

Drinkaware Drunken Nights Out Student Harassment Survey - Summary

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Contents

Methodology	3
Results	4
Table 1. Negative experiences while out drinking.....	4
Experience of sexual harassment while out drinking	5
Table 2. Incidence of drunken sexual harassment	5
Table 3. Agreement with the statement ‘Persistent unwanted sexual attention (both physical and verbal) ruins a night out’	6
Table 4. Frequency of drunken sexual harassment.....	7
Table 5. Emotional response to drunken sexual harassment	7
Location of harassment	8
Reaction to drunken sexual harassment	8
Table 6. Confronting the perpetrator.....	8
Table 7. Telling others	9
Students, universities and drunken sexual harassment	10
Table 8. Expectations of university	10
Table 9. Awareness of university stance	11
Table 10. Preferred university stance	12

Methodology

ICM Unlimited conducted online interviews with 2,004 students between 30th July and 12th August 2015. The students were aged between 18 and 29. The respondents were selected from ICM Unlimited's panel. Quotas were set for age and gender to match the target population: regional quotas of 100 per Government Office Region were also set.

Only fully completed responses were counted. ICM Unlimited performed the usual data quality checks to ensure the data was reliable.

The completed results were weighted by age and gender to reflect the target population as closely as possible. The report presents results for 18-24 year olds (unweighted n = 1,853; weighted n = 1,672)

Results

Table 1. Negative experiences while out drinking

In the last 12 months which of the following have happened to you on a drunken night out?			
Base: All respondents	All 18-24 y.o. students (weighted n = 1,672)	Female 18-24 y.o. students (weighted n=899)	Male 18-24 y.o. students (weighted n=772)
Physically sick due to alcohol	56%	55%	59%
Involved in a fight	6%	3%	10%
Passed out in a public place	6%	4%	8%
Had a sexual encounter you regretted the next day	14%	14%	15%
On the receiving end of inappropriate sexual comments or abuse	24%	35%	12%
On the receiving end of inappropriate sexual touching	27%	44%	7%
Unsure whether you had sex	5%	5%	7%
Needed to go to hospital because you drank too much	2%	1%	2%
Had an accident and hurt yourself	19%	18%	21%
None of these	25%	23%	27%
Prefer not to say	1%	1%	1%

Experience of sexual harassment while out drinking

Table 2. Incidence of drunken sexual harassment

In the last 12 months which of the following have happened to you on a drunken night out?			
Base: All respondents	All 18-24 y.o. students (weighted n = 1,672)	Female 18-24 y.o. students (weighted n=899)	Male 18-24 y.o. students (weighted n=772)
Received inappropriate sexual comments or abuse	27%	44%	7%
Received inappropriate touching	24%	35%	12%
Received either or both forms of harassment	35%	54%	14%

Table 3. Agreement with the statement ‘Persistent unwanted sexual attention (both physical and verbal) ruins a night out’

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statement: Persistent unwanted sexual attention (both physical and verbal) ruins a good night out			
Base: All respondents	All 18-24 y.o. students (weighted n = 1,672)	Female 18-24 y.o. students (weighted n=899)	Male 18-24 y.o. students (weighted n=772)
Strongly agree	51%	59%	42%
Slightly agree	29%	26%	32%
Neither agree or disagree	12%	9%	14%
Slightly disagree	5%	4%	6%
Strongly disagree	1%	1%	2%
NET Agree	80%	85%	73%
NET Disagree	6%	5%	7%

Please note that Tables 4, 5, 6, and 7 are based on the number of 18-24 year old students who were on the receiving end of drunken sexual harassment (weighted n=592)

Table 4. Frequency of drunken sexual harassment

How common is it for you to experience inappropriate or unwanted sexual comments or touching on a drunken night out?			
Base: All who have been on receiving end of drunken sexual harassment	All 18-24 y.o. students (weighted n=592)	Female 18-24 y.o. students (weighted n=482)	Male 18-24 y.o. students (weighted n=110)
Most times or every time	43%	51%	9%
Rarely or only once	18%	9%	53%

Table 5. Emotional response to drunken sexual harassment

How do you feel when you receive inappropriate or unwanted sexual comments or touching on a night out?			
Base: All who have been on receiving end of drunken sexual harassment	All 18-24 y.o. students (weighted n=592)	Female 18-24 y.o. students (weighted n=482)	Male 18-24 y.o. students (weighted n=110)
Disgust	64%	74%	22%
Anger	54%	63%	13%
Fear	38%	44%	14%
Surprise	14%	10%	32%

- More than half of female students have been on the receiving end of drunken sexual harassment
- More than half of those say it happens most times or every time they go out
- Disgust, anger and fear are the most common emotional responses – but few women are surprised.

Location of harassment

- The most common venue for students to experience drunken sexual harassment is a nightclub in town (68%) followed by a bar/pub in town (16%)

Reaction to drunken sexual harassment

Table 6. Confronting the perpetrator

Did you confront the person who did this to you?			
Base: All who have been on receiving end of drunken sexual harassment	All 18-24 y.o. students (weighted n=592)	Female 18-24 y.o. students (weighted n=482)	Male 18-24 y.o. students (weighted n=110)
Confronted alone	26%	26%	24%
Confronted harasser with support	14%	16%	9%
Did not confront harasser because afraid	20%	22%	7%
Did not confront harasser because it's just what happens on a night out	40%	36%	60%

Table 7. Telling others

Thinking about the last time you received inappropriate or unwanted sexual comments or touching on a night out, did someone see it happen or did you tell someone?			
Base: All who have been on receiving end of drunken sexual harassment	All 18-24 y.o. students (weighted n=592)	Female 18-24 y.o. students (weighted n=482)	Male 18-24 y.o. students (weighted n=110)
Told someone (NET)	60%	63%	49%
Told someone immediately	32%	36%	15%
Told someone later that night	16%	15%	22%
Told someone after that night	17%	17%	17%
Someone saw the harassment take place	37%	37%	36%
Nobody saw and I didn't tell anyone	13%	11%	21%

- Most people who were harassed told someone, or someone saw the harassment take place.
- Of those who told someone, 83% told a female friend; 39% told a male friend.
- Women were more likely to tell female friends, men were more likely to tell male friends.
- People in a relationship were much more likely to tell their partner – 51%
- Only 5% told security staff.
- Less than 1% told university authorities;
- Less than 1% told student welfare/counsellors
- Only 4% said security staff witnessed the harassment

Students, universities and drunken sexual harassment

Table 8. Expectations of university

How confident are you that if you reported an incident of drunken sexual harassment to your university that they would believe you/take action?

Base: All respondents	All 18-24 y.o. students (weighted n = 1,672)	Female 18-24 y.o. students (weighted n=899)	Male 18-24 y.o. students (weighted n=772)
Very confident university would believe them	34%	33%	34%
Somewhat confident university would believe them	52%	52%	53%
Net Not confident university would believe them	14%	15%	13%
Very confident university would take action			
Very confident university would take action	18%	15%	21%
Somewhat confident university would take action	41%	38%	44%
Net Not confident university would take action	42%	48%	35%

Table 9. Awareness of university stance

How would you describe your university/college's stance on drunken sexual harassment on campus?			
Base: All respondents	All 18-24 y.o. students (weighted n = 1,672)	Female 18-24 y.o. students (weighted n=899)	Male 18-24 y.o. students (weighted n=772)
Don't know	46%	49%	42%
Strong disciplinary sanction	27%	21%	34%
Weak disciplinary sanction	10%	10%	10%
Campaign without sanction	14%	16%	11%
They don't address it at all	4%	4%	3%

Table 10. Preferred university stance

What action do you think universities/colleges should take on the issue of drunken sexual harassment on campus?			
Base: All respondents	All 18-24 y.o. students (weighted n = 1,672)	Female 18-24 y.o. students (weighted n=899)	Male 18-24 y.o. students (weighted n=772)
Make it a disciplinary matter	73%	74%	72%
Campaign against it to make it clear it is not tolerated	61%	66%	56%
Offer counselling and support services	56%	59%	53%

Almost half of students do not know their universities stance on drunken sexual harassment. Among those that do, most say that there is a strong disciplinary sanction against it. When asked what they think universities/colleges should do about drunken sexual harassment, three-quarters want it to be a disciplinary matter, two-thirds want a campaign making it clear it will not be tolerated and over half want counselling and support services available.