

WHAT DO CITIZENS OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA THINK AND KNOW ABOUT SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND HARASSMENT?

Results of the quiz conducted during
“16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence” campaign in 2022



The UN Women's "16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence" campaign in 2022 was focused on the issue of sexual violence and harassment in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The campaign aimed to increase the awareness of BiH citizens about forms of sexual violence and harassment that are justified and sometimes even considered acceptable forms of behavior. The campaign also supported current advocacy activities aimed at accelerating changes in legal frameworks that regulate the proceedings of sexual violence cases through a platform of local actors called the Action Coalition against Gender-Based Violence in Bosnia and Herzegovina. UN Women Bosnia and Herzegovina implemented this year's campaign under the motto **#nomeansno** and **#recognizeandact**, in collaboration with partners and with the support of Sweden.

As part of the campaign, an online quiz was created for those who wanted to check their knowledge about different forms of sexual violence and harassment.

The quiz was primarily created to educate and inform citizens about sexual violence and harassment. It was designed to attract the attention of respondents in an interesting way and encourage them to think about the questions and later check their correct and incorrect answers. As such, it cannot be considered a scientific research with an established methodology, but it can be used by researchers as a basis for future surveys on the knowledge and attitudes of the public on the subject of sexual violence and harassment.

Citizens could complete the quiz online or with the help of interviewers at info corners that were set up during the campaign in five BiH cities: Banja Luka (26-27 November) Bihac (29-30 November), Mostar (2-3 December), Tuzla (5-6 December) and Sarajevo (7 December).

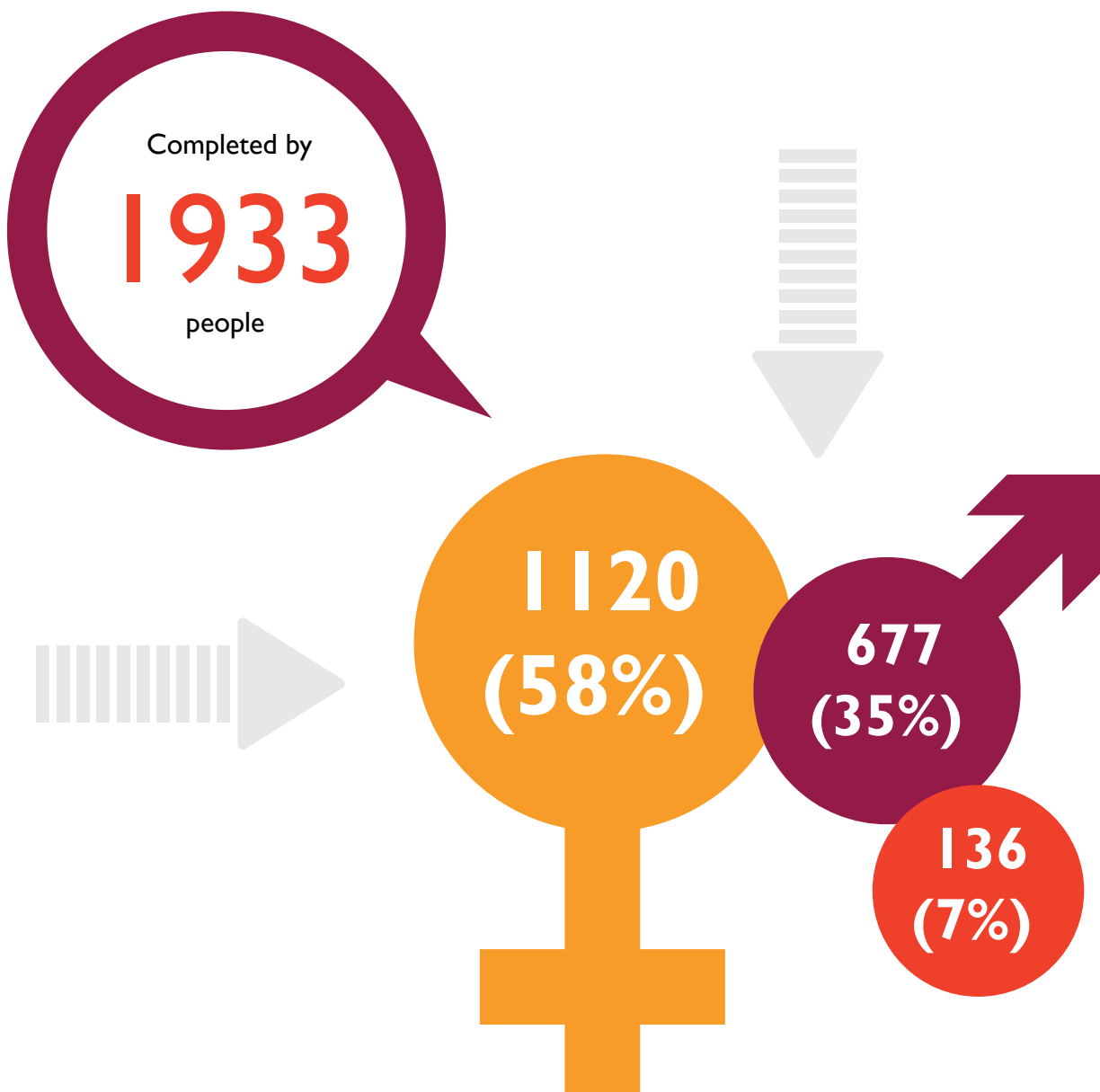


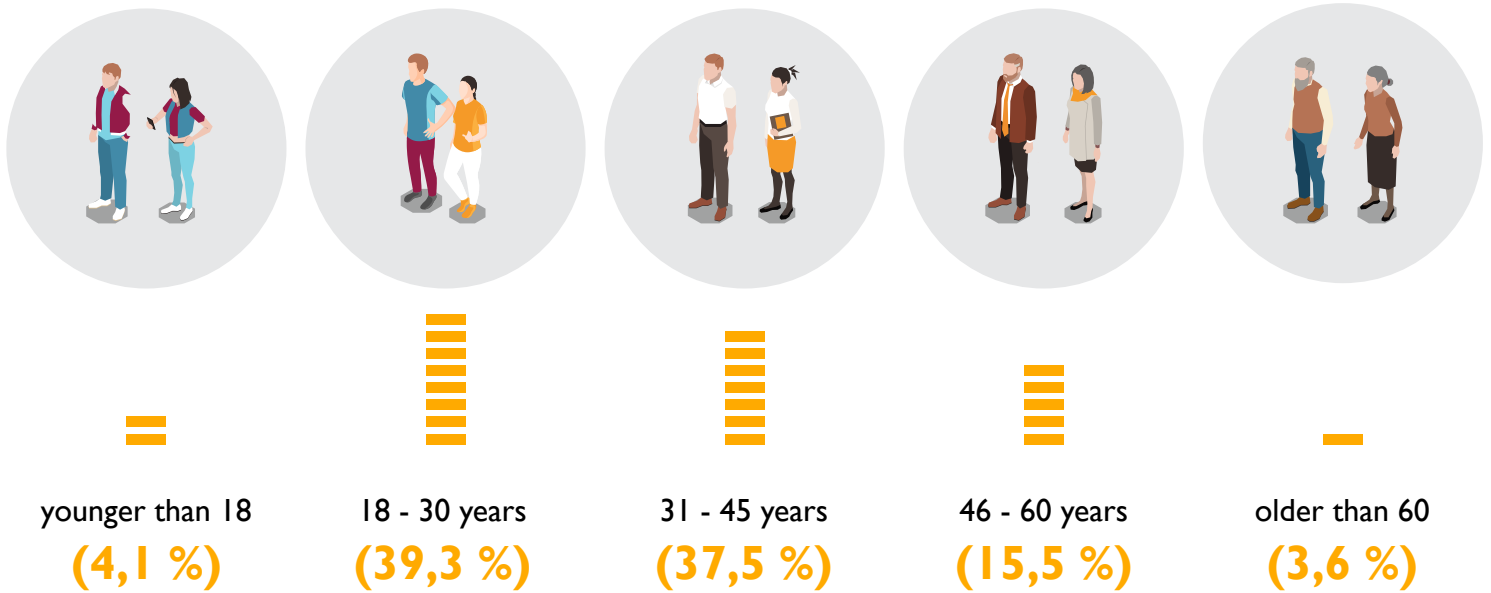
The quiz featured a selection of questions the citizens answered in order to test their knowledge about:

- Prevalence of gender-based violence in Bosnia and Herzegovina,
- Causes of violence,
- Definition of sexual harassment,
- Key elements of consent,
- Behaviors that constitute sexual harassment,
- Consequences of sexual harassment,
- Marital rape,
- Frequency of reporting of sexual violence,
- Legal regulation in Republika Srpska, Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Brčko District.

Gender

The quiz was completed by 1,933 people, of which 1,120 (58%) were women, 677 (35%) men, and 136 (7%) were people who did not disclose their gender.



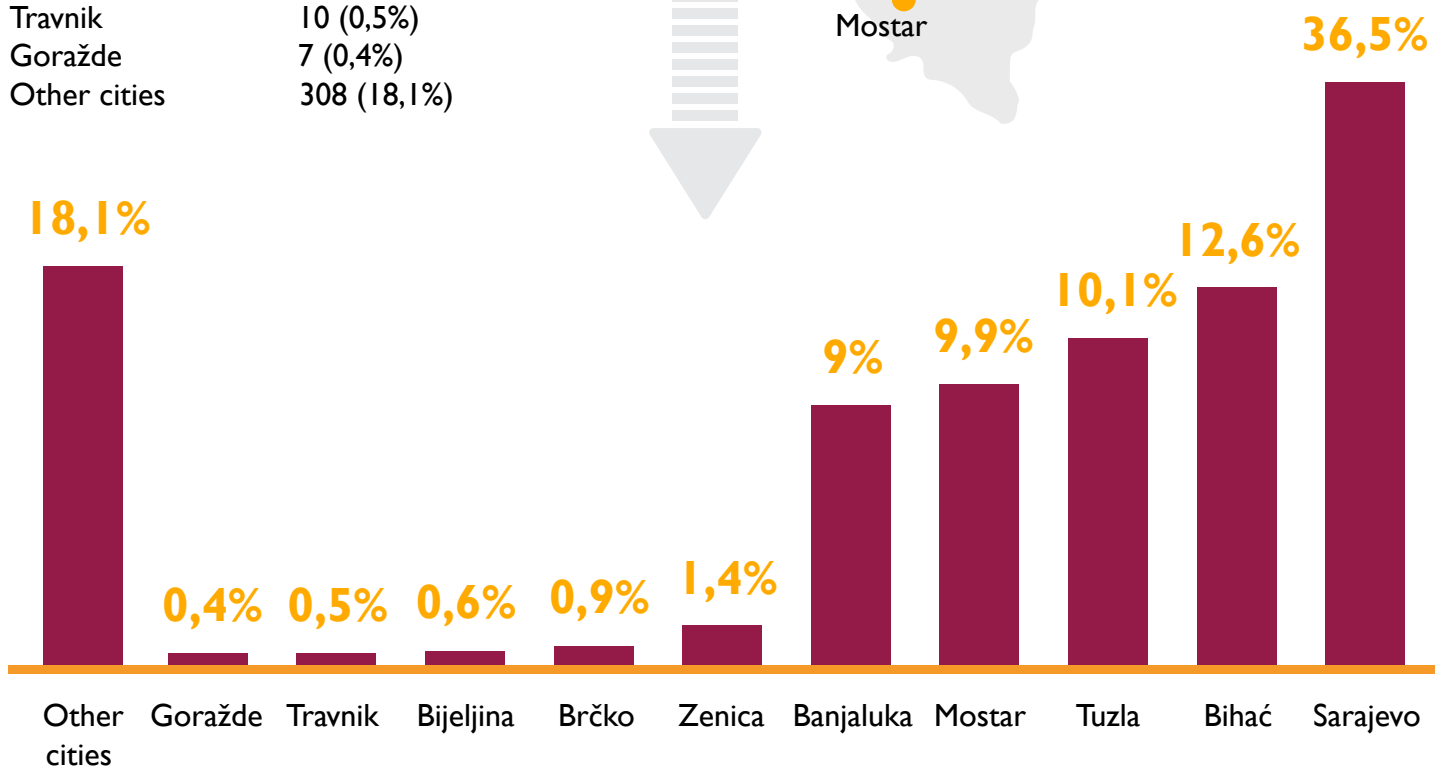


From the data on the age group, we can see that the largest number of the respondents are between 18 and 45 years old (1,483 or 76.8% of the respondents).

The lowest number of the respondents are under 18 and over 60 years old (150 or 7.7% respondents).

Number of respondents per city:

Sarajevo	726 (36,5%)
Bihać	250 (12,6%)
Tuzla	201 (10,1%)
Mostar	196 (9,9%)
Banjaluka	179 (9%)
Zenica	27 (1,4%)
Brčko	18 (0,9%)
Bijeljina	11 (0,6%)
Travnik	10 (0,5%)
Goražde	7 (0,4%)
Other cities	308 (18,1%)

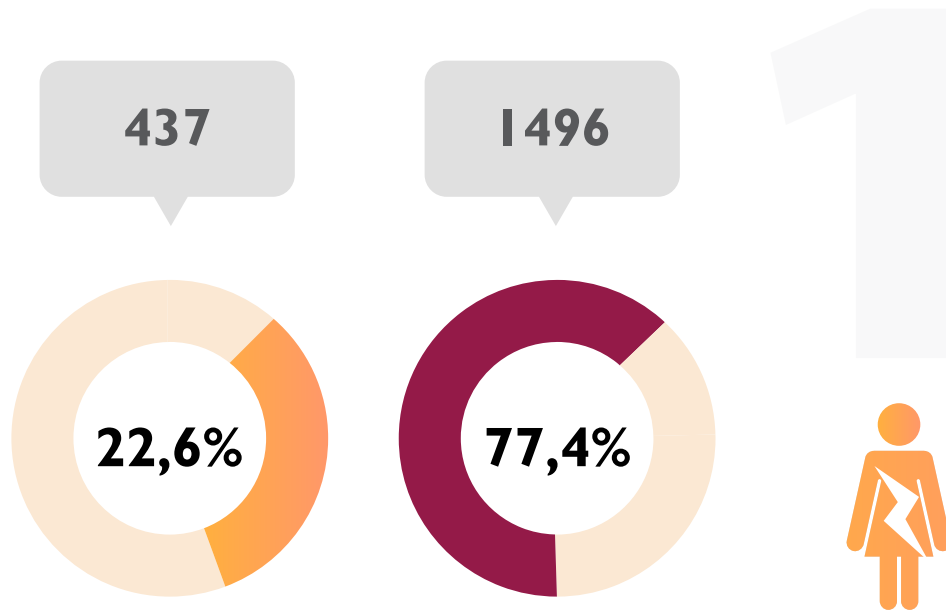


QUIZ QUESTIONS

1. Sexual violence is a serious private issue and one of the most severe forms of violence, characterized primarily by the absence of consent, i.e. it is committed against the will of another person.

- a. Yes
- b. No**

✓ 437
✗ 1496

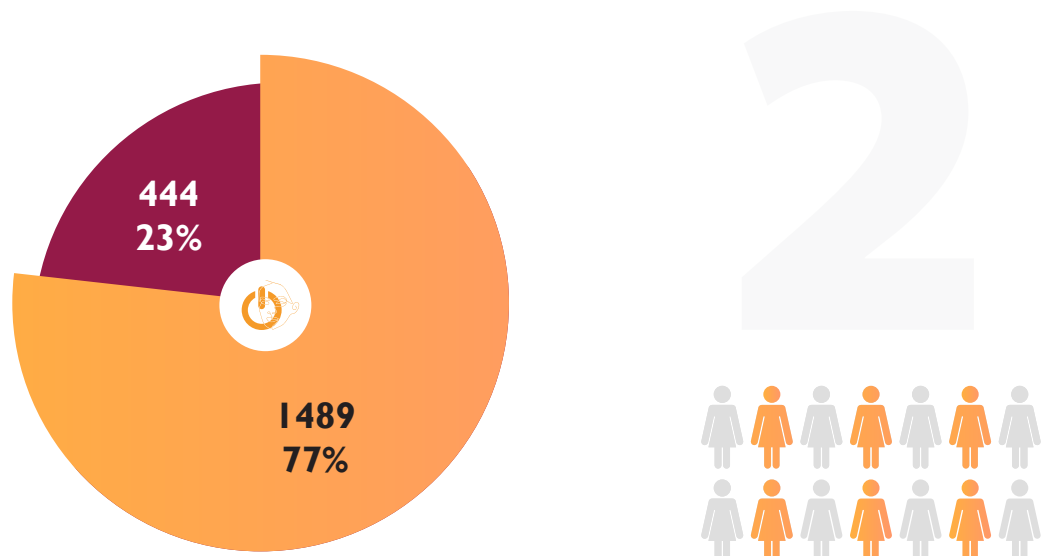


The correct answer to this question is b. NO. Sexual violence is not a private problem but a serious social problem and one of the worst forms of violence, characterized primarily by the absence of consent, i.e. it is committed against the will of another person. 437 respondents (22.6%) answered this question correctly.

2. Every fifth woman in Bosnia and Herzegovina has experienced some form of violence since the age of 15.

- a. Yes
- b. No**

✓ 444
✗ 1489



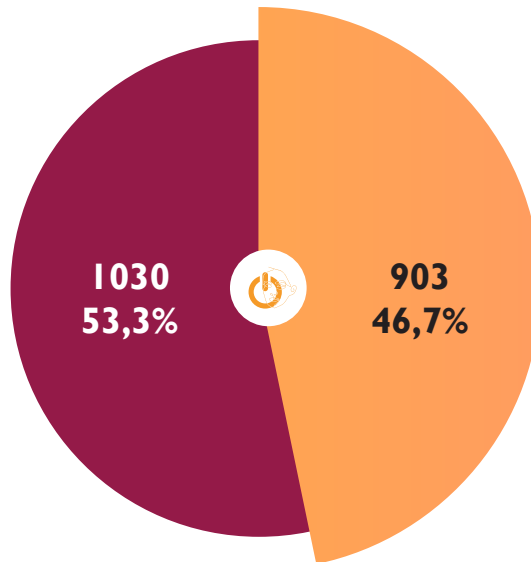
The correct answer to this question is b. NO. Every **second woman** in Bosnia and Herzegovina has experienced some form of violence since the age of 15. 444 respondents (23%) answered this question correctly.

3. The main causes of violence against women are poverty, addiction, and the temperament of the perpetrator.

a. Yes

b. **No**

✓ 903
✗ 1030



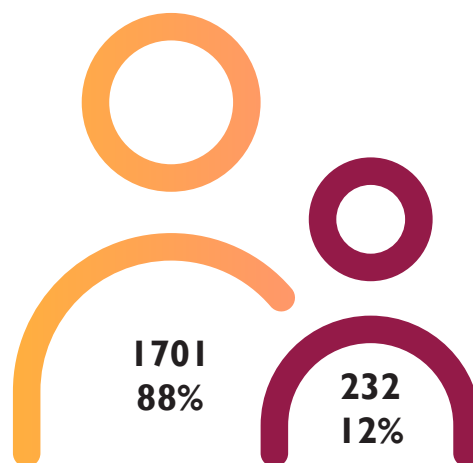
The correct answer to this question is b. NO. The main causes of violence against women are not poverty, addiction, and the temperament of the perpetrator. **Unequal distribution of power and resources between men and women**, as well as social norms based on gender roles are the causes of violence against women. 903 respondents (46,7%) gave the correct answer to this question.

4. Sexual harassment is any form of unwanted verbal or physical behavior of a sexual nature that aims to offend the dignity of a person, especially when it creates a frightening, hostile, degrading, demeaning, or insulting environment.

a. Yes

b. **No**

✓ 232
✗ 1701

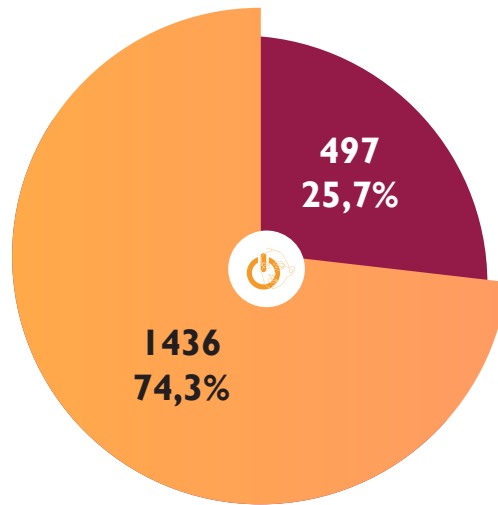


The correct answer to this question is b. NO. Sexual harassment is not just any form of unwanted verbal and physical behavior, but also **nonverbal behavior of a sexual nature** that aims to offend the dignity of a person, especially when it creates a frightening, hostile, degrading, demeaning, or insulting environment. Nonverbal forms of behavior include, for example, inappropriate leaning in public transport, inappropriate staring and observing that scares, improperly showing intimate parts of the body, etc. 232 respondents (12%) gave the correct answer to this question.

5. Key elements of consent are:

- a. It is given freely without pressure
- b. It is given freely and consciously
- c. It is verbal
- d. It is clear

✓ 497
✗ 1436



The correct answers to this question are:

- a) That it is given freely without pressure,
- b) That it is given freely and consciously,
- d) That it is clear.

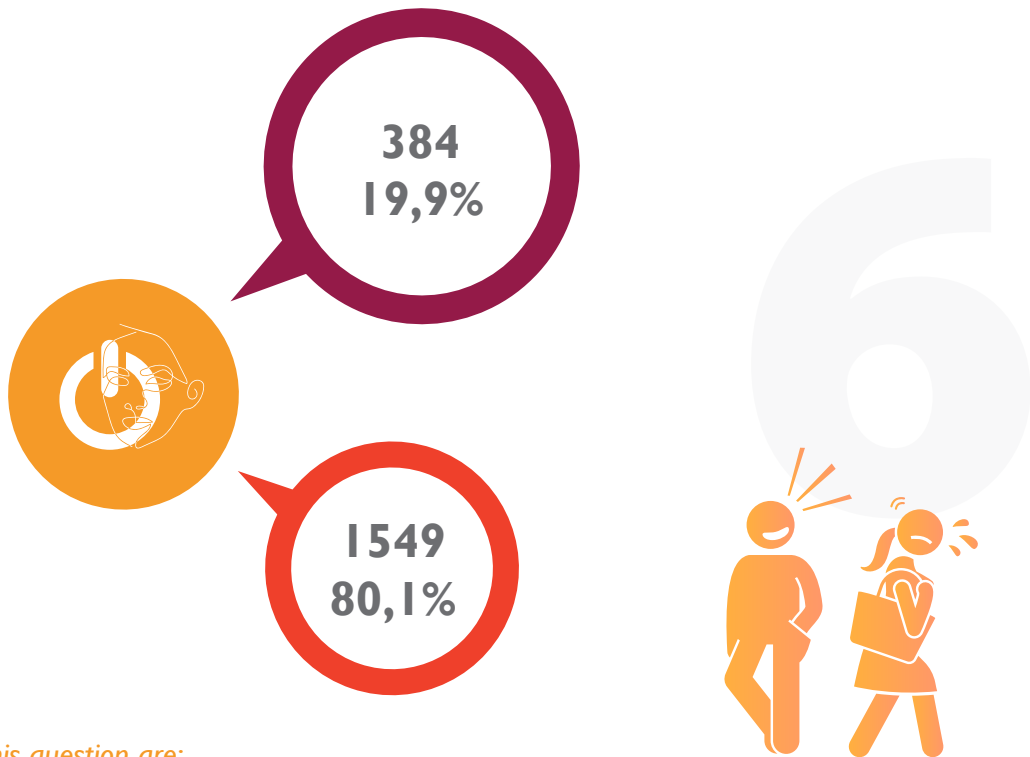
Consent implies words or open actions by a person who is capable of giving consent to sexual activity. Consent does not have to be verbal, it can also be given through nonverbal signs or a combination of verbal and nonverbal signs, behaviors, and body reactions that reflect a desire for sexual activity. All the elements of consent were correctly recognized and correctly answered by 497 respondents (25.7%).

6. Identify sexual harassment:

- a. A young man raped a young woman.
- b. A colleague inappropriately touched a female colleague at work against her will.
- c. A girl was exposed to unwanted sexual and offensive messages on social networks.
- d. A waiter commented on a girl's physical appearance in a cafe although she did not like it.
- e. Sexual activity between partners without her consent.



✓ 384
✗ 1549



The correct answers to this question are:

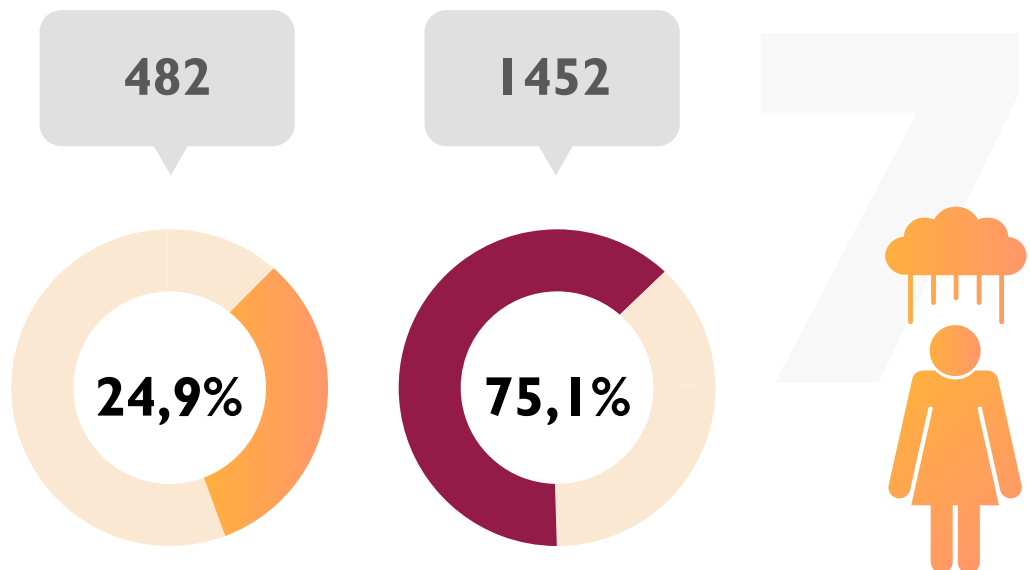
- b) A colleague inappropriately touched a female colleague at work against her will.
- c) A girl was exposed to unwanted sexual and offensive messages on social networks.
- d) A waiter commented on a girl's physical appearance in a cafe although she did not like it.

Answers a) and e), or "A young man raped a young woman" and "Sexual activity between partners without her consent," are not forms of sexual harassment but **forms of sexual violence**. 384 respondents (19.9%) correctly recognized all forms of sexual harassment and gave the correct answer.

7. The most common consequences of sexual harassment that survivors experience are physical injuries.

a. Yes
b. No

✓ 1452
✗ 482



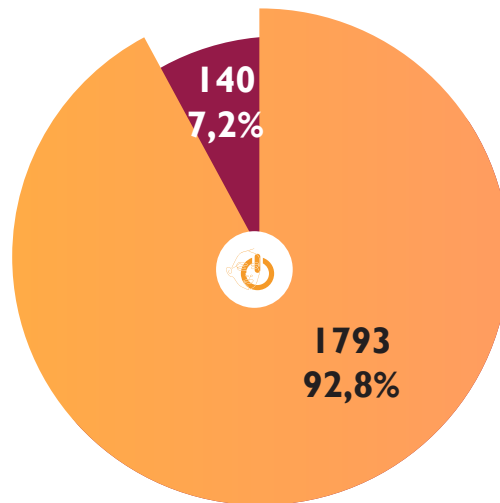
Correct answer to this question is b. NO.

Among the victims of sexual harassment, **the most common consequences are psychological**, including anxiety, feeling vulnerable, sleeping disorders, loss of self-confidence, depression, difficulty in relationships with people, and panic attacks. 482 respondents (24.9%) gave the correct answer to this question.

8. If a woman has sexual intercourse with her marital partner without consent, with physical force by the partner, this is considered marital rape.

a. **Yes**
b. No

✓ 1793
✗ 140



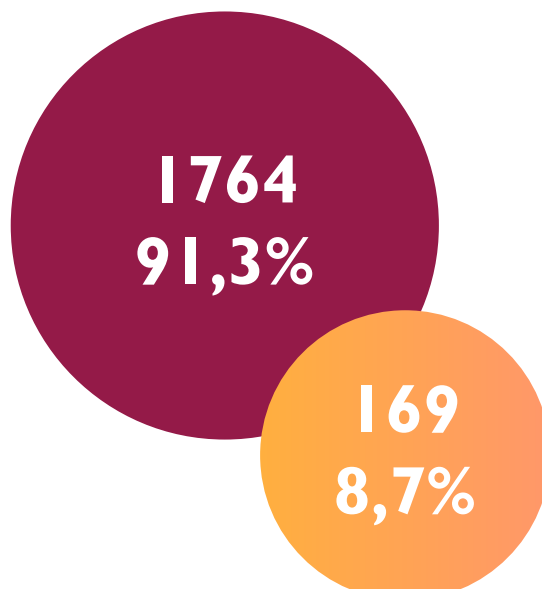
Correct answer to this question is a. YES.

Sexual violence is any form of unwanted sexual contact, including vaginal, anal, or oral penetration with a penis or object, **without the consent** of the victim. People often think that sexual violence only happens between strangers, but the fact is that it can also happen between partners who are in a romantic or marital relationship. 1793 respondents (92.8%) gave the correct answer to this question.

9. Majority of survivors of sexual violence will immediately share their experience and report the perpetrator to the police.

a. Yes
b. **No**

✓ 1764
✗ 169



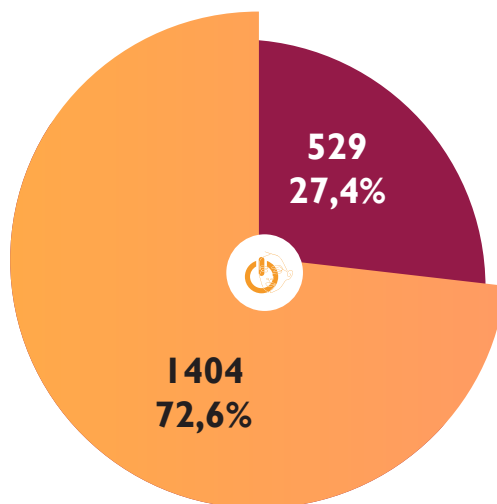
The correct answer to this question is b. NO.

Unfortunately, only a small number of women decide to report violence to the police, often due to fear from the perpetrator, fear of stigmatization, lack of trust in institutions, or lack of information about available assistance. According to an **OSCE survey**, as many as 84% of women did not report violence to the authorities. Only 32% of women who experienced sexual harassment shared their experience, and **only 2.6% of women** in the OSCE survey reported sexual harassment to the police. 169 respondents (8.7%) provided the correct answer to this question.

10. In which part of Bosnia and Herzegovina are rape, female genital mutilation, forced sterilization, persecution, sexual extortion, sexual harassment, and forced marriage defined as criminal offenses?

- a. Brčko District
- b. Republika Srpska**
- c. Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina

✓ 529
✗ 1404



The correct answer is b. Republika Srpska. The Criminal Code of RS has included female genital mutilation, forced sterilization, persecution, sexual extortion, sexual harassment, and forced marriage with amendments made in 2017, making it the most advanced law in defining and criminalizing different forms of sexual violence as criminal offenses. In Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, preparations are underway for amendments to the Criminal Code that will include these offenses. 529 respondents (27.4%) gave the correct answer to this question.



Conclusion

The online quiz that citizens filled out in five BiH cities and through the web platform iskljucimoseksualnonasilje.ba intended to, first and foremost, draw public interest to issues of **sexual violence and harassment** as a widespread and often condoned occurrence in BiH society. The quiz results indicate there are still various topics related to **gender-based violence** that should be discussed with citizens and that their awareness should be raised.

The question with the least correct answers relates to the definition of **sexual harassment**. A total of 88% of respondents failed to recognize that the definition did not include the segment of "**nonverbal**" sexually motivated behavior meant to offend someone's dignity.

Few citizens correctly identified all forms of sexual harassment, with only 19.9% correctly distinguishing between sexual violence and harassment. The analysis also showed a low level of knowledge on the prevalence of **gender-based violence** in BiH society, with 77% of respondents being unaware that every second woman between the ages of 15 and 49 has experienced some form of violence.

It is encouraging that the vast majority of the respondents correctly identified that the most common consequences of sexual harassment are not physical in nature (75.1%), and recognized the definition of **marital rape** (92.8%).

While the results of this quiz are not based on comprehensive methodological research, they can still be useful to future researchers interested in the field of **gender-based violence** as a good starting point for examining the knowledge and attitudes of the public on this issue. Additionally, the quiz, which remains available on iskljucimoseksualnonasilje.ba platform and the accompanying brochure with correct answers, can be used for further education on the topic of sexual violence and harassment.

#nomeansno #recognizeandact

