

STAMP OUT SPIKING

PRESS RELEASE

EMBARGOED 00:00 Thursday 23rd October

Landmark Roundtable Event Reveals New Data Showing Scale of Spiking in UK

*Stamp Out Spiking conduct the UK's largest spiking research
project in association with Cardiff University.*

A major new survey by **Stamp Out Spiking**, the largest and most comprehensive spiking research project to ever be done across the UK, looking at The Victims' Journey, in association with Cardiff University, has today revealed alarming insights into the prevalence and circumstances of spiking in the UK, plus highlighting the victim's experience, showing that young people are overwhelmingly the victims of spiking incidents in licensed premises.

The data project, entitled 'A Victim's Journey', has covered every step of the journey from the drugs that are used, where and when spiking occurred, symptoms of being spiked, the immediate response and the impact that this then has on mental and physical health after the event.

Announced today, at a first-of-its-kind Roundtable event at the Houses of Parliament, gathered responses from over **1,500 people*** found that:

- **Over 45% of victims** were outside of the 18-25 age bracket, the most commonly perceived age range for being spiked.
- **60% of victims lost consciousness**, and **17% were sexually assaulted** afterward.
- Alarmingly, **nearly two-thirds of survivors did not seek support** from organisations able to help them or identify perpetrators.
- **59%** of victim's believe they knew the person who spiked them
- **88% had consumed six units of alcohol or less** at the time of the incident - well below NHS-defined binge drinking levels.
- Over **90% of spiking incidents occurred in pubs, nightclubs, restaurants, or festivals.**
- **72%** of victims did **not report** the spiking incident to the police, of those who did, **none** saw a conviction.
- Only **14%** of those who had been spiked had accepted a drink from a stranger and **52%** had left their drink unattended.
- **79%** of people said there were no visible warnings or protective measures available in the place they were spiked

"These findings highlight a serious public safety issue," said Dawn Dines, CEO & Founder, Stamp Out Spiking. "We've been campaigning for more than two decades to show that Spiking is not about risky drinking, it's about perpetrators targeting vulnerable individuals in

STAMP OUT SPIKING

licensed premises. Now we have the data to show that it's fact, and more must be done to protect the public. The fact that so many victims do not come forward means this crime remains largely invisible, while predators go unpunished."

Simon Moore, Professor of Public Health Research, Co-Director of the Security, Crime and Intelligence Innovation Institute and Director of Violence Research Group at Cardiff University comments, "Sadly, the blame for spiking is often and wrongly placed on the shoulders of the survivors. The narrative painted, places the burden of this crime on those who are blamed for going out to bars or clubs or drinking excessively. None of those things should make survivors responsible for being the victim of a crime. It doesn't accurately reflect the reality of why these crimes happen or how they happen and distract from the considerable harm many victims endure".

The survey also revealed that the survivors' drinking patterns were consistent with the general population, dispelling common myths that victims are drunk at the time of spiking. "This reinforces that spiking can happen to anyone at any time," added Dawn.

Stamp Out Spiking is the UK's largest anti-spiking charity, campaigning across the country, and internationally, to raise awareness of spiking in all its forms, and support victims. They are spearheading national campaigns such as "Keep An Eye Out", most recently at Reading Festival and Leeds Festival 2025, to encourage the public to watch out for each other and their drinks in licensed premises.

With UK legislation set to make spiking a specific offence, thanks to tireless campaigning from Stamp Out Spiking, the charity is calling for licensed premises to strengthen measures to protect patrons, including mandatory staff training and education, stringent CCTV monitoring, and banning known offenders from nightlife venues.

"Our report found that in survivors who were a victim of drink spiking, only 14% accepted a drink from a stranger and 48% did not leave their drink unattended. This data shows that even when survivors have taken precautions, spiking has still occurred. This is why working with the owners of bars and clubs, law-enforcement and policymakers, will be the vital tool that will prevent spiking from happening," added Professor Moore.

The survey underscores the urgent need for statutory services, licensed venues, and communities to work together to support survivors, record assaults accurately, and ensure perpetrators are brought to justice. As Stamp Out Spiking brought together industry figureheads today, from Hospitality to Police, Transport and Leisure, the charity looks forward to working collaboratively to stamp out spiking for good.

Stamp Out Spiking are currently fundraising to open a national SOS helpline for those affected by spiking, offering support, guidance and signposting information. The helpline will be the first of its kind in the UK, offering clear advice, guidance and referral pathways for survivors. You can support the charity here: www.stampoutspiking.org.uk/donate

STAMP OUT SPIKING

MP Joe Robertson, Conservative MP for Isle of Wight East, comments, “Spiking is a serious issue which is on the rise. The Government has failed to address a glaring loophole in their own new law - one that means reckless spiking is not covered. That is why I am working with fellow MPs and Lords to ensure that the Government closes the loophole in their own new spiking law. It should not be relevant whether a perpetrator intended harm to someone else. If they administered a harmful substance through their own reckless behaviour, then they should be criminally responsible and face the consequences. As the forthcoming law is currently worded, a perpetrator can claim in defence they didn’t mean it and walk free. This defence isn’t available to reckless drivers, and neither should it be responsible to reckless spikers.”

“We know historically that victims of this life-changing crime have been let down and by conducting a study on this scale and hosting today’s event with the correct key stakeholders, we hope to bring these victims some justice.” Says Dawn Dines.

For more information, and to access support or guidance, visit www.stampoutspiking.org

About Stamp Out Spiking

Founded by **Dawn Dines over 20 years ago**, *Stamp Out Spiking* is the UK’s leading charity dedicated to raising awareness of and preventing all forms of spiking. Since its inception, the organisation has delivered **training, campaigns, and prevention initiatives** across universities, venues, police forces, and the hospitality industry.

The charity’s educational programmes and partnerships have reached **over 500,000 people**, and its work has been featured by major media outlets and supported by government and law enforcement.

Stamp Out Spiking also leads the annual **International Stamp Out Spiking Day, July 15th**, uniting campaigners worldwide in the fight against this growing threat.

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— The Victim's Journey —

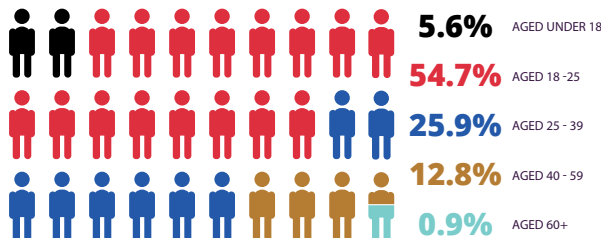
Understanding the True Scale and Impact of Spiking in 2025

STAMP OUT SPIKING, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CARDIFF UNIVERSITY, HAS CONDUCTED THE UK'S LARGEST-EVER RESEARCH PROJECT INTO SPIKING, UNCOVERING THE HARSH REALITIES FACED BY VICTIMS AND THE URGENT NEED FOR CHANGE.

OUR REPORT, THE VICTIM'S JOURNEY, REVEALS THAT SPIKING CAN OCCUR THROUGH DRINKS, NEEDLES, VAPES, OR EVEN FOOD, AND THAT IT AFFECTS PEOPLE OF ALL AGES, MOST OFTEN IN PUBS, CLUBS, RESTAURANTS, AND FESTIVALS. ALARMINGLY, 60% OF VICTIMS LOST CONSCIOUSNESS, 17% WERE SEXUALLY ASSAULTED, AND NEARLY THREE-QUARTERS NEVER REPORTED THE CRIME TO POLICE.

JOIN US TO HELP STAMP OUT SPIKING FOR GOOD.
WWW.STAMPOUTSPIKING.ORG/DONATE

WHO IS AFFECTED?



77% SPIKED ONCE, 17% TWICE, 6% THREE OR MORE TIMES

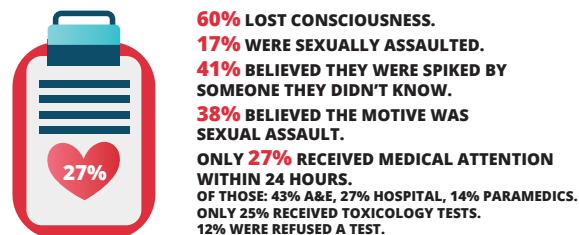
WHERE ?



CIRCUMSTANCES OF SPIKING



THE AFTERMATH

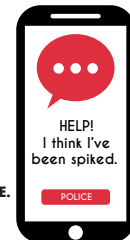


REPORTING TO POLICE

72% DID NOT REPORT THE INCIDENT. OF THOSE WHO DID, NONE SAW A CONVICTION. VICTIMS RATED POLICE HANDLING 3.3/10.

TOP REASONS FOR NOT REPORTING:

- 66% BELIEVED THERE WASN'T ENOUGH EVIDENCE.
- 46% REALISED TOO LATE.
- 43% FELT POLICE WOULDN'T BELIEVE THEM.
- 36% FELT ASHAMED OR BLAMED THEMSELVES.



WHY SPIKING TESTS WERE REFUSED?



THE LONG-TERM IMPACT

45% TOOK TIME OFF WORK, SCHOOL, OR UNIVERSITY. AVERAGE MENTAL HEALTH IMPACT 6.7/10.

- 52% RECEIVED NO EXTERNAL SUPPORT.
- 30% SAID SPIKING STOPPED THEM DOING ACTIVITIES THEY ONCE ENJOYED.

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2025 DATA FACT SHEET – SOURCE: Stamp Out Spiking

Spiking The Victim's Journey - Fact Sheet

- Spiking can involve **drinks, needles, vapes, or food**, and is used in both opportunistic and premeditated assaults.
- Victims frequently report **memory loss, trauma, and mental health impacts** long after the incident.

- **Respondents ages when spiked:**

5.6% under 18

54.7% aged 18–25

25.9% aged 25–39

12.8% aged 40–59

0.9% aged 60+

- **Respondents had been spiked:**

77% spiked once

17% spiked twice

6% three or more times

- **94%** of respondents were drinking alcohol when they were spiked.
- **88%** had consumed **six units of alcohol or less** at the time of the incident - well below NHS-defined binge drinking levels.
- Over **90%** of spiking incidents occurred in **pubs, nightclubs, restaurants, or festivals**.
- **Most common venues:**
Clubs (38%), Pubs (27%)
- Only **14%** of those who had been spiked had accepted a drink from a stranger
- **52%** had left their drink unattended
- **78%** of respondents said they would use **protective drink covers** if available
- **79%** reported **no visible awareness materials or prevention measures** in the venue at the time of spiking.
- **60%** of those spiked lost consciousness after spiking, **17%** were then sexually assaulted.
- **41%** believed they were spiked by someone they didn't know which means more than half of people spiked were spiked by a known contact
- **38%** believed the motive was **sexual assault**
- Only **27%** received **medical attention within 24 hours**
- Of those treated:
 - **43%** went to **A&E**
 - **27%** went to a **hospital**
 - **14%** were treated by **paramedics at the scene**
- Just **25%** underwent **toxicology testing**
- **42%** were **not examined or tested** and **12%** were **refused a test**
- Among those tested, **GHB, Ketamine, and Rohypnol** were the most common drugs detected

Reasons given for refusing a test:

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- **27%** were told they were *“too drunk”*
- **14%** were told *“it was too late – drugs were out of their system”*
- **9%** said there were *no resources available*
- **9%** said *no police were present*, so samples couldn’t be used
- **36%** cited other or unclear reasons
- **72%** did **not report** the spiking incident to the police, of those who did, **none** saw a conviction
- Victims rated police handling **3.3/10** on average

Top reasons for not reporting:

- **66%** believed there wasn’t enough evidence
- **46%** realised too late
- **43%** felt police wouldn’t believe them
- **36%** felt ashamed or blamed themselves

The Long-Term Impact of spiking

- **45%** took time off work, school, or university
- Average **mental health impact: 6.7/10**
- **52%** have not received any external support
- **30%** say spiking has stopped them doing activities they once enjoyed

Stamp Out Spiking works nationally to close these gaps through education, training, and advocacy for legislative reform.