

WOMEN'S CAMPAIGN

Presents the

Cambridge Speaks Out

Report

2014



WOMEN'S CAMPAIGN

Cambridge Speaks Out

Contents

Introduction 3

Executive Summary. 4

Research Findings

1. Students' perceptions of safety 7

2. Prevalence and characteristics of violence against students 8

3. Profile of offenders 16

4. Factors influencing reporting 18

5. Reporting..... 19

6. The impact of stalking, violence and sexual assault on students 20

7. Recommendations 22

8. Participant Profile 24

9. Questions25

10. References.31

**** TRIGGER WARNING:** This document includes discussions, data and personal testimonies around rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking and physical violence **



Foreword

The aim of the survey is to collect data on the prevalence of sexual violence, stalking and physical violence among the whole student body at Cambridge University.

The survey provides the CUSU Women's Campaign an insight into factors influencing students reporting incidents, the impacts such incidents has on students, where these incidents are taking place and what relationship respondents have to perpetrators of such offences.

This survey aims to reflect the aims of the NUS Hidden Marks Survey (2010) and Report published in May 2012. The NUS Hidden Marks Survey was the first of its kind to carry out research into violence against women students. 68% of respondents had experienced sexual harassment, 1 in 7 survey respondents has experienced a serious physical or sexual assault during their time as a student and over a third of students felt unsafe when visiting their University or college buildings at night.

These national statistics are a solid platform from which to estimate the prevalence of violence against women. However, during my time campaigning and attending university meetings on potential preventative policies, it came to my attention that a more specific piece of research was needed. Such a piece of research would provide an insight into experiences of sexual harassment, sexual contact, serious sexual assault, stalking and physical violence against all genders.

This year the CUSU Women's Campaign has worked tirelessly with Women's Officers in colleges to prevent violence against women and raise awareness of gendered violence. We have empowered networks of women to make change in their college, by providing Women's Officers with Action Packs to campaign for the implementation of compulsory consent workshops and zero tolerance to sexual harassment policies in their colleges.

This report ultimately concludes that the CUSU Women's Campaign cannot end violence against Cambridge students alone. The CUSU Women's Campaign needs the support of the University and individual colleges to break the silence surrounding violence against all students. Every form of violence the survey addresses is serious and hinders student's the ability of students to learn and get the most out of their experience at Cambridge University.

As NUS states, "All students have the right to live and study in an environment of dignity and respect, free from the fear of harassment or violence." (Hidden Marks Report 2012)



Lauren Steele

CUSU Women's Officer 2013 - 14

Executive Summary

Methodology

In comparison with NUS Hidden Marks Survey, the Cambridge Speaks Out Survey was open to all genders. This decision was made through consultation with students and the University.

Our target sample was students at Cambridge University. The survey was distributed and promoted through University networks only (managed by the students' union), and submissions from the same IP addresses were prohibited; guidelines were provided to respondents on the applicability of the survey to students of the University of Cambridge. The survey was publicised through email lists to every student in the University, women's campaign lists, student networks and through Varsity's publicity on facebook and twitter. There was a need to protect the anonymity of student respondents and maintain respondent confidence so as to allow students an opportunity to be as open as they felt comfortable in responding to the survey questions and to prevent students being discouraged through concerns of being identified.

The survey shows that there is a weighting within the gender of respondents who took part in the survey with 66.6% of women, 31.9% of men and 0.7% of other genders. This may be a result of CUSU Women's Campaign using their networks and email lists to promote the survey but it must be acknowledged that this weighting is to be expected due to the national studies which show that sexual violence is largely a gendered issue.

It must be considered, when reading the Report, that because of the nature of the Survey and the guidance at the top of the survey, the survey is self-selecting, meaning that those who may be interested in the topic or have a vested interest are likely to fill out the survey, and those who may be triggered by the content of the survey may be less likely to fill out or complete the survey. However, the number of responses received (amount to approximately 10% of students at the University) gives us more confidence in our results in removing bias.

Design

The majority of questions were modelled on existing questions in the Hidden Marks Survey (2010). Careful wording of the survey questions was crucial due to the sensitive nature of the subject as well as potential confusion over definitions of certain terms (such as 'rape'). To reduce the risk, we used two different approaches. The first was to use language to describe various forms of victimisation drawn from legal definitions. The second was to use explicit language which described behaviour so as to avoid misunderstanding, as seen in the sexual harassment question (p25, Question 8.)

However, the legal definitions used to define assault by penetration (including the definition of rape) limited answers due to the potential exclusion of LGBT+ respondents. The reason we chose to use this definition is to provide information to the University that is consistent with the mainstream definition so that the University can respond accordingly while benchmarking these statistics in this

report to national studies of this kind. Yet, it must be recognised that CUSU Women's Campaign's values and beliefs are not wholly in line with the legal definitions of rape, represented by the newly improved inclusive consent workshop CUSU Women's Campaign have run this year. If you would like more information about educational resources, the improved consent workshop or CUSU Women's Campaigns beliefs surrounding what consent is and how we approach definitions of 'sexual act', 'sexual assault', 'assault by penetration' or 'rape', please do get in touch (contact details p31).

To reduce any negative consequences for participants responding to the survey, we provided links and numbers to helplines to organisations in the local area and provided trigger warnings at the beginning of the survey. All questions were optional to fill in and we provided open text boxes at regular intervals throughout the questionnaire so that respondents could tell us about their experiences in their own words if they wanted to. These regular textboxes also provided respondents an opportunity to clarify their answer or air any concerns they had with the design or wording of a question. At the end of the questionnaire we provided participants with an open text box and a small number of participants used this opportunity to make comments about the survey design, which provides valuable learning for future work in this area.

We are overwhelmed by the courage shown by students at the University of Cambridge who have responded so positively and constructively to the survey. We recognise our survey could have been extremely difficult to undertake and complete for some respondents due to the nature of the questions asked, and it is this courage that will encourage the Women's Campaign even more to work as positively and constructively with the Collegiate University to build on the safety and inclusivity of study at Cambridge.

Some participants also used this opportunity to convey positive comments about participating in the survey: **"Thank you so much for doing this survey!"**

** Please note: Question numbering may differ from those indicated in the survey due to the questions being reproduced here for referencing**

Key Findings

** Please note that statistics in this report referring to specific incidents of sexual assault, attempted or successful assault by penetration, stalking and physical violence only refer to the first incident of each type that was reported by each respondent. These statistics will be released in the near future.

**

- 22% of respondents feel unsafe in the evenings
- 77% of respondents have experienced sexual harassment*
- 28.5% have experienced sexual assault
- 7% (142 people) have experienced attempted assault by penetration that was unsuccessful
- 3% (71 people) of respondents have experienced assault by penetration
- 10% have experienced stalking
- 9% have experienced physical violence
- 91% of perpetrators of sexual assault were men.
- 80% of assault by penetration and stalking to place in college
- 78% of perpetrators of sexual assault had been drinking.
- 98% did not report attempted assault by penetration.
- Over 80% across all types of incidents did not report the incident.
- 85% experienced a negative impact on their mental health

* Students were asked if they had ever experienced any specific types of sexual harassment. This figure refers to respondents who had experienced any type of sexual harassment once or more. (see page 9 for further details)

Key Recommendations

The University and colleges pledge to change the culture of silence around sexual harassment and sexual violence in Cambridge.

- NUS Hidden Marks Report recommendations be seriously considered by Cambridge University and colleges and collaborate with CUSU Women's Campaign in implementing such changes.

Preventing further sexual harassment and violence

- Compulsory consent workshops to be implemented via JCR and MCRs during fresher's week for incoming fresher's, with the support of Senior Tutors
- Zero tolerance to sexual harassment policies made clear on college websites and promoted in college
- Colleges to tackle drinking cultures which create an unsafe environment in colleges for all students

Providing Services for Students

- Provide accessible online information on colleges' website on their sexual harassment policy
- Provide accessible online information on the college website those signpost students to support organisations in the local area and useful contacts in Cambridge or in college

Justice and Reporting

- Improve procedures to ensure any student could report any incident and feel that they will be supported, their information kept confidential and the process will be oriented around them
- Provide training and guidance on procedures to ensure consistency, awareness and professionalism

Students' Perception of Safety

Students were asked whether they sometimes feel unsafe when visiting their university or college buildings in the daytime or evening.

During the evening

22% of respondents (2,130) stated that they had felt unsafe during the evening. Trends show that poorly lit areas of college, roads or areas of Cambridge were the reason for students feeling this way, especially to and from or between university or college buildings. Respondents commented on Porters as a factor of safety in the evening. Other factors include drunk people in town, being followed home, intruders in college and known assaults around the area in which students live.

What also seems significant is a general fear trending throughout students' comments; a fear of being attacked which puts students at unease. Many comments suggest that students themselves are aware of the gendered nature of fear or danger in the evening. Other minority groups such as trans* and disabled students also spoke out about feeling unsafe.

"The walk back from the college library to out of college accommodation. Late at night would terrify me. I walk with a rape alarm clutched in one hand, and if it was before midnight I would talk to my friend on the phone so he would be able to raise the alarm if something happened."

"Not because it's scary in the dark or someone might jump me - but because sexual harassment is really widely ignored/tolerated."

"Depending on how I'm presenting"

"I feel very unsafe alone in Cambridge at night. I'm in a wheelchair which makes me feel particularly vulnerable".

During the day

While **97%** of respondents (2,138) that they don't feel unsafe during the daytime, **28** students responded that they did. However, out of these 28 students, one highlights a fear of other students they know to have been sexually violent. Another feels intimidated by others because of their sexuality while others express feeling isolated in working environments.

"I don't like being alone in mostly uninhabited areas of the University Library or other libraries."

"Homophobic staring all the time when I'm with my partner."

"If I am visiting another college, of someone I know to have been sexually violent, I am also scared there"

Prevalence and Characteristics of Violence

The main influence and core study we used to create the Cambridge Speaks Out Survey is the NUS Hidden Marks Survey and their Report published in 2012. The Hidden Marks Survey found that 14 % have experienced serious physical or sexual assault while 68 % have been subject to verbal or physical sexual harassment. Nearly one in four has experienced unwanted sexual contact.

British Crime Survey data tells us that students have a higher than average risk of being a victim of violent crime, and that women are at a higher risk than men of being victims of domestic violence.

In the survey we asked students about incidents of sexual harassment, unwanted sexual contact (legally defined as sexual assault), attempted assault by penetration that was unsuccessful and assault by penetration (rape included within the definition). The Cambridge Speaks Out Survey provided respondents with the option to provide further information and detail about such incidents and provide details of more than one incident if they wish.

Type of incident	% of respondents who had experienced this once or more
Sexual Harassment	77%
Sexual assault	28.5%
Attempted or successful assault by penetration**	10%*
Stalking	10%
Physical violence	9%

**Sexual assault by penetration could be penetration by genitalia, object or fingers orally, vaginally or anally.

*See pg 4 for explanation on 77% sexual harassment

Sexual Harassment

77% of respondents (2,131) have experienced sexually harassment once or more.

The statistics show that catcalling and wolf whistling, comments with a sexual overtone, groping, pinching and touching without consent and irrelevant questioning about your sex or romantic life are the most common with over **45%** respondents having experienced such behaviours.

Breakdown of the types of sexual harassment

Type of sexual harassment	% of respondents who had experienced this once or more
Someone making comments with a sexual overtone that made you feel uncomfortable.	55%
Someone wolf whistling, catcalling or making noises with sexual overtones	46%
Someone asking you questions about your sex or romantic life when it was clearly irrelevant or none of their business	46%
Someone asking you questions about your sexuality when it was clearly irrelevant or none of their business	24%
Someone exposing their sexual organs to you when you did not agree to see them	13%
Someone groping, pinching or touching you in a sexual manner when you did not agree to them doing so	46%
Someone exposing your body (e.g. lifting up your skirt / unzipping your flies) without you agreeing	25%

Trends in respondents' comments revealed that social drinking cultures such as 'swaps' and 'drinking societies' as well as student nights at nightclubs are often where such behaviours occur. It is important to recognise here that 'swaps' and 'drinking societies' are linked to Cambridge Colleges and the cultures that dominate the social scenes within them. Colleges have a duty to provide a safe space for all students. This is a structural issue that colleges can do something about by combatting such cultures that allow such behaviours to become normalized or tolerated.

"To my boyfriend, 'How much for the girl?'. A comment as I walked out of a room 'she doesn't cost much.'

Groping in clubs is a constant. Turning around to ask 'how is that acceptable?' was met with laughter and the guys thought I was making a big deal out of it. Groping in clubs is a constant."

"Most common in clubs, but inappropriate comments are a problem when jogging or walking around, even in the daytime."

"I was pulled into a group of young men in a club (looked like a drinking society from the ties, so members of the university) and surrounded me so I couldn't get out, I was told that if I 'danced well' then I could leave."

"Sometimes friends say things about my sexuality in the context of drinking games/banter which I find uncomfortable and which stay with me longer than they realise."

"'Good pants, bad pants' - being informed I had to show my knickers to the men at the table for them to judge if they were appropriately sexualised."

"A male student in my college lifted my top to expose my bra in front of his friends (who laughed) in my college bar. It was packed, but no one stepped forward to help me or tell him to stop. I felt uncomfortable going to the bar for a while after"

"Sexist themes at college events/JCR elections, etc. e.g. two girls competing against each other for same position made to make spectacles out of themselves by questions, a skill to demonstrate their enthusiasm, someone shouted lap dance, as opposed to boys being questioned seriously about their manifesto points"

Among comments there seemed to also be trends of sexual harassment happening to men from male perpetrators.

Sexual Assault

We asked respondents: Whilst you have been a student at Cambridge have you experienced sexual contact (this could include kissing, touching or molesting you including through clothes) when you did not consent?

The survey showed that **28.5%** of respondents (2,106) have experienced this type of sexual contact, often described as less serious sexual assault, once or more whilst being a student at Cambridge.

“I have been physically grabbed without my consent and dragged towards a guy in a club at least twice but managed to yank my wrist away and continue on.”

“A fellow inappropriately touched my leg underneath the table during formal dinner in college”

“I have been sexually assaulted so much in clubs I am afraid to go to them, and now in non-club venues (such as gigs) I now feel a little paranoid due to past club experiences. However, the worst sexual assault I have experienced is with close male friends being unable to appreciate my boundaries and those have been the most stressful experiences I have had.”

91% of perpetrators were men, showing the gendered nature of these types of incidents. Results also revealed that **50%** of perpetrators were not known by the respondent while **45%** of perpetrators were social acquaintances (friends, neighbours). Statistics also show that **6.5%** of perpetrators were intimate with or in domestic relationships with respondents but **3%** (17 respondents) of perpetrators were non-academic staff of the university or college and **10%** of perpetrators were academic staff of the university or college.

In line with this, results show that **35%** of incidences happen in colleges while **50%** happen at a **student night** in a night club. An important factor is also the link to alcohol – **78%** of perpetrators had been drinking.

“Someone forced their hand down my underwear and refused to stop the first eight times I said no.”

“Experienced groping twice from the same fellow. [I am] considering making a formal complaint once the college's new sexual harassment policy is in place.”

“One time, in the street, a stranger and his friends drunkenly cornered me and demanded I kiss him or let him kiss me - when I refused he did it forcefully.”

Attempted or Successful Assault by Penetration

The findings of the survey reveal the prevalence of sexual violence. However, the legal definitions used to define assault by penetration (including the definition of rape) limited answers due to the potential exclusion of the experiences of LGBT+ respondents. A further limitation of the answers to these questions was the lack of understanding of what consent means in its definition and in practice. The data suggests that discussing these kinds of behaviours is such a taboo, yet so normalized, that there is a culture of silence surrounding discussion of sexual harassment, assault and rape. Due to these factors, in reality, the numbers of attempted or successful serious sexual assault are likely to be much higher.

- **142 (7%)** respondents (2,047) have experienced an **attempted assault by penetration which has not been successful**
- **71 (3%)** respondents (2,039) have experienced an **assault by penetration which has been successful**

Gender of Offender

Victim	Perpetrator			
	Male	Female	Other	Prefer not to say
Male	54%	42%	0%	4%
Female	96%	3%	0%	1%
Other	100%	0%	0%	0%

Frequency of Attacks

	Sexual assault	Attempted assault by penetration	Assault by penetration
Once	16.5%	5.7%	3.0%
Twice	4.7%	0.7%	0.3%
More than once	6.2%	0.4%	0.2%
Regularly	1.1%	0.2%	0.1%

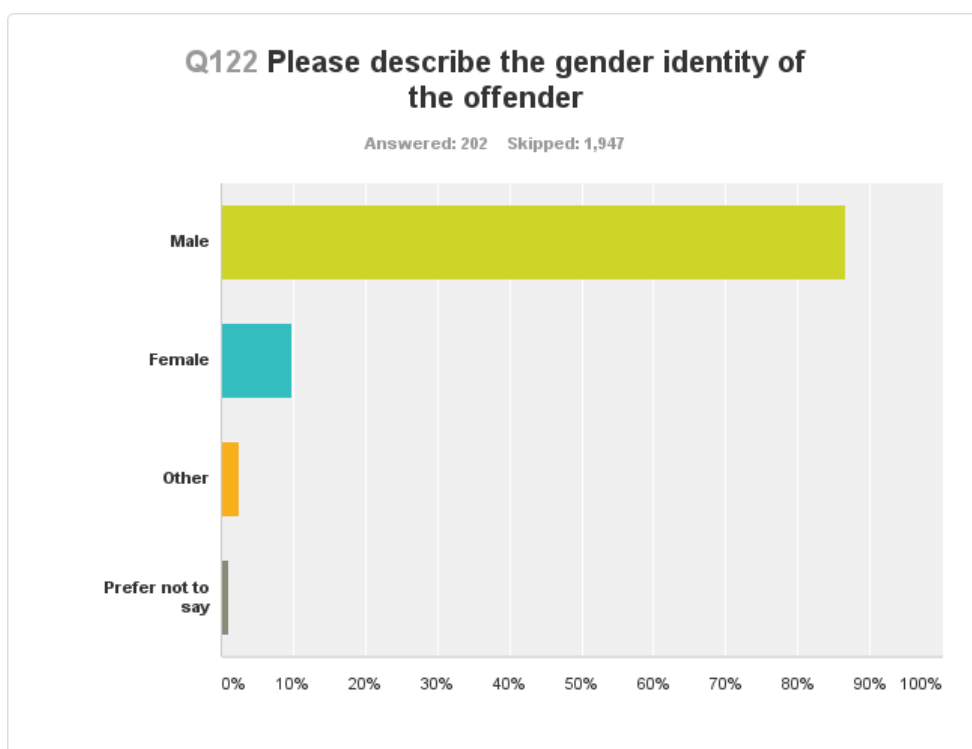
Stalking

The 2008/9 British Crime Survey reported that an estimated **20% of women** experience stalking or harassment at some point in their lifetimes. However, women students appear to be at particular risk of this kind of crime. The NUS Hidden Marks Report suggest this may be because of the high numbers of people that students meet and associate with in a short space of time and the intensity with which relationships are formed when people move away from home for the first time.

Respondents were asked: Whilst you have been a student at Cambridge has anyone repeatedly followed you, watched you, phoned you, texted, written, e-mailed, communicated with you through social networking sites, or communicated with you in other ways that seemed obsessive or made you afraid or concerned for your safety.

The survey showed that **10%** of respondents (2,022) had experienced **stalking**.

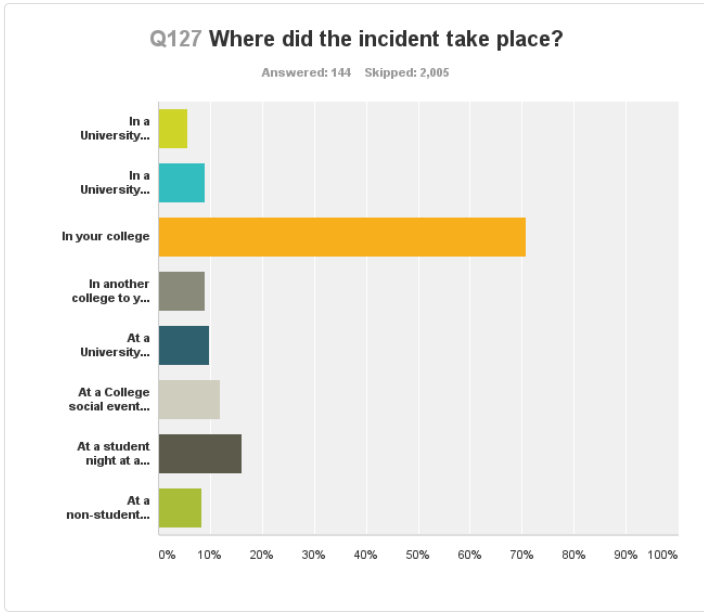
Again, the results reveal that this type of behaviour is gendered with **87%** of perpetrators being men.



Results reveal that 80% of incidents occur in colleges.

60% of perpetrators are social acquaintances, 20% did not know the perpetrator and 15% were an intimate or domestic relationship.

While there is a high level of students not reporting, 15% of respondents had reported to a staff with an official role within college or Faculty / Department.

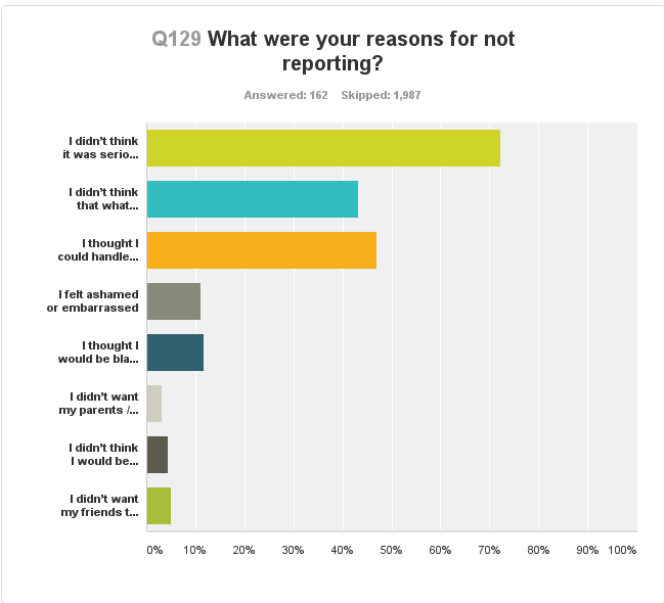
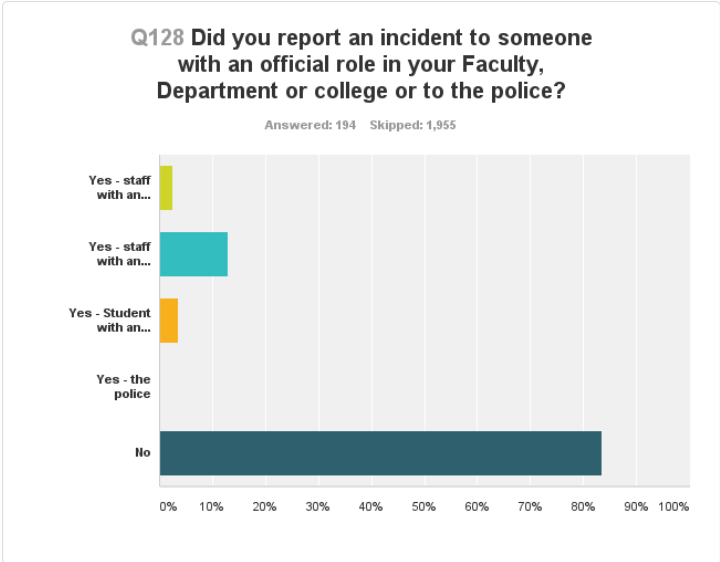


“Repeated messaging with sexual overtones and innuendo, it made me feel awful”

“A member of staff at my institute harassed me (and several other female PhD students and junior members of staff) by text, Facebook and in person while on conferences abroad and back in the UK”.

“There was a period when the same guy would follow me in clubs and would sometimes come and knock on my door in the middle of the night. He was at a different college to mine.”

“I never reported it because I didn't want to get him into trouble.”



Respondents reasons for not reporting reflects the lack of education about stalking; what stalking is, ways in which it can manifest, who to go to when you feel unsafe and the repercussions of being stalked. According to the British Crime Survey (2005/6), just under 25% of women have experienced stalking since the age of 16.

Physical violence

While NUS Hidden Marks Survey included an in depth look into physical and emotional violence against women, such as control over finances and choice of University course, we chose not to include these questions in the Cambridge Speaks Out survey as we wanted to focus primarily on sexual harassment and sexual violence. However, to gauge a basic understanding of the prevalence of physical violence and in what kind of context, we asked respondents: Whilst you have been a student at Cambridge, has anyone ever hit you or physically mistreated you in any way?

The survey showed that **9%** of respondents (2,014) have experienced **physical violence** and again a high proportion of male perpetrators, at **84%**. However, while National and NUS statistics show that the majority of physical violence happens in domestic or intimate relationships, the results showed that **44%** of perpetrators were **social acquaintances**, **38%** of perpetrators were not known to the respondent and only **17%** of perpetrators were an intimate or domestic relation to the victim.

Relationship to perpetrator	% and number of respondents
Social Acquaintance - (e.g. friends, neighbour)	42.9% 73
Acquaintance - Non-Academic staff of the University or college	2.4% 4
Acquaintance - Academic Staff of the University or College	0.00% 0
Intimate or domestic relationship (e.g. partner, ex-partner, date, dating partner, family member)	17.7% 30
I did not know the perpetrator	38.2% 65

Results also showed that **75%** of perpetrators were **drinking** (on at least some of the occasions), showing a strong link between physical violence and alcohol. This suggests that drinking cultures may create the spaces in which violence is more likely to occur. It seems tackling issues surrounding drinking in Cambridge would also play a role in tackling physical violence.

“He sort of shoved me out of bed onto the floor and kicked me hard. I started to cry and he said if I told anyone he would tell everyone that I gave him a blowjob. I tried to leave but he locked the doors. I just stayed on the floor.”

“He pushed me down the stairs.”

“It happened on more than one occasion - sometimes he had been drinking, other times he hadn't. It was worse when he had been drinking.”

Profile of Offenders

** Please note that respondents were given the opportunity to describe multiple incidents. At this stage these statistics only include the first incident reported by respondents. This will be updated in the near future. **

Students who reported being subject to stalking, violence or attempted or actual sexual assault were asked to answer various questions about the perpetrator of the incident. We asked what their relationship to the perpetrator was at the time of the incident, whether or not they were a student, and what gender they were. Students who reported being sexually harassed show that the typical offender in the majority of categories was male and unknown to the victim.

Gender

	Gender of Perpetrator			
	Male	Female	Other	Prefer not to say
Sexual assault	91.2%	7.5%	0.7%	0.7%
Attempted assault by penetration	88.1%	10.5%	0.0%	1.5%
Assault by penetration	96.6%	3.5%	0.0%	0.0%
Stalking	86.6%	9.9%	2.5%	0.9%
Physical violence	89.4%	8.9%	0.8%	0.8%

Relationship to respondent

	Sexual Assault	Attempted assault by penetration	Assault by penetration	Stalking	Physical Violence
Social acquaintance	45.3%	65.9%	49.1%	59.6%	62.1%
Non-academic staff	3.0%	3.0%	3.5%	4.6%	1.6%
Academic staff	1.8%	0.0%	1.75%	0.5%	0.8%
Intimate or domestic relationship	6.5%	8.3%	17.5%	15.2%	18.6%
Unknown	50.9%	28.0%	26.3%	20.7%	19.4%

Drink and drugs

The table below shows those that were drinking or had taken drugs

	Sexual Assault	Attempted assault by penetration	Assault by penetration	Stalking	Physical violence
The perpetrator was drinking	77.9%	80.8%	64.9%	15.3%	73.0%
The perpetrator provided respondent with alcohol or drugs	17.1%	30.8%	42.1%	3.6%	34.7%

Where incidents took place

	Sexual assault	Attempted assault by penetration	Assault by penetration	Stalking	Physical violence
In a University Department or building	2.5%	1.6%	3.6%	14.6%	2.5%
In a college	35.2%	52%	80%	80%	75%
At a University or College social event	17.2%	12.8%	5.4%	21.5%	5.9%
At a student night at a night club	50.0%	32.5%	7.1%	15.97%	21.2%
At a non-student night at a nightclub	22.1%	9.6%	10.7%	8.3%	1.7%

“Someone I met on a swap. We had been challenged to swap clothes and because I didn't want to get naked in front of everyone I went to the bathrooms and he followed me, I guess I was being a bit flirty because he was cute and it is quite a fun challenge, but in the loos he shoved his hand into my knickers. I tried to just jokily tell him to stop because I didn't want him to think I was boring or for him to lose interest but he just pushed me away, called me a whore and said I was boring. Back at the table he told everyone that I had been so wet and gagging for it so I got called a slut anyway”

Factors Influencing Reporting

	Sexual Assault	Attempted assault by penetration	Assault by penetration (this definition includes rape)	Stalking	Physical Violence
'I didn't think it was serious enough to report'	79.8%	69.3%	52.8%	72.2%	72.9%
'I didn't think that what happened was a crime'	36.7%	30.7%	45.3%	43.2%	25.7%
'I thought I could handle myself'	32.1%	37.8%	26.4%	46.9%	41.7%
'I felt ashamed or embarrassed'	15.0%	23.6%	54.7%	11.1%	8.3%
'I thought I would be blamed for what had happened'	14.1%	18.1%	47.2%	11.7%	8.3%
'I didn't want my parents/family to find out'	5.0%	8.7%	22.6%	3.1%	4.2%
'I didn't think I would be believed'	8.2%	7.9%	30.2%	4.3%	3.5%
'I didn't want my friends to find out'	5.6%	10.2%	22.6%	4.9%	3.5%

Reporting

Who it was reported to	Sexual Assault	Attempted assault by penetration	Assault by penetration	Stalking	Physical violence
Staff in Fac / Dept	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%	2.6%	0.0%
Staff in college	2.1%	0.0%	10.7%	12.9%	4.2%
Student with official role	1.6%	0.8%	3.6%	3.6%	1.2%
Police	1.2%	0.8%	3.6%	0.0%	3.0%
No – didn't report	96.3%	98.4%	87.5%	83.5%	93.4%

“I've heard of college not believing women before when reporting sexual harassment, or just sweeping it under the rug.”

“I said to my tutor and women's officer that I had been sexually assaulted but did not want to talk to the police. I was discouraged by college from making an official complaint. The perpetrator is still at my college, still drinks and college have not punished him in any way.”

“I raised a concern with my (female) Senior Tutor about a (male) college fellow making a sexist remark directed at me and I was told that it was clearly intended as a joke.”

“No - people laughed at me as it happened. I started to victim-blame myself. This sort of thing is often accepted as part of "lad culture" and I felt that if I reported it I'd be told that it was just a joke, or not to be over-sensitive.”

“As I didn't actually say no or tell him to stop even when he asked (I was pretty scared by him, especially after he started being sexually violent towards me), I felt that it was my fault for not stopping it, and wasn't technically a crime.”

“I didn't think the University would do anything about it.”

“I reported the incident to the 'security' at the club, but was kicked out and banned for using violence against the male who had groped my breast without my consent.”

“One of the friends I told provided me with the sexual harassment rules of the college of the man concerned - the only remedy this seemed to provide was to 'facilitate discussion between the parties' - this was not an option that I felt would be helpful in any way at all.”

“Very well dealt with by tutors, DoS unsupportive.”

Impact of Rape, Sexual Assault, Stalking or Violence on Students

Violence against students can have a devastating impact on lives and their time at University. Our survey results show that there can be varying degrees of impact on students who have experienced sexual assault, attempted or successful serious sexual assault, stalking and physical . While some felt they were unsure how to handle the situation, some felt they didn't have the time to deal with the impact of the incident on them, others have found it harder to recover from shocking, intrusive or horrific ordeals. Others, particularly in relation to sexual harassment, felt they had not been affected at all.

Trends in comments revealed that many students had previously been assaulted before their time in Cambridge, but that this had continued effect on them during their time at Cambridge. Other trends involved respondent's that have played a supporting role as a friend have felt the experience has also had an impact on their mental health, studies and relationships.

“Throughout the ordeal, I was having nightmares, was afraid to go anywhere outside of my room, had splitting headaches and was on a course of Beta blockers and antidepressants. This seriously affected my relationships further into uni and screwed up my first year exams.”

“After the attempted rape, I thought I was fine. I got with every boy, but would freak if they touched me down there. I would get drunk every night. I drew away from my friends. I got addicted to prescription drugs. I contemplated suicide. It took me a year and a half to realise I needed help.”

“Incidents which have happened to at least 3 people I know have made me worried about their welfare and effected college relationships despite the fact I was not personally involved.”

“Two of my friends were recently raped and they found it very difficult to deal with the repercussions of this. It has been mentally challenging for me and their other friends to support them.”

“I became depressed and self-harmed and at times attempted suicide for about 9 months until therapy, antidepressants and supportive friends helped my through. Having said this, my family were quite unsupportive and blamed it on my sexuality.”

“My main problem was dealing with the fact that men can get raped too. Others said it I should have beaten him up or been more of a man or that it was a lesson for being seen as a bit promiscuous at times.”

“I don't think people take into consideration the aftermath of a sexual assault. People often think it is about sorting out the immediate effects and making sure that the perpetrator is dealt with correctly, which is important, but the longer-lasting effects should be made more well known.”

*Of the respondents (1,618) who **had** experienced rape, sexual assault, violence or stalking, the table below shows the impact it had on their ability to study, mental health and relationships.

	I have experienced this and it had no impact	It had a little negative impact	It had a strong negative impact	It had a very strong negative impact
Ability to study	30.5%	43.4%	17.7%	8.2%
Your Mental Health	15.1%	42.7%	28.6%	13.5%
Your relationships	20.4%	38.7%	29.3%	11.5%

This means that overall:

- **69%** experienced a negative impact on their ability to study
- **85%** experienced a negative impact on their mental health
- **78%** experienced a negative impact on their relationships

Procedures

*The tables below show the respondents (1,634 and 1,723) who **knew about the procedures and had reported their** experience.

	Not at all satisfactory	Not satisfactory	Quite satisfactory	Completely satisfactory
University	20%	35%	28%	18%
College	17%	29%	38%	19%

Welfare and Support

	Not at all satisfactory	Not satisfactory	Quite satisfactory	Completely satisfactory
University	17%	33%	35%	16%
College	12%	26%	44%	18%

Recommendations

The **NUS Hidden Marks Report** summarise key recommendations for ending sexual harassment and sexual violence. CUSU Women's Campaign believes these recommendations should be seriously considered by Cambridge University and it should collaborate with CUSU Women's Campaign in implementing such changes.

Preventing Further Sexual Harassment and Violence

- Raise awareness of violence against women among staff and students
- Use educational initiatives to challenge negative attitudes and stereotypes
- Equip staff and students to identify and challenge unacceptable behaviour
- Create a campus environment in which students feel safe

Providing Services for students

- Ensure there are strong links between the institution, Student Union, Police, NHS, and specialist voluntary services.
- Design and signpost students to support services that respond to their needs
- Promote support services widely and consistently to all students

Reporting and Justice

- Tell students what they can report
- Provide accessible ways for women students to report their experiences
- Believe women who say they have been victims of harassment or violence
- Take decisive and appropriate action against perpetrators

Further Recommendations from Cambridge Speaks Out Survey

Preventing Further Sexual Harassment and Violence

- Compulsory consent workshops to be implemented via JCR and MCRs during freshers week for incoming freshers with the support of Senior Tutors
- Zero tolerance to sexual harassment policies made clear on college websites and promoted in college
- Colleges to tackle drinking cultures which create an unsafe environment in colleges for all students

Providing Services for Students

- Provide an accessible online sexual harassment policy on college websites
- Provide accessible online information on college websites which signposts students to support organisations in the local area and who to talk to in Cambridge or in college.

Justice and Reporting

- Improve procedures to ensure any student could report any of the above and feel that they will be supported, their information kept confidential, and the process is oriented around them
- Provide training and guidance on procedures to ensure consistency, awareness and professionalism
- To provide accessible online information on college websites about such procedures

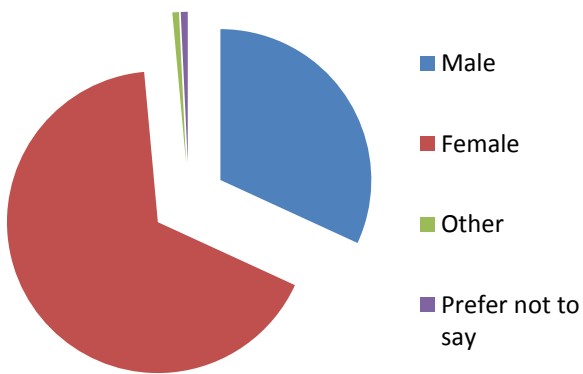
“I didn't think the University would do anything about it.”

The University and colleges pledge to change the culture of silence around sexual harassment and sexual violence in Cambridge.

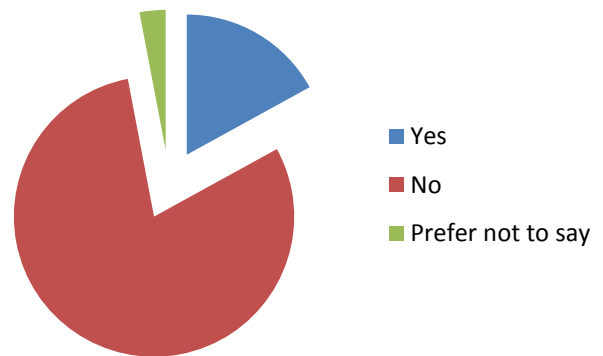
Survey Participant Profile

Respondents were 'screened' into the survey by an initial question which asked whether the student was currently studying at Cambridge. We then asked them to self-identify into the following:

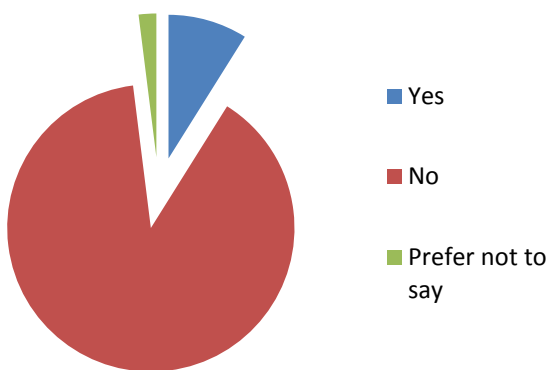
Gender



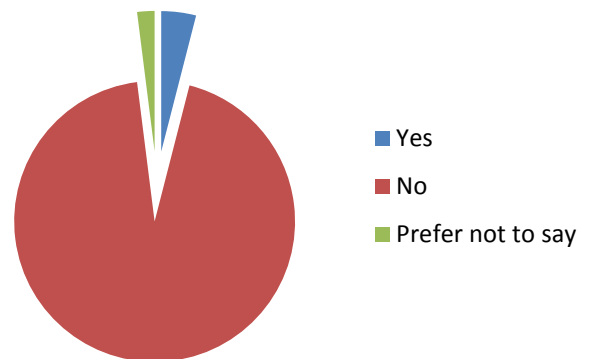
LGBT+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender+)



BME (Black and Minority Ethnic)



Disabled



Questions

1. Please confirm you are a student at the University at Cambridge
2. Do you self-identify as:

Male

Female

Other

Prefer not to say

3. Do you self-identify as LGBT+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans* +)?
4. Do you self-identify as Black or Minority Ethnic (BME)?
5. Do you self-identify as disabled?
6. Do you sometimes feel unsafe when visiting your university or college buildings in the evening?
7. Do you sometimes feel unsafe when visiting your university or college buildings in the daytime?
8. Whilst you have been a student at Cambridge, have you experienced any of the following (once, several times or often)?

Someone making comments with a sexual overtone that made you feel uncomfortable

Someone wolf whistling, catcalling or making noises with sexual overtones

Someone asking you questions about your sex or romantic life when it was clearly irrelevant or none of their business

Someone asking you questions about your sexuality when it was clearly irrelevant or none of their business

Someone exposing their sexual organs to you when you did not agree to see them

Someone groping, pinching or touching you in a sexual manner when you did not agree to them doing so

Someone exposing your body (e.g lifting up your skirt / unzipping your flies) without you agreeing

9. Whilst you have been a student at Cambridge, have you experienced sexual contact (this could include kissing, touching or molesting you including through clothes) when you did not consent? (once, twice, more than twice, regularly)

Please note: Consent is legally defined as agreeing by choice and having the freedom and capacity to make that choice.

***ASKED IF THEY HAD REPORTED YES after all of the questions
and for each incident if multiple***

10. Please describe the gender identity of the offender.

Male

Female

Other

11. Please describe your relationship to the offender. If you have experienced more than one incident, please tick all relevant options or expand your answer in more detail in the box below.

Social Acquaintance - (eg friends, neighbour)

Acquaintance - Non-Academic staff of the University or college

Acquaintance – Academic staff of the University or college

Intimate or domestic relationship (eg partner, ex-partner, date, dating partner, family member)

I did not know the perpetrator

Prefer not to say

12. Was the perpetrator drinking?

13. Did the perpetrator provide you with alcohol or drugs?

14. Did the perpetrator provide you with alcohol or drugs against your will?

15. Where did the incident take place?

In a University Department or building

In a college

At a University or College social event

At a student night at a night club

At a non-student night at a nightclub

16. Did you report an incident to someone with an official role in your Faculty, Department or college or to the police?

Yes – Staff in Faculty or Department

Yes – Staff in college

Yes – student official role

Yes – Police

No

17. What were your reasons for not reporting?

I didn't think it was serious enough to report

I didn't think what happened was a crime

I thought I could handle it myself

I felt ashamed or embarrassed

I thought I would be blamed for what happened

I didn't want my parents / family to find out

I didn't think I would be believed

I didn't want my friends to find out

END OF QUESTIONS ABOUT EACH INCIDENT REPORTED

18. Whilst you have been a student at Cambridge, have you ever experienced an attempt to perform a sexual act on you, without your consent - but which has not been successful (once, twice, more than twice, regularly)?

Please note: Consent is legally defined as agreeing by choice and having the freedom and capacity to make that choice. A sexual act is an attempt to penetrate someone orally, vaginally or anally with their genitalia, fingers or an object

19. Whilst you have been a student at Cambridge, have you experienced assault by penetration (orally, vaginally or anally, with their genitalia, fingers, or an object) without your consent (once, twice, more than twice, regularly)?

Please note: Consent is legally defined as agreeing by choice and having the freedom and capacity to make that choice.

20. Whilst you have been a student at Cambridge, has anyone repeatedly followed you, watched you, phoned you, texted, written, e-mailed, communicated with you through social networking sites, or communicated with you in other ways that seemed obsessive or made you afraid or concerned for your safety?

21. Whilst you have been a student at Cambridge, has anyone ever hit you or physically mistreated you in any way? (Once, twice, more than once, regularly)

22. If you have reported any incident of this type to an official role in the Faculty, Department or college do you feel as though your complaint was taken seriously and with an appropriate level of professionalism and compassion?

Not at all taken seriously

Not taken seriously enough

Not sure

Taken adequately seriously

Very well dealt with

23. If you have reported any incident of this type to the police do you feel as though your complaint was taken seriously and with an appropriate level of professionalism and compassion?

Not at all taken seriously

Not taken seriously enough

Not sure

Taken adequately seriously

Very well dealt with

24. How far have incidents of rape, sexual assault, violence or stalking impacted you in any of the following ways? (ability to study, mental health, relationships)

I have never experienced this

I have experienced this and it had no impact

It had a little negative impact

It had a strong negative impact

It had a very strong negative impact

25. How far do you feel the University or your college has satisfactory procedures in place to deal with incidents of this type?

Not at all satisfactory

Not satisfactory

Neutral / I don't know

Quite satisfactory

Completely satisfactory

26. Within the University or colleges, do you think there is satisfactory support and welfare to deal with incidents of this type?

Not at all satisfactory

Not satisfactory

Neutral / I don't know

Quite satisfactory

Completely satisfactory

27. In order to make this information valid in our survey, please confirm that all of the above is true to the best of your knowledge.

References

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

www.womensaid.org.uk

www.cambridgerapecrisis.co.uk

<http://www.stalkinghelpline.org>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/british-crime-survey-datasets>

British Crime Surveys and supplementary reports can be accessed from:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/bcs1.html



** Vigil held as part of the campaign to end violence against women **

Contact Us

CUSU Women's Officer

Email: womens@cusu.cam.ac.uk

Phone: 01223 761694

Website: <http://www.womens.cusu.cam.ac.uk/>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/CUSUWomen>

Women's Officer

Cambridge University Students'
Union

Old Examination Hall
Free School Lane
Cambridge CB2 3RF