

Sexual Health Week

24 – 30 September 2018



Consent: Yes, yes, yes!

This year's [Sexual Health Week](#) is all about consent, a topic that underpins all our work on relationships, sexual health and wellbeing. We carried out a survey of more than 2,000 people to find out more about their knowledge of and attitude towards consent.

Why is it important?

Sexual consent is important in making sure everyone is happy with any activity that takes place, and no one gets harmed. Consent is about more than just saying 'no' to unwanted activity, it's about listening, negotiating and enthusiastically agreeing. Learning how to negotiate consent teaches good communication, respect, understanding and resilience.

Overall results

- Half of respondents said “no/I’m not sure” when asked whether they were taught about consent in school.
- Only 47% of people thought someone could withdraw consent if they're already naked.
- 86% of people felt it was important that consent is covered on the school curriculum.
- 42% of people learnt about consent from discussions with friends, and 38% learnt about it from TV or film.
- Only 13% of people said they would be most likely to discuss issues of consent with a partner.
- 9% of people do not think it is OK for someone to withdraw consent under any of the following circumstances:
 - They have been bought dinner
 - They have been bought drinks
 - They have already kissed the other person
 - They are in a bedroom
 - They have had sex with that person before
 - They are already naked

Young people

- 14-17 year olds would be most likely to discuss consent with friends, or a parent or carer.
- Only a third of 14-16 year olds thought it was OK for someone to withdraw consent if they are already naked.
- 56% of young people aged 14-17 have learnt about consent from their parent or carer. 35% said this was the main way they learnt about it.
- 45% of young people aged 18-24 learnt about consent from TV or film, along with 37 of 14-17 year olds.

- 24% of under-35s believed someone's "yes" still counts even when they are very intoxicated (drunk or high).

Parents and school education

- 50% of people said "no/I'm not sure" when asked whether they were taught about consent in school.
- 86% of people felt it was important that consent is covered on the school curriculum, but only 12% said this was the way they learnt most about consent.
- 23% of people said the way they learnt most about consent was through discussions with a parent or carer.
- 56% of young people aged 14-17 learnt about consent from a parent or carer, with 35% of those saying it was the main way they learnt.
- Just 11% of young people aged 14-17 say they would discuss consent with teachers.

Notes

*Survey of 2,003 people in the UK. All figures, unless otherwise stated, are from Atomik Research. Fieldwork was undertaken between 24 - 29 August 2018. The survey was carried out online.

If you are a journalist and would like a further breakdown of the survey results, please email press@fpa.org.uk.