

# 1 in 4 women have been raped or sexually assaulted since the age of 16

## Source

[Sexual offences prevalence and victim characteristics, year ending March 2025, Table 1](#)

## How did we get to this figure?

As Table 1 in this ONS dataset shows, an estimated:

- 25.6% of all adult women aged 16 and above in England and Wales have experienced sexual assault at least once since the age of 16
- This is approximately 1 in 4 (25%)

## Please note

1. From October 2021, the upper age limit for the self-completion module was removed. Previously, there was an upper age limit of 59, then 74, before being removed as a limit entirely.
2. Data for the year ending March 2024 and the year ending March 2025 are based on a half-sample. Caution should be taken because of the impact of the reduced sample size on the quality of the data.
3. The sum of the overarching sexual assault category is not the sum of the sub-categories, as some victims may be included in multiple categories, as they can experience more than one type of assault.
4. The CSEW uses 'sexual assault' as an umbrella term that includes the following sexual offences, including attempts of each: rape, assault by penetration, sexual assault and indecent exposure.
5. The CSEW does not provide a further breakdown of prevalence by gender.

## **1 in 6 children has been sexually abused**

### **Source**

[NSPCC Statistics Briefing \(2011\)](#)

### **How did we get to these figures?**

As Table 1 in this ONS dataset shows, an estimated:

- 16.5% of 11- to 17-year-olds had experienced any form of sexual abuse at some point in their lives
- This is approximately 1 in 6 (16.67%)

### **Please note**

1. Data is available on: children who are receiving support or are known to services because of sexual abuse; the age and gender of children who experience sexual abuse, and perpetrators of sexual abuse
2. These figures cannot be used to definitively state how widespread child sexual abuse is.

## **1 in 18 men have been raped or sexually assaulted since the age of 16**

### **Source**

[Sexual offences prevalence and victim characteristics, year ending March 2025, Table 1](#)

### **How did we get to these figures?**

As Table 1 in this ONS dataset shows, an estimated:

- 5.9% of all adult men aged 16 and above in England and Wales have experienced sexual assault at least once since the age of 16
- This is approximately 1 in 18 (5.6%)

### **Please note**

1. From October 2021, the upper age limit for the self-completion module was removed. Previously, there was an upper age limit of 59, then 74, before being removed as a limit entirely.
2. Data for the year ending March 2024 and year ending March 2025 are based on a half sample. Caution should be taken because of the impact of the reduced sample size on the quality of the data.
3. The sum of the overarching sexual assault category is not the sum of the sub-categories as some victims may be included in multiple categories as they can experience more than one type of assault.
4. The CSEW uses 'sexual assault' as an umbrella term that includes the following sexual offences, including attempts of each: rape, assault by penetration, sexual assault and indecent exposure.
5. The CSEW does not provide a further breakdown of prevalence by gender.

## **71,227 rapes were recorded by police in 2024**

### **Source**

[Office for National Statistics \(2025\)](#)

### **How did we get to these figures?**

- As this ONS statistical bulletin states, 'Around 35% (71,227 offences) of all sexual offences recorded by the police in YE December 2024 were rape offences. This was a 5% increase, compared with YE December 2023 (68,045 offences).'

**And by the end of 2024, charges had been brought in just 2.7% of these cases. Fewer than 3 in 100 rapes recorded by police in 2024 resulted in someone being charged that same year**

### **Source**

[Home Office \(2025\) publications](#)

### **How did we get to this figure?**

- As Table 1.2 in the data tables document of this Home Office publication shows, 2.7% of rapes recorded by police in the year to December 2024 resulted in someone being charged/summonsed.

## **After being reported to the police, adult rape cases take an average of 2 years to complete in court**

### **Source**

[UK Government \(2024\) publication](#)

### **How did we get to these figures?**

- As the criminal justice system overview on the data dashboard shows, the most recent rolling annual average for the number of days taken by police to charge an offender in adult rape cases is 306.
- Meanwhile, as the charge to case completion at court table on the data dashboard shows, the most recent rolling annual average for the number of days between charge and completion at the Crown Court is 424.
- So, we add 306 and 424 together to get the average total time it takes adult rape cases to complete in court from reporting: 730 days (2 years).

**Meanwhile, there's currently a record number of sexual offence cases that are waiting to go to court: 11,918 and a record number of adult rape cases (3,498) and child rape cases (1,646)**

### **Source**

[Ministry of Justice \(2025\) Publication](#)

### **How did we get to this figure?**

- As this Pivot Table Analytical Tool shows, in the last quarter of 2024 (the last quarter for which there is publicly available data), there were 11,918 sexual offence cases, 3,498 adult rape cases and 1,646 child rape cases outstanding.
- These are the highest figures for any quarter since 2016, the year the Pivot Tool dates back to.

## **2 in 5 rapes against women are carried out by their partner or ex-partner. 6 in 7 rapes against women are carried out by someone they know**

### **Source**

[Office for National Statistics Table 1, Nature of sexual assault by rape or penetration](#)

### **How did we get to these figures?**

As Table 1 of this dataset shows,

- Instances of rape or assault by penetration (including attempts) that women aged 16 and above in England and Wales have experienced since the age of 16, a partner or ex-partner was the perpetrator in 44.5% of cases.

The victim-perpetrator relationship in the remainder of cases was as follows:

- Family member – 3%
- Other known – 37.7%
- Stranger – 15%

### **Please note**

1. If the victim had experienced more than one sexual assault by rape or penetration (including attempts), the question was asked of the most recent incident.
2. Data for the year ending March 2025 are based on a half-sample. To increase the sample size and improve the quality of the estimates, these tables include combined data from the year ending March 2020 and the year ending March 2025. These are the two latest years in which the 'Nature of sexual assault' module was asked on the survey.
3. From April 2017, the upper age limit for the self-completion module (which includes the 'Nature of sexual assault' module) was increased to ask all respondents aged 16 to 74. From October 2021, the upper age limit was removed, and questions were asked to everyone aged 16 and over. Data in these tables cover those aged 16 to 74 for the year ending March 2020 and 16 and over for the year ending March 2025. The bases given include anyone aged 16 and over who responded to these questions.

## **91% of people prosecuted for sexual offences are men aged 18+**

### **Source**

[Office for National Statistics \(2018\)](#)

### **How did we get to these figures?**

- As Table 2 in this ONS dataset of compiled Ministry of Justice appendix tables shows, in the year ending December 2017:
  - 11,311 people were prosecuted for sexual offences in total.
  - 10,317 of these were men aged 18 and over (826 were aged 18-20; 1,100 were aged 21-24; 8,391 were aged 25+).
  - 657 were young men and boys aged 12-17.

**5 in 6 women who are raped don't report, and the same is true for 7 in 8 men. For reasons why: 39% said they didn't think the police could help, 35% thought it would be 'embarrassing', 31% thought it would be 'humiliating', and 24% thought the police wouldn't believe them.**

### **Source**

[Office for National Statistics, Table 13. Nature of sexual assault by rape or penetration](#)

### **How did we get to these figures?**

- From table 13, 14.9% of women told the police about what happened. The same was true for 12.2% of men.
- If 14.9% of women reported to police, the remaining 85.1% didn't, which is approximately 5 in 6 (83.3%)
- If 12.2% of men reported to the police, 87.8% didn't, which is approximately 7 in 8 (87.5%)

### **Please note**

1. If the victim had experienced more than one sexual assault by rape or penetration (including attempts), the question was asked of the most recent incident.
2. Data for the year ending March 2025 are based on a half-sample. To increase the sample size and improve the quality of the estimates, these tables include combined data from the year ending March 2020 and the year ending March 2025. These are the two latest years in which the 'Nature of sexual assault' module was asked on the survey.
3. From April 2017, the upper age limit for the self-completion module (which includes the 'Nature of sexual assault' module) was increased to ask all respondents aged 16 to 74. From October 2021, the upper age limit was removed, and questions were asked of everyone aged 16 and over. Data in these tables cover those aged 16 to 74 for the year ending March 2020 and 16 and over for the year ending March 2025. The bases given include anyone aged 16 and over who responded to these questions.

**For reasons why: 39% said they didn't think the police could help, 35% thought it would be 'embarrassing', 25% thought the police wouldn't do anything about it, and 24% thought the police wouldn't believe them.**

## **Source**

[Office for National Statistics, Table 16, Nature of sexual assault by rape or penetration](#)

## **How did we get to these figures?**

- From table 16, of those that didn't report to police, 35.3% said it was due to embarrassment, 38.5% didn't think police could help, 30.5% thought it would be humiliating, 25% didn't think they would do anything about it, and 24.4% didn't think police would believe them.

## **Please note**

1. If the victim had experienced more than one sexual assault by rape or penetration (including attempts), the question was asked of the most recent incident.
2. Data for the year ending March 2025 are based on a half-sample. To increase the sample size and improve the quality of the estimates, these tables include combined data from the year ending March 2020 and the year ending March 2025. These are the two latest years in which the 'Nature of sexual assault' module was asked on the survey.
3. From April 2017, the upper age limit for the self-completion module (which includes the 'Nature of sexual assault' module) was increased to ask all respondents aged 16 to 74. From October 2021, the upper age limit was removed, and questions were asked of everyone aged 16 and over. Data in these tables cover those aged 16 to 74 for the year ending March 2020 and 16 and over for the year ending March 2025. The bases given include anyone aged 16 and over who responded to these questions.
4. Percentages may not sum to 100 as more than one option could be selected.

## 6.3 million women in England and Wales have been raped or sexually assaulted since the age of 16

### Source

[Office for National Statistics, Sexual offences prevalence and victim characteristics, year ending March 2025, Table 7a](#)

### How did we get to this figure?

- As Table 7a in this ONS dataset shows, an estimated 6,298,000 women and 1,415,000 men were subjected to at least one form of sexual assault as of March 2025

### Please note

1. From October 2021, the upper age limit for the self-completion module was removed.
2. Data for the year ending March 2024 and the year ending March 2025 are based on a half-sample. Caution should be taken because of the impact of the reduced sample size on the quality of the data.
3. Due to the way these estimates are calculated, the figures for men and women do not sum to all.
4. Numbers are derived by multiplying the prevalence rate by the population aged 16 years and over in England and Wales (based on mid-2024 population estimates for the year ending March 2025, mid-2023 population estimates for the year ending March 2024, and mid-2022 population estimates for year ending March 2023).
5. The sum of the overarching sexual assault category is not the sum of the sub-categories as some victims may be included in multiple categories as they can experience more than one type of assault.

## **9 in 10 girls and young women in schools say sexist name-calling and being sent unwanted 'dick pics' or other images of a sexual nature happen to them or other girls and young women their age**

### **Source**

[Ofsted \(2021\) publication](#)

### **How did we get to this figure?**

- As Ofsted states in its Review of Sexual Abuse in Schools and Colleges:
  - 'On our visits ... nearly 90% of girls, and nearly 50% of boys, said being sent explicit pictures or videos of things they did not want to see happens a lot or sometimes to them or their peers ... [while] 92% of girls, and 74% of boys, said sexist name-calling happens a lot or sometimes to them or their peers. The frequency of these harmful sexual behaviours means that some children and young people consider them normal.'

### **Please note**

1. Ofsted only covers England.

## 1 in 2 adult survivors of rape have experienced it more than once

### Source

[Office for National Statistics \(2025\) publication, Table 7](#)

### How did we get to this figure?

- As Table 7 of this dataset shows, when looking at adults aged 16 to 59 in England and Wales who have experienced rape or assault by penetration (including attempts) since the age of 16, almost half (51.8%) had been a victim more than once.

### Please note

1. If the victim had experienced more than one sexual assault by rape or penetration (including attempts), the question was asked of the most recent incident.
2. Data for the year ending March 2025 are based on a half-sample. To increase the sample size and improve the quality of the estimates, these tables include combined data from the year ending March 2020 and the year ending March 2025. These are the two latest years in which the 'Nature of sexual assault' module was asked on the survey.
3. From April 2017, the upper age limit for the self-completion module (which includes the 'Nature of sexual assault' module) was increased to ask all respondents aged 16 to 74. From October 2021, the upper age limit was removed, and questions were asked of everyone aged 16 and over. Data in these tables cover those aged 16 to 74 for the year ending March 2020 and 16 and over for the year ending March 2025. The bases given include anyone aged 16 and over who responded to these questions.

## **How many women are raped or sexually assaulted every year? 739,000. That's 1 in 30 women.**

### **Source**

[Office for National Statistics \(2025\) report](#)

### **How did we get to these figures?**

- As this ONS bulletin states, 'The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) provides the best measure of victimisation and estimated that 1.9% of people (3.0% of females and 0.7% of males) aged 16 years and over were victims of sexual assault (including attempts) in year ending (YE) March 2025 survey; this equates to around 900,000 people (739,000 females and 162,000 males).'
- 3% of females is approximately 1 in 30 (3.3%)

## 2 in 5 adult survivors of rape experienced it in their own home

### Source

[Office for National Statistics \(2025\) publication, Table 8](#)

### How did we get to this figure?

- For adult survivors of rape, 38.2% named their own home as the location of their rape/assault by penetration.
- This can roughly be expressed as 2 in 5 (40%)
- For men, this figure was 21%, while it was 39.3% for women

### Please note

1. If the victim had experienced more than one sexual assault by rape or penetration (including attempts), the question was asked about the most recent incident.
2. Data for the year ending March 2025 are based on a half-sample. To increase the sample size and improve the quality of the estimates, these tables include combined data from the year ending March 2020 and the year ending March 2025. These are the two latest years in which the 'Nature of sexual assault' module was asked on the survey.
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### Where else can you check for statistics about rape and other forms of sexual violence and abuse?

- End Violence Against Women: [endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk](https://endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk)
- Crown Prosecution Service: [cps.gov.uk](https://cps.gov.uk)
- Office for National Statistics: [ons.gov.uk](https://ons.gov.uk)