

'Where Is Your Line?' Survey Summary Report

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Prepared For:

The Havens - Sexual Assault Referral Centres

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Methodology

Accreditation

- Opinion Matters / Tickbox.net comply with the Market Research Society Code of Conduct (2010). Within these parameters there are guidelines that ensure all research is carried out in a professional and ethical manner. Furthermore as members of ESOMAR and AIMRI Opinion Matters abide by the ICC/ESOMAR International Code on Market and Social Research.

Online Methodology

Opinion Matters surveyed a random sample of 1012 people in London aged 18 to 25 online.

Using the Internet for Research

- The use of online research methodology **has increased dramatically in the UK as the Internet is now accessed by 81% of UK adults (ONS 27/8/2010)**. Similar stories are to be seen globally.
- The Internet has become a valuable channel for accessing large numbers of respondents whilst being extremely cost and time effective. It has facilitated the gathering of robust samples as well as those which are nationally representative.

Self Administered Interviews

- A valuable reason **for using online research methodology** is that the anonymity the respondent allows for the generation of more 'truthful' responses. Respondents choose to participate rather than other research methodologies where they are asked to become involved and therefore are under no duress to reply. Respondents are free to answer the questions without the immediate influence of an interviewer or observer. They are also not restricted by time constraints as the respondent can take their time navigating through an online survey. A noted benefit of online research is that the perceived anonymity and lack of influence when participating in a survey allows the respondent to be more open and expressive particularly when researching topics of a sensitive and personal nature.
- Another advantage of self completion interviews is that the questions are always standardised, i.e. each respondent is presented with exactly the same question asked in the same format. **Online research** prevents any interviewer bias arising through the use of more than one interviewer on a research project. Furthermore scripting ensures respondents answer all questions correctly and are routed through the survey accordingly.

The Havens - Sexual Assault Referral Centres Exec Summary

While many people still think of rape as being attacked by a stranger in a dark alley it can take many forms and occur in many different scenarios. However, it is defined as when a man intentionally penetrates with his penis in the vagina, anus or mouth of another individual when they do not want him to do so; the law calls this 'without consent'.

Despite the clarity of the definition there are still grey areas in many young adults' minds about what constitutes consensual sex – and what actions and behaviours they can interpret as evidence that another person wishes to be intimate with them.

- Although 69% of men would not try to have sex with someone if the other person did not want to have sex with them, this indicates that almost one quarter (25%) of men would still attempt sex.
- One in 20 men said they would try to have sex with someone if they thought the other person was asleep.
- Around one in eight men (12%) would try to have sex if they thought the other person was being flirty
- 6% of men would try to have sex if the other person was drunk.

How do you know if your partner wants to have sex?

There are certain behaviours that lead young adults to assume that another person is willing to have sex with them, even if they don't verbalise their consent. For example:

- Almost a quarter (22%) of those aged 18-25 would expect another person to have sex with them after oral sex.
- More than one in five (21%) would expect someone to have sex with them after touching each other.
- 19% would expect someone to have sex with them if they have had sex before.
- More than one in ten (12%) would expect someone to have sex with them after kissing.

In this respect, it's clear that men have rather different expectations than women:

- Men are more than twice as likely as women to assume that penetrative sex will follow oral sex (34% compared to 16%).
- More than one in five men (21%) would expect someone to have sex with them after kissing, compared to fewer than one in 11 (8%) women.

Even when the possibility of sex is discussed, it's clear that young adults believe that actions speak louder than words. Even with consent, only half of young adults assume that the person they are intimate with wants to have sex with them even if they actually say yes. So if they **don't believe their partner** when they say yes, do they believe them when they say no?

- Almost half (49%) say that when their partner initiates it, they assume this means they want to have sex.

- Almost a third (30%) say that they assume the person they are intimate with wants to have sex if they have had sex with each other before.
- 4% of young adults assume consent if their partner is not actively saying no.

It seems that men are more likely than women to assume consent if their partner doesn't verbally object to their advances.

- One in twenty men (5%), compared to one in every thirty three women (3%), assume their partner wants to have sex if they are not actively saying no
- One in thirty three men (3%), compared to one in a hundred women (1%), assume consent if their partner is asleep.
- One in fifty men (2%), compared to one in a hundred women (1%), assume their partner wants to have sex if they are drunk or not conscious

Does no mean no?

When asked how they can tell if the person they are intimate with does not want to have sex, it's clear that young adults don't always believe that no means no.

- Less than half (47%) of young adults would assume that the person they are intimate with doesn't want to have sex with them if they are being physically pushed away. This indicates that more than half would not view this behaviour as a deterrent.
- Only 57% would assume that the person they are intimate with doesn't want to have sex when they say no. This suggests that 43% don't think 'No means No.'
- Although 56% say they would never pressure their partner into having sex with them against their will, this suggests that 44% would.
- Over a third (37%) say that they would assume their partner does not want to have sex with them if they were crying. This suggests that 63% would not be put off by tears.

Have you been pressurised into sex?

Our survey results suggests that young adults are unsure of boundaries when it comes to determining whether prospective partners wish to have sex with them or not. Consequently, it's not surprising that 42% feel that they have been pressurised into having sex.

- 41% of 18-25 year olds feel that they have been pressurised into some form of sex that they did not want.
- Only 38% of young adults have never felt pressured to do anything sexually
- A quarter of women have been silent and allowed sex to happen even though they did not want it to.
- Almost one in ten (9%) women have said no to sex but been ignored.
- 17% of 18-19 year-olds have been pressurised into sex because there had been previous sexual contact.

- 17% of 24-25 year-olds have said no to sex but changed their minds as a result of pressure from their partner.

Young women are more likely to have been pressurised into sex than young men: 41% of women say that they have not experienced any pressure, compared to 52% of men.

What is rape?

Despite the **confusion** surrounding young people's understanding of what constitutes consensual sex, the overwhelming majority (88%) believe that when one person says no and the other goes ahead with the sex act, that constitutes rape. Yet one in eight (12%) do not share this view – and there are clear differences between male and female perceptions of rape.

- 92% of women agree that when a person says no and the other goes ahead with sex, it constitutes rape. Only 77% of men say the same and the research suggests that nearly 1 in 4 (23%) men don't believe this is rape.
- Three quarters of women (75%) compared to just over half (54%) of men believe that if you change your mind and the other person continues with sex, that is rape.
- 71% of 22-24 year-olds, compared to just 60% of 18-19 year-olds, believe that it is rape when someone continues having sex with a person who is asleep.

Where would you go for help and advice?

Although 81% of young adults who completed the survey had not heard of the Havens, obtaining counselling and support would be a priority in the event that they were raped or sexually assaulted.

- 84% of young adults say that a HIV/AIDS test would be valuable if they were raped.
- 82% believe that being tested for other sexually transmitted diseases would be helpful.
- Almost three quarters (70%) say that obtaining counselling and advice would be a priority. Women are more likely to say this than men (80% compared to 49%).
- 18% say it would be valuable to have the option not to report the incident to the police.

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