



Cat calling, trolling and dick pics; investigating sexual harassment among young Victorians

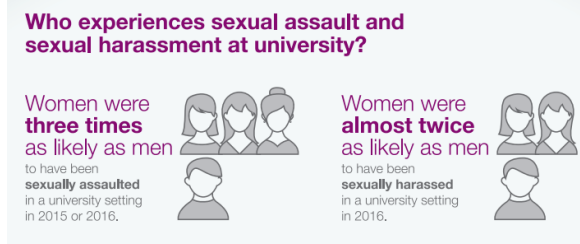
Caitlin Douglass, Cassandra Wright, Angela Davis and Megan Lim

Equity Through Better Health
burnet.edu.au



Background

- Sexual harassment: Any unwanted or unwelcome sexual behaviour which makes a person feel offended, humiliated or intimidated
- Associated with poor health and social outcomes
- Gendered phenomenon



Australian Human Rights Commission, *Working without fear: Results of the Sexual Harassment National Telephone Survey, 2012.*

Australian Human Rights Commission, *Change the Course: National Report on Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment at Australian Universities, 2017.*

Background and aims



Ending 'revenge porn': how can we stop sexual images being used to abuse?

February 19, 2016 10:48am AEDT

Why do men send unsolicited dick pics?

More women are openly complaining about men sending them unwanted sexually explicit images on social media – behaviour which experts say constitutes a form of sexual harassment. But, asks Hayley Gleeson, what motivates men to send them in the first place?

By Hayley Gleeson

Aim

To investigate frequency and correlates of sexual harassment in person and through technology-based platforms among young people

Henry N, Powell A. *Beyond the 'sext': technology-facilitated sexual violence and harassment against adult women*, 2015.



Methods

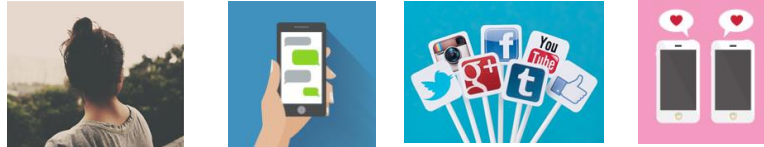
- Survey
- 15-29 year olds
- In the past 12 months, how often have you experienced unwanted sexual attention/harassment in the following places?
 - In person (work, school, home)
 - Phone (texts, calls)
 - Social media (Facebook, Snapchat)
 - Dating apps (Tinder, Grindr)
- Two logistic regression models



Results

- 1272 participants (mean age 22 years; 70% female, 75% heterosexual)

Frequency of sexual harassment in the past 12 months (%)



	Person		Phone		Social media		Dating app	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Not at all	70	20	87	69	82	60	73	30
A few times	25	50	9	23	14	28	17	41
Monthly or more	5	30	4	8	4	12	10	28

M=Male; F=Female



Correlates of sexual harassment in person and technology



Adjusted odds ratio (95% CI)

Adjusted odds ratio (95% CI)

	Adjusted odds ratio (95% CI)	Adjusted odds ratio (95% CI)
Gender		
Male	1.0 (Ref)	1.0 (Ref)
Female	8.6 (6.5-11.5)**	3.4 (2.6-4.5)**
Trans and gender diverse ¹	2.6 (1.2-5.6)*	3.0 (1.4-6.4)*
Age group (years)		
15-19	1.0 (Ref)	1.0 (Ref)
20-24	1.5 (1.1-2.0)*	0.7 (0.6-1.0)*
25-29	1.1 (0.7-1.6)	0.5 (0.4-0.8)**
Sexual identity		
LGBQ+ ²	1.0 (Ref)	1.0 (Ref)
Heterosexual	0.7 (0.5-0.9)*	0.7 (0.5-0.9)*
Seen a health professional in past 12 months		
No	1.0 (Ref)	1.0 (Ref)
Yes	1.6 (1.1-2.2)*	1.2 (0.9-1.7)

Note. Model also adjusted for education level and country of birth. *p≤0.05, **p≤0.001

¹Trans and gender diverse includes trans male, trans female, non-binary and gender fluid.

²LGBQ+ includes lesbian, gay, bisexual, asexual, pansexual, queer and questioning.



Discussion and conclusions

- Young people experience sexual harassment in person and through technology-based platforms
- Most frequent in person and on dating apps
- Technology acts as another platform for inequalities in gender and sexual identities to manifest
- Policy makers, academics and service providers must respond with innovative strategies



Acknowledgements

- *Sex, Drugs and Rock 'n' Roll* participants
- Goldschlager Family Charitable Foundation
- Elise Carrotte
- Liz Nicol
- Long Nguyen



Support services and further information



Equity Through Better Health

burnet.edu.au
85 Commercial Road Melbourne, Victoria, 3004

E: caitlin.douglass@burnet.edu.au