

Study: Both sexes harass on U.S. campuses

By Allison Stevens
WOMEN'S NEWS

WASHINGTON, D.C. - In the familiar storyline about sexual harassment, men are typically cast as the aggressors and women as the victims.

But a new report shatters that stereotype.

College men are equally as likely as their female peers to experience sexual harassment, according to a national survey of more than 2,000 college students conducted in May 2005 and released Tuesday by the American Association of University Women, an advocacy organization in Washington, D.C.

The study showed that

nearly two-thirds of the respondents - 61 percent of men and 62 percent of women - reported experiencing some form of sexual harassment, defined in the study as unwanted and unwelcome sexual behavior that interferes with student life.

Respondents were between 18 and 24 years old and were enrolled in two and four-year programs at private and public colleges and universities around the country.

Analysts found the numbers surprisingly high, especially given the increase in public awareness of the subject in the aftermath of allegations against high-profile

personalities such as President Bill Clinton, Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas and former Sen. Bob Packwood, a Republican from Oregon. Still, sexual harassment pervades college campuses, with jokes and comments part of daily life and physical harassment - such as groping, shadowing or forced sexual activity - fairly common, the report showed.

Men are the majority - 51 percent - of harassers. But nearly one-third of female respondents - or 31 percent - also admitted to committing sexual harassment, especially making jokes, offensive comments or gestures. Most

said they harassed others because they thought it was funny, even though many targets did not, the report said.

The findings break down stereotypes about men and women at a time when societal expectations for both are changing, said Elena Silva, director of research at the AAUW Educational Foundation and a co-author of the study.

Anthony Rodriguez, founder and clinical director of The Men's Center, an organization in Davenport, Iowa, that treats male victims of sexual trauma, agreed. "Women aren't as passive as one would think and males can be victimized," he said in

a telephone interview.

That a considerable number of female students admit to harassing other students reflects a cultural shift that has left women uncertain about their roles in society, Silva said. As women have entered the work force, they have been encouraged to become more assertive, she said. It is a new social pressure that is reflected in their more aggressive approach toward social relationships

and sexual behavior.

At the same time, women are still encouraged to exhibit traditional "feminine" characteristics, resulting in confusion about their gender roles, Silva said.

"We're talking about nearly a third of female college students saying they've sexually harassed somebody," Silva said. "This is indicative of this larger struggle about how they should behave, how they should assert themselves."

Mourners remember Wilson Pickett

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOUISVILLE, Ky. - Wilson Pickett was remembered by friends and family Saturday as a singer who fell somewhere between a poet and a preacher, laying the groundwork for artists after him.

"One way or another, Wilson was going to move you with his music," the Rev. Steve Owens told about 800 people gathered to mourn the singer of such hits as "In the Midnight Hour" and "Mustang Sally."

Pickett, known for his raspy voice and passionate delivery, changed the course of music and paved the way for such artists as Diddy, Will Smith and Eminem, singer Little

Richard told the crowd at Canaan Christian Church.

"He didn't just belong to us - he belonged to the world," said Pickett's brother, Maxwell.

Alabama-born Pickett got his start singing gospel music in church. After moving to Detroit as a teen, he joined the Falcons, which scored the hit "I Found a Love" with Pickett as lead singer in 1962.

He went solo in the early

1960s and rose to stardom with hits recorded at Stax Records in Memphis, Tennessee.

In 1965, he linked with soul producer Jerry Wexler at Stax Records and recorded "In the Midnight Hour." Other memo-

orable hits include "634-5789" and "Funky Broadway."

Pickett died Jan. 19 after a heart attack in a Virginia hospital. He was 64. Survivors include a brother and five sisters who live in Louisville.



Richard told the crowd at Canaan Christian Church.

He went solo in the early

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Racial difference impact lung cancer

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES - Blacks who smoke up to a pack a day are far more likely than whites, who smoke similar amounts to develop lung cancer, suggesting genes may help explain the racial differences long seen in the disease, researchers say.

The largest study ever done on the subject also found that Hispanic and Asian smokers were less likely than black smokers to develop the disease - at least up to a point. The racial differences disappeared among heavy smokers, or those who puffed more than a pack and a half per day.

Doctors have long known that blacks are substantially more likely than whites to develop lung cancer and more likely to die from it. But the reasons for the disparity are unclear.

Some say the difference is a matter of genetics, while others contend smoking habits may play a role. For example, researchers say blacks tend to puff more deeply than whites, which may expose them to more carcinogens. Smoking rates are also slightly higher among blacks, but whites tend to smoke more cigarettes a day.

In the latest study - published in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine - researchers compared the lung cancer risk among ethnic groups who smoked the same amount.

While the study did not address the possible reasons for the racial disparity, lead researcher Christopher Haiman, an assistant professor of preventive medicine at the University of Southern California, said the findings suggest genes may be one of the factors that explain the phenomenon.

The study involved more than 180,000 people, more than half of them minorities.

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