description	Definition
1	NET: Good	D3 in (1, 2)
2	NET: Poor	D3 in (4, 5, 6)
3	Neither good nor poor	D3 = 3
7	Don't know/Can't remember	D3 = 7
8	Prefer not to say	D3 = 8

QE3

90. Information about how the responses to question E3 'Overall, how good or poor was your experience of the university's formal reporting process?' have been categorised.

Value	Description	Definition
1	NET: Good	E3 in (1, 2)
2	NET: Poor	E3 in (4, 5)
3	Neither good nor poor	E3 = 3
6	Don't know/Can't remember	E3 = 6
7	Prefer not to say	E3 = 7

QF1 overall

91. This field indicates whether a student has experienced any form of unwanted sexual contact since being a student.

Value	Description	Definition
1	Student experienced some form of unwanted sexual contact since being a student.	F11 = 1 or F12 = 1 or F13 = 1 or F14 = 1 or F15 = 1 or F16
0	Student has not experienced some form of unwanted sexual contact since being a student.	F17 = 1 or F18 = 1 or F19 = 1
BLANK	Student has not answered the question.	Otherwise

QG1 Prevalence of experience of unwanted sexual contact between 1 September 2022 and 1 September 2021

92. This field shows, out of all respondents to the question, whether a student has experienced some form of unwanted sexual contact between 1 September 2022 and 1 September 2023.

Value	Description	Definition
1	Student experienced some form of unwanted behaviour of a sexual nature between 1 September 2022 and 1 September 2023.	G1 = 1
0	Student has not experienced some form of unwanted behaviour of a sexual nature between 1 September 2022 and 1 September 2023.	G1 ≠ BLANK or L1 ≠ BLANK
BLANK	Student has not answered the question.	Otherwise

QG2&4 university association – Prevalence of experiences of unwanted sexual contact in a university setting or by someone connected to the university

93. This field combines the outputs of questions G2 and G4 to show whether a student has experienced some form of unwanted sexual contact in a university setting or by someone connected to the university. This is only when a student has previously reported experiencing some form of unwanted behaviour of a sexual nature between 1 September 2022 and 1 September 2023.

Value	Description	Definition
1	Student experienced some form of unwanted sexual contact between 1 September 2022 and 1 September 2023 in either a university setting or by someone connected to the university.	G21 = 1 or G4 = 1
0	Student has not experienced some form of unwanted sexual contact between 1 September 2022 and 1 September 2023 in either a university setting or by someone connected to the university.	G21 = 0 and G4 in (2,3,4)
BLANK	Student has not answered the questions.	Otherwise

QI3

94. Information about how the responses to question I3 'Overall, how good or poor was your experience of receiving support from your university?' have been categorised.

Value	Description	Definition
1	NET: Good	I3 in (1, 2, 6)
2	NET: Poor	I3 in (4, 5)
3	Neither good nor poor	I3 = 3
7	Don't know/Can't remember	I3 = 7
8	Prefer not to say	I3 = 8

QJ3

95. Information about how the responses to question J3 'Overall, how good or poor was your experience of the university's formal reporting process?' have been categorised.

Value	Description	Definition
1	NET: Good	J3 in (1, 2)
2	NET: Poor	J3 in (4, 5)
3	Neither good nor poor	J3 = 3
6	Don't know/Can't remember	J3 = 6
7	Prefer not to say	J3 = 7

QL1

96. Information about how the responses to question L1 'How confident are you about where to seek support within your university about an experience of sexual harassment or misconduct?' have been categorised.

Value	Description	Definition
1	NET: Confident	L1 in (1, 2)
2	NET: Not confident	L1 in (3, 4)
5	Don't know/Can't remember	L1 = 5
6	Prefer not to say	L1 = 6

QL2

97. Information about how the responses to question L2 'How confident are you about how to formally report or make a formal complaint to your university about an experience of sexual harassment or misconduct?' have been categorised.

Value	Description	Definition
1	NET: Confident	L2 in (1, 2)
2	NET: Not confident	L2 in (3, 4)
5	Don't know/Can't remember	L2 = 5
6	Prefer not to say	L2 = 6

QM1

98. Information about how the responses to question M1 'In your view, how comfortable or uncomfortable are you for a member of university staff to behave in the following ways...' have been categorised.

Value	Description	Definition
1	NET: Comfortable	M1_XX in (1, 2)
2	NET: Uncomfortable	M1_XX in (3, 4)
5	Don't know/Can't remember	M1_XX = 5

QM12

99. Information about how the responses to question M12 'Thinking about this student/staff relationship you are aware of, to the best of your knowledge, do you agree or disagree with the following statements:' have been categorised.

Value	Description	Definition
1	NET: Agree	M12_X in (1, 2)
2	NET: Disagree	M12_X in (4, 5)
3	Neither agree nor disagree	M12_X = 3
6	Don't know/ Prefer not to say	M12_X = 6



© The Office for Students copyright 2024

This publication is available under the Open Government Licence 3.0 except where it indicates that the copyright for images or text is owned elsewhere.

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/