



Executive Summary

Sexual harassment and assault are major concerns in the United States (U.S.), but we have inadequate data to understand the scope and scale of the problem. The #MeToo 2024 survey, conducted with a national sample using an online survey implemented by our partner NORC from April to May 2024, provides national estimates on the prevalence of sexual harassment and assault in the U.S. with a sample of 3,383 adults (age 18+). This study is a follow-up to a collaborative 2018 #MeToo survey led by Stop Street Harassment, allowing us a comparison point to track change in sexual harassment and assault prevalence since the #MeToo movement and over the past 6 years.

Key Findings

The vast majority of women and almost half of all men have experienced sexual harassment or assault in their lifetime. We see no reduction in the lifetime prevalence of sexual harassment and assault from our first study in 2018 to this 2024 study for women (from 81% to 82%) or men (from 43% to 42%). This is despite the visibility of the 2017 #MeToo movement on these issues and the resulting increase in awareness and policies to affect these issues.

1. Sexual harassment can include a range of behaviors, from verbal to cyber to contact-based, and our 2024 data show that all forms of harassment and assault were more likely for women as compared with men.
 - *Verbal sexual harassment*, including sexualizing and gender-based degrading remarks, is the most common form of harassment experienced; 78% of women and 29% of men have experienced this. Homophobic/transphobic sexual harassment is the only form of sexual harassment more common for men than women (15% versus 8%).
 - *Sexual coercion or threats*, such as repeated harassment for a date or being forced into a date via threats, occurred for 50% of women and 24% of men.
 - *Cyber harassment* occurred for 31% of women and 15% of men.
 - *Physically aggressive sexual harassment*, including stalking and unwanted touching in a sexual way, occurred for 59% of women and 21% of men.
 - *Sexual assault* was experienced by 27% of women and 8% of men.
2. Past year experiences of sexual harassment or assault occurred against more than one in four U.S. adults (26%) – or over 68 million people. We see significantly higher prevalence for women (32%) compared with men (15%).
5. Sexual violations – harassment or assault – begin at a young age for many people.
 - Over half of women (56%) and 18% of men had their first experience of sexual harassment or assault before age 18.
 - One in five U.S. women (20%) and 8% of men first experienced this type of abuse before they were 13.
6. Some demographics reported a higher lifetime prevalence of sexual harassment and assault compared with their counterparts:
 - Age: 25-34 year olds and 34-49 year olds reported the most forms of abuse of any age group, and 18-24 year olds reported the most cyber harassment.
 - Race: Hispanic individuals faced the highest rates of abuse among all racial groups.
 - Education: Those with higher education (college or graduate degrees), experienced more verbal and physically aggressive harassment.



- Income: Those in the lowest income quintile reported more dating coercion and sexual threats, cyber sexual harassment, and sexual assault.
 - Sexual Orientation: Bisexual individuals reported higher prevalence of most forms of harassment as compared with gay/lesbian and heterosexual people.
 - Disability: Those with a disability reported high rates of abuse, especially for cyber sexual harassment and sexual assault. For instance, those with a disability are 27% of our sample, but they are 46% of those reporting experiences of cyber sexual harassment and sexual assault, respectively.
7. Sexual harassment is most likely to occur in public spaces, while sexual assault occurs most often in private spaces.
 - Harassment – most often in the form of verbal harassment – typically occurs in public spaces, such as streets, parks, libraries, and swimming pools; 73% of women and 24% of men report harassment in a public space.
 - Sexual assault for both men and women is most commonly reported in a residence.
 8. Perpetrators of sexual harassment are most often strangers; sexual assault perpetrators are typically known to victims.
 - 65% of women and 17% of men have been verbally sexually harassed by a stranger;
 - 25% of women and 11% of men have been sexually threatened or coerced by a stranger;
 - 31% of women and 10% of men have been cyber sexually harassed by a stranger, and
 - 42% of women and 11% of men have experienced physically aggressive sexual harassment from a stranger.
 - 9% of women have been sexually assaulted by a partner, 8% have been sexually assaulted by someone they know well, and 8% have been sexually assaulted by an acquaintance.
 9. Most people (87% of women and 89% of men) who faced abuse in the last 12 months did not talk to anyone about their experiences.
 10. Those who experienced sexual harassment and assault in the last 12 months were significantly more likely to have depression and anxiety, engaged in binge alcohol use or illicit drug use in the past 30 days, and experienced suicidality in the past year.
 11. Prevalence of sexual harassment and assault was high for both NB/GNC people (79%) and transgender people (87%); these prevalence rates were largely comparable to that seen for women but much higher than that seen for men. One in 25 NB/GNC people and transgender people, respectively, experienced sexual assault in the past year.

These findings demonstrate that sexual harassment, including aggressive and contact forms of harassment, is ubiquitous in the U.S. for women and NB/GNC and transgender people. It is happening in public spaces, as well as in the workplace and in our schools. For many, their first experience with sexual harassment or assault begins at a young age, and socially vulnerable groups such as those living with a disability are particularly at risk. Despite an increase in awareness and legislative protections since the start of the #MeToo Movement, we saw no decline in its prevalence over the past six years. More must be done to stop the normalization and high prevalence of these abuses.