



A National Study of Sexual Harassment and
Assault in the United States



Newcomb Institute
TULANE UNIVERSITY



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Note: This report covers sensitive information related to sexual harassment, assault, and mental health. If you or someone you know needs support for these issues, these resources may be helpful:

- [National Emotional Crisis and Suicide Hotline 9-8-8](#)
- [National Sexual Assault Hotline 1-800-656-4673](#)
- [National Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-799-7233](#)
- [National Street Harassment Hotline 1-855-897-5910](#)

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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.

Background

The #MeToo movement swept through social media and news outlets in 2017. As a response to this movement, and to build awareness of sexual harassment and accountability to those who have been engaging in these abuses with impunity, Stop Street Harassment (inclusive of team members on this 2024 study) led a national survey in 2018 to examine the prevalence of sexual harassment in all places that it occurs (1). This first-time national examination of sexual harassment in the U.S. with detailed items on the diverse forms of this abuse by demographics and location showed that 81% of women and 43% of men have been sexually harassed or assaulted in their lifetime, and that these experiences result in destabilization in residence, work, and mobility, as well as increases in depression and anxiety (1). These findings aligned with the women saying that sexual harassment is pervasive and harmful (2).

Since the start of #MeToo and our original 2018 survey, attitudes toward sexual harassment have altered, with growing recognition of its unacceptability (2,3). In 2022, Pew conducted a survey with U.S. adults and found that people believe that, since #MeToo, there has been improved accountability for those who commit acts of sexual harassment or assault at work, and that women reporting this abuse are more likely to be believed (3). These findings indicate progress in awareness of the issue.

Legislative protections, too, have advanced, often with bipartisan support; 25 states passed over 80 anti-sexual harassment bills since the start of #MeToo six years ago (4,5). Much of these efforts focus on workplace harassment, even though public space harassment is most prevalent. State-level legal protections include expansion of who is counted as an employee to allow for coverage of parttime workers and interns, broadening federal (Title VII) sexual harassment protections to be beyond “severe and pervasive” abuses, and strengthening mandatory sexual harassment training for employees (4). Texas and Colorado also extended the statute of limitations for workplace sexual harassment, in 2021 and 2022 respectively (4). Two federal laws were also passed in 2022: 1) the *Ending Forced Arbitration of Sexual Assault and Harassment Act*, which prevents mandatory arbitration of these types of claims in the workplace, and 2) the *Speak Out Act*, which prohibits judicial enforcement of non-disparagement and non-disclosure agreements in these cases (4).

Legislative efforts to address sexual harassment and assault beyond the workplace have been limited. New York’s *Adult Survivor’s Act* allowed a one-year period for claims of sexual offenses against an adult to be filed in civil court even if it exceeded the statute of limitation (4). From the period of November 24, 2022 to November 24, 2023, over 3,000 suits were filed, including E. Jean Carroll’s case against former President Donald Trump, which resulted in a guilty verdict for President Trump and a \$5M award in damages for Ms. Carroll (6). California provided a three-year period for civil claims related to sexual assault that occurred between 2009 and 2019 to be filed under the *California’s Sexual Abuse and Cover-Up Accountability Act*, with claim filing allowed from January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2026. While these are exciting indications of progress, we lack data to determine if sexual harassment prevalence has declined in the U.S. as a consequence of the #MeToo movement and resultant awareness, attitudinal, and legislative changes in the country.

Building on the collaborative 2018 #MeToo Survey led by Stop Street Harassment, we at Newcomb Institute undertook a new 2024 #MeToo Survey in partnership with Stop Street Harassment to provide up-to-date data on sexual harassment and assault for U.S. adults, to track changes in prevalence since 2018, and to understand which populations remain at higher risk for these issues. In this round of data collection, we also include past year experiences, to elucidate our understanding of this issue in the U.S. as it is currently occurring and consider how we might strengthen our efforts to prevent it.

Methods

Study Design: This study involved analysis of cross-sectional survey data on sexual harassment and assault that was adapted from one developed by Stop Street Harassment in 2018. In 2024, Newcomb Institute at Tulane University led the effort, with input from Stop Street Harassment, Valor, and Raliance, and implemented in the field by the National Opinion Research Center (NORC) at the University of Chicago using an online survey with their panel samples of U.S. adults aged 18 and older (N=3383). Data were collected from April 27, 2024 to May 17, 2024. NORC provided Newcomb Institute at Tulane University with all data and the data transparency report on June 17, 2024. (Please see: <https://newcomb.tulane.edu/content/metoo-research> for the data transparency report.)

NORC conducted the survey using their probability-based AmeriSpeak® Panel and their non-probability panel, Lucid, to obtain enough participants nationally and for select states – California, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas – to allow for prevalence estimates able to be weighted for representativeness at the national level and at the state level for our four states of focus, by gender. Our sample was comprised of 2857 participants from AmeriSpeak and 526 participants from Lucid. NORC's *TrueNorth* Calibration methodology was used to yield weights for national and state level analyses.

Recruitment: NORC invited participants into the study using a script to elicit both interest and comfort: *“This survey is being conducted on behalf of Newcomb Institute at Tulane University, an academic research institute focused on gender issues. We will ask you about your experiences with harassment and violence in public spaces, as well as in private spaces like your home. We will ask some sensitive questions like participation in illegal activities as well as personal, potentially traumatizing life events that could lead to emotional distress. Difficulties in life, including harassment and violence, can happen to anyone. While taking this survey, please think about all the experiences you have dealt with in your life regarding these specific situations, as well as how experiences like this have affected you. Your answers to the questions will be kept strictly confidential.”*

Procedure: The survey was offered in English and Spanish and was self-administered by the respondent online. Surveys took approximately 15 minutes to complete, and participants were paid \$5 for their time. All participants provided informed consent as part of their enrollment in the panels, and their participation in this study was opt-in at the time of recruitment. Given the sensitivity related to questions about violence, substance use, and mental health, we also provided hotline numbers for domestic violence, sexual violence, and mental health, regardless of participant responses to these questions, at the end of the survey.

NORC obtained a Certificate of Confidentiality, allowing them to legally refuse sharing this information if requested by government or any other authority agency since we ask about illicit behaviors such as drug use and violence. The Certificate of Confidentiality does not prevent disclosure to authorities in cases of harm to a child or elder or in situations of life-threatening risk for harm to self or others. This information was provided to all participants prior to participation.

Human Subjects Participation and IRB. This procedure was approved by the NORC IRB and, because we received data for secondary data analysis with no identifiable data, exempt approval from Tulane.

Participation Rates: Participation rates can only be assessed for the AmeriSpeak part of the sample. It is not possible to measure sample performance rates for the nonprobability sample, since we do not know how many were invited to the survey or any information about how the panel was built. It is also not

relevant, since there is no advantage of a high response rate when neither the panel nor the sample are based on probability. For the AmeriSpeak panel, 12,055 households were contacted, and 2,857 participants were obtained and participated, indicating a 23.7% participation rate (7), a standard rate for sample such as this and a rate comparable to what we found in prior similar research (1,8).

Characteristics of the Weighted Sample: Demographics for the weighted sample correspond with that seen for the nation in terms of age, sex, education, and race/ethnicity. (See Table 1.)

Table 1. Sample Demographics

Demographic Category	Unweighted (%)	Weighted (%)	Benchmark (%)*
Age (in years)			
18 – 24	9%	11%	11%
25 - 29	8%	8%	9%
30 - 39	21%	18%	18%
40 - 49	15%	16%	16%
50 - 59	15%	16%	16%
60 - 64	10%	9%	8%
65+	23%	22%	22%
Sex¹			
Male	46%	49%	49%
Female	54%	51%	51%
Education Status			
Less than High School	6%	5%	10%
High School Equivalent	20%	26%	27%
Some College/Associate’s Degree	39%	35%	29%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	35%	34%	34%
Race/Ethnicity			
Non-Hispanic White	60%	61%	61%
Non-Hispanic Black	17%	11%	11%
Hispanic	16%	17%	17%
All other	7%	10%	11%

*Benchmark percentages were taken from the U.S. Census data (9).

¹The sex variable was based on an item asking about sex at birth.

Gender was assessed using an item asking their preferred gender identity, with four options: 1) women, 2) men, 3) non-binary, gender queer, or gender fluid, and 4) other. Of our 3,383 participants, the number by gender was as follows: 1,785 women, 1,515 men, 29 non-binary/gender queer/gender fluid or other, and 54 not responding. Sex (at birth) is highly aligned with gender (self-identity); 98% of females and males (sex) identify as women and men (gender), respectively. We present data by gender, focusing on women and men due to the small cell size for non-binary/gender non-conforming (NB/GNC people) in our primary analyses. For gender-stratified analyses, we exclude slightly less than 3% of our sample: <2% due to missingness and <1% due to NB/GNC identity. However, we include a chapter focused on NB/GNC (n=29) and transgender people (n=59). NB/GNC is based on self-identity in our gender question, where transgender is based on a separate question where they identify as transgender OR indicate non-alignment between self-reported gender and sex at birth. While the numbers for

NB/GNC people and transgender people are small, the findings offer important insight into these growing populations.

Sexual Harassment and Assault Measures: Survey items used in this study were created for the 2018 #MeToo survey. We made a few modifications to that survey. First, we made the cyber abuse item into two questions, to capture sexual harassment via technology in private cyber spaces versus public cyber spaces. We also updated our item on homophobic and transphobic remarks to include “intentional” misgendering. We additionally modified the survey to allow for assessing these items individually in terms of assessing participants’ age at first experience with the given form of abuse and to assess whether the given experience occurred in the past year. Finally, we broadened our categorizations of the now 22 item measure to distinguish more threatening forms of verbal sexual harassment from less threatening forms; these more threatening forms are now categorized as “dating coercion and sexual threats.” Please see Table 2 for our categorizations and items by categorization.

Table 2. Sexual Harassment and Assault Items and Variables

<p>VERBAL SEXUAL HARASSMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Someone whistling, honking, making kissy noises, “Pssst” sounds, or leering/staring aggressively at you. 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 makes you feel unsafe. Someone calling you a sexist slur, like “Bitch,” “Slut,” “Cunt,” or “Whore”. Someone purposefully misgendering you or calling you a homophobic or transphobic slur, like “Fag,” “Dyke,” or “Tranny.” 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. <p>CYBER SEXUAL HARASSMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Someone sending you sexual content without your permission, sexualizing you inappropriately, or threatening you with sex acts, in <i>private online spaces</i>, such as over e-mail or text. Someone sending you sexual content without your permission, sexualizing you inappropriately, or threatening you with sex acts, in <i>public online spaces</i>, such as on social media. Someone taking and/or sharing sexual pictures or videos of you without your permission. 	<p>DATING COERCION OR SEXUAL THREATS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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). 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). Someone repeatedly texting or calling you in a harassing way. Someone repeatedly asking you for a date or your phone number when you’ve said no or ignored them. <p>PHYSICALLY AGGRESSIVE SEXUAL HARASSMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Someone flashing or exposing their genitals to you without your permission. Someone physically following you without your permission. Someone purposely touching you or brushing up against you in an unwelcome, sexual way. <p>SEXUAL ASSAULT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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).
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As with our 2018 survey, we assessed location and relationship to perpetrators for each of these types of experiences if they occurred. For those reporting sexual harassment or assault in the past year, we additionally asked if they sought help and, if so, from whom, using a closed item set of response options.

Data Analyses: In this report, we present weighted frequencies on experiences of sexual harassment for the total sample and by gender. We conducted bivariate associations between demographics and these experiences, presenting p-values for significant differences.

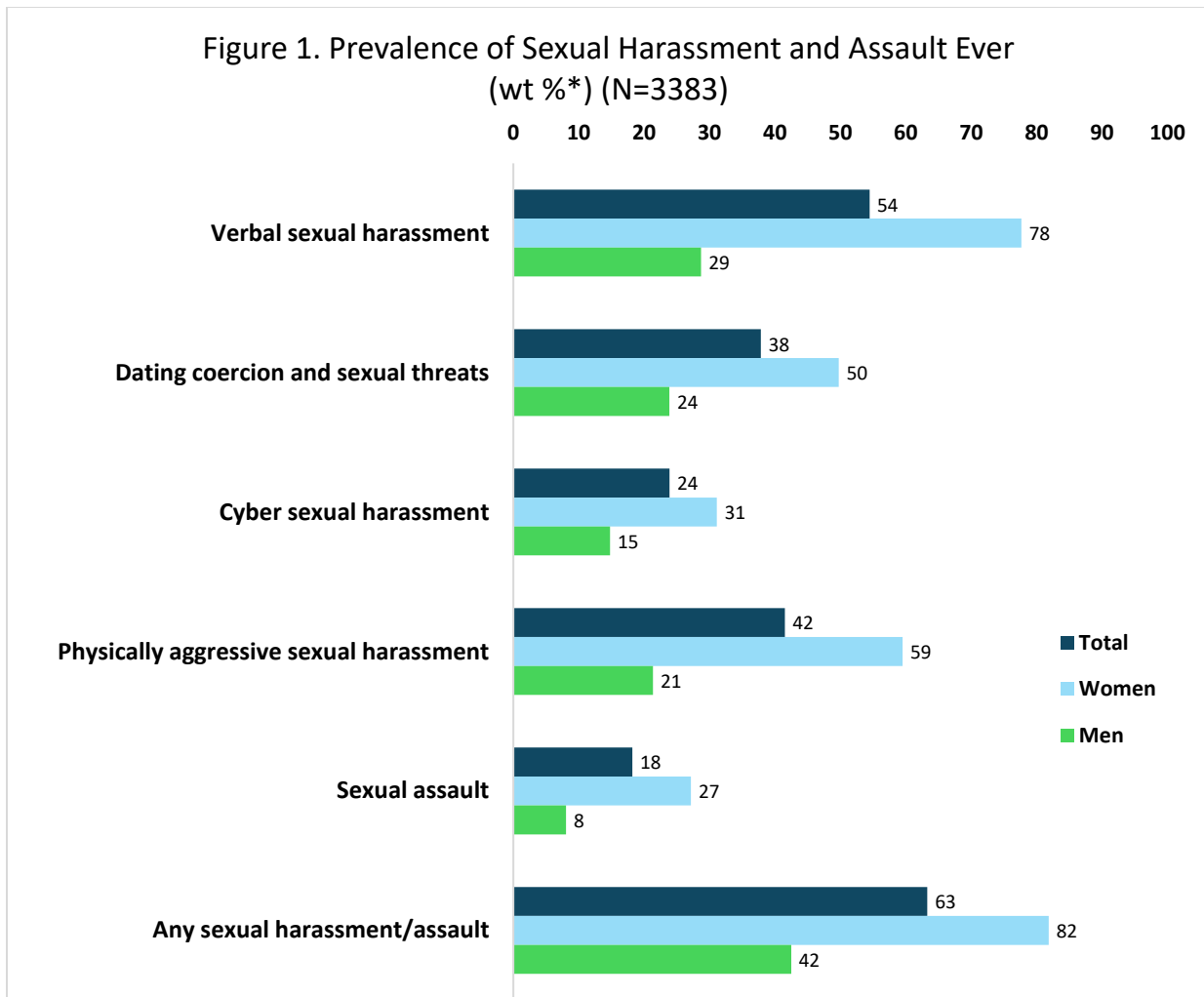
Results

Prevalence of Sexual Harassment and Assault Ever

Most U.S. adults (63%) have experienced sexual harassment in some form, with significant gender differences ($p < .05$) across all forms. (See Figure 1.) Women are consistently more likely than men to have had these experiences ever (82% of women vs 42% of men). (Figure 1.)

The most pervasive form is verbal sexual harassment, reported by 78% of women and 29% of men. Notably, the one form of sexual harassment more common for men than women is within this category, in the form of homophobic or transphobic remarks. (See Appendix A.)

Importantly, half of all women have experienced dating coercion/sexual threats or physically aggressive sexual harassment, and almost one in five women have experienced sexual assault.



Significant gender differences ($p < 0.05$) are seen for all forms of sexual harassment and assault.

*wt % indicates that numbers depicted in the graph are indicative of weighted percents

Age at First Experience of Sexual Harassment or Assault

Over half of all women (56%) experienced sexual harassment or assault prior to being 18 years old; one in five U.S. women (20%) first experienced sexual harassment or assault before they age 13. (See Table 1A.)

The most common forms of sexual harassment experienced at a very young age were verbal sexual harassment, experienced by 13% of women before age 13, and physically aggressive sexual harassment, experienced by 8% of women before they were 13 years old. Almost one in twenty women (5%) were sexually assaulted before age 13.

Notably, verbal harassment, physically aggressive harassment, and sexual assault escalate in adolescence. In contrast, dating coercion and sexual threats, as well as cyber sexual harassment, appear to escalate in adulthood; this may be due to the increased role of dating apps in young adulthood relative to adolescence.

While men were less likely than women to experience sexual harassment or assault at a young age, we still see that 18% of U.S. men were sexually harassed or assaulted before they were 18. The study also finds that 5% and 1% of men experienced verbal sexual harassment and sexual assault, respectively, before they were 13 years old. (See Table 1B.)

Table 1A. Age at First Experience of Sexual Harassment or Assault, U.S. Adult Women (n=1785)

	<13	13-17	18+	Total Ever
Verbal sexual harassment	13%	36%	29%	78%
Dating coercion and sexual threats	4%	15%	31%	50%
Cyber Sexual Harassment	2%	10%	20%	31%
Physically Aggressive Sexual Harassment	8%	20%	31%	60%
Sexual Assault	5%	10%	13%	27%
Any Sexual Harassment or Assault	20%	36%	26%	82%

Table 1B. Age at First Experience of Sexual Harassment or Assault, U.S. Adult Men (n=1515)

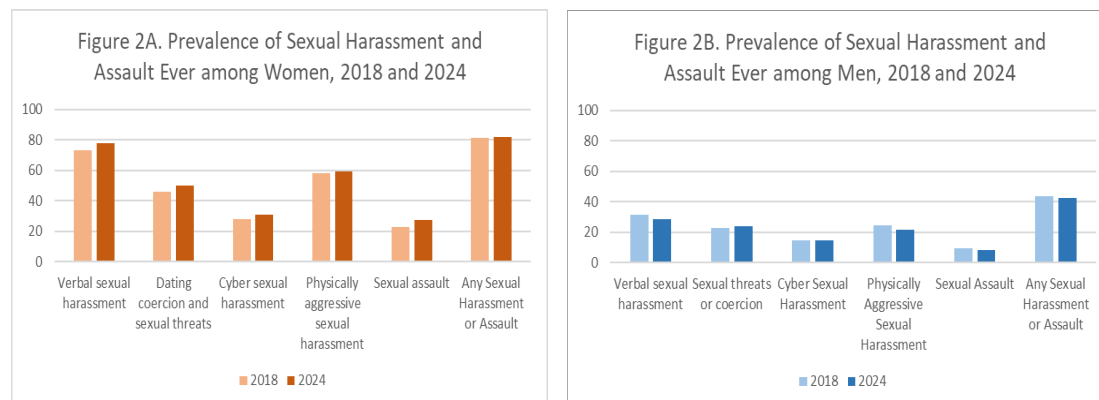
	<13	13-17	18+	Total Ever
Verbal sexual harassment	5%	8%	16%	29%
Dating coercion and sexual threats	2%	4%	17%	24%
Cyber Sexual Harassment	<1%	3%	11%	15%
Physically Aggressive Sexual Harassment	3%	4%	15%	21%
Sexual Assault	1%	1%	5%	8%
Any Sexual Harassment or Assault	8%	10%	25%	43%

(See Appendix B for age at first experiences by sexual harassment or assault survey item.)

Change in Prevalence of Sexual Harassment and Assault, 2018 and 2024

There are no significant changes in prevalence of sexual harassment or assault ever from 2018 to 2024 for both women (from 81% to 82%) and men (from 43% to 42%). (See Figure 2A-B.) We also looked at prevalence of workplace sexual harassment, given the increase in legislative protections for workplace sexual harassment in the past five years. Again, no significant change in reports is seen over time.

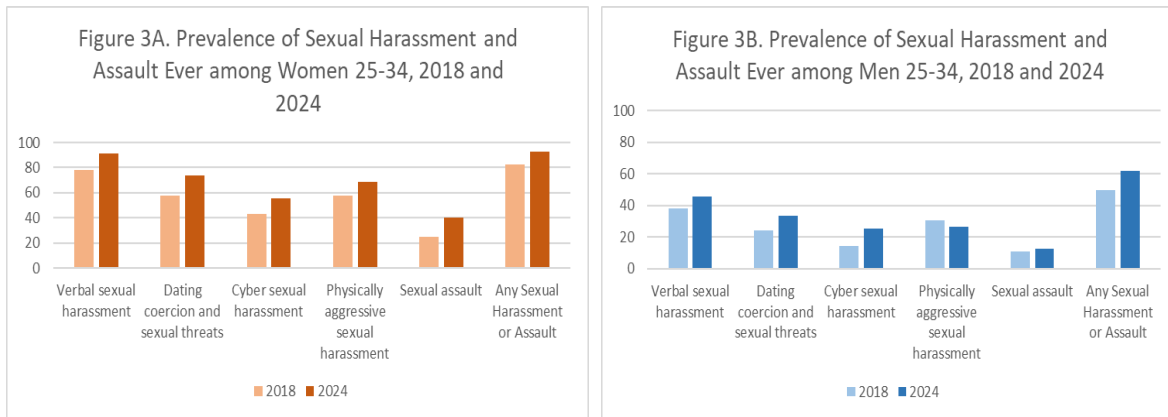
Figure 2A-B. Prevalence of Sexual Harassment and Assault among Women and Men 2018 and 2024



Lack of change may be due to our only including an ever variable in 2018. To examine this, we looked at prevalence of experiences based on age, as reductions in experiences ever may appear for our younger groups, particularly those aged 18-24 years. However, this was not the case.

We conducted chi-square analyses to see if there were any significant changes over time by gender and age categorization. (See Appendix C.) We found significant increases in any sexual harassment or assault over time for both women and men aged 25-34 years (women: 83% to 93%; men: 50% to 62%) but no significant changes for any other age group. When looking by type of sexual harassment, we also found significant increases in experiences of verbal sexual harassment, dating coercion/sexual threats, cyber sexual harassment, and sexual assault from 2018 to 2024 for women aged 25-34, and we found a significant increase in cyber sexual harassment in this timeframe for men aged 25-34. (See Figures 3A-B). No other significant changes were observed.

Figure 3A-B. Prevalence of Sexual Harassment and Assault among Women and Men 2018 and 2024



We see significant differences between time points (2018 and 2024, $p < 0.05$) for all forms of sexual harassment and assault for women, and for cyber sexual assault for men.

Note: The increase in cyber sexual harassment could be due to our inclusion of an additional item on this topic in 2024 or to increased internet and mobile technology access over the past five years.

Demographic Differences in Sexual Harassment and Assault Ever

Prevalence estimates and chi-square analyses were used to assess demographic differences in experiences of sexual harassment and assaults. These are presented in Appendix D. Analyses show:

Age. Significant differences were seen by age. We found higher representation of 25-34 year olds and 25-49 year olds among those who experienced sexual harassment and assault across all forms of these abuses assessed. For cyber sexual harassment, we found higher representation of 18-24 year olds and lower representation of older groups, 50-64 and 65+.

Race/Ethnicity. We saw mixed effects in terms of racial/ethnic differences in sexual harassment and assault. We did not see significant differences in verbal sexual harassment, but we did see higher representation of Hispanics among those reporting more threatening and aggressive forms of sexual harassments as well as sexual assault. We also found higher representation of Blacks and Hispanics among those reporting cyber sexual harassment. Asians were largely under-represented in these experiences.

Education. Significant differences were seen by education. Those with higher levels of education (college or graduate degrees) were more likely to have experienced sexual harassment, and these experiences appear to be specific to increased risk for verbal and physically aggressive harassment.

Income. We do not see significant differences in sexual harassment and assault by income overall. However, there are some differences seen for specific forms of sexual harassment. For example, we see higher representation of our lowest income quintile for those who have experienced dating coercion/sexual threats, cyber sexual harassment, and sexual assault, where we see lower representation of those from the highest income quintile group for these same types of experiences.

Born Outside the U.S. We do not see significant differences in sexual harassment and nativity overall, but we see lower representation of foreign-born respondents among those who have experienced cyber sexual harassment and physically aggressive sexual harassment.

Sexual Orientation. Significant differences were seen by sexual orientation. Bisexual respondents were overrepresented among those reporting all forms of sexual harassment and assault. This is most notable for cyber sexual harassment and sexual assault; for instance, where bisexuals are 5% of our total sample, they are 13% of those reporting experiences of cyber sexual harassment and sexual assault, respectively.

Disability. Significant differences were seen by disability status. Those with a disability were overrepresented among those reporting all forms of sexual harassment and assault. This is most notable for cyber sexual harassment and sexual assault; where those with disability are 27% of our total sample, they are 46% of those reporting experiences of cyber sexual harassment and sexual assault, respectively.

Urban/Rural Residence and National Region. There were no significant differences seen by urban versus rural residence or by region of the country.

Location of Sexual Harassment or Assault Experiences Ever, by Gender

For women, most experiences of sexual violation occur in public spaces, such as streets, parks, libraries, and swimming pools; 73% of women experienced sexual harassment or assault in a public space. (See Table 2A.)

Highest prevalence of verbal sexual harassment, dating coercion and sexual threats, and physically aggressive sexual harassment are in a public space.

Respondents more commonly report sexual assault in the home rather than in public spaces, but still 5% of women have experienced sexual assault in a public place.

Nightclubs, bars, and other entertainment venues such as concerts are also spaces where sexual harassment occurs, with 35% of women reporting experiences of verbal sexual harassment and 17% reporting physically aggressive harassment at these types of entertainment venues.

Workplaces and schools (including college) are also common locations of sexual harassment, with 37% and 33% of women, respectively reporting these experiences.

Again, verbal sexual harassment is the most common exposure, but 13-14% of women report dating coercion/sexual threats and physically aggressive sexual harassment, respectively, at school, and 17% report these abuses, respectively, in the workplace.

Approximately 1 in every 50 women has been sexually assaulted at school or in the workplace, respectively.

Table 2A. Location of Sexual Harassment or Assaults Experiences among U.S. Women (n=1785)

	Verbal Sexual Harassment	Dating Coercion and Sexual Threats	Physically Aggressive Sexual Harassment	Sexual Assault	Any form of Sexual Harassment or Assault
Your home or place of residence	21%	23%	13%	12%	33%
Someone else's home or place of residence	20%	10%	15%	12%	32%
A public space (like a street, park, beach, store, restaurant, mall, library, movie theater, museum, swimming pool, gym)	70%	21%	40%	5%	73%
At your workplace, including temporary jobs and internships	30%	17%	17%	2%	37%
At school or college	28%	13%	14%	2%	33%
Your car or the car of a person you knew	15%	5%	7%	4%	21%
Mass transportation systems (bus, subway, metro, train, or airplane)	16%	3%	8%	<1%	19%

Taxi or ride-sharing service (like Lyft, Uber) driven by someone you didn't know	3%	<1%	<1%	<1%	3%
Nightlife or entertainment venue (like a concert, bar, or club)	35%	12%	17%	2%	37%

Sexual harassment and assault experiences for men follow similar patterns as that seen for women but with far lower prevalence. (See Table 2B.) The most commonly reported location of sexual harassment for men is in public spaces, with 24% of men reporting this; 17% have been verbally harassed in public spaces, 9% have been sexually threatened or coerced in public spaces, and 13% have been aggressively harassed in public spaces. In contrast, men who have experienced sexual assault are most likely to have had that experience in their home or the home of someone else. Schools, workplaces, and nightclubs are also locations of sexual harassment, again, most often in the form of verbal sexual harassment. About 1 in 10 men have experienced verbal sexual harassment in school or at work, respectively.

Table 2B. Location of Sexual Harassment or Assaults Experiences among U.S. Men (n=1515)

	Verbal Sexual Harassment	Dating Coercion and Sexual Threats	Physically Aggressive Sexual Harassment	Sexual Assault	Any form of Sexual Harassment or Assault
Your home or place of residence	5%	10%	5%	3%	11%
Someone else's home or place of residence	9%	5%	6%	3%	13%
A public space (like a street, park, beach, store, restaurant, mall, library, movie theater, museum, swimming pool, gym)	17%	9%	13%	2%	24%
At your workplace, including temporary jobs and internships	10%	8%	6%	<1%	14%
At school or college	9%	5%	3%	<1%	12%
Your car or the car of a person you knew	4%	3%	3%	<1%	7%
Mass transportation systems (bus, subway, metro, train, or airplane)	3%	2%	2%	<1%	5%
Taxi or ride-sharing service (like Lyft, Uber) driven by someone you didn't know	1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	2%
Nightlife or entertainment venue (like a concert, bar, or club)	8%	4%	4.3	1.3	10%

Relationship to Perpetrators of Sexual Harassment or Assault, by Gender

For women, the most commonly identified perpetrators of sexual abuse are strangers (70%) and, secondarily, acquaintances (43%). (See Table 3A.)

However, there is much variation in perpetrator by type of abuse experienced. We find that the most common form of sexual harassment by perpetrator is verbal sexual harassment from a stranger, reported by 65% of women. This also holds true for cyber sexual harassment (31% of women have experienced cyber sexual harassment from a stranger) and physically aggressive sexual harassment (42% of women have experienced this form of sexual harassment from a stranger). Similar percentages of women report having experienced sexual coercion or threats from a stranger (25%) and from an acquaintance (22%).

The most commonly identified perpetrators of sexual assault are partners, friends, and acquaintances. We find that 9% of women report a history of sexual assault from a partner, 8% report sexual assault from a friend or someone they know well, and 8% report that they have been sexually assaulted by an acquaintance. Still, 5% report sexual assault from a stranger.

Sexual harassment from a boss/supervisor or colleague are also not uncommon, with 11% reporting the former and 23% reporting the latter. Sixteen percent of women report sexual abuse from a family member, most often in the form of verbal sexual harassment; 12% of women reported verbal sexual harassment from a family member in their lifetime.

These findings indicate that sexual harassment from strangers is normalized in public spaces where sexual assaults are most often occurring from someone known to women.

	Verbal Sexual Harassment	Dating Coercion and Sexual Threats	Cyber Sexual Harassment	Physically Aggressive Sexual Harassment	Sexual Assault	Any form of Sexual Harassment or Assault
Current or former spouse or romantic or sexual partner	17%	16%	6%	8%	9%	24%
Unrelated person you know well (friend, neighbor)	19%	15%	8%	13%	8%	30%
Unrelated person you don't know well (acquaintance)	33%	22%	13%	20%	8%	43%
A teacher or professor or other authority at school/college	3%	2%	<1%	1%	<1%	4%
A boss, employer, supervisor, or manager	8%	4%	1%	5%	<1%	11%
A coworker or someone else at	18%	11%	4%	10%	<1%	23%

work who is not your boss						
Stranger	65%	25%	31%	42%	5%	70%
Family member or relative	12%	4%	3%	7%	4%	16%
Other	4%	2%	1%	2%	<1%	6%

As with women, the most common perpetrator of sexual abuse for men is a stranger, with 25% of men reporting that they had experienced sexual harassment or assault from a stranger. (See Table 3B.) We also find that 14% have been abused by an acquaintance, 12% by a friend or neighbor or someone else they know well, and 11% by a co-worker. Across all cases, we see verbal sexual harassment most likely. This pattern suggests peer-based abuses are normalized for men.

	Verbal Sexual Harassment	Dating Coercion and Sexual Threats	Cyber Sexual Harassment	Physically Aggressive Sexual Harassment	Sexual Assault	Any form of Sexual Harassment or Assault
Current or former spouse or romantic or sexual partner	4%	5%	2%	3%	1%	6%
Unrelated person you know well (friend, neighbor)	8%	5%	5%	5%	2%	12%
Unrelated person you don't know well (acquaintance)	10%	7%	5%	6%	1%	14%
A teacher or professor or other authority at school/college	2%	1%	1%	<1%	<1%	3%
A boss, employer, supervisor, or manager	3%	2%	<1%	1%	<1%	4%
A coworker or someone else at work who is not your boss	8%	5%	4%	5%	1%	11%
Stranger	17%	12%	11%	11%	2%	25%
Family member or relative	3%	2%	2%	2%	1%	4%
Other	1%	1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	2%

Prevalence of Committing Sexual Harassment or Assault Against Others

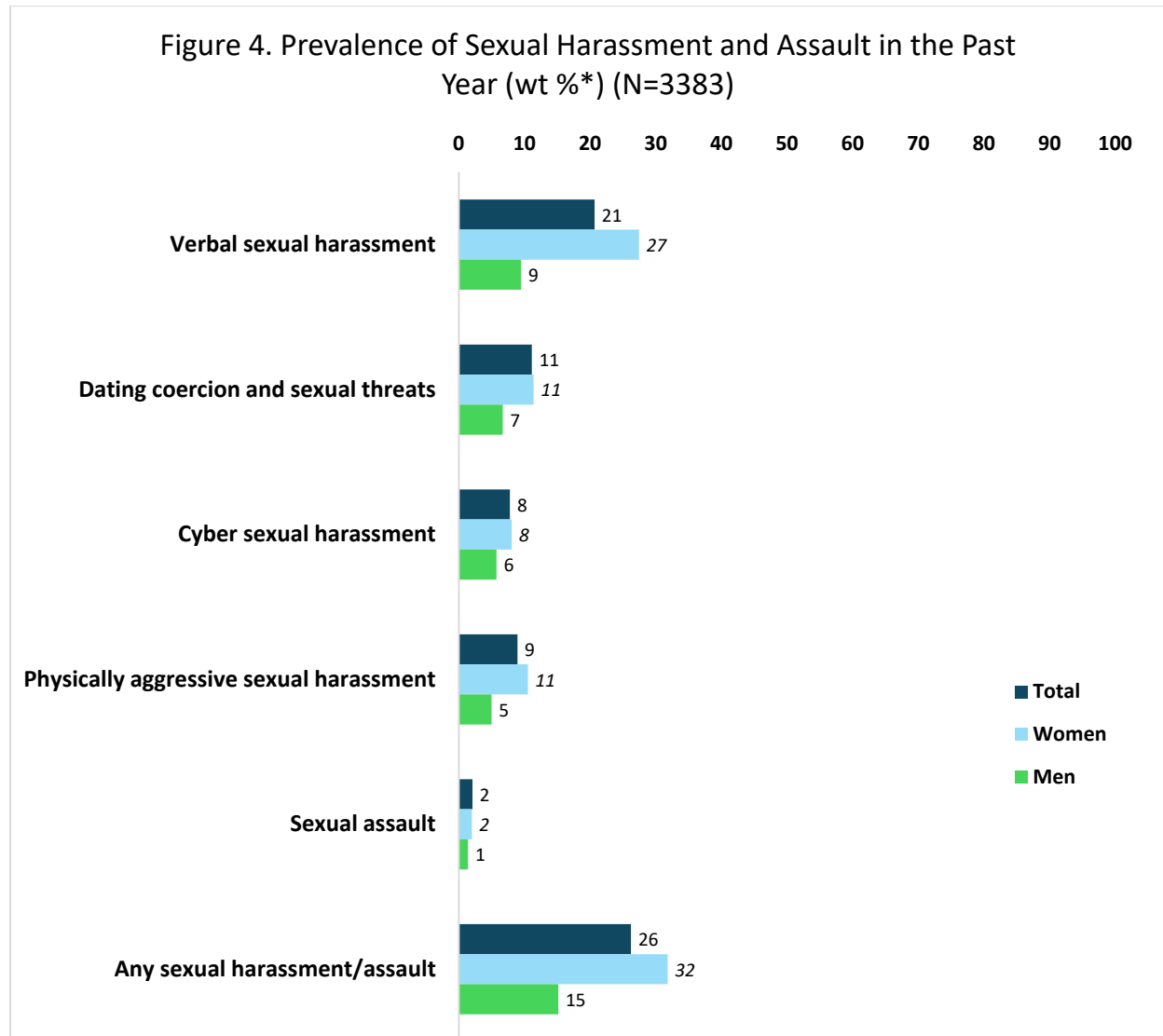
For the first time, we asked: "Has anyone ever said that you committed sexual harassment or assault against them?" Response options were: 1) Yes, sexual harassment, 2) Yes, sexual assault, 3) Yes, both

sexual harassment and assault, and 4) No. Almost all women (99%) and the vast majority of men (95%) reported no to this question.

Prevalence of Sexual Harassment and Assault in the Past Year

Over 68 million people in the U.S. were sexually harassed in the past year, inclusive of more than 42 million women and 19 million men.

By percentage, this means 26% of U.S. adults (one in four) were sexually harassed or assaulted in the past year, with significantly higher prevalence seen for women (32%) compared with men (15%). (See Figure 4.) Largely, these experiences were in the form of non-contact forms of harassment; for example, 21% of all adults experienced past year verbal sexual harassment where 2% experienced sexual assault in the past year. (See Appendix E for prevalence by item.) (See Appendix F).



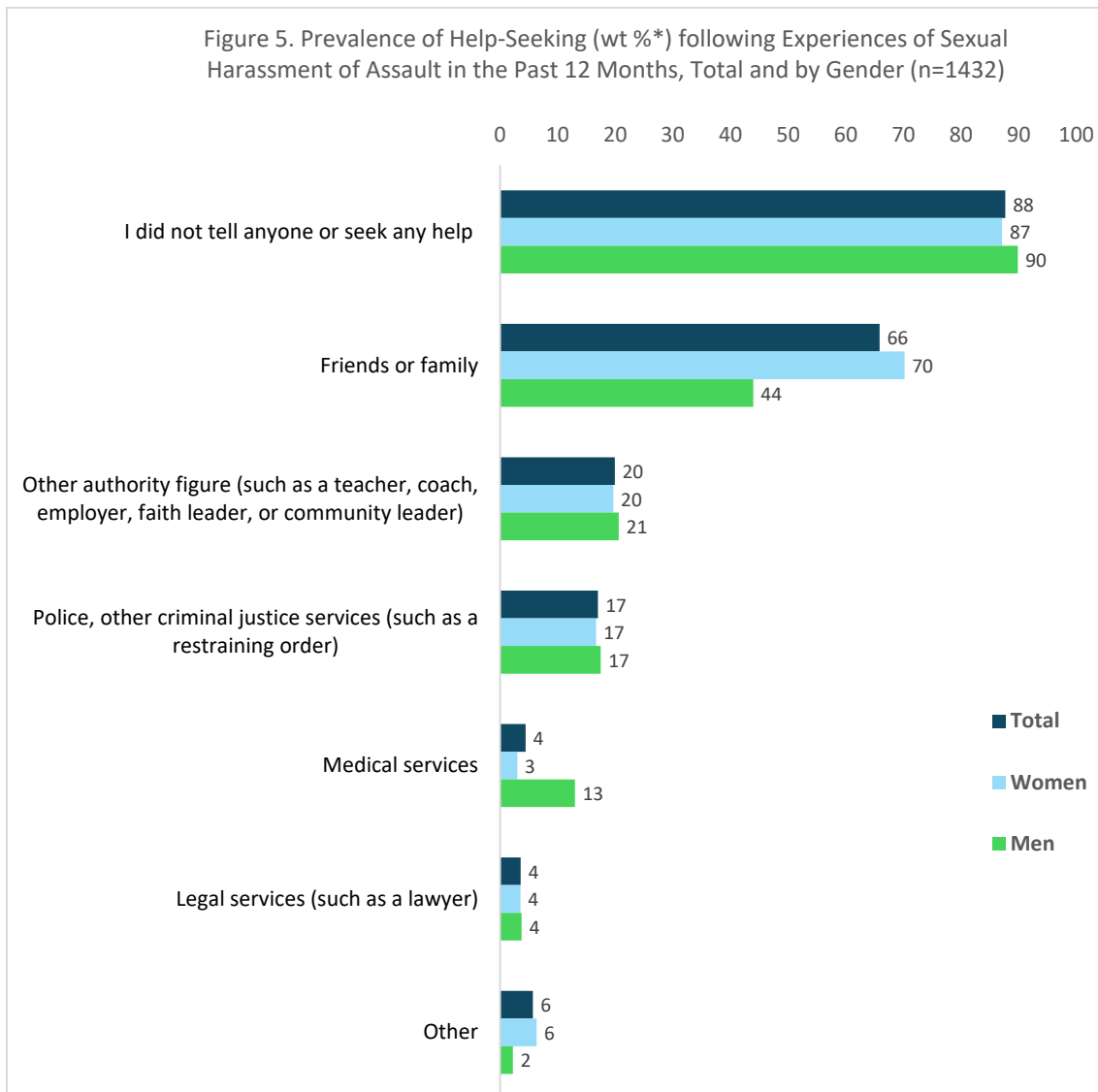
Significant gender differences ($p < 0.05$) are seen for all forms of sexual harassment and assault.

*wt % indicates that numbers depicted in the graph are indicative of weighted percents

Disclosure or Help-seeking for Past Year Sexual Harassment or Assault

Among those reporting sexual harassment or assault in the past 12 months (n=1432), 87% of women and 89% of men did not talk to anyone about the experience. (See Figure 5.)

When they did share the information, it was most often to a family member; 70% of those women and 44% of those men disclosed a sexual harassment or assault experience of the past year to a family member. Approximately 20% of affected people spoke to an authority figure in their life, such as a teacher, coach, or religious leader, and 17% of people reported the situation to police or other criminal justice services. This was a notable gender divide in reporting to medical services, with men more likely than women to report this type of disclosure (13% vs 3%).

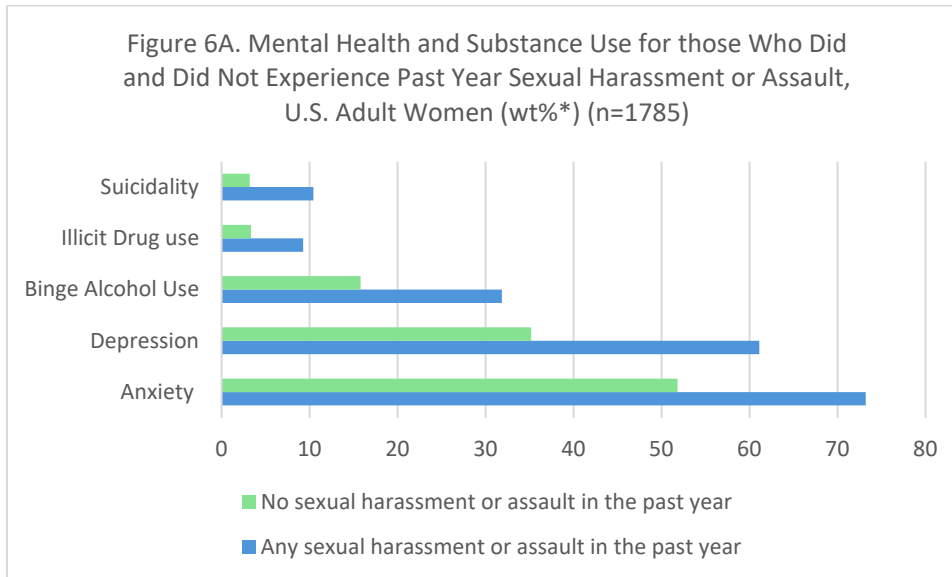


*wt % indicates that numbers depicted in the graph are indicative of weighted percents

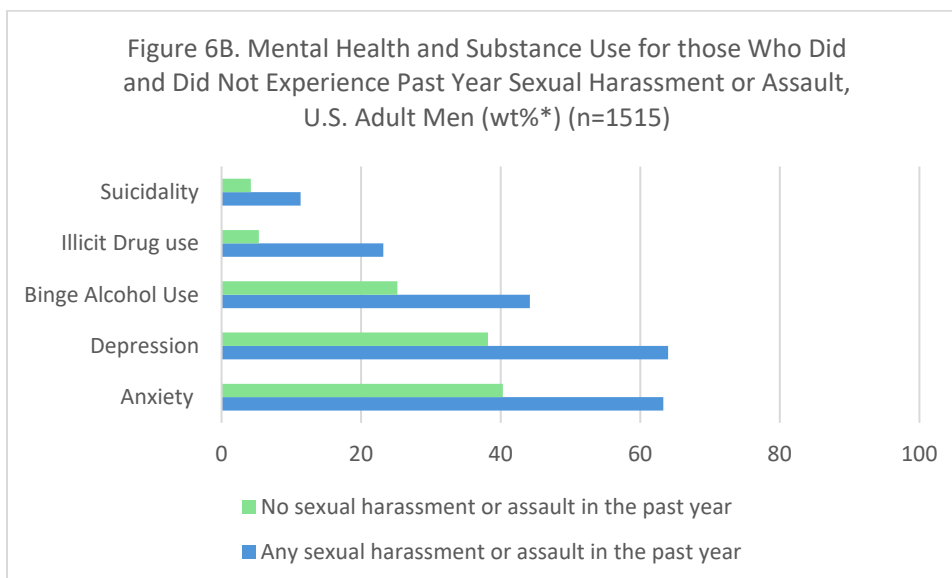
Note: Percentages do not add up to 100% because respondents could have responded in multiple ways to a given experience or in different ways across multiple experiences.

Sexual Harassment and Assault and Mental Health

We looked at the associations between sexual harassment and assault exposure in the past year and the following mental health outcomes: anxiety in the past two weeks, depression in the past two weeks, binge alcohol use in the past 30 days, illicit drug use in the past 30 days, and suicidality in the past year. For both women and men, we found significant associations between this exposure and poor mental health. As most of the past year experiences were harassment rather than assault, these findings suggest that sexual harassment may increase mental health risks in ways comparable to assault.



Significant differences ($p < 0.05$) are seen by sexual harassment or assault exposure for all forms of mental health outcomes. *wt % indicates that numbers depicted in the graph are indicative of weighted percents



Significant differences ($p < 0.05$) are seen by sexual harassment or assault exposure for all forms of mental health outcomes. *wt % indicates that numbers depicted in the graph are indicative of weighted percents

Sexual Harassment and Assault Experiences against Non-Binary/Gender Non-Conforming and Transgender People

Small cell sizes for individuals identifying as non-binary/gender non-conforming (NB/GNC; n=29) or transgender (n=59) affect our ability to make robust gender comparisons with these groups. Nonetheless, given the importance of understanding sexual harassment and assault experiences for these populations, we present the data on the prevalence of these experiences ever and in the past year for both groups compared with their other gender group counterparts. Findings should be interpreted cautiously given the small cell sizes. NB/GNC prevalence data are presented with prevalence data from women and men (i.e., self-reported gender identity). Transgender prevalence data are compared with prevalence data from cisgender women and cisgender men (i.e., sex at birth matching gender identity).

The majority (79%) of non-binary and gender non-conforming (NB/GNC) people have experienced sexual harassment or assault. Across forms of sexual harassment and assault, prevalence rates for NB/GNC people are comparable to that seen for women and much higher than that seen for men. (See Figure 7a.) Past year experiences of sexual harassment and assault are even higher for NB/GNC people than for women (43% vs 32%). (See Figure 7b.) [Note: n=59 did not provide gender identity data.]

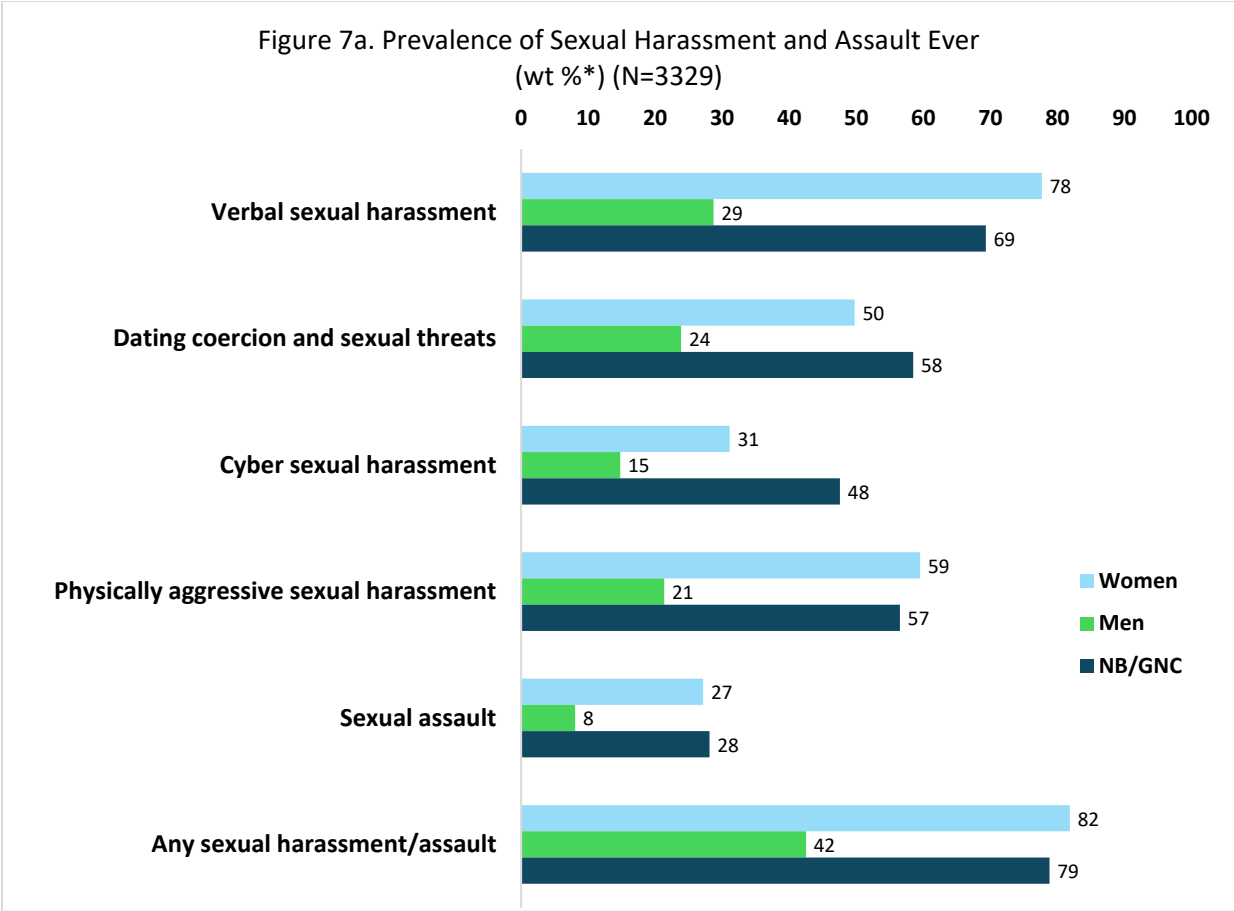
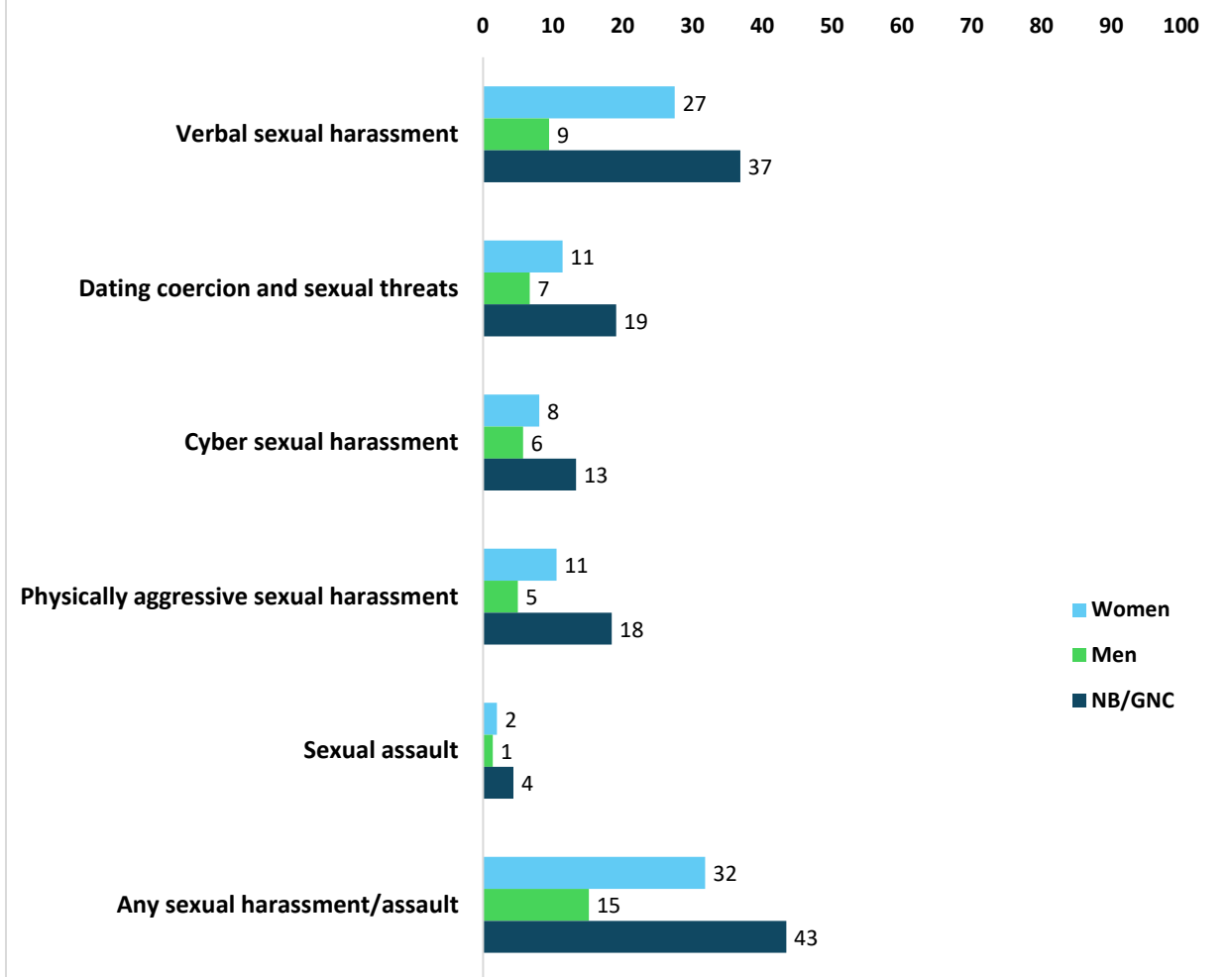


Figure 7b. Prevalence of Sexual Harassment and Assault in the Past Year (wt %*) (N=3329)



As noted in our methods section, we asked participants about whether they were transgender (yes or no) separately from asking about their gender and their sex at birth. We then created a transgender variable which categorized participants as transgender (self-report or non-alignment between sex at birth and gender identity), cisgender female, or cisgender male (the latter variables indicating gender aligned with sex at birth).

We found that 87% of transgender people have experienced sexual harassment or assault in their lifetime. Chi-square analysis showed significant differences across groups ($p < 0.05$), with cisgender males less likely to have experienced all forms of sexual harassment and assault relative to cisgender females and transgender people ever (Figure 8a) and in the past year (Figure 8b). Some differences between transgender people and cisgender females were seen. In terms of cyber sexual harassment, we found higher prevalence for transgender people relative to cisgender females ever (47% vs 32%) and in the past year (15% vs 8%). Past year dating coercion and sexual threats was slightly higher for cisgender females compared with transgender people (12% vs 9%).

Figure 8a. Prevalence of Sexual Harassment and Assault Ever (wt %*) (N=3381)

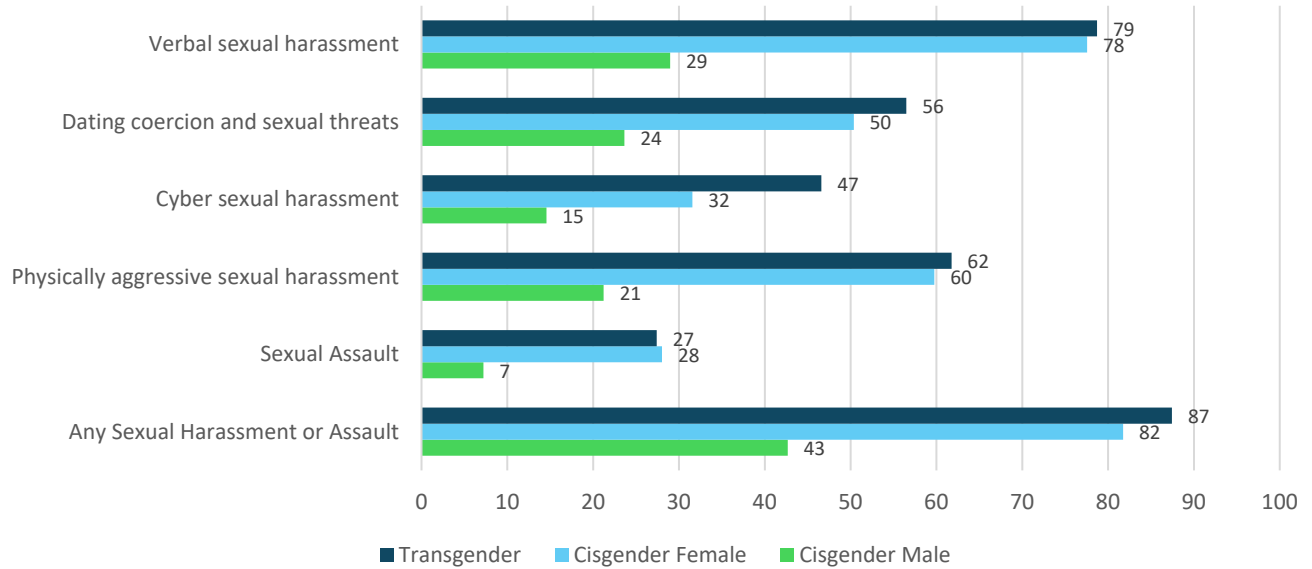
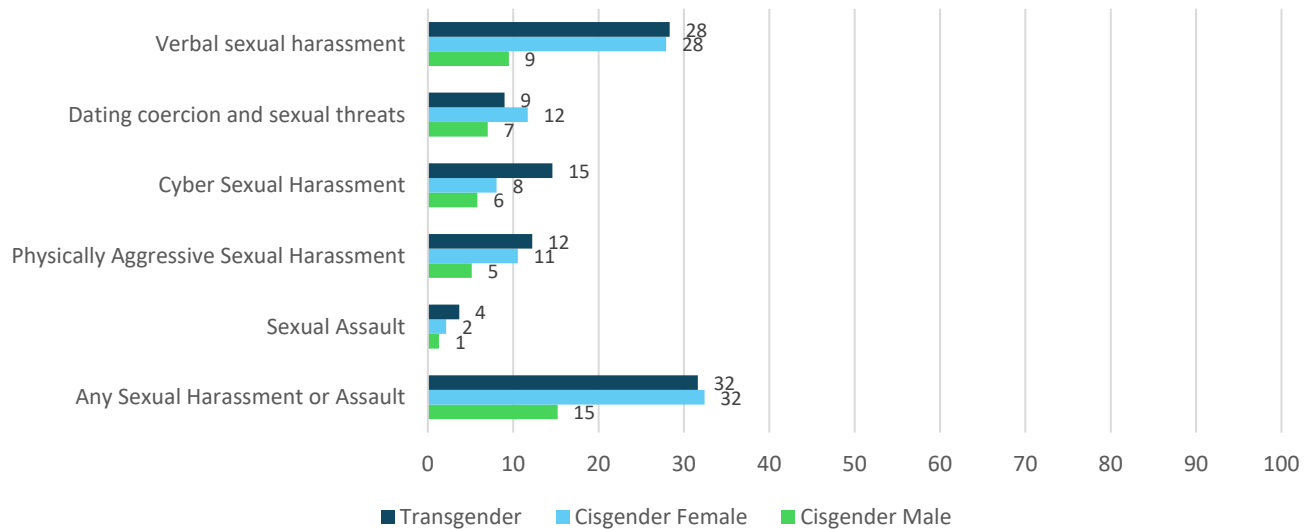


Figure 8b. Prevalence of Sexual Harassment and Assault in the Past Year (wt %*) (N=3381)



Conclusions

This study provides a comprehensive overview on the prevalence and forms of sexual harassment and violence experienced by people in the United States (U.S.).

- We find that *the vast majority of women (82%) have experienced sexual harassment or assault in their lifetime, and almost half of all men (42%) have as well*, comparable findings to what we saw with men and women we surveyed on these issues in 2018.
- Of great concern is that *the majority of women – 56% – first experienced sexual harassment before the age of 18; one in five women – 20% – first experienced it before the age of 13*. Most often these abuses are occurring in public spaces without intervention.
- Importantly, we have a first-time assessment of past year experiences with sexual harassment and assault with a national sample, finding that *approximately 1 in 4 U.S. adults – more than 68 million people in the country – experienced sexual harassment or assault in the past year, again with higher prevalence for women (32%) compared with men (15%)*.
- While we have limited numbers of people indicating that they are non-binary/gender non-conforming (NB/GNC) or transgender, we were able to identify that *79% of NB/GNC people and 87% of transgender people, have experienced sexual harassment or assault in their lifetime. One in 25 NB/GNC and transgender people, respectively, experienced sexual assault in the past year*.

These findings highlight the need for greater focus on this issue, a concern ubiquitous for women and NB/GNC and transgender people in the U.S. This offers an up-to-date resource for policy makers and advocates to use toward more effective prevention and intervention efforts to stop these abuses.

A sobering finding is that *we see no change in the lifetime prevalence of sexual harassment and assault for women (from 81% to 82%) nor men (from 43% to 42%) from the period of our first survey in 2018 until today*, despite the increases in awareness and policies to affect these issues as described earlier in this report.

In fact, *the study reports an apparent increase in sexual harassment and assault ever for those in the age group of 25-34 years*. For men, this is largely attributed to a rise in in cyber sexual harassment and more of our lives going online with the COVID-19 pandemic, but for women, this increase is seen across all forms of sexual harassment and assault we assessed.

We cannot know from these data if the observed increase is attributable to greater consciousness or increased occurrence, but regardless, these results speak to the need for greater work to combat these issues across spheres. They also suggest that recent improvements in awareness of the concern and legislative protection are insufficient to affect this issue.

Few indicate their perpetration of sexual harassment or assault, though men were more likely to report this than were women (5% vs 1%). We asked the participants whether anyone had told them they had engaged in these behaviors, so it may be the case that they did commit these acts but were not called out on them. It may also be that they are conveying in their response that they did not commit such acts. Given the pervasiveness of sexual harassment, it is unlikely that as little as 5% of men have ever engaged in these types of behaviors, at the same time, it may be the case that some who engage in sexual harassment or even assault do not define their behaviors in this way, even if those experiencing those behaviors do feel violated. This is an area that needs further study.

Similar to the findings in 2018, *sexual harassment reported in this round of survey predominantly occurred in public spaces*, including streets, libraries, swimming pool and nightclubs. *Workplace and*

educational institutes were also a common location for sexual harassment, placing younger populations, including those under 18 and even those under 13, at risk. This is an incredibly important finding of this work and our past work on an issue that continues to go under-recognized and not addressed via sexual harassment policies. More work is needed to recognize and address sexual harassment in public spaces.

Sexual assault primarily occurred in private residences, a finding seen in our prior research as well.

In addition to the prevalence reports, the findings of the report emphasize *higher risk for mental health and substance use concerns among those who have experienced these types of sexual abuses.* Prior research also demonstrates that workplace sexual harassment compromises employment, productivity, and earnings as well (12). As noted previously, current policies on these issues largely focus on sexual assault rather than harassment, and if sexual harassment is a focus, it is specific to the workplace (4,5).

Findings should be considered in light of certain study limitations including reliance on self-report data, which is subject to social desirability and recall biases, cross-sectional analyses which preclude assumptions of causality, and small cell sizes for certain key population groups (e.g., NB/GNC and transgender people) impeding comprehensive understanding of the needs of these groups.

Recommendations

This report adds to the mounting evidence on the burden of sexual harassment and assault in the U.S. and the inadequate progress we have made to address this concern in the period since the start of the #MeToo Movement. Efforts need to be taken to improve the safety of all, but particularly of women and non-binary/non-gender conforming groups, given the negative mental health consequences of these sexual violations. As noted above, progress in awareness building and legal protections are insufficient.

Public Awareness Building and Social Norm Change

Public education efforts are likely needed to help clarify what constitutes sexual harassment and assault, given that the experiences are so pervasive yet reports of having perpetrated these types of abuses is highly limited. The lack of response to perpetration may not simply be an issue of social desirability and under-reporting. **It may also be that people are unaware of lines they have crossed regarding these types of abuses and the potential harms caused,** particularly in terms of verbal sexual harassment which may be so normalized as to not be self-identified as harassment.

The ubiquity of sexual harassment, particularly verbal sexual harassment in public spaces, requires a **focus on normative shifts regarding the acceptability of harassment, including via public awareness campaigns** in key areas where sexual harassment occurs, including public transportation, bars and nightlife, and schools. These efforts may include posters highlighting the prevalence and harms of sexual harassment, as well as providing the National Street Harassment Hotline number (13). There can also be value in having **trained influencers to champion messaging regarding the unacceptability of sexual harassment and assault, non-tolerance of these behaviors, and the value of speaking out against it.**

Novel Interventions

Given the limited evaluation research in this space, we need to prioritize development of novel interventions to address sexual harassment in public spaces. Creation of novel approaches to sexual harassment prevention would benefit from **participatory engagement from those groups most affected by sexual harassment,** such as youth and women and queer community members, as well as participation of leaders from environments where sexual harassment more often occurs, such as bars.

Bystander interventions encourage peers or observers to speak out or intervene when they see abuses in their environment. This approach has proven effective on college campuses and in communities to address dating violence, sexual assault, and racial violence, particularly among youth (14, 15); it may similarly prove useful for sexual harassment.

Tech-based applications have also been used by women and queer community members to share harassment hotspots, allowing for citizen crowdsourcing and rapid access to information on risky spaces (16, 17). There have also been efforts for women **to document their sexual harassment experiences in everyday spaces via video,** such as the Walking in NYC as a Woman initiative, and then share these experiences online to help build awareness of the ubiquity of harassment for women (18).

Policies and Accountability Structures - Government and Workplaces

Government systems and city municipalities must proactively work to prevent harassment and improve safety in public spaces, through policies and accountability structures to manage cases of harassment. As with what has been recommended to address sexual harassment in the workplace (19), there is a need for all spaces, public and private, to **have clear and comprehensive sexual harassment policies with public access to these policies** and opportunities for those employed in a given space, or those employed to ensure the safety of a given space, to receive **training on harassment definitions, policies, and accountability structures.**

Workplace protection needs expansion given the lack of decline in prevalence of sexual harassment in the workplace. Policies have improved, but **clarity on policies** (including elimination of non-disclosure agreements) and reporting procedures in the workplace may be inadequate. Accountability structures in cases of reporting should ensure that **case review and discipline are prompt,** and immediate managers as well as the harasser should be held accountable. **Protective structures must not impede the harassed person's opportunity to perform their work or advance.** Employers should **foster an organizational culture in which harassment is not tolerated** and in which respect and civility are promoted. Organizational leaders must communicate and model a consistent commitment to that goal.

Tracking Progress and Impact Over Time

We have seen from these data that reporting is not likely for the majority of those experiencing sexual harassment or assault, and that it is often those more socially or economically vulnerable that may experience these abuses. Efforts must be made to **monitor and track sexual harassment and assault cases and not require self-reporting for these to be addressed, whether in public or private spaces.** Use of a taxonomy to identify and manage cases of sexual harassment and assault have proved useful, provided individuals are effectively trained to capture and track these types of data.

We know that culture – the collective beliefs, values, and practices that shape behavior – fosters these forms of sexual abuse and allows them to continue with impunity (19). **Surveys are needed to understand the norms that reinforce and sustain these violations and to track change** by assessing normative expectations, attitudes, and direct experiences with sexual harassment.

Reducing Risk for Vulnerable Populations

Mechanisms for reporting and for social support need to be improved. Low reporting remains a concern; this is particularly worrisome given the higher risk of mental health issues among those who have experienced sexual harassment and assault. Alongside improving processes to encourage disclosure, there is a need to ensure access to a range of mental health services that are gender-sensitive, culturally tailored, and confidential. **Support should be extended to not just survivors but**

also to bystanders in the form of clear, easy to follow steps to report incidents of sexual harassment. Statute of limitations are a barrier as it can take people time to process what has happened.

Recognize the vulnerability of NB/GNC and transgender populations, which are growing segments of the U.S. population. A novel contribution of this study has been the focus on the non-binary/gender non-conforming population. These groups reported staggering levels of sexual harassment and assault ever (79% of NB/GNC people and 87% of transgender people) and in the past year (32% of NB/GNC people and transgender people, respectively). Further research with a larger sample is important to understand better the nature and impact of these experiences; small numbers of these NB/GNC and transgender people in our sample precluded our ability to explore these issues.

Focus on youth through school interventions starting in elementary and middle school, given the young age at which many are first experiencing sexual harassment or assault. Failure to ensure safety in our schools negatively impacts the nation's younger populations, potentially leading to higher dropout rates, increased mental health burdens, and consequences. At the same time, schools offer access to youth broadly, from early childhood into young adulthood, for prevention efforts in this domain.

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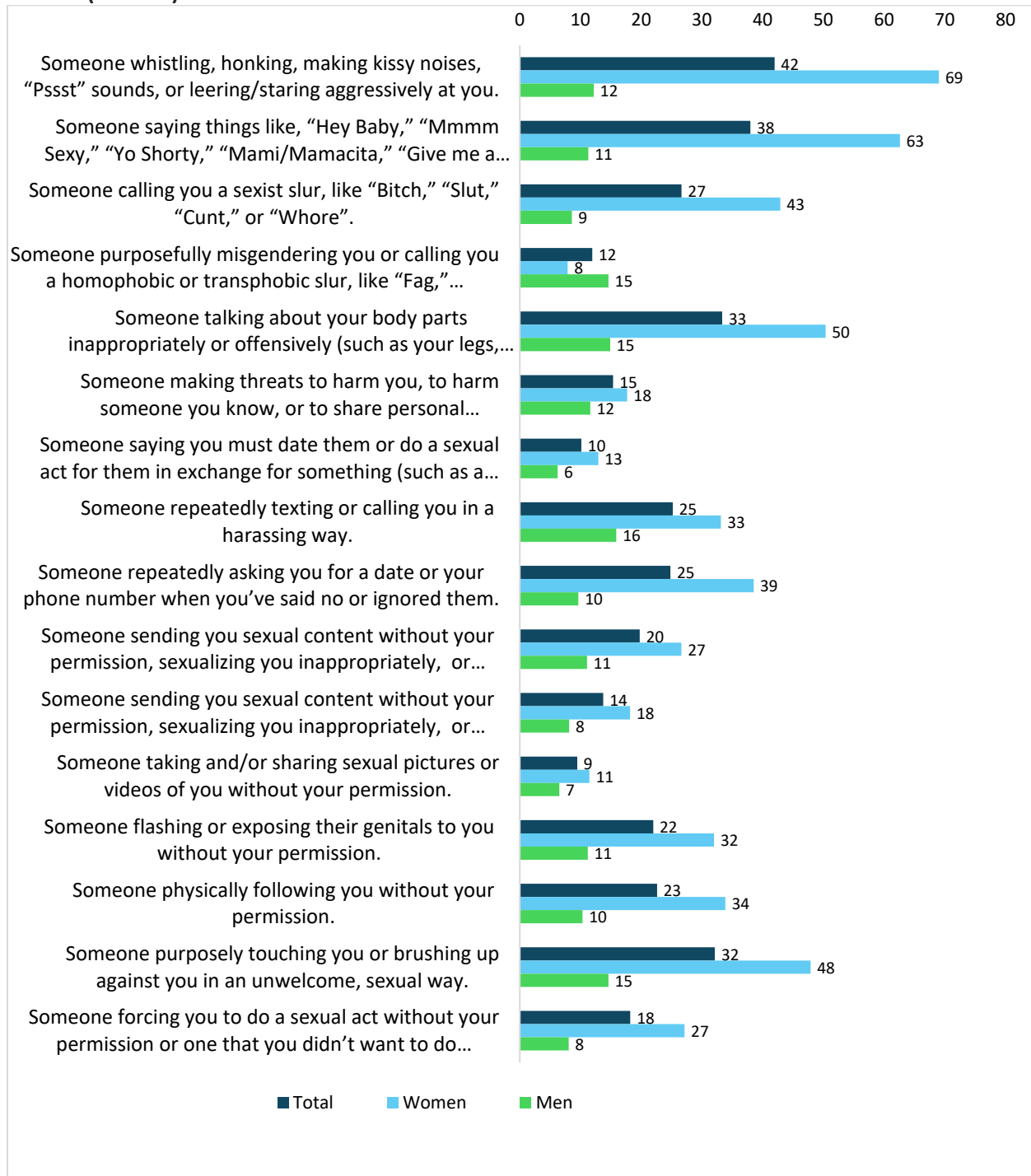
Funding

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#MeToo 2024 Survey Appendices

Appendix A-- Figure 1. Prevalence of Sexual Harassment or Assault Ever

Appendix Figure 1. Prevalence of Sexual Harassment or Assault Ever (wt %*), Total Sample and by Gender (N=3383)



*wt % indicates that numbers depicted in the graph are indicative of weighted percents

Note: Non-binary/gender non-conforming participants (n=34) are not included in this table due to small cell sizes for this group.

Appendix B-- Tables 1A-1C. Age at First Harassment or Assault Experience by Form of Harassment, Total Sample and by Gender

Table 1A. Age at first sexual harassment or assault experience, total sample (N=3383)

	<13 Wt% (unwt n)	13-17 Wt% (unwt n)	18+ Wt% (unwt n)	Never Occurred Wt% (unwt n)
VERBAL SEXUAL HARASSMENT				
Someone whistling, honking, making kissy noises, "Pssst" sounds, or leering/staring aggressively at you.	5.59 (187)	18.2 (605)	17.99 (636)	58.22 (1955)
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.	3.58 (126)	14.09 (476)	20.03 (706)	62.3 (2075)
Someone calling you a sexist slur, like "Bitch," "Slut," "Cunt," or "Whore".	2.63 (95)	9.26 (302)	14.62 (581)	73.49 (2405)
Someone purposefully misgendering you or calling you a homophobic or transphobic slur, like "Fag," "Dyke," or "Tranny."	2.02 (68)	3.5 (132)	6.2 (222)	88.28 (2961)
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.	2.87 (107)	11.36 (365)	18.76 (722)	67.02 (2189)
DATING COERCION AND SEXUAL THREATS				
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).	2.02 (69)	3.94 (133)	9.28 (338)	84.76 (2843)
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).	0.89 (22)	2.84 (103)	6.23 (246)	90.05 (3012)
Someone repeatedly texting or calling you in a harassing way.	0.99 (34)	5.3 (203)	18.45 (662)	75.25 (2484)
Someone repeatedly asking you for a date or your phone number when you've said no or ignored them.	1.12 (31)	6.99 (213)	16.57 (648)	75.32 (2491)
CYBER SEXUAL HARASSMENT				
Someone sending you sexual content without your permission, sexualizing you inappropriately or threatening you with sex acts, in <i>private online spaces</i> , such as over e-mail or text.	1.02 (38)	5.66 (168)	12.68 (496)	80.64 (2681)
Someone sending you sexual content without your permission, sexualizing you inappropriately or threatening you with sex acts, in <i>public online spaces</i> , such as on social media.	0.97 (27)	3.91 (133)	8.38 (330)	86.74 (2893)
Someone taking and/or sharing sexual pictures or videos of you without your permission.	0.49 (17)	2.69 (90)	6.04 (262)	90.78 (3014)
PHYSICALLY AGGRESSIVE SEXUAL HARASSMENT				
Someone flashing or exposing their genitals to you without your permission.	3.09 (108)	6.19 (201)	12.37 (447)	78.35 (2627)
Someone physically following you without your permission.	1.18 (38)	5.55 (183)	15.55 (585)	77.72 (2577)
Someone purposely touching you or brushing up against you in an unwelcome, sexual way.	3.14 (120)	7.71 (270)	20.86 (744)	68.29 (2249)
SEXUAL ASSAULT				
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).	3.29 (112)	5.81 (175)	8.87 (328)	82.03 (2768)

Table 1B. Age at first sexual harassment or assault experience, women (n= 1785)

	<13 Wt% (unwt n)	13-17 Wt% (unwt n)	18+ Wt% (unwt n)	Never Occurred Wt% (unwt n)
VERBAL SEXUAL HARASSMENT				
Someone whistling, honking, making kissy noises, "Pssst" sounds, or leering/staring aggressively at you.	9.66 (164)	32.68 (534)	26.59 (468)	31.07 (619)
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.	5.81 (108)	24.48 (419)	32.01 (560)	37.71 (698)
Someone calling you a sexist slur, like "Bitch," "Slut," "Cunt," or "Whore".	4.01 (79)	14.77 (240)	23.96 (469)	57.26 (997)
Someone purposefully misgendering you or calling you a homophobic or transphobic slur, like "Fag," "Dyke," or "Tranny."	0.53 (15)	2.4 (49)	4.76 (89)	92.32 (1632)
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.	3.72 (79)	18.35 (296)	27.96 (532)	49.97 (878)
DATING COERCION AND SEXUAL THREATS				
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).	2.22 (44)	5.11 (88)	10.18 (203)	82.48 (1450)
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).	0.75 (11)	4.21 (72)	7.97 (170)	87.07 (1532)
Someone repeatedly texting or calling you in a harassing way.	0.86 (21)	8.21 (149)	23.47 (442)	67.45 (1173)
Someone repeatedly asking you for a date or your phone number when you've said no or ignored them.	1.52 (25)	11.61 (171)	25.18 (497)	61.68 (1092)
CYBER SEXUAL HARASSMENT				
Someone sending you sexual content without your permission, sexualizing you inappropriately or threatening you with sex acts, in <i>private online spaces</i> , such as over e-mail or text.	1.13 (25)	8.06 (118)	16.91 (338)	73.9 (1304)
Someone sending you sexual content without your permission, sexualizing you inappropriately or threatening you with sex acts, in <i>public online spaces</i> , such as on social media.	1.17 (18)	5.84 (94)	10.3 (216)	82.69 (1457)
Someone taking and/or sharing sexual pictures or videos of you without your permission.	0.21 (7)	3.79 (61)	7.15 (166)	88.86 (1551)
PHYSICALLY AGGRESSIVE SEXUAL HARASSMENT				
Someone flashing or exposing their genitals to you without your permission.	4.42 (85)	9.93 (154)	17.46 (308)	68.19 (1238)
Someone physically following you without your permission.	1.37 (26)	9.3 (150)	22.79 (431)	66.54 (1178)
Someone purposely touching you or brushing up against you in an unwelcome, sexual way.	4.77 (92)	12.78 (210)	29.89 (544)	52.56 (939)
SEXUAL ASSAULT				
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).	4.74 (78)	9.9 (145)	12.19 (239)	73.17 (1323)

Table 1C. Age at first sexual harassment or assault experience, men (n=1515)

	<13 Wt% (unwt n)	13-17 Wt% (unwt n)	18+ Wt% (unwt n)	Never Occurred Wt% (unwt n)
VERBAL SEXUAL HARASSMENT				
Someone whistling, honking, making kissy noises, "Pssst" sounds, or leering/staring aggressively at you.	0.98 (15)	2.59 (55)	8.33 (149)	88.1 (1296)
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.	0.86 (12)	2.96 (46)	7.22 (125)	88.96 (1332)
Someone calling you a sexist slur, like "Bitch," "Slut," "Cunt," or "Whore".	0.97 (13)	2.78 (45)	4.76 (94)	91.49 (1363)
Someone purposefully misgendering you or calling you a homophobic or transphobic slur, like "Fag," "Dyke," or "Tranny."	3.65 (50)	3.81 (69)	7.15 (114)	85.39 (1282)
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.	1.58 (21)	3.44 (59)	9.49 (170)	85.5 (1265)
DATING COERCION AND SEXUAL THREATS				
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).	1.83 (23)	1.94 (36)	7.76 (118)	88.47 (1338)
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).	0.8 (9)	0.81 (25)	4.3 (66)	94.08 (1415)
Someone repeatedly texting or calling you in a harassing way.	0.82 (10)	1.74 (45)	13.02 (197)	84.42 (1263)
Someone repeatedly asking you for a date or your phone number when you've said no or ignored them.	0.38 (3)	2.08 (37)	7.15 (130)	90.38 (1345)
CYBER SEXUAL HARASSMENT				
Someone sending you sexual content without your permission, sexualizing you inappropriately or threatening you with sex acts, in <i>private online spaces</i> , such as over e-mail or text.	0.57 (10)	2.31 (38)	7.95 (140)	89.17 (1327)
Someone sending you sexual content without your permission, sexualizing you inappropriately or threatening you with sex acts, in <i>public online spaces</i> , such as on social media.	0.51 (7)	1.6 (33)	5.96 (97)	91.94 (1378)
Someone taking and/or sharing sexual pictures or videos of you without your permission.	0.66 (8)	1.24 (25)	4.49 (79)	93.62 (1403)
PHYSICALLY AGGRESSIVE SEXUAL HARASSMENT				
Someone flashing or exposing their genitals to you without your permission.	1.53 (21)	2.24 (42)	7.12 (125)	89.11 (1327)
Someone physically following you without your permission.	0.75 (10)	1.7 (29)	7.79 (132)	89.76 (1344)
Someone purposely touching you or brushing up against you in an unwelcome, sexual way.	1.11 (23)	1.79 (48)	11.44 (185)	85.65 (1259)
SEXUAL ASSAULT				
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).	1.47 (26)	1.39 (26)	5.08 (76)	92.07 (1387)

Appendix C. Prevalence of Sexual Harassment and Assault by Gender and Age Group 2018 and 2021 (Tables 2A-B)

Table 2A. Prevalence of Sexual Harassment and Assault among Women in 2018 (n=1182) and 2024 (n=1785)

	Verbal sexual harassment wt % (unwt n)	Dating Coercion and Sexual Threats wt % (unwt n)	Cyber Sexual Harassment wt % (unwt n)	Physically Aggressive Sexual Harassment wt % (unwt n)	Sexual Assault wt % (unwt n)	Any Sexual Harassment or Assault wt % (unwt n)
2018						
18-24	68.27 (46)	51.00 (35)	41.86 (30)	47.82 (36)	17.97 (13)	75.67 (52)
25-34	78.04 (220)	57.84 (158)	43.10 (116)	57.93 (165)	24.72 (73)	82.83 (233)
35-49	77.56 (215)	51.34 (150)	29.44 (94)	61.28 (172)	29.44 (81)	83.18 (232)
50-64	73.33 (259)	41.69 (146)	19.77 (67)	61.59 (221)	22.94 (76)	81.71 (283)
65+	64.57 (158)	27.86 (65)	11.09 (27)	55.48 (139)	11.35 (31)	77.69 (187)
Total	73.41 (898)	46.21 (554)	28.00 (334)	58.29 (733)	22.50 (274)	81.03 (987)
2024						
18-24	72.57 (110)	48.29 (82)	48.82 (76)	49.90 (76)	26.88 (36)	78.01 (121)
25-34	91.11 (306)	74.08 (239)	55.83 (178)	68.73 (237)	40.16 (131)	93.09 (317)
35-49	84.87 (344)	55.15 (245)	37.93 (163)	61.94 (259)	30.33 (116)	85.94 (354)
50-64	78.15 (340)	45.96 (207)	21.97 (114)	61.08 (259)	24.00 (105)	80.56 (356)
65+	63.90 (273)	33.22 (147)	9.56 (45)	53.97 (224)	18.80 (81)	73.55 (310)
Total	77.65 (1373)	49.74 (920)	31.10 (576)	59.49 (1055)	27.13 (469)	81.82 (1458)

Table 2B. Prevalence of Sexual Harassment and Assault among Men in 2018 (n=1037) and 2024 (n=1515)

	Verbal sexual harassment wt % (unwt n)	Dating Coercion and Sexual Threats wt % (unwt n)	Cyber Sexual Harassment wt % (unwt n)	Physically Aggressive Sexual Harassment wt % (unwt n)	Sexual Assault wt % (unwt n)	Any Sexual Harassment or Assault wt % (unwt n)
2018						
18-24	30.19 (26)	29.33 (21)	18.04 (12)	20.28 (14)	12.31 (10)	43.84 (32)
25-34	38.30 (90)	24.03 (60)	14.45 (35)	30.58 (65)	10.95 (24)	49.54 (111)
35-49	40.59 (107)	25.04 (72)	16.22 (48)	27.41 (78)	9.44 (28)	47.79 (134)
50-64	25.21 (78)	23.39 (66)	14.08 (42)	20.02 (69)	10.30 (26)	38.50 (112)
65+	19.60 (34)	9.58 (22)	10.19 (23)	24.89 (44)	2.65 (7)	35.40 (66)
Total	31.49 (335)	22.66 (241)	14.70 (160)	24.77 (270)	9.31 (95)	43.36 (455)
2024						
18-24	30.22 (47)	24.04 (33)	16.17 (27)	24.12 (32)	5.53 (8)	41.34 (61)
25-34	45.66 (141)	33.64 (110)	25.62 (85)	26.30 (95)	12.62 (46)	61.74 (176)
35-49	36.26 (145)	30.92 (131)	19.56 (79)	28.81 (117)	11.63 (46)	49.92 (196)
50-64	22.27 (99)	17.97 (64)	8.84 (37)	17.97 (72)	5.69 (22)	33.99 (138)
65+	11.62 (42)	13.57 (45)	5.97 (25)	10.25 (55)	3.73 (9)	27.53 (95)
Total	28.70 (474)	23.84 (383)	14.77 (253)	21.33 (371)	8.04 (131)	42.47 (666)

Appendix D. Demographics of Those Reporting Sexual Harassment or Assault

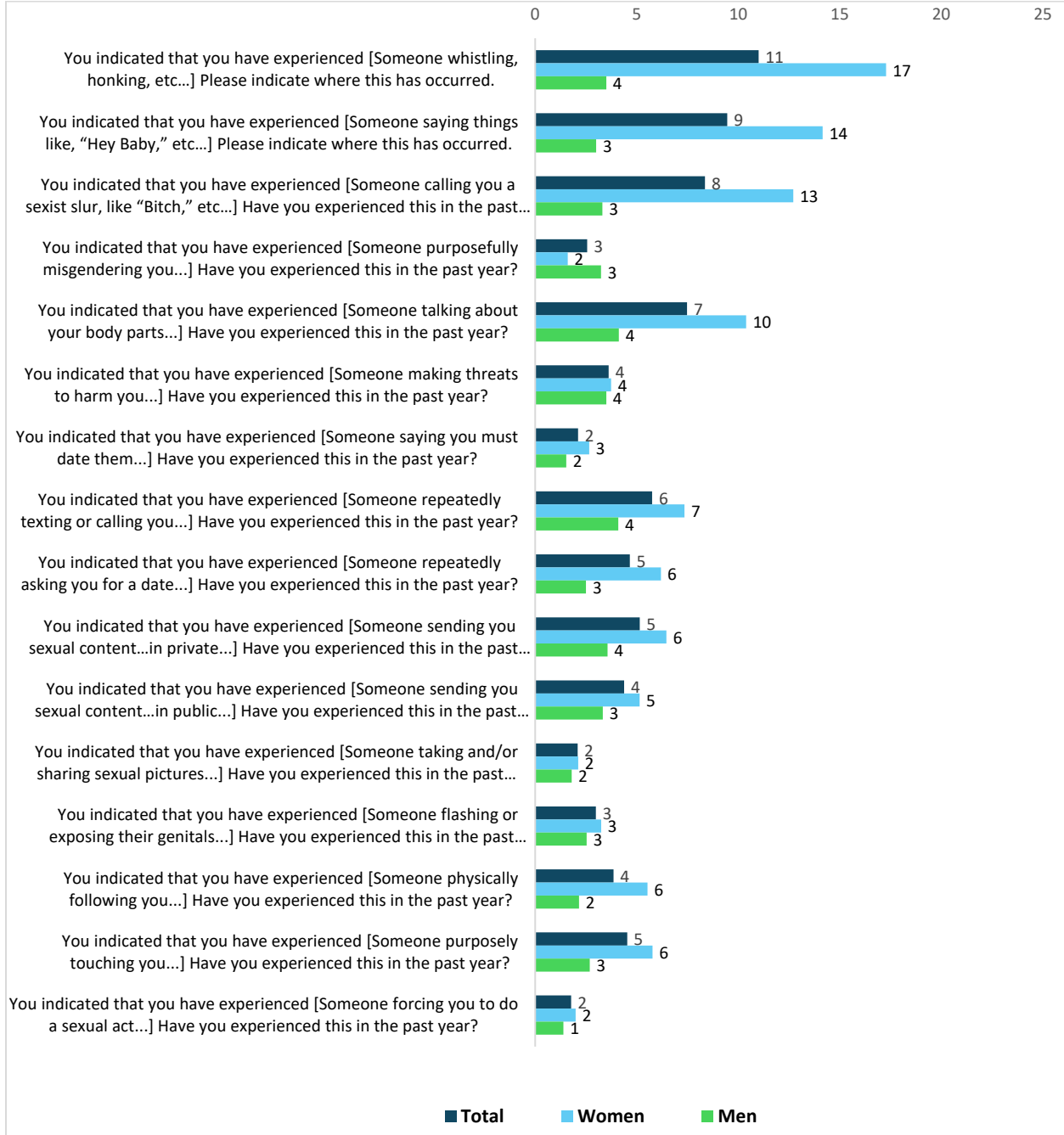
Appendix Table 3. Demographics for total sample and by those reporting sexual harassment or assault, and chi-square p-values to assess demographic differences in sexual harassment and assault experiences (N=3383)

	Total Sample Wt % (unwt N)	Verbal sexual harassment Wt % (unwt N)	Dating Co- ercion and Sexual Threats Wt % (unwt N)	Cyber Sex- ual Harass- ment Wt % (unwt N)	Physically Ag- gressive Sex- ual Harass- ment Wt % (unwt N)	Sexual Assault Wt % (unwt N)	Any Sexual Harassment or Assault Wt % (unwt N)
Age groups (Years)							
18-24	11.18 (292)	10.82 (164)	11.54 (125)	16.51 (110)	10.49 (116)	10.47 (47)	10.92 (193)
25-34	17.36 (702)	21.91 (475)	24.85 (371)	29.48 (282)	20.25 (356)	25.23 (189)	21.23 (522)
35-49	24.79 (796)	27.67 (502)	28.6 (389)	30.43 (252)	27.28 (388)	29.38 (171)	26.65 (563)
50-64	24.5 (829)	22.68 (446)	20.48 (274)	16.15 (154)	23.12 (334)	19.78 (128)	22.34 (502)
65+	22.16 (764)	16.91 (317)	14.54 (193)	7.42 (70)	18.86 (281)	15.13 (91)	18.86 (407)
P-value		<0.0001	<0.0001	<0.0001	<0.0001	<0.0001	<0.0001
Race/Ethnicity							
White	61.22 (2030)	59.19 (1104)	58.12 (757)	54.97 (454)	62.51 (893)	61.23 (379)	60.84 (1296)
Black	11.36 (573)	12.05 (341)	12.88 (260)	14.77 (178)	12.4 (254)	11.01 (91)	11.87 (387)
Asian	6.24 (104)	5.65 (55)	5.22 (34)	3.76 (20)	3.53 (25)	2.15 (10)	5.86 (61)
Hispanic	17.28 (550)	19.2 (329)	19.11 (234)	21.89 (169)	17.52 (238)	21.51 (115)	17.64 (357)
Other/multiple races	3.89 (126)	3.91 (75)	4.67 (67)	4.6 (47)	4.04 (65)	4.1 (31)	3.79 (86)
P-value		0.056	<0.0001	<0.0001	0.001	0.01	0.283
Education							
Less than HS	5.38 (185)	5 (102)	5.38 (77)	6.68 (50)	4.9 (69)	5.21 (32)	4.85 (115)
Completed HS/some col	60.77 (1999)	58.68 (1082)	61.51 (797)	64.73 (515)	58.82 (829)	64.15 (382)	58.36 (1235)
BA/4yr college degree	19.91 (708)	21.02 (411)	19.8 (281)	16.38 (183)	20.75 (323)	15.4 (118)	21.28 (480)
Graduate degree	13.93 (491)	15.3 (309)	13.3 (197)	12.21 (120)	15.53 (254)	15.24 (94)	15.51 (357)
P-value		0.004	0.97	0.899	<0.0001	0.497	<0.0001
Income Quintile							
1-Lowest	20.07 (794)	21.73 (454)	24.46 (349)	26.61 (236)	21.72 (340)	23.58 (166)	20.95 (512)
2	25.03 (915)	26.23 (539)	25.31 (383)	26.59 (255)	25.02 (406)	28.84 (186)	25.69 (606)
3	16.35 (541)	16.28 (315)	15.73 (217)	16.45 (144)	16.4 (245)	16.12 (101)	16.05 (363)
4	19.34 (576)	18.31 (307)	18.57 (217)	17.72 (124)	19.73 (253)	17.39 (86)	18.7 (359)
5-Highest	19.21 (557)	17.46 (289)	15.93 (186)	12.62 (109)	17.13 (231)	14.07 (87)	18.61 (347)
P-value		0.039	0.001	<0.0001	0.719	0.011	0.274
Foreign-Born							
No	89.74 (3125)	89.57 (1768)	90.54 (1260)	94 (825)	92.3 (1394)	92.56 (600)	89.78 (2033)
Yes	10.26 (258)	10.43 (136)	9.46 (92)	6 (43)	7.7 (81)	7.44 (26)	10.22 (154)
P-value		0.229	0.142	0.001	<0.0001	0.229	0.142
Sexual Orientation							
Heterosexual	88.95 (3002)	85.36 (1626)	83.73 (1129)	77.47 (685)	85.6 (1255)	78.75 (499)	86.36 (1885)
Gay/Lesbian	2.98 (102)	3.87 (75)	3.52 (60)	4.24 (44)	3.1 (57)	3.47 (25)	3.58 (80)

Bisexual	5.34 (178)	7.66 (139)	8.87 (108)	12.63 (95)	8.12 (110)	12.7 (72)	6.98 (147)
Other	2.73 (101)	3.11 (64)	3.87 (55)	5.66 (44)	3.18 (53)	5.08 (30)	3.08 (75)
P-value		<0.0001	<0.0001	<0.0001	<0.0001	<0.0001	<0.0001
Urban/Rural							
Rural	12.93 (609)	12.45 (335)	13.78 (251)	13.19 (155)	12.93 (259)	12.29 (106)	12.98 (389)
Urban	87.07 (2774)	87.55 (1569)	86.22 (1101)	86.81 (713)	87.07 (1216)	87.71 (520)	87.02 (1798)
P-value		0.484	0.487	0.898	0.556	0.441	0.66
Disability							
No	73.33 (2410)	66.06 (1232)	62.5 (830)	54.49 (467)	63.27 (921)	53.75 (332)	67.63 (1438)
Yes	26.67 (973)	33.94 (672)	37.5 (522)	45.51 (401)	36.73 (554)	46.25 (294)	32.37 (749)
P-value		<0.0001	<0.0001	<0.0001	<0.0001	<0.0001	<0.0001
Region							
Northeast	17.35 (328)	17.26 (180)	16.12 (119)	14.11 (70)	16.81 (143)	15.67 (60)	16.57 (198)
Midwest	20.57 (641)	21.38 (369)	19.91 (239)	18.87 (145)	19.8 (280)	20.3 (119)	20.89 (422)
South	38.39 (1759)	36.66 (976)	39.68 (737)	41.2 (488)	37.11 (751)	36.22 (318)	38.14 (1135)
West	23.69 (655)	24.7 (379)	24.3 (257)	25.82 (165)	26.28 (301)	27.8 (129)	24.39 (432)
P-value		0.613	0.084	0.016	0.559	0.84	0.317

Appendix E. Prevalence of Sexual Harassment and Assault in Past Year

Appendix Figure 2. Prevalence of Sexual Harassment and Assault in Past Year (wt %*) Total Sample and by Gender (N=3383)



*wt % indicates that numbers depicted in the graph are indicative of weighted percents

Note: Non-binary and other gender participants (n=34) are not included in this table due to small cell sizes for this group.

Appendix F. U.S. Population Estimates of Those Who Experienced Sexual Harassment and Assault, Ever and in the Past Year

Appendix Table 4A. Population estimates of sexual harassment or assault ever, for U.S. adults, U.S. adult women, and U.S. adult men

	Wt %	Total Number	Wt %	Total Number of Women	Wt %	Total Number of Men
U.S. Population 18+		260,961,960		132,787,423		128,174,537
Verbal sexual harassment	54.45%	142,093,787	77.65%	103,109,434	28.70%	36,786,092
Dating coercion and sexual threats	37.82%	98,695,813	49.74%	66,048,464	23.84%	30,556,810
Cyber sexual harassment	23.88%	62,317,716	31.10%	41,296,889	14.77%	18,931,379
Physically aggressive sexual harassment	41.50%	108,299,213	59.49%	78,995,238	21.33%	27,339,629
Sexual assault	18.19%	47,468,981	27.13%	36,025,228	8.04%	10,305,233
Any sexual harassment/assault	63.27%	165,110,632	81.82%	108,646,669	42.47%	54,435,726

U.S. population sizes taken from the U.S. Census Bureau (<https://data.census.gov/>) on August 7, 2024.

Appendix Table 4B. Population estimates of sexual harassment or assault in the past year, for U.S. adults, U.S. adult women, and U.S. adult men

	Total	Total Number	Women	Total Number of Women	Men	Total Number of Men
U.S. Population 18+		260,961,960		132,787,423		128,174,537
Verbal sexual harassment	20.66%	53,914,741	27.45%	36,450,148	9.46%	12,125,311
Dating coercion and sexual threats	11.11%	28,992,874	11.39%	15,124,488	6.69%	8,574,877
Cyber sexual harassment	7.77%	20,276,744	8.05%	10,689,388	5.72%	7,331,587
Physically aggressive sexual harassment	8.93%	23,303,903	10.51%	13,955,958	4.98%	6,383,092
Sexual assault	2.07%	5,401,913	1.99%	2,642,470	1.39%	1,781,626
Any sexual harassment/assault	26.22%	68,424,226	31.81%	42,239,679	15.15%	19,418,442

U.S. population sizes taken from the U.S. Census Bureau (<https://data.census.gov/>) on August 7, 2024.