

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

“81% of 8-11th grade students reported having experienced some form of sexual harassment ...”

Definition

Sexual harassment is unwanted sexual pressure that one person inflicts upon another. This pressure can be verbal, physical, or in the form of demeaning posters and other visual materials. Sexual harassment includes:

- Subtle pressure for sexual activity;
- Patting or pinching;
- Deliberate brushing against another person's body;
- “Friendly” arms around the shoulder;
- Deliberate assaults or molestations;
- Sexually explicit or pornographic pictures posted in view of all employees;
- Demanding sexual favors, accompanied by implied or overt threats concerning an individual's job, grades, letters of recommendation, etc.;
- Explicit offers of money for sex.

Statistics

- 81% of 8-11th grade students reported having experienced some form of sexual harassment during their school lives. 85% of girls and 76% of boys said they had experienced unwelcome sexual behavior which had interfered with their lives. ¹

**Acquaintance
Rape**

Sexual Violence

Rape Myths

**Sexual
Harassment**

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

“Sexual harassment is not the victim’s fault.”

High school students suffered educational problems as a consequence of sexual harassment: ²

- 33% of girls and 18% of boys reported not wanting to go to school;
- 28% of girls and 13% of boys found it hard to pay attention;
- 32% of girls and 13% of boys said they did not want to speak in class;
- 23% of girls and 9% of boys reported lower grades;
- 19% of girls and 6% of boys thought about changing schools.

Remember

Sexual harassment is not the victim’s fault. It is the fault of the offender.



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¹ American Association of University Women. *Hostile Hallways: The AAUW Survey on Sexual Harassment in America’s Schools*. Washington, D.C.: American Association of University Women Educational Foundation, 1993.

² Ibid.