

CAT CALLING, TROLLING AND DICK PICS; ASSOCIATIONS OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT AMONG YOUNG VICTORIANS

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Background: Technological advances have introduced new platforms for young people to experience sexual harassment. We investigated associations of sexual harassment among young Victorians in person and through technology.

Methods: The *Sex, Drugs and Rock 'n' Roll* study is an annual online survey of 15-29 year olds recruited from social network sites. In 2017, participants reported how often they experienced sexual harassment in person and through technology (including phone, social media or dating apps) in the past year. We used multivariate logistic regression to identify associations of sexual harassment.

Results: We recruited 1272 participants (mean age 22 years, 70% female and 75% heterosexual). Among females, 80% experienced sexual harassment in person, 40% on social media and 31% via phone in the past year. Among males, 31% were sexually harassed in person, 18% on social media and 13% via phone in the past year. Overall, 40% of females and 40% of males had used a dating app in the past year. Among these participants, 70% of females and 27% of males reported sexual harassment on dating apps. Experiencing sexual harassment in person was associated with female gender (adjusted odds ratio (AOR)=9.1, confidence interval(CI)=6.8-12.2), non-binary gender (AOR=2.5, CI=1.1-5.4), ever having sexual intercourse (AOR=1.8, CI=1.3-2.5) and ever being diagnosed with a mental health problem (AOR=1.8, CI=1.3-2.4). Experiencing sexual harassment via technology was associated with being aged 15-19 years (compared to 20-29 years) (AOR=1.8, CI=1.4-2.3), female gender (AOR=3.4, CI=2.5-4.5), non-binary gender (AOR=2.6, CI=1.2-5.6), not identifying as heterosexual (AOR=1.6, CI=1.2-2.1), ever having sexual intercourse (AOR=2.3, CI=1.7-3.1) and ever being diagnosed with a mental health problem (AOR=1.6, CI=1.2-2.0).

Conclusion: Most young people had experienced sexual harassment in person or through technology in the past year. People identifying as female or non-binary gender were most at-risk of sexual harassment on both platforms.

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