Find out what Bristol students told us about sex, relationships and more...
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.
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.
42% of women

87% of men

69% of LGB+ students

48% of straight students

**WHO WATCHES PORNOGRAPHY?**

27% of students were concerned about being seen as inexperienced or a virgin

2% of students had worked in the sex industry

19% had considered working in the sex industry
Sex and Relationship Survey Results

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
18% of students not in a relationship felt they had a negative impact.

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 and Relationship Survey Results

**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

- **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

- **22%** of International and EU students had not received any sex and relationship education compared to 4% of home students.
Sex and Relationship Survey Results

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

‘I was on the pill when starting university, but found that it drained my enthusiasm for sex and affected my mental health’
**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.
Sex and Relationship Survey Results

52% of students had experienced sexual harassment whilst studying at the University of Bristol – 63% of women and 21% of men.

47% on a night out
34% on the street
7% in halls

16% of students had experienced sexual assault or rape whilst studying at the University of Bristol – 17% of women and 7% 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
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.
Recommendations for Bristol SU

- Continue to work with the Good Night Out campaign to embed anti-harassment training into local nightclubs and bars popular with students.

- Work with UoB, Bristol City Council and local women’s organisations on making the campus and city safer for students, particularly women, at night.

- Review internal policies such as the code of conduct with external agencies.

- Launch a campaign promoting sexual health testing within the student body.

- Introduce free condoms and dental dams in the Richmond building.

- Begin fostering more open and honest conversations around sex and relationships in the student body e.g. tackling the stigma around virginity, exploring issues surround modern dating culture and pornography.