

Facts and Stats: Sexual Harassment

Overview

1. Sexual harassment includes: ¹
 - verbal sexual harassment** - sexually explicit talk, homophobic slurs, repeated requests for a date after a person has said no (most common form of sexual harassment, as reported by 77% of women and 34% of men)
 - cyber sexual harassment** – the use of text/phone and Internet to sexually harass (reported by 41% of women and 22% of men)
 - physically aggressive sexual harassment** – flashing or indecent exposure, being physically followed and being touched or brushed up against in a sexual way without consent (reported by 62% of women and 26% of men: being sexually touched in an unwelcomed way, 51% women and 17% of men; being physically followed, 34% of women and 12% of men; unwanted flashing or showing of genitals, 30% of women and 12% of men)
2. In 2018, WGRA found that the majority of sexual assault offenses involved one alleged offender – typically a friend or an acquaintance, or slightly higher rank to the victim. ²
3. Women overwhelmingly identified their alleged offenders as all male (92%), while over half of men identified their alleged offenders as all male (52%), a little less than 30% identified the alleged offender as all female, and roughly 13% identified their alleged offender as a mix of men and women acting together. ³

Age & Gender

4. 81% of women and 43% of men who were surveyed, reported experiencing some form of sexual harassment and/or assault in their lifetime. ⁴

¹ The Facts Behind the #Metoo Movement: A National Study on Sexual Harassment and Assault

² Department of Defense. 2018. *Annual Report on Sexual Assault in the Military*.

³ Department of Defense. 2018. *Annual Report on Sexual Assault in the Military*.

⁴ The Facts Behind the #Metoo Movement: A National Study on Sexual Harassment and Assault

- More than 3 in 4 women (77%) and 1 in 3 men (34%) experienced verbal sexual harassment
 - 1 in 2 women (51%) and 1 in 6 men (17%) were sexually touched in an unwelcomed way
 - Around 4 in 10 women (41%) and 1 in 4 men (22%) experienced cyber sexual harassment
 - More than 1 in 3 women (34%) and 1 in 10 (12%) were physically followed
 - Close to 1 in 3 women (30%) and 1 in 10 men (12%) faced unwanted genital flashing
5. Among those who reported experiencing sexual harassment and assault, 57% of women and 42% of men said it had happened by age 17. High school age, 14-17 years old, was the most frequently selected age people reported for their first experience (27% women and 20% men).⁵
 6. Around 13% of women and 5% of men have been told they must date or do a sexual act in exchange for something.⁶
 7. Approximately 10% of Academy men indicated perceiving sexual harassment, and this rate is unchanged from 2012.⁷
 8. In FY18, 6.3% of active duty men and 24.2% of active duty women indicated an experience of sexual harassment.⁸
 9. In FY18, 1 in 5 women and 1 in 12 men who experienced sexual harassment also experienced sexual assault.⁹
 10. Women in the 25-34 year old category were the most likely to report experiencing nearly all forms of sexual harassment and assault, while women in the 65+ category were the least likely to report experiencing any form, except for physically aggressive harassment.¹⁰
 11. Women aged 25-49 largely reported the highest rates of sexual harassment across locations and women aged 65 and older reporting the lowest rates.¹¹
 12. Women aged 18-24 and 25-49 reported experiencing more online harassment.¹²

⁵ The Facts Behind the #Metoo Movement: A National Study on Sexual Harassment and Assault

⁶ The Facts Behind the #Metoo Movement: A National Study on Sexual Harassment and Assault

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Department of Defense. 2018. *Annual Report on Sexual Assault in the Military*.

⁹ Department of Defense. 2018. *Annual Report on Sexual Assault in the Military*.

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13. Men aged 25-49 largely reported the highest rates of sexual harassment in public spaces and private residences or vehicles. ¹³
14. Men aged 18-49 reported a higher prevalence of sexual harassment online and in institutions, such as schools, relative to older men. ¹⁴
15. 48% of students grades 7-12 experience sexual harassment. 56% being girls. ¹⁵
16. 30% of students grades 7-12 experience sexual harassment through social media or other internet activities. ¹⁶

Sexual Orientation

17. Being called a homophobic or transphobic slur was the most frequently selected form of sexual harassment for men (17%), while it was the least for women (8%). ¹⁷
18. 42% of gay and bisexual men reported facing physically aggressive sexual harassment, compared with 25% of straight men. ¹⁸
19. More than half of gay men (55%) reported experiencing sexual harassment in public spaces. ¹⁹
20. Gay, lesbian, and bisexual persons were more likely than straight people to report feeling depressed or anxious and made changes to their lives, as were persons with disabilities compared to persons without disabilities. ²⁰

Race

21. The difference across racial/ethnic groups was particularly significant for physically aggressive harassment (36% of Hispanic men reported vs. 25% of White men and 18% of Black men). ²¹

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¹⁴ The Facts Behind the #Metoo Movement: A National Study on Sexual Harassment and Assault

¹⁵ Sexual Harassment: Who + Where Fact Sheet

¹⁶ Sexual Harassment: Who + Where Fact Sheet

¹⁷ The Facts Behind the #Metoo Movement: A National Study on Sexual Harassment and Assault

¹⁸ The Facts Behind the #Metoo Movement: A National Study on Sexual Harassment and Assault

¹⁹ The Facts Behind the #Metoo Movement: A National Study on Sexual Harassment and Assault

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22. Sexual harassment in public spaces was more likely experienced by Hispanic men (38%) and less likely by Black men (17%), 25% of White men and 20% of mixed race or other race men.²²

Disabilities

23. Persons with disabilities were significantly more likely to experience all forms of sexual harassment more than people without disabilities.²³
24. The strongest findings were the more severe forms of physically aggressive sexual harassment (among women, 69% vs 59%; and among men, 39% vs 23%, for those with and without a disability, respectively).²⁴

Location

25. 71% of urban women and 59% of rural women reported experiencing sexual harassment in public spaces.²⁵
26. Men in rural areas were more likely than men in urban/suburban areas to report facing harassment in public spaces.²⁶
27. Men in the Midwest and West relative to the Northeast and South were significantly more likely to report sexual harassment in institutional settings.²⁷
28. 25% of men have experienced street harassment.²⁸
29. 65% of women have experienced street harassment. 23% of these women had been sexually touched. 20% were followed.²⁹
30. 86% of 168 girls surveyed in Chicago report being harassed on the street.³⁰

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²⁷ The Facts Behind the #Metoo Movement: A National Study on Sexual Harassment and Assault

²⁸ Sexual Harassment: Who + Where Fact Sheet

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³⁰ Sexual Harassment: Who + Where Fact Sheet

31. 38% of women experience sexual harassment at work. ³¹
32. 7% of United States women work in the restaurant industry but account for 37% of all sexual harassment claims to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. ³²
 - 80% of women in the restaurant industry experience sexual harassment from co-workers.
 - 80% of women in the restaurant industry experience sexual harassment from customers.
 - 66% of women in the restaurant industry experience sexual harassment from management.
33. 50% of women know someone that has quit or been fired from a job because of sexual harassment. ³³
34. 66% of women reported being harassed in a public space, 38% reported at their workplace, 35% reported being harassed in their own residence, 33% at a nightlife venue, and 30% at their pre-K to 12th grade schools. ³⁴
35. Men's most frequently reported locations were public space at 19%, 14% of men said their schools, and for 13% of men, their workplace, own residence, and by phone/text, each respectively. ³⁵
36. 37% of women and 29% of men reported public space was the location of their first experience of sexual harassment. ³⁶
37. Among persons who experienced sexual harassment and assault, 88% of women and 86% of men reported experiencing it in more than one location and most indicated at least 4-5 locations. ³⁷
38. 62% of female college students report having been sexually harassed at their university. 80% of that harassment was peer to peer. ³⁸

³¹ Sexual Harassment: Who + Where Fact Sheet

³² Sexual Harassment: Who + Where Fact Sheet

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³⁸ Sexual Harassment: Who + Where Fact Sheet

Reported

39. For those reporting sexual harassment, the most frequently reported perpetrators across their life was a stranger. ³⁹
40. Those in the household income bracket of \$50k to \$74.9k were the most likely to experience sexual harassment. ⁴⁰
41. Only, 1 in 10 women and 1 in 20 men filed an official complaint or report to an authority figure, including filing a police report. ⁴¹
42. Nearly 1 in 10 women and 1 in 20 men sought a new job assignment, changed jobs, or quit a job due to sexual harassment or abuse. ⁴²
43. 86% of women that reported being harassed have been harassed more than once. ⁴³
44. 68% of women harassed were afraid the harassment would escalate into something worse. ⁴⁴
45. 51% of male college students admit to sexually harassing someone in college. ⁴⁵
46. 12% of girls grades 7-12 report sexual harassment to an adult at the school. ⁴⁶
47. 35% of students harassed in high school report they first experienced it in elementary school. ⁴⁷
48. 29% of high school students that experience sexual harassment also identify themselves as perpetrators of sexual harassment. ⁴⁸

³⁹ The Facts Behind the #MeToo Movement: A National Study on Sexual Harassment and Assault

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