

# Sources for statistics

May 2023

**More than 1 in 4 women have been subjected to some form of sexual violence since the age of 16.**

**1 in 18 men have been subjected to some form of sexual violence since the age of 16.**

**Source:** Office for National Statistics, 2023

**Publication:**

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/datasets/sexualoffencesprevalenceandvictimcharacteristicsenglandandwales>

**How do we get these figures?**

As the Table 1 dataset shows, an estimated:

- 27% of all adult women aged 16 to 74 in England and Wales have experienced sexual assault at least once since the age of 16, and
- 5.7% of all adult men aged 16 to 74 in England and Wales have experienced sexual assault at least once since the age of 16.

**Notes:**

These statistics are based on data for the year ending March 2022 from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW). The Crime Survey was only able to collect six months' data face-to-face for the year ending March 2022. The ONS says that 'caution should be taken when using these data due to the impact of the reduced data collection period and lower response rates on the quality of the estimates'.

The CSEW uses 'sexual assault' as an umbrella terms that includes the following sexual offences, including attempts of each: rape, assault by penetration, sexual assault and indecent exposure.

## **1 in 6 children have been sexually abused**

**Source:** NSPCC, 2011

**Publication:** <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/media/1710/statistics-briefing-child-sexual-abuse.pdf>

**How do we get this figure?**

As this NSPCC briefing states, a 2011 NSPCC study that asked 2,275 children aged 11 to 17 in the UK about their experiences of abuse and 16.5% said they had experienced any form of sexual abuse, including non-contact abuse, at some point in their lives.

**Notes:**

According to the NSPCC, the 2011 study 'is still the only large-scale research study in the UK to ask children, rather than adults, about their experiences of maltreatment. It is findings from this age group which the NSPCC uses when talking about the prevalence of abuse, as it best represents the experiences of children themselves'.

## **798,000 women across England and Wales are raped or sexually assaulted every year. That's 1 in 30 women.**

**Source:** Office for National Statistics, 2023

**Publication:**

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/sexualoffencesinenglandandwalesoverview/march2022>

**How do we get this figure?**

As this ONS bulletin states, 'The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) provides the best measure of victimisation and estimated that 2.3% of adults (3.3% women and 1.2% men) aged 16 years and over were victims of sexual assault (including attempts) in the year ending March 2022 survey; this equates to an estimated 1.1 million adults (798,000 women and 275,000 men)'.

**Notes:**

These statistics are based on data for the year ending March 2022 from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW). The Crime Survey was only able to collect six months' data face-to-face for the year ending March 2022. The ONS says that 'caution should be taken when using these data due to the impact of the reduced data collection period and lower response rates on the quality of the estimates'.

The CSEW uses 'sexual assault' as an umbrella terms that includes the following sexual offences, including attempts of each: rape, assault by penetration, sexual assault and indecent exposure.

## **94% of survivors of rape or attempted rape are women.**

**Source:** Office for National Statistics, 2021

**Publication:**

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/datasets/sexualoffencesprevalenceandvictimcharacteristicsenglandandwales>

**How do we get this figure?**

This dataset shows that 132,000 women and 7,000 men aged 16 to 74 years experienced rape or attempted rape between April 2019 and March 2020.

**Notes:**

The year ending March 2020 was the last time the CSEW collected such data on sexual violence and abuse.

The CSEW uses 'sexual assault' as an umbrella terms that includes the following sexual offences, including attempts of each: rape, assault by penetration, sexual assault and indecent exposure.

## **70,633 rapes were recorded by the police in the year ending September 2022. The highest number ever recorded.**

**Source:** Office for National Statistics, 2022

**Publication:**

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/crimeinenglandandwales/yearendingseptember2022>

### **How do we get this figure?**

This bulletin states that, 'Of all sexual offences recorded by the police in the year ending March 2022, 36% (70,330) were rape offences. This was a 26% increase from the 55,678 in the year ending March 2021'.

We know that this is the highest such number because the ONS' previous Crime in England and Wales statistical bulletin - [Crime in England and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#) - (for the year ending December 2021) said that the 67,125 rapes recording by the police in 2021 was, at that time, the highest recorded annual number of rapes to date.

## **1 in 2 rapes against women are carried out by their partner or ex-partner.**

## **5 in 6 rapes against women are carried out by someone they know.**

**Source:** Office for National Statistics, 2021

**Publication:**

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/articles/natureofsexualassaultbyrapeorpenetrationenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2020>

### **How do we get these figures?**

As this ONS article shows, when looking at the victim-perpetrator relationship in instances of rape or assault by penetration (including attempts) that women aged 16 to 59 in England and Wales have experienced since the age of 16, a partner or ex-partner was the perpetrator in 45% of cases.

The victim-perpetrator relationship in the remainder of cases was as follows:

Family member – 4%  
Other known – 37%  
Stranger – 15%

**Notes:**

These statistics are based on combined data for the years ending March 2017 and March 2020 from the Crime Survey for England and Wales.

The year ending March 2020 was the last time the CSEW collected such data on sexual violence and abuse.

## **98% of adults prosecuted for sexual offences are men.**

**Source:** Home Office, 2018

**Publication:**

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/datasets/sexualoffendingministryofjusticeappendixtables>

**How do we get this figure?**

According to Table 2 in this dataset, in the year ending December 2017, 10,317 men were prosecuted for sexual offences. This compared with 177 women.

**1.3% of rapes reported to the police in 2021 resulted in a charge that same year.**

**Source:** Home Office, 2022

**Publication:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-year-to-december-2021-data-tables>

**How do we get this figure?**

This dataset shows 1.3% of rapes recorded in England and Wales in the year ending December 2021 were assigned the outcome 'Charged/summonsed'.

**5 in 6 women who are raped don't report it to the police**

**4 in 5 men who are raped don't report it to the police**

**Source:** Office for National Statistics, 2021

**Publication:**

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/sexualoffencesinenglandandwalesoverview/march2020>

**How do we get these figures?**

As this ONS bulletin states, in England and Wales, 'fewer than one in six (16%) female victims and fewer than one in five (19%) male victims aged 16 to 59 years of [rape or assault by penetration (including attempts)] since the age of 16 years reported it to the police'.

**Notes:**

The year ending March 2020 was the last time the CSEW collected such data on sexual violence and abuse.

**52% of women have experienced sexual harassment at work.**

**Source:** Trade Union Congress (TUC) in association with the Everyday Sexism Project, 2016

**Publication:** <https://www.tuc.org.uk/sites/default/files/SexualHarassmentreport2016.pdf>

**How do we get this figure?**

The TUC states in its 'Still just a bit of banter?' report that 'more than half (52%) of all women polled have experienced some form of sexual harassment'.

Other key findings include:

- 35% of women have heard comments of a sexual nature being made about other women in the workplace.
- 32% of women have been subject to unwelcome jokes of a sexual nature.
- 28% of women have been subject to comments of a sexual nature about their body or clothes.
- Nearly one quarter of women have experienced unwanted touching (such as a hand on the knee or lower back).
- One fifth of women have experienced unwanted sexual advances.
- More than 1 in 10 women reported experiencing unwanted sexual touching or attempts to kiss them.
- In the vast majority of cases, the perpetrator was a male colleague, with nearly one in five reporting that their direct manager or someone else with direct authority over them was the perpetrator.
- 4 in 5 women did not report the sexual harassment to their employer.

**86% of women aged 18-24 said they had been sexually harassed in a public space. 71% of women of all ages said the same.**

**Source:** All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for UN Women, March 2021

**Publication:** [https://www.unwomenuk.org/site/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/APPG-UN-Women-Sexual-Harassment-Report\\_Updated.pdf](https://www.unwomenuk.org/site/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/APPG-UN-Women-Sexual-Harassment-Report_Updated.pdf)

**How do we get this figure?**

Key findings from this survey show, '71% of women of all ages in the UK have experienced some form of sexual harassment in a public space. This number rises to 86% among 18-24 year-olds and only 3% of 18-24 year-olds reported having not experienced any of the types of harassment listed'.

**9 in 10 girls and young women in schools, say sexist name-calling and being sent unwanted images of a sexual nature happens to them or their peers.**

**Source:** Ofsted, 2021

**Publication:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/review-of-sexual-abuse-in-schools-and-colleges/review-of-sexual-abuse-in-schools-and-colleges>

**How do we get this figure?**

As Ofsted states in its 'Review of Sexual Abuse in Schools and Colleges':

'On our visits ... nearly 90% of girls, and nearly 50% of boys, said being sent explicit pictures or videos of things they did not want to see happens a lot or sometimes to them or their peers ... [while] 92% of girls, and 74% of boys, said sexist name-calling happens a lot or sometimes to them or their peers. The frequency of these harmful sexual behaviours means that some children and young people consider them normal.'

**Notes:**

Ofsted only covers England.