



Edith Cowan University and Victoria Police

Collaborating Research Institutions: University of Melbourne and University of Tasmania

Adult Sexual Assault Project

"Policing Just Outcomes - Survey"

Welcome to this Survey

This survey should take between 10 and 20 minutes to complete.

Who should complete this survey?

Women and Men in Victoria, 18 years of age and over, who at any time in their life have experienced sexual assault and either have or have not reported it to police in Victoria.

What is the purpose of this survey?

By completing the survey you will help Victoria Police better understand the experiences of sexual assault victims and identify where police can improve their response and investigation of sexual offences.

Can I be identified by filling out this survey?

No. The information will not and cannot be used to identify individuals.

Can I see the final Report?

Your survey will be one of many that contribute to a pool of information. Collected data will be made available in an aggregated form only and no individual data will be able to be identified. Updates and results of the survey will be published on the project website:

www.policingjustoutcomes.org

Can I change my mind about the survey?

You can choose to withdraw from the survey at any time whilst completing the survey. Once you have submitted the survey you have given consent.

If you feel you need to speak to someone about any issues that arise for you in filling out this survey you may contact:

The Centre Against Sexual Assault
24 Hour Crisis Line on ph. 1800 806 292
Or
Lifeline on ph. 13 11 14

This survey has been approved by;
Edith Cowan University, Human Research Ethics Committee.

The following survey is divided into sections. Each box with a shaded heading is a new section. Please read the section headings carefully. There may be whole sections that you do not need to complete. Please mark the check box that best represents your response.

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This survey is part of an Australian Research Council Large Linkage grant between Edith Cowan University and Victoria Police in collaboration with the University of Melbourne and the University of Tasmania.

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To complete the survey,

Please tick the box that you feel is the most appropriate response.
Please feel free to comment in any of the boxes that allow for additional information.

Your completion of the questionnaire will indicate your consent to be included in our study

Please do not include any information that may identify you.

Section 1: About You

- 1 What is your gender/sex?
 Male Female
- 2 Is English your first language?
 Yes No
- 3 Are you from a non English speaking background?
(were you, or one or both of your parents born in a non English speaking country)
 Yes No
- 4 Are you of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent?
 Yes No
- 5 What is the post code or town/suburb where you currently live?
- 6 What is your age now?
 Years

Section 2: About the assault(s) and police

7. Were there multiple incidents of sexual assault? Yes (omit Q 9) No

8. How old were you at the time of the first assault? years

9. How old were you when the last sexual assault occurred? years

10. What is the gender of the offender(s) who assaulted you? Male Female Both male & female

11. Following your sexual assault, before deciding whether to contact police, what was your perception of, or attitude toward police? (Please circle)

Very negative Negative Neutral Positive Very positive

12. Was/were the offender/s related to you?

Yes. (tick as many as apply) No. (go to next question)

Spouse or partner Current Previous

Mother Father

Step-Parent Grandparent

Step-Grandparent Uncle

Aunt Brother

Sister Step brother/sister

Cousin

Other (please specify)

13. Was/were the offender/s unrelated to you?

Yes

Tick as many as apply

- Boyfriend----- current previous
- Girlfriend----- current previous
- Family Friend Neighbour Teacher
- Sports Coach Minister of Religion or Priest Health Professional
- Carer Client Employer
- Work Colleague Stranger

Other (please specify)

14. Over what period of time did the sexual assaults occur? Tick one only.

- it was a single incident
- Or over a period of**
- 1-6 Days 1-3 Weeks
- 1 month 2-3 months 4 months - 1 year
- 2-5 years 6-10 years More than ten years

15. At the time of completing this survey, have you made a report or spoken to police about your experience of sexual assault? Yes (got to Q 17) No (Go to Q 16)

16. If you did not report to police, who, (if anyone) did you tell? (tick as many as apply)

- I did not tell anyone
- I told one or more of the following**
- G.P./Doctor Priest/Minister Friend
- Family Member Counsellor/Therapist Work Colleague

Other (please specify)

17. Where did the assault/s occur? (Tick as many as apply)

- My home Someone else's home Offender's home

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vehicle | <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Setting
e.g. Doctor's surgery,
dentist, etc. | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor location |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Work Place | <input type="checkbox"/> Orphanage | <input type="checkbox"/> Foster Home |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hotel/Motel | <input type="checkbox"/> Hospital | <input type="checkbox"/> Boarding School |
| <input type="checkbox"/> School | <input type="checkbox"/> Public transport | <input type="checkbox"/> Night Club |

Other (please specify)

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Section 3: Reporting/speaking to police
If you have made no contact with police please go to Question 47 now.
Please note: If you have made more than one report or spoken to police more than once about sexual assault, please answer focussing on your most recent contact with police.

18. In what year did you contact the police about this assault? If you are unable to remember exact year, please give an approximate year.

19. How did you contact police? (tick one only)

Telephone In Person Someone contacted police on **my** behalf

Other(Please Specify)

20. Following your experience of sexual assault, how much time had passed before you told police about it? (choose 1 only)

Within 72 hours (3 days) 4- 7 days 8 days - 1 month
 2 – 3 months 4 months – 1 year 2 – 5 years
 6 – 10 years More than 10 years

21. a) Did someone support you to make contact with police? Yes No
(go to 21b) (go to 22)

b) If yes, was this person

Family member Friend Professional e.g. Doctor, Counsellor

Work Colleague Other (please specify)

c) If someone did assist you, would you have made a report without this other person supporting you? (please circle)

Highly unlikely Not likely Unsure Likely Highly Likely

22. What was name of the town or suburb where you contacted police or made a report?

23. Were you offered the choice to speak with a police officer of the same gender/sex as you? No Unsure Yes

24. Were you offered the choice to speak with an officer in a specialist sexual assault unit? No Unsure Yes

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Section 4: How Police Responded

This section asks you about how you feel police responded to the report you made. You may have had contact with several different police members, but the following questions are asking you to rate your experience of the police response overall. (please circle your response)

25. I felt supported by the police (circle 1 only)

Strongly disagree Disagree Unsure Agree Strongly agree

26. I felt the police listened to what I said(circle 1 only)

Strongly disagree Disagree Unsure Agree Strongly agree

27. I felt the police believed what I said (circle 1 only)

Strongly disagree Disagree Unsure Agree Strongly agree

28. I felt the police treated me with respect(circle 1 only)

Strongly disagree Disagree Unsure Agree Strongly agree

29. I felt speaking with police was a good decision(circle 1 only)

Strongly disagree Disagree Unsure Agree Strongly agree

30. During my talk with police I felt I could make decisions about what I wanted to do next(circle 1 only)

Strongly disagree Disagree Unsure Agree Strongly agree

31. Police showed concern about my safety(circle 1 only)

Strongly disagree Disagree Unsure Agree Strongly agree

32. Police talked to me in a way that was easy to understand(circle 1 only)

Strongly disagree Disagree Unsure Agree Strongly agree

33. Police explained to me my choices about going further with my report(circle 1 only)

Strongly disagree Disagree Unsure Agree Strongly agree

34. Did you feel that police thought your report was false? No Unsure Yes

35. Did police explain the consequences for making a false report? No Unsure Yes

36. Did police give you information about other support services you could contact? No Unsure Yes

What was the outcome of your initial contact with police?

37. I got some information on the Criminal Justice System, referrals or both No Unsure Yes

38. I made a formal typed or recorded statement to police about the sexual offence No Unsure Yes

39. I made a formal report but requested that no further action be taken No Unsure Yes

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Section 5: Police Investigation

This section asks about your experience of police who further investigated your report after you made a formal statement

40. How often did the police contact you after you had made a statement? (choose 1 only)

- At least once per week Fortnightly Monthly
 3 monthly 6 monthly Never

41. Police contact with me was helpful (please circle)

Strongly disagree Disagree Unsure Agree Strongly agree

42. Police contact with me helped me feel confident to continue with my report (circle 1 only)

Strongly disagree Disagree Unsure Agree Strongly agree

43. Were charges laid by police?

A Yes (please go to box **A** below)

B No (please go to box **B** below)

C Unsure (please go to box **C** below)

D Still waiting for outcome (please go to box **D** below)

A If **yes**, from the time you made your police statement how long did it take before charges were laid?

Please give your best estimate of the time.

days weeks months years

B If **no**, how long did it take before police notified you that charges would not be laid?

i) *Please give your best estimate of the time.*

days weeks months years

ii) Did they explain why?

No Unsure Yes

C If **unsure**, how long is it since you last heard from the police?
Please give your best estimate of the time.

	days		weeks		months		years
--	------	--	-------	--	--------	--	-------

D If **still waiting**, how much time has passed since you made your statement?
Please give your best estimate of the time.

	days		weeks		months		years
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44. Did you at any time withdraw your report/statement? No Unsure Yes

If **Yes**, did the reason have to do with.....

<input type="checkbox"/> Police (please explain)
<input type="checkbox"/> other (please explain)

45. Since the assault(s), and any related contact you have had with police, what is your perception of, or attitude to police now?(circle 1 only)

Very negative Negative Neutral Positive Very positive

46. If there has been a change in your perception of or feelings toward police (Question11) to your final perception (Question 45), please comment on the reason for this change.

Reason for change:

Section 6: Reporting the assault(s)
Please complete this section whether or not you have made a report to police
This section asks about things that prevented you from reporting the assault(s) to police, or made it difficult to do so.

47. Please tick as many of the following that you have experienced as a result of being sexually assaulted.

a) Feelings of ...

- Guilt Shame Embarrassment
 Fear Anger Shock and disbelief

Other (please describe)

b) Fear of ...

- The offender(s) Family members Community
 Being publicly identified Police Being labelled/stigmatised
 Family break down Others finding out Not being believed
 Bringing shame to my family My children finding out

Other (please specify)

c) Fear of Losing...

- My job Family support Friends
 My connection to my Community My Home/Place where I live Support
 Custody of my children

Other (please describe)

d) I experienced intimidation or threats....

- By offender By others

e) I experienced concern

- For my safety For safety of others For the safety of pets

- For the safety of
my property

- Other (please specify)

f) I experienced a lack of confidence in ...

- Police The legal system

g) I experienced a lack of support from ...

- Family Friends Professionals (e.g. Doctor,
Counsellor, etc.)

- Community Work/Work
Colleagues Employer

- Police

- Other (please describe)

48. If you chose not to report to police please indicate reasons why.

- I was unsure if what happened to me was a
crime

- I had a concern that reporting would not
lead to conviction

- I wanted to deal with it myself

- I did not feel that reporting it would make
me feel any better

- I had a concern about the community
standing (reputation/power) of the offender

- I had concerns about my current or
previous occupation

- I had concerns about language barrier
(not confident making a report in English)

- other (please describe)

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49. Do you regret the decision you made about reporting or not reporting to police?

No

Unsure

Yes

Please comment...

50. Please feel free to use the space below to write any further comments. Please feel free to use the other side of this page to write further comment

Thank you for completing this survey, we appreciate the time you have taken to do so. This survey will help inform/improve police responses to sexual crime.

If you feel the need to talk to someone about any issues that arise for you in filling out this survey, you may contact:

The Centre Against Sexual Assault 24 hour Crisis Line on ph. 1800 806 292

or

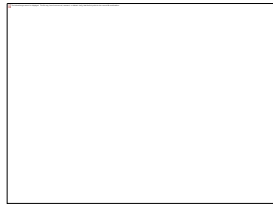
Lifeline on ph. 13 11 14

If you feel you would like to make a report to police, please contact your local police station.

Other services you can contact for support or assistance are located on the website. www.policingjustoutcomes.org.au

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Further comments.....(if you wish to make further comment, please limit your response to 250 words)



An Invitation to be further involved in this important research.

As part of this important research we are conducting individual interviews and focus groups with victim/survivors of sexual assault.

These interviews and focus groups will be more in depth than a survey allows and will further inform us of the issues that face victim/survivors when reporting to police.

If you wish to be part of further research and are willing to be contacted for focus groups and face to face or phone interviews please include your contact details in the section below and return to us in the provided reply paid envelope.

Please DO NOT send this form in with your survey. Send your contact details in the second reply paid envelope provided, this is to ensure that the surveys remain anonymous and confidential.

Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....postcode.....

Telephone.....

Please indicate below whether you have reported to police in Victoria

I HAVE reported to Police

I HAVE NOT reported to police

I hereby give permission for researchers on The Policing Just Outcomes project to contact me regarding my experience of sexual assault and my contact with the police regarding this.

Signed.....

Print name.....

N.B. A random sample of participants will be chosen for individual interviews

Thank you, once again, for you contribution to this most important research.