



“I WENT TO A NUN SCHOOL WHERE THEY EXPLAINED SEX THROUGH CHICKENS”

Bristol SU's 2018 **'Let's Talk About Sex'** survey covered a broad range of topics relating to sex and relationship education, consent, sexual health and experiences of harassment and assault.

The findings provide an important insight into the sex and relationship education received by students before university, students' experiences of sexual health, and students' experiences of harassment and assault.

Here's our summary of the key findings from the survey.

STUDENTS' SEX LIVES

9%

of students were currently celibate

90%

of students were not celibate

60% of sexually active students felt their sex life had a positive impact on their mental health and wellbeing compared to 24% of celibate students



31% of students currently engaged in sexting

'I THOUGHT THAT WOULD BE UNUSUAL AND SUPER WEIRD EVEN THOUGH IT TURNED OUT IT WASN'T'

36%

of students reported that they were a virgin when they arrived at university

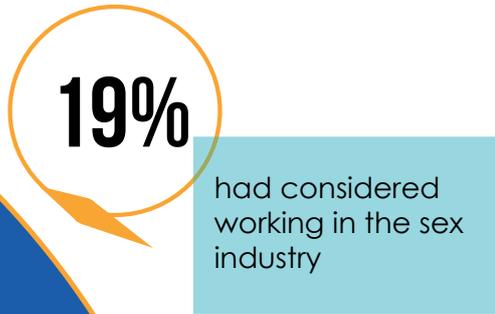
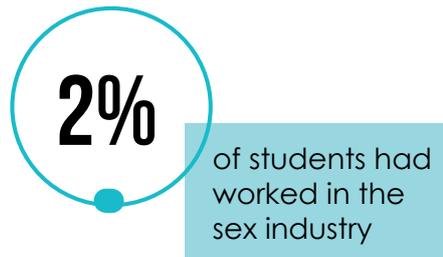
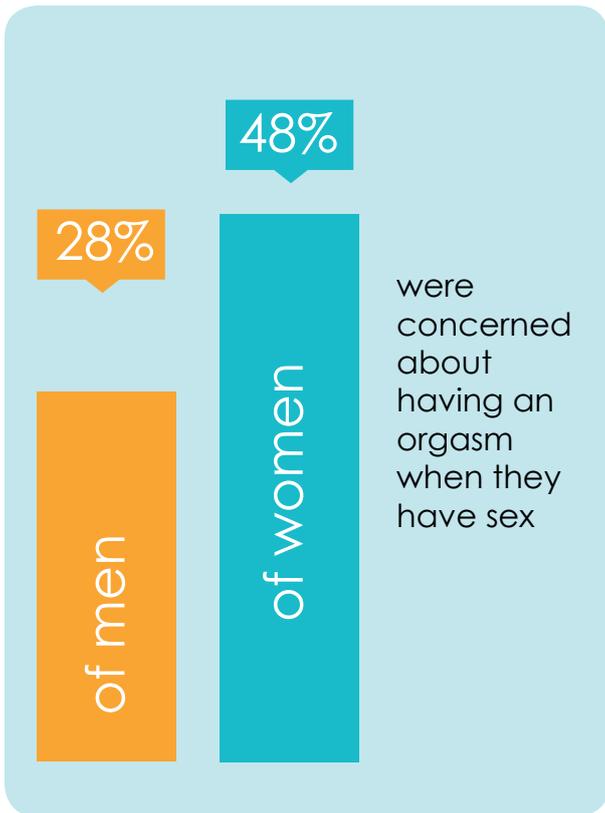
6%

of students had sex daily

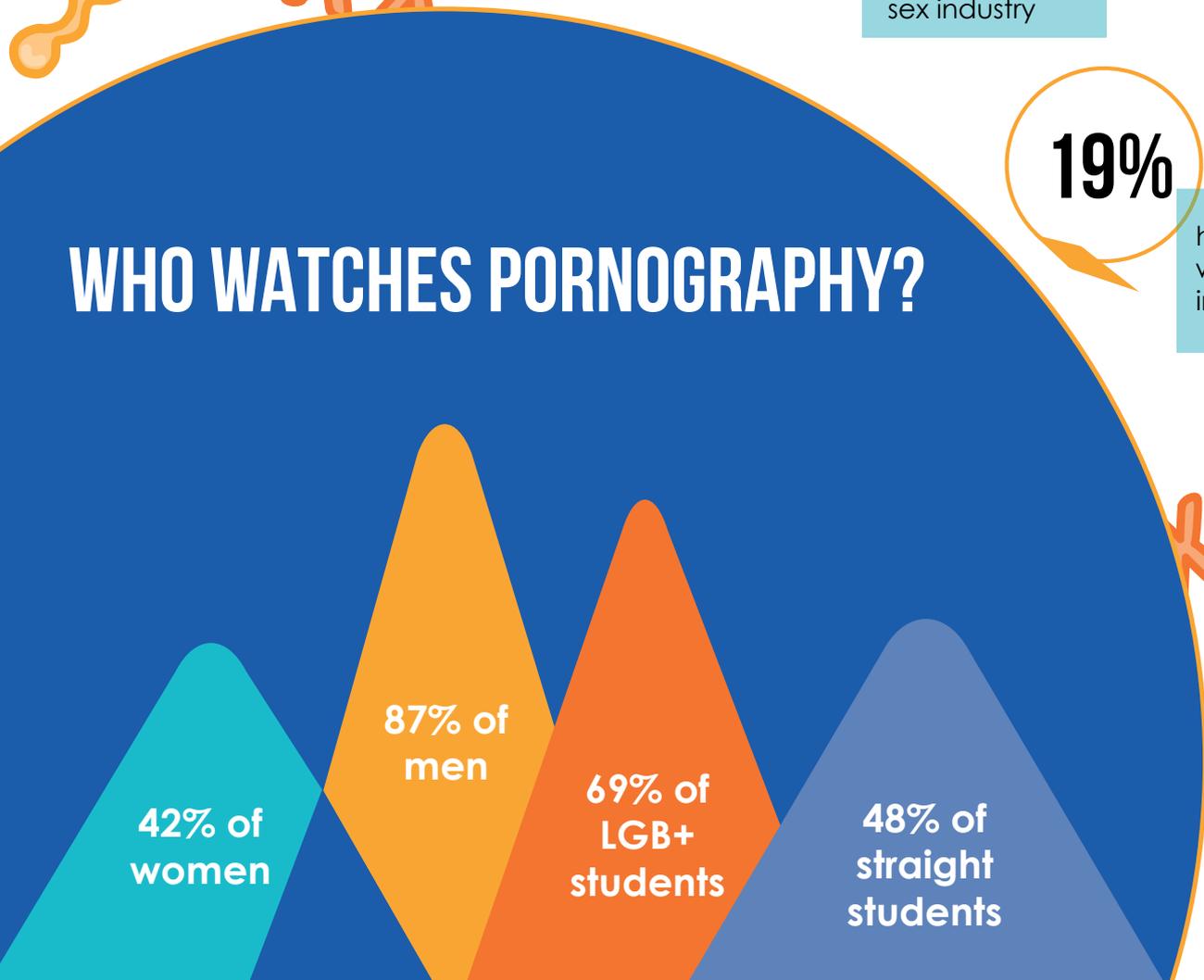
27%

had sex several times a week

27% OF STUDENTS WERE CONCERNED ABOUT BEING SEEN AS INEXPERIENCED OR A VIRGIN



WHO WATCHES PORNOGRAPHY?



STUDENTS' RELATIONSHIPS

Students in a relationships



29% met through friends



7% met through their course



10% met through halls



11% through a society and sports club



11% through a dating app



51% of students were in a monogamous relationship with one partner



8% of students were in a friends with benefits arrangement

85%

in a relationship felt their status had a positive impact on their mental health and wellbeing

compared to

18%

of students not in a relationship



60% of students had used a dating app.

55% had used Tinder
19% had used Bumble

LGB+ students were more likely to use dating apps – 72% had used them compared to 54% of straight students

41%

felt that dating apps had a positive impact on their confidence and self-esteem

21%

felt they had a negative impact.

SEX & RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION

23%

agreed that their sex and relationship education had prepared them for healthy relationships

35%

agreed that their sex and relationship education had given them a comprehensive understanding of consent

Percentage of students who had received education on:

66%



on the age of consent

82%



on STIs/STDs

85%



on contraception

38%



on understanding when someone can consent

25%



on healthy relationships

12%



on pornography

7%



on same sex relationships

11%



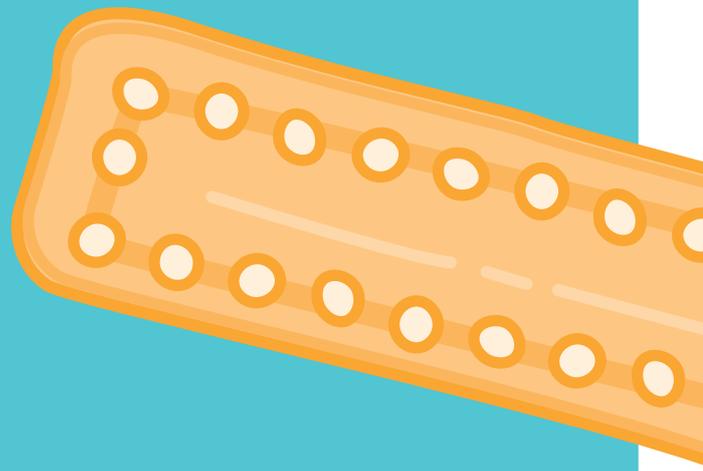
of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual + students received an education relevant to their identity



22% of International and EU students had not received **any** sex and relationship education



compared to 4% of home students.



**‘I WAS ON THE PILL
WHEN STARTING
UNIVERSITY, BUT
FOUND THAT IT
DRAINED MY
ENTHUSIASM
FOR SEX AND
AFFECTED MY
MENTAL HEALTH’**



41% of students had never been tested for an STI or STD



34% of single sexually active students had never been tested for an STI/STD



39% were concerned about the risk of STIs/STDs and **31%** about a partner respecting their contraception choices



77% of students felt confident about communicating about sexual health with a partner



2% had experienced unintended pregnancy and **1%** had experienced a miscarriage

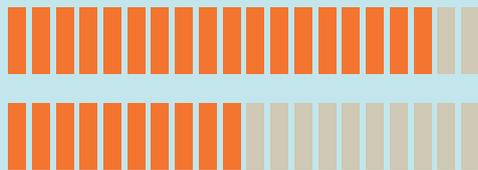
CONSENT, HARASSMENT AND ASSAULT



WERE CONCERNED ABOUT BEING PRESSURED TO HAVE SEX

42% of men and 25% of women

were concerned about their partner feeling pressured to have sex

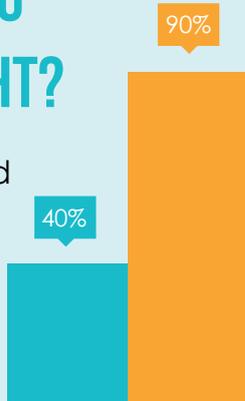


87% felt confident about discussing consent with a long term partner, compared to

64% with a casual partner.

DO STUDENTS FEEL SAFE WALKING HOME AT NIGHT?

40% of women said yes, compared to **90%** of men



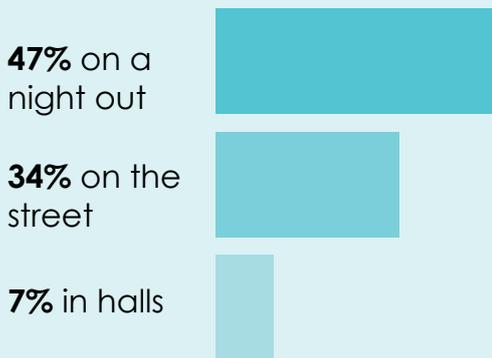
70% of women felt safe walking around campus compared to **97%** of men



34% of women felt safe walking around Bristol city centre, compared to **78%** of men

52%

of students had experienced sexual harassment whilst studying at the University of Bristol – **63%** of women and **21%** of men.



Students who had experienced sexual harassment, sexual assault or rape felt that the University needed to **improve signposting to services, introduce trauma support in the counselling service and improve consent education.**

If you have been affected by any of the issues discussed help is available to you from the University and local charities.

Guidance on ways of reporting rape or sexual assault:
thebridgecanhelp.org.uk

To discuss options available when reporting harassment or assault with a University Student Services Officer, contact:
vulnerable-students@bristol.ac.uk

Somerset & Avon Rape and Sexual Abuse Support:
Women & Girls 0808 801 0456
Men & Boys 0808 801 0464

Local support services:
survivorpathway.org.uk/bristol

16%

of students had experienced sexual assault or rape whilst studying at the University of Bristol – **17%** of women and **7%** of men.



RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for the University

- Introduce a comprehensive education programme around consent and healthy relationships.
- Ensure there are clear processes in residences for reporting experiences of sexual harassment, assault and rape.
- Introduce trauma support as part of the Student Counselling Service and work with students to co-create support for survivors.
- Introduce a Sexual Violence Liaison Officer.
- Improve signposting and review existing reporting and disciplinary policies with external partners.
- Reform extenuating circumstances to better account for experiences of harassment, assault and rape, experiences of pregnancy and experiences of relationship break-up.
- Work with Bristol SU to lobby the council for additional funding for the Student Health Service, to reintroduce full sexual health screenings.
- Introduce free condoms and dental dams in University residences.

