

everyday sexism...

"comments about my boobs" "obscene gestures" "grab my breast" "unsafe in my body" "uncomfortable" "asking for trouble" "touched me from behind" "like I was an animal" "everyone around pretended nothing was happening" "made me feel dirty" "confused and betrayed" "because I was female" "whistle and make remarks about how sexy I was" "I keep my head down" "try not to make eye contact with groups of males" "humiliating to me" "accepted behaviour"

Sexism in South Yorkshire

Dr Maggie Wykes is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Sheffield's School of Law. She has conducted research in areas as diverse as life in mining communities, media representations of crime and gender, and internet crime. Much of her work explores the links between crime and representations in the media and culture.

Surveying Everyday Sexism:

- A survey conducted by researchers at the Centre for Criminological Research, School of Law, University of Sheffield
- The University of Sheffield, School of Law worked with Meg Munn MP to conduct a survey to explore the attitudes to, and experience of, sexual harassment in South Yorkshire and beyond.
- A similar survey in London in 2012 revealed ‘a staggering 43% of young women in London (aged 18-34) experienced sexual harassment in public spaces over the last year’, and another survey in Coventry in early 2013 found 61% of women who responded had experienced sexual harassment in the past twelve months.

Rethinking Sexual Harassment

Brant, C. and Lee Too, Y. Eds (1994)

‘Successful masculinity is encoded in terms of adventure, successful femininity is by contrast coded in terms appearance, dress and style’ p.249

‘Mary Beard is in fighting form, several shades of grey hair swishing, little gold-spangled pumps twinkling and a laugh that uses up every bit of her long, mesmerising face’

(The Daily Telegraph August 2013)

Danger

THE NEW SAAB 900 WILL FOLLOW YOU HOME IN THE DARK. (SO NO ONE ELSE WILL.)

The level of street violence rises yearly.

You no longer have to be a woman to approach the journey from the car to the house with some trepidation.

But fear not... for the engineers at Saab have dreamt up a way to light your way.

When parking the new Saab 900, you turn off the lights in the usual way, then give the light stalk a final tug.

This turns the headlights back on



for a pre-set 30 seconds.

Time enough for you to lock the car and unlock the house.

Without the suspicion of a backward glance...

Intelligent use of the very latest technology is a hallmark of the new Saab 900.

To reduce glare on long night drives, the dashboard of the new 900 includes an ingenious Black Panel button.

Press it and all dashboard lights (except the speedo) are cut.

For further information on the new Saab 900 range, starting from £15,995, write to Saab Information Centre, Freepost Y40424, London WC2H 9BR. Or phone 0800 626546.

Name Address Postcode

Present car make & model Year of reg. Age Under 18



Across all engine options, the new 900 concentrates on delivering the acceleration from 40 to 60" needed for safe overtaking.

So, the new 900 is a technologically advanced car. But, you might ask, is it any fun?

A 50% torsionally stiffer body says yes.

Front-wheel drive says yes.

Fourth-generation ABS fitted as standard says yes.

And a possible top speed of 140mph (in the V16) says yes.

If you're in the market for a car in the £15,995 to £21,795 bracket, by all means toy with the Audi 80, the BMW 3-series and the C-Class Mercedes.

But test drive the new 900. We think you'll agree that the Saab has the Germans on the run.



And on the 900SE rapid, glass capable of absorbing up to 50% of radiated heat fits every window. (There are enough over-heated drivers on the roads.)



THE NEW 900.
VERY SAAB.



Plate 12: Advertisement for the SAAB 900



Plate 3: Construction workers at a site in the City of London wolf-whistling at a pedestrian

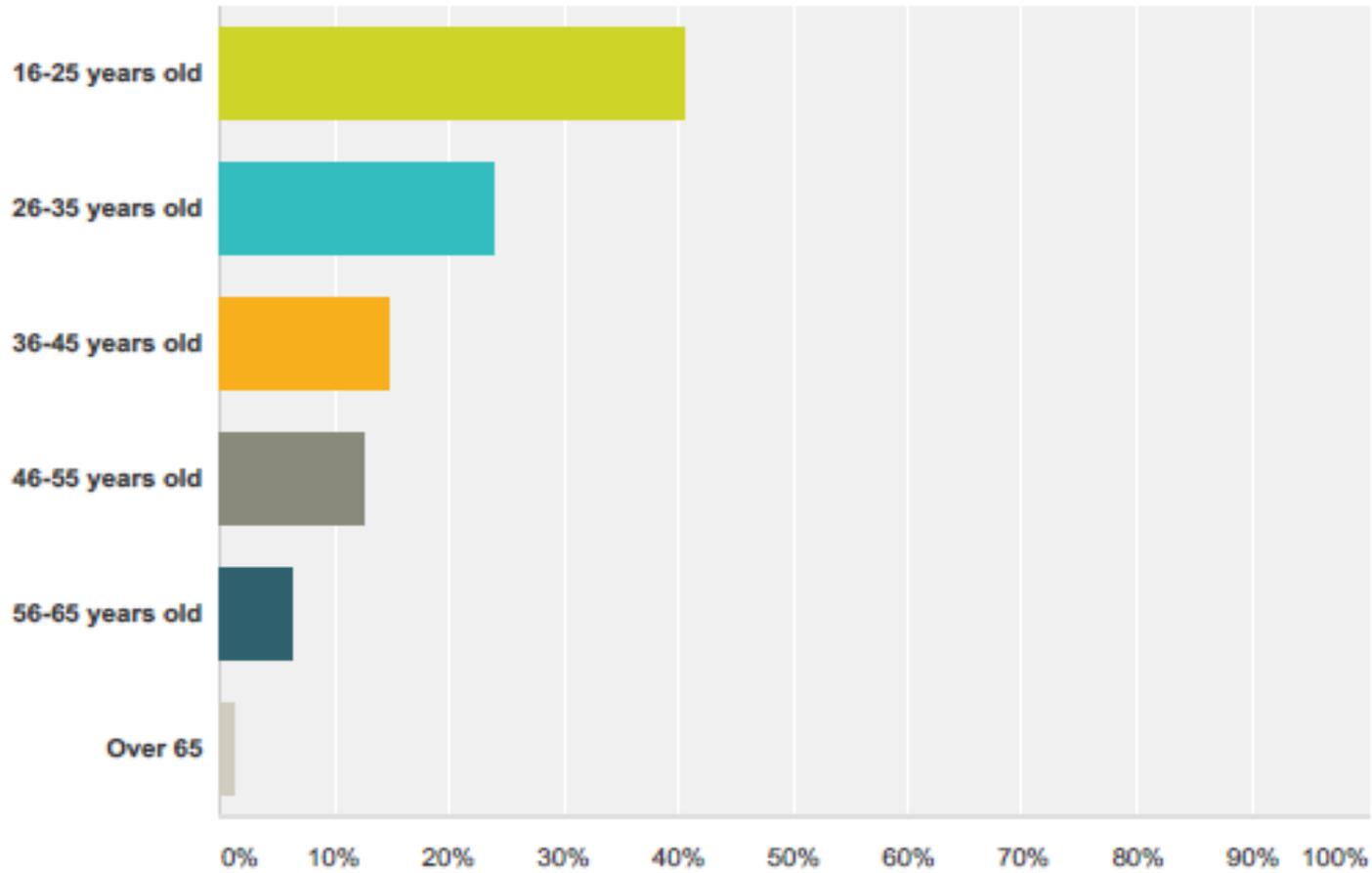
<http://sheffield.ihollaback.org/>

- So, I was walking into work and a white van got like a foot behind me and the bloke in the passenger side just screamed at me. It was a shriek similar to a bird squawking, and made me jump out of my skin, which I guess was the point. What do you do with that? I don't get it...
Incidentally he van was branded 'Spot On Windows'.
- Published on July 8,2014 at 8:57 am in [Uncategorized](#),
- [Story of street harassment](#) **New submission from mia**
- Today I've experienced 4 accounts of sexual harassment which is a bit over average. I find that when men are in groups they are more likely to harass you but this is not always the case. Today its been one guy alone stood next to his car, after he whistled I turned around and shouted "WHAT?" and he pretended he was whistling at his friend (who wasn't there), a boy about 14 years old walking around with his peer group, and the other two were from groups of men around 25.
- This verbal abuse undermines every essence of my being as if I am just some sort of play thing for male satisfaction. I am not a piece of meat. This harassment is a crime. I deserve to be able to walk the earth without this burden of male objectification.
- Published on July 8,2013 at 1:36 pm in [Story of street harassment](#),

Gender

Answer Choices	Responses	
Male	20.02%	237
Female	79.22%	938
Other (please specify)	0.76%	9
Total		1,184

Age

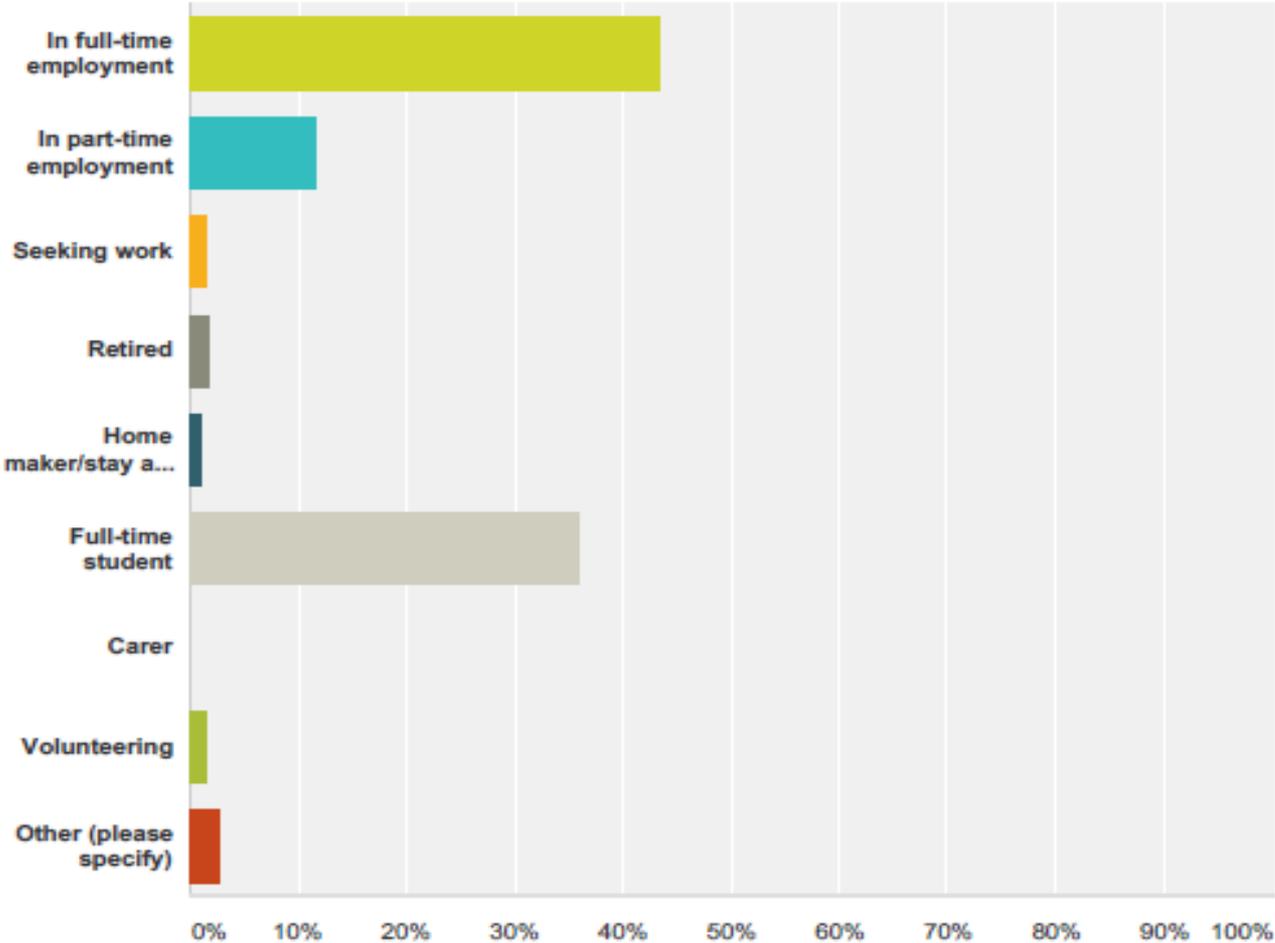


Ethnicity

White English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British	82.25%	973
White Irish	1.94%	23
White Gypsy or Irish Traveller	0.00%	0
Mixed White and Black Caribbean	0.85%	10
Mixed White and Black African	0.42%	5
Mixed White and Asian	0.59%	7
Indian	0.93%	11
Pakistani	0.34%	4
Bangladeshi	0.08%	1
Chinese	0.85%	10
Black African	0.51%	6
Black Caribbean	0.51%	6
Arab	0.34%	4

Q16 Please choose the option that most closely represents what you do

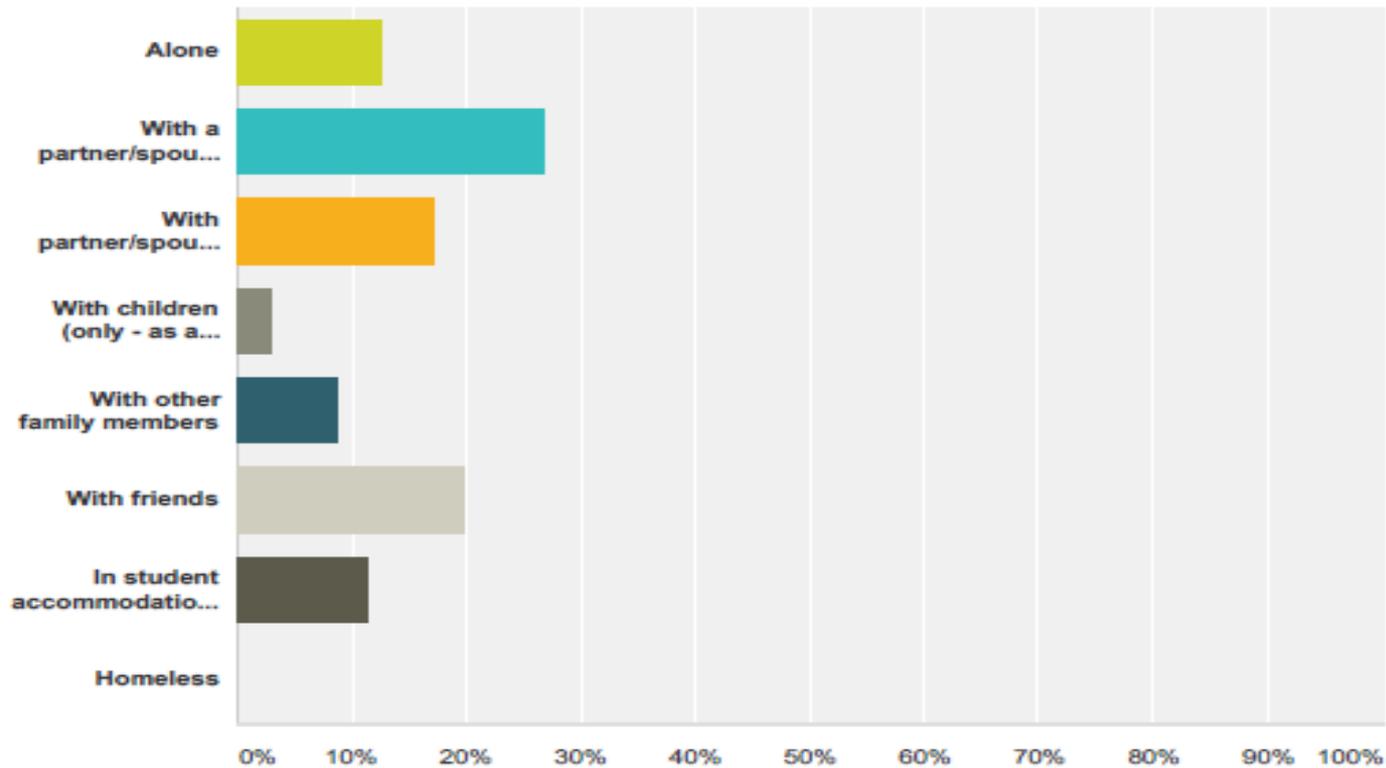
Answered: 1,177 Skipped: 308



Household types

Q17 Do you live:

Answered: 1,185 Skipped: 300



Attitudes to harassing behaviours

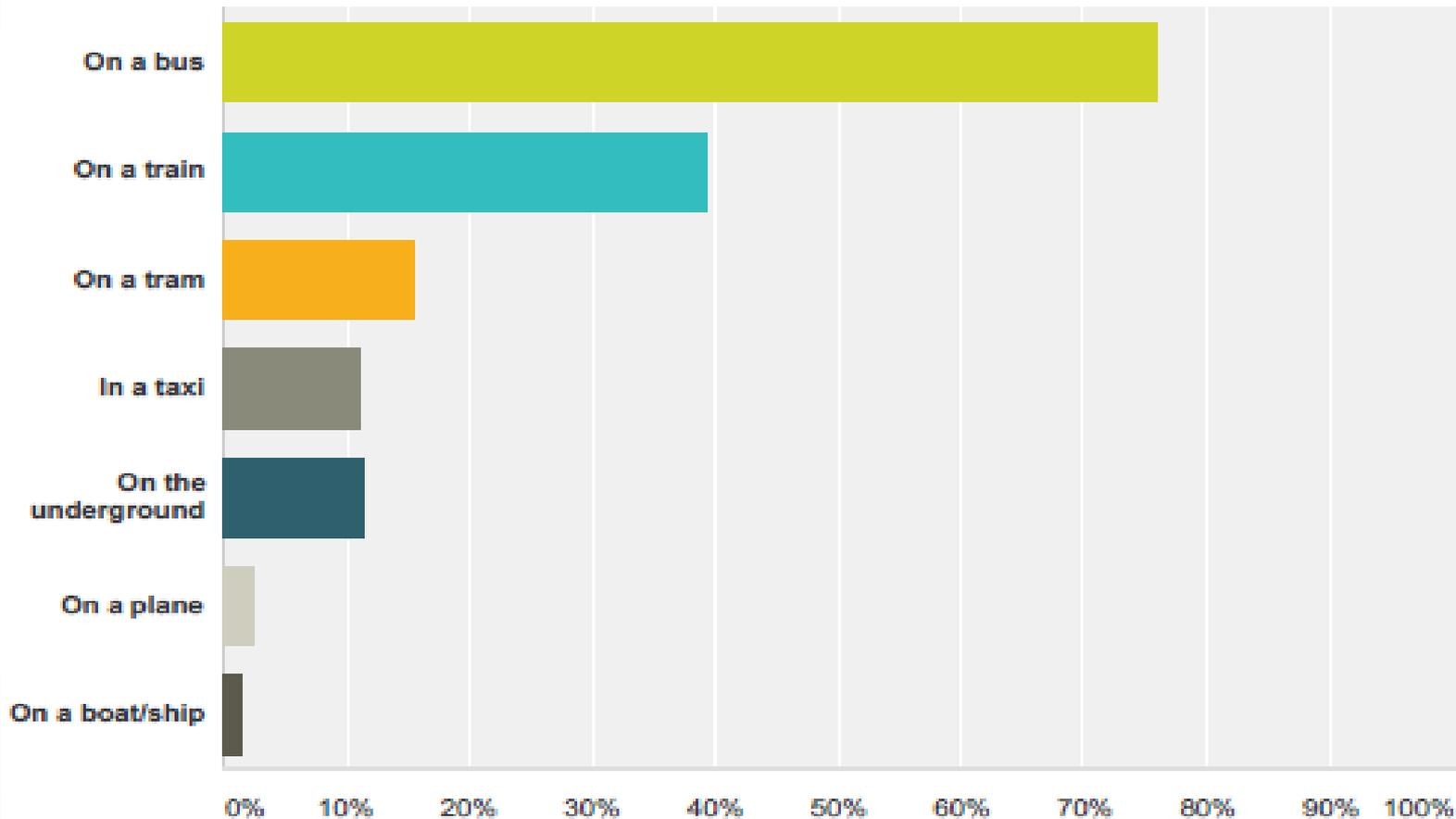
	This is frightening	This is offensive	This is sexist	This is unimportant	This is funny	This is flattering	Total
Wolf-whistling or honking a car horn at you	9.87% 131	32.40% 430	28.79% 382	18.39% 244	7.01% 93	3.54% 47	1,327
Phoning/emailing/texting someone when they have asked you not to	43.17% 569	44.69% 589	0.83% 11	10.55% 139	0.30% 4	0.46% 6	1,318
Making complimentary comments about someone's looks in public	0.85% 11	8.46% 109	11.65% 150	26.09% 336	0.85% 11	52.10% 671	1,288
Making negative comments about someone's looks in public	1.44% 19	88.28% 1,168	4.84% 64	4.61% 61	0.38% 5	0.45% 6	1,323
Leering or staring excessively at someone	47.05% 621	40.76% 538	7.65% 101	3.64% 48	0.38% 5	0.53% 7	1,320
Making sexual comments or gestures	22.66% 298	57.79% 760	13.46% 177	3.65% 48	2.13% 28	0.30% 4	1,315
Following someone	96.36% 1,269	2.81% 37	0.08% 1	0.46% 6	0.15% 2	0.15% 2	1,317
Touching or grabbing someone sexually	77.17% 1,021	18.37% 243	3.93% 52	0.15% 2	0.15% 2	0.23% 3	1,323
Sending unwanted sexually explicit emails or texts	53.85% 713	41.39% 548	3.40% 45	0.83% 11	0.30% 4	0.23% 3	1,324
Telling sexist jokes	0.98% 13	37.17% 491	44.21% 584	9.16% 121	8.33% 110	0.15% 2	1,321
Pressuring someone into having sex	87.05% 1,149	10.98% 145	1.36% 18	0.38% 5	0.00% 0	0.23% 3	1,320
Making comments that belittle someone's gender	2.93% 39	50.71% 675	43.05% 573	2.03% 27	1.13% 15	0.15% 2	1,331

Experiences of harassment: in the last 12 months

	At a leisure venue (including clubs, pubs or bars)	At work	At university/college/school	On the street in daylight	On the street at night	At home	Online or by mobile phone	On public transport	Other	Never	Total Respondents
Someone wolf-whistling or honking a car horn at you	12.64% 154	2.55% 31	5.25% 64	48.69% 593	24.71% 301	0.82% 10	0.90% 11	5.58% 68	1.40% 17	44.83% 546	1,218
Been phoned/emailed/texted by someone when you have asked them not to	1.24% 15	2.48% 30	3.06% 37	0.83% 10	0.66% 8	6.62% 80	17.88% 216	0.33% 4	1.49% 18	75.99% 918	1,208
Had unwanted compliments made about your looks in	24.12% 288	11.98% 143	7.62% 91	21.61% 258	15.66% 187	1.93% 23	4.19% 50	7.71% 92	3.10% 37	53.85% 643	1,194
Had negative comments made about your looks in public	13.67% 164	6.25% 75	7.42% 89	12.75% 153	9.00% 108	3.25% 39	2.67% 32	3.50% 42	2.83% 34	62.50% 750	1,200
Someone leering or staring excessively at you	31.81% 383	7.81% 94	6.98% 84	22.01% 265	16.61% 200	0.58% 7	0.58% 7	17.86% 215	2.99% 36	47.01% 566	1,204
Had sexual comments made about you	25.46% 305	9.77% 117	8.10% 97	12.27% 147	14.69% 176	4.26% 51	6.43% 77	5.01% 60	3.34% 40	53.34% 639	1,198
Been followed	4.32% 51	1.19% 14	1.02% 12	6.10% 72	8.73% 103	0.51% 6	0.34% 4	1.02% 12	1.61% 19	82.97% 979	1,180
Been sexually touched or grabbed	25.54% 305	3.27% 39	2.60% 31	1.51% 18	3.10% 37	3.18% 38	0.34% 4	1.93% 23	2.26% 27	66.08% 789	1,194
Been told sexist jokes	37.33% 448	30.83% 370	28.25% 339	10.42% 125	7.50% 90	18.92% 227	23.00% 276	5.50% 66	8.33% 100	25.92% 311	1,200
Been sent sexually explicit emails or texts	1.10% 13	2.62% 31	1.77% 21	0.59% 7	0.59% 7	5.49% 65	14.35% 170	0.84% 10	1.35% 16	77.81% 922	1,185
Been pressured into sex	2.02% 24	0.17% 2	0.84% 10	0.08% 1	0.59% 7	5.80% 69	0.76% 9	0.08% 1	2.35% 28	89.75% 1,068	1,190
Had someone make belittling comments about you related to your gender	23.97% 290	21.82% 264	18.43% 223	9.09% 110	5.95% 72	10.58% 128	9.34% 113	4.63% 56	7.52% 91	47.44% 574	1,210

Q4 If you experienced unwanted sexual attention on public transport, please select which:

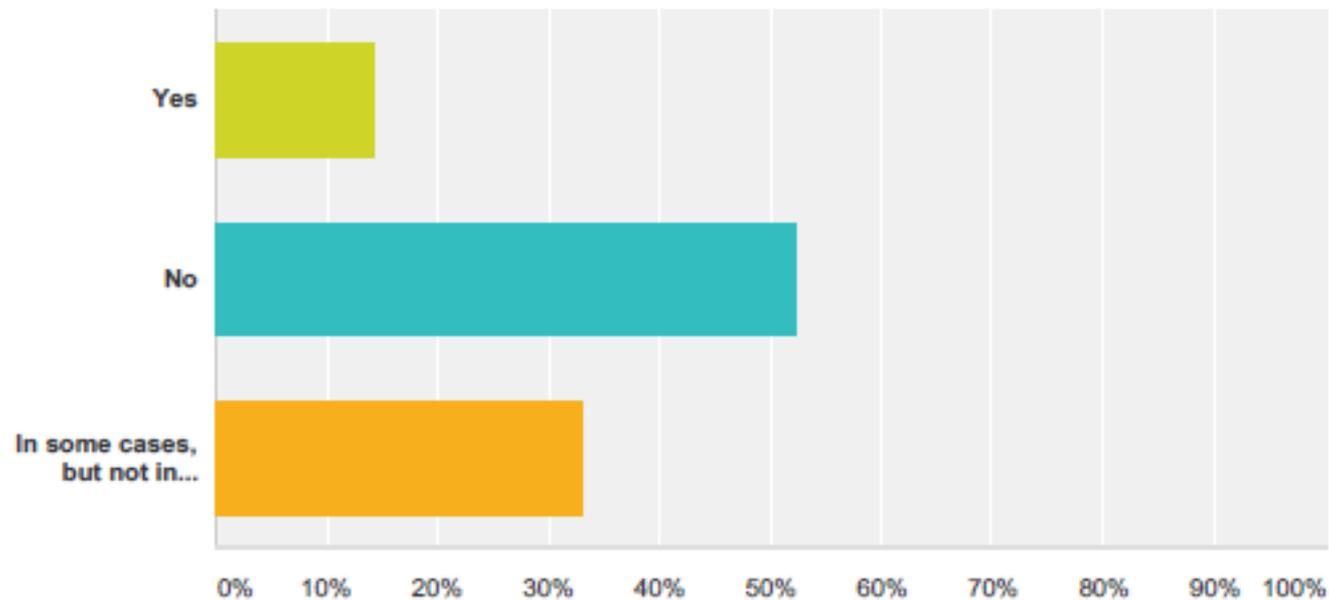
Answered: 329 Skipped: 1,156



639 had experienced sexual harassment in the last year

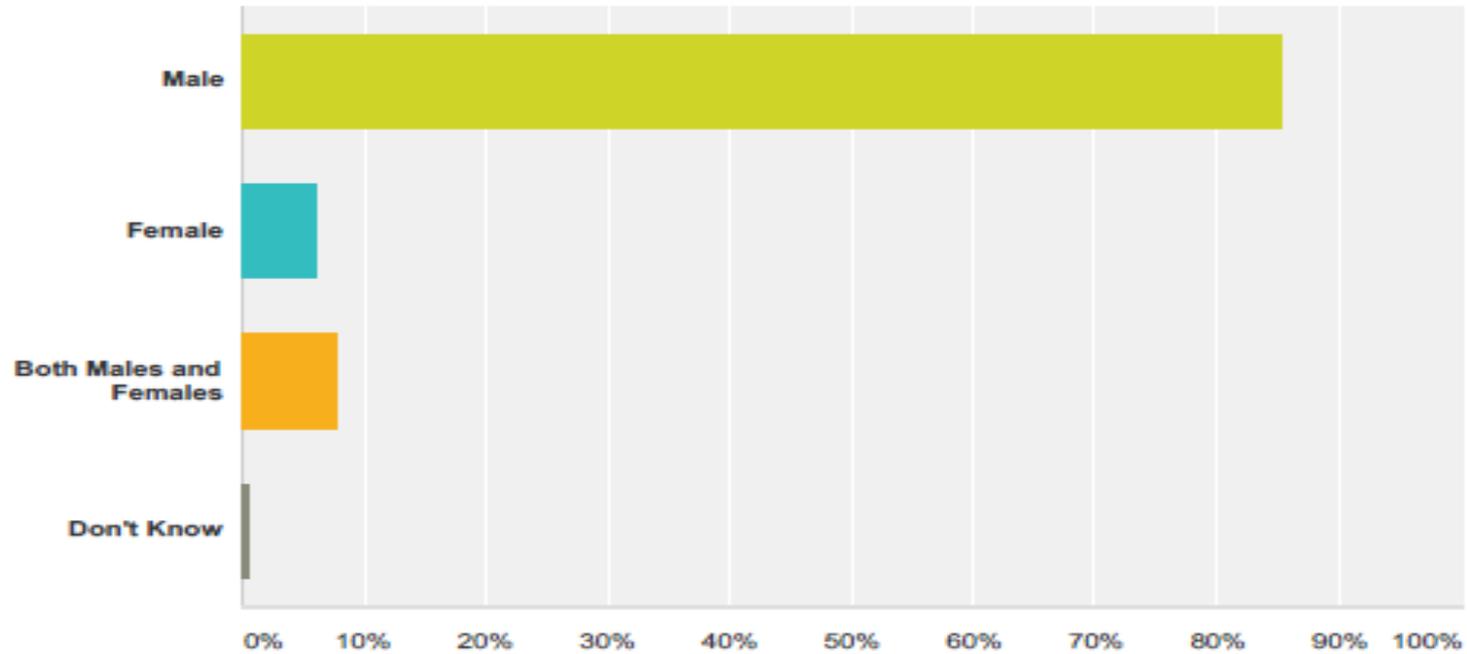
Q6 In each instance, did you know the person responsible?

Answered: 630 Skipped: 855



Q7 Were they...

Answered: 626 Skipped: 859

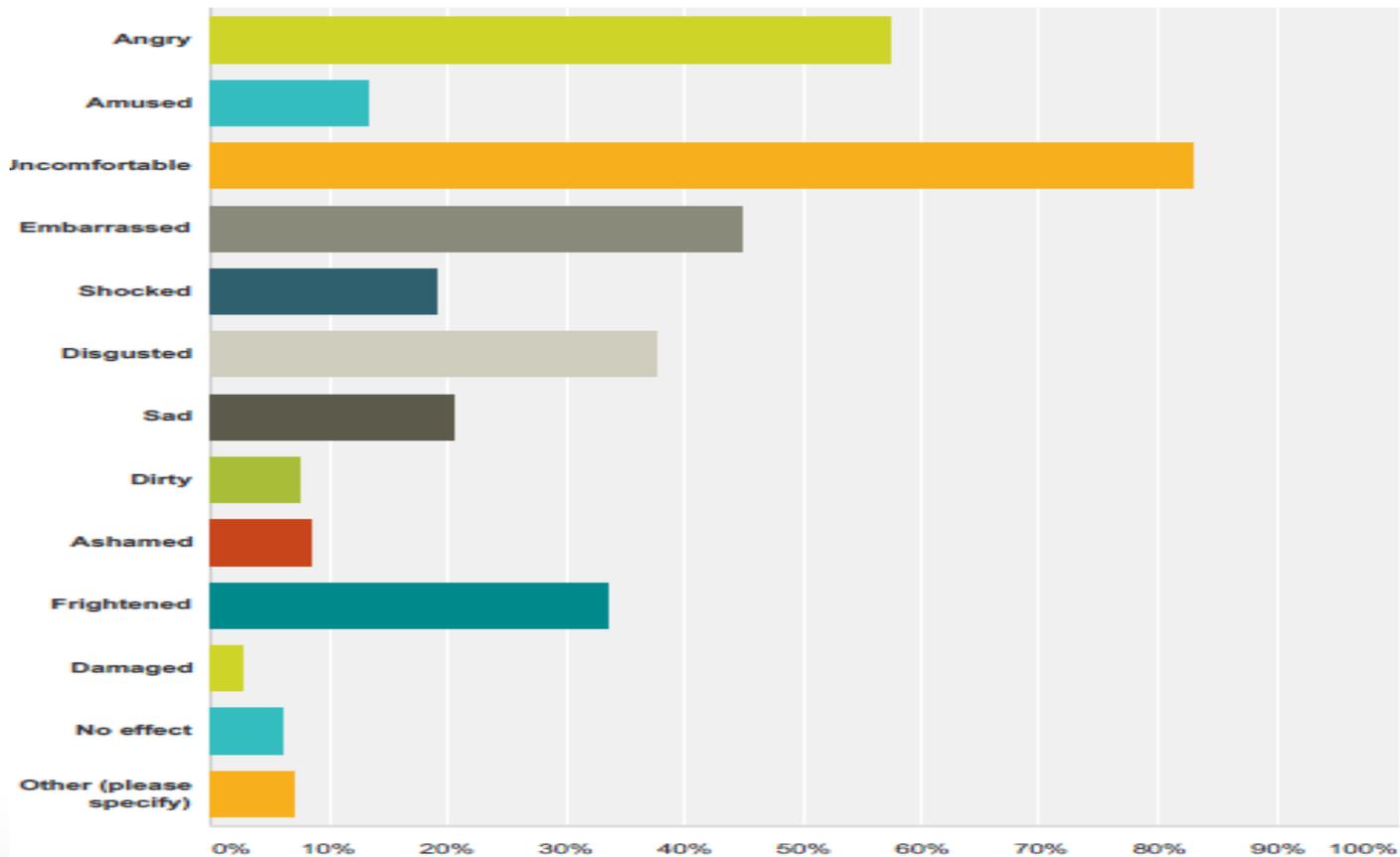


Answer Choices	Responses
Male	85.46% 535
Female	6.07% 38
Both Males and Females	7.83% 49
Don't Know	0.64% 4
Total	626

Affect of incident

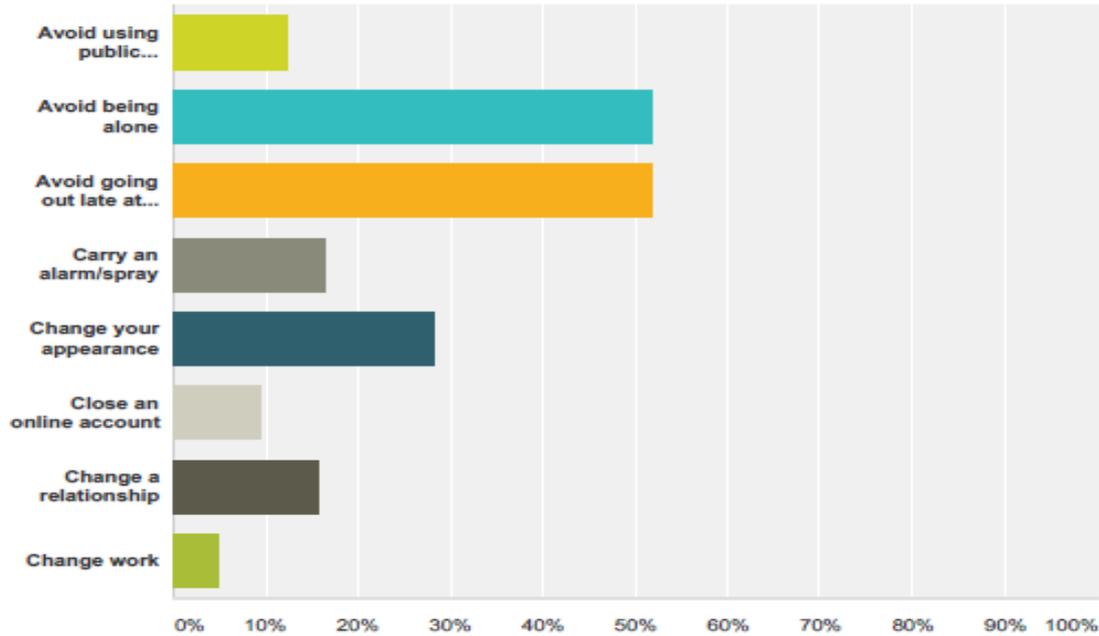
**Q8 How did the incident(s) make you feel?
Please select all that apply**

Answered: 628 Skipped: 857



Q9 Have you done any of the following in response to sexual harassment/sexism?

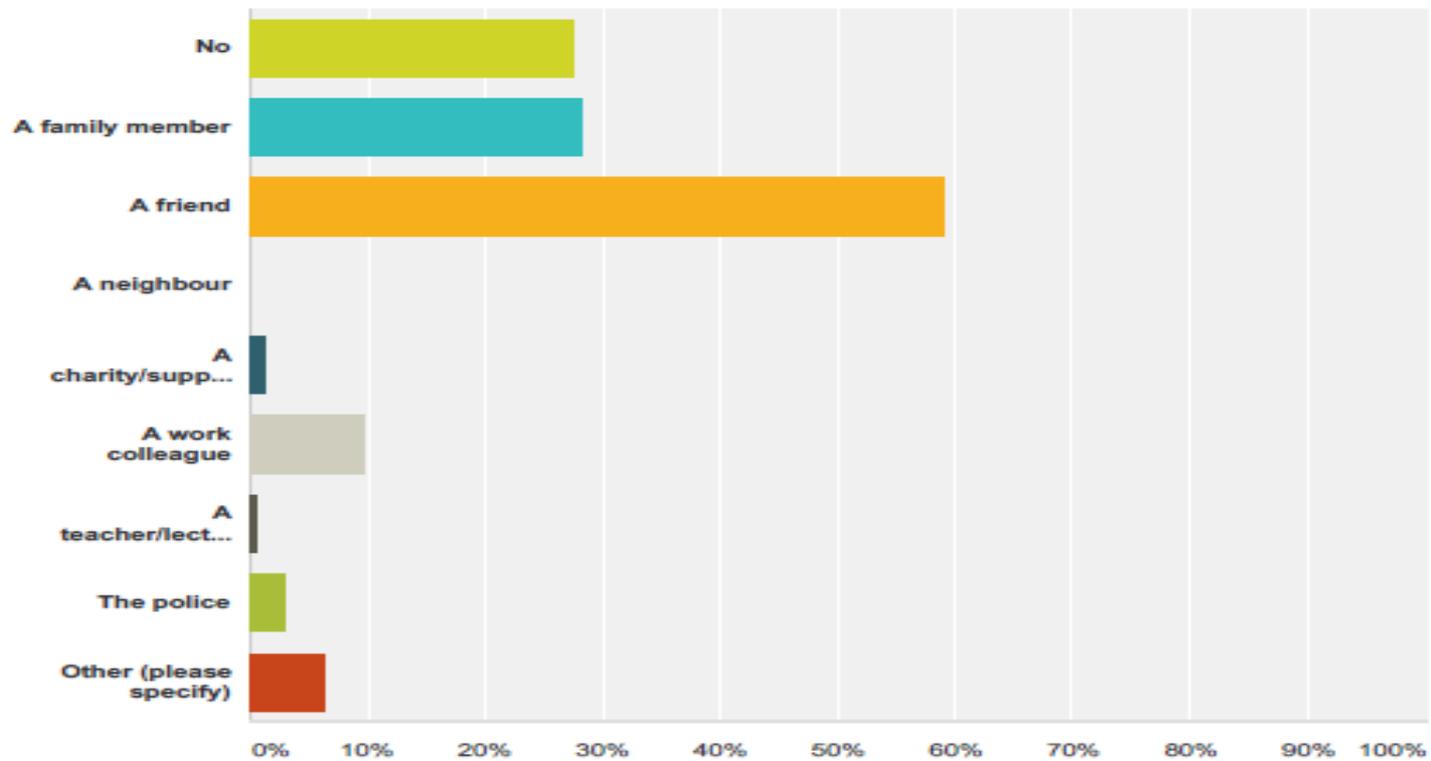
Answered: 374 Skipped: 1,111



Answer Choices	Responses	Count
Avoid using public transport	12.30%	46
Avoid being alone	51.87%	194
Avoid going out late at night	51.87%	194
Carry an alarm/spray	16.58%	62
Change your appearance	28.34%	106
Close an online account	9.63%	36
Change a relationship	15.78%	59
Change work	5.08%	19
Total Respondents: 374		

Q10 Did you tell anyone about the incident?

Answered: 600 Skipped: 885



Reporting

Answer Choices	Responses	
I didn't know what to do	8.29%	18
I didn't think it was serious enough	76.96%	167
I didn't think anyone could help	22.58%	49
I didn't want to get the perpetrator in trouble	3.69%	8
I was too embarrassed	16.13%	35
I didn't think anyone would believe me	3.69%	8
I thought it was my own fault	6.91%	15
I was too frightened	1.84%	4
Total Respondents: 217		

Oh Do Shut Up Dear! Mary Beard on the Public Voice of Women: Language and misogyny

[London Review of Books Speech](#)

But the more I have looked at the threats and insults that women have received, the more I have found that they fit into the old patterns I've been talking about. For a start it doesn't much matter what line you take as a woman, if you venture into traditional male territory, the abuse comes anyway. It's not *what* you say that prompts it, it's the fact you're saying it. And that matches the detail of the threats themselves. A significant subsection is directed at silencing the woman – 'Shut up you bitch' is a fairly common refrain. Or it promises to remove the capacity of the woman to speak. 'I'm going to cut off your head and rape it' was one tweet I got. 'Headlessfemalepig' was the Twitter name chosen by someone threatening an American journalist. 'You should have your tongue ripped out' was tweeted to another journalist. In its crude, aggressive way, this is about keeping, or getting, women out of man's talk.

Comments

- As a young woman I feel I am very robust and strong, these experiences only fuel my fire to unwaveringly be myself and fight the oppression. Having said that, I have felt shame, I have been told it was my own fault by friends and it did influence me and affect me. For a long time I did think it was my fault.
- Employers need to be more mindful of sexist attitudes in the workplace. I work for a company that will not allow women workers to wear trousers even though a part of our job is climbing ladders to place lighting fixtures.

Comments

- I especially hate the way men honk their horns at me. Sometimes they're a lot older than me and ask me out. I just want to get where I need to go in peace. I've gone as far as changing the route I walk home to avoid it. I don't feel particularly pretty or think I'm at all attractive so I don't understand why men keep doing it. I don't wear revealing clothing: usually T-shirts and jeans. Sometimes tank tops but they have 2-3" straps and if they fall too low and show even a hint of cleavage I wear a second tank top underneath
- My religious belief requires me to dress modestly and wear a veil, so I'm always annoyed and a tad disappointed when sexist comments/ advances are perpetrated by men who have the same faith as me. In fact, when surrounded by strangers, I feel more comfortable around men who don't share my belief because they are seemingly more respectful towards me.

Comments

- I think this is a real issue that impacts a lot of women, especially younger women who people assume are 'up for it'. Many people don't realise that they are being offensive, to guys it is just an ego boosting attention seeking exercise where they want the flattery of a response, they don't realise it's harmful. I think there are bigger structural issues here - the sheer frequency of comments by so many different men suggest that it's the case. There are some seriously damaging gender roles being played out here.

Comments

- I am a runner and I am referring to being shouted at, honked at, whistled at, leered at and followed (once). This happens ALL the time - I used to live in London and it didn't happen nearly as much as it does in Sheffield. This kind of harassment might not be explicitly sexual but I see it as such - I am being objectified and being made to feel as such. It's abusive because it's nasty, unwarranted, and usually from a car/van - so I am totally powerless.
- This survey seems to ignore the much wider implication of subtle sexism particularly at work but in all places: women are expected to make the tea/coffee, take minutes in meetings and tidy/clear up after meetings. This is very apparent in a male dominated field, such as engineering.

It isn't just you.....or us



Ways forward

- Don't shut up
- Do tell
- Use social media as a public space where women can have voices
- Don't accept that sexist jokes and assumptions are not important – they are the start of a continuum that ends with sexual murder
- Don't censor yourself or your behaviour
- Do tell men to censor themselves and their behaviour
- Ask good men to actively oppose sexism otherwise they are compliant with it
- Believe women and girls – think of Rotherham
- Don't leave 'masculine hegemony' unquestioned, practice 'voluntary insubordination' (Howe 2008: 218)
- Words matter because that is how we think before we act
- Just because it is how it is, doesn't mean that's how it has to be