Women facing sexual violence and street harassment

Survey in Europe and in the United States

Study published on the occasion of the symposium on 19 November

“Sexual and sexist violence at work: the current situation, an emergency situation?”

19 November 2018
The survey was carried out on a sample of 6025 women, consisting of a representative sample of the female population aged 18 years and over from each of the following countries:

- Italy: 1009 people
- Spain: 1007 people
- France: 1004 people
- Germany: 1004 people
- United Kingdom: 1001 people
- United States: 1000 people

In each country, the survey was conducted using a sample, the representativeness of which was ensured by the quota method (age, occupation of the interviewee) after stratification by region.

The data ensuring the representativeness of the results are derived from the data provided by:
- The European Union Labour Force Survey (EU LFS 2014) for countries in Europe
- The Current Population Survey (CPS 2015) for the United States

The interviews were conducted by a self-administered online questionnaire from 25 to 30 October 2018.

IMPORTANT: If you quote this study, please respect the law of 25 April 2016 which requires the name of the law to be mentioned, the name and authority of the sponsor, the number of people interviewed, and the dates on which the questions were asked. Ifop would like to remind you that “the fact of publishing or allowing to be published, disseminated or allowing to be disseminated a poll in violation of current law and applicable regulations” is now punishable by a fine of 75,000 €.

TO QUOTE THIS STUDY, THE FOLLOWING WORDING MUST BE USED AS A MINIMUM:

“The Ifop study for the Fondation Jean-Jaurès and the Foundation for European Progressive Studies conducted by a self-administered questionnaire online from 25 to 30 October 2018 in a sample of 6025 women, representative of the female population aged 18 years and over residing in Italy, Spain, France, Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States.”
OVERVIEW OF THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF SEXIST AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN EUROPE AND THE UNITED STATES
A.1 How many women have already been subjected to inappropriate behaviour in the street?
**QUESTION:** Have you personally experienced any of these situations in the street?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Situation</th>
<th>During Your Lifetime</th>
<th>During the Past Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| You have been insistently stared at            | 71%  
  - **France:** 71%  
  - **Spain:** 76%  
  - **Ireland:** 57%  
  - **Germany:** 61%  
  - **UK:** 51%  
  - **USA:** 62%  | 18%  
  - **France:** 18%  
  - **Spain:** 23%  
  - **Ireland:** 26%  
  - **Germany:** 11%  
  - **UK:** 11%  
  - **USA:** 16%  |
| You have been whistled at                      | 66%  
  - **France:** 66%  
  - **Spain:** 41%  
  - **Ireland:** 67%  
  - **Germany:** 71%  
  - **UK:** 65%  
  - **USA:** 70%  | 11%  
  - **France:** 11%  
  - **Spain:** 10%  
  - **Ireland:** 17%  
  - **Germany:** 11%  
  - **UK:** 14%  
  - **USA:** 15%  |
The profile of women who have been the victims of whistling in the street “during the past 12 months”

Note: 63% of young Spanish women under 25 years of age have been victims during the past 12 months
As a reminder, the average found in all Spanish women is 23%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
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<th>Italy</th>
<th>Germany</th>
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<th>USA</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
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<td>63</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>of age</td>
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<td>25 to 34 years</td>
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<td>35 to 49 years</td>
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<td>50 to 64 years</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Socio-professional category</th>
<th>Spain</th>
<th>Italy</th>
<th>Germany</th>
<th>UK</th>
<th>USA</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>17</td>
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<table>
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<th>Germany</th>
<th>UK</th>
<th>USA</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Capital area</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A.2 How many women have already been victims of sexist or sexual insults in the street?
**QUESTION:** In the course of your lifetime, have you experienced any of these situations in the street?

You have been subjected to comments, mocking or sexist insults:

- **France:** 39
- **Spain:** 40
- **Italy:** 25
- **Germany:** 36
- **UK:** 43
- **Average TOP 5 EU:** 36

You have been subjected to gross sexual gestures:

- **France:** 38
- **Spain:** 50
- **Italy:** 29
- **Germany:** 28
- **UK:** 43
- **Average TOP 5 EU:** 36

**TOTAL PROPORTION OF WOMEN WHO HAVE ENCOUNTERED AT LEAST ONE OF THESE SITUATIONS IN THE STREET DURING THEIR LIFETIME**

- **France:** 50
- **Spain:** 59
- **Italy:** 39
- **Germany:** 43
- **UK:** 54
- **Average TOP 5 EU:** 48
- **US:** 61
**QUESTION:** And during the last twelve months, have you experienced any of these situations in the street?

You have been subjected to comments, mocking or sexist insults

You have been subjected to gross sexual gestures

**TOTAL PROPORTION OF WOMEN WHO HAVE ALREADY ENCOUNTERED AT LEAST ONE OF THESE SITUATIONS IN THE STREET DURING THE PAST YEAR**
QUESTION: Have you ever experienced any of these situations in the street?

PROPORTION BY COUNTRY OF VICTIMS OF AT LEAST “one form of sexist or sexual insult”

- **UNITED STATES**: 61% lifetime, 11% past 12 months
- **UNITED KINGDOM**: 54% lifetime, 13% past 12 months
- **FRANCE**: 59% lifetime, 14% past 12 months
- **SPAIN**: 59% lifetime, 14% past 12 months
- **ITALY**: 50% lifetime, 10% past 12 months
- **GERMANY**: 43% lifetime, 14% past 12 months
- **UNITED STATES**: 11% lifetime, 54% past 12 months
- **UNITED KINGDOM**: 13% lifetime, 50% past 12 months
- **FRANCE**: 14% lifetime, 59% past 12 months
- **SPAIN**: 14% lifetime, 59% past 12 months
- **ITALY**: 10% lifetime, 50% past 12 months
- **GERMANY**: 8% lifetime, 43% past 12 months
The profile of women who have been victims of a form of sexist or sexual insult in the street “during the past 12 months”

Note: 18% of “poor” Americans have been victims during the past 12 months

As a reminder, the average found in all American women is 11%
How many women have already been victims of harassment in the street?
**QUESTION:** In the course of your lifetime, have you experienced any of these situations in the street?

### You have been insistently approached despite your lack of consent

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>France</th>
<th>Spain</th>
<th>Italy</th>
<th>Germany</th>
<th>UK</th>
<th>USA</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>%</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>52</td>
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### You have been followed for a part of your way

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>France</th>
<th>Spain</th>
<th>Italy</th>
<th>Germany</th>
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<th>USA</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>%</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>33</td>
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</table>

**TOTAL PROPORTION OF WOMEN WHO HAVE ENCOUNTERED AT LEAST ONE OF THESE SITUATIONS IN THE STREET DURING THEIR LIFETIME**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>France</th>
<th>Spain</th>
<th>Italy</th>
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<th>USA</th>
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<tr>
<td>%</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>56</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Average TOP 5 EU

USA
QUESTION: And during the last twelve months, have you experienced any of these situations in the street?

You have been insistently approached despite your lack of consent

You have been followed for a part of your way

TOTAL PROPORTION OF WOMEN WHO HAVE ALREADY ENCOUNTERED AT LEAST ONE OF THESE SITUATIONS IN THE STREET DURING THE PAST YEAR
QUESTION: Have you ever experienced any of these situations in the street?

PROPORTION BY COUNTRY OF VICTIMS OF AT LEAST “one form of street harassment”

- **ITALY**: 55% (54%) and 64% (28%)
- **SPAIN**: 9% (9%)
- **FRANCE**: 59% (13%) and 55% (10%)
- **UNITED KINGDOM**: 44% (10%)
- **UNITED STATES**: 57% (17%)
- **GERMANY**: 64% (9%)

Victims during their lifetime
Victims during the past 12 months
The profile of women who have been victims of a form of sexual harassment in the street “during the past 12 months”

Note: 23% of young French women aged under 25 have been victims of this during the past 12 months.

As a reminder, the average found in all French women is 10%.

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<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>France</th>
<th>Spain</th>
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<td>Under 25 years of age</td>
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<tr>
<td>65 years and over</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lower socio-professional categories</td>
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<tr>
<td>Higher socio-professional categories</td>
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<th>Region</th>
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<th>UK</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Capital area</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
How many women have been victims of exhibitionism in the street?
PROPORTION BY COUNTRY OF VICTIMS OF EXHIBITIONISM

QUESTION: Have you personally experienced any of these situations in the street?

“A passer-by exposed himself/herself to you sexually”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Victims during their lifetime</th>
<th>Victims during the past 12 months</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
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<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The profile of women who have been victims of exhibitionism in the street “during the past 12 months”

Note: 15% of young Spanish women aged under 25 have been victims of this during the past 12 months
As a reminder, the average found in all Spanish women is 4%
How many women have been the victims of sexual aggression in the street?
**QUESTION:** In the course of your lifetime, have you experienced any of these situations in the street?

1. A passenger rubbed himself/herself against you inappropriately
   - France: 24%
   - Spain: 32%
   - Italy: 26%
   - Germany: 40%
   - UK: 32%
   - Average: 31%

2. You were subjected to sexual fondling or touching (e.g. hands on your buttocks) despite your lack of consent
   - France: 31%
   - Spain: 28%
   - Italy: 34%
   - Germany: 36%
   - UK: 40%
   - Average: 34%

3. You have been subjected to sexual penetration with violence, constraint or surprise
   - France: 8%
   - Spain: 7%
   - Italy: 5%
   - Germany: 10%
   - UK: 18%
   - Average: 10%

**TOTAL PROPORTION OF WOMEN WHO HAVE ENCOUNTERED AT LEAST ONE OF THESE SITUATIONS IN THE STREET DURING THEIR LIFETIME**

- France: 40%
- Spain: 44%
- Italy: 43%
- Germany: 52%
- UK: 50%
- Average: 48%
QUESTION: In the course of your lifetime, have you experienced any of these situations in the street?

DURING THE PAST YEAR

A passenger rubbed himself/herself against you inappropriately

You were subjected to sexual fondling or touching (e.g. hands on your buttocks) despite your lack of consent

You have been subjected to sexual penetration with violence, constraint or surprise

TOTAL PROPORTION OF WOMEN WHO HAVE ALREADY ENCOUNTERED AT LEAST ONE OF THESE SITUATIONS IN THE STREET DURING THE PAST YEAR
QUESTION: Have you ever experienced any of these situations in the street?

PROPORTION BY COUNTRY OF VICTIMS OF AT LEAST “one form of sexual aggression”

- **United States**: 48% during their lifetime, 8% during the past 12 months
- **United Kingdom**: 52% during their lifetime, 18% during the past 12 months
- **Germany**: 40% during their lifetime, 5% during the past 12 months
- **France**: 43% during their lifetime, 6% during the past 12 months
- **Italy**: 44% during their lifetime, 7% during the past 12 months
The profile of women who have been victims of a form of sexual aggression in the street “during the past 12 months”

Note: 42% of young Germans aged under 25 have been victims of this during the past 12 months.

As a reminder, the average found in all Germans is 18%.
WHICH COUNTRY TODAY HAS THE MOST SEXIST CLIMATE IN THE STREET?
THE EXPERIENCE OF SEXIST AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN THE STREET
“DURING THE PAST YEAR”

Pressures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>France</th>
<th>Spain</th>
<th>Italy</th>
<th>Germany</th>
<th>UK</th>
<th>Average TOP 5 EU</th>
<th>US</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Insistent staring</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
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<td>10</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>11</td>
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Insults

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<th>Germany</th>
<th>UK</th>
<th>Average TOP 5 EU</th>
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<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sexual insults</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>13</td>
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Harassment

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<th>UK</th>
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<td>5</td>
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<td>12</td>
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<td>10</td>
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<td>9</td>
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Exhibitionism

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th>Germany</th>
<th>UK</th>
<th>Average TOP 5 EU</th>
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</table>

Sexual aggression

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th>Italy</th>
<th>Germany</th>
<th>UK</th>
<th>Average TOP 5 EU</th>
<th>US</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**QUESTION:** In the course of your lifetime, have you experienced any of these situations in the street?

- [ ] Yes, less than one year ago
- [ ] Yes, but over a year ago
- [ ] No, never

- You have been insistently stared at
- You have been whistled at
- You have been subjected to gross sexual gestures
- You have been subjected to comments, mocking or sexist insults
- You have been insistently approached despite your lack of consent
- You have been followed for a part of your way
- A passenger exposed himself/herself to you
- A passenger rubbed himself/herself against you inappropriately
- You have been subjected to sexual fondling or touching (e.g. hands on your buttocks)
- You have been subjected to sexual penetration with violence, constraint or surprise

**TOTAL PROPORTION OF WOMEN WHO HAVE ALREADY ENCOUNTERED AT LEAST ONE SITUATION**

- [ ] 24%
- [ ] 35%
- [ ] 25%
- [ ] 27%
- [ ] 32%
- [ ] 28%

**IN TOTAL, 44% OF GERMAN WOMEN HAVE BEEN THE VICTIM OF AT LEAST ONE FORM OF SEXUAL ATTACK OR AGGRESSION IN THE STREET IN THE PAST TWELVE MONTHS**
THE CHARACTERISTICS OF FRENCH WOMEN VICTIMS OF SEXIST AND SEXUAL ATTACK OR VIOLENCE IN THE STREET
QUESTION: Have you personally experienced any of these situations in the street?

- You have been insistently stared at: Yes, less than one year ago - 18, Yes but over a year ago - 53, Total - 71
- You have been whistled at: Yes, less than one year ago - 11, Yes but over a year ago - 55, Total - 66
- You have been subjected to gross sexual gestures: Yes, less than one year ago - 6, Yes but over a year ago - 32, Total - 38
- You have been subjected to comments, mocking or sexist insults: Yes, less than one year ago - 8, Yes but over a year ago - 31, Total - 39
- You have been insistently approached despite your lack of consent: Yes, less than one year ago - 9, Yes but over a year ago - 39, Total - 48
- You have been followed for a part of your journey: Yes, less than one year ago - 5, Yes but over a year ago - 38, Total - 43
- A passer-by exposed himself/herself to you sexually: Yes, less than one year ago - 2, Yes but over a year ago - 28, Total - 30
- A passer-by rubbed himself/herself against you inappropriately: Yes, less than one year ago - 3, Yes but over a year ago - 21, Total - 24
- You have been subjected to sexual fondling or touching (e.g. hands on your buttocks) despite your lack of consent: Yes, less than one year ago - 3, Yes but over a year ago - 28, Total - 31
- You have been subjected to sexual penetration with violence, constraint or surprise: Yes, less than one year ago - 17, Yes but over a year ago - 8

“Total proportion of women who have been victims at least once”
**QUESTION:** In the course of your lifetime, have you experienced any of these situations in the street?

- Yes, less than a year ago
- Yes, but over a year ago
- No, never

- You have been insistently stared at
- You have been whistled at
- You have been subjected to gross sexual gestures
- You have been subjected to comments, mocking or sexist insults
- You have been insistently approached despite your lack of consent
- You have been followed for a part of your way
- A passenger exposed himself/herself to you
- A passenger rubbed himself/herself against you inappropriately
- You have been subjected to sexual fondling or touching (e.g. hands on your buttocks)
- You have been subjected to sexual penetration with violence, constraint or surprise

**TOTAL PROPORTION OF WOMEN WHO HAVE ALREADY ENCOUNTERED AT LEAST ONE SITUATION**

- Yes, during the last 12 months, 24%
- Yes, but over a year ago, 62%
- No, none of these situations, 14%

**IN TOTAL, 86% OF FRENCH WOMEN HAVE BEEN VICTIMS OF AT LEAST ONE FORM OF SEXUAL ATTACK OR AGGRESSION IN THE STREET**
The profile of French women victims of at least one form of sexual attack or aggression in the street “during the past 12 months”

Note: 60% of young people under 25 years of age have been victims of this during the past 12 months

As a reminder, the average found in all French women is 24%