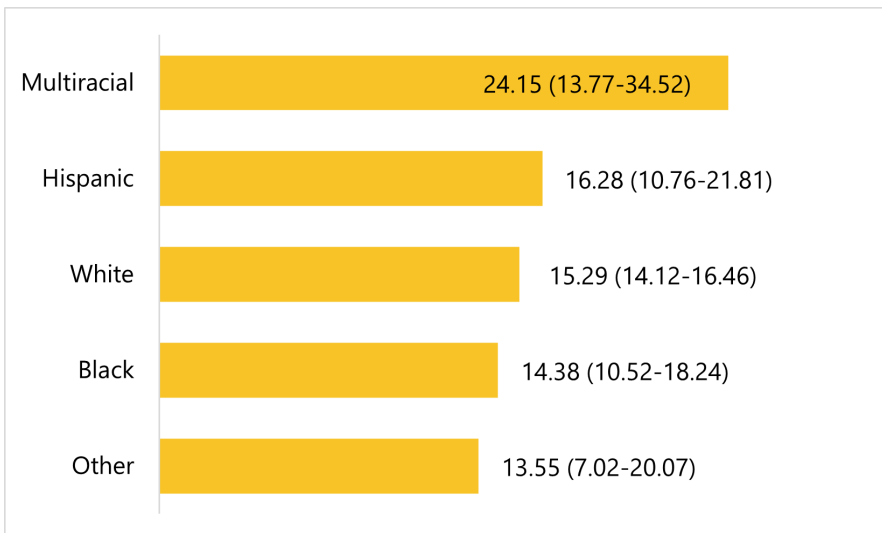


## Introduction

Unwanted sexual experiences (USEs) pose a significant problem for many people in the United States and can have a profound impact on the physical, mental, and emotional health and well-being of victims. USEs include instances of verbal and physical contact without consent. In 2020, Indiana elected to include questions about USEs on their Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) survey. Adult respondents were asked whether or not they had ever experienced a USE, and if so, in what type of place the incident occurred. These data were analyzed to determine if disparities exist across demographic groups who have experienced unwanted sexual contact and the locations in which these experiences took place.

## Unwanted Sexual Experience Prevalence by Race/Ethnicity

Respondents who self-reported their race/ethnicity as 'Multiracial' reported the highest prevalence of a USE (24.15%), while those who fell in the 'Other' group reported a USE the least (13.55%). Although differences were noted in incidence of USE based on race/ethnicity, none of the differences between groups were statistically significant.

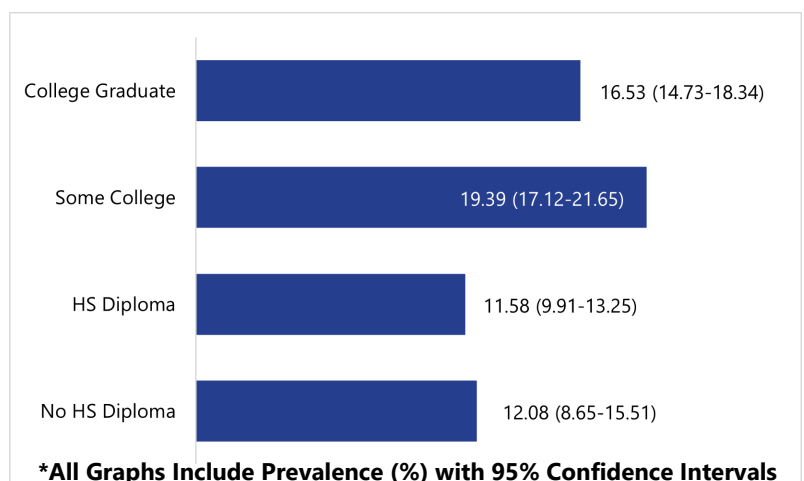


## Fast Facts

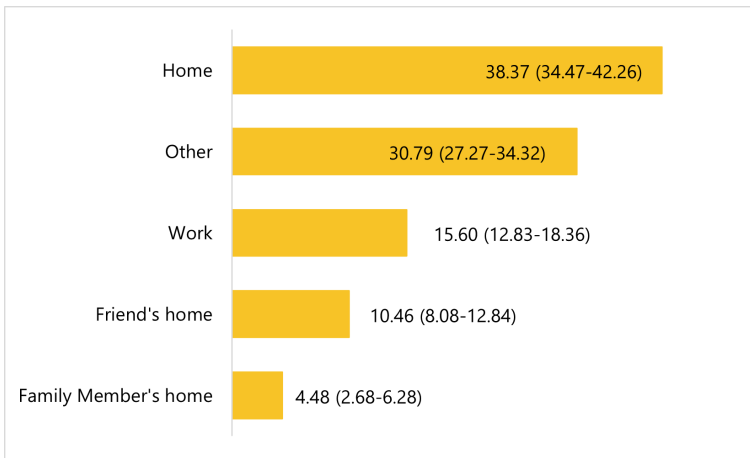
- Overall, 15.25% of Indiana adults reported having had an unwanted sexual experience.
- Women (24.10%) reported having an unwanted sexual experience at a significantly higher prevalence than men (5.74%).
- Those in the 18 to 24 age group reported an unwanted sexual experience at a significantly higher prevalence (19.95%) than those in the 55 to 64 and 65+ age groups (12.64%, 9.58% respectively).
- Those in the \$15,000 or less annual income group reported significantly higher prevalence of unwanted sexual experiences (21.13%) than those in the \$50,000 or higher annual income bracket (13.78%).

## Unwanted Sexual Experience Prevalence by Education

Of those reporting having experienced a USE, 19.39% had some college education and 16.53% were college graduates. This was significantly higher than those with and without high school diplomas (11.58% and 12.08%, respectively).



## Location in Which Unwanted Sexual Experiences Occur



If respondents reported that they experienced more than one incident or if the incident(s) took place in more than one location, they were asked to consider their most recent experience. Of those respondents who reported experiencing a USE in the past, more than 38% reported experiencing a USE in their home. This was significantly higher than the number of people who reported that a USE occurred at an "other" location (30.79%), at work (15.60%), at a friend's home (10.46%), or at a family member's home (4.48%). There was not an adequate sample of participants who indicated that their USE occurred "in a park" to include in any of our analyses.

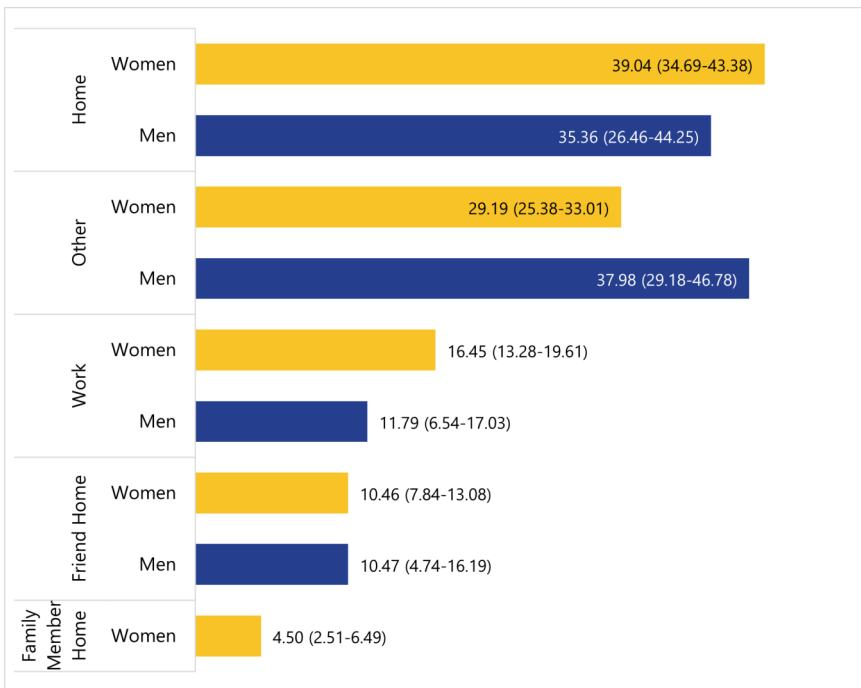
### Unwanted Sexual Experience Location by Age

When each age group was broken down by location, home was significantly higher for the 18 to 24 group (41.07%), the 25 to 34 group (43.44%), and the 35 to 44 group (37.48%). "Other" and home were found to be significantly higher than the remaining locations for the 45 to 54 group (29.10%, 40.74% respectively), 55 to 65 group (27.36%, 37.29% respectively), and for those 65 and older (38.49%, 26.11% respectively).

**43.44%** of 25 to 34 group reported a USE occurred at home

For USEs reported at home, those aged 25 to 34 had a statistically significantly higher prevalence than those aged 65+ (26.11%).

### Unwanted Sexual Experience Location by Sex



Data were further analyzed to determine if additional demographic differences exist related to the location in which the USE took place. Women reported experiencing USEs significantly more often at home (39.04%) than any other location. Men reported that their USE occurred at an "other" location (37.98%) or at home (35.36%) significantly more often than at work (11.79%) or at a friend's home (10.47%).

There were no statistically significant differences between men and women concerning where their USE took place. There was not an adequate sample of men who indicated that their USE occurred "in a family member's home" to include in this analysis.

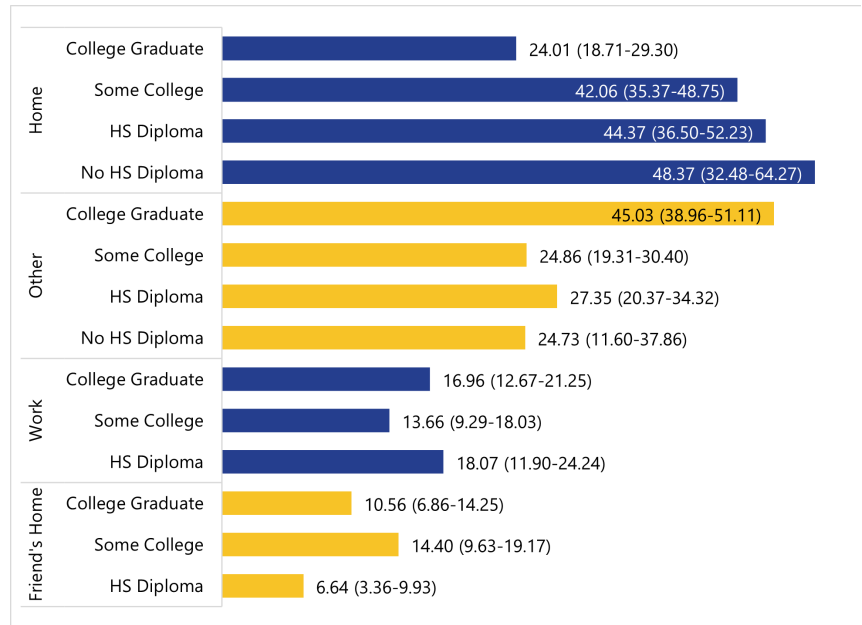
**\*All Graphs Include Prevalence (%) with 95% Confidence Intervals**

These data were collected by Indiana Department of Health through a cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Although the results in this newsletter meet our criteria for being reportable, they may not accurately represent the prevalence of unwanted sexual experiences in the Indiana adult population. Due to limitations in the BRFSS sample, as well as chronic underreporting of sexual violence, we caution data users to carefully consider their interpretation and presentation of this information. Please consider visiting the [CDC Sexual Violence Prevention page](#), the [National Sexual Violence Resource Center](#), or another reputable source for information on unwanted sexual experiences.



## Unwanted Sexual Experience Location by Education

Participants with no high school diploma reported having experienced a USE at home at a significantly higher prevalence (48.37%) than college graduates (24.01%). No other significant differences were found between groups who reported USE occurring at home. College graduates reported "other" as the location of their USE at a significantly higher prevalence (45.03%) compared to any other education level. Participants with a HS diploma reported a USE at home (44.37%) at a significantly higher prevalence than at "other" (27.35%), work (18.07%), and a friend's home (6.64%). A similar trend for participants with some college education was found, with this group reporting a USE occurred at home (42.06%) at a significantly higher prevalence than at "other" (24.86%), a friend's home (14.40%), and work (13.66%).



## Unwanted Sexual Experience Location by Income

There were no significant differences regarding location of USEs based on income. Participants with annual incomes ranging from less than \$15,000 to more than \$50,000 all reported the highest prevalence of USEs at home. The only exception was that those in the \$35,000 to \$50,000 annual income group reported the highest USE prevalence at "other".

**48.13%**

of those with an annual income of \$15,000 or less reported a USE occurred at home

## Conclusion and Future Research Possibilities

- Using USE data from the 2020 Indiana BRFSS, the prevalence of USEs in Indiana was examined based on different demographic groups, including race/ethnicity, age, sex, income, and educational attainment. The different demographic groups were also analyzed with regards to the location where the most recent USE occurred. Overall, 15.25% of Indiana adults have had a USE, and the most common location where a USE occurred was at home.
- College graduates and those with some college education reported experiencing a USE at a significantly higher prevalence compared to other education levels. However, further analyses on USEs by education and location indicated that, while all other groups reported that their USEs occurred most often at home, college graduates reported "other" most often. Assuming some of these "other" locations might be college campuses, future research could explore occurrence of USEs on campus to provide helpful insight to college administrations and advocacy groups who work to promote campus safety.
- A small sample size made it difficult to compare some of the demographic groups and various locations. Once 2021 BRFSS data are available, combining the 2020 and 2021 datasets will improve the granularity at which the data can be analyzed and allow for further conclusions.

**\*All Graphs Include Prevalence (%) with 95% Confidence Intervals**

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