

YouGov - Sex and pain

Sample: 2,097 UK adults aged 18+

Fieldwork: 20th - 21st September 2021

Total	Gender		Age					Heterosexual	
	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55+	Heterosexual Male	Heterosexual Female

For the following questions, by "sexually active", we mean engaging in sexual activities such as giving or getting a hand-job/ clitoral stimulation, oral sex, or penetrative sex. Have you been sexually active in the past six months?

Unweighted base	2097	993	1104	104	291	390	358	954	826	954
Base: All UK Adults	2094	1016	1078	232	283	397	347	835	812	915
Yes, I have	54%	58%	50%	57%	73%	70%	59%	36%	58%	50%
No, I haven't	38%	36%	39%	37%	22%	23%	32%	52%	35%	40%
Prefer not to say	9%	6%	11%	5%	5%	7%	9%	12%	6%	9%

As a reminder by "sexually active", we mean engaging in sexual activities such as giving or getting a hand-job/ clitoral stimulation, oral sex, or penetrative sex. Have you ever been sexually active?

Unweighted base	789	356	433	37	60	82	116	494	299	387
Base: All UK Adults who have not been sexually active p6m	776	361	416	87	60	89	111	429	286	363
Yes, I have	78%	76%	79%	19%	73%	74%	89%	89%	81%	83%
No, I haven't	20%	23%	18%	80%	23%	22%	8%	10%	18%	14%
Prefer not to say	2%	1%	3%	1%	4%	5%	3%	1%	0%	3%

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Thinking about when you have sex...How often do you or your partner experience pain or discomfort that means you/ they are unable to fully enjoy it and/ or have to stop? (If you are not currently sexually active, think back to when you last were)

Yourself

	Unweighted base	1605	815	790	63	240	315	284	703	687	709
Base: All UK Adults who are sexually active		1573	805	768	135	232	320	276	611	663	681
Every time		2%	1%	3%	3%	2%	3%	2%	1%	1%	2%
Most times		4%	2%	6%	3%	6%	5%	4%	2%	2%	6%
Sometimes		13%	8%	18%	28%	17%	11%	14%	9%	7%	18%
Rarely		28%	26%	30%	25%	31%	31%	22%	28%	26%	29%
Never		46%	57%	34%	38%	37%	45%	49%	49%	59%	36%
Don't know		2%	2%	2%	3%	3%	0%	2%	2%	2%	2%
Prefer not to say		6%	5%	7%	-	4%	5%	7%	8%	5%	7%

The person you're having sex with

	Unweighted base	1611	821	790	63	240	316	289	703	692	709
Base: All UK Adults who are sexually active		1578	810	768	135	232	320	280	611	667	681
Every time		1%	1%	0%	-	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	0%
Most times		2%	4%	1%	5%	4%	2%	2%	2%	3%	1%
Sometimes		9%	15%	3%	11%	7%	9%	10%	9%	16%	3%
Rarely		25%	31%	19%	24%	27%	30%	23%	24%	31%	18%
Never		50%	39%	61%	49%	52%	48%	51%	50%	39%	63%
Don't know		6%	5%	8%	12%	5%	6%	6%	6%	5%	8%
Prefer not to say		6%	5%	7%	-	4%	5%	7%	8%	5%	7%

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You said you experience pain or discomfort during sex. How often do you tell the person you're having sex with about it?

Unweighted base	730	289	441	39	133	157	121	280	233	389
Base: All UK Adults who have ever felt pain/ discomfort during sex	728	294	434	80	128	159	117	245	230	375
Always	37%	29%	42%	53%	41%	42%	36%	25%	27%	39%
Mostly	17%	15%	18%	9%	24%	15%	18%	16%	16%	18%
Sometimes	18%	15%	20%	18%	16%	18%	15%	20%	14%	20%
Rarely	16%	23%	12%	-	12%	13%	17%	26%	23%	14%
Never	10%	15%	6%	18%	5%	10%	9%	10%	18%	6%
Don't know	2%	2%	1%	-	1%	1%	2%	3%	2%	1%
Prefer not to say	1%	1%	2%	2%	-	1%	3%	2%	1%	2%

You said you experience pain during sex and have told the person you had sex with about it. How understanding, if at all, is the person you're having sex with generally when this happens? (By this we mean e.g. taking your pain seriously, showing consideration and offering to stop or change what they're doing)

Unweighted base	644	244	400	35	124	139	105	241	194	352
Base: All UK Adults who have ever felt pain/ discomfort during sex and told the person	636	242	394	63	120	141	101	211	183	340
Very understanding	63%	59%	65%	73%	74%	64%	56%	56%	59%	64%
Fairly understanding	28%	32%	26%	24%	22%	30%	26%	33%	30%	27%
Not very understanding	4%	2%	5%	3%	3%	5%	6%	3%	2%	5%
Not at all understanding	3%	2%	3%	-	1%	1%	7%	3%	2%	4%
Don't know	2%	4%	1%	-	1%	-	5%	3%	5%	1%
Prefer not to say	1%	2%	-	-	-	-	1%	1%	2%	-

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You have said that you have not been sexually active in the past six months, and that you previously experienced pain or discomfort preventing you from fully enjoying sex. How much of a factor was this pain/discomfort in you being no longer sexually active?

	Unweighted base	226	84	142	3	22	26	41	134	69	131
Base: All UK Adults who have ever felt pain/ discomfort during sex and haven't been sexually active in p6m		210	76	134	8	21	26	39	116	62	122
A big factor	12%	11%	13%	-	8%	10%	15%	13%	13%	14%	
A moderate factor	9%	4%	12%	-	28%	3%	17%	5%	3%	11%	
A minor factor	15%	8%	20%	13%	9%	19%	17%	15%	7%	20%	
Not a factor at all	60%	74%	52%	87%	55%	67%	51%	61%	73%	53%	
Don't know	2%	2%	1%	-	-	-	-	3%	3%	1%	
Prefer not to say	1%	1%	1%	-	-	-	-	2%	1%	1%	

Cell Contents (Column Percentages)