FACT SHEET ON SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND ASSAULT AGAINST YOUTH IN THE UNITED STATES

The Stop Street Harassment Survey 2018 demonstrates that nationally in the United States:

- 76.2% of females aged 18-24 and 35.1% of males aged 18-24 have been sexually harassed.
- 24.4% of females aged 18-24 and 6.2% of males aged 18-24 have been sexually assaulted.
- Half of all people sexually harassed or assaulted first experienced victimization by age 17.

Among those who have been sexually harassed or assaulted, one in four (27.4%) were victimized by age 13, and an additional 24.5% were victimized by age 17. Early victimization is more common for females than males. (See Figure 1.)

**Figure 1. Age at first sexual harassment or assault, among males and females (male n=446, female n=817).**

Most sexual harassment occurs in public spaces and from strangers, especially for females, two-thirds of whom have been sexually harassed in public spaces. (See Figure 2.) Nonetheless, sexual harassment and assault are occurring in schools at fairly comparable levels by sex. One in eight students has been sexually harassed or assaulted by a fellow student and one in sixteen by a teacher at their school.

**Figure 2. Spaces where sexual harassment occurs**

Overall, this work documents heightened risk of sexual harassment and assault for school aged youth in the U.S., with risks largely faced in public spaces and disproportionately faced by girls. However, risk for boys is not insubstantial, and both boys and girls face some risk of harassment at school by classmates and, to a lesser degree, teachers.

*Read the full report here: [http://www.stopstreetharassment.org/resources/2018-national-sexual-abuse-report/]*

Prepared by the UC San Diego Center on Gender Equity and Health