

Measuring #MeToo:
A National Study on Sexual Harassment and Assault (2019)

Methodology and Analysis

NORC at the University of Chicago used the AmeriSpeak Panel, the most representative online probability panel available in the U.S., to recruit and survey a total sample of N=2,219 adults aged 18 and older for this study. Among the respondents, 1,182 identified themselves as female and 1,037 identified themselves as male.

The sample was surveyed in three waves of the AmeriSpeak Omnibus; 40% of the sample were surveyed between February 14-17, 2019; 40% between February 28-March 3, 2019; and the final 20% between March 14-17, 2019.

Funded and operated by NORC at the University of Chicago, AmeriSpeak® is a probability-based panel designed to be representative of the U.S. household population. Randomly selected U.S. households are sampled using area probability and address-based sampling, with a known, non-zero probability of selection from the NORC National Sample Frame. These sampled households are then contacted by U.S. mail, telephone, and field interviewers (face to face). The panel provides sample coverage of approximately 97% of the U.S. household population. Please visit www.norc.org for more information.

All data were analyzed by the UC San Diego's Center on Gender Equity and Health. Analyses were weighted to provide nationally representative prevalence estimates. Bivariate analyses were conducted to assess significant associations (at $p < 0.05$) between sexual harassment and assault on key demographics, when the sample size allowed.

Survey

All respondents

This next set of questions are being conducted on behalf of Stop Street Harassment, a nonprofit organization dedicated to making public places safer. This work is also supported by the University of California San Diego's Center on Gender Equity and Health (GEH); Promundo-US, a global leader in engaging men and boys in promoting gender equality; and RALIANCE, a nonprofit partnership working to end sexual violence in one generation.

This survey is focused on sexual harassment and abuse, which includes all forms of unwanted sexual, homophobic, transphobic and/or sexist experiences across all areas of people's lives. Your answers to the questions will be strictly confidential. We are not collecting your name nor any identifying information.

If you have experienced sexual harassment and abuse, we appreciate and honor you for sharing your experiences in the survey. We know it can be upsetting and challenging. The information from the survey will help advocates, policymakers and educators better understand how to address these issues and make communities safer for everyone. Your help matters, and it will make a difference.

If you have any questions or concerns about this study, you can contact AmeriSpeak Support at 1-888-326-9424 or support@AmeriSpeak.org.

All respondents were asked Q1

Q1

[Respondent saw each of the following descriptions one at a time, in a random order. They selected "yes" or "no" to each option.]

Please check off each type of sexually harassing or abusive experience/s you have ever had. Note that this is focused on interactions you did not willingly agree to or did not want to have.

1. Someone whistling, honking, making kissy noises, "Pssst" sounds, or leering/staring aggressively at you.
2. Someone saying things like, "Hey Baby," "Mmmm Sexy," "Yo Shorty," "Mami/Mamacita," "Give me a smile," or similar comments in a way that is disrespectful and/or unwanted and/or made you feel unsafe.
3. Someone calling you a sexist slur, like "Bitch," "Slut," "Cunt," "Ho" or "Thot."

The Facts Behind the #MeToo Movement:
A National Study on Sexual Harassment and Assault (2019)

4. Someone misgendering you or calling you a homophobic or transphobic slur, like “Fag,” “Dyke,” or “Tranny.”
5. Someone talking about your body parts inappropriately or offensively (such as your legs, crotch, butt, or breasts), saying sexually explicit comments (“I want to do BLANK to you”) or asking inappropriate sexual questions.
6. Someone making threats to harm you, to harm someone you know, or to share personal information you don’t want shared (examples could include your sexual orientation or drug use history or immigration status).
7. Someone saying you must date them or do a sexual act for them in exchange for something (such as a good grade, a promotion, a job, drugs, food, or something similar) or instead of something (like paying rent or a citation, etc).
8. Someone repeatedly texting or calling you in a harassing way.
9. Someone repeatedly asking you for a date or your phone number when you’ve said no or ignored them.
10. Someone electronically sending you or showing you sexual content without your permission, such as over e-mail, snapchat or Facebook or on their phone or computer.
11. Someone taking and/or sharing sexual pictures or videos of you without your permission.
12. Someone flashing or exposing their genitals to you without your permission.
13. Someone physically following you without your permission.
14. Someone purposely touching you or brushing up against you in an unwelcome, sexual way.
15. Someone forcing you to do a sexual act without your permission or one that you didn’t want to do (including while you were under the influence of alcohol or drugs).

Respondents who answered, “Yes,” for at least one behavior in Q1 were asked Q2-5

Q2.

Where did you experience

[For each option people selected in Q1, respondents were asked where it took place, for example: Where did you experience someone saying things like, “Hey Baby,” “Mmmm Sexy,” “Yo Shorty,” “Mami/Mamacita,” “Give me a smile,” or similar comments in a way that is disrespectful and/or unwanted and/or made you feel unsafe?]

[One by one, they saw the location options and could choose the relevant one/s.]

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Your home or place of residence | 7. Nightlife venue (like a concert, bar or club) |
| 2. Someone else’s home or place of residence | 8. At your elementary school (pre-school through 5 th grade) |
| 3. A public space (like a street, park, beach, store, restaurant, mall, library, movie theater, museum, swimming pool, gym) | 9. At your middle-school (6 th to 8 th grade) |
| 4. Mass transportation systems (bus, subway, metro, train or airplane) | 10. At your high school (9 th to 12 th grade) |
| 5. Your car or the car of a person you knew | 11. At your university or college or technical training school |
| 6. Taxi or ride-sharing service (like Lyft, Uber) driven by someone you didn’t know | 12. At your workplace, including temporary jobs and internships |
| | 13. Online (such as over e-mail or social media platforms) |
| | 14. By phone (texting or calls) |
| | 15. Another place that is not listed |

Q3.

When was the most recent time you had a sexually harassing or abusive experience/s?

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Within the past 7 days | 4. Within the past year |
| 2. Within the past 30 days | 5. Within the past 2-5 years |
| 3. Within the past 6 months | 6. More than 5 years ago |

The Facts Behind the #MeToo Movement:
A National Study on Sexual Harassment and Assault (2019)

Q4.

Have any of the following persons been involved in sexually harassing or abusing you?

Please select all that apply,

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Stranger | 6. A teacher or professor or other authority at school/college |
| 2. Family member, relative | 7. A classmate at school or college |
| 3. Spouse or romantic partner | 8. A boss, employer, supervisor, or manager |
| 4. Unrelated person you know well (friend, neighbor, someone you're dating) | 9. A coworker or someone else at work who is not your boss |
| 5. Unrelated person you don't know well (acquaintance) | 10. Other |

Q5.

Because of the sexually harassing or abusive experience/s you had, have you done any of the following? *Please select all that apply.*

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Changed your route or regular routine | 6. Moved from a dorm, apartment, house or other form of residence |
| 2. Stopped a hobby or activity or stopped participating in a community or religious group | 7. Sought medical help, including mental health counselling |
| 3. Ended a relationship (such as a friendship or romantic relationship) | 8. Filed an official complaint or report to an authority figure at work or at school, such as a work supervisor, human resources, Office of Title IX, or a school administrator |
| 4. Changed schools and/or universities or dropped out of school or university, or dropped a course | 9. Filed an official complaint with the police |
| 5. Sought a new job assignment, changed jobs or quit a job | 10. Felt anxiety or depression |
| | 11. None of the above |

All respondents were asked Q6

Q6.

This question includes a set of actions that you may have done at any point in your life. These refer to interactions that others did not willingly agree to or did not want to have, or you were unsure if they wanted to have, but you did it anyway.

Again, your responses are confidential and will not be linked with your name or other personally identifying information about you. Please check off each type of action you have ever done.

[Just like Q1, respondent saw each of the following descriptions one at a time, in a random order. They selected "yes" or "no" to each option.]

1. Whistled, honked, made kissy noises, "Pssst" sounds, or leered/stared aggressively at someone.
2. Said things like, "Hey Baby," "Mmmm Sexy," "Yo Shorty," "Mami/Mamacita," "Give me a smile," or similar comments to someone you are not in a relationship with.
3. Called someone a slur like "Bitch," "Slut," "Cunt," "Ho" or "Thot."
4. Misgendered or called someone a slur, like "Fag," "Dyke," or "Tranny."
5. Talked about someone's body parts inappropriately or offensively (such as their legs, crotch, butt, or breasts), saying sexually explicit comments ("I want to do BLANK to you") or asking inappropriate sexual questions.
6. Making threats to harm someone or to share personal information about them that they don't want shared (examples could include their sexual orientation or drug use history or immigration status).
7. Telling someone they must date you or do a sexual act for you in exchange for something (such as a good grade, a promotion, a job, drugs, food, or something similar) or instead of something (like paying rent or a citation, etc).
8. Repeatedly texting or calling someone in a harassing way.
9. Repeatedly asking someone for a date or their phone number when they've said no or ignored you.

The Facts Behind the #MeToo Movement:
A National Study on Sexual Harassment and Assault (2019)

10. Electronically sending someone or showing someone sexual content without their permission, such as over e-mail, snapchat or Facebook or on your phone or computer.
11. Taking and/or sharing sexual pictures or videos of someone without their permission.
12. Flashing or exposing your genitals to someone without your permission.
13. Physically following someone without their permission.
14. Purposely touching someone or brushing up against someone in an unwelcome, sexual way.
15. Forcing someone to do a sexual act without their permission or one that you have pressured them to do (including while they are under the influence of alcohol or drugs).

Respondents who answered, "Yes," for at least one behavior in Q6 were asked Q7

Q7.

Where did you....

[Respondents who answered "Yes," for at least one behavior in Q6 were then asked WHERE they did the behavior, with these locations listed one at a time for them to answer "Yes" or "No." For example: Where did you whistle, honk, make kissy noises, "Pssst" sounds, or leer/star aggressively at someone?]

[Then one by one, they saw the location options and could choose the relevant one/s.]

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Your home or place of residence | 7. Nightlife venue (like a concert, bar or club) |
| 2. Someone else's home or place of residence | 8. At your elementary school (pre-school through 5 th grade) |
| 3. A public space (like a street, park, beach, store, restaurant, mall, library, movie theater, museum, swimming pool, gym) | 9. At your middle-school (6 th to 8 th grade) |
| 4. Mass transportation (bus, subway, metro, train or airplane) | 10. At your high school (9 th to 12 th grade) |
| 5. Your car or the car of a person you knew | 11. At your university or college or technical training school |
| 6. Taxi or ride-sharing service (like Lyft, Uber) driven by someone you didn't know | 12. At your workplace, including temporary jobs and internships |
| | 13. Online (such as over e-mail or social media platforms) |
| | 14. By phone (texting or calls) |
| | 15. Another place that is not listed |

All respondents were asked Q8 and Q9

Q8.

Has anyone ever said that you have committed sexual harassment or assault against them?

1. Yes, sexual harassment
2. Yes, sexual assault
3. Yes, both sexual harassment and assault
4. No

Q9.

In the past year, there have been many public figures in sports, music, politics, and media accused of sexual harassment or assault. Which of the following statements do you most agree with regarding these cases?

1. I believe sexual harassment or assault occurred in every one of these cases.
2. I believe that in most of these cases something inappropriate happened, but not all of them were at the level of sexual harassment or assault.
3. I think it varied from case to case, with some of the cases being true and some being untrue.
4. I believe that in most of these cases nothing happened, and that accusers are often misremembering or confused about what rises to the level of sexual harassment or assault.
5. I believe that in most of these cases nothing happened, and that accusers are purposefully lying for attention or money.

The Facts Behind the #MeToo Movement:
A National Study on Sexual Harassment and Assault (2019)

Thank you for sharing your experiences with us. The information you shared will make a difference! We appreciate and honor you for sharing your experiences in the survey. We know it can be upsetting and challenging.

If you need assistance, support or advice, the National Sexual Assault Hotline is free and confidential. Call 1-800-656-4673 or visit: <https://www.rainn.org/>. A list of all rape crisis centers in the United States is available at <http://www.raliance.org/rape-crisis-centers/>. A specific resource tailored for men is also available with the organization 1 in 6: <https://1in6.org/>.