



About sexual assault

The issue



1 in 7 young Australians believe women often make false allegations of **sexual assault**.



1 in 5 young Australians believe women find it flattering to be persistently pursued, even if they are not interested.



1 in 8 young Australians believe that women often say 'no' when they mean 'yes'.

While most people believe sexual violence is a serious issue, many don't realise this form of violence is underpinned by attitudes and behaviours of disrespect.

The facts

1 in 5
women

1 in 20
men

1 in 5 women and 1 in 20 men have experienced some form of **sexual violence** from the age of 15.



In 2020, there were almost **six times more female victims** of reported **sexual assault**, than male victims in Queensland.

Preventing sexual violence starts with challenging attitudes that blame victims, that tolerate sexist, harassing comments and that make excuses for violence.

These statistics tell us that **women and girls are more likely** to be the victims of sexual violence than men and boys.

That's why sexual violence is often referred to as a form of gender-based violence.



Understanding sexual violence and sexual assault

Sexual violence refers to any unwanted sexual activity, offline or online, where consent is not freely and voluntarily given. Sexual violence includes sexual harassment, touching, sexual abuse, sexual assault, rape, forced marriage and sexual exploitation. Many forms of sexual violence are a criminal offence in Queensland.

Sexual assault is any unwanted sexual act that is forced on a person by intimidation, physical force or pressure or, more broadly, without their consent, or where consent is withdrawn. Continuing to engage in sexual activity without consent is against the law.

Sexual assault includes rape and attempted rape, as well as unwanted sexual touching or groping, or being forced to perform or witness a sexual act. Sexual assault is a criminal offence in Queensland.

A victim of sexual violence is never responsible for being assaulted.

If you have been sexually assaulted and/or are in **immediate danger** contact the **police on triple zero (000)** or visit the emergency department at your local hospital.

Advice and assistance is also available by calling:

Statewide sexual assault helpline 1800 010 120

1800 RESPECT 1800 737 732

Kids Helpline 1800 55 1800

Local sexual assault service contact details can be found on the **Queensland Sexual Assault Network** website

[Young Australians' attitudes to violence against women and gender equality: findings from the 2017 National Community Attitudes towards Violence against Women Survey](#)

[Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021. Recorded Crime – Victims 2020](#)