

# **Students' experiences of unwanted sexualized behaviours and sexual assault at postsecondary schools in the Canadian provinces, 2019**

by Marta Burczycka

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## Students' experiences of unwanted sexualized behaviours and sexual assault at postsecondary schools in the Canadian provinces, 2019: Highlights

- A majority (71%) of students at Canadian postsecondary schools witnessed or experienced unwanted sexualized behaviours in a postsecondary setting in 2019—either on campus, or in an off-campus situation that involved students or other people associated with the school. Among students, 45% of those who identified as women and 32% of those who identified as men personally experienced at least one such behaviour in the context of their postsecondary studies.
- One in ten (11%) women students experienced a sexual assault in a postsecondary setting during the previous year. About one in five (19%) women who were sexually assaulted said that the assault took the form of a sexual activity to which they did not consent after they had agreed to another form of sexual activity—for example, agreeing to have protected sex and then learning it had been unprotected sex.
- The majority of women (77%) and men (70%) who had experienced a sexual assault in a postsecondary setting stated that at least one incident had happened off campus. For women, off-campus restaurants or bars were the site of half (51%) of sexual assaults in a postsecondary setting.
- Most women (80%) and men (86%) who had experienced unwanted sexualized behaviours stated that the perpetrators of the behaviours were fellow students. Relatively few students said that the perpetrators were professors and others in positions of authority.
- For women students, there was no significant difference in the prevalence of sexual assault among those in programs where most students were men (15%) and those in programs where most students were women (13%). For men, sexual assault was more common for those in programs with a majority of women students (7%) than those in programs with mostly men (4%).
- Less than one in ten women (8%) and men (6%) who experienced sexual assault, and less than one in ten women (9%) and men (4%) who had experienced unwanted sexualized behaviours spoke about what happened with someone associated with the school (such as a teacher, peer support group or someone else associated with either the school administration or a student-led service). While many saw what happened as not serious enough to report, others cited a lack of knowledge about what to do or a mistrust in how the school would handle the situation.
- Most students chose not to intervene, seek help or take other action in at least one instance when they witnessed unwanted sexualized behaviours, including 91% of women and 92% of men who witnessed such behaviours. Many women did not act because they felt uncomfortable (48% of those who did not act), because they feared negative consequences (28%), or because they feared for their safety (18%).

## Students' experiences of unwanted sexualized behaviours and sexual assault at postsecondary schools in the Canadian provinces, 2019

by Marta Burczycka, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics

Greater awareness of gender-based violence, sexual consent and related attitudes about what constitutes acceptable behaviour is emerging in many public spheres, including on postsecondary campuses and their online spaces. Widespread disclosures by survivors of various forms of sexual misconduct, propelled by platforms such as #MeToo, have increased the visibility of sexual assault and related behaviours and brought about discussions about their root causes (Hampson 2019; Tambe 2018).

Decades of research on sexual violence in Canada has found correlates between youth and increased risk of victimization (Conroy and Cotter 2017; Perreault 2015; Rotenberg 2017). Young people—particularly young people who identify as women—experience sexual assault and other forms of violence in higher proportions than other people. Additionally, previous Canadian research has found that this group experiences high rates of sexual assault (Conroy and Cotter 2017).

In addition to studies which focus on sexual assault, recent Canadian research has measured the prevalence of unwanted sexualized behaviours in various segments of the population (Burczycka 2019; Cotter 2019; Cotter and Savage 2019). While not necessarily criminal in nature, behaviours such as unwelcome sexual comments, actions or advances can have negative impacts on those who experience them and on others (Cotter and Savage 2019). The present study will be the first to describe the prevalence, characteristics, and attitudes surrounding unwanted sexualized behaviours and sexual assault among Canada's 2.5 million postsecondary students (see Text box 1).

Developed and conducted by Statistics Canada, the Survey on Individual Safety in the Postsecondary Student Population (SISPSP) collected data from students at postsecondary schools in the Canadian provinces in 2019. The questions included in the survey aimed to measure the nature and prevalence of unwanted sexual and discriminatory behaviours and sexual assault among the students of Canadian postsecondary institutions. Information on students' attitudes and beliefs was also collected. The survey was funded by the Department for Women and Gender Equality (WAGE) as part of *It's Time: Canada's Strategy to Prevent and Address Gender-Based Violence*. A report focussed on students' experiences with discriminatory behaviours will follow the present study.

The SISPSP included questions on students' experiences with ten sexualized behaviours. Some of these were explicitly defined as inappropriate or unwanted (for example, "unwanted physical contact" or "inappropriate discussion of sex life"). Other behaviours were not explicitly defined this way (for example, "sexual jokes" or "encouragement to view sexually explicit materials online"). It should be acknowledged that behaviours such as these may not have been seen by all survey participants as unwanted. However, regardless of how such behaviours are perceived by individuals, they can be indicative of a larger culture in which sexualized behaviours create an atmosphere of fear, disrespect, inequality and invalidation based on gender and sexuality—all of which can have negative consequences for those at whom these behaviours are directed, and for others (Hampson 2019; Levchak 2013; Sue 2010). Because of this, the sexualized behaviours described in the present study are considered to be unwanted, and this terminology is used throughout the analysis.

This *Juristat* article presents findings on the prevalence, characteristics and impacts of unwanted sexual behaviours, sexual assault and feelings of safety among students aged 18 to 24 at postsecondary institutions in the Canadian provinces (17 to 24 for students living in Quebec<sup>1</sup>). The context in which sexual assault and unwanted sexualized behaviours occurred—where they happened, who was responsible, and who was around—provides insight into the cultural underpinnings of unwanted sexualized behaviours on campus. Together with information on the attitudes and beliefs of students, this analysis provides an indication of postsecondary school culture when it comes to issues surrounding unwanted sexual behaviours and sexual assault.

**Text box 1****Key terms**

The 2019 Survey on Individual Safety in the Postsecondary Student Population (SISPSP) measures behaviours that occurred in the postsecondary school-related setting. Universities, colleges, CEGEPs and other postsecondary institutions are included.<sup>2</sup>

The survey collected information on ten unwanted sexualized behaviours. These were:

Inappropriate verbal or non-verbal communication

- Sexual jokes
- Unwanted sexual attention, such as whistles, calls, etc.
- Inappropriate sexual comments about appearance or body
- Inappropriate discussion about sex life

Sexually explicit materials

- Displaying, showing, or sending sexually explicit messages or materials online
- Taking or posting inappropriate or sexually suggestive photos or videos of any student without consent

Unwanted physical contact or suggested sexual relations

- Indecent exposure or inappropriate display of body parts in a sexual manner
- Repeated pressure from the same person for dates or sexual relationships
- Unwelcome physical contact or getting too close
- Someone being offered personal benefits for engaging in sexual activity or being mistreated for not engaging in sexual activity

In addition, the SISPSP measures sexual assault that occurs in the postsecondary setting. For more information on how the survey measures sexual assault, see Text box 2.

The postsecondary school-related setting includes:

- On campus
- While travelling to or from school
- During an off-campus event organized or endorsed by the postsecondary school, including official sporting events
- During unofficial activities or social events organized by students, instructors, professors, either on or off-campus
- An employment at the school
- At a co-op or work term placement organized by the school
- Behaviours that occurred online where some or all of the people responsible were students, teachers or other people associated with the school.

Campus refers to the physical building or buildings in which classes, studies, and activities take place, including (for example) residences, cafeterias, libraries, and lecture halls, as well as adjacent outdoor spaces.

## **Almost three-quarters of postsecondary students witnessed or experienced unwanted sexualized behaviours in the past year**

Behaviours such as unwelcome sexual comments, actions or advances can have negative impacts on those who experience them, and can create or reinforce stereotypes that affect society more broadly. Some, like unwelcome physical contact or posting sexual photos without consent, could be considered criminal. Others, such as sexual jokes, can represent more subtle ways in which women in particular are objectified, stereotyped and devalued (Sue 2010). Some research has suggested that social environments where women are openly disrespected and objectified are also characterized by justifications for sexual assault and disbelief of those who disclose their experiences (Hampson 2019; Levchak 2013).

Unwanted sexualized behaviours were common in Canadian postsecondary schools in 2019. Overall, more than seven in ten (71%)<sup>3</sup> postsecondary students either witnessed these behaviours happening or experienced these behaviours themselves. On the whole, women were more likely than men to have either witnessed or experienced these behaviours (73% versus 69%) (Table 1).<sup>4</sup> A particularly large gap between women and men was noted in the prevalence of unwanted sexual attention such as whistles and “catcalls” (40% versus 23%). Large differences were also seen with respect to unwelcome physical contact or getting too close (31% of women, 19% of men) and repeated pressure from the same person for dates or sexual relationships (18% versus 10%)—both of which are behaviours which can meet the threshold for criminality.<sup>5</sup>

Men were more likely than women to witness unwanted sexualized behaviours (such as whistles, “catcalls,” etc.) without personally experiencing them (18% versus 13%). However, the proportion of women who had both witnessed and experienced this type of behaviour was five times greater than that of men (27% versus 6%).

## Personal experiences of unwanted sexualized behaviours more common for women students

While social environments where sexualized behaviours are frequently witnessed can have a generally negative impact on people's feelings of being respected, valued and safe (Hampson 2019; Levchak 2013; Sue 2010), personally experiencing such behaviours can bring even stronger negative consequences.

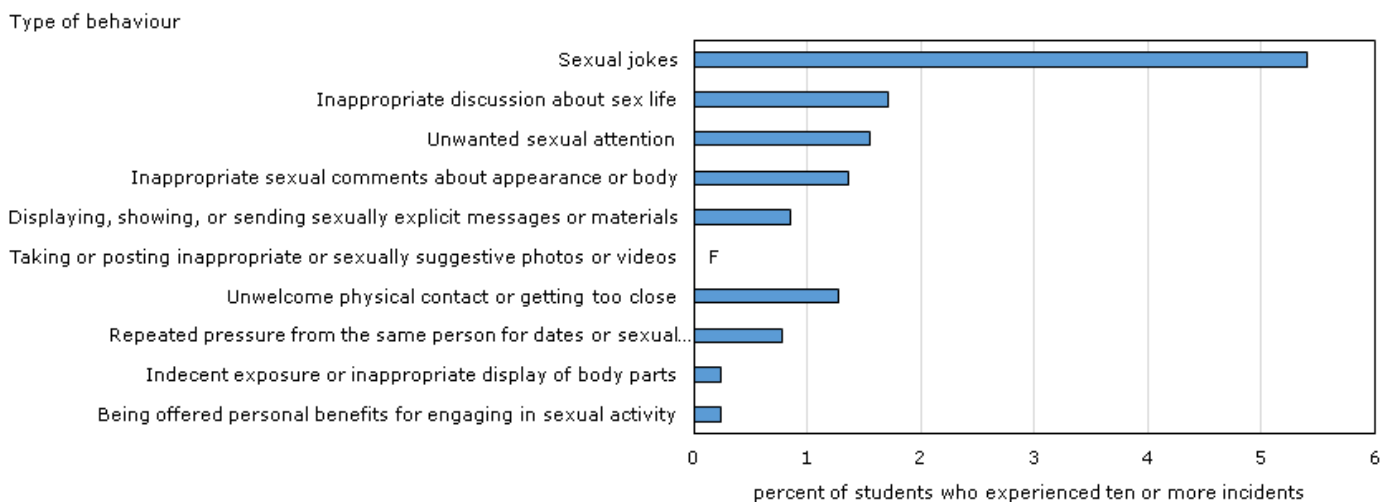
According to the 2019 SISPS, 45% of women and 32% of men reported having personally experienced at least one unwanted sexualized behaviour in the postsecondary setting during the previous 12 months (Table 2). Sexual jokes were the most common unwanted sexualized behaviour personally experienced by students in the postsecondary setting, including both women (27%) and men (25%), though similar proportions of women specifically also experienced unwanted sexual attention such as whistles and "catcalls" (27%) and unwelcome physical contact or getting too close (21%).

The largest gap between women and men was with respect to unwanted sexual attention, experienced by 27% of women and 6% of men. Major differences were also noted when it came to having personally experienced unwelcome physical contact or getting too close: three times as many women (21%) as men (7%) said that they had personally experienced this type of behaviour. This was also the case when it came to repeated pressure from the same person for dates or sexual relationships (experienced by 11% of women and 3% of men). Women were more likely to have personally experienced each of the ten unwanted sexualized behaviours measured by the survey.

Notably, both unwelcome physical contact or getting too close and repeated pressure from the same person for dates or sexual relationships are behaviours that can be considered criminal in some situations.<sup>6</sup> The fact that these particular behaviours are significantly more common among women is telling. While the postsecondary environment appears to be one in which most students come into contact with sexual jokes, conversations and other noncriminal behaviours, women experience the potentially criminal behaviours more often than men—suggesting important disparities exist between how women and men experience the postsecondary environment.

In addition to being the most common, certain behaviours related to inappropriate verbal and non-verbal communication were the ones students more often experienced repeatedly. Of all unwanted sexualized behaviours, sexual jokes were most often experienced ten or more times in the previous 12 months (5% of students). Compared to most other types of unwanted sexualized behaviours, unwanted sexual attention and inappropriate discussion about sex life were more often experienced ten or more times (Chart 1).

**Chart 1**  
**Students at Canadian postsecondary schools who personally experienced unwanted sexualized behaviours in a postsecondary setting 10 or more times in the past 12 months, by type of behaviour, 2019**



F too unreliable to be published

**Note:** Includes postsecondary students aged 18 to 24 (17 to 24 in Quebec) as of December 31, 2018 in the Canadian provinces who experienced (targeted, directed at them personally) unwanted sexualized behaviours in the past 12 months. Includes behaviours which occurred in the postsecondary setting, including on campus, off campus (if they occurred during travel to or from school, during an official or unofficial event organized by someone affiliated with the school, or during paid or unpaid employment, work placements or volunteer work associated with postsecondary studies) or online (where some or all of the people responsible were students, teachers or other people associated with the school). Excludes behaviours that respondents heard about from someone else (e.g., something that a friend confided in them). Percent calculations are based on unrounded estimates and include missing responses. Respondents were able to provide information on multiple incidents; therefore, percentages do not add to 100. Confidence intervals are available upon request.

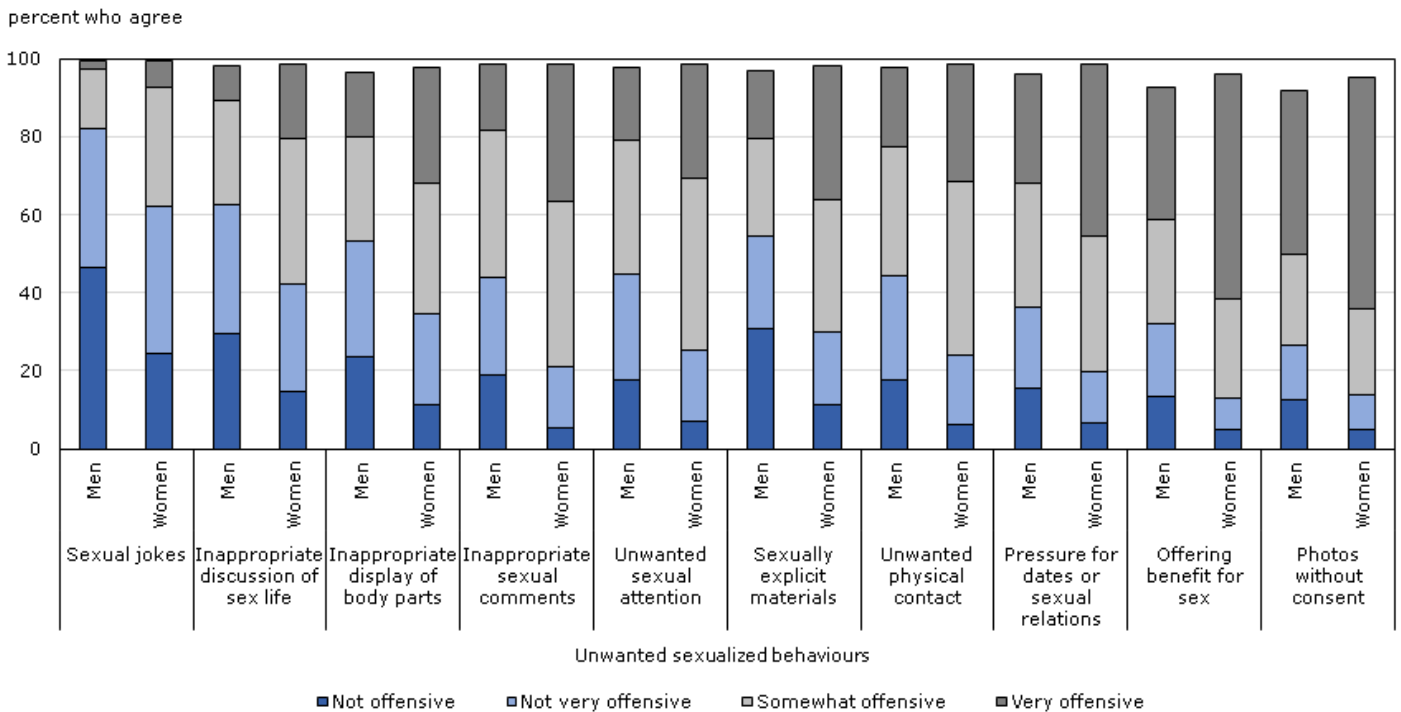
**Source:** Survey on Individual Safety in the Postsecondary Student Population.

It was less common for women than men to have ten or more experiences of the most common unwanted sexualized behaviour, sexual jokes (4% versus 7% among men). However, women were more likely to have experienced some other unwanted sexualized behaviours ten or more times, including unwanted sexual attention (3% versus 0.3%), and unwelcome physical contact or getting too close (2% versus 0.5 %).

### Taking or posting sexual images without consent seen as most offensive by students

Students were asked about how offensive they considered unwanted sexualized behaviours to be. Taking or posting inappropriate or sexually suggestive photos or videos of any student without consent was the behaviour most often seen as very offensive by both the women (59%) and the men (42%) who witnessed or experienced it (Chart 2); it was also the rarest of the ten unwanted sexualized behaviours (witnessed or experienced by 7% of women and 4% of men; Table 1).

**Chart 2**  
**Students at Canadian postsecondary schools' views on the offensiveness of unwanted sexualized behaviours that they witnessed or experienced, by type of behaviour and gender, 2019**



**Note:** Includes postsecondary students aged 18 to 24 (17 to 24 in Quebec) as of December 31, 2018 in the Canadian provinces who witnessed (saw or heard) or experienced (targeted, directed at them personally) unwanted sexualized behaviours in the past 12 months. Includes behaviours which occurred in the postsecondary setting, including on campus, off campus (if they occurred during travel to or from school, during an official or unofficial event organized by someone affiliated with the school, or during paid or unpaid employment, work placements or volunteer work associated with postsecondary studies) or online (where some or all of the people responsible were students, teachers or other people associated with the school). Excludes behaviours that respondents heard about from someone else (e.g., something that a friend confided in them). The categories "women" and "men" include cisgender and transgender women and men. Percent calculations are based on unrounded estimates and include missing responses. Confidence intervals are available upon request.

**Source:** Survey on Individual Safety in the Postsecondary Student Population.

Another behaviour that was considered particularly offensive was being offered personal benefits for engaging in sexual activity or being mistreated for not engaging in sexual activity, characterized as very offensive by women (58%) and, to a lesser degree, by men (34%) (Chart 2). Again, this type of behaviour was witnessed or experienced less often than almost all others (8% of women and 5% of men) (Table 1).

In contrast, those behaviours that were more common were also those usually considered less offensive by both women and men. For instance, sexual jokes—by far the most common type of unwanted sexualized behaviour witnessed or experienced by students—were seen as very offensive by a small proportion of both women (7%) and men (2%), while 30% and 15% (respectively) saw them as somewhat offensive. Meanwhile, the majority of students—62% of women and 82% of men—saw sexual jokes as either not very offensive or not offensive at all. Regardless of the type of behaviour or how rare or common it was, women were more likely than men to see unwanted sexualized behaviours as very offensive.

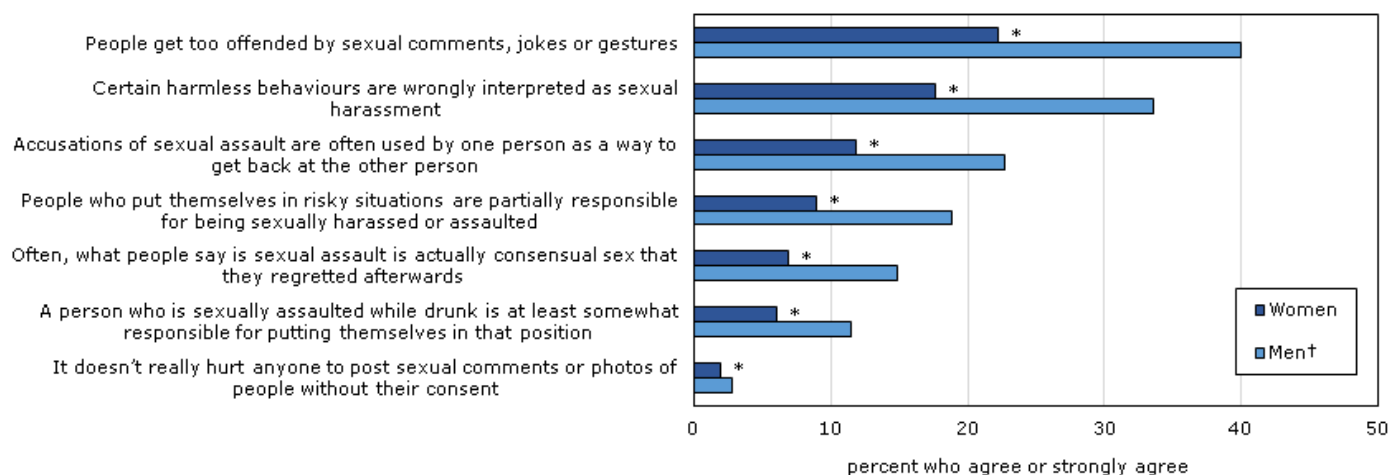
## Women and men hold different opinions about some unwanted sexualized behaviours

In line with how offensive certain specific behaviours were perceived to be, students' general attitudes about issues related to sexualized behaviour varied—especially between women and men. Through several questions adapted from the Campus Climate Validation Study (see Krebs et al. 2016), students were asked about the degree to which they agreed or disagreed with a series of statements. Statements such as “people get too offended by sexual comments, jokes or gestures” were meant to measure the degree to which students saw sexualized behaviours as harmful. Others, such as “accusations of sexual assault are often used by one person as a way to get back at the other person” aimed to gauge students' rape myth adherence—that is, “attitudes and generally false beliefs about rape [...] that serve to deny and justify male sexual aggression against women” (Lonsway and Fitzgerald 1994, p.133). Examples of rape myths include the idea that women who dress in a certain way entice men to commit sexual assault, or that sexual assault cannot happen within an intimate relationship.

When it came to the survey questions aimed to measure these attitudes, 40% of men agreed or strongly agreed with the statement “people get too offended by sexual comments, jokes or gestures,” almost twice the proportion of women (22%) that held that view. Similarly, almost one-quarter of men (23%), along with 12% of women, agreed or strongly agreed that “accusations of sexual assault are often used by one person as a way to get back at the other person.” In all cases, men were significantly more likely to agree or strongly agree with these kinds of statements (Chart 3).

**Chart 3**  
**Students at Canadian postsecondary schools' attitudes and beliefs about unwanted sexual behaviours and consent, by gender, 2019**

Beliefs and attitudes



\* significantly different from reference category ( $p < 0.05$ )

† reference category

**Note:** Includes postsecondary students aged 18 to 24 (17 to 24 in Quebec) as of December 31, 2018 in the Canadian provinces. The categories “women” and “men” include cisgender and transgender women and men. Percent calculations are based on unrounded estimates and include missing responses. Confidence intervals are available upon request.

**Source:** Survey on Individual Safety in the Postsecondary Student Population.

## Women students more likely to act when seeing others experience unwanted sexualized behaviours

When unwanted sexualized behaviours happen in public places, intervention by the people who witness it can be an effective way to both discourage perpetrators and support those who are targeted (Cadaret et al. 2019). Students were asked about any actions they took—or did not take—when they witnessed these kinds of behaviours in the postsecondary setting.

The majority of students—nine in ten—who witnessed unwanted sexualized behaviours in a postsecondary setting did not take action in response to at least one instance (91% of women and 92% of men) (Table 3). Among both women and men who did not take action, the most common reason was that they did not see the behaviour as serious enough to warrant bystander intervention (69% of women and 81% of men). A belief that it was not their responsibility to take action was also common among both women (32%) and men (26%) who witnessed unwanted sexualized behaviour and did nothing.

Aside from these reasons, many students who witnessed unwanted sexualized behaviours—particularly women—said that they did not take action because they felt uncomfortable, fearful and worried about doing so. Almost half (48%) of women who did not take action said they didn't do so because they felt uncomfortable, while 28% worried that there could be negative consequences for themselves or others, and 18% feared for their safety. All of these reasons were significantly



more common among women, across all three categories of unwanted sexualized behaviours—suggesting women feel different kinds of pressures and constraints when confronted with these situations.

Despite these worries, women were more likely than men to say that they had indeed taken action in at least one instance where they had witnessed unwanted sexualized behaviours (55% of women who had witnessed such behaviours, versus 41% of men). Overall, speaking to those who had been targeted and speaking to those responsible were the most common types of bystander action taken on by both women and men (68% and 60%, and 67% and 80%, of women and men who took action, respectively). Smaller proportions of students reported the behaviour to the school (12% of women, 9% of men), or spoke to someone at a service provided by either the school administration (10% of women, 7% of men) or a student group (6% each).

## One in ten women students was sexually assaulted in a postsecondary setting in the previous year

Social environments where sexualized behaviours targeting women are commonplace can also carry an implicit tolerance of sexual assault (Hampson 2019; Warren et al. 2015). To understand how these concepts may interrelate in the postsecondary setting, the 2019 SISPSP aimed to measure Canadian students' experiences with unwanted sexualized behaviours as well as with sexual assault.

A sexual assault can take different forms, including unwanted sexual touching, sexual activity to which a person did not or was not able to consent, and sexual attacks involving physical force (see Text box 2). One in ten (11%) women who were attending postsecondary school during the time indicated that they had been sexually assaulted in the postsecondary setting in the preceding year—approximately 110,000 individual women students (Table 4).<sup>7</sup> Among men, the proportion was considerably smaller (4%). Additionally, almost one in seven women (15%) stated that they had been sexually assaulted in the postsecondary setting at one time during their time at school (either in the previous year or before). This represented approximately 197,000 women, and was proportionally three times higher than among men (5%).<sup>8</sup>

In many cases, the same individuals experienced both sexual assault and unwanted sexualized behaviours in the preceding year. In fact, 18% of students who had experienced an unwanted sexualized behaviour in the postsecondary setting had also been sexually assaulted—including 23% of women and 10% of men who had experienced an unwanted sexualized behaviour. This compared to 1% of women and men who had not experienced an unwanted sexualized behaviour. Similarly, 93% of women and 79% of men who had been sexually assaulted in the postsecondary setting had also experienced an unwanted sexualized behaviour, compared to 39% of women and 30% of men who had not been sexually assaulted.

### Text box 2

#### How the Survey on Individual Safety in the Postsecondary Student Population measures sexual assault

The *Criminal Code* of Canada includes a broad range of experiences in the definition of sexual assault—ranging from unwanted sexual touching to sexual violence resulting in physical injury or risk to life. Over time, Statistics Canada has incorporated these definitions into questions designed to measure sexual assault in the Canadian population. The 2019 Survey on Individual Safety in the Postsecondary Student Population (SISPSP) includes questions on four types of sexual assault:

- Sexual attack: Forcing or attempted forcing into any unwanted sexual activity, by threatening, holding down, or hurting in some way;
- Unwanted sexual touching: Touching against a person's will in any sexual way, including unwanted touching or grabbing, kissing, or fondling;
- Sexual activity where unable to consent: Subjecting to a sexual activity to which a person was not able to consent, including being intoxicated, drugged, manipulated, or forced in ways other than physically;
- Sexual activity to which a person did not consent, after they consented to another form of sexual activity (for example, agreeing to protected sex and then learning it had been unprotected sex).

Postsecondary institutions are spaces where there are many young people, and young people—especially young women—experience sexual assault in higher proportions than other people. Similar questions about sexual assault were asked to Canadians aged 18 to 24 in the general population by the Survey on Safety in Public and Private Spaces (SSPPS). Though the fact that it is not limited to the postsecondary setting makes it not directly comparable to answers provided by the student population, the SSPPS found that 14% of women aged 18 to 24 (17 to 24 in Quebec) in the provinces had been sexually assaulted in the previous 12 months. Among men, the proportion was 3%. In other words, sexual assault is a societal problem that reaches beyond postsecondary institutions; nonetheless, postsecondary institutions may be uniquely positioned to offer support to those who are sexually assaulted and possibly, to effect broader social change.

## Most sexual assaults take the form of unwanted sexual touching

Among postsecondary students surveyed by the SISPSP, the most common form of sexual assault was unwanted sexual touching—a finding consistent with what has been seen historically in the general population (Conroy and Cotter 2017). Among women students, 9% indicated that they had experienced this type of sexual assault in the previous 12 months (Table 4). Further, more than half (55%) of women who had experienced unwanted sexual touching stated that they had experienced it more than once in the preceding year.<sup>9</sup>

Sexual attacks—the most serious form of sexual assault measured by the SISPSP—were experienced by 2% of women in a postsecondary context in the previous year. The same proportion experienced sexual activity to which they were unable to consent because they were intoxicated, drugged, manipulated or forced in other non-physical ways, and sexual activity to which they did not consent after having consented to another form of sexual activity (for example, agreeing to have protected sex, then learning it was unprotected sex; 2%, respectively) (Table 4).

All forms of sexual assault were considerably less common among men, though the general distribution of the most common forms was similar. For instance, 3% of men experienced unwanted sexual touching in the preceding 12 months, 0.3% experienced sexual attacks, 1% experienced sexual activity to which they were unable to consent, and 0.4% experienced sexual activity to which they did not consent after having consented to another form of sexual activity.

## Sexual assaults often include coercion, manipulation and inability to consent

Central to evolving definitions of sexual assault is the issue of consent. The Canadian *Criminal Code* makes explicit the requirement that sexual activity be consensual in order to be lawful, and outlines situations where consent is by definition impossible. These include situations where the complainant is incapable of consenting (*Criminal Code*, RSC 1985, c. C-46, s. 273.1 (2) (b)), where the accused induces the complainant to engage in sexual activity by abusing a position of trust or authority (c), where the complainant expresses a lack of agreement to continue to engage in a sexual activity (e), and others. In the wake of #MeToo, conversations about active and ongoing consent have gained momentum; this concept posits that for sexual activity to be unquestionably consensual, those involved should clearly express their continued consent to what is going on throughout the event (Hampson 2019).

In line with these developments, the SISPSP included two measures of sexual assault which specifically take into account the issue of consent: sexual activity where a person was unable to consent because they were intoxicated, drugged, manipulated or forced in other ways than physically; and sexual activity to which a person did not consent after having consented to another form of sexual activity (for example, agreeing to protected sex and then learning it had been unprotected sex) (see Text box 2).

Among women who had been sexually assaulted in a postsecondary setting during the previous 12 months, one in six (16%) indicated that at least one sexual assault had happened as a result of them being unable to consent because they were intoxicated, drugged, manipulated or forced in other non-physical ways (Table 5). About one in five (19%) stated that at least one sexual assault took the form of sexual activity to which they did not consent after they had consented to something else. Taken together—and keeping in mind that many women experienced multiple instances and types of sexual assault—these two kinds of sexual assault were experienced by three in ten (29%) women who had been sexually assaulted.

Proportions among men were somewhat similar, in that 27% of those who had been sexually assaulted indicated that at least one incident had occurred through lack of consent: either they could not consent because they were intoxicated, drugged, manipulated or forced in other ways, or because it was sexual activity to which they did not consent after having consented to another form of sexual activity. The latter type of sexual assault, however, was more common among women who had been sexually assaulted (19%, versus 11% of men).

In addition to sexual assaults which happened directly through coercion or manipulation, students who experienced of any kind of sexual assault were asked whether coercion or manipulation was part of what happened to them. Over one-third of women students who had been sexually assaulted in a postsecondary setting in the past year said that at least one incident had involved continuous verbal pressure even after they said “no” (40%); the same was true for 24% of men. Among women who had been sexually assaulted, 15% had been made afraid of what might happen if they refused, as were 9% of men; 8% of women and 10% of men were threatened with the spread of lies or rumours or the end of a relationship. Additionally, among women specifically,<sup>10</sup> 5% were given alcohol or drugs without their knowledge or consent; and 3% (respectively) were threatened with the distribution of intimate content or were afraid that their studies or future career would be at risk if they refused sexual activity.

## Students living with a disability, bisexual students more likely to experience sexual assault and unwanted sexualized behaviours

Students living with a disability were overrepresented in terms of having experienced unwanted sexualized behaviours and sexual assault in the postsecondary setting. Specifically, over twice the proportion of students who stated that they lived with some form of physical or mental disability<sup>11</sup> experienced sexual assault in the past 12 months (12%, versus 5% of students with no disability) (Table 6). This included 15% of women living with a disability (compared to 8% of women with no disability) and 7% of men living with a disability (compared to 3% of men with no disability). These findings mirror those from other population studies, which also found that people living with disabilities—particularly women—were at especially high risk of sexual assault (Cotter 2018).

In addition to sexual assault, the SISPSP found that students living with disabilities also experienced unwanted sexualized behaviours more often (47% versus 34%). Over half (53%) of women students living with a disability experienced unwanted sexualized behaviours, as did almost four in ten of their counterparts who were men (37%).

A high prevalence of sexual assault and unwanted sexualized behaviours in the postsecondary context was noted among bisexual students. Sexual assault was twice as common among this group (16%) as among heterosexual students (7%), for example, and bisexual women had a particularly high incidence (18%)—again reflective of findings from other Canadian studies (Simpson 2018). Bisexual students were also more likely to have experienced unwanted sexualized behaviours (57% versus 37%), according to the SISPSP.

Among First Nations, Métis or Inuit<sup>12</sup> students, one in ten (10%) experienced a sexual assault in the postsecondary setting in the previous 12 months—a similar proportion to non-Indigenous students (8%).<sup>13</sup> Notably, Indigenous men experienced a prevalence of sexual assault in the postsecondary setting that was more than double that of their non-Indigenous counterparts (9% versus 4%). Indigenous women, meanwhile, had a similar prevalence of sexual assault to non-Indigenous women (10% and 11%). Further, sexual assault was as common among Indigenous men as among Indigenous women—a marked contrast to what was seen among non-Indigenous students, where women were considerably more likely to have been sexually assaulted.

Unwanted sexualized behaviours were experienced by the same proportion (39%) of both Indigenous and non-Indigenous students. A larger proportion of Indigenous women 44% than Indigenous men 32% experienced these behaviours.

Sexual assault in the postsecondary setting was slightly less common among students who identified as members of a visible minority group, compared to students who did not. Smaller proportions of students who identified as a visible minority were sexually assaulted (7%, compared to 8% of non-visible minority students), including among women (10% of women students who identified as a visible minority versus 11% who did not) and among men (3% versus 4%).

The prevalence of unwanted sexualized behaviour was also slightly lower among students who identified as a visible minority (36%) than among students who did not identify this way (41%). This was the case for women, among whom those who identified as a visible minority were less likely to have experienced unwanted sexualized behaviours (41%, versus 46% of those who were not a visible minority group), and for men (30% versus 34%).

## Other people often present when sexual assaults, unwanted sexualized behaviours happen

The situation in which a sexual assault or an unwanted sexualized behaviour occurred—where it happened and who was involved—can be telling. For example, these factors reveal whether the incident happened in a public space. Research on unwanted sexualized behaviours within other social settings has shown that the degree to which behaviours occur in public versus private spaces is important (Bastomski and Smith 2016; Burczykca 2019; Cotter 2019). Behaviours that take place “behind closed doors” may be less amenable to bystander intervention, while those that happen with many people around—or involved—may reflect a broader culture in which harmful behaviours are tolerated.

Though women students experienced sexual assault in the postsecondary setting in higher proportions than men, some aspects of the sexual assaults that they experienced were similar. For instance, both women and men overwhelmingly indicated that a sole person was most often responsible. More than three-quarters of women (77%) and men (79%) who had been sexually assaulted in a postsecondary setting stated that each instance had involved one perpetrator (Table 7). Smaller proportions stated that two or more people were always involved (5% of women and 6% of men who had been sexually assaulted), or that it varied from incident to incident (9% and 5%).<sup>14</sup>

The situation was somewhat similar when it came to some unwanted sexualized behaviours: for instance, among students who had experienced unwanted physical contact or suggested sexual relations, 62% stated that one person was responsible

(Table 8). Unwanted physical contact or suggested sexual relations committed by one person was slightly more common among women students who experienced this type of behaviour (64%) than among men (58%).

Although most students who experienced sexual assault or unwanted sexualized behaviours in a postsecondary setting indicated that one person was usually responsible, they also said that in many cases, other people were around when it happened. For instance, three-quarters (74%) of those who experienced inappropriate communication and 65% of those who experienced physical contact or suggested sexual relations said that was the case (Table 8).<sup>15</sup> Similarly, many sexual assaults happened with other people present. This was the case for 60% of women students and 65% of men who had experienced at least one incident of unwanted sexual touching, and for 31% of women and 42% of men who experienced sexual activity to which they were unable to consent because they were intoxicated, drugged, manipulated or forced in another non-physical way (differences not found to be statistically significant). These findings suggest that many sexual assaults and unwanted sexualized behaviours do not happen in private, one-on-one situations.

Despite the fact that there were often people around when sexual assaults or unwanted sexualized behaviours happened, these people may not have been aware of the situation or its seriousness, or may have chosen not to act (see Table 3 for self-reported reasons bystanders did not take action). In fact, less than half of people who experienced sexual assault or unwanted sexualized behaviours with other people present said that these people took action in at least one instance. For instance, among women who experienced unwanted sexual touching with other people around, 36% stated that others did something in response to what was going on, such as intervening directly or offering assistance. Among men, this proportion was lower (19%). Similarly, in situations where others were present, 35% of students who experienced inappropriate communication, 34% who experienced sexually explicit materials, and 30% who experienced unwanted physical contact or suggested sexual relations said that someone took action in response (Table 8).

Not all forms of action taken by people that were present were positive for those who experienced sexual assault or unwanted sexualized behaviours. Notably, one in ten (10%) women students who were sexually assaulted in the presence of others who took action stated that the action taken was to encourage the sexual assault.<sup>16</sup>

The same was true for unwanted sexualized behaviours. For example, a quarter of students who had experienced behaviours related to sexually explicit materials where others took action said that the action these people took was actually to encourage the behaviour (25%). This was the case for men (29%) and women (22%) who experienced this behaviour in situations where others were around and took action (a difference not found to be statistically significant).

### **Most sexual assaults, unwanted physical contact or suggested sexual relations happen off campus**

Unwanted sexualized behaviours and sexual assaults that happened in the postsecondary context may have taken place on campus, or—if they involved a student, teacher, or happened at an event sanctioned or organized by students or the school—they may have happened in an off-campus or online space (see Text box 1).

Given their association with digital videos and images, behaviours related to sexually explicit materials most often occurred in a school-related online environment (62%, Table 9). Social media was the most common online environment in which students experienced sexually explicit material (78%). School-related online environments could include sites or platforms hosted by the school itself, or those hosted by other entities but on which interactions between students, instructors and others take place.

Inappropriate verbal or non-verbal communication most often occurred on campus (75%), including 73% of the women and 78% of the men who experienced it; the same was true for behaviours related to unwanted physical contact or suggested sexual relations (59%, including 60% of women and 57% of men). In contrast, when it came to sexual assault, almost eight in ten (77%) women and seven in ten (70%) men who had been sexually assaulted stated that at least one incident had occurred in a school-related situation off campus (Table 10).

### **Many unwanted sexualized behaviours, sexual assaults in the postsecondary setting occur in public areas**

Whether they happened on campus or not, sexual assaults and unwanted sexualized behaviours often took place in areas open to the public. For instance, 59% of students (59% of women and 60% of men) who experienced inappropriate communication on campus said that at least one incident had happened at a non-residential building (such as a library, cafeteria or gym) (Table 9). Sexual assaults that happened on campus also most often happened in a non-residential location, as indicated by 41% of women and 36% of men who had been experienced an on-campus sexual assault (Table 10).

A large proportion of sexual assaults and unwanted sexualized behaviours that happened in a postsecondary setting took place in a restaurant or bar off-campus. For women, just over half (51%) of off-campus sexual assaults occurred in a restaurant or bar; among men who had been sexually assaulted off campus, 40% indicated that this was the type of place

where it happened (Table 10). As with many other characteristics of sexual assault, its prevalence in bars and restaurants was largely reflective of incidents of unwanted sexual touching (the most common type of sexual assault): half (52%) of all students who experienced this type of sexual assault off campus said that it happened in a restaurant or bar.

Perhaps related to the fact that sexual assaults often happened in bars and restaurants, 48% of women and 55% of men who experienced at least one sexual assault in the postsecondary context said that they believed the sexual assault was related to the perpetrator's use of alcohol or drugs (Table 7).<sup>17</sup> Restaurants and bars were also frequently the setting of behaviours related to inappropriate communication (55%) and physical contact or suggested sexual relations (49%) that happened off campus (Table 9). Overall, similar proportions of women (56%) and men (53%) stated that off-campus unwanted sexualized behaviours happened at a restaurant or bar.

Notably, women who experienced unwanted sexualized behaviours off campus often said that incidents happened during their travels to and from school (40%, versus 22% among men). The same was true for 11% of women and 10% of men who were sexually assaulted off campus.

While most unwanted sexualized behaviours and sexual assaults happened in a public location, many sexual assaults—particularly those that took place off campus—happened in a residential setting. A house or apartment (other than those owned by a fraternity or sorority) was identified as the location of at least one sexual assault by 51% of women and 52% of men who had been sexually assaulted off campus. For men, this was the most common location for off-campus sexual assault (Table 10). Of note, students who either lived in on-campus housing or off campus with roommates had the highest incidence of sexual assault and unwanted sexualized behaviours, compared to students who lived with their parents, their partners, alone or had other arrangements (Table 6).

## **Fellow students most often responsible for sexual assaults and unwanted sexualized behaviours**

The relationship between the person who was sexually assaulted and the perpetrator of the assault provides critical information about the situation in which the incident occurred. For example, situations where the perpetrator is a peer have different implications than situations where the perpetrator is in a position of authority—such as a professor or a coach, in the postsecondary context.

Students who had been sexually assaulted in the postsecondary environment, as well as those who experienced unwanted sexualized behaviours, most often said that peers were responsible. Close to nine in ten (86%) men and eight in ten (80%) women who had experienced unwanted sexualized behaviour stated that in at least one instance, the perpetrator was a student at their school (Table 11). The same was true for sexual assaults: most students who had been sexually assaulted indicated that at least one incident was committed by a fellow student or students (60% of women and 61% of men who were sexually assaulted) (Table 7).

These findings suggest that for the most part, sexual assault and unwanted sexualized behaviours in the postsecondary setting happened outside relationships in which power imbalances are formalized (such as those that exist between students and teachers, or employees and their supervisors). For example, relatively few women students who were sexually assaulted stated that the perpetrator was someone in a position of authority such as a professor, coach, supervisor or employer (2%)<sup>18</sup> (Table 7).

However, unwanted sexualized behaviours that did happen within formalized power relationships were more commonly experienced by women. For example, 5% of women who had experienced unwanted sexualized behaviour stated that the perpetrator was a professor or instructor, compared to 2% of men (Table 11).

Current or former casual dating partners were implicated by 12% of both women and men who had been sexually assaulted in the postsecondary setting, and 10% of women and 7% of men said that the perpetrator was a current or former spouse, common-law partner or boyfriend or girlfriend (Table 7). Additionally, current or former spouses, boyfriends or girlfriends (14%) or casual dating partners (15%) were often implicated in behaviours related to sexually explicit materials (Table 8), including similar proportions of women (21%) and men (23%) who experienced this type of behaviour.<sup>19</sup> This type of unwanted sexualized behaviour—which includes displaying, showing, or sending sexually explicit messages or materials and taking or posting inappropriate or sexually suggestive photos or videos without consent—could include what is sometimes referred to as “revenge porn,” or other situations in which intimate images shared between partners are later circulated to a wider group. These findings suggest that as is the case elsewhere in society, violence and abuse by intimate partners is an issue in the postsecondary environment.

## **Unwanted sexualized behaviours in the postsecondary setting most often perpetrated by men**

Most often, students who experienced unwanted sexualized behaviours said that the behaviours had been perpetrated by men. More than half (55%) of students who experienced inappropriate communication said that a man or men were always

responsible, as did 56% of students who experienced sexually explicit materials and 69% of those who experienced unwanted physical contact or suggested sexual relations (Table 8). This reflected the experiences of women: for instance, almost nine in ten (85%) of women who had experienced unwanted physical contact or suggested sexual relations said that a man or men were responsible, compared to a quarter (25%) of men who had experienced this type of behaviour. Unwanted physical contact or suggested sexual relations perpetrated by women, in contrast, was more common for men who experienced it (42% of men, compared to 4% of women). This pattern was similar, though less pronounced, for other forms of unwanted sexualized behaviours.

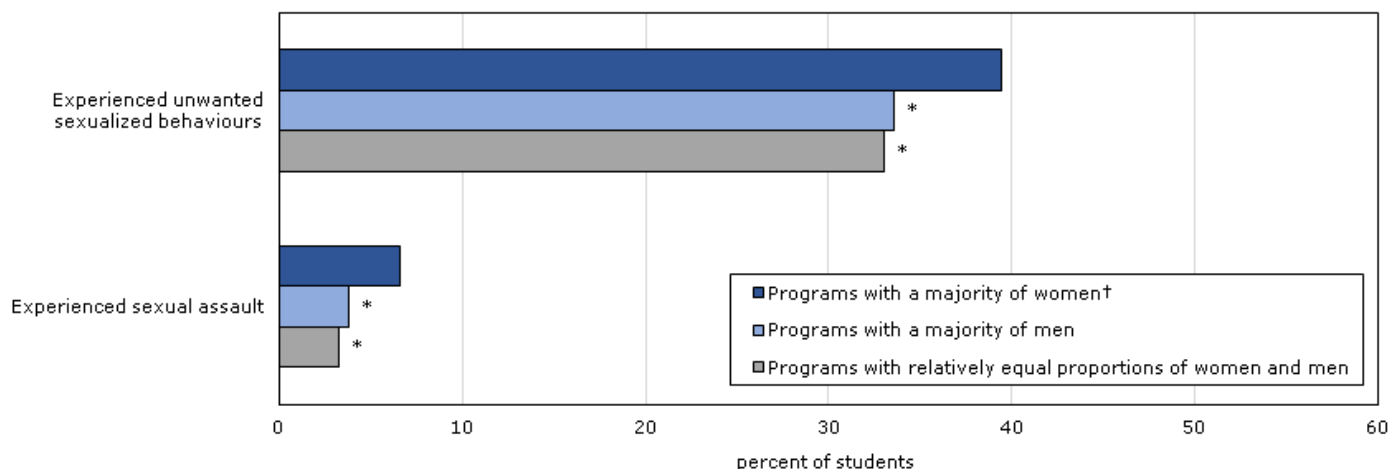
Men were responsible for most sexual assaults committed against students in the postsecondary setting: seven in ten (73%) students who had experienced a sexual assault said that every incident that they experienced was committed by a man. As most sexual assaults were committed against women students, this reflects the experiences of women who were sexually assaulted: 90% of women indicated that men were the perpetrators in all instances of sexual assault that they experienced in a postsecondary environment (Table 7). The experiences of men were very different: among men who had been sexually assaulted, 63% stated that women were responsible in all instances. A further 12% stated that a combination of men and women were involved.<sup>20</sup>

### Prevalence of unwanted sexualized behaviours, sexual assault vary based on gender composition of university programs

The prevalence of unwanted sexualized behaviours and of sexual assault varied across university programs of study.<sup>21</sup> Students who were enrolled in programs in where 60% or more of the students were women, where 60% or more were men, and where the proportions of men and women were relatively equal had different experiences.

For men, those enrolled in a program in which 60% or more of students were women had a higher prevalence of sexual assault than men enrolled in other programs. One in 14 (7%) men studying in a program where women outnumbered men to this degree had been sexually assaulted in the postsecondary setting, compared to 4% in programs where men represented 60% or more of students and 3% in programs with equal proportions of women and men. Similarly, men in programs where 60% or more of students were women were more likely to have experienced unwanted sexualized behaviours (39%) (Chart 4).

**Chart 4**  
Prevalence of sexual assault and unwanted sexualized behaviours among men studying at Canadian postsecondary schools in the past 12 months, by gender composition of program of study, 2019



\* significantly different from reference category (p < 0.05)

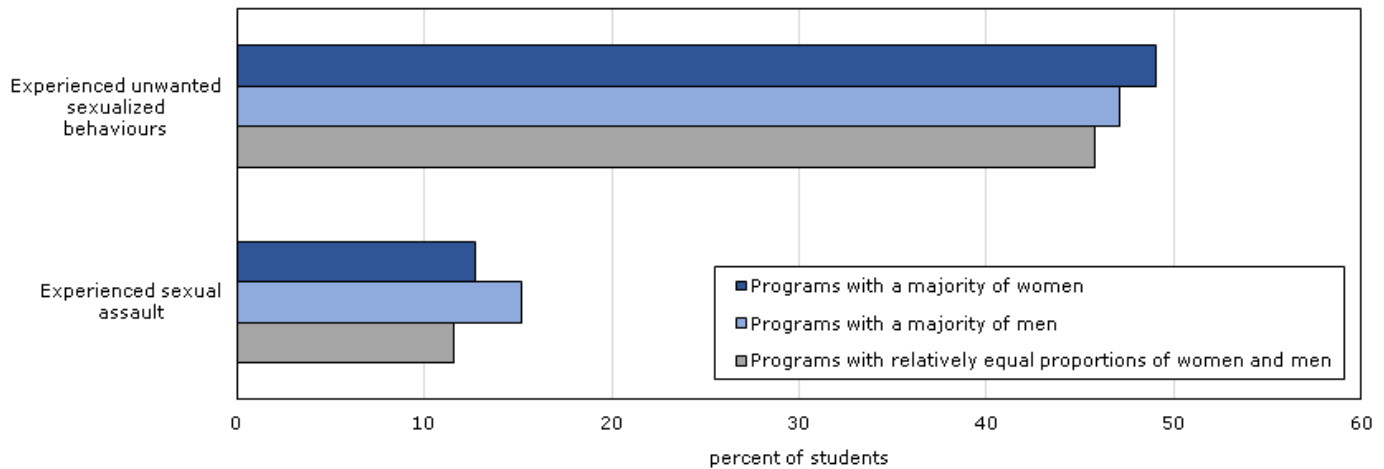
† reference category

**Note:** Includes university students only. Includes students aged 18 to 24 (17 to 24 in Quebec) as of December 31, 2018 in the Canadian provinces. The categories "women" and "men" include cisgender and transgender women and men. Percent calculations are based on unrounded estimates and include missing responses. Includes incidents that happened in a postsecondary school setting, including on campus, off campus (if they occurred during travel to or from school, during an official or unofficial event organized by someone affiliated with the school, or during paid or unpaid employment, work placements or volunteer work associated with postsecondary studies) or online (where some or all of the people responsible were students, teachers or other people associated with the school). Programs where women or men represent 60% or more of students (according to data from the 2016/2017 academic year collected by the Postsecondary Student Information System) are considered to be programs in which women or men (respectively) form the majority of students. Confidence intervals are available upon request.

**Source:** Survey of Individual Safety in the Postsecondary Student Population.

The situation among women students was different. There was no statistically significant difference in the prevalence of sexual assault among women in programs in where men represented 60% or more of students (15%), compared to those in programs where either 60% or more of students were women (13%) or programs with relatively equal proportions of men and women students (12%).<sup>22</sup> Findings were similar when it came to unwanted sexualized behaviours, which were experienced by just under half of women in each of the three program types (Chart 5).

**Chart 5**  
Prevalence of sexual assault and unwanted sexualized behaviours among women studying at Canadian postsecondary schools in the past 12 months, by gender composition of program of study, 2019



**Note:** Differences are not statistically significant. Includes university students only. Includes students aged 18 to 24 (17 to 24 in Quebec) as of December 31, 2018 in the Canadian provinces. The categories "women" and "men" include cisgender and transgender women and men. Percent calculations are based on unrounded estimates and include missing responses. Includes incidents that happened in a postsecondary school setting, including on campus, off campus (if they occurred during travel to or from school, during an official or unofficial event organized by someone affiliated with the school, or during paid or unpaid employment, work placements or volunteer work associated with postsecondary studies) or online (where some or all of the people responsible were students, teachers or other people associated with the school). Programs where women or men represent 60% or more of students (according to data from the 2016/2017 academic year collected by the Postsecondary Student Information System) are considered to be programs in which women or men (respectively) form the majority of students. Confidence intervals are available upon request.

**Source:** Survey of Individual Safety in the Postsecondary Student Population.

It should be noted that these programs represent students' programs of study at the time the survey was conducted, and may or may not be the same program of study in which a student was enrolled at the time that they experienced a sexual assault or unwanted sexualized behaviour. Students may have transferred out of a program following a sexual assault, for example; information on that original program of study was not available. In addition, it is not known if the student who experienced a sexual assault or unwanted sexualized behaviour was in the same program of study as the perpetrator.

Other research has found that the unequal representation of men in certain fields of study and of women in others has negative consequences for individuals and for the fields of study themselves (Stratton et al. 2005; Wang and Degol 2017). Experiences of sexual assault and unwanted sexualized behaviours discourage some students from enrollment or continuation of study and contribute to ongoing gender disparity within some fields (Barthelemy et al. 2016; Clancy et al. 2014). However, it should be noted that many of these studies look at the interactions that occur in a strictly academic setting; meanwhile, data from the 2019 SISPSP show that most sexual assaults and unwanted sexualized behaviours that occur in the postsecondary context happen outside the classroom. Thus, while the experiences that students have with those with whom they share classes and fieldwork are important to understand, equally critical is an understanding of students' experiences in other social settings related to their time at postsecondary school.

### Women more likely to be fearful, change habits due to unwanted sexualized behaviours or sexual assault

Sexual assault and unwanted sexualized behaviours can have wide-ranging and potentially devastating impacts on those who experience them. The SISPSP asked students about how their experiences of sexual assault or unwanted sexualized behaviours in a postsecondary setting had impacted their emotional and mental health, as well as their academic life.

Sexual assault and unwanted sexualized behaviours negatively impacted the emotional well-being of many women and men who experienced them. When it came to the specific types of emotional impacts students reported, a few common issues emerged. Overall, while both women and men indicated that they had experienced negative emotional consequences as a result of their experiences, such consequences were more common for women (Table 12, Table 13). In particular, women were more likely to report impacts related to being fearful for their safety and impacts related to negative mental health. For

instance, the proportion of women who said that they became fearful as a result of having experienced unwanted sexualized behaviours were almost six times higher than that of men: almost a quarter (23%) stated that the experience had made them fearful, compared to 4% of men (Table 12). Women who had been sexually assaulted were also more likely to say that they were fearful (38%, compared to 15% of men), while 60% of women who had been sexually assaulted said the experience had made them more cautious or aware (compared to 28% of men; Table 13).

Many women changed the way they travelled to and around their campuses in response to being sexually assaulted or having experienced unwanted sexualized behaviours, re-iterating the fact that these experiences had significant impacts on women's feelings of safety. Women who were sexually assaulted reported avoiding specific buildings at school (18%) and changing their route to school (9%) (Table 13). These same responses were mentioned by women who had experienced unwanted sexualized behaviours, including avoiding specific buildings at school (18%), changing their routes to school (11%) and the time of day at which they travel to school (11%) (Table 12). These impacts are of particular interest, since many women indicated that unwanted sexualized behaviours happened to them while they were en route to school. The fact these experiences cause many women to live with fear for their personal safety makes clear the seriousness of both sexual assault and unwanted sexualized behaviours that happen in the postsecondary context.

### **Negative impacts of sexual assault, unwanted sexualized behaviours on mental health more common for women**

Additionally, specific impacts on mental health were reported by many students who experienced sexual assault or unwanted sexualized behaviours. While both women and men described these kinds of impacts, they were more common among women: 31% of women who had experienced unwanted sexualized behaviours in the postsecondary context reported being anxious (versus 10% among men) and 8% reported being depressed (versus 4% among men; Table 12). The same was true among those who had been sexually assaulted: 40% of women reported feeling anxious (versus 19% among men), and 21% reported being depressed as a result (versus 9% among men; Table 13). Support from mental health professionals was sought by 7% of women and 2% of men who had personally experienced any unwanted sexualized behaviours in the postsecondary setting, and 12% of women students who had been sexually assaulted in the preceding year (Table 12; Table 13).<sup>23</sup>

Women who had been sexually assaulted often felt ashamed (34%) or guilty (28%) as a result. These emotional impacts were less frequently reported by men (13% and 9%). Among men, 45% reported feeling annoyed, and 40% reported feeling confused (Table 13).

Also noteworthy was the proportion of students who said that they used alcohol or drugs to cope with a sexual assault. This was the case for 13% of women and 10% of men who had been sexually assaulted. Unlike many other mental health impacts, use of alcohol or drugs was as common among men as it was among women.

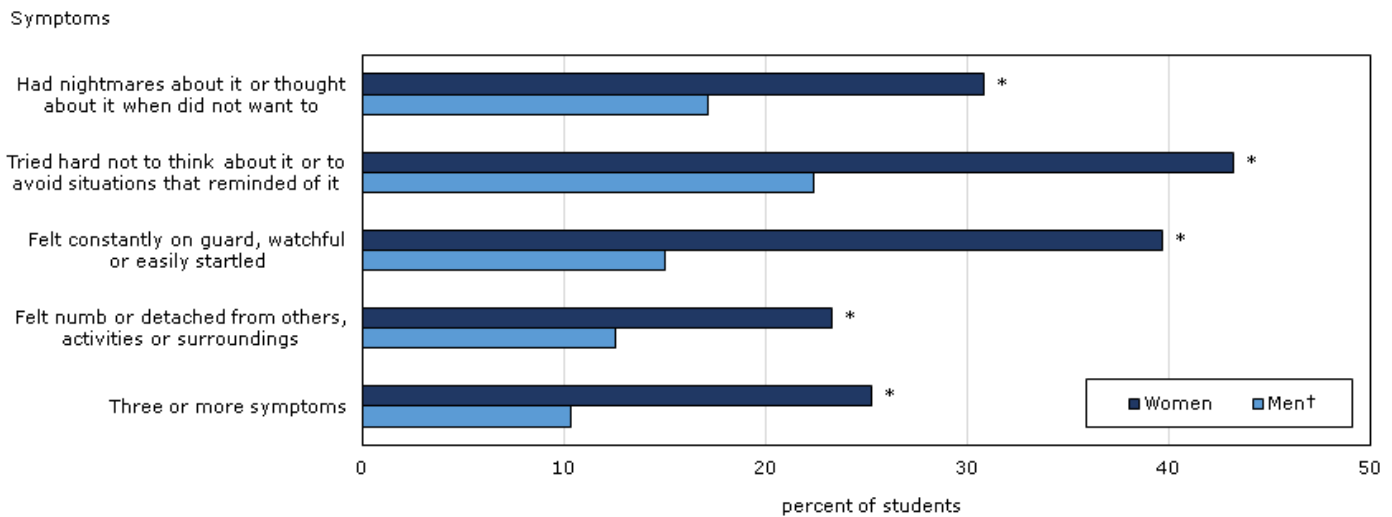
### **Symptoms consistent with Post-traumatic Stress Disorder reported by many students**

In addition to questions about the impact sexual assault had on students' emotional wellbeing, the SISPSP included a series of questions based on a screening tool used by mental health professionals to assess whether an individual may suffer from Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).<sup>24</sup> Substantial proportions of students who had experienced sexual assault in the postsecondary context provided responses consistent with symptoms of PTSD.

As with other kinds of emotional impacts, symptoms consistent with PTSD were more common for women: for example, 40% of women who had been sexually assaulted felt constantly on guard, watchful or easily startled, compared to 15% of men. This pattern was similar with other symptoms consistent with PTSD, as well (Chart 6). Further, one-quarter (25%) of women who had been sexually assaulted in a postsecondary setting indicated that they had experienced any three of these four symptoms—which, according to the Primary Care PTSD Screen tool, indicates the possible presence of PTSD (Prins et al. 2003). This was more than twice the proportion of men (10%) who reported three or more PTSD-related symptoms.



**Chart 6**  
**Students at Canadian postsecondary schools who were sexually assaulted in a postsecondary setting in the past 12 months, by symptoms consistent with Post-traumatic Stress Disorder and gender, 2019**



\* significantly different from reference category ( $p < 0.05$ )

† reference category

**Note:** Includes postsecondary students aged 18 to 24 (17 to 24 in Quebec) as of December 31, 2018 in the Canadian provinces who were sexually assaulted in the past 12 months. Includes incidents which occurred in the postsecondary setting, including on campus or off campus (if they occurred during travel to or from school, during an official or unofficial event organized by someone affiliated with the school, or during paid or unpaid employment, work placements or volunteer work associated with postsecondary studies). The categories "women" and "men" include cisgender and transgender women and men. Percent calculations are based on unrounded estimates and include missing responses. Confidence intervals are available upon request.

**Source:** Survey on Individual Safety in the Postsecondary Student Population.

## Sexual assault, unwanted sexualized behaviours impact students' academic life

Some students who experienced sexual assault and unwanted sexualized behaviours in a postsecondary setting also reported negative impacts on their academic life. Among students who had been sexually assaulted in the postsecondary setting, some reported stopping going to classes (9% of women and 7% of men who had been sexually assaulted), asking for extensions on assignments (7% of women and 6% of men), and dropping a class (5% of women and 6% of men) (Table 13). These types of impacts were as common among women and men who had been sexually assaulted.

Students who had experienced unwanted sexualized behaviours reported similar academic impacts. For example, 7% of women and 3% of men stated that they had stopped going to some of their classes; 4% of women and 1% of men dropped a class; others indicated that they had asked for extensions (6% of women, 3% of men) or for exams to be rescheduled (2% of women, 1% of men) (Table 12). However, unlike academic impacts of sexual assault, impacts related to unwanted sexualized behaviours were generally more common among women than men.

## Few students spoke to someone associated with the school about the sexual assault, unwanted sexualized behaviours they experienced

While many students personally experienced negative impacts associated with both unwanted sexualized behaviours and sexual assault, relatively few spoke about it with someone associated with the school. Of those who had personally experienced unwanted sexualized behaviours in a postsecondary setting, 9% of women and 4% of men spoke with either a faculty member, student support service, campus security, mental health counsellor, chaplain, someone employed at their student residence or someone there who was responsible for students' wellbeing, or someone else associated with the school (Table 14). Among students who had been sexually assaulted, relatively equal proportions of women (8%) and men (6%) men stated that they had reached out to someone associated with the school (Table 15).

Among students who did speak to someone associated with the school, most spoke to a person or group affiliated with the school administration (for example, a health services centre). This was the case for 60% of women and 63% of men who spoke to someone associated with the school about their experiences of unwanted sexualized behaviours, and 67% of students who spoke about a sexual assault.<sup>25</sup> Smaller proportions spoke to someone associated with a student-run group such as peer support group, and others did not know the affiliation of the person or group that they spoke to.

Notably, women who had been sexually assaulted in a postsecondary setting and spoke to someone associated with the school often stated that they did so in order to receive mental health support (65%, Table 15).<sup>26</sup> Similarly, seeking mental health support in regards to unwanted sexualized behaviour was a common reason that both women (48%) and men (36%) disclosed their experiences to the school (Table 14). These findings re-iterate the serious effects sexual assault and unwanted sexualized behaviours can have on students' mental health.

While the proportion of students who spoke to someone associated with their school about their experiences was relatively low, it should be noted that speaking to resources not affiliated with the school was also infrequent. For instance, 11% of women who experienced a sexual assault in the postsecondary setting spoke to mental health resource not affiliated with the school, and 3% reported an incident to the police.<sup>27</sup> Generally speaking, these patterns reflect the low rates of reporting found in the general population (Conroy and Cotter 2017).

### Many students unaware that their experiences can be reported to the school

Students gave various reasons for why they did not speak to someone associated with their school about the sexual assault or unwanted sexualized behaviours that they experienced. Often, they felt that the issue was not serious enough: this was the case for 59% of women and 61% of men who did not speak to anyone associated with the school about a sexual assault, and 74% of women and 72% of men who did not speak to anyone associated with the school about unwanted sexualized behaviours (Table 14, Table 15).

Some students, however, also indicated that their reasons for not speaking to anyone associated with the school had more to do with the way that they perceived their options for doing so. For example, many students who experienced unwanted sexualized behaviours stated that they were not aware that this type of incident could be reported to the school (26% of women and 10% of men who did not report). This ambiguity may reflect the fact that many sexual assaults and unwanted sexualized behaviours that happened in the postsecondary setting actually happened off campus, and some students may not have been aware that the school could provide assistance in such cases.

Other students who did not speak to anyone associated with the school about unwanted sexualized behaviours stated that they did not do so because they did not think the school would take it seriously (19% of women and 9% of men who did not speak to anyone associated with the school), and that they did not know who at school could provide help (16% and 8%, respectively). Similarly, students who had been sexually assaulted stated that they did not think the school would take the incident seriously (19% of women, 12% of men who did not speak to anyone associated with the school), that they did not know who at the school could provide help (15% and 11%, respectively),<sup>28</sup> and that they did not know where to go to get help at school (14% and 8%, respectively).

These findings reflect students' overall awareness of their schools' resources related to sexual assault and unwanted sexualized behaviours that happen in a postsecondary setting. When asked about their knowledge of various school policies and procedures, many students said that they were not aware of what was available at school for those who had experienced sexual assault and harassment, and had not received information on these topics from the school. Notably, women students were more likely than men to say that they were not aware of these things and that they had not received information. For example, half (50%) of women students said that they were unaware of procedures for dealing with reported incidents of harassment and sexual assault, compared to 35% of men; similarly, a third (33%) of women students stated that they had not received information from their school about what harassment is and how to recognize it, compared to 23% of men.

Interestingly, more students who had experienced sexual assault were unaware of services (38%) than students who had not been sexually assaulted (28%); the same was true when students who had experienced unwanted sexualized behaviours (33% of whom were unaware of services) were compared to students who had not experienced them (26% of whom were unaware of services) (Table 16). This pattern was repeated for all other questions about the information students had received from their school about sexual assault and harassment.

Notably, awareness of programs and policies was generally higher among students with more years of postsecondary schooling—perhaps reflective of the additional time they have had to learn about these programs.

### Experiences of sexual assault, unwanted sexualized behaviours tied to negative opinions about schools' policies

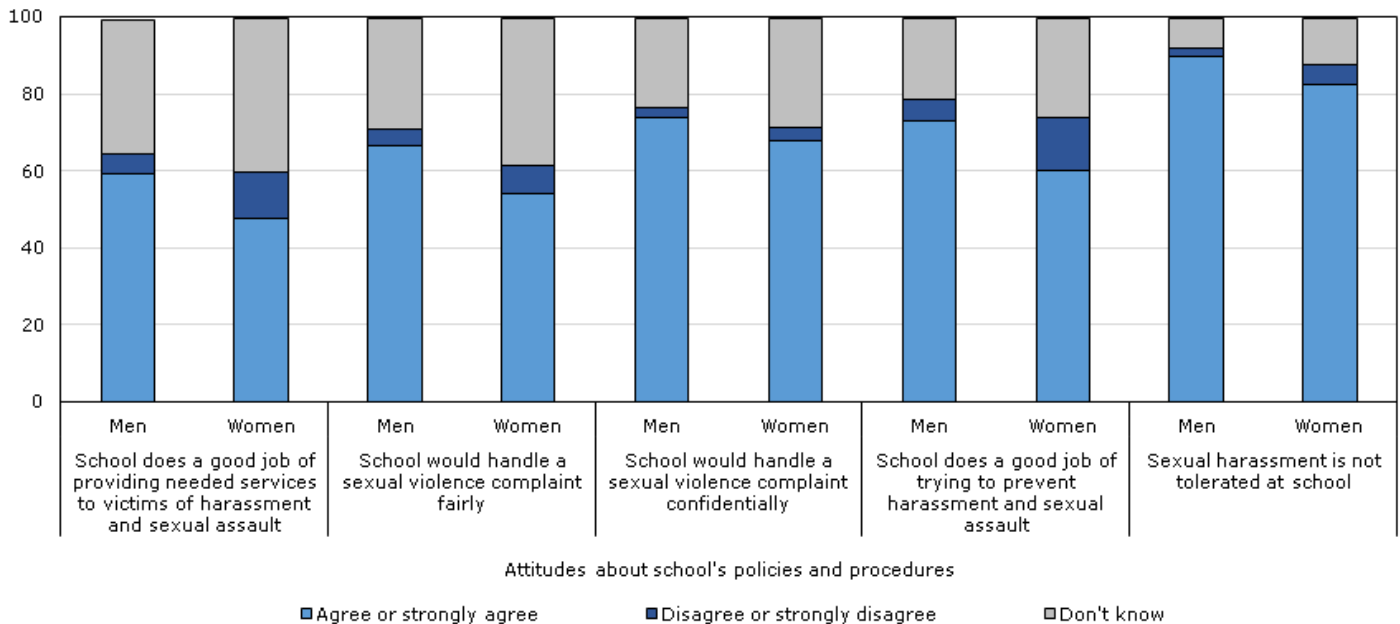
Among students in general, most had positive attitudes about the policies, procedures and services that their school had in place to prevent and address sexual assault and unwanted sexualized behaviour. Negative opinions were, however, more common among women students. More often, women disagreed or strongly disagreed with statements like "my school does a good job of trying to prevent harassment and sexual assault" (14%, versus 6% of men), "my school does a good job of providing needed services to victims of harassment and sexual assault" (12% versus 5%), "my school would handle a sexual

violence complaint" either "fairly" (7% versus 4%) or "confidentially" (4% versus 2%), and "sexual harassment is not tolerated at my school" 5% versus 2%) (Chart 7).<sup>29</sup>

**Chart 7**

**Attitudes about school's policies and procedures regarding unwanted sexualized behaviours and sexual assault among students at Canadian postsecondary schools, by gender, 2019**

percent of students



**Note:** Includes postsecondary students aged 18 to 24 (17 to 24 in Quebec) as of December 31, 2018 in the Canadian provinces. Percent calculations are based on unrounded estimates and include missing responses. Confidence intervals are available upon request.  
**Source:** Survey on Individual Safety in the Postsecondary Student Population.

Additionally, students who had personally experienced sexual assault or unwanted sexualized behaviours had opinions that were markedly less favorable when compared to those who had not had those experiences. For example, 23% of students who had experienced a sexual assault said that they disagreed or strongly disagreed that their school does a good job of trying to prevent sexual harassment and assault; this proportion was almost three times larger than that of students who had not been sexually assaulted (8%). Similarly, more than twice as many students who had experienced unwanted sexualized behaviours disagreed or strongly disagreed that their school does a good job of trying to prevent sexual harassment and sexual assault (15%, versus 6% of those who had not experienced unwanted sexualized behaviours).

### Text box 3 Experiences of transgender students

While anyone can experience sexual assault or unwanted sexualized behaviours, research suggests that transgender people are highly overrepresented among those who have these experiences (Griner et al. 2017; Mitchell et al. 2014). In the analysis that follows, transgender people are defined as anyone who does not identify as cisgender—that is, anyone who identifies with a gender other than the one that they were assigned to at birth, including individuals who do not identify with either of the binary genders, or who identify with a binary gender in addition to another gender.<sup>30</sup> According to the SISPSP, 0.8% of postsecondary students were transgender, including 0.1% who were transgender women, 0.2% who were transgender men, and 0.4% who were gender diverse—in all, about 19,000 students.<sup>31</sup>

As transgender students represented a small proportion of students surveyed by the SISPSP, limited analysis was possible; however, findings suggest that many transgender students face sexual assault and unwanted sexualized behaviours in the postsecondary setting. About one in six (18%) transgender students were sexually assaulted in a postsecondary setting during their time attending postsecondary school, and unwanted sexualized behaviours were experienced by almost half of transgender students (47%). However, no statistically significant difference was detected between these proportions and the proportions of cisgender students who experienced unwanted sexualized behaviours or sexual assault.

**Text box 3 table**  
**Students at Canadian postsecondary schools who personally experienced unwanted sexualized behaviours in a postsecondary setting in the past 12 months or were sexually assaulted at any time during their postsecondary studies, by type of behaviour and transgender status, 2019**

Type of behaviour	Cisgender <sup>1</sup>			Transgender <sup>2</sup>		
	percent	95% confidence interval		percent	95% confidence interval	
		from	to		from	to
<b>Unwanted sexualized behaviours</b>	<b>38.8</b>	<b>37.9</b>	<b>39.7</b>	<b>46.9</b>	<b>34.8</b>	<b>59.3</b>
Inappropriate verbal or non-verbal communication <sup>3</sup>	35.1	34.2	36.0	42.3	30.7	54.9
Sexually explicit materials <sup>4</sup>	6.4	6.0	6.9	F	...	...
Physical contact or suggested sexual relations <sup>5</sup>	18.4	17.7	19.2	22.3	13.6	34.4
<b>Sexual assault during postsecondary studies<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>10.3</b>	<b>9.8</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>18.1</b>	<b>11.2</b>	<b>28.1</b>

... not applicable

F too unreliable to be published

1. Includes people who identify with the gender that they were assigned at birth.

2. Includes people who identify with a gender other than the one that they were assigned at birth. This definition includes individuals who do not identify with either of the binary genders, who identify with both binary genders, or who identify with a binary gender in addition to another gender.

3. Includes sexual jokes, unwanted sexual attention, inappropriate sexual comments about appearance or body parts, and inappropriate discussion about sex life.

4. Includes displaying, showing or sending sexually explicit messages or materials and taking or posting inappropriate or sexually suggestive photos or videos of any student without consent.

5. Includes indecent exposure or inappropriate display of body parts in a sexual manner, repeated pressure from the same person for dates or sexual relationships, unwelcome physical contact or getting too close, and offering workplace benefits for engaging in sexual activity or being mistreated for not engaging in sexual activity.

6. Includes all sexual assaults that occurred in the postsecondary setting, including those that occurred prior to during the previous 12 months.

**Note:** Includes postsecondary students aged 18 to 24 (17 to 24 in Quebec) as of December 31, 2018 in the Canadian provinces who were sexually assaulted or who experienced (targeted, directed at them personally) unwanted sexualized behaviours the past 12 months. Includes behaviours which occurred in the postsecondary setting, including on campus, off campus (if they occurred during travel to or from school, during an official or unofficial event organized by someone affiliated with the school, or during paid or unpaid employment, work placements or volunteer work associated with postsecondary studies) or online (where some or all of the people responsible were students, teachers or other people associated with the school). Excludes behaviours that respondents heard about from someone else (e.g., something that a friend confided in them). Percent calculations are based on unrounded estimates and include missing responses. Respondents were able to provide information on multiple incidents; therefore, percentages do not add to 100. Confidence intervals should be interpreted as follows: If the survey were repeated many times, then 95% of the time (or 19 times out of 20), the confidence interval would cover the true population value. Differences between cisgender and transgender people are not statistically significant.

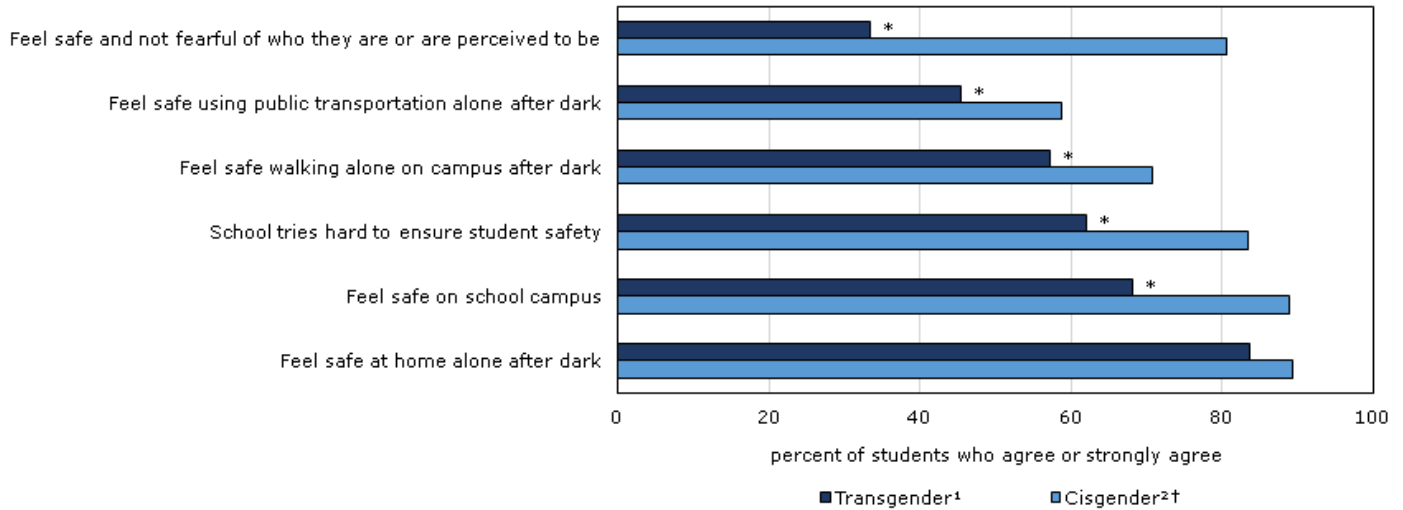
**Source:** Statistics Canada, Survey on Individual Safety in the Postsecondary Student Population.

Many transgender students indicated that they did not feel safe in and around their school environment (Text box 3 chart). When asked if they felt safe and not fearful of who they were or were perceived to be, one-third (33%) said that they agreed or strongly agreed with this statement—compared to 81% of cisgender students. Transgender students were also less likely to agree or strongly agree that they felt safe when using transit alone after dark (45%, versus 59% of cisgender students), to agree or strongly agree that they felt safe walking alone on campus after dark (57% versus 71%), and to agree or strongly agree in general that they felt safe on their school's campus (68% versus 89%). Transgender students were also less likely to agree or strongly agree that their school tries hard to ensure student safety (62% versus 83%). In contrast, most transgender students indicated that they felt safe at home alone after dark, and were as likely as cisgender students to agree or strongly agree that they felt safe in that situation (84% and 89%).

### Text box 3 — end Experiences of transgender students

**Text box 3 chart**  
**Students at Canadian postsecondary schools' beliefs about personal safety, by transgender status, 2019**

Beliefs about personal safety



\* significantly different from reference category ( $p < 0.05$ )

† reference category

1. Includes people who identify with a gender other than the one that they were assigned at birth, including individuals who do not identify with either of the binary genders, who identify with both binary genders, or who identify with a binary gender in addition to another gender.  
2. Includes people who identify with the gender that they were assigned at birth.

**Note:** Includes postsecondary students aged 18 to 24 (17 to 24 in Quebec) in the Canadian provinces. Percent calculations are based on unrounded estimates and include missing responses. Respondents were able to provide information on multiple incidents; therefore, percentages do not add to 100. Students who indicated that a particular situation did not apply to them (for example, those who never take public transit alone after dark) are excluded. Confidence intervals are available upon request.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Survey on Individual Safety in the Postsecondary Student Population.

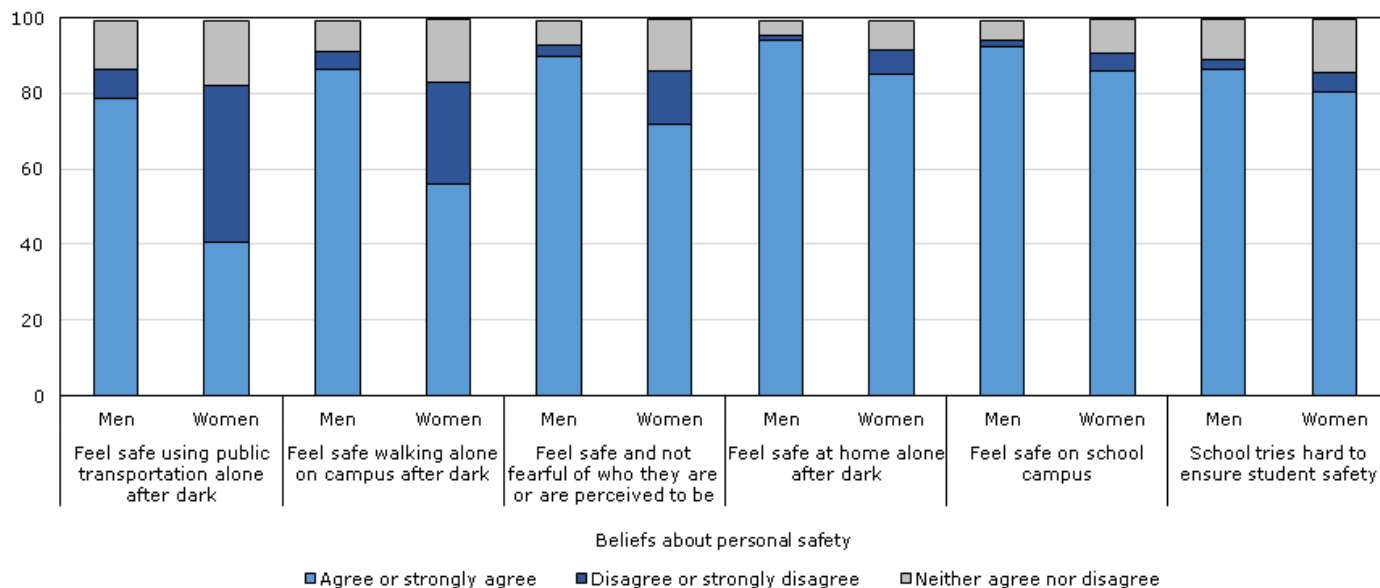
### Most students say they feel safe on and around campus

Aside from their experiences of unwanted sexualized behaviours and sexual assault, postsecondary students were asked about their feelings of safety in an around their campus. Feelings of safety are an important part of how people experience the spaces around them; feeling unsafe has a negative impact on mental health and quality of life, and can dissuade people from fully engaging with the world around them (Bastomski and Smith 2016; Woodford and Kulick 2014).

Findings from the SISPS show that in general, most women and men who were students stated that they felt safe in various school-related situations (Chart 8). For example, 86% of women and 92% of men felt safe on their school campus. However, feeling unsafe was significantly more common for women, across all measures included in the survey—a finding that mirrors what has consistently been seen in the general population (Perreault 2015).

**Chart 8**  
**Students at Canadian postsecondary schools' beliefs about personal safety, by gender, 2019**

percent of students



**Note:** Includes postsecondary students aged 18 to 24 (17 to 24 in Quebec) as of December 31, 2018 in the Canadian provinces. The categories "women" and "men" include cisgender and transgender women and men. Percent calculations are based on unrounded estimates and include missing responses. Students who indicated that a particular situation did not apply to them (for example, those who never take public transit alone after dark) are excluded. Confidence intervals are available upon request.  
**Source:** Survey on Individual Safety in the Postsecondary Student Population.

While women students generally expressed feeling safe in and around campus, there were notable exceptions. Four in ten (41%) women disagreed or strongly disagreed with statements related to feeling safe using public transportation alone after dark. This echoes findings related to the location of both unwanted sexualized behaviours and sexual assaults, significant proportions of which happened during women’s travels to and from school. Walking alone on campus after dark was another situation in which many women did not feel safe (27%). Again, this finding reflects women’s concerns about when and how they travelled to and from school following unwanted sexualized behaviours or sexual assaults, as well as attitudes about safety held by women in the population in general (Perreault 2015).

### Students who experience sexual assault, unwanted sexualized behaviours less likely to feel safe

Having experienced a sexual assault or unwanted sexualized behaviour had significant impacts on students’ feelings of safety. Across all measures of personal safety in and around school, those who had not experienced a sexual assault or an unwanted behaviour were more likely to agree or strongly agree that they felt safe (Table 17). Again, particular differences were seen with respect to using public transportation alone after dark: while 62% of students who had not experienced any sexual assault or unwanted behaviours agreed or strongly agreed that they felt safe doing so, the proportion dropped for students who had been sexually assaulted (38%) or who had experienced unwanted sexualized behaviours (51%).<sup>32</sup>

Notably, regardless of students’ experiences with sexual assault or unwanted behaviours, using transit alone after dark was more likely than any other measure of personal safety included in the survey to be seen as unsafe.

### Summary

Unwanted sexualized behaviours were prevalent in the postsecondary setting in 2019, with 45% of women and 32% of men reporting that they had personally experienced them. Both men and women students experienced negative consequences for their emotional and mental health as a result, and their academic lives were sometimes impacted. Women students, however, experienced these kinds of behaviours in higher proportions than men; beyond this, women were more likely to experience the most offensive—and potentially criminal—behaviours.

Further, one in ten women students had experienced a sexual assault in a postsecondary setting during the previous year. While most of these assaults took the form of unwanted sexual touching, about one in five (19%) women who had been sexually assaulted said that the assault took the form of sexual activity to which they did not consent after they had agreed to another form of sexual activity—for example, agreeing to have protected sex and then learning it had been unprotected sex.

In most cases, it was other students who were identified as the perpetrators of unwanted sexualized behaviours and sexual assault—not professors or others in positions of authority. Most of those who had these experiences indicated that men were responsible—though women perpetrators were also identified, particularly among men who experienced unwanted sexualized behaviours or sexual assault.

Many students who witnessed unwanted sexualized behaviours did not consider them to be serious enough to warrant intervention. Others, particularly women, were fearful about intervening: almost half (48%) said that they did not act in at least one instance because they felt uncomfortable, and others said it was because they feared negative consequences (28%), or because they feared for their safety (18%). These realities reflect a variety of cultural messages and pressures that contribute to an environment in which many are at risk of sexual assault and unwanted sexualized behaviours.

While less than one in ten students who experienced sexual assault or unwanted sexualized behaviours reported or disclosed what happened to the school, the programs and policies that schools have in place to address unwanted sexualized behaviours and sexual assault received generally favorable reviews from students. Supports related to mental health were among those most often sought out by students, perhaps reflective of the prevalence of mental-health related consequences that they reported. For instance, among women who had been sexually assaulted in a postsecondary setting and sought help from the school, 65% did so in order to receive mental health support. These kinds of supports were also sought out by students who experienced unwanted sexualized behaviours (48% of women and 36% of men with these experiences).

Relatively few students who experienced unwanted sexualized behaviours or sexual assault indicated that they sought out supports related to academic accommodations, such as extensions or rescheduling of exams. Few students indicated that their experiences caused them to drop classes or change programs. Instead, students' experiences point to other areas in which supports could be enhanced: for instance, students consistently identified travel to school on transit and moving around campus after dark as frightening.

Finally, the experiences of transgender students, LGB+ students, and students living with disabilities signal that additional supports are required for these groups on campus. As is the case with unwanted sexualized behaviours that target women, behaviours that target these groups suggest a broader undercurrent of inequity. While these disparities exist in all spheres of Canadian society, postsecondary institutions may be especially well-placed to provide access to appropriate services for transgender students, LGB+ students and students living with disabilities who experience sexual assault and unwanted sexualized behaviours, and to effect real cultural and societal change.

## **Survey description**

In 2019, Statistics Canada conducted the first cycle of the Survey on Individual Safety in the Postsecondary Student Population (SISPSP). The survey was developed in collaboration with various stakeholders, including academics, student groups, and others. The purpose of the survey is to collect information on the nature, extent and impact of inappropriate sexual behaviours and sexual assaults that occur in the postsecondary school-related setting in the Canadian provinces. Information on students' knowledge and perceptions of school policies related to these issues is also collected.

The target population for the SISPSP is individuals aged 18 to 24 (17 to 24 for Quebec residents) living in the Canadian provinces, who were attending a postsecondary school in Canada at the time of the survey or had attended such an institution in the past. Canadians residing in the territories or in institutions are not included. The sampling frame was constructed using the 2016 Census of Population and a stratified random sample was selected from the frame.

Data collection took place from February to July 2019 inclusively. Responses were obtained by self-administered online questionnaire or by interviewer-administered telephone questionnaire. Respondents were able to respond in the official language of their choice.

There were 14,882 respondents to the survey, and the overall response rate was 37%. Non-respondents included people who refused to participate, could not be reached, or could not speak English or French. Respondents in the sample were weighted so that their responses represent the non-institutionalized Canadian population of postsecondary students aged 18 to 24 (17 to 24 for Quebec residents) as of December 31, 2018.

## **Gender composition of field of study**

The gender composition of fields of study was determined using administrative data from the Postsecondary Student Information System (PSIS), which collects information from all universities and colleges in Canada according to the Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP), primary grouping variant. (For more information on the CIP, see Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Canada 2016.) The PSIS does not include CIP information on students attending postsecondary schools other than colleges and universities. The Survey on Individual Safety in the Postsecondary Student Population (SISPSP)

disaggregates students into “attending university” and “attending a non-university postsecondary institution.” Because of these aspects of how the PSIS and the SISPS collect their data, analysis that draws on both data sets is limited to university students specifically. For more information on the PSIS, see Postsecondary Student Information System.

### Data limitations

As with any survey, there are some data limitations. The results are based on a sample and are therefore subject to sampling errors. Somewhat different results might have been obtained if the entire population had been surveyed. The survey is also subject to non-sampling error such as coverage error, non-response error and measurement error.

For the quality of estimates, the lower and upper bounds of the confidence intervals are presented. Confidence intervals should be interpreted as follows: If the survey were repeated many times, then 95% of the time (or 19 times out of 20), the confidence interval would cover the true population value.

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## Notes

1. In the province of Quebec, students graduate from secondary school one year earlier than students in other Canadian provinces and territories. Many then attend two- or three-year college level programs, known as CEGEPs (collèges d'enseignement général et professionnel), including technical programs or pre-university programs required for admission to university. Thus, it is common for students aged 17 to be enrolled in postsecondary programs in Quebec; for this reason, the target age for Quebec students surveyed by the Survey of Individual Safety in the Postsecondary Student Population is 17 to 24 years.

2. For a definition of and information about CEGEPs, see endnote 4.

3. Please note, numbers in text have been rounded while one decimal place is shown in tables and charts.

4. For the purposes of this study, "women" and "men" include both cisgender and transgender women and men. Students who do not identify as cisgender or transgender women and men are included as gender diverse students, and represent 0.4% of the survey population (approximately 10,980 students). The relatively small proportion of gender diverse students means that in most cases, statistical findings cannot be released due to data quality or confidentiality concerns. For this reason, the main body of the study is limited to analysis of women and men; the experiences of gender diverse students are explored together with those of transgender students later in this study (see Text box 3). Unless noted otherwise, differences between women and men are statistically significant.

5. According to the *Criminal Code* of Canada, touching another person without their consent can be interpreted as assault (S. 265 (1)) or sexual assault (S. 271 (a)). Similarly, repeated pressure for dates or sexual relationships can be interpreted as criminal harassment, if said pressure makes the targeted person reasonably fear for their safety or the safety of someone known to them (S. 264 (1)).

6. See endnote 5.

7. The confidence interval (CI) for the number "110,000 women" is from 101,336 to 118,678. CIs should be interpreted as follows: If the survey were repeated many times, then 95% of the time (or 19 times out of 20), the confidence interval would cover the true population value.

8. The confidence interval (CI) for the number "197,000 women" is from 186,124 to 208,695. CIs should be interpreted as follows: If the survey were repeated many times, then 95% of the time (or 19 times out of 20), the confidence interval would cover the true population value.

9. Of note, 11% of women who had experienced sexual touching either did not know how many times it had happened or did not provide an answer; these missing responses are included in the percentage calculation. Statistics on the frequency of women's experiences of other forms of sexual assault are not shown, due to small sample size and/or the high prevalence of missing responses.

10. Results for men could not be published due to small sample size.

11. The Survey of Individual Safety in the Postsecondary Student Population identified persons with disability using the short Disability Screening Questions (DSQ) module, which classifies a respondent as having a disability if their daily activities are sometimes, often, or always limited by difficulties related to hearing, vision, pain, mobility, flexibility, dexterity, learning, developmental, memory, or mental or psychological health.

12. Throughout this paper, the term "Indigenous" is used to refer to individuals identifying themselves as First Nations people, Métis or Inuit peoples.

13. This difference was not found to be statistically significant.

14. The differences between women and men were not found to be statistically significant, with the exception of "it varied."

15. For a list of behaviours included in the categories of inappropriate verbal or non-verbal communication, sexually explicit materials, and physical contact or suggested sexual relations, see Text box 1.

16. Statistics for men are not available due to sample size.

17. This difference was not found to be statistically significant. Notably, 12% of women and 11% of men indicated that they did not know whether the sexual assault(s) that they experienced were related to the perpetrator(s)' use of alcohol or drugs.

18. Statistics for men are not available due to sample size.

19. Data for current or former spouses, boyfriends or girlfriends, and casual dating partners are combined here due to small sample size. Differences between women and men are not statistically significant.

20. Due to the way in which data were collected, it is not possible to determine the exact gender breakdown of perpetrators in situations where people experienced multiple instances of the same type of sexual assault, and who reported combinations of men and women as perpetrators for one or more of said instances.

21. Analysis of field of study includes only students who attended university. For more information, see Survey description.

22. It should be noted that the number of women in programs with 60% or more men was small, relative to the number of women enrolled in other programs. This inequality of distribution may have influenced whether or not the differences in proportion of women who were victimized in the various program types were statistically significant.

23. Statistics for men not available due to sample size.

24. Questions are from the Primary Care PTSD Screen (PC-PTSD) tool, a front-line assessment tool used to identify individuals who should be referred to further psychological and psychiatric treatment for the disorder. For more information, see Prins et al. (2003).

25. Statistics disaggregated by gender are not available due to sample size.

26. Statistics for men are not available due to sample size.

27. Statistics for men are not available due to sample size.

28. This difference was not found to be statistically significant.

29. Percent calculations include students who provided answers of "don't know" to these questions (ranging from 8% for some questions to 40% for other questions).

30. Elsewhere in this study, transgender people (that is, people who were assigned female at birth but identify as men, and those who were assigned male at birth but identify as women) are counted as women and men in accordance with their stated gender. For this section, transgender people are analyzed separately, and include gender diverse people.

31. Percentages do not total 0.8% due to rounding. Because of small sample size, additional analysis on the experiences of transgender women and of transgender men is not available.

32. While it is possible that students' experiences led to these feelings of being unsafe, other factors not measured by the survey may have influence and therefore, causality should not be assumed.

Detailed data tables

**Table 1**  
**Students at Canadian postsecondary schools who witnessed or experienced unwanted sexualized behaviours in a postsecondary setting in the past 12 months, by type of behaviour and gender, 2019**

Type of behaviour	Men†				Women			
	#	%	95% confidence interval		#	%	95% confidence interval	
			from	to			from	to
<b>Unwanted sexualized behaviours</b>	<b>618,000</b>	<b>69.5</b>	<b>68.1</b>	<b>70.8</b>	<b>731,000</b>	<b>72.9*</b>	<b>71.7</b>	<b>74.0</b>
<b>Inappropriate verbal or non-verbal communication</b>	<b>604,000</b>	<b>67.9</b>	<b>66.5</b>	<b>69.2</b>	<b>706,000</b>	<b>70.4*</b>	<b>69.2</b>	<b>71.6</b>
Sexual jokes	553,000	62.2	60.8	63.6	616,000	61.4	60.1	62.7
Unwanted sexual attention, such as whistles, calls, etc.	207,000	23.3	22.1	24.6	398,000	39.7*	38.4	40.9
Inappropriate sexual comments about appearance or body	331,000	37.2	35.9	38.7	438,000	43.7*	42.4	45.0
Inappropriate discussion about sex life	291,000	32.7	31.4	34.0	415,000	41.3*	40.1	42.6
<b>Sexually explicit materials</b>	<b>149,000</b>	<b>16.8</b>	<b>15.7</b>	<b>17.8</b>	<b>207,000</b>	<b>20.7*</b>	<b>19.6</b>	<b>21.7</b>
Displaying, showing, or sending sexually explicit messages or materials	140,000	15.7	14.7	16.8	187,000	18.7*	17.6	19.7
Taking or posting inappropriate or sexually suggestive photos or videos of any student without consent	39,000	4.4	3.8	5.0	68,000	6.8*	6.2	7.5
<b>Physical contact or suggested sexual relations</b>	<b>234,000</b>	<b>26.3</b>	<b>25.1</b>	<b>27.6</b>	<b>393,000</b>	<b>39.2*</b>	<b>37.9</b>	<b>40.5</b>
Indecent exposure or inappropriate display of body parts in a sexual manner	82,000	9.2	8.5	10.0	122,000	12.2*	11.4	13.1
Repeated pressure from the same person for dates or sexual relationships	88,000	9.9	9.0	10.7	184,000	18.4*	17.3	19.4
Unwelcome physical contact or getting too close	167,000	18.7	17.7	19.9	307,000	30.6*	29.4	31.8
Someone being offered personal benefits for engaging in sexual activity or being mistreated for not engaging in sexual activity	44,000	4.9	4.3	5.6	75,000	7.5*	6.8	8.3

\* significantly different from reference category (p < 0.05)

† reference category

**Note:** Includes postsecondary students aged 18 to 24 (17 to 24 in Quebec) as of December 31, 2018 in the Canadian provinces who witnessed (saw or heard) or experienced (targeted, directed at them personally) unwanted sexualized behaviours in the past 12 months. Includes behaviours which occurred in the postsecondary setting, including on campus, off campus (if they occurred during travel to or from school, during an official or unofficial event organized by someone affiliated with the school, or during paid or unpaid employment, work placements or volunteer work associated with postsecondary studies) or online (where some or all of the people responsible were students, teachers or other people associated with the school). Excludes behaviours that respondents heard about from someone else (e.g., something that a friend confided in them). The categories "women" and "men" include cisgender and transgender women and men. All estimates have been rounded to the nearest 1,000. Percent calculations are based on unrounded estimates and include missing responses. Respondents were able to provide information on multiple incidents; therefore, percentages do not add to 100. Confidence intervals should be interpreted as follows: If the survey were repeated many times, then 95% of the time (or 19 times out of 20), the confidence interval would cover the true population value. Confidence intervals for proportions are shown, and are available for numbers upon request.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Survey on Individual Safety in the Postsecondary Student Population.

**Table 2**  
**Students at Canadian postsecondary schools who personally experienced unwanted sexualized behaviours in a postsecondary setting in the past 12 months, by type of behaviour and gender, 2019**

Type of behaviour	Men†				Women			
	#	%	95% confidence interval		#	%	95% confidence interval	
			from	to			from	to
<b>Unwanted sexualized behaviours</b>	<b>286,000</b>	<b>32.2</b>	<b>30.9</b>	<b>33.5</b>	<b>447,000</b>	<b>44.6*</b>	<b>43.4</b>	<b>45.9</b>
<b>Inappropriate verbal or non-verbal communication</b>	<b>260,000</b>	<b>29.3</b>	<b>28.0</b>	<b>30.6</b>	<b>403,000</b>	<b>40.2*</b>	<b>39.0</b>	<b>41.5</b>
Sexual jokes	221,000	24.9	23.7	26.1	273,000	27.2*	26.1	28.4
Unwanted sexual attention, such as whistles, calls, etc.	49,000	5.5	4.9	6.2	267,000	26.6*	25.5	27.8
Inappropriate sexual comments about their appearance or body	70,000	7.9	7.2	8.7	177,000	17.7*	16.7	18.7
Inappropriate discussion about their or someone else's sex life	120,000	13.5	12.5	14.5	193,000	19.3*	18.3	20.4
<b>Sexually explicit materials</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>720,000</b>	<b>7.1*</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>7.8</b>
Displaying, showing, or sending sexually explicit messages or materials	49,000	5.5	4.9	6.2	68,000	6.8*	6.2	7.5
Taking or posting inappropriate or sexually suggestive photos or videos of them without consent	5,000	0.5	0.4	0.8	11,000	1.1*	0.8	1.4
<b>Physical contact or suggested sexual relations</b>	<b>93,000</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>255,000</b>	<b>25.5*</b>	<b>24.3</b>	<b>26.6</b>
Indecent exposure or inappropriate display of body parts in a sexual manner	24,000	2.7	2.3	3.2	35,000	3.5*	3.0	4.0
Repeated pressure from the same person for dates or sexual relationships	27,000	3.0	2.6	3.6	114,000	11.4*	10.6	12.3
Unwelcome physical contact or getting too close	66,000	7.4	6.7	8.2	209,000	20.8*	19.8	21.9
Being offered personal benefits for engaging in sexual activity or being mistreated for not engaging in sexual activity	12,000	1.4	1.1	1.8	35,000	3.5*	3.0	4.0

\* significantly different from reference category (p < 0.05)

† reference category

**Note:** Includes postsecondary students aged 18 to 24 (17 to 24 in Quebec) as of December 31, 2018 in the Canadian provinces who experienced (targeted, directed at them personally) unwanted sexualized behaviours in the past 12 months. Includes behaviours which occurred in the postsecondary setting, including on campus, off campus (if they occurred during travel to or from school, during an official or unofficial event organized by someone affiliated with the school, or during paid or unpaid employment, work placements or volunteer work associated with postsecondary studies) or online (where some or all of the people responsible were students, teachers or other people associated with the school). Excludes behaviours that respondents heard about from someone else (e.g., something that a friend confided in them). The categories "women" and "men" include cisgender and transgender women and men. All estimates have been rounded to the nearest 1,000. Percent calculations are based on unrounded estimates and include missing responses. Respondents were able to provide information on multiple incidents; therefore, percentages do not add to 100. Confidence intervals should be interpreted as follows: If the survey were repeated many times, then 95% of the time (or 19 times out of 20), the confidence interval would cover the true population value. Confidence intervals for proportions are shown, and are available for numbers upon request.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Survey on Individual Safety in the Postsecondary Student Population.

**Table 3**  
**Students at Canadian postsecondary schools who witnessed unwanted sexualized behaviours in a postsecondary setting in the past 12 months, by actions taken and reasons for not taking action, and gender, 2019**

Actions taken and reasons for not taking action	Unwanted sexualized behaviours <sup>1</sup>					
	Men <sup>†</sup>			Women		
	percent	95% confidence interval		percent	95% confidence interval	
	percent	from	to	percent	from	to
<b>Actions taken</b>						
Took action in at least one instance	40.9	39.2	42.6	55.2*	53.6	56.7
Spoke to the person(s) targeted by the behaviour	59.6	56.9	62.2	68.5*	66.4	70.4
Spoke to the person(s) responsible for the behaviour	79.7	77.3	81.8	67.4*	65.3	69.4
Created a distraction to stop the situation	36.1	33.5	38.9	38.6	36.6	40.7
Intervene and separate those involved	37.6	34.9	40.3	29.8*	27.9	31.9
Asked others to step in as a group	22.0	19.8	24.3	24.7	22.9	26.6
Spoke to someone outside school	14.0	12.2	16.0	21.9*	20.3	23.6
Reported the behaviour to the school	8.5	7.1	10.2	11.7*	10.4	13.1
Spoke to someone at a service run by the school	7.0	5.7	8.5	10.2*	9.0	11.6
Spoke to someone at a service run by students	5.6	4.5	7.0	6.0	5.1	7.2
Shared on social media	2.3	1.6	3.3	5.4*	4.5	6.5
Called school security	3.2	2.3	4.3	5.0*	4.1	6.0
Called the police	0.8	0.4	1.5	1.7*	1.2	2.4
Called a crisis line	F	...	...	1.2	0.8	1.7
Took some other action	10.8	9.3	12.6	9.8	8.5	11.2
<b>Reasons for not taking action</b>						
Did not take action in at least one instance	92.4	91.4	93.2	90.8*	89.9	91.7
Didn't think it was serious enough	81.3	79.8	82.7	68.7*	67.1	70.1
Felt uncomfortable	24.7	23.2	26.3	48.1*	46.5	49.7
Didn't know what to do	24.5	23.0	26.1	42.4*	40.7	44.0
Didn't think it was their responsibility	25.8	24.3	27.3	31.6*	30.1	33.2
Felt there could be negative consequences for themselves or others	17.9	16.5	19.3	27.8*	26.4	29.2
Believed others were taking action	17.5	16.2	19.0	23.0*	21.6	24.5
Worried that taking action would affect peer relationships	14.6	13.4	15.8	19.2*	17.9	20.5
Felt worried for their own safety	7.7	6.7	8.7	18.4*	17.1	19.7
The targeted person asked them not to take action	8.5	7.6	9.6	16.4*	15.2	17.7
Felt taking action would endanger the targeted person	10.9	9.8	12.1	15.9*	14.7	17.2
Worried about what others would think of them	11.0	9.9	12.3	15.6*	14.4	16.9
Other reasons	15.5	14.2	16.8	14.9	13.7	16.1

... not applicable

F too unreliable to be published

\* significantly different from reference category ( $p < 0.05$ )

† reference category

1. Includes sexual jokes, unwanted sexual attention, inappropriate sexual comments about appearance or body, inappropriate discussion about sex life, displaying, showing or sending sexually explicit messages or materials, taking or posting inappropriate or sexually suggestive photos or videos of any student without consent, indecent exposure or inappropriate display of body parts in a sexual manner, repeated pressure from the same person for dates or sexual relationships, unwelcome physical contact or getting too close, and offering workplace benefits for engaging in sexual activity or being mistreated for not engaging in sexual activity.

**Note:** Includes postsecondary students aged 18 to 24 (17 to 24 in Quebec) as of December 31, 2018 in the Canadian provinces who witnessed (saw or heard) unwanted sexualized behaviours in the past 12 months. Includes behaviours which occurred in the postsecondary setting, including on campus, off campus (if they occurred during travel to or from school, during an official or unofficial event organized by someone affiliated with the school, or during paid or unpaid employment, work placements or volunteer work associated with postsecondary studies) or online (where some or all of the people responsible were students, teachers or other people associated with the school). Excludes behaviours that respondents heard about from someone else (e.g., something that a friend confided in them). The categories "women" and "men" include cisgender and transgender women and men. Percent calculations are based on unrounded estimates and include missing responses. Respondents were able to provide information on multiple incidents; therefore, percentages do not add to 100. Confidence intervals should be interpreted as follows: If the survey were repeated many times, then 95% of the time (or 19 times out of 20), the confidence interval would cover the true population value.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Survey on Individual Safety in the Postsecondary Student Population.

**Table 4**  
**Students at Canadian postsecondary schools who were sexually assaulted in a postsecondary setting, by time frame and type of sexual assault, and gender, 2019**

Time frame and type of sexual assault	Men†				Women			
	#	%	95% confidence interval		#	%	95% confidence interval	
			from	to			from	to
<b>Sexual assault in the past 12 months<sup>1</sup></b>								
Sexual attack <sup>2</sup>	3,000	0.3	0.2	0.5	17,000	1.7*	1.4	2.1
Unwanted sexual touching <sup>3</sup>	29,000	3.3	2.8	3.9	95,000	9.4*	8.7	10.2
Sexual activity where unable to consent <sup>4</sup>	6,000	0.7	0.5	1.0	48,000	1.8*	1.4	2.1
Non-consensual sexual activity following consensual sexual activity <sup>5</sup>	4,000	0.4	0.3	0.7	20,000	2.0*	1.7	2.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>35,000</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>110,000</b>	<b>11.0*</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>11.9</b>
<b>Sexual assault at some point during postsecondary school<sup>6</sup></b>								
Sexual attack <sup>2</sup>	5,000	0.4	0.3	0.6	43,000	3.3*	2.9	3.8
Unwanted sexual touching <sup>3</sup>	47,000	4.0	3.5	4.5	165,000	12.7*	12.0	13.5
Sexual activity where unable to consent <sup>4</sup>	13,000	1.1	0.8	1.4	48,000	3.7*	3.3	4.2
Non-consensual sexual activity following consensual sexual activity <sup>5</sup>	9,000	0.8	0.6	1.1	48,000	3.7*	3.3	4.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>58,000</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>197,000</b>	<b>15.2*</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>16.1</b>

\* significantly different from reference category (p < 0.05)

† reference category

1. Percentage calculations are based on the population of students who had attended postsecondary school in the past 12 months.
2. Includes being forced or attempted to be forced into any unwanted sexual activity, by threatening, holding down, or hurting in some way.
3. Includes being touched against one's will in any sexual way, including unwanted touching or grabbing, kissing, or fondling.
4. Includes being subjected to a sexual activity to which one was not able to consent, including being drugged, intoxicated, manipulated, or forced in ways other than physically.
5. Includes sexual activity to which one did not consent, after having consented to another form of sexual activity (for example, unprotected sex after consenting to protected sex).
6. Includes all sexual assaults that occurred in the postsecondary setting, including those that occurred prior to the previous 12 months.

**Note:** Includes postsecondary students aged 18 to 24 (17 to 24 in Quebec) as of December 31, 2018 in the Canadian provinces who were sexually assaulted. Includes incidents which occurred in the postsecondary setting, including on campus or off campus (if they occurred during travel to or from school, during an official or unofficial event organized by someone affiliated with the school, or during paid or unpaid employment, work placements or volunteer work associated with postsecondary studies). The categories "women" and "men" include cisgender and transgender women and men. All estimates have been rounded to the nearest 1,000. Percent calculations are based on unrounded estimates and include missing responses. Respondents were able to provide information on multiple incidents; therefore, percentages do not add to 100. Confidence intervals should be interpreted as follows: If the survey were repeated many times, then 95% of the time (or 19 times out of 20), the confidence interval would cover the true population value. Confidence intervals for proportions are shown, and are available for numbers upon request.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Survey on Individual Safety in the Postsecondary Student Population.

**Table 5**  
**Students at Canadian postsecondary schools who were sexually assaulted in a postsecondary setting in the past 12 months, by type of sexual assault and gender, 2019**

Type of sexual assault	Men†			Women		
	percent	95% confidence interval		percent	95% confidence interval	
		from	to		from	to
Sexual attack <sup>1</sup>	7.7**	4.6	12.7	15.8* **	13.0	19.0
Sexual touching <sup>2</sup>	82.8**	76.4	87.7	85.9**	83.0	88.5
Sexual assault through absence of consent‡	26.6	20.6	33.7	29.4	25.9	33.2
Sexual activity where unable to consent because of intoxication or manipulation <sup>3</sup>	18.3	13.3	24.7	16.0	13.3	19.1
Non-consensual sexual activity following consensual sexual activity <sup>4</sup>	11.1	7.3	16.6	18.5*	15.6	21.8

\* significantly different from reference category (†) (p < 0.05)

\*\* significantly different from reference category (‡) (p < 0.05)

† reference category

‡ reference category

1. Includes being forced or attempted to be forced into any unwanted sexual activity, by threatening, holding down, or hurting in some way.

2. Includes being touched against one's will in any sexual way, including unwanted touching or grabbing, kissing, or fondling.

3. Includes being subjected to a sexual activity to which one was not able to consent, including being drugged, intoxicated, manipulated, or forced in ways other than physically.

4. Includes sexual activity to which one did not consent, after having consented to another form of sexual activity (for example, unprotected sex after consenting to protected sex).

**Note:** Includes postsecondary students aged 18 to 24 (17 to 24 in Quebec) as of December 31, 2018 in the Canadian provinces who were sexually assaulted in the past 12 months. Includes incidents which occurred in the postsecondary setting, including on campus or off campus (if they occurred during travel to or from school, during an official or unofficial event organized by someone affiliated with the school, or during paid or unpaid employment, work placements or volunteer work associated with postsecondary studies). The categories "women" and "men" include cisgender and transgender women and men. Percent calculations are based on unrounded estimates and include missing responses. Respondents were able to provide information on multiple incidents; therefore, percentages do not add to 100. Confidence intervals should be interpreted as follows: If the survey were repeated many times, then 95% of the time (or 19 times out of 20), the confidence interval would cover the true population value.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Survey on Individual Safety in the Postsecondary Student Population.

**Table 6**  
**Students at Canadian postsecondary schools who were sexually assaulted or experienced unwanted sexualized behaviours in a postsecondary setting in the past 12 months, by student characteristics, 2019**

Student characteristics	Students who were sexually assaulted			Students who experienced unwanted sexualized behaviours <sup>1</sup>		
	percent	95% confidence interval		percent	95% confidence interval	
		from	to		from	to
<b>Age (years)<sup>2</sup></b>						
17 and 18	8.1	6.9	9.5	37.7*	35.7	39.8
19 <sup>†</sup>	9.0	7.7	10.5	41.9	39.6	44.2
20	8.2	7.0	9.6	40.6	38.4	42.9
21	8.3	7.0	9.8	40.4	37.9	43.0
22	6.8*	5.6	8.2	38.5	36.0	41.0
23	7.0	5.6	8.7	36.0*	33.4	38.7
24	5.6*	4.3	7.4	33.7*	30.7	36.7
<b>Visible minority status</b>						
Visible minority <sup>†</sup>	6.8	6.0	7.8	35.5	34.0	37.2
Not a visible minority	8.1*	7.5	8.8	40.6*	39.5	41.7
<b>Indigenous<sup>3</sup></b>						
Total Indigenous <sup>†</sup>	9.7	6.8	13.7	38.9	33.5	44.6
First Nations	9.5	5.5	16.1	41.7	33.2	50.8
Métis	10.1	6.4	15.5	37.1	30.4	44.3
Inuit	F	...	...	F	...	...
Not Indigenous	7.6	7.1	8.2	38.8	37.9	39.7
<b>Sexual orientation</b>						
Heterosexual <sup>†</sup>	6.9	6.4	7.4	37.1	36.1	38.0
Gay or lesbian	8.9	5.8	13.3	43.5*	37.3	49.9
Bisexual	16.0*	13.6	18.8	56.9*	53.3	60.5
Sexual orientation n.e.c. <sup>4</sup>	9.3	4.8	17.3	55.4*	45.0	65.4
<b>Religious affiliation</b>						
Buddhist	7.8	4.2	14.1	35.2	27.7	43.4
Christian	7.1	6.4	8.0	39.7	38.2	41.2
Hindu	7.1	4.5	11.0	32.9*	27.4	39.0
Muslim	6.5	4.7	9.1	35.8	31.6	40.1
Sikh	7.3	4.6	11.6	34.1*	28.2	40.5
Other religions <sup>†5</sup>	11.2	7.4	16.6	43.8	36.7	51.1
No religious affiliation	8.2	7.4	9.0	38.9	37.6	40.3
<b>Religious symbol<sup>6</sup></b>						
Yes, most of the time	9.2	7.1	11.9	39.4	35.5	43.4
Yes, sometimes	10.2*	8.4	12.4	44.7*	41.4	48.0
No <sup>†</sup>	7.3	6.8	7.9	38.1	37.2	39.1
<b>Disability<sup>7</sup></b>						
Living with a disability <sup>†</sup>	12.2	11.2	13.3	47.1	45.6	48.7
Not living with a disability	5.1*	4.6	5.7	34.0*	32.9	35.1
<b>Marital status</b>						
Single <sup>†</sup>	7.9	7.4	8.5	39.0	38.1	39.9
Married or common law	5.1*	3.7	6.9	36.3	32.9	39.7
Widowed, separated, divorced	F	...	...	F	...	...
<b>Dating status<sup>8</sup></b>						
Not dating	6.6*	5.9	7.3	34.4*	33.1	35.7
Dating relationship <sup>9</sup>	8.5*	7.6	9.5	42.3*	40.8	43.9
Dating casually <sup>†10</sup>	13.8	11.6	16.4	53.5	50.2	56.8
<b>Time at school</b>						
Less than one year <sup>†</sup>	6.4	5.4	7.7	33.3	31.2	35.4
One or two years	7.8	6.8	8.9	39.1*	37.3	41.0
Three or four years	8.4*	7.5	9.4	41.1*	39.5	42.7
Five or more years	7.5	6.4	8.7	39.9*	37.7	42.1

See notes at the end of the table.



**Table 6 — end**  
**Students at Canadian postsecondary schools who were sexually assaulted or experienced unwanted sexualized behaviours in a postsecondary setting in the past 12 months, by student characteristics, 2019**

Student characteristics	Students who were sexually assaulted			Students who experienced unwanted sexualized behaviours <sup>1</sup>		
	percent	95% confidence interval		percent	95% confidence interval	
		from	to		from	to
<b>Type of school in past 12 months</b>						
University <sup>†</sup>	9.0	8.3	9.7	42.2	41.0	43.4
Non-university	5.5*	4.8	6.3	33.1*	31.7	34.5
Both university and non-university <sup>11</sup>	11.6	6.6	19.5	37.6	28.9	47.1
<b>Type of student in past 12 months</b>						
Full time	8.0*	7.4	8.6	39.7*	38.7	40.6
Part time <sup>†</sup>	4.8	3.5	6.5	28.7	25.7	31.9
Both	8.4*	6.0	11.5	43.4*	38.5	48.4
<b>Living arrangements</b>						
Campus housing <sup>†</sup>	12.0	9.9	14.5	49.2	45.7	52.6
Off campus with partner	3.7*	2.3	5.9	34.4*	30.0	39.2
Off campus with roommates	12.2	10.9	13.7	47.4	45.3	49.6
Off campus alone	7.0*	5.2	9.3	37.4*	33.8	41.2
With parents	5.8*	5.2	6.5	34.7*	33.5	35.9
With other family	6.4*	4.3	9.3	36.7*	32.5	41.2
Other	7.0*	4.0	12.2	34.8*	27.5	43.0

... not applicable

F too unreliable to be published

\* significantly different from reference category (p < 0.05)

† reference category

1. Includes sexual jokes, unwanted sexual attention, inappropriate sexual comments about body or appearance, inappropriate discussion about sex life, displaying, showing or sending sexually explicit messages or materials, taking or posting inappropriate or sexually suggestive photos or videos of any student without consent, indecent exposure or inappropriate display of body parts in a sexual manner, repeated pressure from the same person for dates or sexual relationships, unwelcome physical contact or getting too close, and offering workplace benefits for engaging in sexual activity or being mistreated for not engaging in sexual activity.

2. Age group reflects students' ages at the time of survey collection. Students may have been younger at the time that they experienced sexual assault or unwanted sexualized behaviour. Students aged 17 at the time of survey collection are only included if they resided in Quebec.

3. The term "Indigenous" is used to refer to individuals identifying themselves as "First Nations people, Métis or Inuit".

4. Sexual orientation not elsewhere classified (n.e.c.) includes students who identified as asexual, pansexual or with another sexual orientation not indicated elsewhere.

5. Includes Jewish, traditional First Nations, Métis or Inuit spirituality, and others.

6. Includes clothing or accessories that are visibly associated with a faith or spiritual practice, such as head coverings, jewelry with religious symbols, and regalia.

7. Includes students whose daily activities are sometimes, often, or always limited by difficulties related to hearing, vision, pain, mobility, flexibility, dexterity, learning, developmental, memory, or mental or psychological health.

8. Includes students who indicated that they were not married or living in common-law relationships.

9. Includes boyfriend or girlfriend-type relationships.

10. Includes casual dating relationships that the respondent does not consider to be a boyfriend or girlfriend-type relationship.

11. Includes students who attended both a university and a non-university postsecondary institution in the past 12 months.

**Note:** Includes postsecondary students aged 18 to 24 (17 to 24 in Quebec) as of December 31, 2018 in the Canadian provinces who were sexually assaulted or who experienced an unwanted sexualized behaviour in the past 12 months. Includes incidents which occurred in the postsecondary setting, including on campus or off campus (if they occurred during travel to or from school, during an official or unofficial event organized by someone affiliated with the school, or during paid or unpaid employment, work placements or volunteer work associated with postsecondary studies). The categories "women" and "men" include cisgender and transgender women and men. Percent calculations are based on unrounded estimates and include missing responses. Confidence intervals should be interpreted as follows: If the survey were repeated many times, then 95% of the time (or 19 times out of 20), the confidence interval would cover the true population value.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Survey on Individual Safety in the Postsecondary Student Population.

**Table 7**  
**Students at Canadian postsecondary schools who were sexually assaulted in a postsecondary setting in the past 12 months, by incident characteristics and gender, 2019**

Incident characteristics	Men†			Women		
	percent	95% confidence interval		percent	95% confidence interval	
		from	to		from	to
<b>Number of perpetrators</b>						
Always one‡	79.3	72.7	84.6	77.2	73.8	80.3
Always two or more	6.4**	3.6	11.3	5.3**	3.8	7.5
It varied	5.0**	2.6	9.2	9.2* **	7.2	11.7
Don't know	6.7**	3.8	11.4	6.3**	4.7	8.6
<b>Gender of perpetrators</b>						
Always men only‡	18.6	13.7	24.9	89.9*	87.2	92.1
Always women only	63.1**	55.6	70.1	2.0* **	1.1	3.6
Sometimes men, sometimes women	12.0	7.6	18.3	3.7* **	2.4	5.6
Don't know	F	...	...	2.9**	1.8	4.6
<b>Alcohol use by perpetrator</b>						
Yes‡	54.8	47.2	62.2	48.4	44.4	52.3
No	32.9**	26.3	40.2	37.1**	33.5	41.0
Don't know	11.8**	7.9	17.3	13.4**	10.9	16.4
<b>Relationship of perpetrator</b>						
Student at their school‡	61.1	53.4	68.3	60.1	56.2	63.9
Friend or acquaintance	32.8	26.2	40.3	35.8	31.9	39.8
Stranger	24.1	18.4	31.0	34.7*	31.0	38.6
Student at another school	16.0	11.3	22.2	21.8	18.6	25.3
Dating partner or married or common-law spouse (current or former) <sup>1</sup>	7.2	4.3	11.9	10.3	8.1	12.9
Casual dating partner (current or former) <sup>2</sup>	11.7	7.6	17.6	11.6	9.2	14.5
Member of a club or team to which they belong	F	...	...	3.4	2.2	5.2
Co-worker, staff member, security staff, tutor or other <sup>3</sup>	7.9	4.6	13.3	6.4	4.8	8.6
Supervisor or boss, coach, professor or instructor at their school, teaching assistant <sup>4</sup>	F	...	...	2.0	1.1	3.6
Don't know	5.3	2.7	9.9	5.0	3.5	7.1

... not applicable

F too unreliable to be published

\* significantly different from reference category (†) (p < 0.05)

\*\* significantly different from reference category (‡) (p < 0.05)

† reference category

‡ reference category

1. Dating partners include, for example, boyfriend- or girlfriend-type relationships. This type of relationship is different from a casual dating relationship, which includes (for example) "friends with benefits"-type relationships. Spouses include legally married and common-law spouses.

2. Casual dating partners include, for example, "friends with benefits"-type relationships. This type of relationship is different from a dating partner relationship, which includes (for example) boyfriend- or girlfriend-type relationships.

3. Includes co-workers and staff members associated with co-ops, internships, volunteer positions or paid on-campus employment. Also includes other persons associated with the postsecondary setting.

4. Includes supervisors or bosses associated with co-ops, internships, volunteer positions or paid on-campus employment.

**Note:** Includes postsecondary students aged 18 to 24 (17 to 24 in Quebec) as of December 31, 2018 in the Canadian provinces who were sexually assaulted in the past 12 months. Includes incidents which occurred in the postsecondary setting, including on campus or off campus (if they occurred during travel to or from school, during an official or unofficial event organized by someone affiliated with the school, or during paid or unpaid employment, work placements or volunteer work associated with postsecondary studies). The categories "women" and "men" include cisgender and transgender women and men. Percent calculations are based on unrounded estimates and include missing responses. Respondents were able to provide information on multiple incidents; therefore, percentages do not add to 100. Confidence intervals should be interpreted as follows: If the survey were repeated many times, then 95% of the time (or 19 times out of 20), the confidence interval would cover the true population value.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Survey on Individual Safety in the Postsecondary Student Population.

**Table 8**  
**Students at Canadian postsecondary schools who personally experienced unwanted sexualized behaviours in a postsecondary setting in the past 12 months, by incident characteristics and type of behaviour, 2019**

Incident characteristics	Inappropriate verbal or non-verbal communication <sup>1</sup>			Sexually explicit materials <sup>2</sup>			Unwanted physical contact or suggested sexual relations <sup>3</sup>		
	percent	95% confidence interval		percent	95% confidence interval		percent	95% confidence interval	
		from	to		from	to		from	to
<b>Number of perpetrators</b>									
Always one <sup>†</sup>	32.0	30.5	33.6	44.1	40.3	48.0	62.2	59.9	64.4
Always two or more	27.8*	26.4	29.3	26.0*	22.8	29.4	15.2*	13.6	16.8
It varied	25.7*	24.3	27.2	16.7*	14.0	19.7	13.4*	11.9	15.0
Don't know	14.3*	13.2	15.5	12.5*	10.2	15.1	8.6*	7.4	9.9
<b>Gender of perpetrators</b>									
Always men only <sup>†</sup>	54.5	53.0	56.1	56.3	52.6	59.9	69.3	67.3	71.3
Always women only	8.2*	7.3	9.1	16.4*	13.8	19.4	14.0*	12.6	15.5
Sometimes men, sometimes women	34.0*	32.5	35.5	19.8*	16.9	23.1	12.3*	10.9	13.8
Don't know	3.2*	2.7	3.8	6.5*	4.8	8.7	3.7*	2.9	4.7
<b>Bystanders present</b>									
Yes, in at least one instance <sup>†</sup>	73.9	72.4	75.2	40.2	36.7	43.9	65.3	63.1	67.5
Never	19.4*	18.1	20.7	47.7*	44.1	51.5	27.3*	25.3	29.3
Don't know	6.6*	5.9	7.5	10.7*	8.6	13.2	6.6*	5.6	7.9
<b>Bystanders took action</b>									
Yes, in at least one instance <sup>†</sup>	35.1	33.3	36.9	33.9	28.4	39.9	30.1	27.5	32.7
Never	59.4*	57.6	61.3	58.9*	52.8	64.7	65.8*	63.1	68.3
Don't know	5.3*	4.5	6.3	6.7*	4.4	10.2	4.1*	3.1	5.3
<b>Type of bystander action</b>									
Separated those involved	34.7	31.7	37.8	24.1	16.4	34.0	53.0	48.1	57.9
Asked if needed help	45.4	42.2	48.6	36.9	27.3	47.6	51.1	45.8	56.4
Confronted the perpetrator	53.2	49.9	56.5	58.7	48.0	68.6	49.9	44.7	55.2
Created a distraction	45.7	42.6	49.0	32.4	23.3	43.1	42.2	37.3	47.3
Ask others to step in	12.2	10.3	14.5	12.8	6.8	22.7	17.6	14.1	21.9
Tell someone in authority	6.9	5.4	8.8	F	...	...	10.0	7.2	13.7
Encourage the behaviour	17.2	14.9	19.9	24.6	16.3	35.4	6.9	4.7	9.9
Something else	14.4	12.3	16.8	16.8	10.2	26.6	11.2	8.3	14.9
<b>Relationship of perpetrator</b>									
Student at their school	81.3	80.0	82.5	65.7	62.0	69.2	69.8	67.7	71.8
Friend or acquaintance	51.3	49.7	53.0	44.5	40.8	48.2	36.3	34.2	38.5
Stranger	32.7	31.2	34.3	25.2	22.0	28.6	31.5	29.4	33.7
Student at another school	18.5	17.3	19.8	29.2	25.8	32.7	16.5	14.9	18.3
Dating partner or spouse (current or former) <sup>4</sup>	10.1	9.2	11.1	14.3	11.9	17.1	5.9	4.9	7.0
Casual dating partner (current or former) <sup>5</sup>	8.2	7.3	9.2	14.6	12.2	17.4	7.2	6.1	8.4
Member of a club or team to which they belong	6.6	5.8	7.4	5.8	4.2	7.8	4.1	3.3	5.1
Co-worker at a co-op, internship, volunteer position or paid on-campus employment	3.5	2.9	4.2	1.7	0.9	3.1	2.5	1.8	3.3

See notes at the end of the table.

**Table 8 — end**  
**Students at Canadian postsecondary schools who personally experienced unwanted sexualized behaviours in a postsecondary setting in the past 12 months, by incident characteristics and type of behaviour, 2019**

Incident characteristics	Inappropriate verbal or non-verbal communication <sup>1</sup>			Sexually explicit materials <sup>2</sup>			Unwanted physical contact or suggested sexual relations <sup>3</sup>		
	percent	95% confidence interval		percent	95% confidence interval		percent	95% confidence interval	
		from	to		from	to		from	to
Professor or instructor at their school	3.5	2.9	4.1	1.4	0.7	2.8	3.2	2.5	4.1
Staff member (including security personnel)	1.6	1.2	2.1	F	...	...	1.4	0.9	2.0
Teaching assistant at their school	1.5	1.1	2.0	F	...	...	1.1	0.8	1.7
Supervisor or boss at a co-op, internship or paid on-campus employment	1.2	0.9	1.6	F	...	...	1.7	1.2	2.5
Married or common-law spouse (current or former)	0.9	0.7	1.3	F	...	...	F	...	...
Coach or trainer	0.4	0.2	0.7	F	...	...	F	...	...
Other <sup>6</sup>	5.2	4.4	6.0	4.2	3.0	5.9	4.8	3.9	5.8
Don't know	4.1	3.5	4.8	5.3	3.8	7.4	4.9	3.9	6.0

... not applicable

F too unreliable to be published

\* significantly different from reference category (p < 0.05)

† reference category

1. Includes sexual jokes, unwanted sexual attention, inappropriate sexual comments, and inappropriate discussion about sex life.

2. Includes displaying, showing or sending sexually explicit messages or materials and taking or posting inappropriate or sexually suggestive photos or videos of any student without consent.

3. Includes indecent exposure or inappropriate display of body parts in a sexual manner, repeated pressure from the same person for dates or sexual relationships, unwelcome physical contact or getting too close, and offering workplace benefits for engaging in sexual activity or being mistreated for not engaging in sexual activity.

4. Dating partners include, for example, boyfriend- or girlfriend-type relationships. This type of relationship is different from a casual dating relationship, which includes (for example) "friends with benefits"-type relationships. Spouses include legally married and common-law spouses.

5. Casual dating partners include, for example, "friends with benefits"-type relationships. This type of relationship is different from a dating partner relationship, which includes (for example) boyfriend- or girlfriend-type relationships.

6. Includes private tutors and other unspecified persons.

**Note:** Includes postsecondary students aged 18 to 24 (17 to 24 in Quebec) as of December 31, 2018 in the Canadian provinces who experienced (targeted, directed at them personally) unwanted sexualized behaviours in the past 12 months. Includes behaviours which occurred in the postsecondary setting, including on campus, off campus (if they occurred during travel to or from school, during an official or unofficial event organized by someone affiliated with the school, or during paid or unpaid employment, work placements or volunteer work associated with postsecondary studies) or online (where some or all of the people responsible were students, teachers or other people associated with the school). Excludes behaviours that respondents heard about from someone else (e.g., something that a friend confided in them). The categories "women" and "men" include cisgender and transgender women and men. Percent calculations are based on unrounded estimates and include missing responses. Respondents were able to provide information on multiple incidents; therefore, percentages do not add to 100. Confidence intervals should be interpreted as follows: If the survey were repeated many times, then 95% of the time (or 19 times out of 20), the confidence interval would cover the true population value.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Survey on Individual Safety in the Postsecondary Student Population.

**Table 9**  
**Students at Canadian postsecondary schools who personally experienced unwanted sexualized behaviours in a postsecondary setting in the past 12 months, by type and location of behaviour, 2019**

Location of behaviour	Inappropriate verbal or non-verbal communication <sup>1</sup>			Sexually explicit materials <sup>2</sup>			Unwanted physical contact or suggested sexual relations <sup>3</sup>		
	percent	95% confidence interval		percent	95% confidence interval		percent	95% confidence interval	
		from	to		from	to		from	to
<b>On campus</b>	<b>75.1</b>	<b>73.7</b>	<b>76.5</b>	<b>38.3</b>	<b>34.7</b>	<b>42.0</b>	<b>59.2</b>	<b>56.9</b>	<b>61.4</b>
Learning environment	29.5	27.8	31.3	37.5	31.5	44.0	31.2	28.5	34.0
Non-residential building	59.3	57.4	61.1	51.4	45.3	57.5	51.2	48.3	54.1
On campus residence, excluding fraternities and sororities	18.0	16.6	19.5	30.6	24.9	36.9	19.9	17.7	22.2
Fraternity or sorority house on campus	4.5	3.8	5.4	8.8	5.8	13.0	3.9	2.9	5.1
Other on campus location	28.7	27.1	30.4	16.7	12.5	21.9	20.9	18.6	23.5
<b>Off campus</b>	<b>52.9</b>	<b>51.3</b>	<b>54.6</b>	<b>37.1</b>	<b>33.6</b>	<b>40.8</b>	<b>50.8</b>	<b>48.5</b>	<b>53.0</b>
Another postsecondary school in Canada	5.2	4.3	6.2	7.2	4.7	10.9	4.6	3.5	6.2
At an internship, job placement, practicum or volunteer assignment	9.1	7.9	10.5	7.6	4.8	11.8	8.5	6.8	10.5
Off campus residence, excluding fraternities and sororities	46.1	43.9	48.3	63.2	56.9	69.1	38.6	35.5	41.7
Fraternity or sorority house off campus	6.2	5.2	7.4	5.8	3.6	9.2	6.8	5.3	8.7
Restaurant or bar	54.9	52.6	57.2	38.0	32.2	44.2	49.4	46.2	52.6
Travelling to or from school	33.5	31.4	35.7	18.7	14.1	24.3	22.1	19.6	24.9
Other off campus location	26.4	24.5	28.4	23.4	18.5	29.2	21.0	18.6	23.7
<b>Online</b>	<b>21.4</b>	<b>20.1</b>	<b>22.8</b>	<b>62.5</b>	<b>58.8</b>	<b>66.0</b>	<b>20.2</b>	<b>18.5</b>	<b>22.1</b>
School online environment	3.0	2.0	4.4	3.5	2.1	5.8	F	...	...
By email, instant message, text message	55.9	52.4	59.3	43.5	38.8	48.4	54.5	49.6	59.4
On social media	80.7	77.8	83.4	78.5	74.3	82.1	74.0	69.4	78.2
Online dating app or website	23.9	21.0	27.0	23.3	19.4	27.7	23.8	19.8	28.3
During a phone call or video chat	14.9	12.5	17.7	10.5	7.9	13.9	12.4	9.3	16.4
Other online location	5.6	4.2	7.5	6.5	4.4	9.5	5.8	3.8	8.6

... not applicable

F too unreliable to be published

1. Includes sexual jokes, unwanted sexual attention, inappropriate sexual comments, and inappropriate discussion about sex life.

2. Includes displaying, showing or sending sexually explicit messages or materials and taking or posting inappropriate or sexually suggestive photos or videos of any student without consent.

3. Includes indecent exposure or inappropriate display of body parts in a sexual manner, repeated pressure from the same person for dates or sexual relationships, unwelcome physical contact or getting too close, and offering workplace benefits for engaging in sexual activity or being mistreated for not engaging in sexual activity.

**Note:** Includes postsecondary students aged 18 to 24 (17 to 24 in Quebec) as of December 31, 2018 in the Canadian provinces who experienced (targeted, directed at them personally) unwanted sexualized behaviours in the past 12 months. Includes behaviours which occurred in the postsecondary setting, including on campus, off campus (if they occurred during travel to or from school, during an official or unofficial event organized by someone affiliated with the school, or during paid or unpaid employment, work placements or volunteer work associated with postsecondary studies) or online (where some or all of the people responsible were students, teachers or other people associated with the school). Excludes behaviours that respondents heard about from someone else (e.g., something that a friend confided in them). The categories "women" and "men" include cisgender and transgender women and men. Percent calculations are based on unrounded estimates and include missing responses. Respondents were able to provide information on multiple incidents; therefore, percentages do not add to 100. Confidence intervals should be interpreted as follows: If the survey were repeated many times, then 95% of the time (or 19 times out of 20), the confidence interval would cover the true population value.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Survey on Individual Safety in the Postsecondary Student Population.

**Table 10**  
**Students at Canadian postsecondary schools who were sexually assaulted in a postsecondary setting in the past 12 months, by location of incidents and gender, 2019**

Location of sexual assault	Men†			Women		
	percent	95% confidence interval		percent	95% confidence interval	
		from	to		from	to
<b>On campus‡</b>	<b>39.9</b>	<b>32.7</b>	<b>47.5</b>	<b>37.0</b>	<b>33.1</b>	<b>41.0</b>
Learning environment	23.2	14.5	34.8	17.4	12.8	23.2
Non-residential building	36.1	25.6	48.0	41.4	35.0	48.1
Residence, excluding fraternity or sorority house	33.6	23.1	46.0	27.0	21.7	33.0
Fraternity or sorority house on campus	F	...	...	10.8	7.1	16.0
Other location on campus	16.7	9.4	27.9	25.6	20.0	32.1
<b>Off campus</b>	<b>70.3**</b>	<b>62.8</b>	<b>76.9</b>	<b>77.2**</b>	<b>73.6</b>	<b>80.5</b>
Another postsecondary school in Canada	F	...	...	3.5	2.2	5.5
Internship, job placement, practicum, volunteer	F	...	...	4.4	2.9	6.7
House or apartment, excluding fraternity or sorority house	52.0	42.9	61.0	50.8	46.4	55.2
Fraternity or sorority house off campus	F	...	...	8.0	5.9	10.8
Restaurant or bar	39.6	31.5	48.3	51.0*	46.5	55.5
Travelling to or from school	10.4	5.9	17.7	10.7	8.1	14.0
Other location off campus	22.3	15.7	30.8	15.7	12.8	19.3

... not applicable

F too unreliable to be published

\* significantly different from reference category (†) (p < 0.05)

\*\* significantly different from reference category (‡) (p < 0.05)

† reference category

‡ reference category

**Note:** Includes postsecondary students aged 18 to 24 (17 to 24 in Quebec) as of December 31, 2018 in the Canadian provinces who were sexually assaulted in the past 12 months. Includes incidents which occurred in the postsecondary setting, including on campus or off campus (if they occurred during travel to or from school, during an official or unofficial event organized by someone affiliated with the school, or during paid or unpaid employment, work placements or volunteer work associated with postsecondary studies). The categories "women" and "men" include cisgender and transgender women and men. Percent calculations are based on unrounded estimates and include missing responses. Respondents were able to provide information on multiple incidents; therefore, percentages do not add to 100. Confidence intervals should be interpreted as follows: If the survey were repeated many times, then 95% of the time (or 19 times out of 20), the confidence interval would cover the true population value.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Survey on Individual Safety in the Postsecondary Student Population.

**Table 11**  
**Students at Canadian postsecondary schools who personally experienced unwanted sexualized behaviours in a postsecondary setting in the past 12 months, by relationship of perpetrator and gender, 2019**

Relationship of perpetrator	Men†			Women		
	percent	95% confidence interval		percent	95% confidence interval	
		from	to		from	to
Student at their school	86.0	84.2	87.6	79.7*	78.1	81.3
Friend or acquaintance	63.7	61.2	66.1	47.6*	45.7	49.6
Stranger	17.4	15.6	19.5	47.6*	45.6	49.5
Student at another school	20.6	18.6	22.8	21.7	20.1	23.4
Dating partner (current or former) <sup>1</sup>	11.8	10.2	13.5	10.2	9.1	11.5
Casual dating partner (current or former) <sup>2</sup>	8.3	7.0	9.8	9.7	8.6	11.0
Married or common-law spouse (current or former)	1.3	0.8	2.0	0.8	0.5	1.2
Member of a club or team to which they belong	6.5	5.4	7.8	7.0	6.0	8.1
Co-worker at a co-op, internship, volunteer position or paid on-campus employment	3.8	2.9	4.8	3.9	3.1	4.8
Professor or instructor at their school	2.5	1.8	3.3	5.4*	4.6	6.3
Staff member (including security personnel)	1.7	1.2	2.5	2.4	1.9	3.1
Teaching assistant at their school	1.3	0.8	2.0	2.2*	1.6	2.9
Supervisor or boss at a co-op, internship or paid on-campus employment	1.1	0.7	1.7	1.9*	1.4	2.5
Coach or trainer	0.5	0.3	1.0	0.4	0.2	0.8
Other <sup>3</sup>	5.3	4.2	6.6	7.2*	6.2	8.3
Don't know	4.0	3.1	5.2	7.0*	6.0	8.1

\* significantly different from reference category ( $p < 0.05$ )

† reference category

1. Dating partners include, for example, boyfriend- or girlfriend-type relationships. This type of relationship is different from a casual dating relationship, which includes (for example) "friends with benefits"-type relationships.

2. Casual dating partners include, for example, "friends with benefits"-type relationships. This type of relationship is different from a dating partner relationship, which includes (for example) boyfriend- or girlfriend-type relationships.

3. Includes private tutors and other unspecified persons.

**Note:** Includes postsecondary students aged 18 to 24 (17 to 24 in Quebec) as of December 31, 2018 in the Canadian provinces who experienced (targeted, directed at them personally) unwanted sexualized behaviours in the past 12 months. Includes behaviours which occurred in the postsecondary setting, including on campus, off campus (if they occurred during travel to or from school, during an official or unofficial event organized by someone affiliated with the school, or during paid or unpaid employment, work placements or volunteer work associated with postsecondary studies) or online (where some or all of the people responsible were students, teachers or other people associated with the school). Excludes behaviours that respondents heard about from someone else (e.g., something that a friend confided in them). The categories "women" and "men" include cisgender and transgender women and men. Percent calculations are based on unrounded estimates and include missing responses. Respondents were able to provide information on multiple incidents; therefore, percentages do not add to 100. Confidence intervals should be interpreted as follows: If the survey were repeated many times, then 95% of the time (or 19 times out of 20), the confidence interval would cover the true population value.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Survey on Individual Safety in the Postsecondary Student Population.

**Table 12**  
**Students at Canadian postsecondary schools students who personally experienced unwanted sexualized behaviours in a postsecondary setting in the past 12 months, by type of impact and gender, 2019**

Type of impact	Unwanted sexualized behaviours <sup>1</sup>					
	Men†			Women		
	percent	95% confidence interval		percent	95% confidence interval	
		from	to		from	to
<b>Emotional impacts</b>						
Annoyed	33.0	30.7	35.5	63.9*	62.0	65.8
More cautious or aware	20.8	18.8	23.0	51.8*	49.9	53.8
Frustrated	17.7	15.8	19.8	44.9*	42.9	47.0
Angry	13.8	12.2	15.6	40.1*	38.2	42.0
Upset	15.4	13.6	17.3	39.0*	36.9	41.0
Less trustful of others	13.9	12.2	15.8	32.9*	31.0	34.9
Confused	18.4	16.5	20.5	31.4*	29.6	33.3
Anxious	10.0	8.5	11.6	31.2*	29.5	33.0
In shock or disbelief	11.5	9.9	13.4	28.9*	27.1	30.8
Hurt or disappointed	13.5	11.8	15.3	28.8*	27.0	30.6
Fearful	3.9	3.0	5.0	23.1*	21.5	24.8
Experiencing lowered self-esteem	10.6	9.1	12.3	19.0*	17.5	20.7
Ashamed	6.5	5.3	7.9	15.7*	14.3	17.2
Guilty	4.8	3.8	6.0	11.7*	10.4	13.1
Depressed	4.3	3.4	5.4	8.2*	7.2	9.4
Experiencing suicidal thoughts	1.1	0.7	1.7	2.2*	1.7	2.8
Other emotional impact	7.4	6.2	8.8	9.6*	8.5	10.8
Not much of an emotional impact	32.8	30.4	35.3	26.3*	24.6	28.0
No emotional impact at all	46.8	44.3	49.4	14.8*	13.5	16.3
<b>Impacts on school experience</b>						
Avoid specific buildings at school	5.1	4.1	6.4	17.7*	16.2	19.2
Change route to school	1.8	1.3	2.7	11.1*	9.9	12.5
Change time of travel to or from school	2.7	2.0	3.7	11.1*	9.9	12.4
Get help from a mental health professional	2.4	1.8	3.3	7.5*	6.5	8.5
Stop going to any classes	3.2	2.4	4.3	7.2*	6.2	8.3
Ask for extensions	2.8	2.1	3.8	6.4*	5.4	7.5
Use drugs or alcohol to cope	3.4	2.6	4.4	5.9*	5.0	6.9
Try to change class schedule	2.0	1.4	2.9	5.1*	4.2	6.1
Drop a class or classes	1.4	0.9	2.1	3.5*	2.9	4.3
Ask to reschedule exams	1.0	0.6	1.6	2.5*	1.9	3.2
Change where they live	0.6	0.4	1.2	2.3*	1.8	3.0
Change school	F	...	...	1.1	0.8	1.7
Drop out of school	F	...	...	0.9	0.6	1.4
Change program	0.6	0.4	1.2	0.9	0.5	1.3

... not applicable

F too unreliable to be published

\* significantly different from reference category (p < 0.05)

† reference category

1. Includes sexual jokes, unwanted sexual attention, inappropriate sexual comments about appearance or body, inappropriate discussion about sex life, displaying, showing or sending sexually explicit messages or materials, taking or posting inappropriate or sexually suggestive photos or videos of any student without consent, indecent exposure or inappropriate display of body parts in a sexual manner, repeated pressure from the same person for dates or sexual relationships, unwelcome physical contact or getting too close, and offering workplace benefits for engaging in sexual activity or being mistreated for not engaging in sexual activity.

**Note:** Includes postsecondary students aged 18 to 24 (17 to 24 in Quebec) as of December 31, 2018 in the Canadian provinces who experienced (targeted, directed at them personally) unwanted sexualized behaviours in the past 12 months. Includes behaviours which occurred in the postsecondary setting, including on campus, off campus (if they occurred during travel to or from school, during an official or unofficial event organized by someone affiliated with the school, or during paid or unpaid employment, work placements or volunteer work associated with postsecondary studies) or online (where some or all of the people responsible were students, teachers or other people associated with the school). Excludes behaviours that respondents heard about from someone else (e.g., something that a friend confided in them). The categories "women" and "men" include cisgender and transgender women and men. Percent calculations are based on unrounded estimates and include missing responses. Respondents were able to provide information on multiple incidents; therefore, percentages do not add to 100. Confidence intervals should be interpreted as follows: If the survey were repeated many times, then 95% of the time (or 19 times out of 20), the confidence interval would cover the true population value.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Survey on Individual Safety in the Postsecondary Student Population.



**Table 13**  
**Students at Canadian postsecondary schools who were sexually assaulted in a postsecondary setting in the past 12 months, by type of impact and gender, 2019**

Type of impact	Men†			Women		
	percent	95% confidence interval		percent	95% confidence interval	
		from	to		from	to
<b>Emotional impacts</b>						
More cautious or aware	28.1	22.0	35.2	60.0*	56.1	63.7
Upset	29.6	23.1	37.0	57.6*	53.5	61.5
Annoyed	44.8	37.3	52.5	54.7*	50.6	58.7
Angry	27.2	21.0	34.5	53.5*	49.6	57.4
Frustrated	37.1	30.1	44.8	51.3*	47.4	55.2
Confused	40.1	33.0	47.6	43.6	39.6	47.7
In shock or disbelief	24.2	18.4	31.2	40.4*	36.5	44.5
Anxious	19.2	14.0	25.8	40.2*	36.3	44.3
Hurt or disappointed	17.5	12.6	23.9	38.9*	35.1	42.8
Fearful	14.7	9.9	21.2	38.0*	34.2	42.1
Ashamed	13.5	8.9	19.8	34.4*	30.6	38.3
Guilty	9.2	5.7	14.5	28.4*	25.0	32.1
Less trustful of others	25.7	19.6	32.8	50.9*	46.9	54.8
Experiencing lowered self-esteem	10.2	6.5	15.7	25.5*	22.3	29.0
Depressed	8.9	5.4	14.4	20.5*	17.5	23.9
Experiencing suicidal thoughts	F	...	...	7.8	5.9	10.3
Other emotional impact	8.3	5.0	13.4	9.1	7.1	11.7
Not much of an emotional impact	29.8	23.6	37.0	12.7*	10.3	15.7
No emotional impact at all	16.6	11.6	23.2	3.4*	2.2	5.2
<b>Impacts on school experience</b>						
Avoid specific buildings at school	6.4	3.5	11.3	17.6*	14.7	21.0
Use drugs or alcohol to cope	10.3	6.4	16.2	13.1	10.6	16.1
Get help from a mental health professional	F	...	...	12.5	10.0	15.5
Change time of travel to or from school	6.7	3.8	11.7	10.9	8.6	13.8
Change route to school	4.8	2.5	8.9	9.3*	7.2	12.0
Stop going to any classes	6.9	3.9	11.9	9.1	7.1	11.7
Ask for extensions	5.5	2.9	10.4	7.3	5.4	9.7
Drop a class or classes	5.5	2.8	10.5	4.8	3.3	6.9
Try to change class schedule	F	...	...	4.5	3.0	6.6
Change where they live	F	...	...	4.1	2.8	6.1
Ask to reschedule exams	F	...	...	3.9	2.6	5.9
Change program	F	...	...	F	...	...
Change school	F	...	...	F	...	...
Drop out of school	F	...	...	F	...	...

... not applicable

F too unreliable to be published

\* significantly different from reference category (p < 0.05)

† reference category

**Note:** Includes postsecondary students aged 18 to 24 (17 to 24 in Quebec) as of December 31, 2018 in the Canadian provinces who were sexually assaulted in the past 12 months. Includes incidents which occurred in the postsecondary setting, including on campus or off campus (if they occurred during travel to or from school, during an official or unofficial event organized by someone affiliated with the school, or during paid or unpaid employment, work placements or volunteer work associated with postsecondary studies). The categories "women" and "men" include cisgender and transgender women and men. Percent calculations are based on unrounded estimates and include missing responses. Respondents were able to provide information on multiple incidents; therefore, percentages do not add to 100. Confidence intervals should be interpreted as follows: If the survey were repeated many times, then 95% of the time (or 19 times out of 20), the confidence interval would cover the true population value.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Survey on Individual Safety in the Postsecondary Student Population.

**Table 14**  
**Students at Canadian postsecondary schools who personally experienced unwanted sexualized behaviours in a postsecondary setting in the past 12 months and who did or did not speak to someone about their experience, by reasons for and against doing so, satisfaction with actions taken and gender, 2019**

Who students spoke to, reasons for and against doing so, and satisfaction with actions taken	Unwanted sexualized behaviours <sup>1</sup>					
	Men†			Women		
	percent	95% confidence interval		percent	95% confidence interval	
		from	to		from	to
<b>Spoke to someone associated with the school</b>						
<b>Yes, in at least one instance</b>	4.3	3.3	5.4	9.4*	8.3	10.6
<b>Spoke to a group run by the school administration</b>						
Yes	62.5	49.6	73.9	59.5	52.9	65.8
Always satisfied or very satisfied	58.5	41.4	73.7	43.2	35.0	51.8
Always dissatisfied or very dissatisfied	F	...	...	18.0	12.4	25.5
Always neither or unsure	F	...	...	27.4	20.5	35.5
<b>Spoke to a group run by a student group</b>						
Yes	24.8	15.3	37.6	20.1	15.5	25.6
Always satisfied or very satisfied	F	...	...	39.4	26.7	53.7
Always dissatisfied or very dissatisfied	F	...	...	F	...	...
Always neither or unsure	F	...	...	F	...	...
<b>Spoke to a group, but not sure who it was run by</b>						
Yes	25.3	16.0	37.6	28.3	22.7	34.8
<b>Reasons for speaking to someone associated with the school</b>						
Receive accommodations	F	...	...	17.2	12.6	23.0
Receive mental health support	35.8	24.9	48.5	48.4	42.1	54.7
Receive protection	F	...	...	21.3	16.7	26.9
Pursue an informal resolution, e.g. mediation	40.6	28.6	53.7	22.9*	17.9	28.8
Pursue formal action, e.g. charges	F	...	...	15.5	11.3	20.9
Other reasons (includes medical attention)	29.1	18.7	42.4	14.2*	10.3	19.1
<b>No, in at least one instance</b>	98.1	97.3	98.6	95.0	94.0	95.8
<b>Reasons for not speaking to someone associated with the school</b>						
Didn't know who at school could provide help	7.6	6.4	9.0	16.3*	14.8	17.8
Didn't know where to go to get help at school	5.5	4.5	6.8	13.4*	12.1	14.9
Didn't know if this type of incident could be reported	9.9	8.4	11.5	25.7*	23.9	27.5
Felt embarrassed or ashamed	6.3	5.1	7.7	16.1*	14.6	17.6
Too emotionally difficult	3.5	2.7	4.6	8.3*	7.2	9.5
Wouldn't be kept confidential	4.9	3.8	6.2	9.1*	8.0	10.3
Did not need help	55.5	53.0	58.0	62.2*	60.1	64.3
Was not serious enough	71.6	69.3	73.8	74.5*	72.6	76.2
Resolved the issue on their own	44.3	41.8	46.8	50.3*	48.3	52.4
Worried wouldn't be believed	3.2	2.4	4.3	8.6*	7.5	9.8
School wouldn't take it seriously	8.8	7.4	10.5	18.6*	17.1	20.1
Did not want the person responsible to be hurt or get in trouble	10.9	9.4	12.5	14.6*	13.2	16.1
Would be too hard to prove	4.5	3.5	5.7	13.1*	11.8	14.5
Too scared or frightened	1.4	0.9	2.1	5.7*	4.8	6.7
Did not want anyone to know	7.7	6.3	9.3	14.7*	13.3	16.2
Did not want to get in trouble	5.5	4.4	6.7	9.6*	8.4	10.8
Felt studies or future career would be at risk	2.7	2.0	3.7	6.3*	5.4	7.5
Other reasons	18.7	16.8	20.7	13.7*	12.4	15.1

See notes at the end of the table.

**Table 14 — end**

**Students at Canadian postsecondary schools who personally experienced unwanted sexualized behaviours in a postsecondary setting in the past 12 months and who did or did not speak to someone about their experience, by reasons for and against doing so, satisfaction with actions taken and gender, 2019**

Who students spoke to, reasons for and against doing so, and satisfaction with actions taken	Unwanted sexualized behaviours <sup>1</sup>					
	Men <sup>†</sup>			Women		
	percent	95% confidence interval		percent	95% confidence interval	
from		to	from		to	
<b>Spoke to someone else</b>						
<b>Yes, in at least one instance</b>	36.4	34.0	38.8	70.6*	68.8	72.4
Friend	89.0	85.9	91.5	91.8	90.3	93.0
Family member	31.3	27.6	35.2	39.5*	37.2	41.8
Current or former dating partner, or legally married or common-law partner	23.3	20.0	27.0	33.7*	31.5	36.0
Another student or peer	32.9	29.2	36.9	37.6*	35.3	39.9
Crisis line or mental health professional	3.7	2.4	5.6	7.9*	6.7	9.3
Doctor or nurse	F	...	...	2.5	1.9	3.4
Religious leader or Indigenous elder	2.3	1.3	3.9	0.9*	0.5	1.5
Police	F	...	...	1.3	0.8	2.1
Other <sup>2</sup>	2.0	1.1	3.5	3.1	2.4	4.1
<b>No, in at least one instance</b>	72.5	70.2	74.6	42.7*	40.7	44.7

... not applicable

F too unreliable to be published

\* significantly different from reference category (p < 0.05)

† reference category

1. Includes sexual jokes, unwanted sexual attention, inappropriate sexual comments about appearance or body, inappropriate discussion about sex life, displaying, showing or sending sexually explicit messages or materials, taking or posting inappropriate or sexually suggestive photos or videos of any student without consent, indecent exposure or inappropriate display of body parts in a sexual manner, repeated pressure from the same person for dates or sexual relationships, unwelcome physical contact or getting too close, and offering workplace benefits for engaging in sexual activity or being mistreated for not engaging in sexual activity.

2. Includes support provided in the workplace and other unspecified people.

**Note:** Includes postsecondary students aged 18 to 24 (17 to 24 in Quebec) as of December 31, 2018 in the Canadian provinces who experienced (targeted, directed at them personally) unwanted sexualized behaviours in the past 12 months. Includes behaviours which occurred in the postsecondary setting, including on campus, off campus (if they occurred during travel to or from school, during an official or unofficial event organized by someone affiliated with the school, or during paid or unpaid employment, work placements or volunteer work associated with postsecondary studies) or online (where some or all of the people responsible were students, teachers or other people associated with the school). Excludes behaviours that respondents heard about from someone else (e.g., something that a friend confided in them). The categories "women" and "men" include cisgender and transgender women and men. Percent calculations are based on unrounded estimates and include missing responses. Respondents were able to provide information on multiple incidents; therefore, percentages do not add to 100. Confidence intervals should be interpreted as follows: If the survey were repeated many times, then 95% of the time (or 19 times out of 20), the confidence interval would cover the true population value. Confidence intervals for proportions are shown, and are available for numbers upon request.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Survey on Individual Safety in the Postsecondary Student Population.

**Table 15**  
**Students at Canadian postsecondary schools who were sexually assaulted in a postsecondary setting in the past 12 months who did or did not speak to someone about their experience, by reasons for and against doing so, and gender, 2019**

Who students spoke to and reasons for and against doing so	Men†			Women		
	95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval		
	percent	from	to	percent	from	to
<b>Reported to police</b>						
<b>Yes</b>	F	...	...	2.6	1.5	4.3
<b>No</b>	F	...	...	96.6	94.7	97.9
<b>Reasons for not reporting to police</b>						
Too emotionally difficult	7.4	4.1	13.2	15.7*	12.9	19.0
Wouldn't be kept confidential	6.3	3.5	11.3	10.4	8.1	13.2
Did not need help	54.8	46.8	62.6	53.3	49.4	57.1
Worried wouldn't be believed	13.2	8.8	19.5	18.7	15.7	22.3
Did not want the person responsible to be hurt or get in trouble	21.2	15.7	28.0	18.6	15.6	22.0
Would be too hard to prove	15.0	10.3	21.4	24.7*	21.4	28.4
Too scared or frightened	F	...	...	15.7	12.9	19.0
Did not want anyone to know	15.8	10.9	22.5	28.6*	25.0	32.3
Did not want to get in trouble	10.0	6.5	15.2	15.9*	13.2	19.1
Did not want to involve the police	31.4	24.8	39.0	49.0*	45.0	53.0
Police wouldn't take it seriously	19.6	14.3	26.2	26.7*	23.2	30.5
Was not serious enough	65.4	57.8	72.4	67.2	63.3	70.8
Were embarrassed or ashamed	16.5	11.4	23.3	24.3*	21.0	28.0
Hadn't had a good experience with police previously	11.3	7.1	17.6	6.4	4.6	8.8
Other reasons	15.1	10.3	21.6	11.8	9.5	14.7
<b>Spoke to someone associated with the school</b>						
<b>Yes</b>	5.7	3.0	10.4	7.9	6.0	10.5
<b>Reasons for speaking to someone</b>						
Receive accommodations	F	...	...	33.8	21.3	49.1
Receive mental health support	F	...	...	65.4	50.2	77.9
Receive protection	F	...	...	29.8	17.9	45.4
Pursue an informal resolution, e.g. mediation	F	...	...	F	...	...
Pursue formal action, e.g. charges	F	...	...	19.2	10.0	33.6
Other reasons (includes medical attention)	F	...	...	F	...	...
<b>No</b>	96.4	92.7	98.3	94.1	91.8	95.8
<b>Reasons for not speaking to someone</b>						
Didn't know who at school could provide help	11.2	7.1	17.2	15.4	12.6	18.7
Didn't know where to go to get help at school	8.2	5.0	13.3	13.8*	11.2	16.9
Didn't know if this type of incident could be reported	11.9	7.7	18.1	18.7*	15.6	22.2
Felt embarrassed or ashamed	13.8	9.2	20.2	19.1	16.0	22.6
Too emotionally difficult	6.2	3.3	11.2	12.5*	9.9	15.6
Wouldn't be kept confidential	10.1	6.2	16.0	10.4	8.1	13.2
Did not need help	54.0	46.4	61.5	51.5	47.4	55.5
Was not serious enough	60.9	53.3	68.1	59.2	55.2	63.2
Resolved the issue on their own	45.2	37.8	52.7	38.6	34.6	42.7
Worried wouldn't be believed	12.8	8.5	18.8	12.8	10.2	16.0
School wouldn't take it seriously	11.6	7.5	17.4	18.9*	15.9	22.4
Did not want the person responsible to be hurt or get in trouble	15.0	10.3	21.1	13.2	10.7	16.2
Would be too hard to prove	8.6	5.1	14.0	18.3*	15.2	21.8
Too scared or frightened	F	...	...	10.6	8.3	13.5
Did not want anyone to know	14.3	9.7	20.5	22.5*	19.2	26.1
Did not want to get in trouble	7.2	4.1	12.2	11.7	9.2	14.8
Felt studies or future career would be at risk	F	...	...	5.5	3.8	7.9
Other reasons	14.7	9.9	21.4	11.9	9.4	14.8

See notes at the end of the table.

**Table 15 — end**

**Students at Canadian postsecondary schools who were sexually assaulted in a postsecondary setting in the past 12 months who did or did not speak to someone about their experience, by reasons for and against doing so, and gender, 2019**

Who students spoke to and reasons for and against doing so	Men†			Women		
	95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval		
	percent	from	to	percent	from	to
<b>Spoke to someone else</b>						
<b>Yes</b>	48.2	40.7	55.7	69.8*	65.9	73.5
Friend	89.3	80.1	94.6	90.3	87.1	92.9
Family	24.5	16.3	35.0	32.0	27.6	36.7
Current or former spouse or dating partner	23.2	15.0	34.2	28.3	24.0	33.0
Another student or peer	21.8	14.2	32.0	20.6	17.0	24.8
Crisis line or mental health professional	F	...	...	10.7	8.1	13.9
Doctor or nurse	F	...	...	3.3	2.0	5.6
Other <sup>1</sup>	F	...	...	F	...	...
<b>No</b>	57.0	49.4	64.3	37.0*	33.1	41.2

... not applicable

F too unreliable to be published

\* significantly different from reference category ( $p < 0.05$ )

† reference category

1. Includes police, support provided in the workplace, and other unspecified people.

**Note:** Includes postsecondary students aged 18 to 24 (17 to 24 in Quebec) as of December 31, 2018 in the Canadian provinces who were sexually assaulted in the past 12 months. Includes incidents which occurred in the postsecondary setting, including on campus or off campus (if they occurred during travel to or from school, during an official or unofficial event organized by someone affiliated with the school, or during paid or unpaid employment, work placements or volunteer work associated with postsecondary studies). The categories "women" and "men" include cisgender and transgender women and men. Percent calculations are based on unrounded estimates and include missing responses. Respondents were able to provide information on multiple incidents; therefore, percentages do not add to 100. Confidence intervals should be interpreted as follows: If the survey were repeated many times, then 95% of the time (or 19 times out of 20), the confidence interval would cover the true population value.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Survey on Individual Safety in the Postsecondary Student Population.

**Table 16**  
**Awareness of information provided by the school related to unwanted sexualized behaviours and sexual assault among students at Canadian postsecondary schools, 2019**

Awareness of information	Experienced sexual assault <sup>†</sup>			Did not experience sexual assault			Experienced unwanted sexualized behaviours <sup>‡</sup>			Did not experience unwanted sexualized behaviours		
	percent	95% confidence interval		percent	95% confidence interval		percent	95% confidence interval		percent	95% confidence interval	
		from	to		from	to		from	to		from	to
<b>Have you received information from your school on:</b>												
<b>School policy on harassment and sexual assault</b>												
Yes	58.1	54.5	61.6	61.3	60.4	62.3	61.2	59.7	62.6	60.7	59.5	62.0
No	30.4	27.3	33.7	20.3 <sup>*</sup>	19.6	21.2	23.8	22.5	25.1	19.3 <sup>**</sup>	18.3	20.3
Don't know	10.6	8.6	13.0	18.1 <sup>*</sup>	17.3	18.9	14.2	13.2	15.3	19.7 <sup>**</sup>	18.7	20.7
<b>What sexual assault is and how to recognize it</b>												
Yes	60.2	56.7	63.7	58.4	57.4	59.4	60.7	59.2	62.2	57.0 <sup>**</sup>	55.7	58.3
No	31.8	28.6	35.1	26.6 <sup>*</sup>	25.7	27.5	28.6	27.2	30.0	25.8 <sup>**</sup>	24.7	27.0
Don't know	7.2	5.5	9.2	14.7 <sup>*</sup>	14.0	15.5	9.9	9.0	10.8	16.9 <sup>**</sup>	16.0	17.8
<b>What harassment is and how to recognize it</b>												
Yes	59.8	56.2	63.3	58.7	57.6	59.7	60.1	58.5	61.6	57.8 <sup>**</sup>	56.5	59.1
No	30.9	27.8	34.3	26.6 <sup>*</sup>	25.7	27.5	28.9	27.5	30.4	25.4 <sup>**</sup>	24.4	26.6
Don't know	8.0	6.2	10.2	14.4 <sup>*</sup>	13.7	15.1	9.9	9.1	10.9	16.4 <sup>**</sup>	15.5	17.3
<b>School's confidential resources for harassment and sexual assault and how to locate them</b>												
Yes	53.6	49.9	57.2	58.1 <sup>*</sup>	57.1	59.1	58.1	56.5	59.6	57.3	56.1	58.5
No	35.0	31.7	38.4	23.8 <sup>*</sup>	22.9	24.6	28.5	27.1	29.9	22.1 <sup>**</sup>	21.1	23.1
Don't know	10.6	8.6	13.1	17.8 <sup>*</sup>	17.1	18.6	12.6	11.6	13.6	20.3 <sup>**</sup>	19.3	21.3
<b>Options to help prevent harassment and sexual assault, including bystander action</b>												
Yes	43.2	39.6	46.8	47.6 <sup>*</sup>	46.6	48.6	47.1	45.6	48.7	47.3	46.1	48.6
No	42.7	39.2	46.2	31.5 <sup>*</sup>	30.6	32.4	37.3	35.8	38.8	28.9 <sup>**</sup>	27.8	30.1
Don't know	12.9	10.6	15.5	20.6 <sup>*</sup>	19.8	21.4	14.8	13.7	15.9	23.4 <sup>**</sup>	22.4	24.5
<b>Are you aware of these procedures and services at your school?</b>												
<b>Procedures for dealing with reported incidents of harassment and sexual assault</b>												
Yes	31.3	28.2	34.6	37.3 <sup>*</sup>	36.3	38.3	35.0	33.5	36.5	37.9 <sup>**</sup>	36.7	39.1
No	54.7	51.2	58.1	41.4 <sup>*</sup>	40.4	42.4	48.8	47.2	50.3	38.2 <sup>**</sup>	37.0	39.4
Don't know	12.9	10.7	15.4	21.1 <sup>*</sup>	20.3	21.9	15.4	14.3	16.6	23.5 <sup>**</sup>	22.5	24.6
<b>Services available at school for victims of harassment and sexual assault</b>												
Yes	51.5	47.9	55.0	54.2	53.3	55.2	54.6	53.1	56.1	53.5	52.3	54.8
No	37.9	34.6	41.4	28.4 <sup>*</sup>	27.4	29.3	33.0	31.6	34.4	26.4 <sup>**</sup>	25.4	27.5
Don't know	9.7	7.7	12.1	17.1 <sup>*</sup>	16.3	17.9	11.6	10.7	12.7	19.6 <sup>**</sup>	18.7	20.6

See notes at the end of the table.

**Table 16 — end**

**Awareness of information provided by the school related to unwanted sexualized behaviours and sexual assault among students at Canadian postsecondary schools, 2019**

	Experienced sexual assault†			Did not experience sexual assault			Experienced unwanted sexualized behaviours‡			Did not experience unwanted sexualized behaviours		
	95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval		
	percent	from	to	percent	from	to	percent	from	to	percent	from	to
<b>Awareness of information</b>												
<b>Off-campus resources for victims of harassment and sexual assault</b>												
Yes	43.8	40.2	47.4	43.5	42.5	44.4	45.4	43.8	46.9	42.2**	40.9	43.4
No	44.2	40.7	47.8	36.2*	35.3	37.2	40.8	39.3	42.3	34.0**	32.9	35.2
Don't know	10.9	8.9	13.4	20.0*	19.2	20.8	13.0	12.0	14.1	23.4**	22.4	24.5
<b>Where at school to take a friend to get help if they are harassed or sexually assaulted</b>												
Yes	42.8	39.3	46.4	48.7*	47.7	49.7	48.3	46.8	49.9	48.1	46.8	49.3
No	45.0	41.5	48.5	32.7*	31.8	33.6	38.8	37.3	40.3	30.1**	29.0	31.3
Don't know	11.1	9.0	13.6	18.2*	17.5	19.0	12.0	11.0	13.1	21.3**	20.3	22.3

\* significantly different from reference category (†) (p < 0.05)

\*\* significantly different from reference category (‡) (p < 0.05)

† reference category

‡ reference category

**Note:** Includes postsecondary students aged 18 to 24 (17 to 24 in Quebec) as of December 31, 2018 in the Canadian provinces who were sexually assaulted or who experienced an unwanted sexualized behaviour in the past 12 months. Includes incidents which occurred in the postsecondary setting, including on campus or off campus (if they occurred during travel to or from school, during an official or unofficial event organized by someone affiliated with the school, or during paid or unpaid employment, work placements or volunteer work associated with postsecondary studies). The categories "women" and "men" include cisgender and transgender women and men. Percent calculations are based on unrounded estimates and include missing responses. Confidence intervals should be interpreted as follows: If the survey were repeated many times, then 95% of the time (or 19 times out of 20), the confidence interval would cover the true population value.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Survey on Individual Safety in the Postsecondary Student Population.

**Table 17**  
**Students at Canadian postsecondary schools' beliefs about personal safety, by whether or not they were sexually assaulted or experienced unwanted sexualized behaviours in a postsecondary setting in the past 12 months, 2019**

	Experienced sexual assault			Experienced unwanted sexualized behaviours <sup>1</sup>			Did not experience sexual assault or unwanted sexualized behaviours <sup>†</sup>		
	percent	95% confidence interval		percent	95% confidence interval		percent	95% confidence interval	
<b>Beliefs about personal safety</b>		from	to		from	to		from	to
<b>School tries hard to ensure student safety</b>									
Agree or strongly agree	72.7*	69.3	75.8	80.4*	79.2	81.5	86.0	85.1	86.9
Neither agree nor disagree	16.1*	13.7	19.0	12.9	11.9	14.0	11.6	10.8	12.4
Disagree or strongly disagree	10.3*	8.3	12.6	5.9*	5.2	6.7	2.2	1.9	2.6
Feel safe on school campus									
Agree or strongly agree	76.8*	73.6	79.7	85.3*	84.2	86.3	91.3	90.6	92.0
Neither agree nor disagree	12.0*	9.9	14.6	8.9*	8.0	9.8	6.7	6.1	7.4
Disagree or strongly disagree	9.8*	7.9	12.1	5.0*	4.3	5.7	1.7	1.5	2.1
<b>Feel safe walking alone on campus after dark</b>									
Agree or strongly agree	51.3*	47.9	54.8	63.8*	62.3	65.2	74.8	73.7	75.9
Neither agree nor disagree	15.1	12.8	17.8	12.6	11.7	13.7	13.1	12.2	14.0
Disagree or strongly disagree	32.2*	29.0	35.5	22.6*	21.3	23.9	11.8	11.0	12.7
<b>Feel safe using public transportation alone after dark</b>									
Agree or strongly agree	38.1*	34.6	41.6	51.1*	49.5	52.6	61.7	60.4	63.0
Neither agree nor disagree	14.2	11.8	16.9	13.3*	12.2	14.4	16.8	15.8	17.9
Disagree or strongly disagree	46.1*	42.6	49.7	34.4*	33.0	36.0	21.0	20.0	22.1
<b>Feel safe at home alone after dark</b>									
Agree or strongly agree	79.7*	76.6	82.5	86.8*	85.6	87.8	90.6	89.8	91.3
Neither agree nor disagree	8.9*	7.0	11.2	6.4	5.7	7.2	6.3	5.7	6.9
Disagree or strongly disagree	10.2*	8.3	12.4	5.9*	5.2	6.7	2.8	2.4	3.2
<b>Feel safe and not fearful of who they are or are perceived to be</b>									
Agree or strongly agree	59.9*	56.4	63.2	73.6*	72.2	74.9	83.3	82.3	84.2
Neither agree nor disagree	16.6*	14.2	19.3	11.7*	10.8	12.7	10.2	9.4	11.0
Disagree or strongly disagree	21.9*	19.1	25.1	13.7*	12.6	14.8	6.2	5.6	6.9

\* significantly different from reference category (p < 0.05)

† reference category

1. Includes sexual jokes, unwanted sexual attention, inappropriate sexual comments, inappropriate discussion about sex life, displaying, showing or sending sexually explicit messages or materials, taking or posting inappropriate or sexually suggestive photos or videos of any student without consent, indecent exposure or inappropriate display of body parts, repeated pressure from the same person for dates or sexual relationships, unwelcome physical contact or getting too close, and offering workplace benefits for engaging in sexual activity or being mistreated for not engaging in sexual activity.

**Note:** Includes postsecondary students aged 18 to 24 (17 to 24 in Quebec) as of December 31, 2018 in the Canadian provinces who were sexually assaulted or who experienced an unwanted sexualized behaviour in the past 12 months. Includes incidents which occurred in the postsecondary setting, including on campus or off campus (if they occurred during travel to or from school, during an official or unofficial event organized by someone affiliated with the school, or during paid or unpaid employment, work placements or volunteer work associated with postsecondary studies). Percent calculations are based on unrounded estimates and include missing responses, and exclude responses of "not applicable". Confidence intervals should be interpreted as follows: If the survey were repeated many times, then 95% of the time (or 19 times out of 20), the confidence interval would cover the true population value.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Survey on Individual Safety in the Postsecondary Student Population.