

NORC AmeriSpeak Omnibus Survey: Most Americans Believe Sexual Assault Is a Widespread Problem in Society

Interview Dates: October 11-14, 2018

Nationally representative sample of 1,098 English-speaking adults age 18 and over, conducted using the AmeriSpeak® Panel, the probability-based panel of NORC at the University of Chicago. Of the 1,098 respondents, 122 completed the survey by phone and 976 via the web.

Margin of error: +/- 4.05 percentage points at the 95% confidence level among all adults

NOTE: All results show percentages among respondents, unless otherwise labeled.

HELP TEXT: Sexual assault refers to a wide range of crimes, including attacks or attempted attacks generally involving unwanted sexual contact between a victim and offender. Sexual assaults may or may not involve force and include such things as grabbing or fondling. It also includes verbal threats.

Q1. Which comes closer to your current view about how widespread sexual assault against women is in the U.S.?

| AmeriSpeak 10/11/18- 10/14/18 | Sexual assaults are mainly isolated incidents of individual misconduct | Sexual assault is a widespread problem in society | I am not sure | Skipped |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|---------------|---------|
| All Adults (N=1,098) | 20 | 65 | 14 | 1 |
| Male (N=530) | 28 | 57 | 13 | 1 |
| Female (N=568) | 13 | 72 | 14 | 1 |
| Age 18-29 (N=230) | 13 | 73 | 13 | 1 |
| Age 30-44 (N=276) | 23 | 66 | 10 | 2 |
| Age 45-59 (N=278) | 24 | 58 | 18 | * |
| Age 60+ (N=314) | 19 | 65 | 15 | 1 |

Q2. In the past month, has news coverage of sexual assault changed your impression of how frequently women experience sexual assault?

| AmeriSpeak 10/11/18- 10/14/18 | I now believe sexual assault is less common than I previously thought | No change in my prior impression | I now believe sexual assault is more common than I previously thought | I am not sure | Skipped |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|--|---------------|---------|
| All Adults (N=1,098) | 3 | 49 | 39 | 9 | 1 |
| Age 18-29 (N=230) | 3 | 34 | 49 | 11 | 2 |
| Age 30-44 (N=276) | 3 | 51 | 33 | 11 | 2 |
| Age 45-59 (N=278) | 2 | 57 | 32 | 9 | 1 |
| Age 60+ (N=314) | 2 | 50 | 42 | 5 | 1 |

If “I now believe sexual assault is more common than I previously thought” to Q2, then:

Q3. What factors had the biggest impact in changing your impression of how many women suffer sexual assault?

| AmeriSpeak 10/11/18- 10/14/18 | News reports about victims of sexual assault | Posts from victims of Sexual assault on social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram | Hearing second-hand about victims in my community or friend group | Someone I know told me directly about their assault | Other |
|---|---|---|--|---|-------|
| Base: I now believe sexual assault is more common than I previously thought (N=424) | 70 | 38 | 28 | 30 | 14 |

Q4. Has the recent news changed your impression of how often women report sexual assault to the police?

| AmeriSpeak 10/11/18- 10/14/18 | Fewer victims report their experiences to the police than I previously thought | No change in my prior impression | More victims report their experiences to police than I previously thought | I am not sure | Skipped |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|--|------------------|---------|
| All Adults (N=1,098) | 29 | 43 | 14 | 12 | 1 |
| Age 18-29 (N=230) | 36 | 30 | 15 | 16 | 3 |
| Age 30-44 (N=276) | 25 | 44 | 16 | 14 | 2 |
| Age 45-59 (N=278) | 22 | 54 | 10 | 13 | 1 |
| Age 60+ (N=314) | 32 | 43 | 15 | 8 | 1 |

Q5. Has the recent news changed your impression of how often women report sexual assault to friends or family?

| AmeriSpeak 10/11/18- 10/14/18 | Fewer victims report their experiences to friends and family than I previously thought | No change in my prior impression | More victims report their experiences to friends and family than I previously thought | I am not sure | Skipped |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|---|------------------|---------|
| All Adults (N=1,098) | 29 | 51 | 16 | 1 | 3 |
| Age 18-29 (N=230) | 37 | 39 | 21 | * | 4 |
| Age 30-44 (N=276) | 26 | 56 | 16 | * | 2 |
| Age 45-59 (N=278) | 26 | 55 | 11 | 4 | 4 |
| Age 60+ (N=314) | 28 | 52 | 17 | 1 | 2 |

Demographics

GENDER

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|------|--------|
| AmeriSpeak 10/11/18- 10/14/18 | Male | Female |
| All Adults (N=1098) | 48 | 52 |

AGE

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-----|
| AmeriSpeak 10/11/18- 10/14/18 | 18-29 | 30-44 | 45-59 | 60+ |
| All Adults (N=1098) | 21 | 25 | 25 | 29 |

RACE / ETHNICITY

| | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| AmeriSpeak 10/11/18- 10/14/18 | White, non- Hispanic | Black, non- Hispanic | Other, non- Hispanic | Hispanic | 2+, non- Hispanic | Asian, non- Hispanic |
| All Adults (N=1098) | 63 | 12 | 2 | 16 | 3 | 4 |

EDUCATION

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|--------------|------------------------------|
| AmeriSpeak 10/11/18- 10/14/18 | Less than a high school diploma | High school graduate or equivalent | Some College | College graduate or above |
| All Adults (N=1098) | 11 | 29 | 28 | 33 |

MARITAL STATUS

| AmeriSpeak 9/13/18- 9/17/18 | Married | Divorced | Widowed | Separated | Never Married | Living with Partner |
|-----------------------------------|---------|----------|---------|-----------|------------------|---------------------------|
| All Adults (N=1098) | 49 | 13 | 5 | 2 | 24 | 8 |

EMPLOYMENT STATUS

| AmeriSpeak 10/11/18- 10/14/18 | Working – as a paid employee | Working – self employed | Not working – on a temporary layoff from a job | Not working – looking for work | Not working - retired | Not working - disabled | Not working - other |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|---|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| All Adults (N=1098) | 48 | 10 | 1 | 7 | 20 | 6 | 8 |

HOUSEHOLD INCOME

| AmeriSpeak 10/11/18- 10/14/18 | Under \$10,000 | \$10,000 to under \$20,000 | \$20,000 to under \$30,000 | \$30,000 to under \$40,000 | \$40,000 to under \$50,000 | \$50,000 to under \$75,000 | \$75,000 to under \$100,000 | \$100,000 to under \$150,000 | \$150,000 or more |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| All Adults (N=1098) | 6 | 9 | 13 | 9 | 9 | 21 | 12 | 12 | 10 |

REGION

| AmeriSpeak 10/11/18- 10/14/18 | Northeast | Midwest | South | West |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|---------|-------|------|
| All Adults (N=1098) | 18 | 21 | 38 | 24 |