



Australian Government

Australian Institute of Criminology

AIC reports

Research Report

25

**Sexual harassment,
aggression and violence
victimisation among
mobile dating app and
website users in Australia**

Heather Wolbers

Hayley Boxall

Cameron Long

Adam Gunnoo

© Australian Institute of Criminology 2022

ISSN (Online) 2206-7280

ISBN 978 1 922478 74 0 (Online)

<https://doi.org/10.52922/rr78740>

Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study, research, criticism or review, as permitted under the *Copyright Act 1968* (Cth), no part of this publication may in any form or by any means (electronic, mechanical, microcopying, photocopying, recording or otherwise) be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted without prior written permission. Inquiries should be addressed to the publisher.

Published by the Australian Institute of Criminology
GPO Box 1936 Canberra ACT 2601
Tel: (02) 6268 7166
Email: front.desk@aic.gov.au
Website: aic.gov.au

Please note: Minor revisions are occasionally made to publications after release. The online versions available on the AIC website will always include any revisions.

All publications in the Research Report series are subject to peer review—either through a double-blind peer review process, or through stakeholder peer review. This report was subject to double-blind peer review.

Disclaimer: This research report does not necessarily reflect the policy position of the Australian Government.

General editor: Dr Rick Brown, Deputy Director, Australian Institute of Criminology

Edited and typeset by the Australian Institute of Criminology

A full list of publications in the AIC Reports series can be found on the Australian Institute of Criminology website at aic.gov.au

Contents

vi	Acknowledgements	
vii	Acronyms and abbreviations	
viii	Abstract	
ix	Executive summary	
ix	Method	
xi	Results	
xiv	Discussion	
1	Introduction	
4	Methods	
4	Definitions and measures of sexual harassment, aggression and violence	
6	Analysis	
6	Limitations	
7	Sample characteristics	
10	Online DAFSV	
11	Online sexual harassment	
13	Abusive and threatening language	
15	Online image-based sexual abuse	
16	Online stalking	
17	Co-occurrence of different types of online DAFSV	
20	In-person DAFSV	
21	Sexual assault and coercion	
23	Reproductive and sexual health-related abuse	
25	In-person image-based sexual abuse	
26	In-person stalking	
26	Co-occurrence of different types of in-person DAFSV	
29	Co-occurrence of online and in-person DAFSV	
31	Perpetrator blocking, unmatching or deleting their account	
34	Discussion	
38	Conclusion	
39	References	
43	Appendix: Survey tool	

Figures

- 10 Figure 1: Prevalence of online DAFSV among respondents, by gender and sexuality
- 13 Figure 2: Prevalence of repeat online sexual harassment victimisation, by type of online DAFSV
- 14 Figure 3: Prevalence of repeat online abusive and threatening language victimisation, by type of online DAFSV
- 16 Figure 4: Prevalence of repeat online image-based sexual abuse victimisation, by type of online DAFSV
- 17 Figure 5: Prevalence of repeat online stalking victimisation among respondents, by type of online DAFSV
- 18 Figure 6: Mean number of online DAFSV behaviours experienced by respondents, by gender and sexuality
- 21 Figure 7: Prevalence of experiencing in-person DAFSV among respondents, by gender and sexuality
- 23 Figure 8: Prevalence of repeat sexual assault and coercion among respondents, by type of in-person DAFSV
- 24 Figure 9: Prevalence of repeat reproductive and sexual health-related abuse among respondents, by type of in-person DAFSV
- 25 Figure 10: Prevalence of repeat in-person image-based sexual abuse among respondents
- 26 Figure 11: Prevalence of repeat in-person stalking among respondents
- 27 Figure 12: Mean number of in-person DAFSV behaviours experienced by respondents, by gender and sexuality
- 29 Figure 13: Co-occurrence of online and in-person experiences of DAFSV
- 30 Figure 14: Co-occurrence of online and in-person experiences of DAFSV, by gender and sexuality
- 32 Figure 15: Prevalence of perpetrator unmatching, blocking or deleting their account to remove conversation history after an incident of DAFSV
- 33 Figure 16: Prevalence of perpetrator unmatching, blocking or deleting their account to remove conversation history after an incident of DAFSV, by gender and sexuality
- 37 Figure 17: Summary of key findings

Tables

5	Table 1: Online and in-person sexual harassment, aggression and violence behaviours	26	Table 12: Prevalence of in-person stalking victimisation among respondents, by gender and sexuality
8	Table 2: Sociodemographic characteristics of respondents	27	Table 13: Number of in-person DAFSV behaviours experienced by respondents
12	Table 3: Prevalence of online sexual harassment victimisation among respondents, by type of online DAFSV and gender and sexuality	28	Table 14: Prevalence of co-occurring in-person types of DAFSV
14	Table 4: Prevalence of abusive and threatening language victimisation among respondents, by type of online DAFSV and gender and sexuality		
15	Table 5: Prevalence of online image-based sexual abuse victimisation among respondents, by type of online DAFSV and gender and sexuality		
17	Table 6: Prevalence of online stalking victimisation among respondents, by type of online DAFSV and gender and sexuality		
18	Table 7: Number of online DAFSV behaviours experienced by respondents		
19	Table 8: Prevalence of co-occurring online types of DAFSV		
22	Table 9: Prevalence of sexual assault and coercion victimisation among respondents, by type of DAFSV and gender and sexuality		
24	Table 10: Prevalence of reproductive and sexual health-related abuse victimisation among respondents, by type of in-person DAFSV and gender and sexuality		
25	Table 11: Prevalence of in-person image-based sexual abuse victimisation among respondents, by gender and sexuality		

Acknowledgements

We acknowledge the important work of Chris Owen and Gladys Lima and colleagues from Roy Morgan in administering the survey on our behalf, as well as their valuable input into survey design. The survey was also developed in consultation with representatives from the Department of Home Affairs, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Attorney-General's Department, Department of Social Services and the eSafety Commissioner. We are grateful for their support and assistance. We would also like to acknowledge the support of our colleagues at the Australian Institute of Criminology's Library, particularly Megan Whittle, who helped in identifying relevant literature to inform the design of this project. Finally, we acknowledge the victim-survivors of sexual harassment, aggression and violence who responded to the survey and shared with us their experiences.

Acronyms and abbreviations

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
AIC	Australian Institute of Criminology
DAFSV	dating app facilitated sexual violence
IBSA	image-based sexual abuse
LGB+	lesbian, gay, bisexual or another non-heterosexual sexual orientation
TFSV	technology-facilitated sexual violence

Abstract

Use of mobile dating apps and websites has increased exponentially in the past 10 years. While these platforms create opportunities to develop and pursue social, romantic and/or sexual relationships both online and in the real world, media reporting and broader commentary has raised concerns about users being subjected to high levels of sexual harassment, aggression and violence.

The current study surveyed 9,987 dating app or website users in Australia to explore the prevalence and nature of dating app facilitated sexual violence (DAFSV) victimisation within the sample. Findings revealed that three-quarters of users were subjected to online DAFSV, and a third were subjected to in-person DAFSV, perpetrated by someone they met on a dating app or website. Users often experienced repeat victimisation. DAFSV victimisation was particularly common among LGB+ communities. This study provides valuable information to aid development of policies and practices to prevent the occurrence and recurrence of DAFSV.

Executive summary

Use of mobile dating apps and dating websites has increased exponentially in the past 10 years, with the COVID-19 pandemic highlighting the importance of information and communication technologies for both the development of new social relationships and the maintenance of existing ones. However, technology-facilitated sexual violence (TFSV)—including being sent unsolicited sexual images, being called offensive names and experiencing image-based sexual abuse (IBSA)—is a common experience for people who use online spaces, particularly women and members of LGB+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual or another non-heterosexual sexual orientation) communities.

To date, there have been very few primary studies exploring the prevalence and nature of TFSV occurring on mobile dating apps and websites, and no national surveys that have been conducted in Australia (Pooley & Boxall 2020). Further, there is minimal research on how dating apps and websites facilitate sexual violence that occurs in person. This study aims to address these gaps in knowledge and provide valuable information that can assist in the development of policies and practices to prevent the occurrence and recurrence of sexual violence facilitated through online dating platforms.

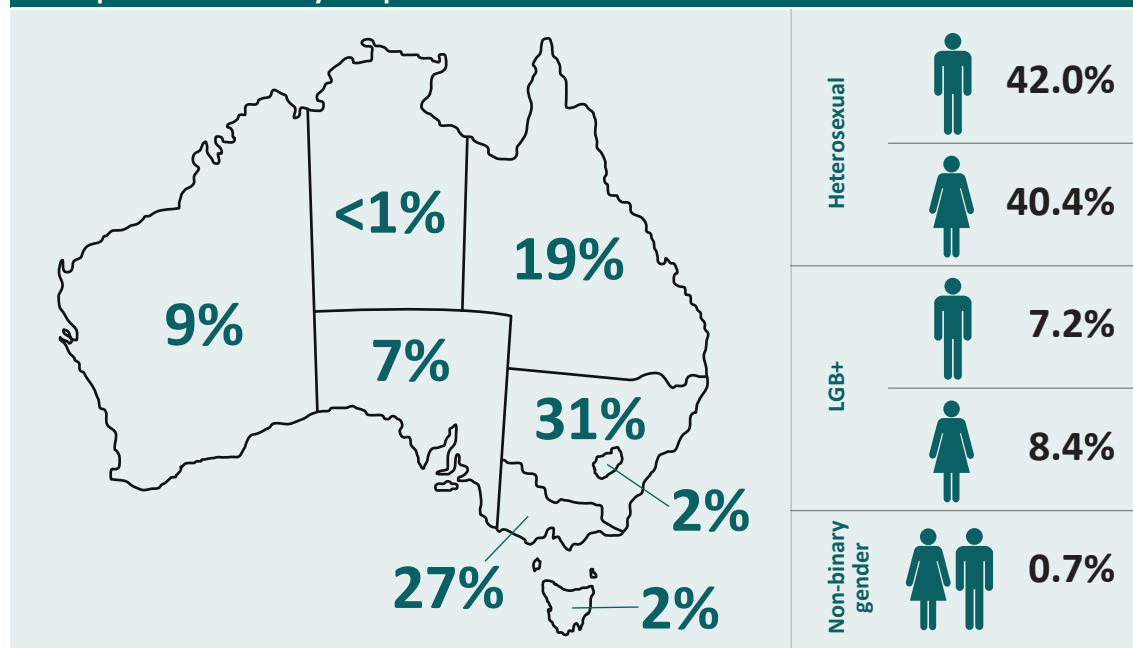
Method

Data for the current study were collected via an online survey that was sent to individuals living in Australia aged 18 years and over who reported that they had used a mobile dating app or website in the last five years. Overall, five percent of contacted participants completed the study. However, 75.5 percent of respondents who opened the invitation, passed the screening process and read the consent form went on to complete the survey ($n=9,987$).

Respondents were recruited using proportional quota sampling, a non-probability sampling method. Quotas were based on the Australian adult population stratified by sex, age and usual place of residence, derived from data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). However, quotas were adjusted to account for age and gender-related propensity for using a dating app or website in the last five years. What this means is that the sample is broadly reflective of the spread of people living in Australia (18 years and over), adjusted to account for likelihood of using online dating platforms.



The majority of respondents were between the ages of 18 and 54 years, and 7.8 percent identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. In light of the prior literature which has found that women and individuals from LGB+ communities are more likely to be subjected to TFSV, for the purpose of the analysis the sample was disaggregated by the gender and sexual identities of respondents. While the overall rates of victimisation are provided throughout this report, because only a small number of respondents identified their gender as non-binary ($n=71$), they were not included in the statistical analysis.

Description of the survey sample



In the survey, respondents were asked detailed questions about their sociodemographic characteristics, their use of mobile dating apps and websites and their experiences of sexual violence, harassment and aggression perpetrated by someone they had met through an online dating platform. Victimization may have occurred online or in person.

TFSV is a broad umbrella term used to refer to 'a range of behaviours where digital technologies are used to facilitate both virtual and face-to-face sexually based harms' (Henry & Powell 2018: 195). Dating app facilitated sexual violence (DAFSV) falls within this broader definition, focusing on sexual violence, harassment and aggression facilitated by mobile dating apps and websites, which may occur online and in person (Woerner 2022). For the purpose of the current study, online DAFSV included acts of sexual harassment, abusive or threatening language, IBSA and stalking that occurred on mobile dating apps or websites. Online dating platforms often facilitate offline interactions, during which individuals may experience sexual harassment, aggression or violence in person. Experiences of in-person DAFSV included behaviours classified as sexual assault and coercion, reproductive and sexual health-related abuse (ie stealthing and deception about sexual health status), in-person IBSA (ie non-consensual filming or taking sexual pictures in person) and in-person stalking.

Definition and measures of dating app sexual violence	
 Online DAFSV	 In-person DAFSV
Sexual violence, harassment or aggression occurring on mobile dating apps/websites in the last five years.	Sexual violence, harassment or aggression perpetrated in person by someone the survey respondent had met on a mobile dating app/website in the last five years.
1. Online sexual harassment	1. Sexual assault and coercion
2. Abusive and threatening language	2. Reproductive and sexual health-related abuse
3. Online IBSA	3. In-person IBSA
4. Online stalking	4. In-person stalking





Results

Key finding 1: Three in four survey respondents had been subjected to online DAFSV involving a mobile dating app or website in the last five years

Three-quarters of respondents (72.3%) reported being subjected to at least one form of online DAFSV in the last five years. Sexual harassment was the most common form of behaviour reported (69.0%), including being contacted again by someone after the respondent said they were not interested (47.3%) and being sent sexual images when they did not ask for them (eg dick pics; 40.9%). Also:

- 45.0 percent of respondents had been subjected to abusive and threatening language;
- 18.8 percent had been subjected to online IBSA; and
- 27.6 percent had been stalked online.

Six in 10 respondents (60.8%) reported being subjected to multiple forms of online DAFSV.

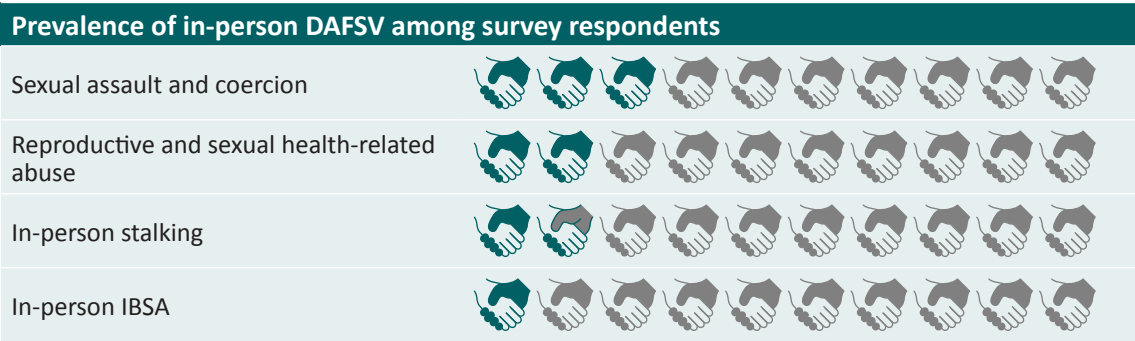
Prevalence of online DAFSV among survey respondents	
Online sexual harassment	
Abusive and threatening language	
Online stalking	
Online IBSA	

Key finding 2: One in three survey respondents had been subjected to in-person DAFSV perpetrated by someone they met on a mobile dating app or website in the last five years

Thirty-four percent of respondents said that they had been subjected to in-person DAFSV after they had met in the ‘real world’ someone they had connected with on a mobile dating app or website. Specifically, 27.3 percent had been subjected to sexual assault or coercion, including being pressured verbally to perform unwanted sexual acts (22.0%) and having their drink spiked to try and coerce them into performing a sexual act (10.0%). Further:

- 18.8 percent had been subjected to reproductive and sexual health-related abuse (eg stealthing or someone lying about their sexual health status);
- 10.5 percent had been subjected to in-person IBSA (someone taking an image of them without their consent while they were engaging in sexual activity); and
- 14.3 percent experienced in-person stalking.

One in four respondents (22.7%) said that they had experienced more than one ‘type’ of in-person DAFSV perpetrated by someone they had met through an online dating app or website. The average number of in-person DAFSV types reported by survey respondents was 1.1.



Key finding 3: Among respondents who were subjected to any form of DAFSV, it was common to experience multiple co-occurring forms of sexual harassment, aggression and violence

Of respondents who reported being subjected to at least one type of online DAFSV, 45.5 percent also reported in-person DAFSV victimisation. More alarming is that 96.8 percent of those who reported in-person DAFSV were also victims of online DAFSV.

Key finding 4: Rates of online and in-person DAFSV were much higher among LGB+ men and women compared to heterosexual respondents

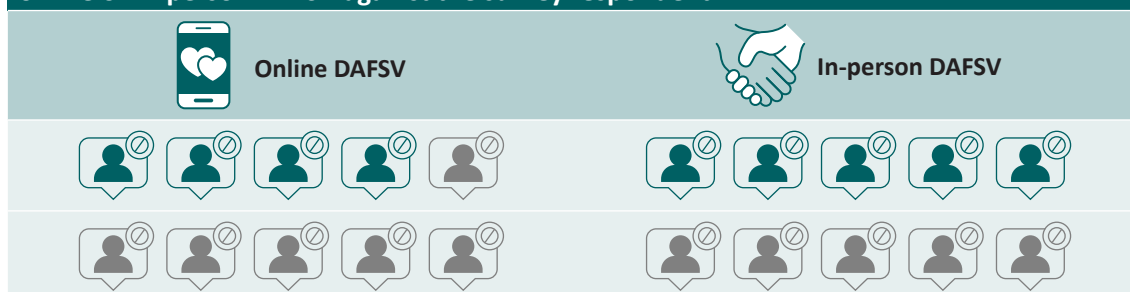
Consistent with previous research on TFSV and DAFSV, the current study found that the gender and sexual identities of respondents were positively associated with online and in-person DAFSV. Based on the analysis of adjusted residuals (with a Bonferroni correction), overall the observed frequency of all forms of DAFSV victimisation was higher for LBT+ women and men than expected, and lower than expected for heterosexual men. For example, the observed prevalence of sexual assault and coercion reported by LGB+ men (36.3%) and women (42.1%) was higher than expected, and lower than expected for heterosexual men (21.2%). There was no difference in the observed and expected frequency of sexual assault and coercion reported by heterosexual women (27.9%).

The findings in relation to heterosexual women were inconsistent across the different forms of DAFSV that we examined. For example, the prevalence of online sexual harassment and online abusive and threatening language was higher than expected for heterosexual women, but lower than expected for online and in-person IBSA, online and in-person stalking and reproductive and sexual health-related abuse.

Key finding 5: Approximately half of respondents who were subjected to online or in-person DAFSV said the perpetrator had blocked or unmatched them or deleted their own account afterwards

Two in five respondents who were subjected to online DAFSV were subsequently unmatched or blocked by the perpetrator, or the perpetrator deleted their own account (39.5%). Among respondents who had experienced in-person DAFSV, almost half (48.9%) said a perpetrator deleted their account, or unmatched or blocked them. Victims of in-person DAFSV were more likely to say a perpetrator blocked or unmatched them or deleted their entire accounts compared to those who had experienced online DAFSV behaviours. This may reflect the aggressor's perceived likelihood of victims reporting the behaviours to the online dating platform or police.

Prevalence of perpetrator blocking/unmatching/deleting their account after perpetrating online or in-person DAFSV against the survey respondent



Discussion

The high levels of online and in-person DAFSV reported here demonstrate the need for mobile dating apps and websites to embed Safety by Design principles in their development processes. Safety features that may have a positive impact on the occurrence and recurrence of online and in-person DAFSV include:

- ensuring that the processes for reporting DAFSV occurring on these platforms are accessible and easy to use;
- online dating platform operators banning perpetrators from creating new accounts, which is typically controlled through design features such as multi-level identity verification; and
- the use of artificial intelligence to censor explicit images (Centelles, Powers & Moule 2021).

However, there is also a need to monitor the impact of safety strategies on DAFSV victimisation among users, due to the potential to be bypassed or even exploited by perpetrators. For example, existing safety features such as the ability to block or unmatched other users, which allows individuals to protect themselves by stopping problematic users from contacting them, can be exploited by aggressors. Further, any application of Safety by Design principles or development of safety features in dating app or website environments should be undertaken with consideration of how they may impact diverse, marginalised and/or minority users, to avoid inadvertent consequences for such populations.

Introduction

Dating apps and dating websites create opportunities to develop and pursue social, romantic and/or sexual relationships both online and in the 'real world' (Choi, Wong & Fong 2017; Gillett 2018; Paat & Markham 2021; Pooley & Boxall 2020). Initially viewed as a 'niche' or 'alternative' method for meeting potential romantic partners, use of mobile dating apps and websites has increased exponentially in the past 10 years. Statistics show that in 2021 over 300 million people had downloaded a mobile dating app in the previous 12 months, an increase of 60 percent on 2015 figures (Business of Apps 2022).

The use of mobile dating apps and websites has also increased in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. One dating app, Tinder, reported that since 2019 the number of 'swipes' and 'matches' has increased significantly on its platform, as has the number of messages being sent between users and the length of conversations (Dietzel, Myles & Duguay 2021; Shearing 2021). This indicates that people are spending more time on mobile dating apps communicating with individuals they meet through these platforms.

While there are numerous benefits associated with emerging information and communication technologies like mobile dating apps and websites, research has demonstrated that they are also used to perpetrate sexual violence both online and in the real world. TFSV refers to 'a range of behaviours where digital technologies are used to facilitate both virtual and face-to-face sexually based harms' (Henry & Powell 2018: 195). Forms of TFSV described in the literature include repeated and unwanted requests for sex, repeated requests to send intimate images, or being sent unwanted intimate images (eg dick pics; Helm, Vander Ven & Welser 2020; Phan, Seigfried-Spellar & Choo 2021). Another form of TFSV is IBSA, which may involve non-consensual distribution of intimate images; threats to share intimate images to coerce someone for sexual, personal or financial gain; and non-consensual taking of sexual images (eg via webcam; Henry & Powell 2018; McGlynn et al. 2021; Powell & Henry 2019; Tzani 2022).

Broadly, a meta-analysis on TFSV revealed that 8.8 percent of people have had their image or video-based sexts shared without consent, 7.2 percent have been threatened with sext distribution, and 17.6 percent have had their image taken without permission; the analysis found that victimisation has been linked to significant mental health impacts, including anxiety, depression and poor coping (Patel & Roesch 2022). Very little research, however, has examined the prevalence and nature of TFSV occurring on mobile dating apps and websites (Pooley & Boxall 2020). This is despite a number of high-profile cases of sexual violence facilitated using mobile dating apps and websites being reported in the media (see, for example, Gregory 2020; Rasdien 2022).

In one of the few studies that we could identify, approximately 1,500 people in the United States who said they had used a mobile dating app or website in the last five years were asked about their experiences of using these platforms, including a small number of questions about TFSV (Anderson, Vogels & Turner 2020). The survey identified high levels of self-reported TFSV; specifically, a third of respondents said that someone had continued to contact them after they said they were not interested (37%) and/or sent them a sexually explicit message or image they did not ask for (35%). Although reported less frequently, 28 percent of respondents also said that someone had called them an offensive name, and nine percent said someone had threatened them with physical violence (Anderson, Vogels & Turner 2020).

The study also found evidence that some respondent cohorts were more likely than others to experience harmful behaviours perpetrated by someone they met on a dating app/website. Specifically, a larger proportion of women than men said they had been contacted again after telling the person they were not interested (48% vs 27%), been sent a sexually explicit message/image (46% vs 26%), been called an offensive name (33% vs 22%) or threatened with physical harm (11% vs 6%; Anderson, Vogels & Turner 2020). This is consistent with other research which has found that women are more likely to experience TFSV more generally (Chadha et al. 2020; Gilbert et al. 2019; Snaychuk & O'Neill 2020). For example, Snaychuk and O'Neill's (2020) survey of Canadian undergraduate students identified that 88 percent of female university students had experienced TFSV.

Further, Anderson, Vogels and Turner (2020) identified that lesbian, gay and bisexual (LGB) respondents were more likely to report sexual harassment, aggression and violence on mobile dating apps and websites than heterosexual respondents. For example, 41 percent of LGB respondents said they had been called an offensive name by someone they met on an online dating platform, compared to 25 percent of heterosexual respondents. Further, 17 percent of LGB respondents said someone had threatened to physically harm them, which decreased to seven percent for heterosexual respondents. These findings are again consistent with broader research which has found that sexual identity diverse communities report higher rates of TFSV than heterosexual communities (Albury et al. 2019; Gámez-Guadix & Incera 2021; Moschella, Potter & Moynihan 2020; Ybarra & Mitchell 2016).

In addition to TFSV occurring online through dating apps and websites, mobile dating platforms can also facilitate sexual harassment, aggression and violence in person. Individuals may organise to meet up with another user with the intent to sexually assault them, or perpetrate harmful behaviours without this level of premeditation. These experiences have been reported anecdotally through the media, and evidence is beginning to emerge about the prevalence and context of victimisation (eg Cama 2021; National Crime Agency 2016; Rowse, Bolt & Gaya 2020). Rowse, Bolt and Gaya (2020) examined sexual assault complaints that underwent forensic examination in Melbourne; they found that 14 percent (11 of 76) of alleged sexual assaults were facilitated following a dating app meeting. All of the victims were female and half were intoxicated at the time of the incident, which typically occurred during the first face-to-face meeting. Further, anecdotal evidence is emerging regarding other forms of in-person sexual violence perpetrated by individuals met through dating apps and websites, such as stealthing (the practice of removing a condom during sex without consent; Gollayan 2017; Triple J 2017).

The above cited findings suggest that a significant proportion of individuals who use technologies like mobile dating apps and websites may be subjected to online and in-person forms of sexual harassment, aggression and violence. This is highly concerning given the significant and potentially long-term impacts associated with these victimisation experiences. These impacts include poorer health and wellbeing, including overall life satisfaction, social isolation and lower self-esteem, as well as increased risk of revictimisation (Boyd 2011; McGlynn et al. 2019). In light of this, there is increasing emphasis in Australia and internationally on making online spaces safer for users, through the integration of Safety by Design principles in the development and regulation of new technologies. At a national level, much of this work is being led by the eSafety Commissioner. Safety by Design ensures that designers are focused on the safety and rights of the user during the development of online products and services, and acknowledges the need to make the online realm safer and protect those at risk (eSafety Commissioner nd; Gillett 2021; Phan, Seigfried-Spellar & Choo 2021). Examples of Safety by Design informed security mechanisms that have been embedded in some mobile dating apps and websites include multi-level identity verification (eg linking social media accounts to dating profiles) and the requirement that both parties 'swipe' on each other in order for a conversation to start (Centelles, Powers & Moule 2021).

To ensure that our responses to sexual harassment, aggression and violence on mobile dating apps and websites are effective, they need to be informed by an accurate understanding of both the prevalence and nature of these victimisation experiences. The current study is a necessary first step in contributing to the scarce evidence base about online and in-person dating app facilitated sexual violence, aggression and harassment.

Methods

Data for the current study were collected via an online survey that was sent to individuals living in Australia aged 18 years and over who reported that they had used a mobile dating app or website in the last five years. The full survey tool is provided in the *Appendix*. The survey was conducted by Roy Morgan Research Solutions between 23 June 2021 and 9 August 2021 using its Single Source panel and panels managed by PureProfile and Dynata. The survey was sent to male, female and non-binary members of these online panels aged 18 years and over. Proportional quota sampling, a non-probability sampling method, was used. Quotas were based on the Australian adult population stratified by sex, age and usual place of residence, derived from ABS data. The Single Source survey, which is recruited through a rigorous cluster-sampled, face-to-face survey approach, was conducted first and was used to calibrate the quotas for the external panels to account for the age and gender-related propensity for using a dating app or website in the last five years. What this means is that the sample is broadly reflective of the spread of people living in Australia (18 years and over), adjusted to account for likelihood of using online dating platforms.

The survey took respondents an average of 13 minutes to complete. Respondents were asked a series of questions about their sociodemographic characteristics, and their experiences of online and in-person sexual harassment, aggression and violence (ie DAFSV) while using these apps/websites.

The overall completion rate for the survey—the proportion of total invitations ($n=185,840$) sent to panel members that resulted in completed surveys—was 5.4 percent. However, 75.5 percent of respondents who opened the invitation, passed the screening process and read the consent form went on to complete the survey ($n=9,987$).

Definitions and measures of sexual harassment, aggression and violence

TFSV is a broad umbrella term; as noted earlier, it is used to refer to ‘a range of behaviours where digital technologies are used to facilitate both virtual and face-to-face sexually based harms’ (Henry & Powell 2018: 195). DAFSV falls within this broader definition, focusing on sexual violence, harassment and aggression facilitated by mobile dating apps and websites that may occur online and in person (Woerner 2022). Experiences of online and in-person DAFSV were measured by asking respondents whether someone they met on a dating app/website perpetrated any of the behaviours listed in Table 1 against them in the last five years.

The DAFSV items included in the survey were informed by the literature review, as well as data collection tools that have been used in comparable surveys (see, for example, Anderson, Vogels & Turner 2020; Henry & Powell 2018). We divided the survey items into a series of subcategories to differentiate between ‘types’ of online and in-person DAFSV. Four online DAFSV subgroups were identified: online sexual harassment, abusive and threatening language, online IBSA and online stalking. The four in-person DAFSV subgroups were: sexual assault and coercion, reproductive and sexual health-related abuse, in-person IBSA and in-person stalking. Respondents who had experienced any of the behaviours listed in Table 1 were asked to specify whether one person had perpetrated these acts against them, or multiple people.

Table 1: Online and in-person sexual harassment, aggression and violence behaviours	
Online DAFSV	In-person DAFSV
Online sexual harassment	Sexual assault and coercion
Continued to contact the respondent even after they told them they were not interested in having a relationship with them	Pressured the respondent verbally to perform unwanted sexual acts (eg making promises, lying, repeatedly asking or insisting etc)
Sent the respondent an unwanted sexually explicit message	Attempted to engage in a sexual act with the respondent when they could not consent
Sent the respondent an unwanted sexually explicit photo or video of themselves	Used, or threatened to use, physical force to force the respondent to perform unwanted sexual acts
Pressured the respondent to send them a sexually explicit message	Spiked the respondent’s drink to try and coerce them into performing a sexual act
Pressured the respondent to send them a sexually explicit photo or video of themselves	
Pressured the respondent to meet them in person when they did not want to	
Abusive and threatening language	Reproductive and sexual health-related abuse
Insulted the respondent, called them names or used abusive language that made the respondent feel uncomfortable	Took off their condom during intercourse without the respondent’s consent or refused to wear a condom
Posted offensive comments about the respondent online that other people could see (eg on their social media accounts)	Lied about their sexual health status (eg whether they had a sexually transmitted disease like herpes)
Threatened the respondent in any way	
Online IBSA	In-person IBSA
Threatened to share a sexually explicit image or video of the respondent without their consent	Took photos or videotaped the respondent engaging in sexual acts without their knowledge or consent
Took a non-consensual photo or video of the respondent which was sexually explicit in nature (eg via webcam)	
Shared a sexually explicit photo of the respondent with others without their consent	
Online stalking	In-person stalking
Pressured the respondent to give them information about their location or their schedule	Loitered around, followed the respondent or showed up inappropriately at their home, school, or workplace
Logged into one of the respondent’s mobile dating app/website accounts without their permission	

Analysis

In recognition of previous research that women and LGB+ users of mobile dating apps and websites may be more likely to experience sexual harassment, aggression and violence (eg Anderson, Vogels & Turner 2020; Dietzel 2021), the current analyses disaggregated the sample by the gender and sexual identities of respondents. For the purpose of this study, non-binary refers to individuals whose gender identity sat within, outside of, across or between the spectrum of the male and female binary. This may include those who identify as gender fluid, trans masculine, trans feminine or agender (TransHub 2021). Also, LGB+ respondents were those who said they were not heterosexual (eg lesbian, gay, bisexual, asexual, demisexual, pansexual). This definition also included individuals who said they did not know what their sexual identity was (eg questioning).

Statistical relationships between the gender and sexual identities of respondents and sexual harassment, aggression and violence victimisation were assessed using chi-square tests of association and one-way ANOVAs. Respondents who did not disclose the pertinent DAFSV victimisation information were not included in these analyses. Because of the presence of multiple respondent groups in the analysis, post-hoc tests of residual differences were also conducted, with a Bonferroni correction. Analysis of the residuals allows us to identify which cells or groups are contributing to the overall chi-square statistics (ie what is 'driving' statistical significance). Residuals involve the calculation of the difference between the observed values (ie how many individuals said they had been subjected to DAFSV) and the expected values (ie how many individuals should have said they had been subjected to DAFSV if they were no more or less likely to experience this event than other groups; Sharpe 2015).

Unfortunately, due to the small number of non-binary respondents in the sample (see Table 2), they could not be included in the tests of association. However, the overall prevalence estimates for this cohort are provided throughout this report.

Limitations

This study provides the first national-level Australian evidence of the prevalence of sexual harassment, aggression and violence victimisation among a sample of mobile dating app/website users. However, there are some limitations that should be noted. First, the way the survey questions were phrased did not allow transgender individuals to self-identify within the data. Transgender respondents may have been included in the sample and self-identified as male or female, or may have self-identified as non-binary. Second, the types of DAFSV behaviours we asked about are not a comprehensive list of every type of sexual harassment, aggression or violence that users may have encountered. Therefore, the true nature of DAFSV may be under-reported, as respondents may have been victimised online or in person in ways that we did not ask about and thus do not appear in the findings below. Additionally, our analysis is victim-focused and based on victim accounts; as such, we did not ask for details about the perpetrator. Accordingly, we do not provide any information about the identity or characteristics of the aggressors, nor the context in which DAFSV was perpetrated (eg a 'hook-up' or in an ongoing abusive relationship). This is an area for future research.

Finally, the survey focused on understanding the *occurrence* of specific behaviours, rather than respondents' understanding of them or their impact. There is research that suggests some people who use mobile dating apps do not experience specific behaviours we included in the survey as inherently problematic or abusive. While this argument could not be made in relation to most of the survey items (eg sexual assault), being asked to provide sexual images and receiving them without asking for them have been described by some LGBTQIA+ men as an expected and unproblematic behaviour (Dietzel 2021). This highlights the complexity of defining what is and is not TFSV/DAFSV within the realm of dating apps and within certain groups who use them.

Sample characteristics

Table 2 provides information about the sociodemographic characteristics of the sample. Around the same proportion of respondents identified as male or female (50.0% vs 49.3%) at the time of completing the survey, and less than one percent identified as non-binary or used a different term (0.7%). Most respondents identified as heterosexual or straight (82.5%), and 16.2 percent identified as LGB+. When considering gender and sexuality together, 42.0 percent of the sample identified as heterosexual men, 40.4 percent as heterosexual women, 8.4 percent as LGB+ women, 7.2 percent as LGB+ men and 0.7 percent as non-binary.

The majority of the sample were below the age of 35 (55.8%). Further, 7.8 percent identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, 8.6 percent were from a non-English-speaking background (ie spoke a language other than English most of the time when at home), and 29.7 percent said they had a long-term health condition that impacted their ability to undertake day-to-day tasks. Most respondents lived in a major city (80.2%), were employed full-time (54.8%) or part-time (20.3%), and had a diploma or higher diploma/degree (53.2%). Nearly half earned more than \$70,000 a year (48.8%). At the time of completing the survey, respondents were typically single (42.1%) or were married or in a de facto relationship (37.9%). The majority of the sample were Australian citizens or permanent residents (91.5%), with 8.4 percent reporting they were on a temporary visa.

Table 2: Sociodemographic characteristics of respondents (n=9,987)		
	n	%
Gender identity		
Male	4,992	50.0
Female	4,924	49.3
Non-binary	71	0.7
Sexuality^a		
Heterosexual	8,237	82.5
LGB+	1,613	16.2
Gender and sexuality^b		
Heterosexual men	4,192	42.0
LGB+ men	716	7.2
Heterosexual women	4,037	40.4
LGB+ women	836	8.4
Non-binary	71	0.7
Age		
18–24	2,092	21.0
25–34	3,471	34.8
35–44	2,220	22.2
45–54	1,161	11.6
55–64	636	6.4
65+	407	4.1
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander ^c	778	7.8
Non-English-speaking background ^d	863	8.6
Any disability ^e	2,962	29.7
Usual place of residence^f		
Major city	8,008	80.2
Regional	1,731	17.3
Remote	211	2.1
Employment^g		
Employed full-time	5,472	54.8
Employed part-time	2,031	20.3
Not in the workforce	2,384	23.9
Income^h		
Less than \$6,000	408	4.1
\$6,000–34,999	1,735	17.4
\$35,000–69,999	2,498	25.0
\$70,000–119,999	3,374	33.8
\$120,000–199,999	951	9.5
\$200,000 or greater	552	5.5

Table 2: Sociodemographic characteristics of respondents (n=9,987) (cont.)		
	n	%
Highest level of educationⁱ		
Primary	81	0.8
Below year 10 or equivalent	1,175	11.8
Year 10/11/TAFE or equivalent	1,269	12.7
Year 12 or equivalent	2,090	20.9
Diploma/degree	4,037	40.4
Higher diploma/degree	1,278	12.8
Relationship status^j		
Single	4,202	42.1
Married or de facto	3,784	37.9
Separated, divorced or widowed	1,243	12.5
Engaged or planning to marry	596	6.0
Citizenship^k		
Australian citizen or permanent resident	9,139	91.5
Temporary or permanent visa	835	8.4

a: Denominator includes 137 respondents who did not provide this information

b: Denominator includes 135 respondents who did not provide this information

c: Denominator includes 126 respondents who did not provide this information

d: Someone who spoke a language other than English most of the time at home

e: Someone who had a long-term health condition that impacted their ability to undertake day-to-day tasks

f: Denominator includes 37 respondents who did not provide this information

g: Denominator includes 100 respondents who did not provide this information. Individuals who were not in the workforce included those who were looking for work, retired, a student, a non-worker or a carer

h: Denominator includes 469 respondents who were unsure about their income

i: Denominator includes 57 respondents who did not provide this information

j: Denominator includes 162 respondents who did not provide this information

k: Denominator includes 13 respondents who were unsure or did not provide this information

Note: Percentage totals may not equal 100 due to rounding and missing data

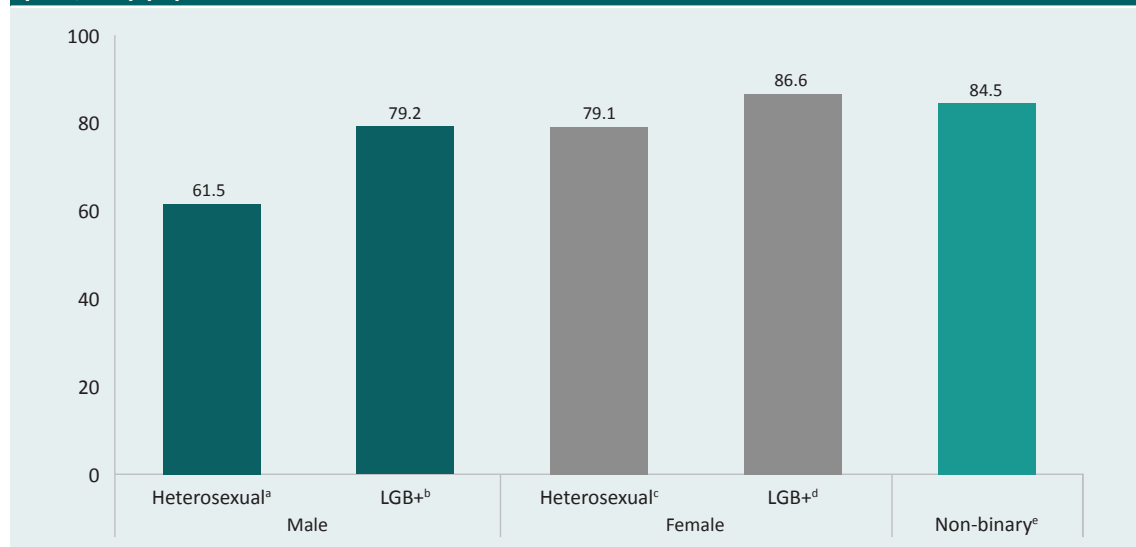
Source: AIC Mobile Dating Apps and Sexual Violence Survey 2021 [computer file]

Online DAFSV

We first examined the prevalence of online DAFSV among survey respondents. Overall, 72.3 percent of respondents said they had experienced at least one form of online DAFSV perpetrated by someone they met on a mobile dating app/website in the last five years.

The risk of being subjected to online DAFSV appeared to differ across the sample. As demonstrated in Figure 1, LGB+ women reported the highest prevalence of online DAFSV (86.6%), then non-binary respondents (84.5%) and LGB+ men (79.2%), followed closely by heterosexual women (79.1%) and finally heterosexual men (61.5%). There was an overall positive association between the gender and sexual identities of respondents and online victimisation experiences ($\chi^2(3)=425.8, p<0.001$). Post-hoc analysis of the adjusted residuals with a Bonferroni correction showed that the prevalence of online DAFSV reported by LGB+ women, LGB+ men and heterosexual women was higher than expected, while the prevalence of online DAFSV victimisation was lower than expected for heterosexual men.

Figure 1: Prevalence of online DAFSV among respondents, by gender and sexuality (n=9,852) (%)



a: 55 respondents were unsure or did not provide this information

b: 3 respondents were unsure or did not provide this information

c: 30 respondents were unsure or did not provide this information

d: 1 respondent was unsure or did not provide this information

e: 1 respondent was unsure or did not provide this information

Note: Denominators include respondents who were unsure or did not disclose information. Analysis of the adjusted residuals did not include non-binary respondents due to small sample size

Source: AIC Mobile Dating Apps and Sexual Violence Survey 2021 [computer file]

Online sexual harassment

The most common type of online DAHSV reported by respondents was sexual harassment; two-thirds of mobile dating app/website users said they had been subjected to online sexual harassment perpetrated by someone they had met through an online dating platform (69.0%). As shown in Table 3, approximately one in two respondents said that someone they met through an online dating platform continued to contact them after the respondent had said they were not interested in a relationship (47.3%) and/or that someone had sent them an unwanted sexually explicit message (47.2%).

Further, over a third of respondents reported they had been pressured to:

- send sexual messages (38.4%);
- send sexual images or videos of themselves (37.8%); and/or
- meet someone in person when they did not want to (34.5%).

Again, there was evidence that the risk of experiencing online sexual harassment differed across the sample based on the gender and sexual identities of respondents. A larger proportion of LGB+ women (84.9%), non-binary respondents (78.9%), heterosexual women (76.9%) and LGB+ men (76.1%) reported being subjected to online sexual harassment than heterosexual men (56.7%). Despite the prevalence for heterosexual men being the lowest of the examined groups, it was still quite high, with more than half of these respondents experiencing online sexual harassment.

There was a positive association between the gender and sexual identities of respondents and reports of online sexual harassment ($\chi^2(3)=514.8, p<0.001$). Analysis of the adjusted residuals identified that the prevalence of online sexual harassment among LGB+ women, LGB+ men and heterosexual women was higher than expected. In comparison, the prevalence of online harassment reported by heterosexual men was lower than expected.

Table 3: Prevalence of online sexual harassment victimisation among respondents, by type of online DAFSV and gender and sexuality (n=9,987) (%)

	Total	Male		Female		Non-binary
		Hetero-sexual	LGB+	Hetero-sexual	LGB+	
Continued to contact the respondent even after they told them they were not interested in having a relationship with them ^a	47.3	41.7	52.8	48.7	60.8	52.1
Sent the respondent an unwanted sexually explicit message ^b	47.2	30.2	52.7	58.1	72.4	64.8
Sent the respondent an unwanted sexually explicit photo or video of themselves ^c	40.9	27.9	52.9	47.7	60.4	60.6
Pressured the respondent to send them a sexually explicit message ^d	38.4	26.6	52.1	43.0	60.5	57.8
Pressured the respondent to send them a sexually explicit photo or video of themselves ^e	37.8	25.8	52.5	42.3	59.6	62.0
Pressured the respondent to meet them in person when they did not want to ^f	34.5	26.9	40.1	37.4	49.0	46.5
Any online sexual harassment^g	69.0	56.7	76.1	76.9	84.9	78.9

a: 85 respondents did not provide this information including 37 heterosexual men, 7 LGB+ men, 32 heterosexual women, 4 LGB+ women, 1 non-binary respondent and 4 individuals who did not disclose sexuality information

b: 75 respondents did not provide this information including 43 heterosexual men, 6 LGB+ men, 21 heterosexual women and 5 individuals who did not disclose sexuality information

c: 72 respondents did not provide this information including 39 heterosexual men, 2 LGB+ men, 21 heterosexual women, 3 LGB+ women and 7 individuals who did not disclose sexuality information

d: 89 respondents did not provide this information including 34 heterosexual men, 4 LGB+ men, 39 heterosexual women, 5 LGB+ women and 7 individuals who did not disclose sexuality information

e: 105 respondents did not provide this information including 51 heterosexual men, 4 LGB+ men, 41 heterosexual women, 4 LGB+ women and 5 individuals who did not disclose sexuality information

f: 78 respondents did not provide this information including 34 heterosexual men, 7 LGB+ men, 30 heterosexual women, 4 LGB+ women and 3 individuals who did not disclose sexuality information

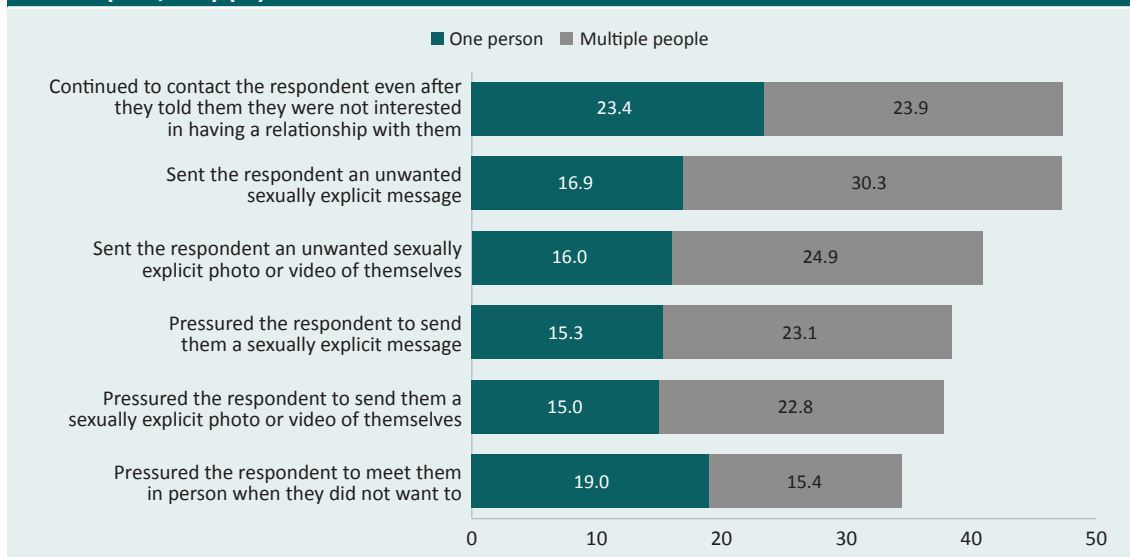
g: 94 respondents did not provide this information including 54 heterosexual men, 1 LGB+ man, 32 heterosexual women, 1 LGB+ woman and 6 individuals who did not disclose sexuality information

Note: Denominators include respondents who did not disclose the information. Analysis of the adjusted residuals did not include non-binary respondents due to small sample size

Source: AIC Mobile Dating Apps and Sexual Violence Survey 2021 [computer file]

For each of the online sexual harassment behaviours described in Table 3, we asked respondents whether they had been victimised by one or multiple perpetrators. Figure 2 demonstrates that many respondents who had experienced online sexual harassment were repeat victims. For example, 24.9 percent of respondents said that multiple people they had met through online dating platforms had sent them an unwanted sexual image/video of themselves, and one in four had been pressured by multiple people to send a sexual message (23.1%) and/or image/video (22.8%). Further, 23.9 percent of respondents said that multiple people had continued to contact them after they had told them they were not interested in a relationship.

Figure 2: Prevalence of repeat online sexual harassment victimisation, by type of online DAFSV (n=9,987) (%)



Note: Denominators include respondents who were unsure or did not disclose information

Source: AIC Mobile Dating Apps and Sexual Violence Survey 2021 [computer file]

Abusive and threatening language

Two in five respondents reported that they had been verbally/emotionally abused online by someone they met through a dating app/website (45.0%). Specifically, 40.8 percent said that someone had insulted them, called them names or used abusive language (eg calling them a slut). While less common than being subjected to abusive language in private (eg through direct messages on the online dating platform), 15.0 percent said that the abuse had involved other online platforms, with perpetrators posting offensive comments about them online where others could see (eg on their social media pages). Further, 18.9 percent of respondents said they had been threatened in any way by someone they met on a mobile dating app or website (Table 4).

When examining differences in the overall prevalence of abusive and threatening language based on the gender and sexual identities of respondents, we observed that a larger proportion of LGB+ women and men (60.2% and 53.2% respectively), non-binary respondents (56.3%) and heterosexual women (47.0%) had been subjected to these behaviours compared to heterosexual men (37.7%). Consistent with the findings described in relation to online sexual harassment, there was a positive association between abusive and threatening language victimisation and the gender and sexual identities of respondents ($\chi^2(3)=191.4$, $p<0.001$). The prevalence of abusive and threatening language reported by LGB+ women, LGB+ men and heterosexual women was higher than expected, and lower than expected for heterosexual men.

Table 4: Prevalence of abusive and threatening language victimisation among respondents, by type of online DAHSV and gender and sexuality (n=9,987) (%)

	Total	Male		Female		Non-binary
		Hetero-sexual	LGB+	Hetero-sexual	LGB+	
Insulted the respondent, called them names or used abusive language that made the respondent feel uncomfortable ^a	40.8	33.0	49.7	43.3	56.9	49.3
Threatened the respondent in any way ^b	18.9	16.2	27.0	17.3	28.5	29.6
Posted offensive comments about the respondent online that other people could see (eg on their social media accounts) ^c	15.0	16.2	21.2	10.7	19.4	19.7
Any abusive and threatening language^d	45.0	37.7	53.2	47.0	60.2	56.3

a: 64 respondents did not provide this information including 31 heterosexual men, 4 LGB+ men, 20 heterosexual women, 4 LGB+ women and 5 individuals who did not disclose sexuality information

b: 62 respondents did not provide this information including 34 heterosexual men, 5 LGB+ men, 16 heterosexual women, 3 LGB+ women, 2 non-binary respondents and 2 individuals who did not disclose sexuality information

c: 60 respondents did not provide this information including 27 heterosexual men, 5 LGB+ men, 26 heterosexual women and 2 individuals who did not disclose sexuality information

d: 82 respondents did not provide this information including 38 heterosexual men, 2 LGB+ men, 33 heterosexual women, 4 LGB+ women, 1 non-binary respondent and 4 individuals who did not provide sexuality information

Note: Denominators include respondents who did not disclose the information. Analysis of the adjusted residuals did not include non-binary respondents due to small sample size

Source: AIC Mobile Dating Apps and Sexual Violence Survey 2021 [computer file]

Many respondents who were subjected to abusive and threatening language perpetrated by someone they met through an online dating platform were repeat victims (Figure 3). One in five respondents said that multiple people had insulted them, called them names or used abusive language (20.3%). Further, approximately one in 20 respondents said that multiple people had posted offensive comments about them online in places that other people could see (5.9%), and/or threatened them in any way (7.4%).

Figure 3: Prevalence of repeat online abusive and threatening language victimisation, by type of online DAHSV (n=9,987) (%)



Note: Denominators include respondents who did not disclose the information

Source: AIC Mobile Dating Apps and Sexual Violence Survey 2021 [computer file]

Online image-based sexual abuse

Approximately one in five respondents (18.8%) said they had experienced online IBSA perpetrated by someone they had met through an online dating platform. Approximately one in seven respondents said someone had threatened to share a sexually explicit image or video of them without their consent (13.5%) and/or taken a sexually explicit image of them without their consent (12.7%). However, one in 10 said a sexually explicit image of them had actually been shared without their consent (11.7%; see Table 5).

Online IBSA prevalence differed based on the gender and sexual identities of respondents. Non-binary respondents (31.0%), and LGB+ men (27.9%) and women (27.8%) reported higher rates of online IBSA victimisation than heterosexual men and women (18.6% and 14.5% respectively). There was again a positive relationship between the gender and sexual identities of respondents and online IBSA victimisation in the last five years ($\chi^2(3)=132.3$, $p<0.001$). Analysis of the adjusted residuals demonstrated slightly different patterns from those reported previously. In particular, while the prevalence of online IBSA reported for LGB+ women and men was higher than expected, the frequency of victimisation reported for heterosexual women was lower than expected. There were no differences in the observed and expected frequency of online IBSA victimisation for heterosexual men.

Table 5: Prevalence of online image-based sexual abuse victimisation among respondents, by type of online DAFSV and gender and sexuality (n=9,987) (%)

	Total	Male		Female		Non-binary
		Hetero-sexual	LGB+	Hetero-sexual	LGB+	
Threatened to share a sexually explicit image or video of the respondent without their consent ^a	13.5	13.3	19.7	10.2	20.6	18.3
Took a non-consensual photo or video of the respondent which was sexually explicit in nature (eg via webcam) ^b	12.7	13.2	20.5	9.1	16.3	18.3
Shared a sexually explicit photo of the respondent with others without their consent ^c	11.7	12.0	18.7	7.9	17.3	18.3
Any online image-based sexual abuse^d	18.8	18.6	27.9	14.5	27.8	31.0

a: 67 respondents did not provide this information including 36 heterosexual men, 4 LGB+ men, 21 heterosexual women, 2 LGB+ women, 2 non-binary respondents and 2 respondents who did not disclose sexuality information

b: 66 respondents did not provide this information including 33 heterosexual men, 5 LGB+ men, 22 heterosexual women, 3 LGB+ women, 1 non-binary respondent and 2 respondents who did not disclose sexuality information

c: 72 respondents did not provide this information including 42 heterosexual men, 4 LGB+ men, 21 heterosexual women, 2 LGB+ women, 1 non-binary respondent and 2 respondents who did not disclose sexuality information

d: 104 respondents did not provide this information including 62 heterosexual men, 6 LGB+ men, 30 heterosexual women, 3 LGB+ women, 1 non-binary respondent and 2 respondents who did not disclose sexuality information

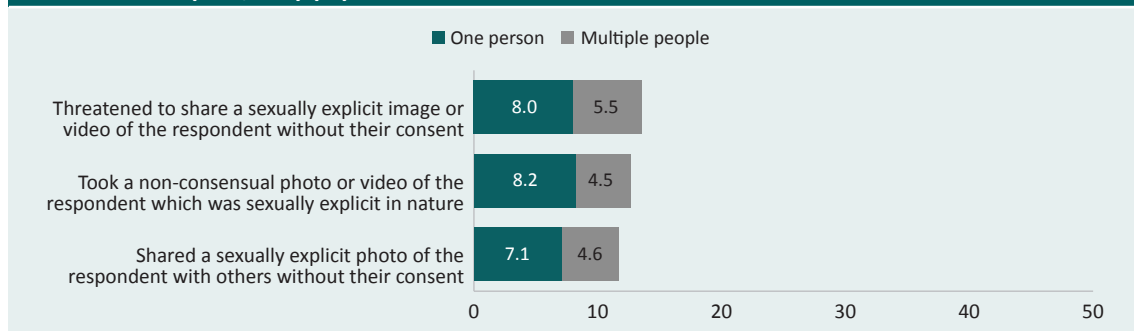
Note: Denominators include respondents who did not disclose the information. Analysis of the adjusted residuals did not include non-binary respondents due to small sample size

Source: AIC Mobile Dating Apps and Sexual Violence Survey 2021 [computer file]

Figure 4 demonstrates that many respondents who had experienced online IBSA perpetrated by someone they had met through an online dating platform were repeat victims. One in 20 respondents said that multiple people had:

- threatened to share an explicit image or video of them without their consent (5.5%);
- actually shared a sexually explicit photo of them without their consent (4.6%); and/or
- taken a sexually explicit non-consensual photo or video of them (eg via webcam; 4.5%).

Figure 4: Prevalence of repeat online image-based sexual abuse victimisation, by type of online DAFSV (*n*=9,987) (%)



Note: Denominators include respondents who did not disclose the information

Source: AIC Mobile Dating Apps and Sexual Violence Survey 2021 [computer file]

Online stalking

As shown in Table 6, one in four respondents had been stalked online by someone they had met through a mobile dating app or website (27.6%). This involved someone asking the respondent for information about their movements (25.0%) or accessing their online accounts without permission (11.5%).

Similar to other types of online DAFSV, the prevalence of online stalking victimisation differed across the sample based on the gender and sexual identities of respondents. A larger proportion of non-binary respondents (42.3%) and LGB+ men (32.8%) and women (36.1%) were subjected to online stalking compared to heterosexual male and female respondents (25.7% and 25.6% respectively). There was a positive relationship between the gender and sexual identities of respondents and online stalking ($\chi^2(3)=53.0$, $p<0.001$). Analysis of the adjusted residuals with a Bonferroni correction found that the prevalence of online stalking reported by LGB+ men and women was higher than expected, and lower than expected for heterosexual men and women.

Table 6: Prevalence of online stalking victimisation among respondents, by type of online DAFSV and gender and sexuality (n=9,987) (%)

	Total	Male		Female		Non-binary
		Hetero-sexual	LGB+	Hetero-sexual	LGB+	
Pressured the respondent to give them information about their location or their schedule ^a	25.0	22.6	29.9	24.0	34.0	39.4
Logged into one of the respondent's mobile dating app/website accounts without their permission ^b	11.5	13.5	16.3	7.4	12.6	7.0
Any online stalking^c	27.6	25.7	32.8	25.6	36.1	42.3

a: 74 respondents did not provide this information including 40 heterosexual men, 5 LGB+ men, 21 heterosexual women, 2 LGB+ women, 1 non-binary respondent and 5 individuals who did not disclose sexuality information

b: 56 respondents did not provide this information including 32 heterosexual men, 1 LGB+ male, 18 heterosexual women, 1 LGB+ female, 1 non-binary respondent and 3 individuals who did not disclose sexuality information

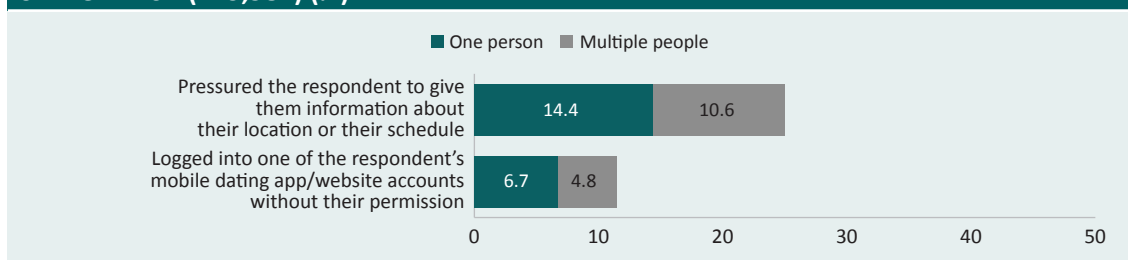
c: 80 respondents did not provide this information including 49 heterosexual men, 2 LGB+ men, 21 heterosexual women, 3 LGB+ women, 1 non-binary respondent and 4 individuals who did not disclose sexuality information

Note: Denominators include respondents who did not disclose the information. Analysis of the adjusted residuals did not include non-binary respondents due to small sample size

Source: AIC Mobile Dating Apps and Sexual Violence Survey 2021 [computer file]

As shown in Figure 5, 10.6 percent of respondents said that multiple people they had met through online dating platforms had pressured them to provide information about their location and schedule. Further, 4.8 percent of respondents said that multiple people had logged onto their online accounts without their consent.

Figure 5: Prevalence of repeat online stalking victimisation among respondents, by type of online DAFSV (n=9,987) (%)



Note: Denominators include respondents who did not disclose this information

Source: AIC Mobile Dating Apps and Sexual Violence Survey 2021 [computer file]

Co-occurrence of different types of online DAFSV

We next summed together the online DAFSV survey items to measure the number of different online DAFSV behaviours reported by mobile dating app/website users. As shown in Table 7, the co-occurrence of multiple forms of online DAFSV was very common. Overall, 60.8 percent of survey respondents said they had experienced at least two different types of online DAFSV behaviours in the last five years, and approximately a quarter had been subjected to seven or more of these types of behaviours (24.3%). The average number of online DAFSV behaviours reported by respondents was 4.0 ($SD=4.1$).

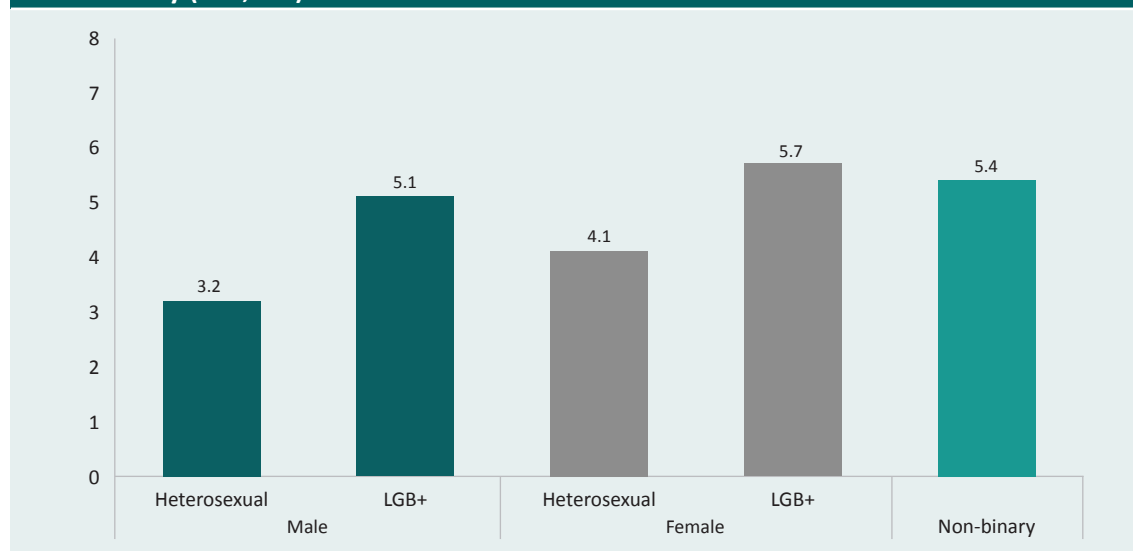
Table 7: Number of online DAFSV behaviours experienced by respondents (n=9,987)		
	n	%
0	2,763	27.7
1	1,152	11.5
2–3	1,579	15.8
4–6	2,068	20.7
7+	2,425	24.3
Mean (SD)	4.0 (4.1)	

Note: Missing data were counted as a zero when summing together the online DAFSV behaviour survey items

Source: AIC Mobile Dating Apps and Sexual Violence Survey 2021 [computer file]

When the sample was disaggregated by the gender and sexual identities of respondents (Figure 6), one-way ANOVAs identified that LGB+ respondents were more likely to report being subjected to more online DAFSV behaviours than heterosexual respondents ($F(3)=127.8$, $p<0.001$). LGB+ women experienced, on average, the largest number of online sexual harassment, aggression or violence behaviours ($M=5.7$, $SD=4.1$), followed by non-binary respondents ($M=5.4$, $SD=4.0$), then LGB+ men ($M=5.1$, $SD=4.5$). Heterosexual women reported on average 4.1 different online DAFSV behaviours ($SD=3.6$), which decreased again to 3.2 among heterosexual men ($SD=4.1$).

Figure 6: Mean number of online DAFSV behaviours experienced by respondents, by gender and sexuality (n=9,952)



Note: Analysis of the adjusted residuals did not include non-binary respondents due to small sample size

Source: AIC Mobile Dating Apps and Sexual Violence Survey 2021 [computer file]

Our examination of the co-occurring types of online DAHSV demonstrated that among respondents who had been subjected to any of these behaviours ($n=7,224$), 59.0 percent reported both sexual harassment and abusive and threatening language (see Table 8). Further, one in three (36.7%) said that they had been sexually harassed and stalked online, and 30.4 percent said they had been stalked and subjected to abusive and threatening language. Finally, one in four respondents reported both online sexual harassment and IBSA (25.4%) and being subjected to abusive and threatening language and online IBSA (23.5%); and one in five reported online IBSA and online stalking (18.8%).

Table 8: Prevalence of co-occurring online types of DAHSV ($n=7,224$) (%)

	1	2	3	4
1 Online sexual harassment		59.0 ^a	25.4 ^b	36.7 ^c
2 Abusive and threatening language			23.5 ^d	30.4 ^d
3 Online image-based sexual abuse				18.8 ^d
4 Online stalking				

a: 60 respondents did not provide this information

b: 87 respondents did not provide this information

c: 71 respondents did not provide this information

d: 111 respondents did not provide this information

Note: Sample limited to individuals who reported experiencing online DAHSV. Denominators include respondents who were unsure or did not provide this information

Source: AIC Mobile Dating Apps and Sexual Violence Survey 2021 [computer file]

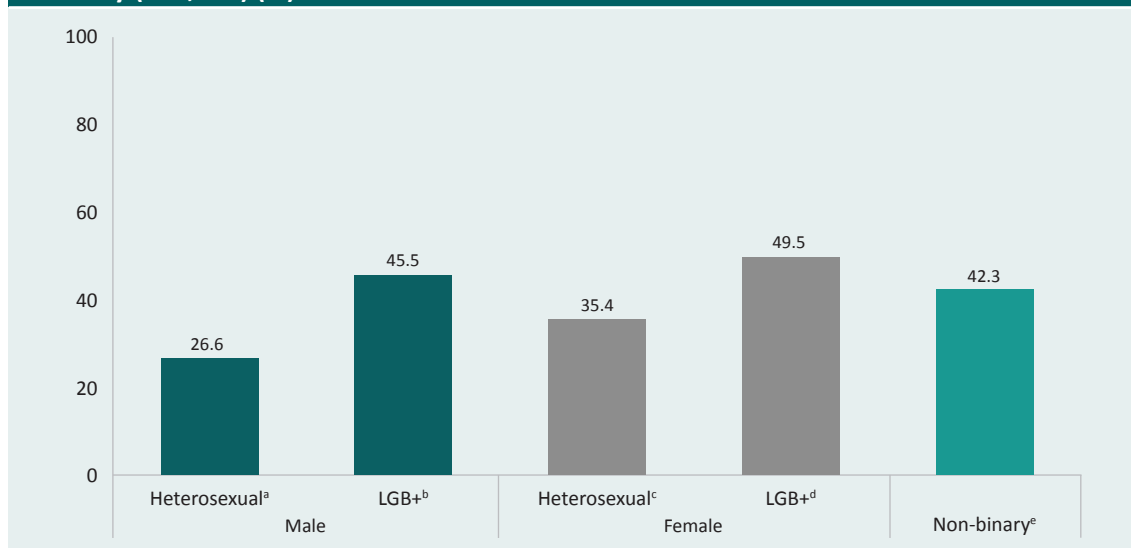
In-person DAFSV

For the next stage in the analysis, we explored respondents' experiences of being subjected to in-person forms of sexual harassment, aggression and violence. As described in the *Methods* section of this report, in-person DAFSV behaviours were defined as those perpetrated against respondents in the real world by individuals the respondent had met through an online dating platform.

Overall, one-third of survey respondents were subjected to at least one form of in-person DAFSV (34.0%). As shown in Figure 7, when the sample was disaggregated by the gender and sexual identities of respondents, the prevalence of in-person victimisation was higher for LGB+ and non-binary respondents compared to heterosexual respondents. Specifically, around half of LGB+ male (45.5%) and female (49.5%) respondents and 42.3 percent of non-binary respondents experienced in-person DAFSV. One in three heterosexual women (35.4%) and one in four heterosexual men (26.6%) reported in-person DAFSV.

There was a significant positive association between in-person sexual harassment, aggression and violence experiences and the gender and sexual identities of respondents ($\chi^2(3)=218.2$, $p<0.001$). Post-hoc analysis of the adjusted residuals with a Bonferroni correction identified that the proportion of LGB+ women, LGB+ men and heterosexual women who said they had been subjected to in-person DAFSV was higher than expected, while it was lower than expected for heterosexual men.

Figure 7: Prevalence of experiencing in-person DAFSV among respondents, by gender and sexuality (n=9,987) (%)



a: 709 respondents were unsure or did not provide this information

b: 62 respondents were unsure or did not provide this information

c: 622 respondents were unsure or did not provide this information

d: 118 respondents were unsure or did not provide this information

e: 15 respondents were unsure or did not provide this information

Note: Denominators include respondents who were unsure or did not disclose information. Analysis of the adjusted residuals did not include non-binary respondents due to small sample size

Source: AIC Mobile Dating Apps and Sexual Violence Survey 2021 [computer file]

Sexual assault and coercion

The most common type of in-person DAFSV reported by respondents was sexual assault and coercion (27.3%). This included:

- being verbally pressured to perform unwanted sexual acts (22.0%);
- someone attempting to engage in a sexual act with them when they could not consent (15.8%);
- someone using, or threatening to use, physical force to force them to perform unwanted sexual acts (13.0%); and
- someone spiking their drink to try and coerce them into performing a sexual act (10.0%; see Table 9).

As with the online DAFSV behaviours examined earlier, there was evidence of differences in the prevalence of sexual assault and coercion among different cohorts within the sample. Specifically, 42.1 percent of LGB+ women, 33.8 percent of non-binary respondents and 36.3 percent of LGB+ men reported being subjected to this type of in-person DAFSV compared to 27.9 percent of heterosexual women and 21.2 percent of heterosexual men.

A positive association between the gender and sexual identities of respondents and sexual assault and coercion victimisation was identified ($\chi^2(3)=184.5, p<0.001$). Analysis of the adjusted residuals with a Bonferroni correction found that the prevalence of sexual assault and coercion reported by LGB+ men, LGB+ women and heterosexual women was higher than expected, and lower than expected for heterosexual men.

Table 9: Prevalence of sexual assault and coercion victimisation among respondents, by type of DAFSV and gender and sexuality (n=9,987) (%)

	Total	Male		Female		Non-binary
		Hetero-sexual	LGB+	Hetero-sexual	LGB+	
Pressured the respondent verbally to perform unwanted sexual acts (eg making promises, lying, repeatedly asking or insisting etc) ^a	22.0	16.3	30.9	22.5	36.1	25.4
Attempted to engage in a sexual act with the respondent when they could not consent ^b	15.8	13.1	22.5	14.1	27.4	19.7
Used, or threatened to use, physical force to force the respondent to perform unwanted sexual acts ^c	13.0	11.5	21.4	10.6	19.6	18.3
Spiked the respondent's drink to try and coerce them into performing a sexual act ^d	10.0	9.9	16.2	7.1	14.8	9.9
Any sexual assault and coercion^e	27.3	21.2	36.3	27.9	42.1	33.8

a: 1,518 respondents did not provide this information including 684 heterosexual men, 61 LGB+ men, 621 heterosexual women, 117 LGB+ women, 14 non-binary respondents and 21 individuals who did not provide sexuality information

b: 1,511 respondents did not provide this information including 678 heterosexual men, 65 LGB+ men, 611 heterosexual women, 122 LGB+ women, 14 non-binary respondents and 21 individuals who did not provide sexuality information

c: 1,508 respondents did not provide this information including 672 heterosexual men, 64 LGB+ men, 612 heterosexual women, 122 LGB+ women, 17 non-binary respondents and 21 individuals who did not provide sexuality information

d: 1,497 respondents did not provide this information including 680 heterosexual men, 66 LGB+ men, 600 heterosexual women, 116 LGB+ women, 14 non-binary respondents and 21 individuals who did not provide sexuality information

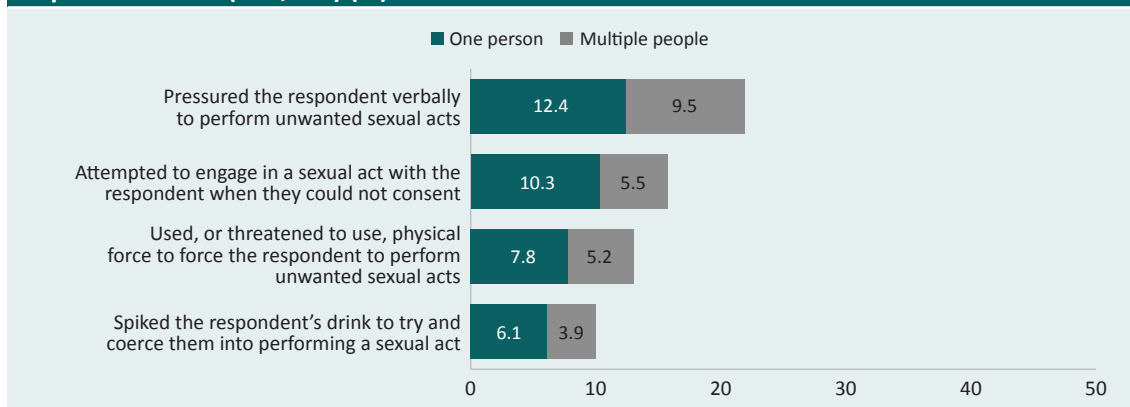
e: 1,548 respondents did not provide this information including 705 heterosexual men, 62 LGB+ men, 629 heterosexual women, 117 LGB+ women, 14 non-binary respondents and 21 individuals who did not provide sexuality information

Note: Denominators include respondents who did not disclose the information. Analysis of the adjusted residuals did not include non-binary respondents due to small sample size

Source: AIC Mobile Dating Apps and Sexual Violence Survey 2021 [computer file]

Figure 8 demonstrates that many respondents who had experienced sexual assault and coercion perpetrated by someone they had met through an online dating platform were repeat victims. One in 10 respondents said that multiple people had pressured them verbally (9.5%), and 5.2 percent had been subjected to actual or threatened physical force to coerce them to perform unwanted sexual acts. Further, 5.5 percent said that multiple people had attempted to engage in sexual acts with them when they could not consent, and 3.9 percent said that multiple people had spiked their drinks to coerce them into performing a sexual act.

Figure 8: Prevalence of repeat sexual assault and coercion among respondents, by type of in-person DAFSV (*n*=9,987) (%)



Note: Denominators include respondents who did not disclose the information

Source: AIC Mobile Dating Apps and Sexual Violence Survey 2021 [computer file]

Reproductive and sexual health-related abuse

Approximately one in five respondents said they had experienced reproductive or sexual health-related abuse (18.8%). More specifically, 14.3 percent of respondents said someone they had met on a dating app/website refused to wear a condom or took one off during intercourse without their consent, and 12.8 percent said someone lied about their sexual health status (eg whether they had herpes or other sexually transmitted diseases).

As shown in Table 10, reported rates of reproductive and sexual health-related abuse were highest among LGB+ men (31.8%), LGB+ women (27.0%) and non-binary respondents (23.9%), and lowest among heterosexual men (15.2%) and women (17.7%). Bivariate analysis revealed a significant association between the gender and sexual identities of respondents and experiences of reproductive and sexual health-related abuse ($\chi^2(3)=133.9$, $p<0.001$). Analysis of the adjusted residuals with a Bonferroni correction identified that the prevalence of reproductive and sexual health-related abuse reported by LGB+ women and LGB+ men was higher than expected, and lower than expected for heterosexual men. There was no difference in the observed and expected frequency of victimisation for heterosexual women.

Table 10: Prevalence of reproductive and sexual health-related abuse victimisation among respondents, by type of in-person DAFSV and gender and sexuality (n=9,987) (%)

	Total	Male		Female		Non-binary
		Hetero-sexual	LGB+	Hetero-sexual	LGB+	
Took off their condom during intercourse without the respondent's consent or refused to wear a condom ^a	14.3	11.2	23.6	13.6	21.1	18.3
Lied about their sexual health status (eg whether they had a sexually transmitted disease like herpes) ^b	12.8	12.1	24.2	9.8	16.5	14.1
Any reproductive and sexual health-related abuse^c	18.8	15.2	31.8	17.7	27.0	23.9

a: 1,517 respondents did not provide this information including 687 heterosexual men, 65 LGB+ men, 606 heterosexual women, 119 LGB+ women, 17 non-binary respondents and 23 individuals who did not disclose sexuality information

b: 1,503 respondents did not provide this information including 682 heterosexual men, 65 LGB+ men, 601 heterosexual women, 119 LGB+ women, 15 non-binary respondents and 21 individuals who did not disclose sexuality information

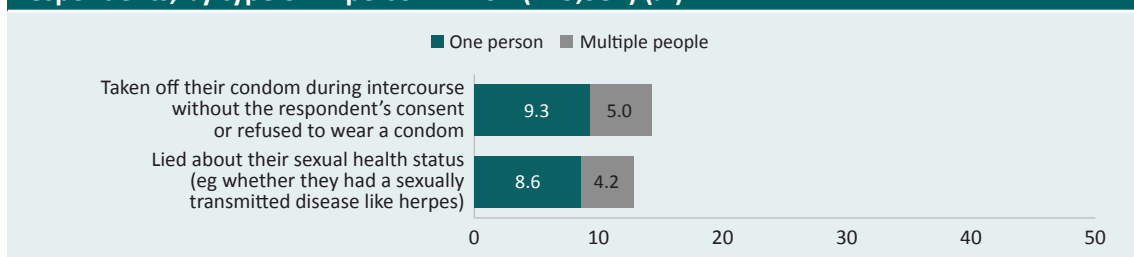
c: 1,537 respondents did not provide this information including 700 heterosexual men, 62 LGB+ men, 614 heterosexual women, 121 LGB+ women, 17 non-binary respondents and 23 individuals who did not disclose sexuality information

Note: Denominators include respondents who did not disclose the information. Analysis of the adjusted residuals did not include non-binary respondents due to small sample size

Source: AIC Mobile Dating Apps and Sexual Violence Survey 2021 [computer file]

Around one in 25 respondents were repeat victims of reproductive and sexual health-related abuse perpetrated by someone they had met through an online dating platform (Figure 9). Specifically, 5.0 percent said that multiple people had refused to wear a condom or taken a condom off during sex without their consent, and 4.2 percent of respondents said that multiple people had lied about their sexual health status.

Figure 9: Prevalence of repeat reproductive and sexual health-related abuse among respondents, by type of in-person DAFSV (n=9,987) (%)



Note: Denominators include respondents who did not disclose the information

Source: AIC Mobile Dating Apps and Sexual Violence Survey 2021 [computer file]

In-person image-based sexual abuse

While approximately one in five respondents (18.8%) said that they had been subjected to online IBSA, 10.5 percent of respondents said that someone they had met through a mobile dating app/website and then met in person had taken a photo of them or videotaped them engaging in sexual acts without their consent (Table 11). The prevalence of experiencing in-person IBSA differed across the sample, with 17.9 percent of LGB+ men, 13.6 percent of LGB+ women and 12.7 percent of non-binary respondents reporting experiencing this type of in-person DAFSV, compared to 10.5 percent of heterosexual men and 7.5 percent of heterosexual women.

Again, there was an overall positive association between in-person IBSA and the gender and sexual identities of respondents ($\chi^2(3)=80.0$, $p<0.001$). The prevalence of in-person IBSA reported for LGB+ women and men was higher than expected, and lower than expected for heterosexual women. There was no difference in the observed and expected prevalence of in-person IBSA for heterosexual men.

Table 11: Prevalence of in-person image-based sexual abuse victimisation among respondents, by gender and sexuality (n=9,987) (%)

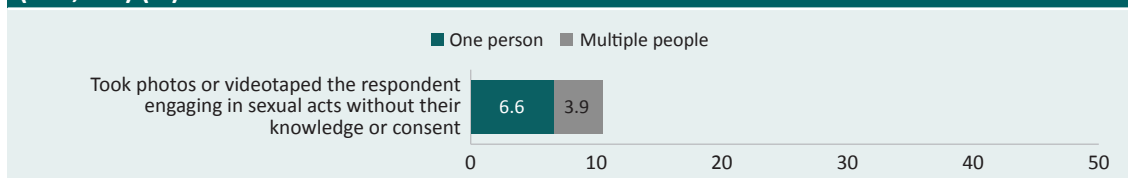
	Total	Male		Female		Non-binary
		Hetero-sexual	LGB+	Hetero-sexual	LGB+	
Took photos or videotaped the respondent engaging in sexual acts without their knowledge or consent	10.5	10.5	17.9	7.5	13.6	12.7

Note: Denominators include respondents who did not disclose the information; 1,502 respondents did not provide this information including 678 heterosexual men, 65 LGB+ men, 606 heterosexual women, 117 LGB+ women, 15 non-binary respondents and 21 individuals who did not disclose sexuality information. Analysis of the adjusted residuals did not include non-binary respondents due to small sample size

Source: AIC Mobile Dating Apps and Sexual Violence Survey 2021 [computer file]

Approximately one in 20 respondents said that multiple people they had met in person had taken a photo or video of them engaging in sexual acts without their consent (3.9%; Figure 10).

Figure 10: Prevalence of repeat in-person image-based sexual abuse among respondents (n=9,987) (%)



Note: Denominators include respondents who did not disclose the information

Source: AIC Mobile Dating Apps and Sexual Violence Survey 2021 [computer file]

In-person stalking

Although less commonly reported than online forms of stalking described in earlier sections of this report (27.6%), one in seven respondents said that someone they met through dating apps/websites had stalked them in the real world (14.3%; Table 12). A larger proportion of LGB+ men and women and non-binary respondents experienced in-person stalking (22.2%, 20.9% and 19.7% respectively) compared to heterosexual men (12.3%) and women (12.8%).

There was a positive association between the sexual and gender identities of respondents and in-person stalking ($\chi^2(3)=75.7$, $p<0.001$). Analysis of the adjusted residuals with a Bonferroni correction found that the prevalence of in-person stalking reported by LGB+ women and LGB+ men was higher than expected, and lower than expected for heterosexual women and men.

Table 12: Prevalence of in-person stalking victimisation among respondents, by gender and sexuality ($n=9,987$) (%)

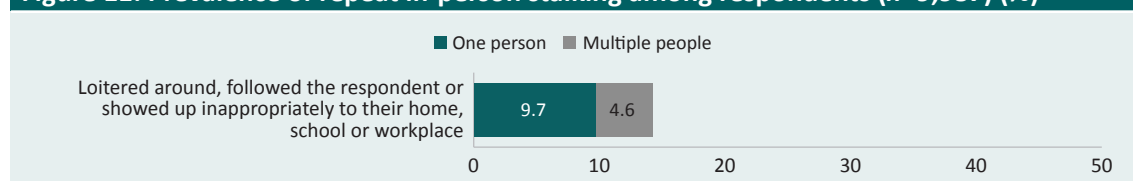
	Total	Male		Female		Non-binary
		Hetero-sexual	LGB+	Hetero-sexual	LGB+	
Loitered around, followed the respondent or showed up inappropriately at their home, school or workplace	14.3	12.3	22.2	12.8	20.9	19.7

Note: Denominators include respondents who did not disclose the information; 1,502 respondents did not provide this information including 680 heterosexual men, 63 LGB+ men, 603 heterosexual women, 119 LGB+ women, 16 non-binary respondents and 21 individuals who did not provide sexuality information. Analysis of the adjusted residuals did not include non-binary respondents due to small sample size

Source: AIC Mobile Dating Apps and Sexual Violence Survey 2021 [computer file]

As shown in Figure 11, 4.6 percent of respondents said they had been stalked in person by multiple people they had met on an online dating platform.

Figure 11: Prevalence of repeat in-person stalking among respondents ($n=9,987$) (%)



Note: Denominators include respondents who did not disclose the information

Source: AIC Mobile Dating Apps and Sexual Violence Survey 2021 [computer file]

Co-occurrence of different types of in-person DAFSV

Overall, one in four respondents (24.3%) said that they had experienced more than one in-person DAFSV behaviour perpetrated by someone they had met through an online dating app or website (see Table 13). Further, one in 20 said they had experienced 4–6 or 7–8 different in-person DAFSV behaviours (6.3% and 6.0% respectively). The average number of in-person sexual harassment, aggression and violence behaviours reported by survey respondents was 1.1 ($SD=2.1$).

Table 13: Number of in-person DAFSV behaviours experienced by respondents (n=9,987)

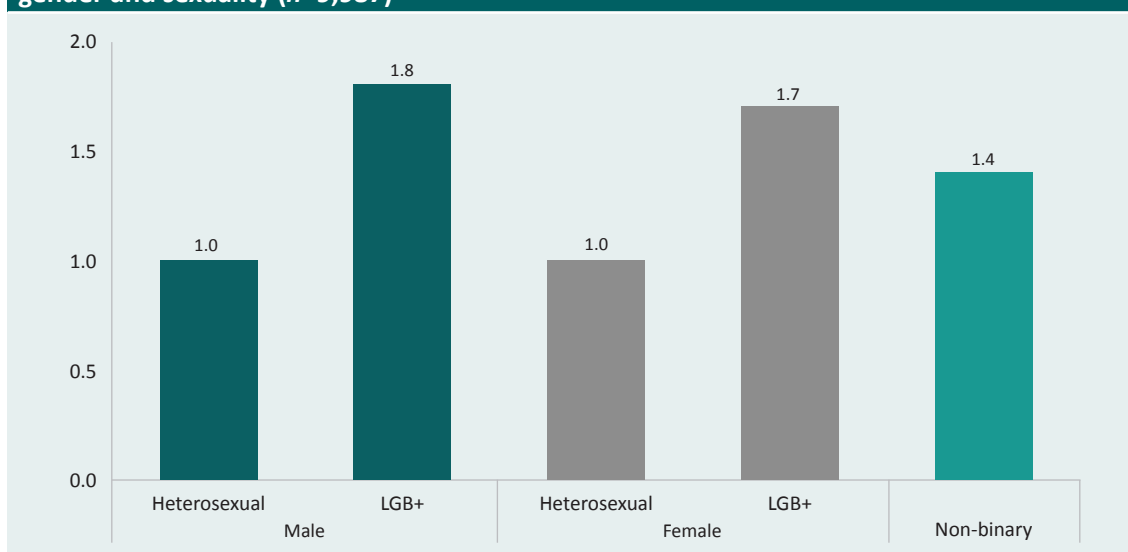
	<i>n</i>	%
0	6,593	66.0
1	1,141	11.4
2–3	1,035	10.4
4–6	624	6.3
7–8	594	6.0
Mean (<i>SD</i>)	1.1 (2.1)	

Note: Missing data were counted as a zero when summing together the behaviour items. Percentage total does not equal 100 due to rounding

Source: AIC Mobile Dating Apps and Sexual Violence Survey 2021 [computer file]

One-way ANOVAs identified that there was a significant difference in the average number of in-person DAFSV behaviours experienced by respondents based on their identified gender and sexuality ($F(3)=58.5$, $p<0.001$). LGB+ men experienced the highest average number of in-person forms of sexual harassment, aggression or violence ($M=1.8$, $SD=2.7$), followed closely by LGB+ women ($M=1.7$, $SD=2.4$). Heterosexual men and women experienced on average one type of in-person DAFSV behaviour ($SD=2.1$, 1.8 respectively; see Figure 12).

Figure 12: Mean number of in-person DAFSV behaviours experienced by respondents, by gender and sexuality (n=9,987)



Note: ANOVAs did not include non-binary respondents due to small sample size

Source: AIC Mobile Dating Apps and Sexual Violence Survey 2021 [computer file]

Our examination of the types of co-occurring in-person DAFSV demonstrated that, among respondents who had been subjected to any of these behaviours ($n=3,394$), the most commonly co-occurring types were sexual assault and coercion and reproductive and sexual health-related abuse (42.8%). This was followed by sexual assault and coercion and in-person stalking (34.2%), and then reproductive and sexual health-related abuse and in-person stalking (28.7%; Table 14).

Table 14: Prevalence of co-occurring in-person types of DAHSV (n=3,394) (%)				
	1	2	3	4
1 Sexual assault and coercion		42.8 ^a	28.0 ^b	34.2 ^b
2 Reproductive and sexual health-related abuse			25.3 ^c	28.7 ^c
3 In-person image-based sexual abuse				21.7 ^d
4 In-person stalking				

a: 73 respondents did not disclose this information

b: 64 respondents did not disclose this information

c: 60 respondents did not disclose this information

d: 55 respondents did not disclose this information

Note: Sample limited to respondents who had been subjected to at least one type of in-person DAHSV.

Denominators include respondents who did not disclose the information

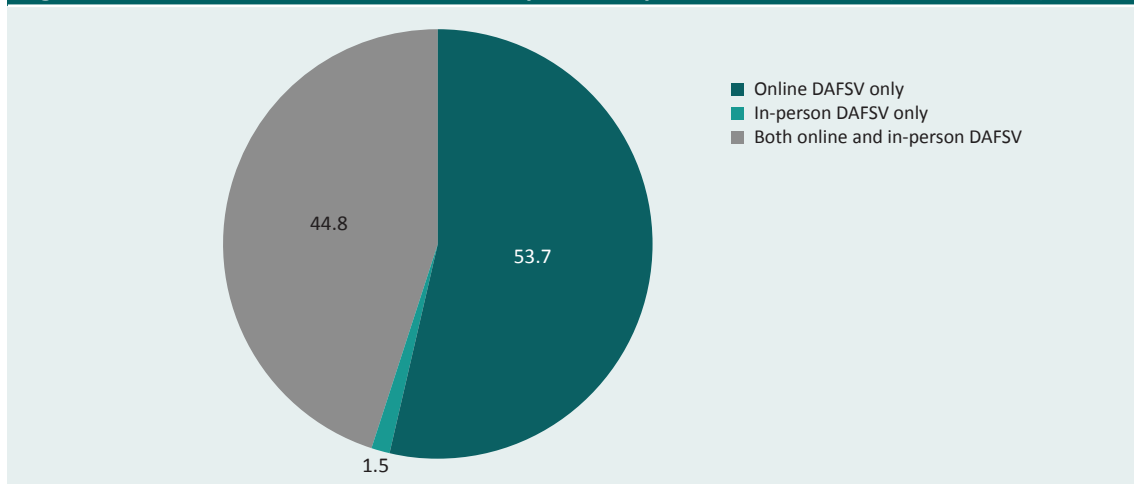
Source: AIC Mobile Dating Apps and Sexual Violence Survey 2021 [computer file]

Co-occurrence of online and in-person DAFSV

Following the previous analyses that looked at the prevalence and nature of online and in-person sexual harassment, aggression and violence victimisation separately, we next examined the co-occurrence of these victimisation experiences among survey respondents. The analysis found a high level of overlap between online and in-person DAFSV victimisation. First, among respondents who reported being subjected to at least one type of online DAFSV ($n=7,224$), 45.5 percent were also subjected to in-person DAFSV, while among respondents subjected to one type of in-person DAFSV ($n=3,394$), 96.8 percent were also subjected to online DAFSV.

Further, as shown in Figure 13, among respondents who had been subjected to either an online or in-person form of DAFSV in the last five years ($n=7,334$, 73.4%), 44.8 percent said they had been subjected to both. Half of respondents said they had experienced online DAFSV but not in-person DAFSV (53.7%), and only 1.5 percent had experienced in-person DAFSV but not some form of online DAFSV.

Figure 13: Co-occurrence of online and in-person experiences of DAFSV ($n=7,334$) (%)

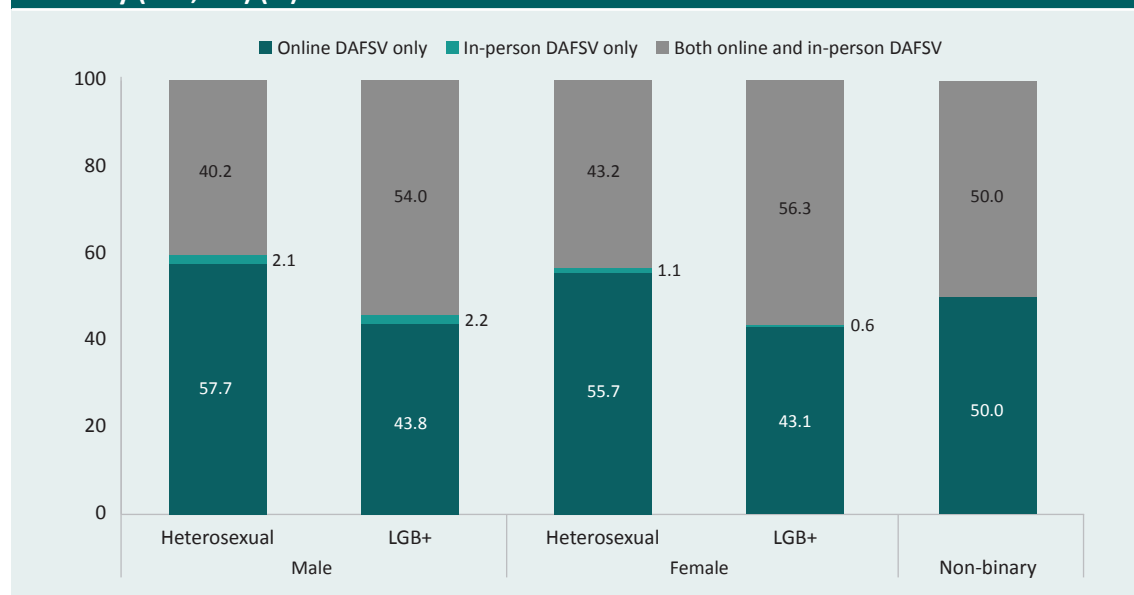


Note: Individuals who experienced online DAFSV and did not disclose whether they experienced in-person DAFSV were counted as having experienced online DAFSV only (and vice versa). Similarly, individuals who did not report online DAFSV and did not disclose whether they had experienced in-person DAFSV were counted as not having experienced any DAFSV (and vice versa)

Source: AIC Mobile Dating Apps and Sexual Violence Survey 2021 [computer file]

When the sample was disaggregated by the respondents' gender and sexual identities (Figure 14), we observed that a larger proportion of LGB+ respondents were subjected to both online and in-person DAFSV in the last five years compared to heterosexual respondents ($\chi^2(6)=99.3$, $p<0.001$). Analysis of the adjusted residuals identified that the prevalence of both online and in-person DAFSV victimisation was higher than expected for LGB+ men (54.0%) and women (56.3%), and lower than expected for heterosexual men (40.2%). There were no differences in the observed and expected prevalence for heterosexual women (43.2%) and non-binary respondents (50.0%).

Figure 14: Co-occurrence of online and in-person experiences of DAFSV, by gender and sexuality (n=7,334) (%)



Note: Sample was restricted to individuals who reported experiencing at least one DAFSV behaviour. Individuals who experienced online DAFSV and did not disclose whether they experienced in-person DAFSV were counted as having experienced online DAFSV only (and vice versa). Similarly, individuals who did not report online DAFSV and did not disclose whether they had experienced in-person DAFSV were counted as not having experienced any DAFSV (and vice versa). Analysis of the adjusted residuals did not include non-binary respondents due to small sample size

Source: AIC Mobile Dating Apps and Sexual Violence Survey 2021 [computer file]

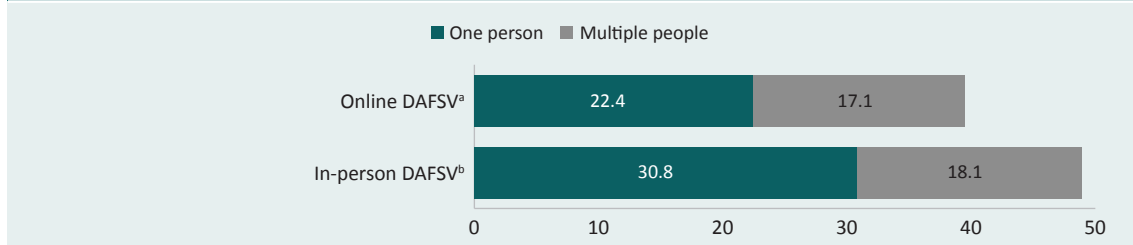
Perpetrator blocking, unmatching or deleting their account

The final stage of the analysis explored the extent to which perpetrators of online and in-person sexual harassment, aggression and violence had exploited specific features of mobile dating apps and websites to hide their abusive behaviours. Some dating apps and websites include features that allow users to ‘unmatch’ with or block other users. While these are important safety features that are intended to protect individuals from being contacted by problematic users, unfortunately they can also be used by perpetrators of DAFSV to remove evidence of violence and abuse, specifically conversation histories that can support reports of DAFSV to the platform or law enforcement. Alternatively, perpetrators can also delete their own account on the dating app or website to remove evidence of their conversations with victim-survivors.

Figure 15 illustrates that two in five respondents who were subjected to online forms of DAFSV were subsequently unmatched or blocked by the perpetrator, or the perpetrator deleted their own account (39.5%). Of this cohort, 43.3 percent of respondents said multiple individuals had used these tactics.

Among respondents who had experienced in-person DAFSV, almost half (48.9%) said a perpetrator deleted their account or unmatched or blocked them and 37.0 percent of these respondents said multiple perpetrators had done this. Victims of in-person DAFSV were more likely to say a perpetrator blocked or unmatched them or deleted their entire account compared to those who had experienced online DAFSV. This may reflect the aggressor’s perception that in-person forms of DAFSV are more likely to be reported to the online dating platform or the police compared to online forms of DAFSV.

Figure 15: Prevalence of perpetrator unmatching, blocking or deleting their account to remove conversation history after an incident of DAFSV (%)



a: $n=7,224$, including 100 respondents who did not provide this information

b: $n=3,394$, including 54 respondents who did not provide this information

Note: Denominators include respondents who did not disclose the information

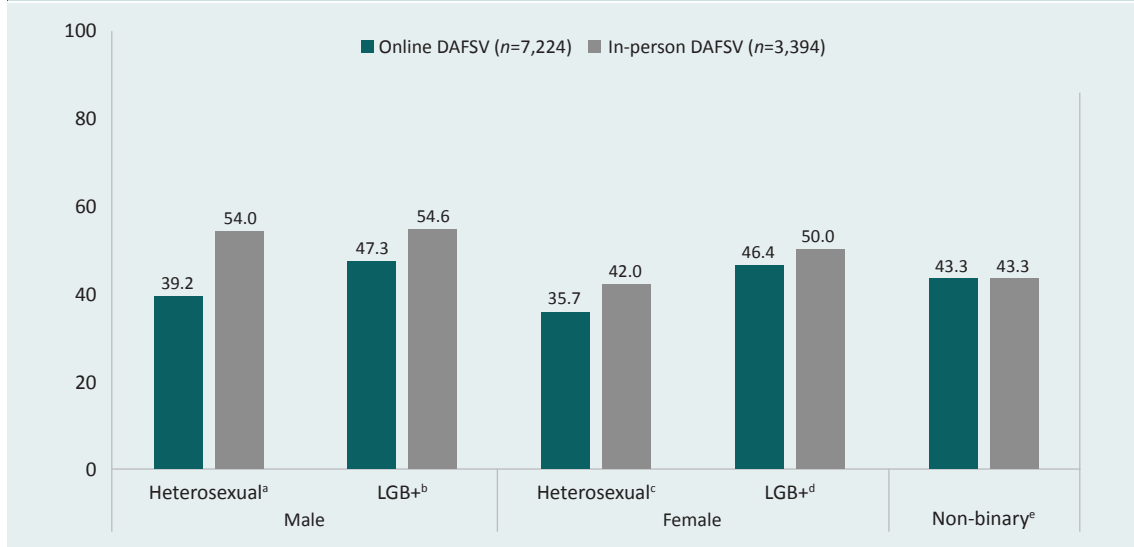
Source: AIC Mobile Dating Apps and Sexual Violence Survey 2021 [computer file]

When the sample was disaggregated by the gender and sexual identities of respondents, a larger proportion of LGB+ men and women and non-binary respondents said perpetrators had unmatched/blocked them or deleted their account after an incident of online DAFSV (47.3%, 46.4% and 43.3% respectively) compared to heterosexual men (39.2%) and women (35.7%; Figure 16). There was a significant association between respondent gender and sexual identities and experiencing unmatching/blocking/deleting by the perpetrator after online DAFSV ($\chi^2(3)=47.8$, $p<0.001$). Analysis of the adjusted residuals with a Bonferroni correction found that the observed prevalence for LGB+ men and women who said the perpetrator deleted their account or blocked or unmatched them was higher than expected, and lower than expected for heterosexual women. There were no differences in the observed and expected prevalence of perpetrator blocking/unmatching/deleting their account for heterosexual men.

Slightly different results were identified in relation to perpetrator blocking/unmatching/deleting their account after in-person DAFSV. Individuals who had been subjected to in-person sexual harassment, aggression and violence and identified as male were more likely to experience unmatching/blocking/deleting than female and non-binary respondents (Figure 16). Specifically, 54.6 percent of LGB+ men and 54.0 percent of heterosexual men said they were blocked or unmatched or the perpetrator deleted their account after an incident of in-person DAFSV, compared to 50.0 percent of LGB+ women, 43.3 percent of non-binary respondents and 42.0 percent of heterosexual women.

Overall, there was a statistically significant relationship between respondent gender and sexual identities and the perpetrator blocking/unmatching them or deleting their account after in-person DAFSV ($\chi^2(3)=45.8$, $p<0.001$). Analysis of the adjusted residuals identified that the prevalence of heterosexual and LGB+ men who said that someone they had met on an online dating platform had perpetrated in-person DAFSV against them and then blocked/unmatched them or deleted their account was higher than expected, and lower than expected for heterosexual women. There were no differences in the observed and expected prevalence of perpetrator blocking, unmatching or deleting for LGB+ women.

Figure 16: Prevalence of perpetrator unmatching, blocking or deleting their account to remove conversation history after an incident of DAFSV, by gender and sexuality (%)



a: 41 respondents did not provide online DAFSV information and 14 did not provide in-person DAFSV information

b: 8 respondents did not provide online DAFSV information and 11 did not provide in-person DAFSV information

c: 41 respondents did not provide online DAFSV information and 17 did not provide in-person DAFSV information

d: 8 respondents did not provide online DAFSV information and 7 did not provide in-person DAFSV information

e: 1 respondent did not provide online DAFSV information and 1 did not provide in-person DAFSV information

Note: Denominators include respondents who did not provide DAFSV information. Analysis of the adjusted residuals did not include non-binary respondents due to small sample size

Source: AIC Mobile Dating Apps and Sexual Violence Survey 2021 [computer file]

Discussion

Experiences of sexual harassment, aggression and violence victimisation reported by mobile dating app and website users who participated in the current study were overall very common. Almost three-quarters of respondents said they had been subjected to at least one form of online and/or in-person DAHSV perpetrated by someone they had met on an online dating platform in the last five years (73.4%). More specifically, seven in 10 respondents said they had been subjected to at least one type of online DAHSV (72.3%) and one-third said they had been subjected to at least one type of in-person DAHSV (34.0%). The most common forms of DAHSV were online sexual harassment (69.0%), abusive and threatening language (45.0%), online stalking (27.6%) and in-person sexual assault and coercion (27.3%).

Experiences of sexual harassment, aggression and violence did not appear to be isolated or limited to single incidents. Respondents often said they had experienced online and in-person DAHSV multiple times and perpetrated by different individuals. For example, 9.5 percent of respondents said they had been pressured verbally by multiple people to perform unwanted sexual acts in the previous five years. Further, 4.6 percent of respondents said that multiple people they met on an online dating platform had shared a sexual image of them without their consent in the previous five years.

Similarly, a large number of respondents said they experienced more than one type of online and in-person DAHSV. Three in five respondents said they experienced two or more types of online DAHSV (60.8%) and 22.7 percent said they experienced more than one form of in-person DAHSV. Further, 53.7 percent of respondents said they had experienced both online and in-person forms of DAHSV.

The high levels of victimisation reported here demonstrate the need for mobile dating apps and websites to embed Safety by Design principles in their development processes. Safety features that may have a positive impact on the occurrence and recurrence of online and in-person sexual harassment, aggression and violence facilitated by dating apps/websites include:

- encouraging users to report problematic interactions, and ensuring that reporting processes are simple and accessible;
- online dating platform operators banning perpetrators from creating new accounts, which is typically controlled through design features such as multi-level identity verification (Centelles, Powers & Moule 2021); and
- the use of artificial intelligence to censor explicit images.

However, there is also a need to monitor the impact of safety strategies on sexual harassment, aggression and violence victimisation among users, due to the potential for such strategies to be bypassed or even exploited by perpetrators. For example, existing safety features, such as the ability to block or unmatched with other users, which allow individuals to protect themselves by stopping problematic users from contacting them, can be exploited by aggressors. The current analysis found that approximately 40 to 50 percent of victims of sexual harassment, aggression or violence perpetrated by someone they had met on an online dating platform said the person subsequently deleted their own account or unmatched or blocked the respondent in order to conceal their conversation history. The conversation history between victim-survivors and perpetrators is an important piece of evidence when reporting the behaviour to the platform or law enforcement. Ensuring the conversation history is retained regardless of the match between users or a user's account status is therefore important.

Any application of Safety by Design principles and regulations or development of safety features in dating platform environments should be undertaken with consideration of how they may impact diverse, marginalised and/or minority users, as there is a risk of inadvertently causing harm. Certain safety approaches have been criticised for making online dating platforms less safe for some users. For example, those that increase law enforcement surveillance are criticised for contributing to discriminatory policing and amplifying structural inequality (Stardust, Gillett & Albury 2022), and the removal of ethnicity filters, to address claims that such filters are inherently racist, has been criticised, as these filters acted as a safety mechanism for some users (Zhou 2022). First Nations users who experience 'sexual racism' (ie racial exclusion, prejudice and abuse in the context of sexual preference; Carlson 2020) on dating apps should also be considered.

Another key finding from the current study was the consistent evidence that LGB+ respondents in the sample were more likely to experience sexual harassment, aggression and violence perpetrated by someone they met through an online dating platform than heterosexual respondents. As shown in Figure 17, this remained consistent across the different types of online and in-person DAFSV included in the survey. Also, not only did LGB+ respondents report overall higher levels of online and/or in-person DAFSV victimisation, they also reported being subjected to a larger number of these behaviours when compared to heterosexual respondents. Interestingly, heterosexual women were also more likely to experience some forms of online and in-person DAFSV than heterosexual men. However, this was limited to sexual harassment and abusive and threatening language. This demonstrates that the risk of DAFSV is not constant but dependent on the type of behaviour being examined.

Findings from the current study support prior research that has found sexual identity diverse populations are more likely to be subjected to TFSV (eg Anderson, Vogels & Turner 2020; Dietzel 2021). The reasons for the higher rates of victimisation experienced by LGB+ men and women are unclear. However, it could be attributable to differences in the way some members of these communities use mobile dating apps and websites, compared to heterosexual communities. As part of the survey, we asked respondents for detailed information about the nature and frequency of their use of mobile dating apps and websites. Based on the information provided by respondents, a larger proportion of LGB+ men (45.3%) and women (41.5%) said they used three or more online dating platforms concurrently compared to heterosexual men and women (39.0% and 34.1% respectively). Also, a larger proportion of LGB+ men (11.2%) and women (16.9%) reported they had started using dating apps/websites prior to the age of 18 years than heterosexual men (7.9%) and women (7.8%).

The prolific use of mobile dating apps and websites by sexual identity diverse communities could be explained by concerns within these communities about being shamed for their sexuality. Certainly, a large proportion of LGB+ men (31.2%) and women (39.4%) said they used mobile dating apps and websites due to social anxiety-related issues and/or to protect their identities (30.0% and 18.9% respectively). Other research has also noted that sexual identity diverse individuals may view online communities as safe spaces in which to connect with similarly identified people and express themselves without fear of censure (Miles 2018). Similarly, online dating platforms have been viewed by gender diverse individuals as a safe space to disclose their gender identity due to the physical distance provided (Fernandez & Birnholtz 2019). Some evidence shows, however, that gender diverse users may experience specific safety concerns in relation to the binary nature of gender for sorting and filtering mechanisms on platforms and that their gender identity is not respected by other users (Albury et al. 2021; Callander et al. 2019).

Gender and sexually diverse individuals may be more likely to be subjected to online and in-person DAFSV because of their increased exposure to potential perpetrators. In other words, the higher rates of violence may have been attributable to the opportunity effect. Alternatively, researchers and advocates have suggested that sexual identity diverse communities are targeted by perpetrators because they are perceived as 'easy targets', because they are less likely to report victimisation experiences and/or to be believed or taken seriously by law enforcement agencies when they do (Moschella, Potter & Moynihan 2020). Certainly, studies have shown that sexual identity diverse victim-survivors of sexual violence are more likely than heterosexual individuals to predict that disclosures will lead to negative reactions from others (Moschella, Potter & Moynihan 2020) and to not seek help after being subjected to sexual violence due to fear of being blamed (Richardson et al. 2015).

Another explanation for the current findings is that some LGB+ individuals using mobile dating apps and websites are being targeted by other users for some forms of abuse *because* of their sexual identities (Gámez-Guadix & Incera 2021). A number of examples of individuals ‘catfishing’ gay men using mobile dating apps and websites have been reported in the media in the last few years (ABC News 2020; Morgan 2022). However, in general, there is a notable lack of research looking at the characteristics of perpetrators of online and in-person sexual harassment, aggression and violence facilitated through mobile dating apps and websites. This is an obvious area for future research.

Figure 17: Summary of key findings

	Heterosexual men	LGB+ men	Heterosexual women	LGB+ women
Online DAFSV				
Online sexual harassment	↓	↑	↑	↑
Abusive and threatening language	↓	↑	↑	↑
Online IBSA		↑	↓	↑
Online stalking	↓	↑	↓	↑
In-person DAFSV				
Sexual assault and coercion	↓	↑	↑	↑
Reproductive and sexual health-related abuse	↓	↑		↑
In-person IBSA		↑	↓	↑
In-person stalking	↓	↑	↓	↑

Note: Figure is based on the post-hoc analyses of adjusted residuals with a Bonferroni correction following chi-square tests of association: ↑ = observed values were higher than expected values, ↓ = observed values were lower than expected values

Source: AIC Mobile Dating Apps and Sexual Violence Survey 2021 [computer file]

Conclusion

Mobile dating apps and websites are an increasingly popular and socially acceptable way of meeting people. It appears, however, that there is an inherent risk associated with these platforms of being subjected to sexual harassment, aggression or violence both online and in person. Considering the long- and short-term implications for victim-survivors after experiencing these harmful behaviours, there is an obvious need to develop mechanisms for protecting online dating platform users from being subjected to DAFSV, and to prevent perpetrators from subjecting other users to similar forms of violence.

References

URLs correct as at August 2022

ABC News 2020. Canberra teens face blackmail and robbery charges after allegedly using gay dating app to catfish man 2020, 8 November. *ABC News*. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-11-09/man-and-teen-boy-allegedly-blackmail-dating-app-victim/12862650>

Albury et al. 2019. *Safety, risk and wellbeing on dating apps: Final report*. Melbourne: Swinburne University of Technology

Albury K, Dietzel C, Pym T, Vivienne S & Cook T 2021. Not your unicorn: Trans dating app users' negotiations of personal safety and sexual health. *Health Sociology Review* 30(1): 72–86. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14461242.2020.1851610>

Anderson M, Vogels E & Turner E 2020. *The virtues and downsides of online dating*. Pew Research Center. <https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/2020/02/06/the-virtues-and-downsides-of-online-dating/>

Boyd C 2011. *The impacts of sexual assault on women*. The Australian Centre for the Study of Sexual Assault. <https://aifs.gov.au/resources/practice-guides/impacts-sexual-assault-women>

Business of Apps 2022. Dating app revenue and usage statistics (2022). <https://www.businessofapps.com/data/dating-app-market/>

Callander D et al. 2019. *The 2018 Australian trans and gender diverse sexual health survey: Report of findings*. Sydney: The Kirby Institute, UNSW

Cama E 2021. Understanding experiences of sexual harms facilitated through dating and hook up apps among women and girls. In J Bailey, A Flynn & N Henry (eds), *The Emerald international handbook of technology facilitated violence and abuse*. Bingley: Emerald Publishing Limited: 333–350. <https://doi.org/10.1108/978-1-83982-848-520211025>

Carlson B 2020. Love and hate at the cultural interface: Indigenous Australians and dating apps. *Journal of Sociology* 56(2): 133–150. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1440783319833181>

Centelles V, Powers RA & Moule RK Jr 2021. An examination of location-based real-time dating application infrastructure, profile features, and cybervictimization. *Social Media + Society* 7(3): 1–11. <https://doi.org/10.1177/205630512111043218>

Chadha K, Steiner L, Vitak J & Ashktorab Z 2020. Women's responses to online harassment. *International Journal of Communication* 14: 239–257

- Choi EPH, Wong JYH & Fong DYT 2017. An emerging risk factor of sexual abuse victimization: The use of smartphone dating applications. *Journal of Sexual Medicine* 14(5): e263–e264. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jsxm.2017.04.290>
- Dietzel C 2021. *Sexual violence facilitated by dating apps: The experiences of men who have sex with men* (Doctoral thesis). McGill University, Montreal
- Dietzel C, Myles D & Duguay S 2021. Relationships during a pandemic: How dating apps have adapted to COVID-19. *The Conversation*. <http://theconversation.com/relationships-during-a-pandemic-how-dating-apps-have-adapted-to-covid-19-160219>
- eSafety Commissioner nd. Safety by Design. <https://www.esafety.gov.au/industry/safety-by-design>
- Fernandez JR & Birnholtz J 2019. ‘I don’t want them to not know’: Investigating decisions to disclose transgender identity in dating platforms. *Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction* 3: 1–21. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3359328>
- Gámez-Guadix M & Incera D 2021. Homophobia is online: Sexual victimization and risks on the internet and mental health among bisexual, homosexual, pansexual, asexual, and queer adolescents. *Computers in Human Behavior* 119: 106728. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chb.2021.106728>
- Gilbert L et al. 2019. Situational contexts and risk factors associated with incapacitated and nonincapacitated sexual assaults among college women. *Journal of Women’s Health* 28(2): 185–193. <https://doi.org/10.1089/jwh.2018.7191>
- Gillett R 2021. ‘This is not a nice safe space’: Investigating women’s safety work on Tinder. *Feminist Media Studies* 1–17. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14680777.2021.1948884>
- Gillett R 2018. Intimate intrusions online: Studying the normalisation of abuse in dating apps. *Women’s Studies International Forum* 69: 212–219. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.wsif.2018.04.005>
- Gollayan C 2017. Woman victim of new sex trend after Tinder date. *New York Post*, 5 May. <https://www.news.com.au/lifestyle/relationships/sex/i-was-a-victim-of-stealthings/news-story/65214fd296a64cf0a88a515673fd46a7>
- Gregory K 2020. A predator kept targeting victims on Tinder for years. Why wasn’t he stopped sooner? *ABC News*, 6 February. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-02-07/dating-app-sexual-assault-predator-was-using-dating-profiles/11931586>
- Helm B, Vander Ven T & Welser HT 2020. The electric hookup: Individual and social risks related to hookup app use among emerging adults. In MF Wright (ed), *Recent advances in digital media impacts on identity, sexuality, and relationships*. Hershey PA: IGI Global: 62–81. <https://doi.org/10.4018/978-1-7998-1063-6.ch004>
- Henry N & Powell A 2018. Technology-facilitated sexual violence: A literature review of empirical research. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse* 19(2): 195–208. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1524838016650189>

- McGlynn C et al. 2021. 'It's torture for the soul': The harms of image-based sexual abuse. *Social & Legal Studies* 30(4): 541–562. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0964663920947791>
- McGlynn C et al. 2019. *Shattering lives and myths: A report on image-based sexual abuse. Project Report*. Durham: Durham University. <https://dro.dur.ac.uk/28683/>
- Miles S 2018. Still getting it on online: Thirty years of queer male spaces brokered through digital technologies. *Geography Compass* 12(11): e12407. <https://doi.org/10.1111/gec3.12407>
- Morgan C 2022. Melbourne teenagers arrested over alleged homophobic 'catfish' assaults. *The Age*, 5 February. <https://www.theage.com.au/national/victoria/melbourne-teenagers-arrested-over-alleged-homophobic-catfish-assaults-20220205-p59u2q.html>
- Moschella EA, Potter SJ & Moynihan MM 2020. Disclosure of sexual violence victimization and anticipated social reactions among lesbian, gay, and bisexual community college students. *Journal of Bisexuality* 20(1): 66–85. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15299716.2020.1715910>
- National Crime Agency 2016. *Emerging new threat in online dating: Initial trends in internet dating initiated serious sexual assaults*. London: National Crime Agency United Kingdom. <https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/who-we-are/publications/>
- Paat Y-F & Markham C 2021. Digital crime, trauma, and abuse: Internet safety and cyber risks for adolescents and emerging adults in the 21st century. *Social Work in Mental Health* 19(1): 18–40. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15332985.2020.1845281>
- Patel U & Roesch R 2022. The prevalence of technology-facilitated sexual violence: A meta-analysis and systematic review. *Trauma, Violence & Abuse* 23(2): 428–443. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1524838020958057>
- Phan A, Seigfried-Spellar K & Choo K-KR 2021. Threaten me softly: A review of potential dating app risks. *Computers in Human Behavior Reports* 3: 100055. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chbr.2021.100055>
- Pooley K & Boxall H 2020. Mobile dating applications and sexual and violent offending. *Trends & issues in crime and criminal justice* no. 612. Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology. <https://doi.org/10.52922/ti04862>
- Powell A & Henry N 2019. Technology-facilitated sexual violence victimization: Results from an online survey of Australian adults. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* 34(17): 3637–3665. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0886260516672055>
- Rasdien P 2022. Ascot man charged over drugging and raping women he met via online dating site. *Perth Now*, 28 January. <https://www.perthnow.com.au/news/crime/ascot-man-charged-over-drugging-and-raping-women-he-met-via-online-dating-site-c-5473412>
- Richardson HB, Armstrong JL, Hines DA & Reed KMP 2015. Sexual violence and help-seeking among LGBQ and heterosexual college students. *Partner Abuse* 6(1): 29–46. <https://doi.org/10.1891/1946-6560.6.1.29>

- Rowse J, Bolt C & Gaya S 2020. Swipe right: The emergence of dating-app facilitated sexual assault: A descriptive retrospective audit of forensic examination caseload in an Australian metropolitan service. *Forensic Science, Medicine and Pathology* 16(1): 71–77. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12024-019-00201-7>
- Sharpe D 2015. Your chi-square test is statistically significant: Now what? *Practical Assessment, Research, and Evaluation* 20(8): 1–10. <https://doi.org/10.7275/tbfa-x148>
- Shearing H 2021. Tinder boss says Covid changed how we swipe right. *BBC News*, 22 June. <https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-57557180>
- Snaychuk LA & O'Neill ML 2020. Technology-facilitated sexual violence: Prevalence, risk, and resiliency in undergraduate students. *Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment & Trauma* 29(8): 984–999. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10926771.2019.1710636>
- Stardust Z, Gillett R & Albury K 2022. Surveillance does not equal safety: Police, data and consent on dating apps. *Crime, Media, Culture*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1177/17416590221111827>
- TransHub 2021. Language. www.transhub.org.au/language
- Triple J 2017. *Manipulation, abuse, deceit: How I learnt about 'stealthing' from a Tinder date*. ABC. <https://www.abc.net.au/triplej/programs/hack/manipulation-abuse-deceit-how-i-learnt-about-stealthing/8480696>
- Tzani C 2022. 'Sextortion' leads to financial losses and psychological trauma. Here's what to look out for on dating apps. *The Conversation*. <https://theconversation.com/sextortion-leads-to-financial-losses-and-psychological-trauma-heres-what-to-look-out-for-on-dating-apps-174317>
- Woerner J 2022. College students' experiences of dating app facilitated sexual violence and associations with mental health symptoms and well-being. *PsyArXiv*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/y6uka>
- Ybarra ML & Mitchell KJ 2016. A national study of lesbian, gay, bisexual (LGB), and non-LGB youth sexual behavior online and in-person. *Archives of Sexual Behavior* 45(6): 1357–1372. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10508-015-0491-7>
- Zhou ZB 2022. Compulsory interracial intimacy: Why does removing the ethnicity filter on dating apps not benefit racial minorities? *Media, Culture & Society* 44(5): 1034–1043. <https://doi.org/10.1177/01634437221104712>

Appendix: Survey tool

Survey landing page 1

PROGRAMMER NOTE: [Timestamp Q1-SC3]

Thank you for taking the time to learn a bit more about this survey. First we would like you to answer some questions so that we can get to know you better.

[Single]

Q1. How do you describe your gender?

1. Man or Male
2. Woman or Female
3. Non-binary
4. I/they use a different term (Please Specify) _____
99. Prefer not to answer

IF Q1=99 TERMINATE

[Single]

SC1. How old are you?

1. 14–17 years
2. 18–24 years
3. 25–34 years
4. 35–44 years
5. 45–54 years
6. 55+ years
99. Prefer not to say

IF SC1=1 OR 99 TERMINATE

[QUANTITY: 800-7999 VALID] [CHECK AGAINST LIST OF VALID AUSTRALIAN POSTCODES PROVIDED SEPARATELY]

SC1a. Please type your postcode into the following box.

If you do not know your postcode type 9999

PROGRAMMING NOTE: Those with invalid postcode should receive a warning message saying 'The postcode provided is invalid. If you don't know your postcode please enter 9999'.

PROGRAMMING NOTE: IF SC1a=9999, ASK:

[Single]

SDARE. STANDARD DEMOGRAPHIC QUESTION

Please indicate the area in which you live

1. Australian Capital Territory
2. Sydney
3. NSW excluding Sydney
4. Melbourne
5. Victoria excluding Melbourne
6. Brisbane
7. Queensland excluding Brisbane
8. Adelaide
9. South Australia excluding Adelaide
10. Northern Territory
11. Hobart
12. Tasmania excluding Hobart
13. Perth
14. Western Australia excluding Perth
15. Outside Australia
99. Prefer not to say

IF SDARE=15 OR 99 TERMINATE

[HIDDEN]

HIDPCODE: FOR QUOTAS PURPOSES CONVERT SC1a OR SDARE TO VALUE

Sydney	1
Rest of New South Wales (Inc. ACT)	2
Melbourne	3
Rest of Victoria	4
Brisbane	5
Rest of Queensland	6
Adelaide	7
Rest of South Australia (Inc. NT)	8
Perth	9
Rest of Western Australia	10
Tasmania	11

[Single]

SC2. In the last 5 years, have you ever used a mobile dating app or a dating website?

Mobile dating apps or dating websites enable people to find and introduce themselves to potential connections (e.g. Tinder, eHarmony, OkCupid, etc.).

1. Yes
2. No
98. Don't know

ASK ALL

[Multiple]

Q2. In the last 5 years, which mobile dating apps or dating websites have you used, if any?

Select all that apply

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Adult Friend Finder | 21. Hukup |
| 2. AussieCupid | 22. Jack'd |
| 3. Badoo | 23. Kippo |
| 4. Bumble | 24. Match |
| 5. Coffee Meets Bagel | 25. OkCupid |
| 6. Clover | 26. Passion |
| 7. Cuddli | 27. Plenty of Fish |
| 8. eHarmony | 28. Raya |
| 9. Elite Singles | 29. RSVP |
| 10. Fairy Trail | 30. Scruff |
| 11. Facebook Dating | 31. Silver Singles |
| 12. Grindr | 32. Sugarbook |
| 13. Growlr | 33. Taimi |
| 14. Happn | 34. Tastebuds |
| 15. Hater | 35. The League |
| 16. Helium | 36. Tinder |
| 17. HER | 37. Wapa |
| 18. Hinge | 38. Wapo |
| 19. Hornet | 39. Wingman |
| 20. Huggle | 40. Zoosk |

96. I haven't used any mobile dating apps or dating websites in the last 5 years

97. Other, please specify _____

**IF Q2=96 AND SC2=2 OR 98, ASK Q4, THEN Q7, THEN Q10, THEN INT1, THEN INT2, THEN
TERMINATE**

[Single]

SC3. Are you currently using a mobile dating app or dating website?

1. Yes
2. No

IF RESPONDENT DOES NOT QUALIFY BEYOND SCREENING, SKIP TO SCREENOUT MESSAGE

IF RESPONDENT FALLS INTO A FULL QUOTA, SKIP TO QUOTA FULL MESSAGE

IF RESPONDENT QUALIFIES, CONTINUE

Survey landing page 2

This study asks questions of a sensitive nature.

Please confirm you are in a private location where you will not be observed by others while you complete the survey. You will need about 20 minutes to complete the survey.

Yes, I'm ready to complete the survey []

No, I don't wish to complete the survey [] [TERMINATE]

Ask me again later []

Survey landing page 3

Please read the following information carefully.

What are you asking me to do?

You are being invited to take part in a survey that looks at experiences of sexual harassment, aggression and violence among people who use mobile dating applications (apps) and websites. You will be asked about your use of mobile dating apps/websites during the last five years, your experiences of sexual harassment, aggression and violence while on these apps/websites and whether you reported these experiences to anyone.

How will you use and protect my information?

The information provided in the course of completing this survey will be used by researchers at the Australian Institute of Criminology to create publications which will help inform policy and practice to prevent sexual victimisation on mobile dating apps/websites, and improve responses to people who experience sexual harassment, aggression and violence online and in the 'real world'.

To protect your identity, at no point will your name, date of birth, address or any other identifying information be asked for or made available to the Australian Institute of Criminology. All of your responses will be kept completely anonymous and confidential.

Can I withdraw from the research?

You can choose to withdraw from the research at any time, up to the survey completion date. Your survey responses and any other data you have provided will be destroyed. To withdraw, contact Roy Morgan Research. Roy Morgan Research can remove your data without accessing your responses to the survey questions.

What if I need help?

Talking about, and answering questions regarding experiences of sexual victimisation can be distressing. If you feel distressed about this research at any point, the details of some support services are below and throughout the survey.

Lifeline: 13 11 14

1800 Respect: 1800 737 732

Beyond Blue: 1300 224 636

I have read all the information provided above	Yes
	No
I consent to participate in the survey	Yes
	No

Questionnaire body

PROGRAMMER NOTE: [Timestamp Q2-Q28]

To begin, we would like to know more about you.

[Single]

Q3. What is your current employment status?

1. Employed Full-time (35 hours or more per week)
2. Employed Part-time (Less than 35 hours per week)
3. Looking for full-time work (35 hours or more per week)
4. Looking for part-time work (Less than 35 hours per week)
5. Retired
6. Student
7. Non-Worker
8. Carer
99. Prefer not to say

[Single]

Q4. Please indicate your current approximate annual income from all sources before tax.

If you are not certain, please give your best estimate.

1. Less than \$6000
2. \$6,000 - \$9,999
3. \$10,000 - \$14,999
4. \$15,000 - \$19,999
5. \$20,000 - \$24,999
6. \$25,000 - \$29,999
7. \$30,000 - \$34,999
8. \$35,000 - \$39,999
9. \$40,000 - \$44,999
10. \$45,000 - \$49,999
11. \$50,000 - \$59,999
12. \$60,000 - \$69,999
13. \$70,000 - \$79,999
14. \$80,000 - \$89,999
15. \$90,000 - \$99,999
16. \$100,000 - \$109,999
17. \$110,000 - \$119,999
18. \$120,000 - \$129,999
19. \$130,000 - \$149,999
20. \$150,000 - \$199,999
21. \$200,000 - \$249,999
22. \$250,000 - \$299,999
23. \$300,000 Or More
98. Don't know

[Single]

Q5. What is the highest level of education you have completed to date?

1. Some Primary School
2. Finished Primary School
3. Some Secondary School
4. Some Technical Or Commercial/ TAFE
5. Passed School Certificate / Passed 4th Form / Passed Intermediate / Year 10 / Junior or Achievement certificate
6. Passed 5th Form / Year 11 / Passed Leaving or Sub-senior certificate
7. Finished Technical School / Commercial College / TAFE (including trade certificate) / other certificate or apprenticeship
8. Finished or now studying for Matriculation, Higher School Certificate (H.S.C.), V.C.E., Year 12, or Senior Certificate
9. Some University or some college of Advanced Education training
10. Diploma from College of Advanced Education or TAFE (Not Degree), Tertiary or Management Training (including Diploma other than University Degree)
11. Now at University or College of Advanced Education
12. Degree from University or College of Advanced Education
13. Higher Degree or Higher Diploma (e.g. Ph.D, Masters)
99. Prefer not to say

[Single]

Q6. Do you identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?

1. Yes – Aboriginal
2. Yes – Torres Strait Islander
3. Yes – Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
4. No
99. Prefer not to say

[Single]

Q7. What is your current relationship status?

1. Married
2. De Facto
3. Separated
4. Divorced
5. Widowed
6. Engaged
7. Planning To Marry
8. Single
99. Prefer not to say

[Single]

Q8. Which option best describes your sexual orientation?

1. Straight (Heterosexual)
2. Gay/Lesbian
3. Bisexual
97. I use a different term (Please specify)
98. Don't know
99. Prefer not to say

[Single]

Q9. Which language do you speak most of the time when you are at home?

1. English
2. Hindi
3. Mandarin
4. Italian
5. Spanish
6. Arabic (incl. Lebanese)
7. Cantonese
8. French
9. Punjabi
10. Greek
11. Vietnamese
97. Other (Please specify)
99. Prefer not to say

[Single]

Q10. What is your current residency status?

1. I am an Australian citizen or a permanent resident
2. I have a Temporary visa
3. I have a Permanent visa
98. Don't know
99. Prefer not to say

[Single]

Q11. Do you have any health condition that has lasted, or is likely to last, 6 months or longer?

This does not include pregnancy.

1. Yes
2. No
98. Don't know

PROGRAMMER NOTE: ASK IF Q10=1

[Single]

Q12. Because of this condition, are you restricted in your everyday activities/need help or supervision with everyday activities?

1. Yes
2. No
98. Don't know

PROGRAMMER NOTE: ASK ALL

[Quantity, 00-20]

Q13. How many children live with you on a full or part time basis? If you have no children living with you, please enter zero.

[Single]

INT1. In an average week, how many times in total do you use the internet?

1. 3+ times a day
2. Twice a day
3. Once a day
4. A few times a week
5. Less often

[Single]

INT2. In an average week, how many hours in total do you spend using social media (e.g. Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc.)?

1. More than 8 hours a week
2. Between 3 and 8 hours a week
3. Up to 3 hours per week
4. No social media in an average week

Now we would like to know a bit more about your use of mobile dating apps/websites in the last 5 years.

[Single]

Q14. In the last 5 years, have you primarily used mobile dating apps or online dating websites?

1. Mobile dating app
2. Dating website

[Single]

Q15. In the last 5 years, have you ever used more than one mobile dating app or dating website at the same time?

1. Yes
2. No

PROGRAMMER NOTE: ASK ALL

[Single]

Q16. How old were you when you first started using dating apps/websites?

1. Younger than 10
2. 10–12
3. 13–15
4. 16–17
5. 18–24
6. 25–34
7. 35–44
8. 45–54
9. 55 or older
98. Don't know

[Multiple]

Q17. In the last 5 years, what is the main 'connection' or relationship type you were looking for when using mobile dating apps/websites?

Select all that apply

1. Platonic friendships
2. Romantic/Intimate relationship
3. Casual sexual encounter
4. Business opportunities
5. Financial relationships
97. Other (Please Specify)

[Multiple] [Randomise codes 1-8]

Q18. What was your main motivation for using mobile dating apps/websites over more traditional forms of social networking?

Select all that apply

1. Safety
2. Social anxiety
3. Limited mobility
4. Social isolation
5. Geographic isolation
6. Ability to match with people with similar desires/interests
7. Anonymity
8. Exposure to large volume of other people
97. Other (Please Specify)

[Single]

Q19. In the last 5 years, when you were using mobile dating apps/websites the most (i.e. when you were using them the most frequently), how often were you using them?

1. More than once an hour
2. Approximately once an hour
3. Several times a day
4. Several times a week
5. Once a week or less
98. Don't know

[Single]

Q20. In the last 5 years, have you ever paid to use a mobile dating app/website (i.e. had a paid subscription)?

1. Yes – one subscription
2. Yes – multiple subscriptions
3. No
98. Don't know

[Multiple]

Q21. What type of information have you included in your mobile dating app/website profiles?

Select all that apply

1. Contact information
2. Sexuality
3. Connection type desired
4. Full name
5. Date of birth
6. Location
7. Geotags
8. Hobbies
9. Music/Interests
10. Work/industry
11. Education level
97. Other (Please Specify)

[Multiple] [Randomise codes 1-10]

Q22. In the last 5 years, what social media accounts have you linked to your dating app/website profiles?

Select all that apply

1. Facebook
2. Instagram
3. Twitter
4. Snapchat
5. Tik Tok
6. MySpace
7. YouTube
8. Tumblr
9. LinkedIn
10. Pinterest
97. Other (Please Specify)
96. None

[Single] [FLIP codes 1-5]

Q23. How often do you use other communication platforms to communicate with people you match with on dating apps/websites? e.g. WhatsApp, Facebook Messenger, Snapchat, text messaging, email, etc.

1. Very often
2. Often
3. Occasionally
4. Rarely
5. Never

[Single]

Q24. In the last 5 years, how many different people that you met on a dating app/website did you go on to meet in real life?

1. None
2. 1–5 people
3. 6–10 people
4. More than 10 people
98. Don't know
99. Prefer not to say

[Multiple]

Q25. In the last 5 years, what type(s) of relationship have you been in with someone you met on a dating app/website?

Select all that apply

1. Casual sexual relationship (e.g. 'one-night stand')
2. Regular sexual relationship
3. Casual dating/intimate relationship
4. Ongoing dating/intimate relationship
5. I have never been in a relationship with someone I met on a dating app/website
98. Don't know
99. Prefer not to say

[Multiple] [Randomise codes 1-14]

Q26. While using a mobile dating app/website in the last 5 years, have you ever done any of the following to protect yourself from experiencing sexual aggression and/or violence online?

Select all that apply

1. Blocking people
2. Unmatching people
3. Checking the individuals' social media accounts
4. Verifying photos are legitimate
5. Reducing or limiting the number of profiles you interact with at any one time
6. Establishing some form of relationship before planning to meet in person
7. Establishing personal safety and sexual health boundaries before meeting
8. Checking 'name and shame' websites (e.g. Tinder Horror Stories)
9. Not providing personal information (e.g. date of birth, residential address)
10. Deleted your account
11. Using a fake name
12. Using a fake or misleading photo
13. Having appropriate privacy settings
14. Using apps based off their privacy and security settings
97. Other (Please specify)
96. None of the above
99. Prefer not to say

Q27. Did you use mobile dating apps/websites before the COVID-19 pandemic started to affect Australia? (February 2020)

- 1. Yes
- 2. No
- 98. Don't know
- 99. Prefer not to say

PROGRAMMER NOTE: SKIP to Q29 IF Q27=1

Q28. Has your use of mobile dating apps/websites increased in the last 12 months compared to the 12-month period prior to February 2020?

- 1. Increased
- 2. Stayed the same
- 3. Decreased
- 98. Don't know
- 99. Prefer not to say

PROGRAMMER NOTE: [Timestamp Q29-Q45]

Next, we would like to ask you some questions about your experiences while you were using mobile dating apps/websites. In the **last 5 years**, has someone you met on a mobile dating app/website:

[Single]

Q29. Continued to contact you even after you told them you were not interested in having a relationship with them?

- 1. Yes – one person
- 2. Yes – multiple people
- 3. No
- 98. Don't know
- 99. Prefer not to say

[Single]

Q30. Insulted you, called you names or used abusive language that made you feel uncomfortable?

- 1. Yes – one person
- 2. Yes – multiple people
- 3. No
- 98. Don't know
- 99. Prefer not to say

[Single]

Q31. Sent you an unwanted sexually explicit message?

- 1. Yes – one person
- 2. Yes – multiple people
- 3. No
- 98. Don't know
- 99. Prefer not to say

[Single]

Q32. Pressured you to send **them** a sexually explicit message?

- 1. Yes – one person
- 2. Yes – multiple people
- 3. No
- 98. Don't know
- 99. Prefer not to say

[Single]

Q33. Sent you an unwanted sexually explicit photo or video of themselves?

- 1. Yes – one person
- 2. Yes – multiple people
- 3. No
- 98. Don't know
- 99. Prefer not to say

[Single]

Q34. Pressured you to send **them** a sexually explicit photo or video of yourself?

- 1. Yes – one person
- 2. Yes – multiple people
- 3. No
- 98. Don't know
- 99. Prefer not to say

PROGRAMMER NOTE: ASK IF Q34=1 OR 2

[Single]

Q35. On any of these occasions, did they use threats to try and get you to send them a sexually explicit photo or video of yourself?

- 1. Yes – one person
- 2. Yes – multiple people
- 3. No
- 98. Don't know
- 99. Prefer not to say

PROGRAMMER NOTE: ASK IF Q34=1 OR 2

[Single]

Q36. On any of these occasions, did you send them a video or photo of yourself even when you did not want to?

- 1. Yes – one person
- 2. Yes – multiple people
- 3. No
- 98. Don't know
- 99. Prefer not to say

PROGRAMMER NOTE: ASK ALL

[Single]

Q37. Posted offensive comments about you online that other people could see? (e.g. on your social media accounts)

- 1. Yes – one person
- 2. Yes – multiple people
- 3. No
- 98. Don't know
- 99. Prefer not to say

[Single]

Q38. Logged into one of your mobile dating app/website accounts without your permission?

- 1. Yes – one person
- 2. Yes – multiple people
- 3. No
- 98. Don't know
- 99. Prefer not to say

[Single]

Q39. Pressured you to give them information about your location or your schedule?

- 1. Yes – one person
- 2. Yes – multiple people
- 3. No
- 98. Don't know
- 99. Prefer not to say

[Single]

Q40. Pressured you to meet them in person when you did not want to?

- 1. Yes – one person
- 2. Yes – multiple people
- 3. No
- 98. Don't know
- 99. Prefer not to say

[Single]

Q41. Threatened you in any way?

- 1. Yes – one person
- 2. Yes – multiple people
- 3. No
- 98. Don't know
- 99. Prefer not to say

[Single]

Q42. Taken a non-consensual photo or video of you which was sexually explicit in nature? (e.g. via webcam)

- 1. Yes – one person
- 2. Yes – multiple people
- 3. No
- 98. Don't know
- 99. Prefer not to say

[Single]

Q43. Threatened to share a sexually explicit image or video of you without your consent?

- 1. Yes – one person
- 2. Yes – multiple people
- 3. No
- 98. Don't know
- 99. Prefer not to say

[Single]

Q44. Shared a sexually explicit photo of you with others without your consent?

- 1. Yes – one person
- 2. Yes – multiple people
- 3. No
- 98. Don't know
- 99. Prefer not to say

PROGRAMMER NOTE: Skip to Q55 if Q29-Q44 = No

We just asked you questions about experiences of online sexual harassment, aggression and violence while using a mobile dating app/website. Thank you for providing this information. We are now going to ask you about whether you reported any of these experiences to different organisations and individuals.

[Multiple]

Q45. In the last 5 years, have you reported any experiences of online sexual aggression, harassment and violence you experienced on a mobile dating app/website to:

Select all that apply

1. Police
2. Mobile dating app/website company
3. eSafety
4. Consumer reporting agency (e.g. ReportCyber)
5. Family members
6. Friends
7. Work colleagues
8. Educators/Employers
97. Other (Please specify)
9. No, I didn't report it/them
98. Don't know
99. Prefer not to say

PROGRAMMER NOTE: [Timestamp Q46-Q48]

PROGRAMMER NOTE: ASK IF Q45 SELECTED 'POLICE' (Q45=1)

Thinking about the most recent incident which you reported to the police, please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements:

[Single][FLIP codes 1-5]

Q46. The police took the incident seriously

1. Strongly agree
2. Agree
3. Neither agree or disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly disagree
99. Prefer not to say

[Single]

Q46a. Did the police investigate the incident?

1. Yes
2. No
98. Don't know
99. Prefer not to say

PROGRAMMER NOTE: ask if Q46A=1

[Single][FLIP codes 1-5]

Q47. The police explained to me what the process would be for investigating the incident

1. Strongly agree
2. Agree
3. Neither agree or disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly disagree
99. Prefer not to say

PROGRAMMER NOTE: ask if Q46A=1

[Single][FLIP codes 1-5]

Q47a. The police kept me updated about the progress of the investigation

1. Strongly agree
2. Agree
3. Neither agree or disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly disagree
99. Prefer not to say

PROGRAMMER NOTE: ask if Q46A=1

[Single][FLIP codes 1-5]

Q47b. I was satisfied with the outcome of the police's investigation

1. Strongly agree
2. Agree
3. Neither agree or disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly disagree
99. Prefer not to say

PROGRAMMER NOTE: ask if Q45=1, selected 'Police'

[Single][FLIP codes 1-5]

Q47c. The police provided me with information about other services that could assist me e.g. sexual assault services

- 1. Strongly agree
- 2. Agree
- 3. Neither agree or disagree
- 4. Disagree
- 5. Strongly disagree
- 99. Prefer not to say

PROGRAMMER NOTE: ask if Q45=1, selected 'Police'

[Single][FLIP codes 1-5]

Q48. I would report to the police again

- 1. Strongly agree
- 2. Agree
- 3. Neither agree or disagree
- 4. Disagree
- 5. Strongly disagree
- 99. Prefer not to say

PROGRAMMER NOTE: [Timestamp Q49-Q54]

PROGRAMMER NOTE: ask if Q45=2, selected 'Mobile dating app/website company'

Thinking about the most recent incident which you reported to the mobile dating app/website company, please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements

[Single] [FLIP codes 1-5]

Q49. The mobile dating app/website company took my report seriously

- 1. Strongly agree
- 2. Agree
- 3. Neither agree or disagree
- 4. Disagree
- 5. Strongly disagree
- 99. Prefer not to say

PROGRAMMER NOTE: ask if Q45=2, selected 'Mobile dating app/website company'

[Single] [FLIP codes 1-5]

Q50. The mobile dating app/website made me feel like they were going to do something to protect me and other people from the perpetrator

- 1. Strongly agree
- 2. Agree
- 3. Neither agree or disagree
- 4. Disagree
- 5. Strongly disagree
- 99. Prefer not to say

PROGRAMMER NOTE: ask if Q45=2, selected 'Mobile dating app/website company'

[Single]

Q50a. Did the mobile dating app/website investigate the incident?

- 1. Yes
- 2. No
- 98. Don't know
- 99. Prefer not to say

PROGRAMMER NOTE: ask if Q50a=1

[Single] [FLIP codes 1-5]

Q50b. The mobile dating app/website kept me updated about the progress of the investigation

- 1. Strongly agree
- 2. Agree
- 3. Neither agree or disagree
- 4. Disagree
- 5. Strongly disagree
- 99. Prefer not to say

PROGRAMMER NOTE: ask if Q50a=1

[Single] [FLIP codes 1-5]

Q50c. I was satisfied with the outcome of the mobile dating app/website's investigation

1. Strongly agree
2. Agree
3. Neither agree or disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly disagree
99. Prefer not to say

PROGRAMMER NOTE: ask if Q45=2, selected 'Mobile dating app/website company'

[Single] [FLIP codes 1-5]

Q50d. The mobile dating app/website provided me with information about other services that could assist me e.g. sexual assault services

1. Strongly agree
2. Agree
3. Neither agree or disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly disagree
99. Prefer not to say

PROGRAMMER NOTE: ask if Q45=2, selected 'Mobile dating app/website company'

[Single] [FLIP codes 1-5]

Q51. I would report to the mobile dating app/website again

1. Strongly agree
2. Agree
3. Neither agree or disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly disagree
99. Prefer not to say

PROGRAMMER NOTE: ask if Q45=NOT 1, did not select 'Police'

[Multiple] [Randomise codes 1-13]

Q52. What were your reasons for not reporting the incident to the police?

Select all that apply

1. I felt ashamed or embarrassed
2. I did not want the person responsible to be arrested
3. I did not regard the incident as a serious offence
4. I did not know or think the incident was a crime
5. I did not think there was anything the police could do
6. I did not trust the police
7. I did not think the police would do anything
8. I felt I would not be believed
9. I was afraid of the person responsible
10. I was afraid of the legal processes
11. Cultural reasons
12. I did not want to ask for help
13. I felt I could deal with it myself
97. Other (Please specify)
96. None of the above
99. Prefer not to say

PROGRAMMER NOTE: ask if Q45=NOT 2, did not select 'Mobile dating app'

[Multiple] [Randomise codes 1-11]

Q53. What were your reasons for not reporting the incident to the mobile dating app/website company?

Select all that apply

1. I felt ashamed or embarrassed
2. I did not want the person responsible to get in trouble
3. I did not regard the incident as a serious offence
4. I did not think there was anything they could do
5. I did not trust the company
6. I did not think the company would do anything
7. I felt I would not be believed
8. I was afraid of the person responsible
9. Cultural reasons
10. I did not know how to make a report
11. I did not believe the behaviour violated the terms and conditions of the app/website
97. Other (Please specify)
96. None of the above
99. Prefer not to say

PROGRAMMER NOTE: ask ALL

[Single]

Q54. In the last 5 years, after an experience of sexual violence/aggression that occurred on a mobile dating app/website, did the perpetrator 'unmatch' with you, 'block' you or delete their account to remove evidence of their conversations with you?

1. Yes – one person has done this
2. Yes – multiple people have done this
3. No
98. Don't know
99. Prefer not to say

PROGRAMMER NOTE: [Timestamp Q55-Q63]

PROGRAMMER NOTE: ASK ALL, EXCEPT Q26=1

Now we would like to ask you some questions about your experiences with people that you have met in person after connecting on a mobile dating app/website. In the **last 5 years**, has someone you met on a mobile dating app/website...

[Single]

Q55. Pressured you verbally to perform unwanted sexual acts? (e.g. making promises, lying, repeatedly asking or insisting etc.)

- 1. Yes – one person
- 2. Yes – multiple people
- 3. No
- 98. Don't know
- 99. Prefer not to say

[Single]

Q56. Used, or threatened to use, physical force to force you to perform unwanted sexual acts?

- 1. Yes – one person
- 2. Yes – multiple people
- 3. No
- 98. Don't know
- 99. Prefer not to say

[Single]

Q57. Spiked your drink to try and coerce you into performing a sexual act?

- 1. Yes – one person
- 2. Yes – multiple people
- 3. No
- 98. Don't know
- 99. Prefer not to say

[Single]

Q58. Attempted to engage in a sexual act with you when you could not consent?

- 1. Yes – one person
- 2. Yes – multiple people
- 3. No
- 98. Don't know
- 99. Prefer not to say

[Single]

Q59. Taken off their condom during intercourse without your consent or refused to wear a condom?

- 1. Yes – one person
- 2. Yes – multiple people
- 3. No
- 98. Don't know
- 99. Prefer not to say

[Single]

Q60. Taken photos or videotaped you engaging in sexual acts without your knowledge or consent?

- 1. Yes – one person
- 2. Yes – multiple people
- 3. No
- 98. Don't know
- 99. Prefer not to say

[Single]

Q61. Lied about their sexual health status? (e.g. whether they had a sexually transmitted disease like herpes)

- 1. Yes – one person
- 2. Yes – multiple people
- 3. No
- 98. Don't know
- 99. Prefer not to say

[Single]

Q62. Loitered around, followed you or shown up inappropriately to your home, school, or workplace?

- 1. Yes – one person
- 2. Yes – multiple people
- 3. No
- 98. Don't know
- 99. Prefer not to say

PROGRAMMER NOTE: Skip to INTRO BEFORE Q73, if Q55-Q62 = No OR not applicable (q26=1)

[Multiple]

Q63. We just asked you about experiences of sexual aggression and violence that may have occurred in the 'real world'. Thinking about the most recent experience of sexual aggression and violence you experienced after meeting someone in the real world after communicating with them on a mobile dating app/website...

Did you report any experience of sexual violence from someone you met on a mobile dating app/website to any of the following agencies/individuals?

Select all that apply

1. Police
2. Mobile dating app/website company
3. Family members
4. Friends
5. Work colleagues
6. Educators/Employers
97. Other (Please specify)
7. No, I didn't report it/them
98. Don't know
99. Prefer not to say

PROGRAMMER NOTE: Skip to INTRO BEFORE Q67 if Q63=2 AND NOT code 1, selected 'Mobile dating app/website company' & did not select 'Police'

PROGRAMMER NOTE: Skip to Q70 if Q63=NOT code (1 OR 2), did not select 'Police' or 'Mobile dating app/website company'

PROGRAMMER NOTE: [Timestamp Q64-Q66]

PROGRAMMER NOTE: ask if Q63=1, selected 'Police'

Thinking about the most recent incident which you reported to the police, please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements

[Single] [FLIP codes 1-5]

Q64. The police took the incident seriously

1. Strongly agree
2. Agree
3. Neither agree or disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly disagree
99. Prefer not to say

PROGRAMMER NOTE: ask if Q63=1, selected 'Police'

[Single]

Q64a. Did the police investigate the incident?

- 1. Yes
- 2. No
- 98. Don't know
- 99. Prefer not to say

PROGRAMMER NOTE: ask if Q64A=1, selected 'Police'

[Single] [FLIP codes 1-5]

Q65. The police explained to me what the process would be for investigating the incident

- 1. Strongly agree
- 2. Agree
- 3. Neither agree or disagree
- 4. Disagree
- 5. Strongly disagree
- 99. Prefer not to say

PROGRAMMER NOTE: ask if Q64A=1

[Single][FLIP codes 1-5]

Q65a. The police kept me updated about the progress of the investigation

- 1. Strongly agree
- 2. Agree
- 3. Neither agree or disagree
- 4. Disagree
- 5. Strongly disagree
- 99. Prefer not to say

PROGRAMMER NOTE: ask if Q64A=1

[Single][FLIP codes 1-5]

Q65b. I was satisfied with the outcome of the police's investigation

1. Strongly agree
2. Agree
3. Neither agree or disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly disagree
99. Prefer not to say

PROGRAMMER NOTE: ask if Q63=1, selected 'Police'

[Single][FLIP codes 1-5]

Q65c. The police provided me with information about other services that could assist me e.g. sexual assault services

1. Strongly agree
2. Agree
3. Neither agree or disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly disagree
99. Prefer not to say

PROGRAMMER NOTE: ask if Q63=1, selected 'Police'

[Single] [FLIP codes 1-5]

Q66. I would report to the police again

1. Strongly agree
2. Agree
3. Neither agree or disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly disagree
99. Prefer not to say

PROGRAMMER NOTE: [Timestamp Q67-Q72]

PROGRAMMER NOTE: ask if Q63=2, selected 'Mobile dating app/website company'

Thinking about the most recent incident which you reported to the mobile dating app/website company, please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements

[Single] [FLIP codes 1-5]

Q67. The mobile dating app/website company took my report seriously

- 1. Strongly agree
- 2. Agree
- 3. Neither agree or disagree
- 4. Disagree
- 5. Strongly disagree
- 99. Prefer not to say

PROGRAMMER NOTE: ask if Q63=2, selected 'Mobile dating app/website company'

[Single] [FLIP codes 1-5]

Q68. The mobile dating app/website made me feel like they were going to do something to protect me and other people from the perpetrator

- 1. Strongly agree
- 2. Agree
- 3. Neither agree or disagree
- 4. Disagree
- 5. Strongly disagree
- 99. Prefer not to say

PROGRAMMER NOTE: ask if Q63=2, selected 'Mobile dating app/website company'

[Single]

Q68a. Did the mobile dating app/website investigate the incident?

- 1. Yes
- 2. No
- 98. Don't know
- 99. Prefer not to say

PROGRAMMER NOTE: ask if Q68a=1

[Single] [FLIP codes 1-5]

Q68b. The mobile dating app/website kept me updated about the progress of the investigation

1. Strongly agree
2. Agree
3. Neither agree or disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly disagree
99. Prefer not to say

PROGRAMMER NOTE: ask if Q68a=1

[Single] [FLIP codes 1-5]

Q68c. I was satisfied with the outcome of the mobile dating app/website's investigation

1. Strongly agree
2. Agree
3. Neither agree or disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly disagree
99. Prefer not to say

PROGRAMMER NOTE: ask if Q63=2, selected 'Mobile dating app/website company'

[Single] [FLIP codes 1-5]

Q68d. The mobile dating app/website provided me with information about other services that could assist me e.g. sexual assault services

1. Strongly agree
2. Agree
3. Neither agree or disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly disagree
99. Prefer not to say

PROGRAMMER NOTE: ask if Q63=2, selected 'Mobile dating app/website company'

[Single] [FLIP codes 1-5]

Q69. I would report to the mobile dating app/website again

1. Strongly agree
2. Agree
3. Neither agree or disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly disagree
99. Prefer not to say

PROGRAMMER NOTE: ask if Q63=NOT CODE 1, did not select 'Police'

[Multiple] [Randomise codes 1-13]

Q70. What were your reasons for not reporting the incident to the police?

Select all that apply

1. I felt ashamed or embarrassed
2. I did not want the person responsible to be arrested
3. I did not regard the incident as a serious offence
4. I did not know or think the incident was a crime
5. I did not think there was anything the police could do
6. I did not trust the police
7. I did not think the police would do anything
8. I felt I would not be believed
9. I was afraid of the person responsible
10. I was afraid of the legal processes
11. Cultural reasons
12. I did not want to ask for help
13. I felt I could deal with it myself
97. Other (Please specify)
96. None of the above
99. Prefer not to say

PROGRAMMER NOTE: ask if Q63=NOT CODE 2, did not select 'Mobile dating app/website company'

[Multiple] [Randomise codes 1-11]

Q71. What were your reasons for not reporting the incident to the mobile dating app/website company?

Select all that apply

1. I felt ashamed or embarrassed
2. I did not want the person responsible to get in trouble
3. I did not regard the incident as a serious offence
4. I did not think there was anything they could do
5. I did not trust the company
6. I did not think the company would do anything
7. I felt I would not be believed
8. I was afraid of the person responsible
9. Cultural reasons
10. I did not know how to make a report
11. I did not believe the behaviour violated the terms and conditions of the app/website
97. Other (Please specify)
96. None of the above
99. Prefer not to say

PROGRAMMER NOTE: ASK ALL

[Single]

Q72. In the last 5 years, after an experience of sexual violence/aggression that occurred in the real world after meeting the perpetrator on a mobile dating app/website, did the perpetrator 'unmatch' with you, 'block' you or delete their account to remove evidence of their conversations with you?

1. Yes – one person has done this
2. Yes – multiple people have done this
3. No
98. Don't know

PROGRAMMER NOTE: [Timestamp Q73-Q93]

Finally, we would like to ask you some questions about your experiences with individuals that you have communicated with on a mobile dating app/website over your lifetime, **not limited to the last 5 years.**

Has someone you met on a mobile dating app/website ever...

[Single]

Q73. Offered you party drugs or other illicit substances?

- 1. Yes – one person has done this
- 2. Yes – multiple people have done this
- 3. No
- 98. Don't know
- 99. Prefer not to say

[Single]

Q74. Offered you an opportunity to travel with them or others?

- 1. Yes – one person has done this
- 2. Yes – multiple people have done this
- 3. No
- 98. Don't know
- 99. Prefer not to say

[Single]

Q75. Offered you a job opportunity in Australia or overseas (e.g. modelling, acting, hospitality, travel, au pair/childcare, environmental protection/conservation, etc.)?

- 1. Yes – one person has done this
- 2. Yes – multiple people have done this
- 3. No
- 98. Don't know
- 99. Prefer not to say

PROGRAMMER NOTE: ASK IF Q75=1 OR 2

[Multiple]

Q76. What was this job opportunity?

Select all that apply

1. Modelling
2. Acting
3. Hospitality
4. Childcare
5. Environmental protection/Conservation
6. Manual labour
7. Sex work
97. Other (please specify)
99. Prefer not to say

PROGRAMMER NOTE: ASK ALL

[Single]

Q77. Offered you an education/study opportunity in Australia or overseas?

1. Yes – one person has done this
2. Yes – multiple people have done this
3. No
98. Don't know
99. Prefer not to say

[Single]

Q78. Offered to sponsor you or marry you so you could stay in Australia or travel to meet them in another country?

1. Yes – one person has done this
2. Yes – multiple people have done this
3. No
98. Don't know
99. Prefer not to say

[Single]

Q79. Pressured you to sponsor their visa application so they could stay/enter Australia?

- 1. Yes – one person has done this
- 2. Yes – multiple people have done this
- 3. No
- 98. Don't know
- 99. Prefer not to say

PROGRAMMER NOTE: SKIP TO Q86 IF Q73-Q79= 'NO'

[Single]

Q80. Has anyone you met on a mobile dating app/website ever kept your identity documents from you? (e.g. passport, driver's licence)

- 1. Yes – one person has done this
- 2. Yes – multiple people have done this
- 3. No
- 98. Don't know
- 99. Prefer not to say

[Single]

Q81. Told you that you owed them money or owed them more money than was previously agreed?

(e.g. job-finding fees, work visa fees and study fees)?

- 1. Yes – one person has done this
- 2. Yes – multiple people have done this
- 3. No
- 98. Don't know
- 99. Prefer not to say

[Single]

Q82. Charged very high levels of interest for any money they lent you to pay for things like travel or applications for visas?

- 1. Yes – one person has done this
- 2. Yes – multiple people have done this
- 3. No
- 98. Don't know
- 99. Prefer not to say

[Single]

Q83. Forced you to work without pay or for very low pay? (e.g. domestic work, childcare, sex work)

- 1. Yes – one person has done this
- 2. Yes – multiple people have done this
- 3. No
- 98. Don't know
- 99. Prefer not to say

[Single]

Q84. Forced you to participate in sexual activities with themselves and/or other people?

- 1. Yes – one person has done this
- 2. Yes – multiple people have done this
- 3. No
- 98. Don't know
- 99. Prefer not to say

[Single]

Q85. Threatened you or your loved ones if you did not comply with their demands?

- 1. Yes – one person has done this
- 2. Yes – multiple people have done this
- 3. No
- 98. Don't know
- 99. Prefer not to say

Has someone you met on a mobile dating app/website, **not limited to the last 5 years**, ever...

[Multiple]

Q86. Asked you to send them photos of your children or other children/young people you have contact with?

Select all that apply

- 1. Yes, my children (under age of 18)
- 2. Yes, other children I have access to (under age of 18)
- 3. Yes, younger friends (under age of 18)
- 4. Yes, family members (under age of 18)
- 5. No
- 98. Don't know
- 99. Prefer not to say

PROGRAMMER NOTE: ASK IF Q86= 1-4

[Multiple]

Q87. On any of these occasions, were you pressured to provide sexual images of your children or other children/young people you have contact with?

Select all that apply

- 1. Yes, my children (under age of 18)
- 2. Yes, other children I have access to (under age of 18)
- 3. Yes, younger friends (under age of 18)
- 4. Yes, family members (under age of 18)
- 5. No
- 98. Don't know
- 99. Prefer not to say

PROGRAMMER NOTE: ASK ALL

[Multiple]

Q88. Asked if they could meet your children or other children/young people you have contact with before you felt it was appropriate?

Select all that apply

- 1. Yes, my children (under age of 18)
- 2. Yes, other children I have access to (under age of 18)
- 3. Yes, younger friends (under age of 18)
- 4. Yes, family members (under age of 18)
- 5. No
- 98. Don't know
- 99. Prefer not to say

PROGRAMMER NOTE: ASK ALL

[Multiple]

Q89. Asked questions of a sexual nature about your children or other children/young people you have contact with? (e.g. if they have had their period yet, their breast size)

Select all that apply

- 1. Yes, my children (under age of 18)
- 2. Yes, other children I have access to (under age of 18)
- 3. Yes, younger friends (under age of 18)
- 4. Yes, family members (under age of 18)
- 5. No
- 98. Don't know
- 99. Prefer not to say

[Multiple]

Q90. Offered to pay you for photos/videos of your children or other children/young people you have contact with, or to have them perform on webcam?

Select all that apply

- 1. Yes, my children (under age of 18)
- 2. Yes, other children I have access to (under age of 18)
- 3. Yes, younger friends (under age of 18)
- 4. Yes, family members (under age of 18)
- 5. No
- 98. Don't know
- 99. Prefer not to say

PROGRAMMER NOTE: ASK IF Q17= 1-4, BELOW THE AGE OF 18

Your answers at the beginning of the survey indicated that you were below the age of 18 when you first started using mobile dating apps/websites. When you under the age of 18, did someone you connected with on a dating app/website, **who knew your real age**, ever do any of the following?

[Single]

Q91. Asked you to send sexual photos/videos of yourself?

- 1. Yes – one person
- 2. Yes – multiple people
- 3. No
- 98. Don't know
- 99. Prefer not to say

[Single]

Q92. Asked if they could meet you in person?

- 1. Yes – one person
- 2. Yes – multiple people
- 3. No
- 98. Don't know
- 99. Prefer not to say

[Single]

Q93. Offered to pay you for photos or videos of yourself or to be on webcam for them?

- 1. Yes – one person
- 2. Yes – multiple people
- 3. No
- 98. Don't know
- 99. Prefer not to say

PROGRAMMER NOTE: ASK ALL

Survey end page

Thank you for your response and participation in this survey. Please see the details of various support services below:

Emergency services (available 24/7)

Police/ambulance/fire: 000

Lifeline Australia: 13 11 14, or visit the website: <https://www.lifeline.org.au>

Other services (available 24/7)

National Sexual Assault and Domestic Family Violence Counselling Service (1800RESPECT): 1800 737 732, or visit the website: <https://1800respect.org.au/>

SANE Australia: 1800 187 263

Relationships Australia: 1300 364 277

Beyond Blue: 1300 224 636, or visit the website: <https://www.beyondblue.org.au/>

Online services:

1800RESPECT has several safety apps that are available to download: <https://www.1800respect.org.au/safety-apps-mobile-phones>

The Daisy app provides contact details of local support services. The app contains safety features to protect your privacy and browser history

The Sexual Assault Report Anonymously (SARA) app allows you to report sexual assault or harassment experiences and is then passed on anonymously to police

Emergency+ uses a phone's GPS to help a Triple Zero (000) caller provide critical location details to emergency services.

AIC reports

Research Report

Dr Heather Wolbers is a Senior Research Analyst at the Australian Institute of Criminology.

Dr Hayley Boxall is the Manager of the Violence against Women and Children Research Program at the Australian Institute of Criminology.

Cameron Long is a former Research Officer at the Australian Institute of Criminology.

Adam Gunnoo is a former intern at the Australian Institute of Criminology.

Australia's national research and
knowledge centre on crime and justice

aic.gov.au