

American Attitudes on Sexual Harassment

Ipsos Poll on Behalf of NPR

Washington DC, December 12, 2017 — Inspired by the #MeToo movement, Ipsos, in partnership with National Public Radio (NPR), investigated how Americans have been impacted by the recent outpouring of sexual harassment claims and to what extent they've personally dealt with, or encountered, harassment. Across a broad spectrum, Americans proved to be somewhat resigned to commonplace sexual harassment, yet strongly believe in the need for societal change. Nearly half of Americans (44%) think it is inevitable that men will 'hit on' women at work, and a clear majority (86%) also believe that a zero-tolerance policy for sexual harassment is essential to bringing about change in our society.

One poignant example of the tension facing Americans on the topic of sexual harassment is the level of doubt assigned to both the victim and the accused. Eight in ten (79%) Americans believe those who report being victims of sexual harassment should be given the benefit of the doubt until proven otherwise, yet nearly the same number (77%) believe people accused of sexual harassment should be given the benefit of the doubt until proven otherwise as well. Women are more sympathetic to the victim (84% agree to giving them the benefit of the doubt) than the accused (73% agree), while men are more sympathetic to the accused (74% agree to giving the victim the benefit of the doubt vs. 81% agree to giving it to the accused). This dichotomy is also felt along party lines, with Democrats slightly more supportive of the victim (85% agree to giving them the benefit of the doubt vs. 75% agree to giving the accused the benefit of the doubt) than Republicans are (78% agree to giving the victim the benefit of the doubt vs. 80% for the accused).

Generally, Americans believe there has been a shift over time in how sexual harassment is perceived and dealt with in the workplace.. Three quarters of Americans (74%) say that five years ago, a woman who reported being sexually harassed was risking her career, but only 44% agree that is the case now. Similarly, two-thirds of Americans agree reports of sexual harassment were generally ignored five years ago, as opposed to 26% who say they are generally ignored now.

1. Have you worked outside of the home in the past? *Asked of those not currently working

	Total	Male	Female	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Yes	85%	81%	88%	84%	87%	88%
No	15%	19%	12%	16%	13%	12%



2. Below is a list of statements. For each, please indicate whether you strongly disagree, somewhat disagree, somewhat agree, or strongly agree.

	Total	Male	Female	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Strongly agree	13%	15%	11%	13%	13%	11%
Somewhat agree	31%	30%	32%	28%	35%	31%
Somewhat disagree	27%	31%	24%	27%	29%	28%
Strongly disagree	24%	20%	28%	28%	19%	27%
Don't know	5%	4%	6%	4%	4%	3%
Agree (Net)	44%	45%	43%	41%	48%	42%
Disagree (Net)	52%	51%	52%	54%	48%	55%

a. It is inevitable that men will "hit on" women at work.

b. Those who report being the victims of sexual harassment should be given the benefit of the doubt until proven otherwise.

	Total	Male	Female	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Strongly agree	37%	31%	44%	45%	32%	34%
Somewhat agree	41%	43%	40%	40%	45%	42%
Somewhat disagree	12%	15%	9%	7%	14%	15%
Strongly disagree	4%	6%	3%	3%	4%	5%
Don't know	5%	6%	4%	5%	4%	4%
Agree (Net)	79%	74%	84%	85%	78%	76%
Disagree (Net)	16%	20%	13%	10%	18%	20%

c. People accused of sexual harassment should be given the benefit of the doubt until proven otherwise.

	Total	Male	Female	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Strongly agree	29%	30%	29%	24%	34%	31%
Somewhat agree	47%	51%	44%	50%	46%	51%
Somewhat disagree	14%	11%	17%	16%	12%	12%
Strongly disagree	6%	5%	6%	6%	6%	5%
Don't know	3%	3%	4%	4%	2%	2%
Agree (Net)	77%	81%	73%	75%	80%	82%
Disagree (Net)	20%	16%	23%	21%	18%	16%



	Total	Male	Female	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Strongly agree	10%	12%	7%	9%	11%	8%
Somewhat agree	18%	23%	13%	11%	24%	19%
Somewhat disagree	28%	30%	26%	25%	32%	28%
Strongly disagree	41%	31%	50%	52%	29%	41%
Don't know	4%	4%	4%	3%	4%	4%
Agree (Net)	27%	35%	20%	20%	35%	26%
Disagree (Net)	69%	61%	76%	77%	61%	70%

d. Nearly all instances of sexual harassment would end if the woman simply told the man to stop.

e. It can be hard sometimes to tell what is sexual harassment and what is not.

	Total	Male	Female	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Strongly agree	19%	22%	15%	16%	23%	19%
Somewhat agree	40%	42%	38%	40%	43%	38%
Somewhat disagree	23%	22%	24%	24%	21%	24%
Strongly disagree	16%	11%	21%	19%	12%	18%
Don't know	2%	3%	1%	1%	2%	1%
Agree (Net)	59%	64%	54%	56%	66%	57%
Disagree (Net)	39%	33%	45%	43%	32%	42%

f. Victims get to decide what is and is not sexual harassment, regardless of what the accused thinks.

	Total	Male	Female	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Strongly agree	22%	20%	24%	30%	16%	18%
Somewhat agree	37%	39%	35%	38%	37%	39%
Somewhat disagree	22%	22%	22%	19%	26%	22%
Strongly disagree	12%	13%	11%	8%	16%	15%
Don't know	6%	6%	7%	5%	5%	6%
Agree (Net)	59%	59%	59%	68%	53%	57%
Disagree (Net)	35%	36%	34%	27%	42%	37%

g. A zero-tolerance policy for sexual harassment is essential to bringing about change in our society.

	Total	Male	Female	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Strongly agree	57%	47%	66%	66%	44%	55%
Somewhat agree	30%	35%	25%	25%	37%	30%
Somewhat disagree	9%	12%	6%	5%	14%	10%
Strongly disagree	2%	3%	1%	2%	2%	4%
Don't know	2%	2%	2%	2%	3%	2%
Agree (Net)	86%	82%	91%	91%	81%	85%
Disagree (Net)	11%	16%	7%	7%	16%	13%

Address: 2020 K Street NW, Suite 410 Washington, DC 20006 Tel: +1 202 463-7300 Contact: Chris Jackson Vice President, U.S., Ipsos Public Affairs Email: chris.jackson@ipsos.com Tel: +1 202 420-2025



h. Pretty much every woman has experienced some form of sexual harassment in her life.

	Total	Male	Female	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Strongly agree	29%	22%	35%	35%	21%	29%
Somewhat agree	42%	45%	39%	41%	44%	42%
Somewhat disagree	16%	17%	16%	13%	20%	14%
Strongly disagree	7%	7%	7%	6%	8%	8%
Don't know	6%	8%	4%	6%	7%	7%
Agree (Net)	71%	68%	73%	76%	65%	71%
Disagree (Net)	23%	24%	23%	19%	28%	22%

3. Below is a list of statements.

a. How much are you currently talking about the issue of sexual harassment with your family?

	Total	Male	Female	Democrat	Republican	Independent
A lot	11%	8%	14%	16%	11%	4%
Some	27%	24%	29%	31%	22%	30%
Just a little bit	25%	25%	24%	24%	23%	29%
Not at all	37%	42%	32%	28%	44%	38%
Don't know	1%	1%	1%	1%	*	-

b. In the past year, how much has your employer changed the way they address sexual harassment in the workplace?

	Total	Male	Female	Democrat	Republican	Independent
A lot	10%	11%	8%	13%	10%	3%
Some	16%	22%	10%	18%	19%	14%
Just a little bit	10%	9%	11%	10%	10%	7%
Not at all	49%	44%	54%	48%	48%	56%
Don't know	15%	14%	18%	12%	13%	20%

c. How much are you currently talking to your male friends about the issue of sexual harassment?

	Total	Male	Female	Democrat	Republican	Independent
A lot	7%	8%	6%	10%	8%	4%
Some	24%	22%	25%	26%	20%	25%
Just a little bit	23%	24%	23%	26%	20%	26%
Not at all	45%	45%	45%	38%	52%	44%
Don't know	1%	*	1%	1%	1%	-



	Total	Male	Female	Democrat	Republican	Independent
A lot	13%	11%	16%	21%	9%	8%
Some	23%	19%	27%	27%	19%	23%
Just a little bit	25%	24%	26%	24%	27%	26%
Not at all	38%	46%	30%	28%	45%	42%
Don't know	*	*	*	*	1%	*

d. How much are you currently talking to your female friends about the issue of sexual harassment?

4. What percentage of women do you think have ever experienced sexual harassment?

	Total	Male	Female	Democrat	Republican	Independent
0-10%	1%	1%	0%	1%	2%	1%
11-20%	3%	4%	3%	0%	8%	3%
21-30%	4%	8%	3%	2%	8%	4%
31-40%	8%	7%	7%	5%	9%	5%
41-50%	11%	15%	9%	9%	15%	14%
51-60%	9%	13%	7%	8%	11%	10%
61-70%	18%	18%	15%	18%	16%	20%
71-80%	17%	14%	21%	20%	14%	15%
81-90%	17%	9%	20%	21%	10%	13%
91-100%	11%	7%	12%	12%	5%	11%
Mean	64.5	60.3	68.5	70.2	56.7	65.4

5. What percentage of men do you think have ever experienced sexual harassment?

	Total	Male	Female	Democrat	Republican	Independent
0-10%	13%	19%	8%	10%	21%	7%
11-20%	17%	16%	16%	19%	19%	13%
21-30%	19%	22%	18%	18%	20%	24%
31-40%	19%	18%	20%	19%	17%	21%
41-50%	13%	12%	12%	13%	9%	17%
51-60%	6%	5%	9%	8%	5%	7%
61-70%	6%	2%	6%	3%	2%	3%
71-80%	3%	3%	4%	2%	1%	4%
81-90%	0%	1%	0%	2%	1%	0%
91-100%	0%	1%	0%	0%	1%	0%
Mean	34.5	31.7	37	35.8	29.8	36.5



	Total	Male	Female	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Yes	44%	27%	59%	51%	37%	42%
No	52%	70%	36%	47%	60%	55%
Prefer not to respond	4%	3%	5%	2%	3%	3%

6. Have you personally experienced sexual harassment?

- 7. Below is another short list of statements. For each, please indicate whether you strongly disagree, somewhat disagree, somewhat agree, or strongly agree.
 - a. These days, reports of sexual harassment are generally ignored.

	Total	Male	Female	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Strongly agree	6%	7%	6%	10%	6%	4%
Somewhat agree	20%	14%	25%	22%	20%	19%
Somewhat disagree	40%	41%	40%	41%	39%	40%
Strongly disagree	29%	34%	25%	26%	32%	35%
Don't know	4%	4%	4%	2%	4%	2%
Agree (Net)	26%	21%	31%	31%	26%	23%
Disagree (Net)	69%	74%	65%	67%	71%	75%

b. Five years ago, reports of sexual harassment were generally ignored.

	Total	Male	Female	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Strongly agree	23%	18%	28%	33%	18%	19%
Somewhat agree	42%	41%	43%	46%	38%	43%
Somewhat disagree	20%	24%	17%	12%	28%	23%
Strongly disagree	7%	10%	5%	5%	7%	10%
Don't know	7%	8%	6%	4%	8%	4%
Agree (Net)	66%	59%	72%	79%	56%	62%
Disagree (Net)	27%	33%	22%	17%	36%	34%

c. Now, a woman who reports being sexually harassed is risking her career.

	Total	Male	Female	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Strongly agree	11%	10%	12%	17%	9%	7%
Somewhat agree	33%	27%	40%	37%	30%	34%
Somewhat disagree	32%	35%	30%	30%	39%	30%
Strongly disagree	17%	22%	13%	14%	13%	26%
Don't know	6%	6%	5%	3%	9%	3%
Agree (Net)	44%	36%	52%	53%	39%	41%
Disagree (Net)	50%	57%	43%	44%	52%	56%

Address: 2020 K Street NW, Suite 410 Washington, DC 20006 Tel: +1 202 463-7300 Contact:Chris Jackson
Vice President, U.S., Ipsos Public AffairsEmail:chris.jackson@ipsos.com
+1 202 420-2025



	Total	Male	Female	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Strongly agree	36%	30%	42%	48%	29%	33%
Somewhat agree	38%	38%	38%	34%	41%	36%
Somewhat disagree	14%	18%	11%	11%	18%	15%
Strongly disagree	7%	9%	4%	4%	5%	12%
Don't know	5%	6%	5%	2%	7%	4%
Agree (Net)	74%	67%	80%	82%	71%	69%
Disagree (Net)	21%	27%	15%	16%	23%	27%

d. Five years ago, a woman who reported being sexually harassed was risking her career.

e. Now, I am very cautious about what I say or do in a group setting.

	Total	Male	Female	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Strongly agree	32%	39%	26%	35%	29%	32%
Somewhat agree	41%	39%	42%	40%	40%	42%
Somewhat disagree	17%	13%	20%	15%	20%	17%
Strongly disagree	7%	6%	8%	7%	8%	6%
Don't know	3%	3%	4%	2%	4%	3%
Agree (Net)	73%	78%	68%	76%	69%	74%
Disagree (Net)	24%	19%	28%	22%	28%	23%

f. Five years ago, I was very cautious about what I said or did in a group setting.

	Total	Male	Female	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Strongly agree	23%	24%	21%	24%	22%	19%
Somewhat agree	36%	37%	36%	36%	36%	39%
Somewhat disagree	25%	24%	26%	25%	26%	27%
Strongly disagree	11%	9%	13%	11%	13%	11%
Don't know	5%	5%	4%	4%	3%	5%
Agree (Net)	59%	61%	56%	60%	58%	58%
Disagree (Net)	37%	34%	39%	36%	39%	37%



	Total	Male	Female	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Television	66%	64%	69%	69%	67%	67%
Online/internet	60%	64%	55%	63%	57%	60%
Social media (Twitter,	41%	41%	40%	44%	37%	37%
Facebook)						
Print	22%	24%	21%	25%	26%	20%
newspapers/magazines						
Radio	21%	21%	22%	21%	21%	24%
Mobile News apps	17%	17%	17%	20%	17%	13%
None of the above	1%	2%	1%	*	1%	1%

8. How do you get most of your news? Select up to three.

9. Of the choices listed below, which is your main source of television news? Select up to three.

	Total	Male	Female	Democrat	Republican	Independent
FOX News	19%	20%	19%	8%	32%	22%
ABC	16%	13%	18%	19%	14%	12%
CNN	14%	15%	14%	22%	9%	9%
NBC	14%	14%	13%	17%	13%	12%
CBS	10%	11%	10%	9%	13%	11%
Public Television	5%	4%	6%	7%	3%	5%
MSNBC	5%	5%	5%	8%	1%	7%
Other	5%	5%	5%	3%	3%	9%
None of the above	12%	13%	10%	7%	11%	14%

10. With which political party do you most identify?

	Total	Male	Female	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Strong Democrat	13%	11%	15%	36%	-	-
Moderate Democrat	17%	17%	17%	46%	-	-
Lean Democrat	6%	5%	7%	17%	-	-
Lean Republican	8%	9%	6%	-	26%	-
Moderate	13%	14%	12%	-	45%	-
Republican						
Strong Republican	9%	10%	7%	-	29%	-
Independent	23%	25%	21%	-	-	100%
Other	2%	2%	2%	-	-	-
Don't know/Refuse	10%	7%	13%	-	_	-



11. How would you describe the area in which you liv
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	Total	Male	Female	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Rural	20%	20%	21%	16%	23%	22%
Suburban	55%	53%	56%	53%	56%	58%
Urban	25%	28%	23%	32%	20%	20%

Contact: Chris Jackson Vice President, U.S., Ipsos Public Affairs Email: chris.jackson@ipsos.com Tel: +1 202 420-2025



About the Study

These are findings from an Ipsos poll conducted December 8-12, 2017, on behalf of NPR. For the survey, a sample of 1,133 adults age 18+ from the continental U.S., Alaska and Hawaii was interviewed online in English. The sample includes 462 males, 671 females, 392 Democrats, 332 Republicans, and 274 Independents.

The sample for this study was randomly drawn from Ipsos's online panel (see link below for more info on "Access Panels and Recruitment"), partner online panel sources, and "river" sampling (see link below for more info on the Ipsos "Ampario Overview" sample method) and does not rely on a population frame in the traditional sense. Ipsos uses fixed sample targets, unique to each study, in drawing sample. After a sample has been obtained from the Ipsos panel, Ipsos calibrates respondent characteristics to be representative of the U.S. population using standard procedures such as raking-ratio adjustments. The source of these population targets is U.S. Census 2016 American Community Survey data. The sample drawn for this study reflects fixed sample targets on demographics. Post-hoc weights were made to the population characteristics on gender, age, race/ethnicity, region, and education.

Statistical margins of error are not applicable to online polls. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to other sources of error, including, but not limited to coverage error and measurement error. Where figures do not sum to 100, this is due to the effects of rounding. An asterisks (*) denotes less than 1%. The precision of Ipsos online polls is measured using a credibility interval. In this case, the poll has a credibility interval of plus or minus 3.3 percentage points for all respondents. Ipsos calculates a design effect (DEFF) for each study based on the variation of the weights, following the formula of Kish (1965). This study had a credibility interval adjusted for design effect of the following (n=1,133, DEFF=1.5, adjusted Confidence Interval=4.8).

The poll also has a credibility interval of plus or minus 5.2 percentage points for males, plus or minus 4.3 percentage points for females, plus or minus 5.6 percentage points for Democrats, plus or minus 6.1 percentage points for Republicans, and plus or minus 6.8 percentage points for Independents.

For more information about conducting research intended for public release or Ipsos' online polling methodology, please visit our <u>Public Opinion Polling and Communication</u> page where you can download our brochure, see our public release protocol, or contact us.

For more information on this news release, please contact:

Chris Jackson Vice President, U.S. Ipsos Public Affairs +1 202 420-2025 chris.jackson@ipsos.com



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Ipsos has been listed on the Paris Stock Exchange since 1999 and generated global revenues of €1,782.7 million in 2016.

GAME CHANGERS

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At Ipsos we are passionately curious about people, markets, brands and society. We make our changing world easier and faster to navigate and inspire clients to make smarter decisions. We deliver with security, speed, simplicity and substance. We are Game Changers.

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Address: 2020 K Street NW, Suite 410 Washington, DC 20006 Tel: +1 202 463-7300 Contact:Chris Jackson
Vice President, U.S., Ipsos Public AffairsEmail:chris.jackson@ipsos.com
+1 202 420-2025