

# Irish attitudes to consent, sexual violence and culture

2025 Benchmark Research



Research was undertaken by **Opinions Research** and creative agency **Language** in April 2025.



Research was undertaken via an online omnibus survey with a nationally representative sample of **973** adults in Ireland.

**93%** say they **have an understanding** of the issues and challenges related to a lack of consent in society

*but think only **62%** of general public do*



**47%** of the total population say they would **like to know more** about consent.

**76%** agree that “I am **comfortable having consent conversations with my friends**”

*which drops to **64%** of men aged 35-54*





**69%** agree that “It is up to **schools** to ensure young people understand consent”

*a view most strongly held by **women under 35***

**87%** agree that “It is up to **parents** to ensure their children understand consent”

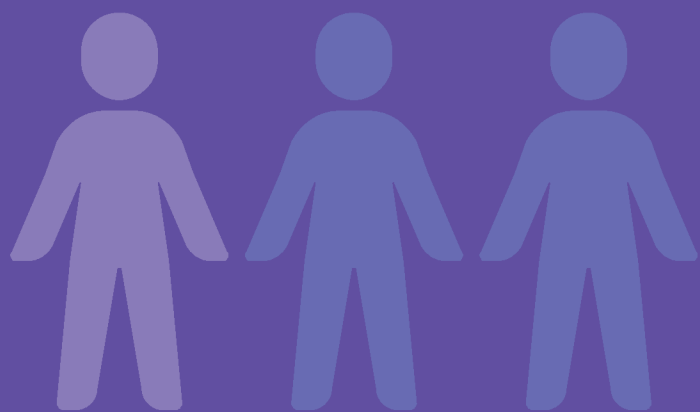
*a view most strongly held by **those over 55***



**40%** agree “How my friends & family talk about consent **influences my thinking**”

**90%** agree “Everyone has the right to **change their mind at any point** during a sexual encounter, no matter how far it has gone”

*2% increase from 2024*



**1** in **3** agree that “**Having sex is just part of a long-term relationship** – you're not always up for it but you'd go along with it”

**1** in **10** men would agree that when people are agreeing to sexual activity “**Willingness can be assumed because there is no clear spoken or physical objection**”.

This rises to **14%** of men aged 45 and under.



**61%** agree that “**How I talk about consent and sexual violence influences whether victims/survivors tell someone about their experience**”

women (**64%**)  
compared to  
men (**58%**)



**84%** agree that “**I am comfortable having consent conversations with my sexual partner/s**”

*This is lowest for younger men aged 18-24 (**66%**)*



**76%** agree that “**I am comfortable having consent conversations with my friends**”

*which lowers to **64%** of men aged 35-54*



Young men aged 18–24 are **least confident about consent** and **16%** say they **don't understand it**.

GENERAL PUBLIC

**4%**

MEN AGED 18-24

**16%**

“Sometimes people **say no** when they want convincing”

GENERAL PUBLIC

**27%**

MEN AGED UNDER 45

**43%**

*8% increase since January 2024*

“I would probably **keep going** even if I suspected my partner is not enjoying a sexual encounter.”

Nearly  
**1 in 4**  
men under 45  
agree (23%)



Up **3%**  
since  
2024