

# Contents

Foreword from Jonathan Evison, PCC for Humberside	3
Foreword from Rachel Cook, Chief Executive, OPCC Humberside	4
Executive summary	5
Introduction	6
Methodology	10
Women and girls who took part	14
Key Facts – Violence scores for women and girls	15
Violence against women in Humberside before their 18th birthday	16
Violence against women in Humberside since their 18th birthday	24
Violence against 16- and 17-year-old girls in Humberside	35
Attitudinal data findings	46
Voices of professionals	50
Key issues to consider	63
Recommendations	65
Appendix Contents	67



### **Foreword**

I commissioned this survey because I care about our local communities, and I wish to better understand the scale and impact of violence disproportionately affecting women and girls in our Humber area so that we can make more informed decisions about how to prevent and reduce male violence and abuse. We must all be prepared, on a partnership basis, to prioritise tackling violence against women and girls; one of the key priorities in my Police and Crime Plan and the focus of this excellent report from leading researcher Dr Jessica Taylor and the team at VictimFocus.

I am grateful for the courage and commitment of all the women and girls who took the time to respond to this survey, your experiences form the basis for this report and will now act as a catalyst for change. I intend for this report to be shared widely, not just within our local Humber area but nationally to highlight the recommendations that I'm sure other Police Forces, criminal justice agencies and key partners will also wish to implement and learn from – we all need to be aware of what is happening, sometimes right in front of us, affecting the lives of women and girls.

This is not something the police and other agencies can solve on their own, misogyny has been ingrained in our culture for centuries and it requires a fundamental shift in societal attitudes and education so that we all actively ensure future generations are raised to treat women with respect. We need women and girls to feel safe and listened to in coming forward to report abuse and we need our criminal justice system to work effectively for everyone.

There is already good work happening across our area, but there is much more still to do.

I sincerely hope this report will help facilitate discussions and ultimately long-term outcomes in addressing male violence against women and girls.

Jonathan Evison
Police & Crime Commissioner for Humberside





### Foreword



The reality of Violence against Women and Girls is felt all around us. Even more so over the past year with heightened media coverage of the dreadful loss of lives we have seen.

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner has been looking at this specific issue for some time now. We have invested in resources to look at long term solutions to address domestic abuse, but this work goes far beyond violence in the home. We will use the results of this survey to consider how we tackle violence against women and girls, how we make accessing support a viable option, how we ensure our partners work cohesively to make maximum impact.

Thank you to all those who took the time to take part and share the survey. In particular thank you to Dr Jessica Taylor and all other women just like Jessica, who challenge misogyny, support women and girls and care enough to ensure we sit up and listen to women's voices.

Collectively we can all take action to address the issue of male violence, now is the time to take action, let's not waste the opportunity.

Rachel Cook
Chief Executive, OPCC Humberside



# **Executive summary**

The wealth of data we were privileged to present here demonstrates that violence against women and girls is commonplace, and whilst women and girls could identify their experiences here, and were highly likely to disclose to trusted people around them, they were unlikely to report crimes to Humberside police. Disclosure rates, reporting rates, and the reasons given for not reporting were almost identical across adult women and teenage girls, which suggests enduring and familiar reasons and barriers to trusting police and wider criminal justice processes. This also meant that the majority of women and girls in the datasets had not had much experience with Humberside Police, as they never felt confident or supported enough to report a crime.

Perpetrators were overwhelmingly male, but perpetrator relationships to women and girls were considerably different to what we expected to see. Male friends and male strangers featured heavily as perpetrators of sexual violence and other forms of violence such as catcalling and digital sexual violence. This raises some important questions about our assumptions that the majority of sexual violence and abuse of women and girls is being committed by partners and ex-partners.

Interviews with professionals raised important practice and procedural issues to consider and address, painting a complex picture of barriers and concerns that women and girls have when understanding and deciding whether to report crimes against them to Humberside Police. We present a range of recommendations towards the end of this report, and have included data in the appendix which may be useful for partner agencies, professionals, and grassroots organisations.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank every woman and girl who took part anonymously. Your experiences and voices will be used to press for much needed, overdue change. Thank you also, to each professional who took part confidentially; your views and ideas supported the voices of local women and girls, and leant further weight to their concerns and experiences.

The VictimFocus team and I would like to thank OPCC Humberside and Humberside Police for their ongoing work, reflective attitude, and openness when discussing the improvements needed to rebuild the trust and confidence of women and girls in their force area, who are currently faced with numerous fears, barriers, attitudes, and beliefs that individually and systemically stop them from accessing justice.

Dr Jessica Taylor Director, VictimFocus





### Introduction

This report sets out detailed findings from a large project commissioned by Humberside Police and Crime Commissioner to better understand the experiences, thoughts, and feelings of local women and girls about violence, abuse, and trust in local criminal justice services.

Violence against women and girls is common and extensive. It exists and oppresses millions of women and girls on a global scale, with most perpetrators being male (UN, 2021). This pattern is replicated in all countries in the world, and reliably replicated in UK data, regional data and local data.

In the Humber area (East Riding, Hull, North and North East Lincolnshire) there are just under 933,000 people, with females making up 51% of the population (HMICFRS, 2022). There are no official statistics nationally or regionally regarding transgender populations, however, Stonewall (2017) suggest the best estimate at the moment is that around 1% of the population may identify as transgender or non-binary.

Violence against women and girls is common, locally. In respect of Police recorded Domestic Abuse (DA), last year (April 20 – March 21) Humberside Police was ranked 8th nationally in the per 1,000 rate[1], for recorded DA Incidents and Crimes[2] and 9th in per 1,000 rate for crimes[3]. However, it should be noted that the per 1,000 rate has stayed consistent in the previous three years (ONS, 2021,2020,2019). A freedom of information request[4] (FOI) submitted in August 2021, revealed that between January 2018 and Dec 2020 a total of 34, 702 (72%) crimes were recorded with a DA flag, where the victim was recorded as female.

It is important to note that data often only relates to reported crimes, and that most women and girls do not report violent crimes against them. Reporting of domestic and sexual violence crimes has been reducing for several years, and is now estimated to be around 11% (CSEW, 2017). However, when 22,419 women were surveyed in 2021 by VictimFocus, it was found that only 8% of women had reported physical and sexual violence to the police, and only 2% of women had reported harassment, stalking and digital violence to the police.

A report from the Home Office (2019) stated that just 1.9% of reports of rape end in a prosecution.



### Introduction



#### Women's trust and confidence in police

For decades, women and girls have struggled with their relationship with police and criminal justice agencies. This has been evidenced in the psychological literature since 1960, when feminist scholars and social scientists started to explore rape, domestic abuse and violence against women and girls.

In Campbell (2005) and Campbell and Raja (2005) women were asked to self-report their psychological health resulting from their contact with the criminal justice system and the findings showed the impact of the process on the person.

87% of women said that they felt bad about themselves, and 73% reported feeling guilty and reported that they blamed themselves. 89% of women felt violated, and 80% were reluctant to seek further help due to the experience of the criminal justice system (Campbell et al., 2009). It has been stated that women and girls are measuring themselves against rape myths and victim stereotypes to consider whether they will be believed or not (Campbell et al., 2009; Sleath, 2011). However, rather than framing this as suspicion, or an unjust lack of trust in the criminal justice process, academic research has found that the credibility of the woman can become the focus of the investigation and/or trial. Any stereotypical beliefs presented may be utilised to the advantage of the defendant to undermine the position and credibility of the victim as well as influencing perceptions of the victim's culpability (Sleath, 2014).

Arguably, one of the most pervasive factors to influence the perceptions of women and girls, police officers, and other professionals in the criminal justice system, underpinning and resulting in the blaming of women who have been subjected to rape or sexual assault is the notion of the unequivocal or credible victim (Christie, 1986; Taylor, 2020).



#### Sexual violence in which the woman is

Injured, perceived as innocent of all blame, reported the offence, was sober and aware, did not do anything that was perceived to be 'asking for it' or lying, is not a previous victim, is not overtly sexually active, has no connection to the offender, was not wearing revealing clothing, had not flirted or communicated with the offender prior to the sexual violence, does not contradict gender role norms, is severely impacted by the offence. fully supports prosection, provides forensic samples,

#### Sexual violence in which the offender and offence is:

Physically violent, occurs in a nunfamiliar area, is a stranger to the victim, uses weapons or items, had witnesses who will provide statements.

#### Sexual violence in which the woman:

Conforms to the ideal stereotype described above and is perceived as completely innocent of any blame.

#### Sexual violence in which the offender and offence is:

Non-stereotypical, offender is a professional or authority figure, is attractive or well-respected, offence did not include weapons or overt violence, occurred in a familiar setting, knew the victim, did not have witnesses.

Sexual violence in which the woman does not conform to the ideal victim stereotype described in the first box. Any violation of the ideal stereotypes could increase blame.

Sexual violence in which the offender and offence conforms to the classic rape stereotype described in the first box.

Sexual violence in which the woman does not conform to the ideal victim stereotype described in the first box. Any violation of the ideal stereotypes could increase blame.

> Sexual violence in which the offender and offence does not conform to the classic rape stereotype described in the first box.

A woman who conforms to the ideal stereotype of a victim.

An offence and offender type that conforms to the classic rape stereotype

A woman who conforms to the ideal stereotype of a victim.

An offence and offender type that does not conform to the classic rape stereotype.

A woman who does not conform to the ideal stereotype of a victim.

An offence and offender type that conforms to the classic rape stereotype.

A woman who does not conform to the ideal stereotype of a victim.

An offence and offender type that does not conform to the classic rape stereotype.

# Hierarchy of victim blaming women

In the model above, Taylor argues that there is a hierarchy of women and girls who are subjected to violence and abuse. To be taken seriously, believed, and supported, she must conform to strict and impossible expectations which would require her to be the ideal victim, subjected to the ideal crime by the ideal perpetrator. Any deviation from these ideals, and victim blaming of her will increase.

Sleath (2014) and Taylor (2020) argue that derogatory and inaccurate attitudes and beliefs about violence against women and girls are just as common in police professionals as in the lay public. Due to this, they are likely to be having an impact on the way women and girls are being perceived and supported. It is therefore of great importance to explore the current experience and feelings of women and girls subjected to male violence – internationally, nationally, and locally.



# Aims of this study

To understand the experiences of women and girls living in the Humberside area in relation to physical violence, sexual violence, harassment, stalking, digital violence, coercive control, forced marriage, FGM, exploitation, and trafficking

To seek a better understanding of trust and confidence in reporting VAWG to Humberside Police

2



To seek a better understanding of the attitudes and beliefs towards VAWG of women and girls in Humberside

To explore professional experiences of support women and girls when they disclose or report VAWG crimes

4

To consider
recommendations and
improvements that could be
made to address violence
against women and girls
better, and increase trust
and confidence of women
and girls in police and
criminal justice services



CHALLENGE | CHANGE | INFLUENCE

# Methodology



#### Adaptations from the original VictimFocus study

There were some key adaptations and changes from the original study:

- 1. This questionnaire included 16- and 17-year-old girls at the request of the Police and Crime Commissioner
- 2. Harassment and stalking were more clearly defined and included as extra items
- 3. Coercive control was included and expanded as extra items
- 4. Perpetrators of each crime type were changed from free text boxes to multiple-choice questions with an added box for perpetrators that were not included in the item options
- 5. A multiple-choice question was added to ask women and girls what stopped from reporting the crimes they were subjected to, to the police

An attitudinal scale from the original study remained in this questionnaire, to explore women's feelings and attitudes towards a range of relevant issues such as self-blame, trust in police and whether they would report again.



# Methodology

#### Questionnaire procedure

The questionnaire was open to any women and girls aged 16 or over who resided in the Humber area. Women and girls with no experience of violence or abuse were also encouraged to take part. There were no other participant criteria.

Between 1st October 2021 and 1st January 2022, a questionnaire was circulated amongst a wide range of outlets, services, and provisions to advertise the project to as many women and girls as possible.

Two PDF posters were created, along with an information sheet and template email that were circulated with the QR codes and links to the questionnaire. To ensure a wide range of respondents, the questionnaire and posters were shared across:

- Secondary schools
- · University and college populations
- · Large employers and private companies in Humber
- Private elderly care homes
- Charities
- Community groups
- Local social media groups
- Local press social media pages
- PCC local contacts
- VictimFocus local contacts

We are grateful for the support of everyone who helped to share the questionnaire link and/or posters with women and girls.







# Why language is important

This questionnaire was based on, and adapted from, the VictimFocus 'I thought it was just a part of life' study, which surveyed over 22,000 UK women in 2020 and 2021.

The study had a simple but effective design based on findings from several previous studies which found that when researchers use more accessible language about abuse and violence, the results more accurately reflect the reality of the participants.

Instead of asking commonly used questions such as 'Have you ever been raped?' or 'Have you ever been subjected to domestic abuse?' the study directly described each instance of violence or abuse that would constitute those crimes.

The results of the VictimFocus study suggest that when researchers use accessible and jargon-free items (such as those in the table adjacent), women and girls are more likely to accurately respond than when politicised and impactful terms such as 'rape' and 'domestic abuse' are used.

Authors of the 2007 Sexual Experiences Survey found that when asking large samples about their sexual experiences, the reporting of rape differed based on whether women were asked directly if they had ever been 'raped' versus asking them if they had 'ever been forced to have sex without consent'.

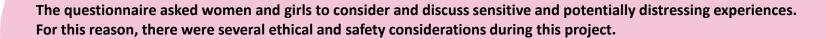
Miller et al. (2011) argued that women differ in their responses depending on language used, and that there was significant confusion amongst women about whether they had been subjected to rape or sexual assault when those terms were used.



Common research terminology	Our alternative terminology
Have you ever been raped?	Have you been made to have sex that you didn't want to have?  Have you been forced to have sex when you already said no?  Have you been made to have sex that you didn't consent to?
Have you ever been subjected to domestic abuse?	Have you been punched, slapped, or hit?  Have you been strangled, choked, or grabbed around the neck?  Have you been pushed or shoved?  Have you been thrown across a room or down a flight of stairs?



# **Ethical practice**





#### **Clear informed consent**

All women and girls were asked whether they understood the nature of the questionnaire, the content, the way it might make them feel and whether they freely wanted to take part or not. Language was clear and accessible and gave women and girls the option not to take part if they felt uncomfortable.

#### Clear research adverts

Posters circulated for women and girls contained clear jargon-free language which explained the purpose of the study.

#### No deception

Posters, emails, and information sheets contained no deception or generalised information.

#### Clear information about participant rights

Information sheets and consent forms included clear and detailed information about the rights of the participant

#### Self-generated codes to remove data

All participants were asked to give a self-generated code made up of a random word and a number. This could then be used to request researchers to remove their data and responses.

#### **Anonymous participation**

Women and girls were not asked any identifying information and were able to take part completely anonymously.

#### Signposting and support

Before taking part, and after completion of the questionnaire, all women and girls saw a screen that provided a long list of local and national support services if they wanted to talk about the violence they had been subjected to.

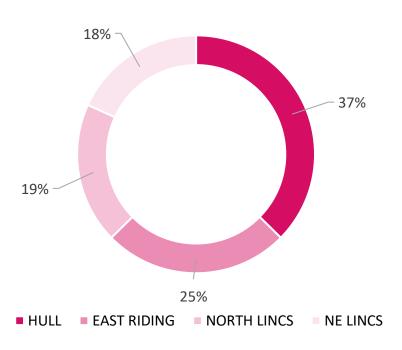


# Women and girls who took part

- The all-female sample is made up of 1425 adult women and 202 girls aged 16 and 17 years old residing in the Humber area.
- 98% of adult women and 91% of teen girls identified as women/girls. 2% of adult women identified as non-binary or other. 7% of teen girls identified as non-binary and 2% identified as other.
- 95% of adult women and 91% of teen girls were White British.
- 68% of adult women and 67% of teen girls had no religion.
- 80% of adult women and 57% of teen girls were heterosexual.
- 18% of adult women and 17% of teen girls had one or more disabilities.

All other sample data is included within the appendix document

#### **PARTICIPANTS**



For full sample breakdown, please see appendix report



# Violence scores of women and girls

Sample	Number subjected to multiple acts of violence	% Subjected to multiple acts of violence	Average score	Range scores	Median score	% Subjected to one act of violence	% Never subjected to any violence
16- and 17-year- old girls (N=202)	135	67%	90	50-169	83	29%	4%
Adult women (experiences from childhood) (N=1425)	1177	82.5%	85	50-205	79	15.5%	2%
Adult women (experiences from adulthood) (N=1425)	984	69%	94	50-194	86	29%	2%







# Violence against women before 18



Only 2% of women reported never being subjected to any form of violence or abuse before their 18th birthday.

82.5% of this sample reported being subjected to multiple acts of violence and abuse in childhood, with an average score of 85.

This roughly equates to between 2-35 experiences of violence and abuse each for 1177 women.

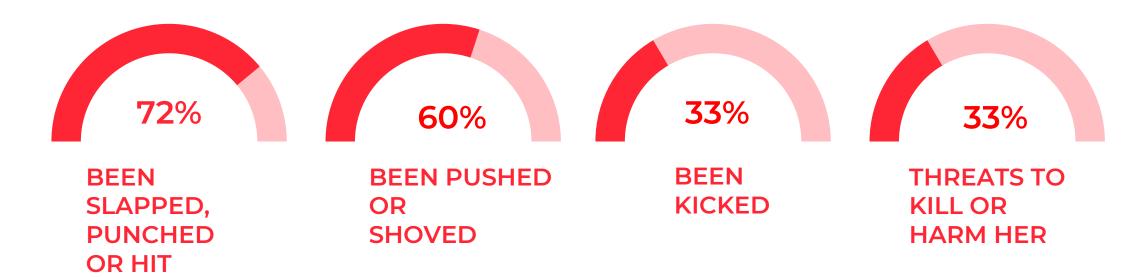
A potential range of 2354 to 41,195 largely unreported offences against 1177 women were stated in the data.



### Physical violence against women before 18

Violence against women before their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday was common, with the four top forms of physical violence presented below. Further, more than 1 in 5 women reported being strangled/choked, thrown across a room/downstairs, been bitten, been spat at or threats to harm someone they love.







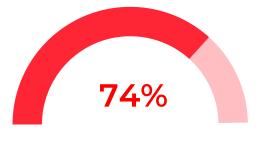
### Sexual violence against women before 18

Sexual violence against women before their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday was common, with the four top forms of abuse or violence presented below. Further, more than 1 in 5 women reported being subjected to sexual activity before 13 years old, forced or coerced into oral sex, forced or coerced into masturbation, and given drugs or alcohol before being forced into sexual activity.

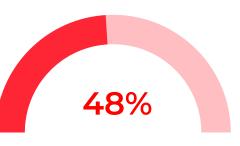




SEXUAL HARASSMENT (VERBAL OR PHYSICAL)



TOUCHED MY BODY INAPPROPRIATELY



KISSED ME WITHOUT CONSENT



RAPED:
MANIPULATED
INTO
PENETRATIVE
SEX I DID NOT
CONSENT TO

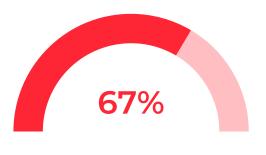




### Coercive control against women before 18

Coercive control against women before their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday was common, with the four top forms of coercive control violence presented below. Further, more than 1 in 4 women were stopped from seeing friends, told where they could go, had their social media checked or were being told that their abuser would kill themselves if they didn't do what they were told.

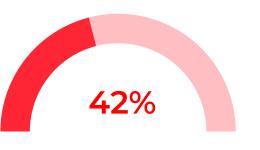




INSULTED AND PUT DOWN TO MAKE ME FEEL BAD



TOLD WHAT WEAR OR HOW TO DRESS



BEING ACCUSED
OF BEING
MENTALLY ILL
WHEN
SOMEONE IS
ABUSIVE TO
ME



BEING ACCUSED OF CHEATING/ HAVING A JEALOUS PARTNER



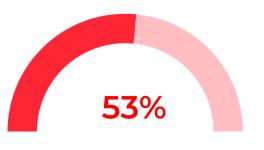
### Other violence against women before 18

Other violence against women before their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday was common, with the four top forms of violence presented below. Further, more than 1 in 5 women reported receiving abusive comments about her body, being stalked online, being sent items or gifts by a stalker, and someone becoming obsessed with them.

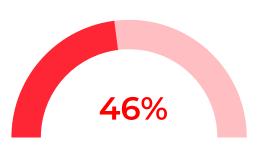




CATCALLED IN THE STREET



RECEIVED SEXUAL OR INAPPROPRIATE COMMENTS



RECEIVED UNSOLICITED NUDE FROM MALE



STALKED OR FOLLOWED IN PERSON



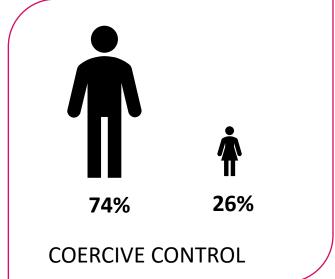


# **Before 18: Perpetrators**









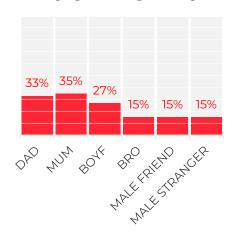


For full findings of all items, please see appendix report

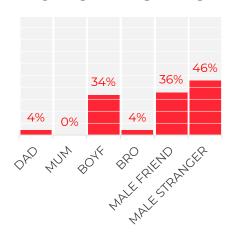


## **Before 18: Perpetrators**

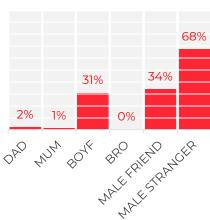
#### PHYSICAL VIOLENCE



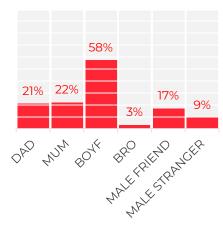
#### **SEXUAL VIOLENCE**



#### **OTHER VIOLENCE**



#### **COERCIVE CONTROL**



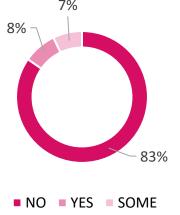


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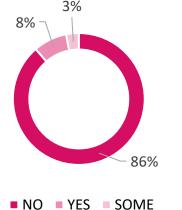


# Before 18: reporting and disclosure

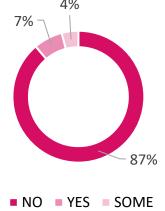
#### REPORTED PHYSICAL VIOLENCE



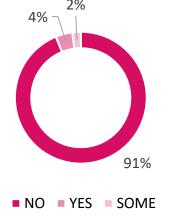
#### REPORTED SEXUAL VIOLENCE



#### REPORTED OTHER VIOLENCE



#### REPORTED COERCIVE CONTROL







# Violence against women after 18



Only 2% of women reported never being subjected to any form of violence or abuse since their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

69% of this sample reported being subjected to multiple acts of violence and abuse in adulthood, with an average score of 94.

This roughly equates to between 2-44 experiences of violence and abuse each for 984 women.

A potential range of 1968-43,296 largely unreported offences against 984 girls were stated in the data.



### Physical violence against women after 18

Violence against women after their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday was common, with the four top forms of violence presented below. Further, more than 1 in 5 women reported being strangled/choked, thrown across a room/downstairs, been bitten, been spat at or threats to harm someone they love.

**SHOVED** 









SLAPPED, **PUNCHED OR HIT** 

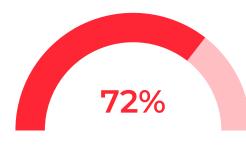




### Sexual violence against women after 18

Sexual violence against women after their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday was common, with the four top forms of abuse or violence presented below. Further, more than 1 in 4 women reported waking up to their male partner having sex with them whilst they were asleep, being forced to perform a sex act, being threatened to have penetrative sex, and being subjected to violent sex where they were strangled, hit, kicked or spat at.

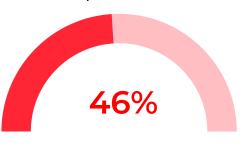




SEXUAL HARASSMENT (VERBAL OR PHYSICAL)



TOUCHED MY BODY INAPPROPRIATELY



KISSED ME WITHOUT CONSENT



RAPED:
MANIPULATED
INTO
PENETRATIVE
SEX I DID NOT
CONSENT TO





### Coercive control against women after 18

Coercive control against women after their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday was common, with the four top forms of coercive control violence presented below. Further, more than 1 in 3 women were stopped from seeing friends and family, had their phone and emails checked, were told where they could go/not go, and had partners who threatened to kill themselves unless she did what she was told.





INSULTED AND PUT DOWN TO MAKE ME FEEL BAD



TOLD WHAT WEAR OR HOW TO DRESS



BEING ACCUSED
OF BEING
MENTALLY ILL
WHEN
SOMEONE IS
ABUSIVE TO
ME



BEING ACCUSED OF CHEATING/ HAVING A JEALOUS PARTNER



For full findings of all items, please see appendix report

### Other violence against women after 18

Other violence against women after their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday was common, with the four top forms of violence presented below. Further, more than 1 in 5 women reported receiving abusive comments about her body, being stalked in person, stalking online, had items sent to her without consent, had letters sent to her and followed to her home/work.

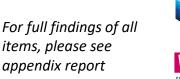












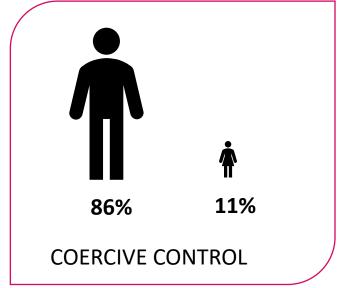


# **After 18: Perpetrators**









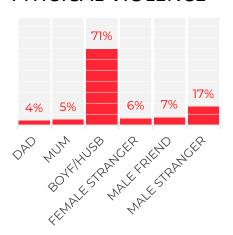


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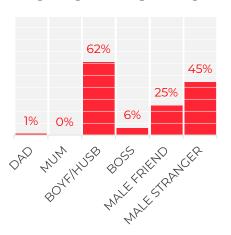


# **After 18: Perpetrators**

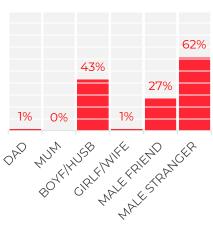
#### PHYSICAL VIOLENCE



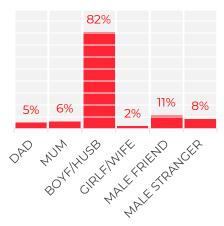
#### **SEXUAL VIOLENCE**



#### **OTHER VIOLENCE**



#### **COERCIVE CONTROL**



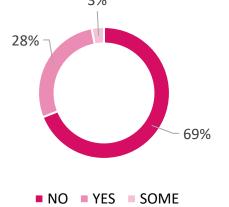


For full findings of all items, please see appendix report

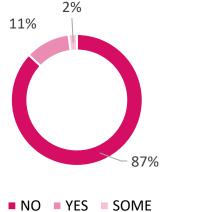


# After 18: reporting and disclosure

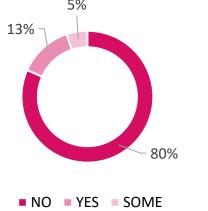
#### REPORTED PHYSICAL VIOLENCE



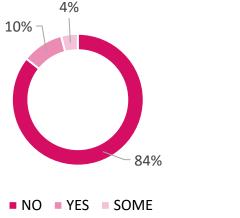
#### REPORTED SEXUAL VIOLENCE



#### REPORTED OTHER VIOLENCE



#### REPORTED COERCIVE CONTROL







# Reasons for not reporting violence: Adult women



If you have not reported anything to the police, what stopped you from reporting? Select as many as you like.

I didn't think anyone would believe me	32%
I thought I would be blamed	31%
I didn't know it was a crime	42%
I didn't know how to report it to the police	14%
I was too embarrassed	42%
I was worried what would happen to the person who did it to me	19%
I thought I would be judged	36%
I didn't want my parents to find out	19%
I was worried what the perpetrator would do to me if I reported	30%
them	
I wanted to get over it without reporting it	38%
I was worried how my friends would react	13%
I was worried I would get in trouble with the police	7%
Other (Please Specify)	16%



# Analysis of findings from adult women

The adult women sample reported being subjected to a vast array of violent crimes. The most commonly reported experiences in childhood were being slapped/punched (72%), sexual harassment (71%), sexual assault (74%), rape (36%), being catcalled (87%), receiving sexual and inappropriate comments (53%), being stalked (41%), receiving pictures of male genitals (46%), and coercive control (67%).

In contrast, the rarest forms of violence against women in their childhood were being forced to become pregnant (2%), being forced to have a termination (4%), being attacked which caused the miscarriage of a pregnancy (2%), being forced to watch child abuse imagery (1%), being trafficked (1%), female genital mutilation (0%), forced marriage (1%), and videos of the girl being sexually abused uploaded to internet (2%).

In adulthood, the most commonly reported experiences were being slapped/punched (52%), pushed over/shoved (56%), strangled/choked (31%), item thrown at woman (47%), threats to kill or harm (39%), sexual harassment (72%), sexual assault (75%), woke up to partner having penetrative sex with her (37%), rape (48%), being catcalled (89%), receiving pictures of male genitals (57%), receiving sexual inappropriate comments (63%), being stalked (41%), and coercive control (70%).

In contrast, the rarest forms of violence against women in adulthood were being attacked in pregnancy which caused a miscarriage (3%), being trafficked (1%), being forced to watch others have sex (5%), FGM (0%), forced marriage (0%), and videos of the woman being sexually abused uploaded to internet (2%).

Reporting rates were generally low, whereas disclosure rates were consistently high. Despite the low reporting rates, they were higher than estimates from the Crime Survey England and Wales (2017), which suggests only around 11% report to the police. Disclosure rates were 4-5 times higher than reporting rates, suggesting that women and girls are more comfortable disclosing to others than formally reporting a crime.



# Analysis of findings from adult women

In childhood, 15% of women reported physical abuse crimes, 11% of women reported sexual abuse crimes, 11% reported other abuse crimes and 6% reported coercive control type crimes.

In adulthood, reporting rates increased significantly for some crime types. 31% of women reported the physical abuse crimes, 13% reported sexual abuse crimes, 18% reported other abuse crimes and 14% reported coercive control type crimes.

By contrast, 48% of women said that they disclosed the violence to someone else during childhood, and 76% said that they disclosed the violence to someone else during adulthood.

#### **Perpetrators**

Across all types of violence in both adulthood and childhood, most perpetrators were male.

In childhood, 81% of perpetrators of violence against women were male. In adulthood, 90% of perpetrators of violence against women were male.

In childhood, the most common perpetrators of violence against girls were male strangers, male friends, boyfriends, ex-boyfriends, fathers, and mothers. As childhood ends, mothers cease to feature as perpetrators in this sample. This is similar for fathers.

In adulthood, the most common perpetrators of violence against women were husbands, boyfriends and male exes, male friends, and male strangers.

#### **Reasons for not reporting**

Women reported a broad range of reasons for not reporting their experiences to Humberside Police. In childhood, the most common reasons for not reporting violence against them was not knowing it was a crime (55%), embarrassment (39%), and feeling no one would believe them (35%). This did not differ significantly in adulthood, where the most common reasons were similar; not knowing it was a crime (42%), embarrassment (42%), wanting to get over it without reporting (38%), fear of judgement (36%), and feeling no one would believe them (32%).



# Violence against girls aged 16-17



Only 4% of 16- and 17-year-old girls reported never being subjected to any form of violence or abuse since birth.

67% of this sample reported being subjected to multiple acts of violence, with an average score of 90.

This roughly equates to between 2-40 experiences of violence and abuse each for 135 girls.

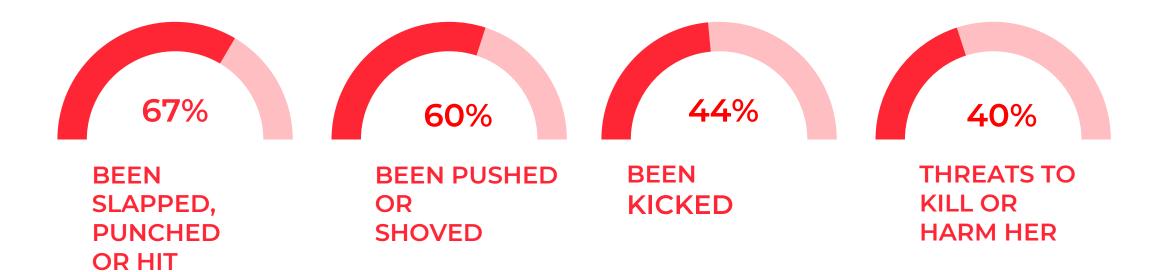
A potential range of 270-5360 largely unreported offences against 135 teen girls were stated in the data.

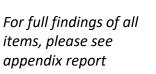


### Physical violence against teen girls

Violence against teen girls was common, with the four top forms of violence presented below. Further, more than 1 in 5 girls reported being strangled/choked, thrown across a room or down stairs, being bitten and being spat at.









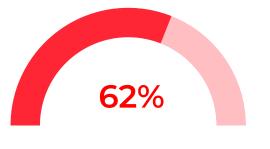
### Sexual violence against teen girls

Sexual violence against teen girls was common, with the four top forms of abuse or violence presented below. Further, more than 1 in 5 were subjected to sex before 13 years old, and were forced or coerced into oral sex and masturbation.





SEXUAL HARASSMENT (VERBAL OR PHYSICAL)



TOUCHED MY BODY INAPPROPRIATELY



KISSED ME WITHOUT CONSENT



RAPED:
MANIPULATED
INTO
PENETRATIVE
SEX I DID NOT
CONSENT TO



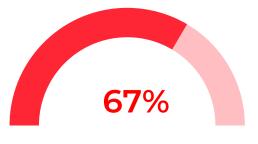
## Coercive control against teen girls

Coercive control against teen girls was common, with the four top forms of coercive control violence presented below. Further, more than 1 in 4 teen girls reported being stopped from seeing family and friends, being controlled, having their sex lives controlled, and a partner threatening to kill themselves if they do not do what they wanted.

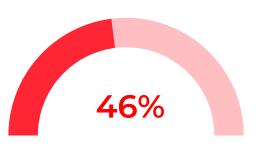




INSULTED AND PUT DOWN TO MAKE ME FEEL BAD



TOLD WHAT WEAR OR HOW TO DRESS



BEING ACCUSED
OF BEING
MENTALLY ILL
WHEN
SOMEONE IS
ABUSIVE TO
ME



HAD SOMEONE CHECKING MY PHONE OR EMAIL



### Other violence against teen girls

Other violence against teen girls was common, with the four top forms of violence presented below. Further, more than 1 in 4 girls reported receiving a death threat online, receiving a rape threat online, receiving abusive comments about their body, being stalked online and being sent unwanted gifts and letters.

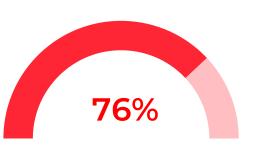




**CATCALLED** IN THE **STREET** 



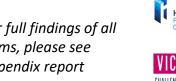
**RECEIVED SEXUAL OR** INAPPROPRIATE **COMMENTS** 

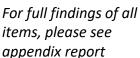


**RECEIVED UNSOLICITED NUDE FROM MALE** 



STALKED OR **FOLLOWED** IN PERSON



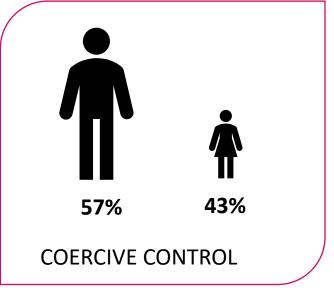


## Teen girls: Perpetrators









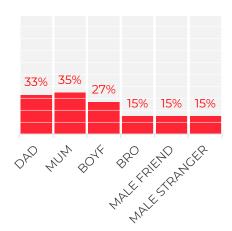


For full findings of all items, please see appendix report

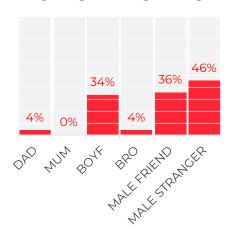


## Teen girls: Perpetrators

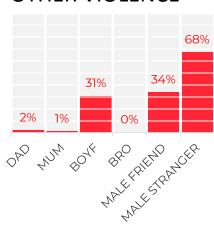
### PHYSICAL VIOLENCE



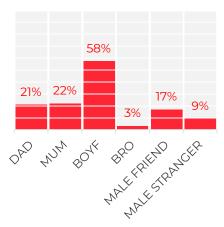
### **SEXUAL VIOLENCE**



### **OTHER VIOLENCE**



### **COERCIVE CONTROL**



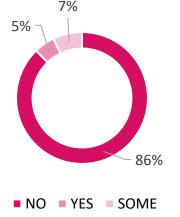


For full findings of all items, please see appendix report

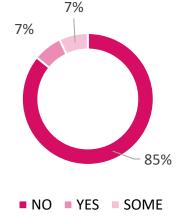


## Teen girls: reporting and disclosure

### REPORTED PHYSICAL VIOLENCE

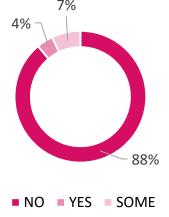


### REPORTED SEXUAL VIOLENCE

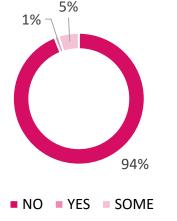


## For full findings of all items, please see appendix report

### REPORTED OTHER VIOLENCE



### REPORTED COERCIVE CONTROL





# Reasons for not reporting violence: Teen girls



If you have not reported anything to the police, what stopped you from reporting? Select as many as you like.

1		
	I didn't think anyone would believe me	32%
	I thought I would be blamed	30%
	I didn't know it was a crime	59%
	I didn't know how to report it to the police	20%
	I was too embarrassed	35%
	I was worried what would happen to the person who did it to me	27%
	I thought I would be judged	27%
	I didn't want my parents to find out	38%
	I was worried what the perpetrator would do to me if I reported them	23%
	I wanted to get over it without reporting it	40%
	I was worried how my friends would react	13%
	I was worried I would get in trouble with the police	17%
	Other (Please Specify)	18%



## Analysis of findings from teen girls



### **Violence**

The sample of 16- and 17-year-old girls reported a breadth of experiences of being subjected to violence. The most common forms of violence committed against them were being slapped/hit (67%), pushed/shoved (40%), strangled/choked (30%), threats to kill or harm (40%), being sexually harassed (79%), sexual assault (62%), rape (26%), being catcalled (91%), receiving pictures of male genitals (76%), receiving sexual inappropriate comments (83%), being stalked (49%), and coercive control (86%). The rarest forms of violence reported in this sample were being forced into pregnancy (2%), forced to have a termination (3%), being attacked whilst pregnant which caused a miscarriage (1%), being forced to view child abuse images (3%), being trafficked (1%), FGM (1%), forced marriage (0%), and videos of the girl being sexually abused being uploaded to the internet (2%).

### **Perpetrators**

Across all types of violence against 16- and 17-year-old girls, most perpetrators were male (73%). This is lower than the adult women sample, for which male perpetrators made up 81-90% of perpetrators.

In this sample, the most common perpetrators of violence against girls were male strangers, male friends, boyfriends, ex-boyfriends, fathers, and mothers. The most common perpetrator was boyfriends and ex-boyfriends.



## Analysis of findings from teen girls



### Reporting and disclosure rates

Reporting rates were generally low, whereas disclosure rates were consistently high. Reporting rates were consistent with estimates from the CSEW (2017), which suggests only around 11% report to the police. Disclosure rates were 6 times higher than reporting rates, suggesting that 16- and 17-year-old girls are more comfortable disclosing to others than formally reporting a crime. Reporting rates were significantly lower in teen girls than adult women. 12% of girls reported physical abuse crimes, 14% of girls reported sexual abuse crimes, 11% reported other abuse crimes and 1% reported coercive control type crimes. By contrast, 64% of girls said that they disclosed the violence to someone else, which was significantly higher than disclosure rates in adult women.

### **Reasons for not reporting**

Teen girls reported a broad range of reasons for not reporting their experiences to Humberside Police. The most common reasons for not reporting violence against them were not knowing it was a crime (59%), wanting to get over it without reporting (40%), not wanting their parents to find out what had happened (38%), embarrassment (35%), and feeling no one would believe them (32%). As can be seen from this data, the reasons for reporting are very similar to those given by adult women.



## Attitudinal findings: adult women

N=1425

Only 5% of women agreed with the item

'I got justice for what was done to me.'

1

Only 6% of women agreed with the item

'There is enough support for women and girls subjected to violence and abuse'

2



Only 9% of women agreed with the item

'I trust the CJS does a good job at holding abusers accountable for VAWG' 51% of women agreed with the item

'I worry about it happening to me again'

4

40% of women agreed with the item

'I don't have enough information about my trauma responses to understand them'

5

For full findings of all attitudinal items, please see appendix report





## Attitudinal findings: teen girls

N=202

Only 1% of girls agreed with the item

'I got justice for what was done to me.'

1

Only 10% of girls agreed with the item

'There is enough support for women and girls subjected to violence and abuse'

2



Only 9% of girls agreed with the item

'I trust the CJS does a good job at holding abusers accountable for VAWG' 69% of girls agreed with the item

'I worry about it happening to me again'

4

52% of girls agreed with the item

'I don't have enough information about my trauma responses to understand them'

5

For full findings of all attitudinal items, please see appendix report





## Attitudinal findings: analysis

Across the attitudinal data from women and girls, there was a considerable amount of agreement. There were some key issues on which the two samples differed, which are discussed here.

Teen girls blamed themselves twice as much as adult women. 34% of girls versus 17% of women blamed themselves for the crimes committed against them before the age of 18 years old. However, adult women blamed themselves more for the crimes committed against them in adulthood (26%).

Girls and women had opposing answers about their mental health, with 60% of girls disagreeing with the item 'My mental health is generally good'. This is in contrast with adult women, of which 39% disagreed with this item. Potentially, the two items are linked.

Women and girls answered similarly when asked if they felt supported when they disclosed or reported their experience of violence. Both groups predominantly selected 'neutral' (40% of adult women, and 47% of teen girls).

This pattern was observed several times, in which women and girls responded in the same way. The item 'I got justice for what was done to me' resulted in 70% of girls and 73% of adult women disagreeing. They also agreed on the item 'I have been able to have happy and healthy relationships since the abuse' with 56% of girls and 57% of adult women agreeing. When asked to respond to the item 'I feel there is enough support for women and girls who have been subjected to violence and abuse', women and girls answered similarly in their disagreement. Only 6% of women and 10% of girls agreed that there is enough support.

Other items of strong similarity in responses included only 15% of girls and 15% of women agreeing that there is no stigma around being subjected to violence. 40% of women and 52% of girls agreed that they did not have enough information about trauma responses or coping mechanisms to understand them. 18% of women and 13% of girls suffer from long term illnesses or injuries from abuse or violence. 37% of women and 34% of girls agreed that the abuse or violence changed their sexuality or sexual preferences. 78% of women and 76% of girls disagreed that the criminal justice system does a good job at holding abusers and offenders accountable for VAWG.



## Attitudinal findings: analysis



When asked about the terms 'victim' and 'survivor' to describe women and girls, women were more likely to dislike the terms survivor (43%) and victim (44%), whereas girls felt the terms were neutral with 38% disliking survivor and 31% disliking victim.

There were some items where women and girls differed in their responses. When responding to the item 'If anything like this happened to me again, I would not report to the police' presented opposing answers. 50% of girls agreed that they would not report, but 38% of women said that they would report in future. Further, 69% of girls worry that they will be subjected to violence or abuse again, whereas 51% of women worry. Despite there being a significant difference, it must be noted that 1 in 2 adult women and more than 1 in 2 girls reported worrying about being subjected to violence again.

There was a significant difference in the responses to the item, 'I drink or take drugs to cope with the memories or feelings'. 17% of adult women agreed, but 27% of girls reported taking drugs or drinking to cope. This is of concern, as this sample is made up of children.

Finally, 50% of women agreed that they had used their experiences to do something positive, but only 32% of girls agreed. 69% of women and 39% of girls said they would be described as confident by others.



## Voices of professionals

A series of semi-structured interviews with fourteen professionals who work in the Humberside area, and one focus group with thirteen professionals who work in the Humberside area were conducted. This included police officers & detectives, counsellors & therapists, secondary school teachers, healthcare professionals, and other professionals who work directly with women and girls in Humberside.

The focus group conducted was one at the request of the Humberside Police and Crime Commissioner with the 'On-street tactical group' – a multiagency group mix of police, probation, and voluntary sector agencies working with women involved in on street prostitution & sex work. The interviews and focus group asked participants a series of questions about their professional experiences of receiving disclosures and supporting women and girls who have been subjected to any and all forms of violence and abuse.

Thematic analysis was performed across each of the interviews and focus groups to identify themes and trends in this qualitative data. Second coders reviewed the initial findings to ensure they were correct before 2nd order coding took place.

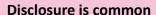
### Seven final themes (and twenty-six sub-themes) were identified and are as follows:

- 1. Disclosure & reporting
- 2. Perpetrators of VAWG
- 3. Victim's understanding and acknowledgement of crime
- 4. Police responses to VAWG
- 5. Wider justice responses to VAWG
- 6. Victim blaming and self-blame
- 7. Trust and relationship of women & girls with police

Examples of each theme and sub-theme are showcased and discussed.



## Disclosure & reporting



"To me and to the team more generally, I mean, every day, we will hear about some violence towards women"



"I think mostly women that I've worked with would be more likely to report being punched, or, you know, being assaulted physically assaulted than sexual crimes."

### Younger women and girls disclose more often

"younger women and girls... if anything, I would say the violence disclosures were more in that age group"

### Often disclosure doesn't lead to reporting

"I've found they are terrified of doing that [reporting violent and sexually violent crimes to the police]. Yeah. They feel that that there's no point..."

### Reporting process is hard logistically for victims

"I've had a situation just last week, where a young woman really had to sort of chase the police for an appointment for her to make a statement. And, and if it wasn't for her being proactive, you know, I don't know whether that would have gone anywhere..."

### Reporting process is hard psychologically for victims

"So women... feel that they'd have to relive things ... And I have had women kind of go so far, and then and then backtrack as well. Withdraw everything, because it just feels too difficult"





## Perpetrators of VAWG



### The overwhelming majority of perpetrators are male

"My experience is that the majority of perpetrators are male. Tends to be the overwhelming kind of majority of perpetrators from what I've experienced"

"I would say... somewhere, and it's the male partners who are perpetrating that [sexual and physical] violence, but we have also had fathers and fathers in law that have been but... that's tended to be more sort of coercive control."

### Sexual and physical violence likely to be intimate male partner

[on being asked about disclosures of violent & sexually violent crimes]

"Husbands and partners, yeah, and very rarely parents that have come across. Yeah, it does. It does tend to be disclosures about partners, husbands, and boyfriends."



## **Understanding & acknowledgement**



### Victims often don't realise that what they've been subjected to is a crime

"I was really shocked by how many female students would describe a rape to me. And, and have no comprehension that that was actually what they were describing..."

### Victims use descriptive language rather than correct terminology when disclosing

"I very, very rarely hear the word Rape ever. And women tend to soften or kind of lighten what they're saying and find that there's the more, kind of legal, formal language quite difficult to hear"

### Victims not knowing that it is a crime

"they don't see sexual abuse as a crime. Unfortunately, the don't see, you know, pressure being put on them by those you know, about their partner, ex partner, you know, to have sex with them. They don't see that as a form of abuse, either. I would say that's quite across the board."



## Police responses to VAWG



### Domestic violence perceived as mutual by police

"to the police and to the to people on the outside as though the violence is a two way thing. But the nature of domestic abuse, I guess is like when you get pushed and pushed and pushed and pushed."

### Police response towards victims

"I think the police can make them feel because they're asking questions like they don't believe them. That doesn't mean that that police officer does not believe them, but the way that they speak to them, and the way they question them, can make the women feel like they're not believed."

### Police burnout & compassion fatigue

"Do I think that people, officers, don't have that natural or unconscious bias? I absolutely think they probably do. We get people who are repeat victims. We get people who make numerous calls, reports. Repeat domestic violence victims, repeat sexual victims. Do people, do officers get fatigued in that respect? I think it's only natural."



## Wider responses to VAWG



### Convictions of VAWG crimes are rare

"Not very often. Not very often at all, actually. I've had a couple and I remember them because there's that little actually,... And sexual ones, I don't think I've had any convictions."

### **Issues with CPS charging**

"I think it's it feels like a bit of a 50:50 for us because the CPS seem to turn them down. We've had quite a few police officers who've worked for a long time on cases. And you've actually said to our clients, I believe you. I truly believe that this happened to you. And I am so sorry. But they won't do anything with it."

"The process and experience isn't working for VAWG victims — victims don't want to go through the process. And they get so either annoyed by what's happening, they don't get regular updates from the police. They're asked intrusive questions... Then you get to the point of saying, erm 'we've got a court date. It's 18 months down the way'... you've got perpetrators pleading not guilty right up until you know the death to see what happens."

### **Victim's retracting complaints**

"We do see a high percentage, I would say, in terms of retractions of complaints, in my experience... I wouldn't say majority, but we do see quite a large number of people retracting complaints"



## Victim blaming & self-blame



### Victim blaming & judgement

I'm thinking of a case where one young woman told her mom, that she was being beaten in her relationship, and a mom can have said, what, what are you doing to annoy him? Kind of thing?

It's the only age group that seem to get any kind of sympathy [older women]. Everybody else there's a reason for it. It was a short skirt, or drunk, or you know, should have fought back or should have known what was going on, just generally being stupid

I still hear too much kind of, 'she gives us good as she gets'. So you know, within a relationship that kind of 'I don't think it's just one sided'.

### Self-blame

And there's always a lot of, regret over things that 'should have been done' 'should have left sooner' 'should have called the police'.



## Trust and relationship of women & girls with police



### Victims don't trust the police

But now, perhaps know, there's more in the media now what it is like and actually see the negatives of it. So it's not you don't see, you know, really positive good news stories, look at how long this perpetrators got. They've got, you know, a really long time. The victim is great. She's had loads of support and look how well she's doing. That's not the kind of story that you see in the press, and so you see, you know they've waited four years for justice, and then they've got you know, suspended 12 months or whatever. So I think that was a massive huge, massive impact on people and, and sadly and again I think this is like such an important thing in violence against women and girls generally is, and I know it sounds like a bit of a right, comments underneath news posts.

The fact of they won't, they're not believed. Erm some of them listen to other people and say, well, 'I reported to the police, police didn't do anything. So there's no point'. So, yeah.

They're getting frustrated, they're getting upset and annoyed. Of course, then, if you let them down once, if they've had their fingers burnt once, do they come back and engage a second time

### Victims want to leave it behind them / don't want to cause a fuss

"I think... women sort of get on with it... 'oh, it'll be fine. I don't, I don't want to cause a fuss',... And you know, 'I just wanna leave it and let it go"



## Minority groups trust & engagement



### **Ethnic minority**

"There can be cultural concerns, getting engagement from certain groups can be very difficult... there are certain other groups where I don't think that confidence is there, and that would be more kind of religious groups. There can be some real difficulties"

### **LGBT**

"Uhm, I would perhaps say less so from LGBT groups. I would say there is more engagement there. And I think that's largely down to the fact that we were showing that we, I'd like to think we are, there's a lot more confidence reporting things perhaps in those groups.

### **Disabilities**

"And the difficulty in that case was that ... she was a young woman who self-harmed who would go out onto the bridge regularly... She just wasn't heard. Nobody would believe that this was happening.

### Low-income backgrounds

"I think the difference is more about the presentation of the woman... I work with women across the kind of socio-economic spectrum I can think of women who can present in a in a way that will attend potentially leads to them being taken more seriously than some of the women we work with who struggle to regulate in and present in a way that is going to get them listened to"



## On-street tactical group



The focus group conducted with the 'On-street tactical group' – a multiagency group mix of police, probation, and voluntary sector agencies working with women involved in on street prostitution & sex work collected data specifically on the experiences of women in sex work and street prostitution.

This section outlines the specific experiences and added difficulties experienced by sex working women.

### Less likely to get justice

"I've never had one report go through to court"

### Victim blaming and negative perception of sex working women

"It's like 'well, you're doing that, so therefore you deserve what you get', but you don't."

### **Dehumanisation of sex working women**

"You know, the problem is, sex workers are dehumanised. That's it, the bottom line. People dehumanise sex workers, even in this job."

"They're still the bottom of the pile when it comes to being raped, it's part of the job, which is so, so wrong."



# Wider impact of sexual violence against sex workers, and the acceptance of sex buyers committing sexually violent crime against them

### The below extract is from a detective in Humberside police.

"I think what's interesting in relation to that was that it has a high amount of kind of sex workers in that area. And I guess, that draws in a lot of perpetrators are targeting women, but also, they'll not just target the sex workers, but they'll also you know, there'll be a knock-on effect on other areas. For example, people that are just near to the shops or whatever, that, where the sex workers are operating, they'll get targeted, because I the offenders think that they're sex workers as well. So, you know, that there's people going about their business, you know, to shops, etc, but women being attacked, you know, in those circumstances. But also, it kind of has a knock-on effect to shop workers, female shop workers, and also the younger people that are working in the restaurants late at night. You'll get offenders that have maybe come in to focus on sex workers and they'll hang about the, you know, takeaways or whatever, you know. So, so there is a kind of knock- on effect, as I say younger people are there, and then you got the problem of the younger people getting home and making a safe journey from the actual, from the take away place when which they're working to their car or taxi or their mode of transport."

When a 'sex buyer' perceives a woman or girl as a sex worker or prostitute and has then sexually assaulted or raped them, we have an insight into how sex buyers treat sex working women when they don't consent.

This extract also gives us an insight into the likelihood and commonality of sexual attacks in areas where there is a presence of street sex workers.



## Other notable findings from the qualitative data



### In cases of domestic abuse, the victim referral by officers often includes the perpetrator too

As a result of viewing domestic abuse cases as 'mutual' (also a finding in this study), it was reported many times that officers often referred both parties to victim services. This meant that professionals had to provide support to those who they knew to be the offender. While this is problematic in itself, it also has an impact on how services' budgets are being spent.

### Increase in online abuse and online sexual harassment towards young girls

Another notable finding from school support workers & teachers was that they have noticed that online abuse & sexual harassment of girls has greatly increased and has become very common. Education professionals suggested that they feel this has been the case due to the anonymity of the offenders, which leads to the crimes not being reported to police. In addition to this, the professionals suggested that as it has become so common, it's normalised even by the very children who are subjected to it.

### Only accessing support services for certain crimes & groups of perpetrators

The quantitative data from the survey found 'male strangers' was one of the highest categories for perpetrators, particularly in street sexual abuse & harassment. This is much higher than current estimates and figures suggest. Most professionals in the interviews didn't bring up this category of perpetrators being significant for women and girls they support.

We can infer from this that women and girls disclose and seek support when crimes are committed by males known to them. The data did also find that males known to them were more likely to commit more 'serious' crimes such as sexual abuse and more severe physical abuse.



## Other notable findings from the qualitative data



### Street sexual harassment of school girls

Professionals in children's educational setting said that girls would often be subjected to street sexual harassment on the way to/ on the way home from school. One teacher said that the girls disclose that the men are in their '40s or 50s' but also said that the children are often not good at judging age.

### Professionals acknowledgement of police role difficulties

The qualitative data found that professionals consistently expressed their awareness of the difficulties police officers face in doing their job, before giving their own professional experiences and judgment, which were very often negative. There was a feeling that professionals felt they had to appear police before giving any criticism or negative feedback. This suggests the presence of a social pressure that professionals shouldn't criticise police, and that there was discomfort in giving honest representations of their professional experience with police.

### Police to tell victims that they did the right thing reporting even when they can't take it further or don't get a conviction

Many professionals discussed the impact of being unsuccessful in getting a charge or conviction for victims, and that they think it would make the victim feel better, and feel more likely to report future crimes, if the police told them that they did the right thing even if the case doesn't result in a charge, conviction, or results in 'No Further Action'.



## Key issues to consider

- This report explored the experiences of women and girls residing in Humberside, and their thoughts, experiences, and feelings about violence against women and girls. A further qualitative sample of 27 professionals working with women and girls in the area was sought to explore findings from the questionnaire.
- Only 4% of 16- and 17-year-old girls reported never being subjected to any form of violence or abuse since birth. 67% of this sample reported being subjected to multiple acts of violence, with an average score of 90. This roughly equates to between 2-40 experiences of violence and abuse each for 135 girls. A potential range of 270-5360 largely unreported offences against 135 teen girls were stated in the data.
- Only 2% of women reported never being subjected to any form of violence or abuse before their 18th birthday. 82.5% of this sample reported being subjected to multiple acts of violence and abuse in childhood, with an average score of 85. This roughly equates to between 2-35 experiences of violence and abuse each for 1177 women. A potential range of 2354-41,195 largely unreported offences against 1177 women were stated in the data.
- Only 2% of women reported never being subjected to any form of violence or abuse since their 18th birthday. 69% of this sample reported being subjected to multiple acts of violence and abuse in adulthood, with an average score of 94. This roughly equates to between 2-44 experiences of violence and abuse each for 984 women. A potential range of 1968-43,296 largely unreported offences against 984 girls were stated in the data.
- In the adult women sample, in offences which occurred in childhood 81% of perpetrators of violence against women were male. In offences against them in adulthood, 90% of perpetrators of violence against women were male. Across all types of violence against 16- and 17-year-old girls, most perpetrators were male (73%). This is significantly lower than the adult women sample.



## Key issues to consider

- In childhood, 15% of women reported physical abuse crimes, 11% of women reported sexual abuse crimes, 11% reported other abuse crimes and 6% reported coercive control type crimes.
- In adulthood, reporting rates increased significantly for some crime types. 31% of women reported the physical abuse crimes, 13% reported sexual abuse crimes, 18% reported other abuse crimes and 14% reported coercive control type crimes.
- By contrast, 48% of women said that they disclosed the violence to someone else during childhood, and 76% said that they disclosed the violence to someone else during adulthood.
- Disclosure rates were 6 times higher than reporting rates, suggesting that 16- and 17-year-old girls are more comfortable disclosing to others than formally reporting a crime. Reporting rates were significantly lower in teen girls than adult women.
- 12% of girls reported physical abuse crimes, 14% of girls reported sexual abuse crimes, 11% reported other abuse crimes and 1% reported coercive control type crimes.
- By contrast, 64% of girls said that they disclosed the violence to someone else, which was significantly higher than disclosure rates in adult women.
- Women and girls had very similar reasons for not reporting to Humberside Police. The most common reasons for not reporting violence against them were not knowing it was a crime, wanting to get over it without reporting, not wanting their parents to find out what had happened (in girls), embarrassment, and feeling no one would believe them.



### Areas for improvement



- 1. Consider development of a specific multi-agency VAWG strategy and framework.
- 2. Ensure that all organisations focus on providing the best trauma informed service possible, so women and girls leave the service feeling confident and respected.
- 3. Ensure individuals at all levels of partner organisations in the Humber work closer together to improve the way women and girls are supported, discussed, responded to, and perceived in order to increase trust and confidence of women and girls in the Humber.
- 4. All organisations to ensure known perpetrators are not referred to the same local victim services as victims.
- 5. Ensure all partner organisations can access critical training modules covering all elements of VAWG, myth busting, and victim blaming.



### Areas for improvement



- 6. Provide respectful, non-blaming, anti-misogyny information resources for local women and girls to increase understanding of what acts are illegal, what constitutes each form of VAWG and why these crimes are never their fault.
- 7. Develop and deliver trauma-informed information for local women and girls to increase their understanding of their own trauma responses and coping mechanisms after male violence.
- 8. All partner organisations to work from the position that violence against women and girls is common, and a near universal experience across society.
- 9. Address issues and barriers to reporting discussed in this report offer viable and effective alternatives or ways to report violence that protect women and girls and empower them.
- 10. All organisations to consider training to explore how staff can become desensitised, suffer compassion fatigue and lack of empathy in VAWG, especially when working with women who are repeatedly subjected to violence and abuse.



## **Appendix content**



Appendix	Page	Appendix	Page
Full sample breakdown	68	Physical violence against teen girls	79
Physical violence against women before 18	69	Sexual violence against teen girls	80
Sexual violence against women before 18	70	Coercive control against teen girls	81
Coercive control against women before 18	71	Other violence against teen girls	82
Other violence against women before 18	72	Teen girls: Perpetrators	83
Before 18: Perpetrators	73		
Physical violence against women after 18	74		
Sexual violence against women after 18	75		
Coercive control against women after 18	76		
Other violence against women after 18	77		
After 18: Perpetrators	78		



## Sample breakdown

### Gender

(All participants were female sex)

What is your gender?	Adult women sample (N=1425)	16- and 17-year- old girls' sample (N=202)
Woman/Girl	98%	91%
Non-binary	1%	7%
Transgender	0%	0%
Other	1%	2%

### Age

Item	Adult women sample (N=1425)	16- and 17-year- old girls' sample (N=202)
16 years old	-	39%
17 years old	-	61%
18-25 years old	20%	-
26-35 years old	28%	-
36-45 years old	23%	-
46-55 years old	18%	-
56-65 years old	8%	-
66-75 years old	3%	-
Over 75 years old	0%	-

### Sexuality

ltem	Adult women sample (N=1425)	16- and 17-year- old girls sample (N=202)
Heterosexual	80%	57%
Bisexual	12%	22%
Lesbian	3%	8%
Asexual	1%	1%
Unsure of my sexuality	2%	8%
Pansexual/Queer	2%	4%

### Religious beliefs

Item	Adult women sample (N=1425)	16- and 17-year- old girls sample (N=202)
No religion	68%	67%
Muslim	1%	0%
Christian	25%	18%
Catholic	3%	8%
Sikh	0% (1)	0%
Mormon	0% (2)	0%
Jewish	0% (4)	0%
Hindu	0% (0)	0%
Buddhist	1% (8)	0% (1)
Any other religion	2%	7%

### Ethnicity

ltem	Adult women sample (N=1425)	16- and 17-year- old girls sample (N=202)	
White British/Irish/Scottish/Welsh	95%	91%	
Other White	2%	1%	
Mixed or multiple ethnic groups	1%	3%	
Any other ethnic group not listed	0% (4)	1%	
Asian	0% (3)	2%	
Irish Traveller	0% (2)	0%	
Bangladeshi	0% (2)	0%	
Jewish	0% (2)	0%	
Black British	0% (2)	1%	
British Indian/ Indian	0% (1)	1%	
White Gypsy	0% (1)	1%	
Roma	0% (1)	0%	
British Pakistani / Pakistani	0% (1)	0%	
British Jamaican / Jamaican	0% (1)	0%	
British Turkish / Turkish	0% (1)	0%	

### Highest level of qualification

Item	Adult women sample (N=1425)	16- and 17-year- old girls sample (N=202)
None	1%	-
GCSE or equivalent	11%	-
A Levels or equivalent	17%	-
Further education or other college course	15%	-
University degree	39%	-
Masters degree	14%	-
PhD/Doctorate	2%	-

### Income from work or benefits

Item	Adult women sample (N=1425)	16- and 17-year- old girls sample (N=202)
£0-11,000	20%	-
£11,001-19,999	22%	-
£20,000-29,999	29%	-
£30,000-39,999	13%	-
£40,000-49,999	9%	-
£50,000-70,000	4%	-
Over £70,000	2%	-
Prefer not to say	1%	-

### Disability

Item	Adult women sample (N=1425)	16- and 17-year- old <u>girls</u> sample (N=202)
No	82%	83%
Physical disability	7%	3%
Intellectual disability	3%	5%
Other disability	4%	4%
Multiple disabilities	3%	3%
Other	2%	2%





# Physical violence against women before 18

Chance of happening to woman or girl	
Less than 5%	
6-20%	
21-49%	
More than 50%	



Please indicate how many times you have been subjected to physical abuse at any time before you were 18 years old.				
	Never (%)	Once %	2-3 times	More than 3 times %
Slapped/punched/hit	28	11	19	42
Kicked	67	8	10	15
Pushed over/shoved	40	10	18	32
Strangled/choked	80	8	6	5
Thrown across the room/downstairs	75	9	8	8
Burned with something hot/toxic	93	4	1	1
Threatened to kill or harm you	67	7	10	16
Threatened to kill or harm someone you love	80	5	5	10
Bitten you	85	8	4	4
Spat at you	74	11	8	7
Forced or coerced pregnancy	98	2	0	0
Forced or coerced termination of pregnancy	96	4	0	0
Attack which caused the miscarriage of a child	98	2	0	0







## Sexual violence Against women before 18

Chance of happening to woman or girl	
Less than 5%	
6-20%	
21-49%	
More than 50%	

Please indicate how many times you have been subjected to sexual abuse at any time before you were 18 years old.				
•	Never %	Once %	2-3 times %	More than 3 times %
Sexual harassment (verbal or physical)	29	7	14	50
Kissed without consent	52	13	16	20
Touched my body inappropriately	26	15	20	39
Subjected to any sexual activity before the age of 13	74	9	6	12
Forced or coerced to perform or receive oral sex	73	10	6	12
Forced or coerced to masturbate myself or someone else	76	7	6	11
Guilt tripped/manipulated into penetrative sex that I didn't (or couldn't) consent to (anal or vaginal)	64	12	8	16
Forced/coerced to watch adult porn	89	4	3	4
Forced/coerced to look at child abuse imagery/videos	99	0	0	1
Forced/coerced to copy sex acts from porn	89	3	3	4
Sexually exploited by someone who gave me money or items to sexually abuse me	92	2	1	4
Bought or sold for sex (including child trafficking)	99	0	0	0
Given drugs or alcohol before being coerced or forced into sexual activity	80	6	7	6





# Coercive control Against women before 18

Chance of happening to woman or girl	
Less than 5%	
6-20%	
21-49%	
More than 50%	

Please indicate how many times you have been subjected to controlling behaviour before you were 18 years old.				efore you
	Never %	Once %	2-3 times %	More than 3 times %
Been told what to wear or how to dress	52	5	11	32
Been stopped from seeing family or friends	63	4	9	24
Been insulted and put down to make you feel bad	33	3	15	49
Had someone checking your phone or emails	68	4	8	21
Controlling where you can go	57	4	9	30
Checking your social media or making you delete your social media	78	3	5	14
Someone threatening to kill themselves unless you do what they want	69	12	8	10
Someone making out that you are mentally ill or going crazy when they are nasty to you	58	7	10	26
Someone making jealous accusations or accusing you of cheating	58	10	10	21
Someone controlling your sex life and making you feel bad about sex	69	5	7	19





# Other violence Against women before 18

Chance of happening to woman or girl	
Less than 5%	
6-20%	
21-49%	
More than 50%	

Please indicate how many times you have been subjected to any other form of abuse at any time before you were 18 years old.				
,	Never %	Once %	2-3 times %	More than 3
Catcalled in the street	13	2	16	68
Received an unsolicited nude pic from a man/boy	54	5	13	28
Received an unsolicited nude pic from a woman/girl	93	3	2	2
Received sexual or inappropriate comments/messages online	47	3	12	38
Received a rape threat online	86	5	4	5
Received death threat online	83	6	5	6
Had your private images or nudes shared	84	11	3	1
Received abusive comments about your body online	72	5	9	14
Videos of you being sexually abused uploaded to the internet	98	1	0	0
Subjected to female genital mutilation	100	0	0	0
Forced into a marriage or union	99	1	0	0
Followed or stalked in person	54	21	16	9
Followed or stalked online	78	9	7	7
Had items or gifts sent to you that you did not want	82	9	6	3
Someone became obsessed with you or wouldn't leave you alone	59	23	12	7
Someone sent you unwanted messages or letters after you told them to leave you alone	62	16	12	11
Someone followed you, came to your house or school who you didn't want to see	66	16	9	9





## **Before 18: Perpetrators**

### Perpetrators

Who committed these physical abuse acts against you? Please tick as many as appropriate		
Father	33%	
Mother	35%	
Brother	15%	
Sister	9%	
Male friend	16%	
Female friend	15%	
Male stranger	15%	
Female stranger	9%	
Male teacher	1%	
Female teacher	2%	
Grandfather	0%	
Grandmother	1%	
Boyfriend or Ex	27%	
Girlfriend or Ex	0%	
Aunty	0%	
Uncle	2%	
Male cousin	2%	
Female cousin	0%	
Other (Please Specify)	3% (predominantly 'step father')	

Perpetrator sex	%
Male	61
Female	39
Not specified	0

### Perpetrators

Who committed these controlling acts against you? Please tick as many as appropriate		
Father	21%	
Mother	22%	
Brother	3%	
Sister	2%	
Male friend	17%	
Female friend	8%	
Male stranger	9%	
Female stranger	3%	
Male teacher	1%	
Female teacher	1%	
Grandfather	0%	
Grandmother	2%	
Boyfriend or Ex	58%	
Girlfriend or Ex	1%	
Aunty	1%	
Uncle	0%	
Male cousin	0%	
Female cousin	0%	
Other (Please Specify)	2%	

Perpetrator sex	%
Male	74
Female	26
Not specified	0

#### Perpetrators

Who committed these sexual acts against you? Please tick as many as appropriate		
Father	4%	
Mother	0%	
Brother	4%	
Sister	1%	
Male friend	36%	
Female friend	2%	
Male stranger	46%	
Female stranger	1%	
Male teacher	2%	
Female teacher	0%	
Grandfather	2%	
Grandmother	0%	
Boyfriend or Ex	34%	
Girlfriend or Ex	0%	
Aunty	0%	
Uncle	0%	
Male cousin	3%	
Female cousin	1%	
Other (Please Specify)	1% (step-father)	

Perpetrator sex	%
Male	96
Female	4
Not specified	0

### Perpetrators

Who committed these other abuse acts against you? Please tick as many as appropriate		
Father	2%	
Mother	1%	
Brother	0%	
Sister	0%	
Male friend	34%	
Female friend	3%	
Male stranger	68%	
Female stranger	4%	
Male teacher	1%	
Female teacher	0%	
Grandfather	0%	
Grandmother	0%	
Boyfriend or Ex	31%	
Girlfriend or Ex	1%	
Aunty	0%	
Uncle	0%	
Male cousin	0%	
Female cousin	0%	
Other (Please Specify)	0%	

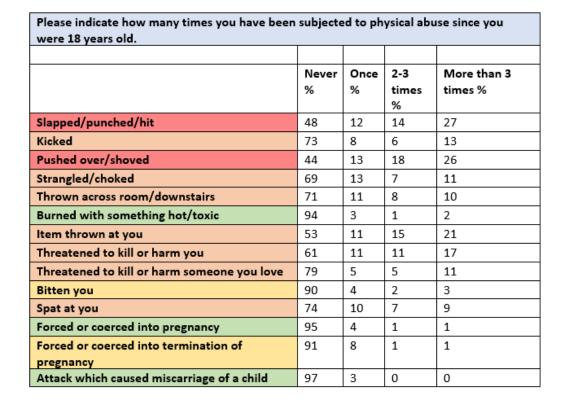
Perpetrator sex	%	
Male	94	
Female	6	
Not specified	0	





# Physical violence against women after 18

Chance of happening to woman or girl	
Less than 5%	
6-20%	
21-49%	
More than 50%	

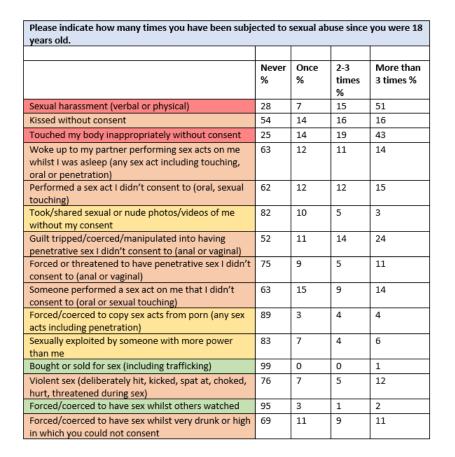






## Sexual violence against women after 18

Chance of happening to woman or girl	
Less than 5%	
6-20%	
21-49%	
More than 50%	







# Coercive control against women after 18

Chance of happening to woman or girl	
Less than 5%	
6-20%	
21-49%	
More than 50%	

Please indicate how many times you have been subjected to controlling behaviour since you				
were 18 years old.				
	Never	Once	2-3 times	More than
	%	%	%	3 times %
Been told what to wear or how to dress	50	6	13	31
Been stopped from seeing family or friends	57	6	10	27
Been insulted and put down to make you feel bad	30	5	14	52
Had someone checking your phone or emails	54	6	10	30
Controlling where you can go	52	6	8	33
Checking your social media or making you delete	64	7	6	23
your social media				
Someone threatening to kill themselves unless you	64	14	7	15
do what they want				
Someone making out that you are mentally ill or	40	9	13	38
going crazy when they are nasty to you				
Someone making jealous accusations or accusing	43	11	12	35
you of cheating				
Someone controlling your sex life and making you	57	6	9	29
feel bad about sex				







# Other violence against women after 18

Chance of happening to woman or girl	
Less than 5%	
6-20%	
21-49%	
More than 50%	

were 18 years old.		I	T	I
	Never %	Once %	2-3 times %	More than 3 times %
Catcalled in the street	11	3	18	68
Received an unsolicited nude pic from a man/boy	43	8	17	33
Received an unsolicited nude pic from a woman/girl	92	4	2	2
Received sexual or inappropriate comments/messages online		5	20	39
Received a rape threat online	88	5	3	4
Received death threat online	87	4	4	5
Had your private images or nudes shared	88	8	2	2
Received abusive comments about your body online	73	6	8	13
Videos of you being sexually abused uploaded to the internet	98	1	0	0
Subjected to female genital mutilation	100	0	0	0
Forced into a marriage or union	100	0	0	0
Followed or stalked in person	59	17	13	11
Followed or stalked online	72	10	9	9
Had items or gifts sent to you that you did not want	77	11	8	4
Someone became obsessed with you or wouldn't leave you alone	54	25	11	9
Someone sent you unwanted messages or letters after you told them to leave you alone	56	16	12	15
Someone followed you, came to your house or school who you didn't want to see	65	15	9	12





## After 18: Perpetrators

### Perpetrators

Who committed these physical abus	e acts against you? Please tick as many as appropriate
Father	4%
Mother	5%
Brother	2%
Sister	2%
Male friend	7%
Female friend	2%
Male stranger	17%
Female stranger	6%
Male teacher	0%
Female teacher	0%
Grandfather	0%
Grandmother	0%
Boyfriend or Ex	71%
Girlfriend or Ex	2%
Aunty	0%
Uncle	0%
Male cousin	0%
Female cousin	0%
In-Law family member	1%
Boss at work	1%
Other	9% (ex-husbands and males)

Perpetrator sex	%
Male	85
Female	13
Not specified	2

### Perpetrators

Who committed these coercive control acts against you? Please tick as many as appropriate		
Father	5%	
Mother	6%	
Brother	1%	
Sister	1%	
Male friend	11%	
Female friend	4%	
Male stranger	8%	
Female stranger	1%	
Male teacher	0	
Female teacher	0	
Grandfather	0	
Grandmother	1%	
Boyfriend or Ex	82%	
Girlfriend or Ex	2%	
Aunty	0	
Uncle	0	
Male cousin	0	
Female cousin	0	
In-Law family member	1%	
Boss at work	2%	
Other	5% (males)	

Perpetrator sex	%
Male	86
Female	11
Not specified	3

### Perpetrators

Who committed these sexual abuse acts against you? Please tick as many as appropriate		
Father	1%	
Mother	0%	
Brother	0%	
Sister	0%	
Male friend	25%	
Female friend	1%	
Male stranger	45%	
Female stranger	1%	
Male teacher	1%	
Female teacher	0%	
Grandfather	0%	
Grandmother	0%	
Boyfriend or Ex	62%	
Girlfriend or Ex	1%	
Aunty	0%	
Uncle	0%	
Male cousin	0%	
Female cousin	0%	
In-Law family member	0%	
Boss at work	6%	
Other	9%	

Perpetrator sex	%
Male	94
Female	2
Not specified	4

### Perpetrators

Who committed these other acts of abuse against you? Please tick as many as appropriate		
Father	1%	
Mother	0%	
Brother	0%	
Sister	0%	
Male friend	27%	
Female friend	2%	
Male stranger	62%	
Female stranger	3%	
Male teacher	0%	
Female teacher	0%	
Grandfather	0%	
Grandmother	0%	
Boyfriend or Ex	43%	
Girlfriend or Ex	1%	
Aunty	0%	
Uncle	0%	
Male cousin	0%	
Female cousin	0%	
In-Law family member	0%	
Boss at work	3%	
Other	8% (males)	

Perpetrator sex	%
Male	94
Female	3
Not specified	3







## Physical violence against teen girls

Chance of happening to girl	
Less than 5%	
6-20%	
21-49%	
More than 50%	



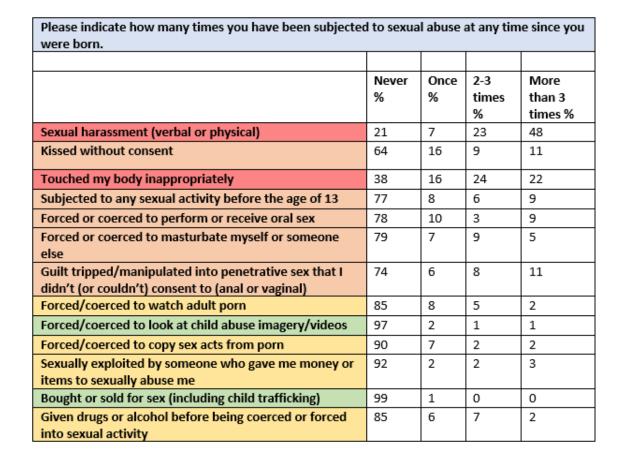
### PHYSICAL ABUSE

Please indicate how many times you have been subjected to physical abuse at any time since you were born.				
	Never %	Once %	2-3 times %	More than 3 times %
Slapped/punched/hit	33	9	22	36
Kicked	56	10	13	21
Pushed over/shoved	40	9	21	30
Strangled/choked	70	15	12	3
Thrown across the room/downstairs	80	8	7	5
Burned with something hot/toxic	88	9	2	1
Threatened to kill or harm you	60	10	13	16
Threatened to kill or harm someone you love	78	6	7	9
Bitten you	79	12	7	2
Spat at you	71	15	8	7
Forced or coerced pregnancy	98	2	0	0
Forced or coerced termination of pregnancy	97	3	0	0
Attack which caused the miscarriage of a child	99	1	0	0



## Sexual violence against teen girls

Chance of happening to girl	
Less than 5%	
6-20%	
21-49%	
More than 50%	

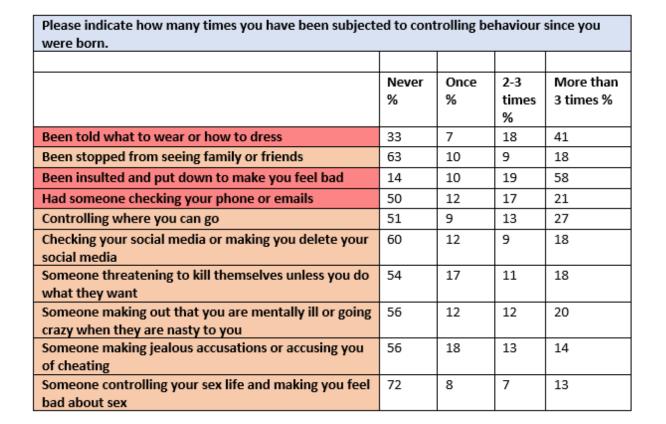






## Coercive control against teen girls

Chance of happening to woman or girl	
Less than 5%	
6-20%	
21-49%	
More than 50%	

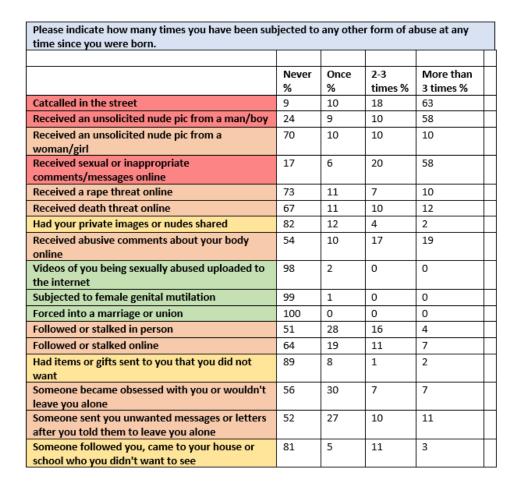






## Other violence against teen girls

Chance of happening to woman or girl	
Less than 5%	
6-20%	
21-49%	
More than 50%	







## Teen girls: Perpetrators

### Perpetrators

Who committed these physical abuse acts against you? Please tick as many as appropriate		
Father	35%	
Mother	30%	
Brother	23%	
Sister	16%	
Male friend	31%	
Female friend	24%	
Male stranger	22%	
Female stranger	7%	
Male teacher	0%	
Female teacher	1%	
Grandfather	2%	
Grandmother	1%	
Boyfriend or Ex	21%	
Girlfriend or Ex	6%	
Aunty	0%	
Uncle	0%	
Male cousin	0%	
Female cousin	2%	

Perpetrator sex	%
Male	65
Female	35
Not specified	0

### Perpetrators

Who committed these other abuse acts against you? Please tick as many as appropriate		
Father	3%	
Mother	1%	
Brother	0	
Sister	0	
Male friend	37%	
Female friend	8%	
Male stranger	67%	
Female stranger	14%	
Male teacher	1%	
Female teacher	0	
Grandfather	0	
Grandmother	0	
Boyfriend or Ex	21%	
Girlfriend or Ex	2%	
Aunty	1%	
Uncle	1%	
Male cousin	0	
Female cousin	0	

Perpetrator sex	%
Male	83
Female	17
Not specified	0

#### Perpetrators

Who committed these sexual abuse acts against you? Please tick as many as appropriate	
Father	3%
Mother	1%
Brother	0%
Sister	1%
Male friend	26%
Female friend	10%
Male stranger	50%
Female stranger	3%
Male teacher	2%
Female teacher	0%
Grandfather	0%
Grandmother	0%
Boyfriend or Ex	32%
Girlfriend or Ex	5%
Aunty	0
Uncle	1%
Male cousin	4%
Female cousin	1%
Other	14% (male family)

Perpetrator sex	%
Male	86
Female	14
Not specified	0

### Perpetrators

Who committed these coercive control acts against you? Please tick as many as appropriate	
Father	29%
Mother	47%
Brother	4%
Sister	3%
Male friend	32%
Female friend	24%
Male stranger	13%
Female stranger	3%
Male teacher	0
Female teacher	0
Grandfather	3%
Grandmother	2%
Boyfriend or Ex	37%
Girlfriend or Ex	9%
Aunty	1%
Uncle	0
Male cousin	0
Female cousin	1%

Perpetrator sex	%
Male	57
Female	43
Not specified	0



