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New #MeToo Study Shows That While Sexual Harassment and Assault are Rampant, Rates of Reporting are Low

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, Tulane University’s Newcomb Institute released [#MeToo 2024: A National Study of Sexual Harassment and Assault in the United States, an important piece of research that RALIANCE is proud to support in conjunction with Stop Street Harassment and ValorUS. The study serves as a follow-up to our 2018 #MeToo study, allowing us to track change across key metrics since the #MeToo movement and over the past six years.](#)

The study surveyed more than 3,300 U.S. adults over 18, producing key findings such as:

- The vast majority of women and almost half of all men have experienced sexual harassment or assault in their lifetime (82% and 42%, respectively).
- More than one in four U.S. adults (26%) – or over 68 million people – have experience sexual harassment or assault in the past year, with significantly higher prevalence for women (32%) compared with men (15%).
- Sexual 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.
- Most people (87% of women and 89% of men) reporting sexual harassment or assault in the past 12 months did not talk to anyone about the experience.

These findings clearly illustrate that the prevalence of sexual violence across the lifespan, reinforcing our belief that a culture that leaves sexual harassment unchecked is also a culture that emboldens further misconduct and disempowers those most likely to experience sexual assault. Despite the prevalence of sexual harassment and abuse, these findings also reflect a common perspective among victims: feeling they will not be believed or that the harm

committed against them will not be taken seriously. Women, gender non-conforming people, and other marginalized communities are statistically more likely to experience sexual harassment and assault. Experiencing this harm without accountability further leads to adverse mental and physical health outcomes for survivors as well as increased vulnerabilities to future sexual harm.

RALIANCE Managing Partner Sandra Henriquez said,

“RALIANCE is proud to have partnered with Stop Street Harassment, ValorUS and Tulane University’s Newcomb Institute to produce the #MeToo 2024 survey, which plainly illustrates that there is still much to be done to create a society free of sexual misconduct and abuse. These findings must serve as a driver for all of us to support survivors, do more in our communities and create stronger, safer organizational cultures.”

As an organization committed to cultural and policy change in workspaces to create safe, respectful, and equitable environments for all, we hope that all thought leaders will review this report and consider what forms of prevention they can promote to prevent future harm. We need more companies, schools, communities, and individuals to come together to adopt safe bystander intervention practices, create and enforce trauma-informed policies, and shift social norms until we create a broader society that does not tolerate and actively prevents sexual harassment, assault, and abuse.”

ABOUT RALIANCE

RALIANCE is a trusted adviser for organizations committed to building cultures and environments that are safe, equitable and respectful. RALIANCE offers unparalleled expertise in supporting survivors of sexual harassment, misconduct and abuse and has established relationships with a national network of sexual assault service providers and prevention experts. Our mission is to help organizations across sectors create positive and inclusive environments for all. Visit RALIANCE.org for more information.