

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

Executive Summary

The nationally representative survey of 2,009 people was conducted by GfK in Jan. 2018.

Key Findings:

SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND ASSAULT POSE A SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM IN THE U.S., ESPECIALLY FOR WOMEN.

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

More than 3 in 4 women (77%) and 1 in 3 men (34%) experienced verbal sexual harassment;

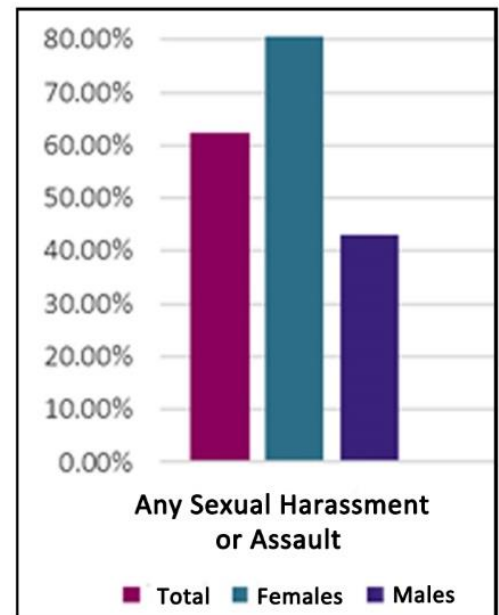
1 in 2 women (51%) and 1 in 6 men (17%) were sexually touched in an unwelcome way;

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 men (12%) were physically followed;

Close to 1 in 3 women (30%) and 1 in 10 men (12%) faced unwanted genital flashing;

More than 1 in 4 women (27%) and 1 in 14 men (7%) survived sexual assault.



WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES AND WOMEN WHO IDENTIFY AS LESBIAN OR BISEXUAL ARE MORE LIKELY TO EXPERIENCE SEXUAL ASSAULT THAN OTHER WOMEN.

Sexual harassment and assault is so common for women that most differences by demographic are insignificant, with two main exceptions.

1. Disability status: 40% of women with disabilities reported experiencing sexual assault compared with 23% of women without disabilities.
2. Sexual orientation: 48% of lesbian or bisexual women reported sexual assault compared with 25% of straight women.

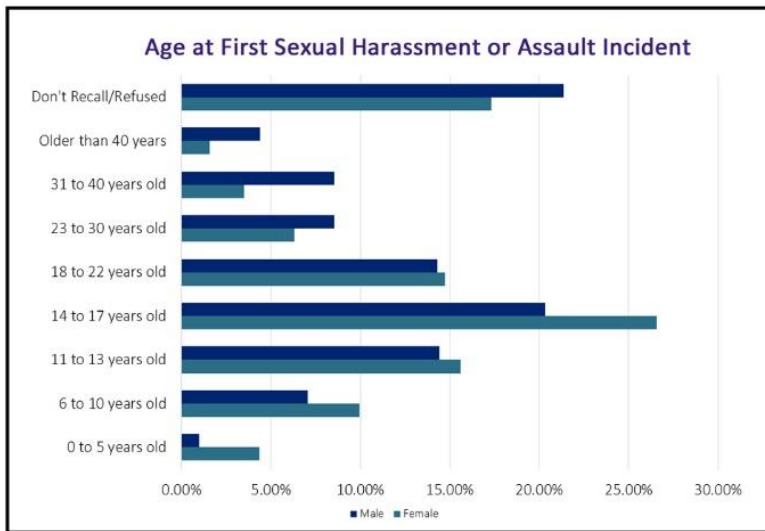
MEN IN SOCIALLY MARGINALIZED GROUPS ARE MORE LIKELY TO EXPERIENCE SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND ASSAULT THAN OTHER MEN.

Among men, those in socially marginalized groups are more likely to report experiencing sexual harassment and assault than other men.

This is especially true of sexual assault and includes Hispanic men, men with disabilities, men living below the poverty level and gay and bisexual men — in addition to men in rural areas.

MOST PEOPLE EXPERIENCE SEXUAL HARASSMENT ACROSS MULTIPLE LOCATIONS.

88% of harassed women and 86% of harassed men reported facing experiences in more than one location, and most people said it had occurred in least 4-5 locations.



SEXUAL HARASSMENT TAKES PLACE ACROSS A RANGE OF LOCATIONS, BUT THE MOST FREQUENTLY LISTED IS A PUBLIC SPACE.

Women most frequently reported sexual harassment in a public space (66%), at their workplace (38%), and at their residence (35%). Men's most frequently reported locations were a public space (19%), their school (14%), and for 13% of men, their workplace, own residence, and by phone/text, each respectively.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND ASSAULT ARE MOST FREQUENTLY PERPETRATED BY MEN, AND MOST OFTEN BY STRANGERS FOR HARASSMENT AND A KNOWN PERSON FOR ASSAULT.

When persons who had experienced some form of sexual harassment and assault were asked about the perceived gender of the perpetrator/s in their most recent incident, 85% of women and 44% of men reported either one male or two or more males. In contrast, 30% of men and 3% of women reported one female or two or more females.

For those reporting only sexual harassment, the most frequent perpetrator across their life was a stranger in person. For those reporting sexual assault, it was a family member/relative, friend, or romantic partner.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND ASSAULT OFTEN BEGIN AT A YOUNG AGE.

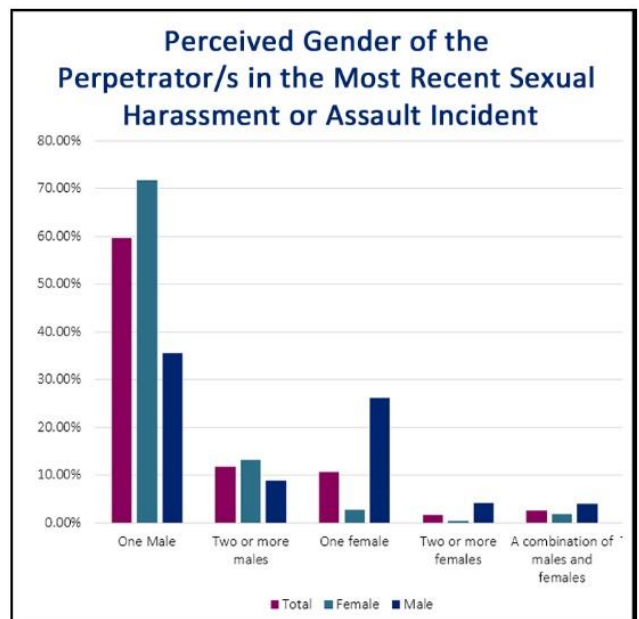
Among those who reported experiencing sexual harassment and assault, 57% of women and 42% of men said it had happened by age 17. High school-age, 14-to-17-years-old, was the most frequently selected age people reported for their first experience (27% women, 20% men).

A PUBLIC SPACE IS THE MOST FREQUENTLY REPORTED LOCATION FOR A PERSON'S FIRST EXPERIENCE OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT.

A public space was reported the most frequently as the location for respondents' first experience of sexual harassment (37% of women and 29% of men).

MOST SEXUAL ASSAULT TAKES PLACE IN PRIVATE RESIDENCES.

For sexual assault, women listed someone else's residence (15%) and their own residence (11%) as the top locations. Men listed someone else's residence (2%) and a public space (2%).



SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND ASSAULT CAUSE PERSONS ACROSS ALL DEMOGRAPHICS TO FEEL DEPRESSION AND CHANGE THEIR LIVES.

Among those who experienced harassment and assault, 31% of women and 20% of men said they felt anxiety or depression, while 23% of women and 12% of men changed their route or regular routine.