

# THE STATE OF STREET HARASSMENT IN DC:

A Report on the First Year of Implementing the Street Harassment Prevention Act

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We would like to acknowledge and thank the following for hosting focus groups: American University Health Promotion and Advocacy Center, DC Public Library, DC Rape Crisis Center, Inclusive Innovation Incubator, Miriam’s Kitchen, Martha’s Table, Public Welfare Foundation, and Whitman Walker Health. We would like to acknowledge and thank the ten focus group facilitators and four trauma therapists for dedicating their time and energy in making the focus groups happen; we are not listing names for the purposes of confidentiality. We would also like to acknowledge and thank the people that helped make the street harassment survey occur: the project team at Qualtrics who helped scrub data and analyze the results, as well as Nellie Moore and Karissa Minnich from The Lab @ DC who helped broker the relationship with Qualtrics.

Finally, we would like to acknowledge the End Street Harassment Coalition and all their advocacy that went into passing the Street Harassment Prevention Act, in particular, Collective Action for Safe Spaces, Leila (Jessica) Raven, and Chantal Coudoux.

# FOREWORD

The passage of the Street Harassment Prevention Act (SHPA) was a historic moment for the District of Columbia. SHPA was groundbreaking by creating the first legal definition of street harassment in the United States and by uniquely focusing on prevention through education instead of criminalization. The District's approach to understanding and preventing street harassment is quickly becoming a model for the country.

While the passage and implementation of SHPA is unique to DC and makes the city a leader in this area, street harassment is not a problem that is unique to the District. In a 2019 national study, the UCSD Center on Gender Equity and Health and Stop Street Harassment found that 71 percent of women reported experiencing street harassment in their lifetime. In this report, you will find similar local statistics. In a 2019 District-wide study, the Office of Human Rights and the Advisory Committee on Street Harassment found that 69 percent of individuals surveyed have experienced unwanted verbal street harassment in DC in the six months prior to receiving the survey.

In Washington, DC, we value diversity and inclusivity and want all of our residents and visitors to feel safe. No matter one's race, faith, sexual orientation, gender identity, or background – you should be able to live, work, and play in Washington, DC without fear of harassment or violence. Recognizing that verbal street harassment can escalate into physical violence, addressing street harassment, which is at the lower end of the spectrum of aggression, is important for preventing crime in our city and keeping our public spaces safe.

District residents start to experience street harassment at a young age and street harassment occurs regularly - this combination normalizes harassing behavior, behavior that is not aligned with our DC Values. Almost half of the survey respondents were first victimized before the age of 18. Among those individuals who have experienced verbal street harassment in the last six months, 22 percent experience it daily and 37 percent experienced it weekly.

Street harassment, like all forms of abuse and harassment, is about power and control and most frequently targets those who are marginalized, such as members of the disability, LGBTQ+, and immigrant communities. I'm hopeful that that data we've collected on street harassment will help inform future training, reporting, and policies, which will eventually help decrease street harassment and make the District a safer place for everyone.

Sincerely,



**Michelle M. Garcia**  
OHR Interim Director

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Street Harassment Prevention Act (SHPA) became effective on October 1, 2018. SHPA is a first-of-its-kind legal measure in the United States that: (1) creates a legal definition of street harassment; (2) establishes a community-based Advisory Committee to study street harassment and develop model policies and trainings; and (3) requires a public information campaign on street harassment. It was designed to focus uniquely on prevention through education instead of criminalization.

The Advisory Committee on Street Harassment (ACSH) has 16 official members and many others who also participated in the work of the Committee. ACSH meets regularly and has four subcommittees: survey, public awareness, trainings, and reporting. The subcommittees, along with the Office of Human Rights, helped accomplish the tasks required by law, the results of which are outlined below and detailed in the full report.

One of the first accomplishments of implementing SHPA was collecting data on street harassment prevalence and experiences in the District. Survey responses were collected from 1,621 District residents; their responses painted a clear picture of street harassment:

## **1 | Street Harassment is common in the District.**

Most individuals (69%) surveyed had experienced verbal street harassment in DC in the prior six months; 40 percent reported that they had experienced physical street harassment.

## **2 | District residents are experiencing street harassment frequently.**

Among those individuals who had experienced verbal street harassment in the previous six months, 22 percent experienced it daily and 37 percent experienced it weekly. For those who experienced physical street harassment in the previous six months, 25 percent experienced it daily and 30 percent experienced it weekly.

## **3 | Street harassment most often occurs in public places and is perpetrated by strangers.**

Street harassment most frequently occurs on the street or sidewalk, on public transportation, and at nightlife venues. And the people most often doing the harassing are other pedestrians, other passengers, and neighborhood people or people hanging around.

## **4 | Street harassment experiences start young.**

Fifty-two percent of respondents first experienced street harassment before they turned 18 years old.

## **5 | Street harassment affects the behavior and emotional state of victims.**

Fifty-four percent of respondents were so affected by their experiences with street harassment that they changed their route or regular routine as a result; 34 percent reported feeling anxiety or depression; and 29 percent of respondents stopped going to a restaurant, bar, or club.

## **6 | Vulnerable communities experience higher rates of street harassment.**

The respondents that identified with the LGBTQ+, disability, and/or immigrant communities consistently reported higher rates of street harassment throughout the survey.

During fall 2019, ten two-hour focus groups were conducted with various vulnerable populations: people experiencing homelessness, transgender and gender nonconforming<sup>1</sup> individuals, immigrant communities,

<sup>1</sup> Some gender non-conforming/non-binary individuals use the pronouns they/them/theirs. The singular they is used throughout the report to reflect the proper pronouns of focus group participants/survey respondents/etc and to also help ensure anonymity of focus group participants.

religious minorities, college students, and sexual violence victims/survivors. The goal of conducting focus groups was to hear the experiences of people within populations the Advisory Committee believed to experience greater levels of street harassment, whose experiences could be difficult to capture in the survey. The focus group discussion covered topics such as participants' experiences with street harassment, the impact of harassment on them and their lives, the times at which and places in which they most commonly experienced harassment, their experiences with bystander intervention, what would make participants feel safer and more supported, and more. The participants' responses added rich qualitative data to supplemented the quantitative data collected in the survey.

In August 2019, OHR launched a public awareness campaign which included five versions of an informative ad on street harassment and a website with further information and resources. The ads were placed inside 250 buses, on five Capital Bikeshare docks, and at 20 bus shelters for at least four weeks. The ads had four components: (1) the words "I don't need your comments on my..." and three items that correspond with the featured identity (sex, religious minority, homelessness, race, and LGBTQ); (2) various high-risk areas for street harassment, as outlined in SHPA; (3) clarification that "if it's unwanted, it's street harassment"; and (4) an invitation to learn more at our website and our hashtag #NoStreetHarassmentDC.

SHPA requires recommendations on the following areas: trainings, reporting, and policies. Below are summaries of our recommendations that are detailed in the full report.

### **1. Trainings**

We recommend two types of training - in-person Bystander Intervention & Self-Assertion (BISA) training and online Street Harassment Prevention for DC Government employees training; those deemed public-facing employees would be required to take the in-person training. We recommend experts in the field provide train-the-trainer trainings to selected government employees, who would then conduct BISA workshops for the required employees. We recommend the field experts also conduct BISA workshops for government contractors who work heavily with the public and for City Council staff who interact regularly with constituents, create content for the online training, and conduct 16 public BISA workshops (two per ward).

### **2. Reporting**

We recommend a reporting portal to which victims and witnesses of street harassment could report incidences of street harassment for data collection. This reporting mechanism should be done through a nonprofit-government relationship, with the nonprofit responsible for receiving the reports, responding to the reports, and securely maintaining the data collected, and the government agency responsible for marketing the reporting mechanism, collaborating on crafting any responses, funding the nonprofit (through a grant), and publishing aggregate data on an annual basis.

### **3. Policies**

We recommend District agencies use model policies to help address the challenges of street harassment. We recommend the model policies have the following seven components: code of conduct; defining street harassment; statement of confidentiality; reporting street harassment; responding to street harassment; resources; and training and awareness. Street harassment could be perpetrated by community members towards District employees, by employees towards community members, by employees towards other employees, or in any other direction; additionally, SHPA lists high-risk areas for street harassment, many of which include places of work for District employees. Therefore, many District employees may experience or witness street harassment while working, so it's important that policies and protocols are in place.

# THE ISSUE OF STREET HARASSMENT

Street harassment is often misunderstood; and because such harassing behavior in public spaces has become normalized and even expected, it's often dismissed. As Dr. Bianca Fileborn delineates, we know street harassment is harmful:

**Yet, even in the face of this persistent trivialization, the harms of this behavior have been well documented (Logan, 2015), ranging from objectification (Bowman, 1993), restricted movement through public space (Dhillon & Bakaya, 2014; Johnson & Bennett, 2015; Laniya, 2005), fear and reduced sense of safety (Lenton et al., 1999; Macmillan, Nierobisz, & Welsh, 2000), and emotional and affective harm (Kissling, 1991; Lenton et al., 1999; Tuerkheimer, 1997). (Fileborn, 2018, p. 2)**

Further, street harassment can quickly escalate into more severe forms of violence. This escalation is the reason preventing street harassment - which often lies on the lower end of the spectrum of aggression - is important to preventing violence at the higher end on that spectrum.

Street harassment, like all forms of abuse and harassment, is about power and control and most frequently targets those who are marginalized. People who hold marginalized identities experience street harassment differently - often more frequently and with greater severity - and they usually have less access to support. Because we seek to amplify the voices and experiences of DC's marginalized residents, our work sought to use an intersectional lens that acknowledges the varied ways communities experience street harassment.



# STREET HARASSMENT PREVENTION ACT

After several years of advocacy and public testimony, the DC Council passed the Street Harassment Prevention Act (SHPA; B22-0129) in June 2018, becoming effective on October 1, 2018. SHPA is a first-of-its-kind legal measure in the United States that: (1) creates a legal definition of street harassment; (2) establishes a community-based Advisory Committee to study street harassment and develop model policies and trainings; and (3) requires a public information campaign on street harassment. It was designed to focus uniquely on prevention through education instead of criminalization.

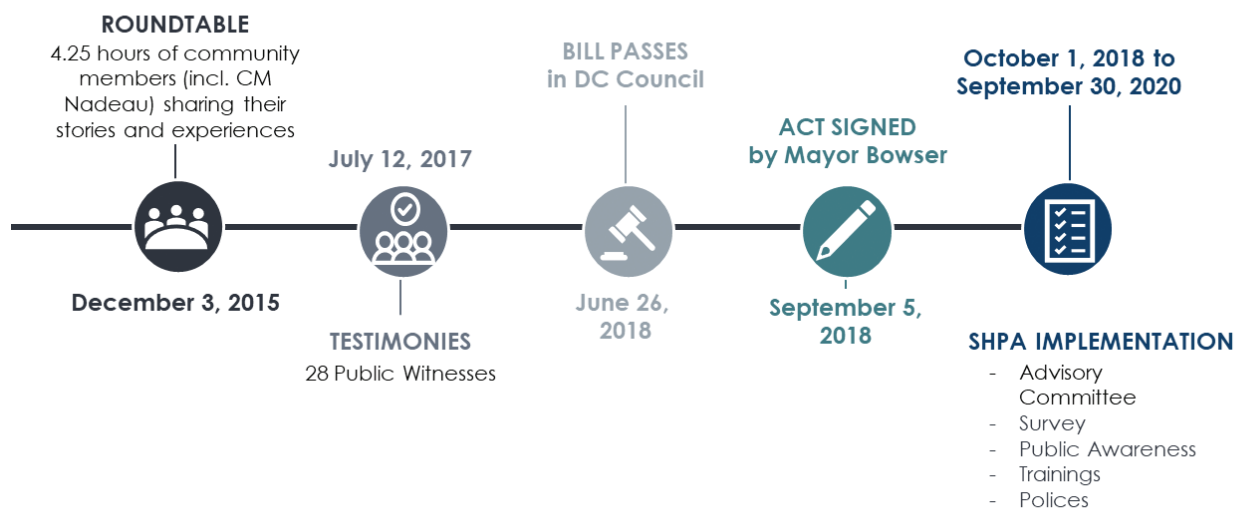
The District of Columbia is the first U.S. city tackling street harassment through prevention legislation; not because we have the worst street harassment problem but because we want to be a pioneer in addressing the problem. There is currently no nationally agreed-upon definition or prevalence measure of street harassment; we hope to provide blueprints for other cities and jurisdictions.

In SHPA, street harassment is defined as:

**“Disrespectful, offensive, or threatening statements, gestures, or other conduct directed at an individual in a high-risk area without the individual’s consent and based on the individual’s actual or perceived ethnicity or housing status, or a protected trait identified in the Human Rights Act of 1977.”**

GRAPHIC 1

## SHPA TIMELINE



The law delineates high-risk areas mentioned in the definition of street harassment. A high-risk area includes all public spaces and entities outside of a private residence. These areas include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Enclosed area within any Metrorail car, Metrobus, MetroAccess vehicle, DC Circulator bus, DC Streetcar or any other commercial vehicle capable of carrying more than six passengers;
- Food service entity;
- Any school, library or other building primarily used for instruction of students;
- Any bank, health care facility, laundromat, retail store, shopping mall, sports arena, music venue and theater;
- All publicly-owned property, including any roadway, sidewalk or parking lot; and
- All buildings or land owned, leased or occupied by District government.

The Street Harassment Prevention Act outlines six main objectives:

- 1.** Forming an Advisory Committee composed of government and community members.
- 2.** Collecting data to understand the prevalence and experiences of street harassment in the District.
- 3.** Conducting public information campaign(s) about street harassment and resources in DC available to victims.
- 4.** Researching and recommending model policies on preventing and responding to street harassment, to be adopted by District agencies.
- 5.** Researching and proposing trainings for preventing and responding to street harassment.
- 6.** Discussing the need, if any, for a reporting process that victims and witnesses of street harassment can use to report instances of street harassment.

The full SHPA legislation can be found in Appendix A.

This report details the work accomplished and knowledge gained on the aforementioned six objectives in Fiscal Year 2019.

# ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF STREET HARASSMENT

The Advisory Committee on Street Harassment (ACSH) has 16 official members and several unofficial members. SHPA requires the Committee to meet at least quarterly and follow the Open Meetings Act. ACSH generally meets every six weeks and has four Subcommittees: Survey, Public Awareness, Trainings, and Reporting. Below are the required DC Government Agencies and Communities and their mayoral-appointed representatives.

## Eight representatives from the following DC Government Agencies:

- 1. Office of Human Rights**  
Maya Vizvary, Street Harassment Prevention Program Analyst
- 2. Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants**  
Michelle M. Garcia, Director  
**Office of Human Rights**  
Michelle M. Garcia, Interim Director<sup>2</sup>
- 3. Mayor's Office of LGBTQ Affairs**  
Thomas Yabroff, Community Outreach Specialist
- 4. District Department of Transportation**  
Naomi Klein, Special Assistant to the Chief of Staff
- 5. Metropolitan Police Department**  
Vendette Parker, Inspector
- 6. City Council**  
Councilmember Brianne K. Nadeau and designee Michelle Loggins, Deputy Committee Director for Councilmember K. Nadeau
- 7. Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority**  
Kevin Gaddis, Deputy Chief of the Patrol Operations Bureau at Metro Transit Police
- 8. Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration**  
Sarah Fashbaugh, Community Resource Officer

## Nine community representatives that engage in policy, advocacy, or direct service within DC related to:

- 9. Street harassment**  
Noor Mir, Board Co-Chair for the Collective Action for Safe Spaces
- 10. Gender-based violence**  
Indira Henard, Executive Director of the DC Rape Crisis Center
- 11. Gender equity**  
Dee Curry, the DC Anti-Violence Project
- 12. LGBTQ rights**  
Genise Chamber Woods, Volunteer Coordinator for Black Pride
- 13. Racial equity**  
Ana Flores, Senior Manager of Inclusion, Education & Engagement at Human Rights Campaign
- 14. Religious tolerance**  
Darakshan Raja, Co-Director of Justice for Muslims Collective
- 15. Poverty or homelessness**  
Esther Ford, Case Manager at Miriam's Kitchen
- 16. Immigrant rights**  
Amy Nelson, Director of Legal Services for Whitman-Walker Health

*Please note, as of February 2020, we still had one vacancy in the community representatives.*

<sup>2</sup> Mónica Palacio served as the OHR Director from November 2013 until February 2020.

# DATA COLLECTION/ METHODOLOGY

## The purpose of our data collection was two-fold:

Determine the prevalence of Street Harassment (SH) in the District of Columbia

Understand the SH experiences of the groups that are named in the Street Harassment Prevention Act of 2017.

## Methodology:

We used mixed methods to collect data, combining quantitative and qualitative approaches:

800 panelists who represent the larger DC population + 800 panelists from specific, vulnerable subpopulations + 10 focus groups with populations we suspect are highly affected by street harassment (based on groups specifically named in the bill).

This approach was a responsible and rigorous way to understand the prevalence of street harassment and have our data enriched by the experiences of particularly vulnerable groups.

We used the research company Qualtrics for the quantitative data collection: our survey lived on its platform, the company recruited and incentivized panelists who met our quotas, and the research team provided supplemental services like data scrubbing and language translation. Panelists were generally people who had signed up to receive surveys on various topics; although respondents from some of the specific, vulnerable subpopulations had to be recruited and were not already part of a Qualtrics panel. Qualtrics (2020) explains that “research panels have gained in popularity over the past decade because they provide an organization with a pre-qualified and willing group of respondents to participate in surveys on an as needed basis. A well-managed research panel allows the organization to quickly and easily get answers to key questions at a fraction of the cost of other research methods.” The Lab @ DC won a Bloomberg Grant to be used for a Qualtrics license - the license allowed us to use the Qualtrics platform to administer our survey and receive responses.

## Quantitative Data: Survey

### Participants/Respondents:

Stratified, Representative Sample<sup>3</sup> of DC Residents (n = 800, 100 from each ward and 53% cis-woman and 47% cis-men) and Targeted Populations (n > 800, with at least 100 respondents from each of the following populations).

1. Race (not white)
2. Lower Income (< \$50k yearly household income)
3. Physical Disability
4. Religion (not Christian)
5. Age (55 years or older)
6. East of the River Residents (Wards 7<sup>4</sup> & 8)
7. Immigrant Community
8. LGBTQ+ Community

### Goal:

Determine the prevalence [“the proportion of a population affected by the condition of interest” (Webb & Bain, 2003)] of street harassment in the District.

<sup>3</sup> Stratification is the process of dividing members of the population into homogeneous subgroups before sampling; in this case, there are eight strata of 100 residents from each of the eight wards. A representative sample is a subset of a population that seeks to accurately reflect the characteristics of the larger group.

<sup>4</sup> Please note that there are currently Ward 7 residents in the Kingman Park area that do not live “East of the River”

## Survey Limitations:

1. While weighting was not used, the general population sample did fairly closely match the population of DC residents on key characteristics.
2. As with any sampling method, there is potential bias in using panelists to answer our survey. Panelists are people willing to participate in surveys and research.
3. The survey asked respondents about their experiences with street harassment in the previous six months; therefore, the results are limited to experiences from approximately April 2019 - September 2019. Respondents were asked to think about the prior six months to minimize recall bias.
4. Due to research ethics and the challenge of gaining parental consent for this topic, the sample was limited to those aged 18 and older.

## Qualitative Data: Focus Groups

### Participants/Respondents:

Those who experience street harassment the most frequently and severely:

1. People experiencing homelessness (two specifically for women)
2. Trans & gender nonconforming people (one specifically for black trans women)
3. Immigrant communities (one specifically for religious minorities)
5. Sexual violence survivors
6. College students (one at a Historically Black College/University (HBCU) and one at a Predominantly White Institution (PWI))

### Goal:

Help inform the next steps of SHPA - including the public awareness campaign, trainings, and policies - with rich, qualitative data from individuals who will not be extensively reached in the survey.

The limitations of our focus group approach are described in the “Background” section of “Focus Group Findings.”

# SURVEY RESULTS

Survey respondents were asked about their experiences with street harassment in the previous six months (survey distributed between September to October 2019). To simplify the language in the Street Harassment Prevention Act, respondents were provided with the following definition for street harassment:

**Street harassment is any unwanted statement, gesture, or conduct that is disrespectful, offensive, or threatening and happens in a public space, a place of business or any location that is not a private residence in DC.**

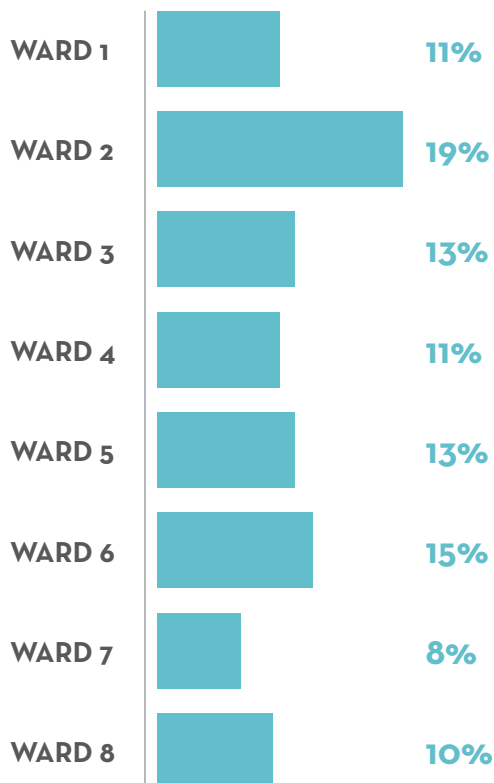
In order to take the survey, respondents had to be DC residents and over 18 years of age. Qualtrics scrubbed the data of any incomplete or faulty responses.

## Respondent Demographics

Survey respondents were asked ten questions about their identity at the end of the survey. These responses were used to verify and reach the quotas for the target populations and general population. Below are their responses, in the order the questions were asked. The percentage provided corresponds with the target population for that demographic (if there was one).

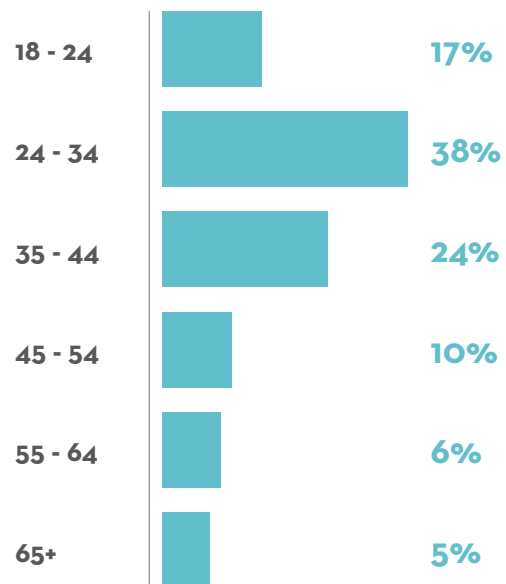
### GRAPH 1 | Ward

18% of respondents (or 283 of the 1,621) live “East of the River” (Ward 7 or 8).



### GRAPH 2 | Age

11% of respondents (or 174 of the 1,621) are over the age of 55.



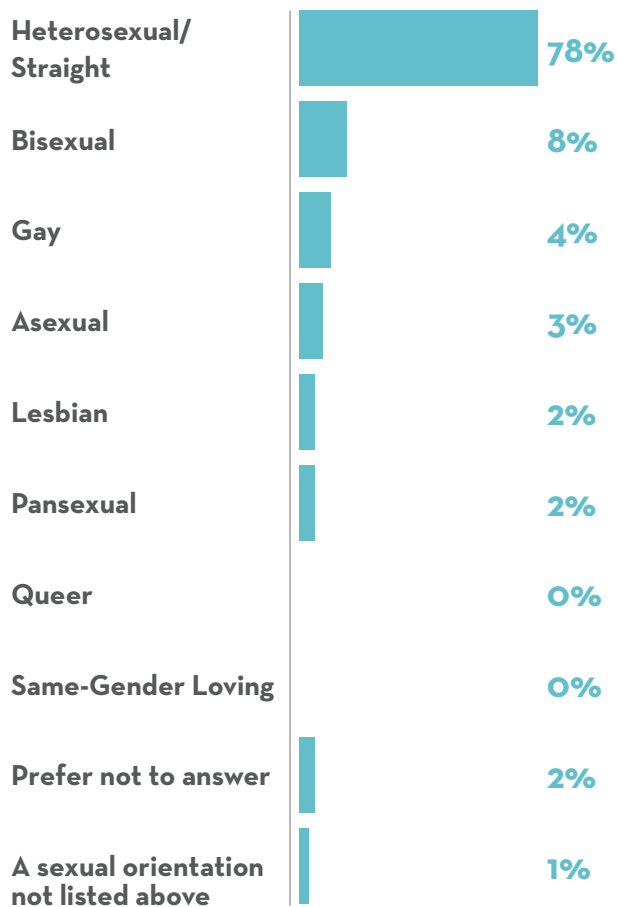
**TABLE 1 | Race/Ethnicity**

44% (or 720 of the 1,621) of respondents identify as not “White/European American”.

Alaska Native	1%	Middle Eastern/ North African	1%
American Indian	2%	Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	0%
Asian/Asian American	5%	White/European American	54%
Biracial/Multiracial	4%	A racial/ethnic identity not listed above (please specify)	2%
Black/African American	24%	Prefer not to answer	1%
Latino/a/x or Hispanic	6%		
Sub-Saharan African	1%		

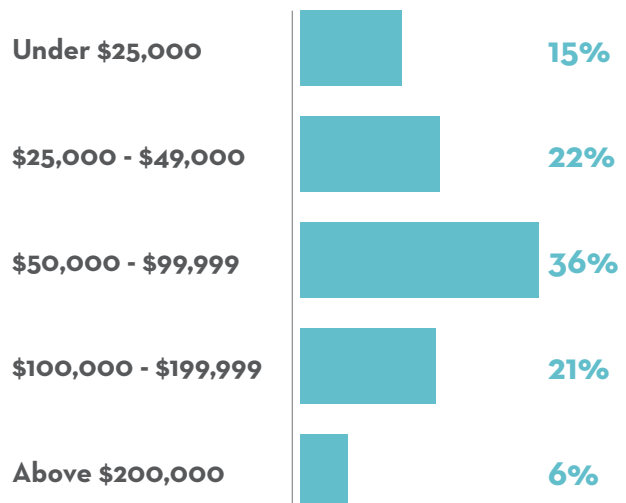
**GRAPH 3 | Sexual Orientation**

20% of respondents (or 322 of the 1,621) are part of the LGBTQ+ community



**GRAPH 4 | Yearly Household Income**

37% of respondents (or 610 of the 1,621) have a yearly household income below \$50,000.



**TABLE 2 | Current Living Arrangements**

House/apartment/condo	91%	On the street, in a car, in an abandoned building, in a park, or a place that is NOT a house, apartment, shelter, or other housing	1%
Campus/university housing	4%		
Nursing home, adult care facility, or hospital	1%		
Homeless shelter, domestic violence shelter, transitional/halfway house, or in a hotel or motel with an emergency shelter voucher	2%		
		A living arrangement not listed above	1%

**Visible Physical Disability or Mobility Issue**

12% of respondents (or 188 of the 1,621) reported having a visible physical disability or mobility issue.

**TABLE 3 | Religion**

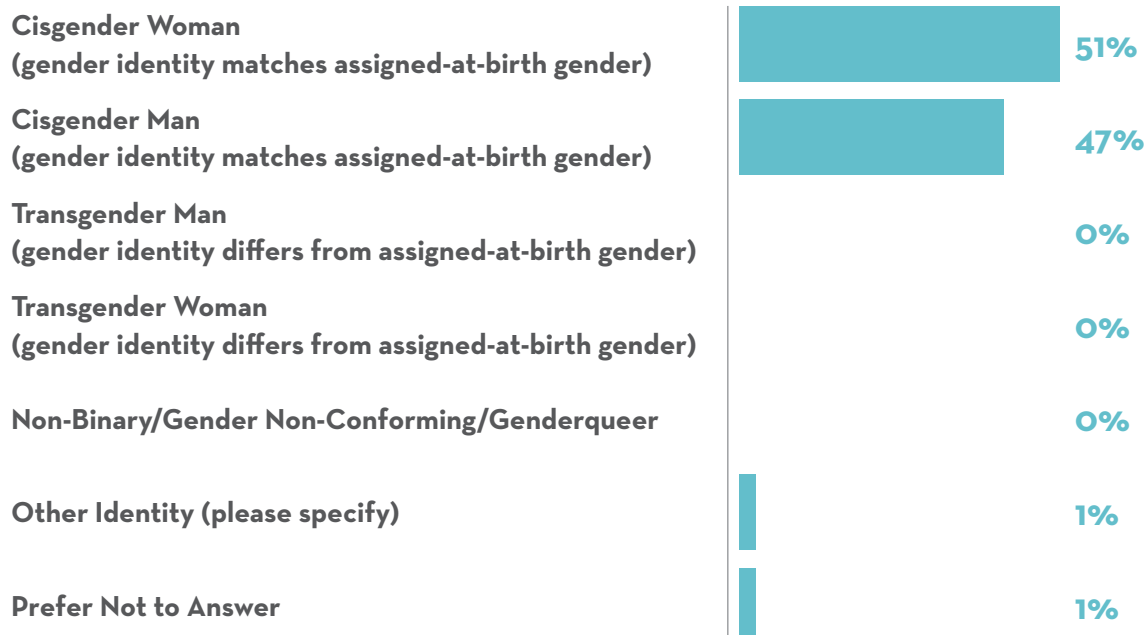
24% of respondents (or 396 of 1,621) identify as not Christian.

Atheist/Agnostic	15%	Muslim	3%
Christian	59%	Sikh	0%
Hindu	1%	Other	6%
Jewish	5%	Prefer not to answer	11%

**Identity as an Immigrant**

11% of respondents (or 171 of the 1,621) identify as an immigrant.

**GRAPH 5 | Gender Identity**





## Verbal Street Harassment

Respondents were asked if they experienced verbal street harassment in the previous six months (survey distributed between September to October 2019). Verbal street harassment was clarified to include, but not limited to:

**receiving unwanted comments, noises, or signals such as whistling, honking, explicit or rude comments, name calling, insults, slurs, gestures, or commands. These could be related to anything about you including, but not limited to, your gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, homelessness, race or skin color, religious affiliation, disability or mobility, immigration status, physical appearance, mental health or state of mind, class or income level, language, etc.**

### Most individuals surveyed had experienced unwanted verbal street harassment in DC (69%).

Below is a breakdown of responses to this first question. “All Responses” include the 1,621 DC residents that took the survey. “General Population” includes 100 residents per ward and a gender breakdown of 53% cisgender women and 47% cisgender men (the most recent gender breakdown of DC population, provided by the U.S. Census Bureau, 2017 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates) and is used as our representative sample. The remaining columns correspond with each of the eight targeted populations: non-white; low income (household income less than \$55,000/year); non-Christian; LGBTQ+ community members; residents that live East of the River (Wards 7 and 8); individuals with a physical disability or mobility issue that is visible to others; individuals over the age of 55; and community members that identify as immigrants. The bottom row, “Total,” indicates the number of respondents that are part of that population.

TABLE 4

In the past 6 months, have you experienced any unwanted verbal street harassment in DC?										
	All Responses	General Population	Non-White	Income < \$55k	Non-Christian	LGBTQ+	East of the River	Disability	Age 55+	Immigrant
Yes	69%	68%	68%	63%	67%	72%	61%	78%	37%	78%
No	28%	28%	29%	33%	29%	25%	36%	18%	57%	18%
Unsure	3%	4%	3%	3%	4%	2%	3%	4%	6%	4%
Total	1621	800	720	610	396	322	283	188	174	171

**As highlighted in the table above, the target populations that experienced higher rates than the General Population and All Responses, were the LGBTQ+ (72%), disability (78%), and immigrant (78%) communities.**

While they were not one of the target populations, 70% of cisgender women experienced unwanted verbal street harassment in DC in the previous six months.

**Among those individuals who had experienced verbal street harassment in the previous six months, over half experienced it daily (22%) or weekly (37%).**

Respondents who indicated they experienced verbal street harassment in the previous six months, were asked about the frequency of it in the following high-risk locations:

1. While on the street or sidewalk, such as walking, standing, or waiting for a bus
2. On public transportation (on a bus, on metro, or in a metro station)
3. Riding a bicycle, scooter, or skateboard
4. In a car, taxi, or for-hire vehicle like Uber or Lyft (as the driver or as a passenger)
5. Inside of a bar, club, or other nightlife venue
6. Inside of a restaurant, coffee shop, or other food service entity
7. Inside of a bank, healthcare facility, laundromat, retail store, shopping mall, or theater
8. Inside of a school or library
9. While working out (outside, in a gym or at park/rec center, etc.)

**Verbal street harassment most frequently occurred on the street or sidewalk, on public transportation, and at nightlife venues.**

- Street or sidewalk: 23% reported daily harassment, 34% reported weekly harassment, 15% reported monthly harassment
- Public transportation: 18% reported daily harassment, 27% reported weekly harassment, 15% reported monthly harassment
  - Among those who had experienced verbal street harassment on public transportation, a follow-up question reveals that, more specifically, 25% of respondents indicated that harassment occurred most often at the bus stop/bus shelter, 22% reported that harassment occurred on the bus, and 20% reported that it occurred on the metro
- Nightlife venue: 14% reported daily harassment, 25% reported weekly harassment, 20% reported monthly harassment

## Physical Street Harassment

Survey respondents were asked if they had experienced physical street harassment in the previous six months (survey distributed between September to October 2019). Physical street harassment was clarified to include, but not limited to:

**being followed without your permission, being purposely touched or brushed up against in an unwelcome way, someone exposing their genitals, and/or someone touching their genitals in front of you.**

**Most respondents indicated that they had not experienced physical street harassment in DC (57%), while 40% report that they had experienced physical street harassment in DC.**

**TABLE 5**

In the past 6 months, have you experienced any unwanted verbal street harassment in DC?										
	All Responses	General Population	Non-White	Income < \$55k	Non-Christian	LGBTQ+	East of the River	Disability	Age 55+	Immigrant
Yes	40%	43%	41%	35%	38%	49%	43%	61%	11%	54%
No	57%	56%	56%	62%	60%	50%	55%	37%	86%	43%
Unsure	3%	2%	2%	3%	2%	1%	2%	2%	3%	2%
Total	1621	800	720	610	396	322	283	188	174	171

**As highlighted in the table above, the target populations that experienced higher rates than the General Population and All Responses, were the LGBTQ+ (49%), disability (61%), and immigrant (54%) communities. East of the River (43%) was the same as the General Population (43%).**

While they were not one of the target populations, 40% of cisgender women experienced unwanted physical street harassment in DC in the previous six months.

**Among individuals who had experienced physical street harassment in the previous six months, 30% experienced physical harassment weekly and 25% experienced it daily.**

Respondents who indicated they experienced physical street harassment in the previous six months, were asked about the frequency of it in the following high-risk locations:

1. While on the street or sidewalk, such as walking, standing, or waiting for a bus
2. On public transportation (on a bus, on metro, or in a metro station)
3. Riding a bicycle, scooter, or skateboard
4. In a car, taxi, or for-hire vehicle like Uber or Lyft (as the driver or as a passenger)
5. Inside of a bar, club, or other nightlife venue
6. Inside of a restaurant, coffee shop, or other food service entity
7. Inside of a bank, healthcare facility, laundromat, retail store, shopping mall, or theater
8. Inside of a school or library
9. While working out (outside, in a gym or at park/rec center, etc.)

Just like verbal street harassment, physical street harassment was most commonly experienced in the street, on public transportation, and in nightlife venues.

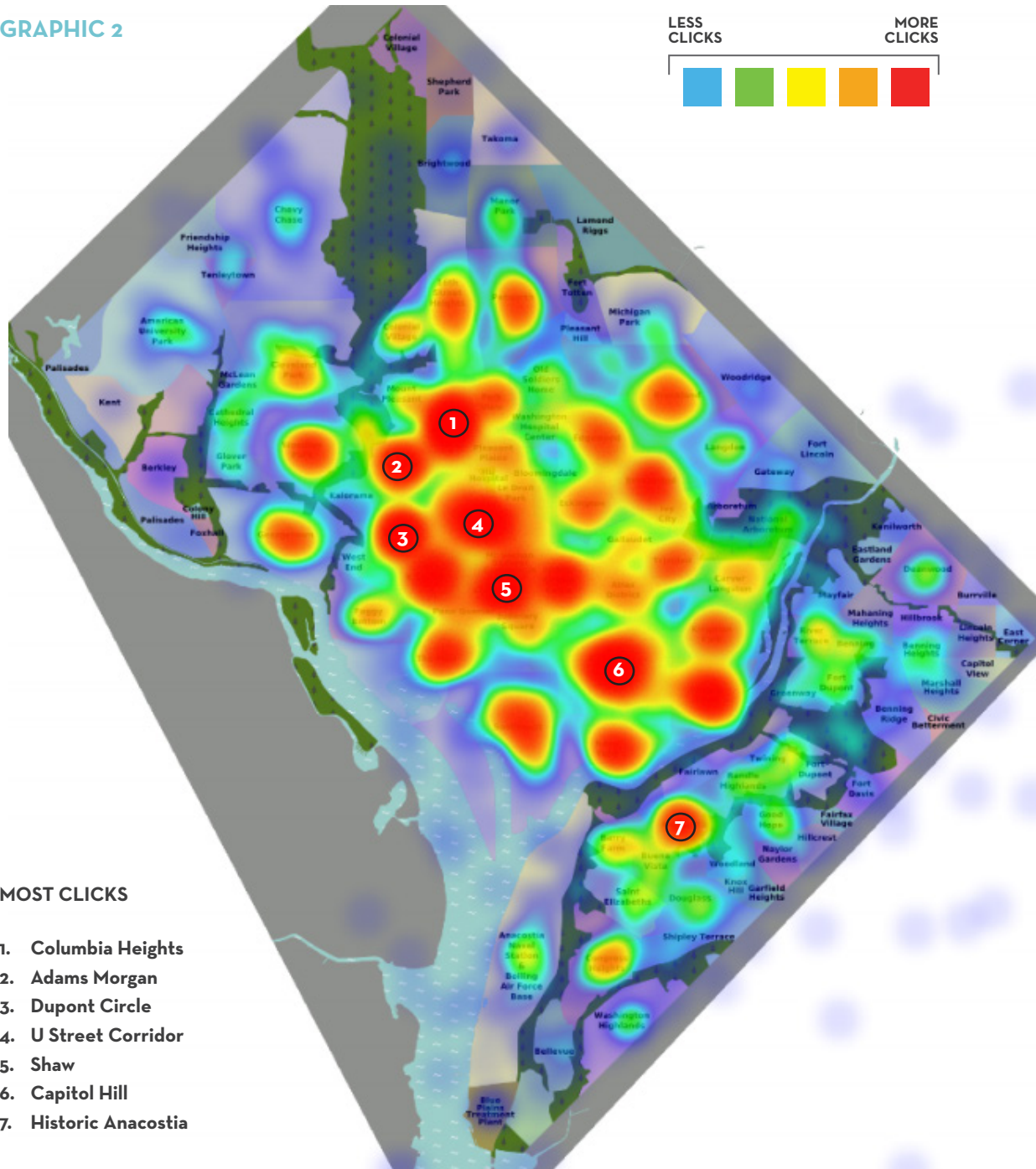
- Street or sidewalk: 23% reported daily harassment, 28% reported weekly harassment, 17% reported monthly harassment
- Public transportation: 21% reported daily harassment, 25% reported weekly harassment, 17% reported monthly harassment
  - Among those who have experienced physical street harassment on public transportation, a follow up question revealed that, more specifically, 26% of respondents indicated that harassment occurred most often at the bus stop/bus shelter, 22% reported that harassment occurred on the bus, and 22% reported that it occurred on the metro
- Nightlife venues: 17% reported daily harassment, 24% reported weekly harassment, 20% reported monthly harassment

*Please note: With the exception of the two main questions above (“In the past 6 months, have you experienced any unwanted verbal street harassment in DC?” and “In the past 6 months, have you experienced any unwanted physical street harassment in DC?”), the survey statistics provided are responses only from the respondents who had experienced verbal street harassment and/or physical street harassment in the six months prior to the survey. For example, if the respondent answered “no” to both questions, they were taken to the last section of the survey, which asked about demographics and they did not answer specific questions about their street harassment experiences. Additionally, unless noted, the survey statistics are pulled from the larger “All Responses” (n=1621) and not the “General Population” (n=800). Tables with the responses for all questions, separated by population like Table 4 and Table 5, can be found in Appendix C.*

## Where Street Harassment is Happening in DC

Respondents who had experienced street harassment in the previous six months were asked to click up to three places on a map of DC to indicate where they experienced street harassment the most frequently:

GRAPHIC 2



*\*Note: The original map can be found as question 5 in Appendix B, which is the full survey instrument.*

More clicks turn the areas from blue to green to yellow to orange to red; therefore, the red areas received the most clicks. The map clearly shows that street harassment most frequently occurred in the center of the city, where the streets are densely populated during business hours and nightlife. Some of the reddest neighborhoods include: Columbia Heights, Adams Morgan, Dupont Circle, U Street Corridor, Shaw, Capitol Hill, and Historic Anacostia.

## Age at First Incident

**52% of respondents first experienced street harassment before they turned 18 years old.**

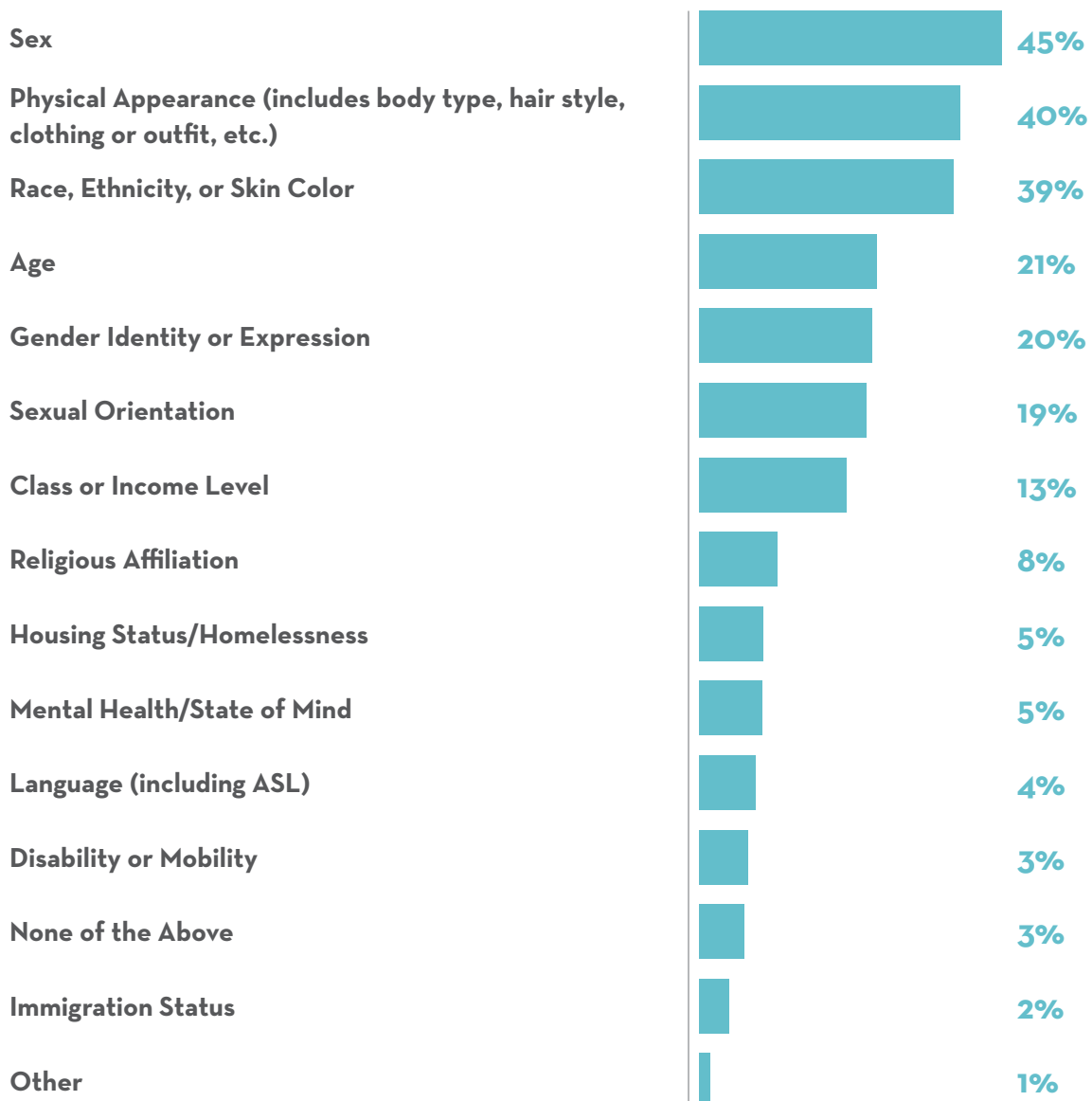
- 14% of respondents were age 0-12 when they first experienced harassment, and 38% were age 13 - 17.
- 58% of respondents indicated that their first experience with street harassment occurred in DC

## Harassment Due to Real or Perceived Identity

Respondents were asked if they believed they had been harassed in DC due to their real or perceived identity. If they answered yes, they were able to select all that apply.

**Respondents most commonly indicated that they believed they were harassed because of their sex (45%), physical appearance (40%), and/or skin color (39%).**

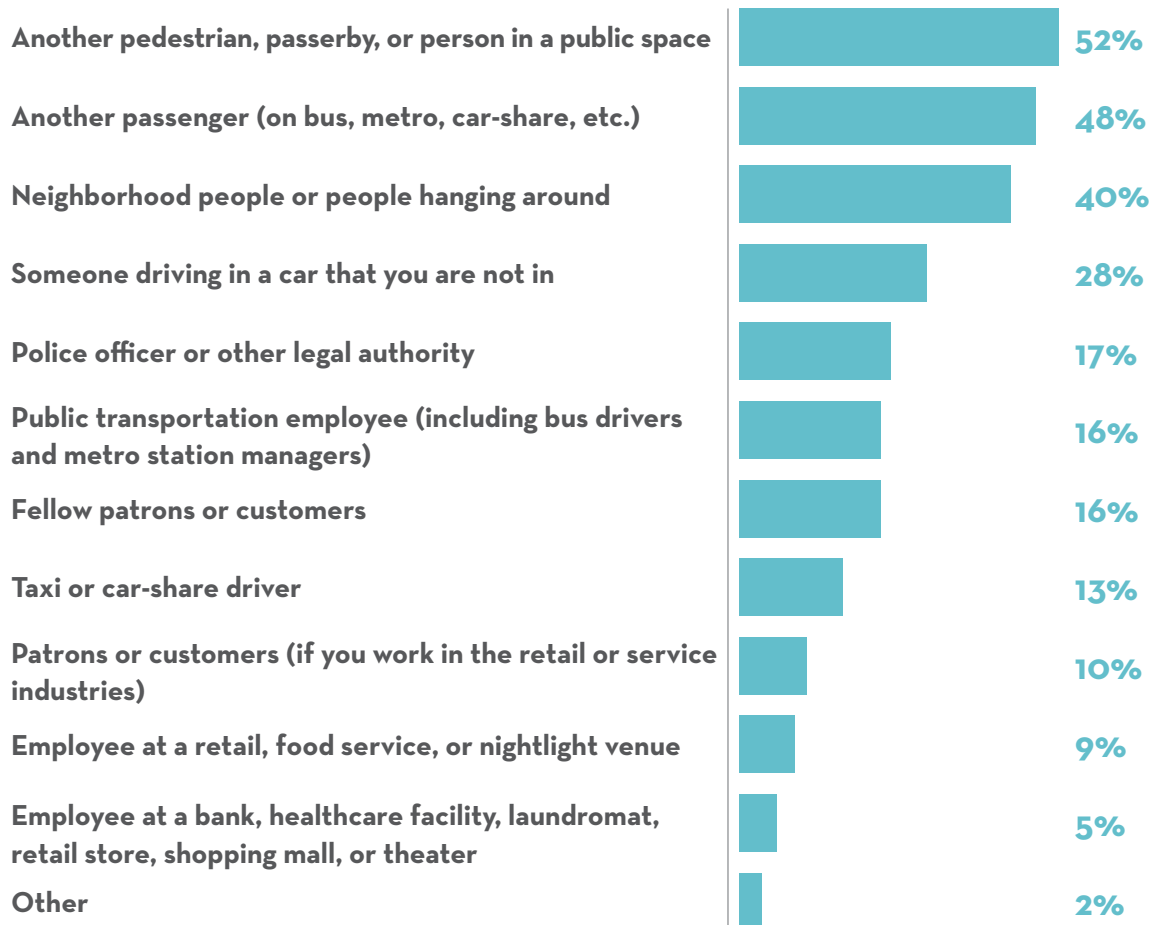
GRAPH 6



## Perpetrators of Street Harassment

Because harassment occurred most often on the street/sidewalk or on public transportation, unsurprisingly, the types of people most frequently doing the harassing were other pedestrians (52%), other passengers (48%), or neighborhood people or people hanging around (40%).

GRAPH 7



## Effects of Street Harassment

Respondents were asked if they had done any of the listed behaviors as a result of street harassment in DC; they were able to select all that apply.

**54% of respondents were so affected by their experiences with street harassment that they changed their route or regular routine as a result.**

- Alarming, 34% of respondents reported feeling anxiety or depression after experiencing street harassment.
- An interesting note for local businesses: 29% of respondents stopped going to a particular restaurant or club; this was the third most common behavior/effect.

**GRAPH 8**



## Victims' Desired Actions

Respondents were asked, "When you have experienced street harassment, what would you want to happen?" and they could select all that apply.

The top three responses:

1. 50% of respondents indicated that they preferred for someone to intervene while harassment was occurring.
2. 32% of respondents saw value in a way to easily report it to the government for data collection (no enforcement)
3. 31% would like environmental changes, like more street lamps or larger sidewalks
4. 31% would like to use self-defense or self-assertion skills that they learned/improved through a free, accessible training

### GRAPH 9



The full survey instrument can be found in Appendix B.



# FOCUS GROUP FINDINGS

## Background

The goal of conducting focus groups was to hear the experiences of people within populations believed to experience greater levels of street harassment, whose experiences would be difficult to capture in the survey. Reaching some of these populations was predictably challenging. Additionally, such a design could not fully capture the experiences of any population; for example, the views, thoughts, and opinions from thirteen DC residents that identify as immigrants can in no way represent the views, thoughts, and opinions of all DC residents that identify as immigrants. Rather, the design was structured to record the views of some key populations that might otherwise be missed.

A primary and secondary facilitator conducted each group; facilitators were selected through an informal application process and all were either part of the focus group population or had extensive experience working with that population. The facilitators were trained by David Kaib, PhD, the Assistant Director of Institutional Research and Assessment at American University who provided consultation on our data collection and methodology. In addition, a staff member from the DC Office of Human Rights was present at each focus group, dealing with set up, answering questions about the SHPA, and coordinating the process. A mental health counselor (trauma therapist from the DC Rape Crisis Center) was also present at each group, to be available in case anyone needed emotional support due to the nature of the topic. Focus group participants were provided with food and a token of appreciation for participating.

The mean size of the seven focus group sessions was 8.4 people, ranging from five to thirteen participants. Three additional sessions had three or fewer participants, meaning they were essentially group interviews, or, in one case, a single person interview, rather than a focus group. In order to differentiate those interviews from the focus groups, and to protect the confidentiality of those participants, quotes from the interviews will be cited as “I.” For the focus groups, quotes will be cited by the number of the group. There were a total of 65 participants. The sessions were conducted from August 22 through October 7, 2019. Given the differences in the different study populations, the methods used to recruit participants varied. Focus group participants were given questionnaires with eight demographic questions; filling out the questionnaire was optional and answers were kept anonymous. More information about the groups including logistics/schedules, participant recruitment, and participant demographics can be found in Appendix D.

In interpreting the results, it is important to focus on what was said, rather than what was not. That a particular issue or concern was not raised could be a product of many things, including how the populations of interest were conceptualized, the process of recruitment, the choices made by facilitators, the extent to which participants stayed on topic, the chance involved in who chose to participate, the extent to which participants felt comfortable speaking about a certain issue, and so on. For example, race and racism, when it was mentioned, tended to come later in the sessions, suggesting that it was only after a certain comfort level had been reached that people were willing to open up about it. In addition, in one group, participants initially focused more on their experiences when their friends had been harassed, but over the course of the session focused more on their own direct experiences.

To begin the focus group session, the facilitators read through an informed consent script that discussed SHPA and the role of the focus groups, the confidentiality of the data and discussion from the focus group, and the

expectations of both the facilitators and focus group participants. The facilitators were given ten questions to use to guide the discussion; generally all focus group discussion followed the same order:

1. Participants' experiences with street harassment
2. The impact of harassment on them and their lives
3. The times at which and places in which they most commonly experienced harassment
4. Their experiences with bystander intervention, both from authorities and from others
5. What would make participants feel safer and more supported, both when they are being harassed and afterward, and in places where they have typically experienced harassment
6. Whether some form of non-police reporting of street harassment would be desired
7. Whether participants believe that the population of their group is more likely to experience harassment, and why
8. Participants' reactions to the first public awareness campaign (detailed in the next section), and what they would like both those who experience street harassment and the general public to know or hear about the topic

The full questions and informed consent script can be found in Appendix D.

## Experiences of Street Harassment

### Question 1: What street harassment experiences do you commonly have?

To begin, participants were provided the definition of street harassment (the same one used in the survey, see above), and asked about their experiences with street harassment. The experiences participants detailed ranged from the routine, frequent, predictable, and brief, to infrequent, ongoing, and escalating. Often, there was an awareness of the possibility of escalation to even more dangerous and harmful behavior. The most commonly cited forms of street harassment by participants were gendered. "Catcalling" was the most common form cited.

Other types of verbal harassment included people on the street, on public transportation, or during a business transaction engaging in the following behavior: asking them out, asking for their number, or if they had a boyfriend. It also included commenting on people's looks, which could range from overtly rude talk about particular body parts to seemingly polite but still invasive comments on how a particular item of clothing looks on someone. Invasive questioning was mentioned often as directed at perceived difference—being disabled, or Muslim, or not fitting within the cis-heterosexual gender binary. Also mentioned were slurs and rude gestures.

**I can say every day at least once, I'm harassed by men on the street... And I've been harassed on the Metro bus, the Metro train, people have pulled their private parts out, like she said. I've reported this to the police and I've found that as soon as I reveal where I live, like at the shelter, because the police are going to know the address, they don't do anything about it. They ignore it, they kind of laugh at you and walk away, and poke fun at you. [FG 9]**

While much of the discussion focused on gendered forms of harassment, and on men - particularly men in groups - as the harasser, many participants made clear that women also engaged in harassment and that men also experienced harassment. And not all of the harassment experiences discussed were gendered.

**About two months ago to me, it happened in the bus. I was talking on my phone and there was a lady that got next to me and she told me to turn off the phone. And asked her, "Why? Why did I do to you?" And she told me, "Because I don't like you. I don't like**

**you.” I don’t speak a lot of English, but I try to defend myself where I could. And then she told me I’m going to take the phone away from you. And I wanted the other people in the bus to do something so that they can defend me, but sadly nobody cares. [FG 7]**

Participants who had experienced homelessness described wealthier people, businesses, and police as disrespecting them, giving them looks, demanding that they move on, and accusing them of trespassing or loitering. In other words, a common form of harassment was people - authorities and non-authorities - trying to control where they went. Another source of harassment noted here was the BIDs (Business Improvement Districts.) Calling the police as a form of harassment was cited by a number of participants as a problem they faced. This was partly a product of an assumption that homeless people were mentally ill, dangerous, or thieves.

**For a lot of people our presence strikes fear in people. Again that’s a scary thought that just the word homelessness can cause concern. I’ve gone to churches where they sold meals and the people in the neighborhood now watch literally because of the amount of people, the numbers of homeless people showing up. They will literally call the cops. I’ve seen it happen. I’ve witnessed two bicycle police officers ride in a particular area where there was a church for homeless people go to get fed literally and this is [harassment]. (FG 3)**

For homeless participants, harassment was often described as official and institutional. This meant not only police responding to complaints but also seeking them out. Either way, it was seen as rooted in stereotypes about the homeless and associations between homeless people and other marginalized populations.

**Yes, yes. I see them harass people every day, all day long. I’ve even witnessed people having an encounter with the Metro Transit Police and they weren’t even doing anything, especially a person that’s homeless. [FG 3]**

Participants who are trans, gender nonbinary, or gender nonconforming described many of the same sorts of experiences as cis women, and noted the similarities of their experiences. But they also noted the ways they were targeted beyond that. This included misgendering, slurs, outing, and questions about their sexuality, sexual orientation, and sexual activity. One participant explained, “I feel like misgendering is an act of violence in itself.” [FG 2] This sort of disrespectful behavior was understood as increasing the likelihood of further harassment from third parties, and as a possible precursor to physical harassment or even violence, which were also mentioned.

**[Participant 1]: ... like your basic, typical “Faggot” or you know, “What is that a boy or a girl?” You know what I’m saying?...**

**[Participant 2]: Not to speak on all trans girls but I know most of us, well some of us, people feel the need to out us. Like they notice or they see people like us are transgender they feel like they have the need to say it out loud to a room. Why? But they be like, “Oh, that’s [a] trannie.” Or “That’s a man” or something like that. (FG 4)**

## Impact of Street Harassment

### Question 2: Has experiencing street harassment affected your behavior?

Participants were asked about the impact of street harassment on themselves and their lives. There were some instances in which incidents had larger effects on their behavior—usually when they had major trauma or some other challenge (like homelessness). More commonly, participants discussed actions they took routinely to

reduce the likelihood of street harassment or its impact. Past experiences with harassment, and awareness of the possibility of harassment and what it could lead to, impacted how it was experienced. In short, particular instances of street harassment were not necessarily experienced as particular instances, but rather within much broader patterns of harassment, intimidation, and in some cases, assault, controlling behavior, and violence.

A fairly common response was a sense that one had to be constantly on alert or vigilant, constantly aware of one's surroundings, scanning one's environment for potential signs of danger, and so on. Or if not constantly, then commonly in certain contexts, such as when one passed certain locations or types of places, at certain times, or when dressed in a certain way. And the possibility that harassment could escalate increased the psychological toll. Some spoke of physical manifestations, like sweating or hyperventilating. These sorts of impacts were shaped by participants' history with past harassment, trauma, and/or mental illness.

**It's a different level, you know when somebody is harassing you, and especially for a transgender [person]....Just any form of street harassment can turn into something violent. [FG 9]**

**[I]t's telling me that society or other people feel like because I am my identity, I don't deserve the same rights and treatment as everybody else. [FG 2]**

Another common way that harassment impacted participants was in leading them to change their routes or avoid certain locations. This could be because they had experienced harassment in those places, because they knew it was dark, or because they could find themselves without an escape route. It could be because of a particularly traumatizing incident or knowing that harassment was especially likely in that place.

**[I]t's like an anxiety that comes with being harassed. Like you get harassed on the train one time, and from then on going on the train is always kind of scary. You do stuff, or you stop doing stuff you used to do. Like there are places I don't go that I used to go. [FG 2]**

Another was making sure to sit or stand in certain places—for example, sitting close to the conductor or in the last seat on the Metro so that no one could get behind them. Several participants said they sometimes chose transportation options or even limited travel to avoid harassment, which was not only inconvenient but also expensive. This could also limit where participants could go and when. A participant who uses a wheelchair noted that concerns about harassment had impacted their transportation choices and made it more difficult to engage in adaptive sports. Another way harassment could limit movement and exercise was impacting or reducing running.

**Yeah, it affects my money, because then I've got to start taking an Uber. [FG10]**

Experiences with harassment could lead to anger or fatalism - a sense that this was simply how the world worked or how human beings (or men) were. Expressions that these experiences are very common were made side by side with expressions of feeling alone, as if participants were 'crazy' and they did not have people to talk to about this experience. One participant suggested that the focus group itself - giving them the space to talk about such things and hear others talk about such things was valuable - made them feel less alone. Another participant stated that they wondered whether they had brought it on themselves. A black participant noted the irony that during the Civil Rights Movement, people fought to not be forced to sit at the back of the bus, but they always did, for fear someone might get behind them and do something.

## Where and When Street Harassment Takes Place

### **Question 3: Are there times or places when you feel especially likely to experience street harassment?**

Participants readily provided examples of places and times where they were especially likely to experience street harassment and there were clear patterns in their answers. But a number of participants also made clear that it could happen at any time, or in any place, including ones that seemed to make little sense. For example, one participant noted with exasperation an instance of street harassment when they were with their child in the middle of the day.

Many participants cited night as the most likely time to experience street harassment. The reasons people offered for why was first, because it was dark. Some suggested the anonymity afforded by darkness increased street harassment. Second, night was when potential harassers were drinking, or otherwise incapacitated, lowering their inhibitions and increasing their confidence. It made them “bold,” as one participant put it. [FG 10] Weekends were cited for the same reason, particularly weekend nights. Third, a college participant suggested that night was a time when students would be more likely to have reduced capacity, which made them more vulnerable. Potential harassers might further assume that young women were drunk and therefore easier prey.

**And I felt it's like a better time to take advantage of someone because we could've been intoxicated or something, and you're trying to get back to your dorm, but someone could just notice that something's off about you and take advantage of you. Especially because it's at night, and you've probably been out partying, stuff like that. [FG 10]**

Perhaps unsurprisingly, the street was the most common place cited as where participants were especially likely to experience street harassment. In particular, participants cited places on the street where men congregated, where men drank (like in front of liquor stores), and where many people walked by.

Another location where men congregated and harassed women was near residence halls at Howard University. Near Metro stops was commonly cited, as well as within the Metro and on buses. Another location was bus stops - that is, places where participants were more likely to be waiting, and therefore giving others the opportunity to harass them. A couple of participants noted that they avoided standing at bus stops and instead tend to wait at a distance to avoid harassment. Students mentioned the neighborhood by American University as a place where they often experienced harassment, especially the main street between campus and the Metro station. Traversing this corridor exposed participants to attention from people walking and in cars. While students at both Howard and American stated that their campus was not generally a place where they experienced harassment, one non-student participant said they experience harassment from students, especially on weekend nights, when students were drinking. (One student mentioned that when construction crews worked on campus over the summers, they did experience harassment.) In general, catcalling often came from men in cars, either stopped at a light, or more often, driving by.

For the participants experiencing homelessness, this meant a great deal of exposure to harassment, not only because they had little choice but to be on the street but also because they were often unwelcome in businesses, parks, libraries, etc. Participants who had experienced homelessness pointed to where they received services as additional places where they experienced harassment. In shelters, this could be from other clients, particularly (but not exclusively) men, and it could also be from staff, who held power over them. The possibility of being kicked out - especially from shelters - created an even stronger power imbalance than normal between the homeless and others. Another source of harassment, cited by women, was from men hanging around such places who tried to exploit homeless women's deprivation for sex, i.e., offering food or alcohol, or a place to stay in exchange. The same dynamics were cited in places where homeless people ate, in particular, or otherwise

received services. This was not an issue at all locations. Some participants pointed to whether staff took the issue seriously as the key factor here. It could also be impacted by how things were structured in a particular location.

Experiences with Bystander Intervention

**Question 4: Was there ever a time when a bystander/witness (or other person that is not an authority figure) intervened when you were being harassed? What happened?**

**Question 5: Was there ever a time where an authority figure of some sort (like a teacher, police officer, manager) intervened when you were being harassed? What happened?**

Participants had far more experience with street harassment than with intervention (both positive and negative). Harassment was described both with individual stories and discussions of patterns of activity whereas intervention was discussed almost entirely around individual stories, often explained as the one time they had experienced it.

Good interventions came in broadly two forms, which were not necessarily mutually exclusive. First, they ended a harassment interaction or provided some level of protection. This tended to be more likely an intervention by an authority figure, like a business owner, bus driver, or service staff, telling someone to stop or even ordering them to leave. It could be as simple as telling a young woman that she can move away from someone being inappropriate to her on a bus. The other form was essentially emotional support, either during a harassment interaction or after. This could include telling the harasser that their actions were not appropriate or acting to support the person who had been harassed directly. But this was not necessarily the first thing people thought of when they were asked about intervention. Just as some had difficulty deciding whether some things counted as harassment, some were unclear about what exactly counted as intervention.

**The check-in is really nice afterward. I feel like having someone, a witness, like hey I just saw it happen, are you good, do you need something... not even do you need something, like are you good. It's really nice because it restores hope in humanity in a sense, like one good and one evil kind of thing. [I]**

**I step on the [Metro] train, and this kid yells out, "Oh shit, it's a tranny!" Then I just put my headphones on, I'm like, I'm only going one stop. This will be over really soon, so I'm not listening to them, but I can see them pointing at me, talking about me and laughing at me. Then I just power walk off the train to get to where I'm transferring onto yellow, and I go sit down at this bench. I'm sitting down next to this nice lady who was like, "I saw what happened. That was so awful. I'm so sorry that happened to you." I'm like, "Oh, it's okay." Then these kids, they show up and they followed me off the train over to where I was sitting next to this lady, and kept yelling at me and harassing me. I froze up, I started crying, I had an anxiety attack, I was freaking out, but this nice woke cis ally stood up to these kids, and yelled at them, and told them to leave me alone, and walked with me to another part of the train. Then she rode the train with me all the way home. It was really nice. [FG 2]**

There were a few participants who expressed general skepticism toward intervention. This was generally not because they objected to it, but because they felt people would never do it - because people do not care, especially about marginalized people. This sentiment was sometimes paired with the belief that such harassment was not something that could be ended, that it was in human nature, or male nature. Other participants said intervention was unlikely because people would fear the harasser might respond violently or the police or other

authorities might intervene on behalf of the harasser. And sometimes, the authorities, including police, were the ones doing the harassing. In general, participants seemed to think that the same dynamics that made some people a target for street harassment also made authorities likely to side against them in any dispute or to not to take their concerns seriously. This meant many participants would not look to authorities for help. In other cases, participants felt some types of harassment did not merit police attention. In addition, a number of participants noted that the nature of harassment often would make it difficult for police to address it: street harassment is often in passing, without witnesses, it may be difficult to identify the harasser, etc. Given how ubiquitous it is, it would also be unlikely that police could always be there to see it.

**Law Enforcement, think also the service providers. I know they use to do sensitivity training in [inaudible] shelters for it but if you're a black man in D.C. you've been here for a number of years, you definitely going to know the verbal abuse that you can receive from any person in authority at any given time. That's like the given but when you kind of dealing with folks that's supposed to be providers of certain services in the community and they constantly speaking to you in manners and the gestures. The way they come off sometimes, it can add to a lot of folks trauma. I just happen to been deal with that and little things they can do just common courtesy. Seems like they just be lacking in so many instances and you wonder how these folks get in these positions. Especially when you're trying to deal with community when you have a lot of people who dealing with trauma and folks are. [FG 3]**

A hybrid situation would be where a non-authority bystander either called the police and stayed to serve as a support and a witness or intervened when police arrived to make clear who was the harasser and who needed protection. Given the experiences of many participants that police were selective in who they took seriously, and what types of harm they took seriously, having another person intervene on their behalf with the police once they became involved seemed particularly valuable.

**Overall, according to the participants' accounts, bystander intervention provided immediate safety and improved the psychological impact.**

**'Cause it makes you feel like you're not alone. That person sees what's going on, you're sharing the same logic senses, you guys have that telepathy, that antenna. But when you're in any type of confrontational situation and you feel like you're the only one fighting and you see so many people around you and nobody's standing up for you, you start to feel like maybe you are the problem. Even though you may not be, you start to feel like you're alone, there's nobody that's going to help you, you're helpless so you might as well just surrender now. [FG 4]**

That said, many participants who did not have bystander intervention experiences emphasized how positive it would be to have someone intervene on their behalf, or how hurtful it was when people failed to intervene. This was not only because the intervention did not happen but also because it made them feel hurt to have people not step in to help them.

**It would feel great. It would feel weird too at the same time because that generally doesn't happen. People sort of turn a blind eye. They feel like that's what women want, attention. [I]**

**[Facilitator]: Am I also hearing that you would feel safer if you knew that more people would be able to speak up on your behalf?**

[Participant]: It helps. It really does. You're not alone. [1]

## Feeling Safer and More Supported

**Question 6: When you have experienced an instance of street harassment what would make you feel safer? More supported?**

**Question 7: When you are in a place where you are most likely to experience street harassment, what would make you feel safer? More supported?**

Participants indicated that one of the most powerful ways for them to feel safer and supported when they experience street harassment is when someone, or even better, multiple people, intervene. Education was another theme, although this could mean several things. For some, education meant teaching (especially) boys that harassment was not appropriate. For others, it was about addressing ignorance that could lead to inadvertent harassment. For example, education could be about gender and pronouns to reduce misgendering, or about disability. One participant noted that people grab wheelchairs and move them, not realizing that the chair is an extension of the user's body.

One thing that people said made them feel safer and supported was being with friends. Being with friends could make harassment less likely or could mean a better chance at self-defense if something happened. It could also make an instance less impactful because one had emotional support.

**I don't know if there's anything that makes me feel better after [an instance of catcalling], other than like again, having my friends with me and just like that extra layer of protection. I feel after the fact with catcalling, it's over and done with. If they drove away, you're not going to do anything about it now. (FG 8)**

Another thing that made people feel safer was self-defense. Numerous participants made clear that the law against carrying weapons did not deter them; some because they did not think police would enforce it if they were assaulted, mostly because people feared being attacked more than the legal punishment. Another suggestion was self-defense classes—publicly funded, so that inability to pay would not be a barrier. For homeless participants, one strategy was to project an aura of toughness, of willingness to fight back, or “playing crazy” [1 and FG9].

As noted above, darkness was a key feature often mentioned that increased street harassment and apprehension about the possibility of street harassment. This was partly because of what happens at night - that is, nightlife, drinking, etc. - but it's also because darkness increased how aggressive potential harassers were and how potential victims could be more vulnerable. More lighting, particularly street lighting, was something suggested by a number of participants and it was met with enthusiastic agreement when raised by facilitators.

For some participants, security or police would make them feel safe, while for others it would make them feel less safe. Another solution mentioned by some participants was cameras in public places. A number of students pointed to campus police, or even university bus drivers, as someone they could turn to in a dangerous situation - if the street harassment was close to campus. Some other participants had something similar: a place or type of person where they could sometimes get to that made them feel safe. For one, the Metro bus was that place because drivers tended to protect them. Another participant noted that this is one of the problems with nighttime: fewer places where one can get away from someone are open.



## Reporting

### **Question 8: Do you think it would be helpful if there was a way to report when you experience or see street harassment (other than calling the police)? Why or why not? What would make it useful?**

When the question of alternatives to police as a solution was raised, some clearly had not considered that as a possibility. There was often confusion over what it would mean to have reporting that did not go to the police. There was also considerable enthusiasm for such a reporting mechanism.

Several PWI students noted that while they could call for help from the police and felt confident that they would be taken seriously, they did not think this option was available for many people who had a different relation to police and were concerned about the possibility that police might respond too aggressively to their concerns. Similar concerns were raised in another session.

**I would appreciate having non police avenues to deal with this just because I would feel incredibly guilty calling the police for a lot of the people that cat call or street harass me because a lot of them are, we mentioned earlier, are homeless folks or people who are dealing with mental illness or people who are dealing with alcohol issues. And I feel like calling the police might lead to them just getting more aggravated and I worry that that would lead them to taking it out on the next person. [I]**

Some participants expressed that it would be positive to be heard through such reporting: to tell their story would help reduce the impact of harassment. Others said it would be frustrating to make a report or to get a response that did not lead directly to action. On the question of whether they would like some response to their reporting, there was a range of views. It depended on the person, and perhaps on the incident as well. Several participants suggested having this as a choice for the reporter. Such a response might document that the report was made and its details or it could provide resources.

To the extent participants saw such reporting as useful for addressing street harassment, this usually meant seeing patterns in where and when it was occurring. This could be made available to the public, so that people could see high incidence locations and potentially avoid them. The information could also be made available to the government, which could take actions like stationing police in such places or putting more lighting in such places. Two participants in two different sessions suggested that the Office of Human Rights should receive the information and be tasked with enforcement. This might look like holding government agencies or particular businesses accountable both for what their own staff do and perhaps more importantly, what they fail to do in terms of protecting people from harassment.

**That's an interesting idea which is that having someone to come and double check so you can experience the environment and compare to the brief logs of the incident compare it to the treatment that that investigator is receiving at that moment. "Can I speak to your manager? I like to tell you about this complaints coming here." "Screw you. I don't have time for you. Get the hell out. You're not here to buy anything. Get out. Don't bother me." Whatever. So the next thing that the investigator should do is bring it up to higher management, so that business owner can be summoned in front of a judge to answer questions about his businesses. Is he telling me his employees on, what is it? [Cultural competency] or not? And it's obviously not. This will happen once the legislation is passed otherwise it's a waste of time. (FG 7)**

Indeed, reporting was seen as potentially more impactful when participants thought of it not only in terms of individual action but also in holding institutions accountable, or even making them aware of a problem. Another

reason given for the value of a reporting mechanism was culture change. People who experience harassment might be more willing to speak out.

**And if we change then more people will do it. Like you said, we don't get touched, we usually don't call the police and report it to anybody. We usually just tell a friend, but that's not helping. [FG 10]**

## Population/Identity Experience

### **Question 9: Do you think [study population] are more likely to experience street harassment than other people?**

The question of whether their population was more likely to experience street harassment vexed some participants. Often, they had already addressed ways in which they felt their group was more likely to be targeted for it, particularly exposed to it, etc. In part, this was about insisting that other people experienced it too; that is, even if participants believed they were more likely to experience it, they often did not want to leave the impression that it was unique to them.

The participants in the HBCU college group generally agreed that college students were more likely to experience street harassment, especially women, when first arriving. Being new to college and new to the city made them more vulnerable and attracted attention from people (especially men) who knew they were vulnerable.

**I feel like it's more on college students because... Especially freshmen girls because we... This is the first time of being on our own without our parents. It's a different... A lot of us is a different state, a different culture, and sometimes we're just trying to get adjusted, and people can see that and take advantage of it quite easily. So I feel like it's definitely more common on college girls, and especially around big events, like homecoming. [FG 10]**

In the PWI college group, members agreed that college women were more likely to experience harassment, but not necessarily because they were college students. One noted that they had not yet experienced life after college so it was hard to tell. Several participants suggested this was more because they were young women than because they were college students - because young women were targeted for such attention from men, and because young women in particular felt obligated to dress in certain ways, spend time in clubs, etc.

Participants who had experienced homelessness agreed that they were more likely to experience harassment, and women stated that they were particularly likely to experience it. This was because of the stigma associated with homelessness, their exposure to the attention of others, the deprivation they experienced that allowed others to attempt to exploit their needs, and their marginalization.

**Well, by comparison, between, whether or not your homeless, I was harassed when I had a job, I was harassed when I was housed. If you are asking if there's a difference, I think the difference would be the amount of exposure and the context in which you're exposed. Because if you're asleep at 10 o'clock at night and you're on some spot in the city and someone, there's not very much, there's not a lot of people around, might not have a phone to call the police. The police might not even respond, based on thinking that it's some homeless people having an argument. So there is a difference, I could respond at work at a certain level, but it's different when you're homeless. It really is. [FG 9]**

In the general trans / gender nonbinary / gender nonconforming group, members pointed to their visibility, and how people took their difference from the norm as threatening.

**I guess we're just more visible. That's the real thing, the visibility. I've noticed it too on days where the way I present changes, if I wear a certain color, do a certain thing with my hair, whatever. The more visible that I am, the more I'm expecting or will receive some sort of harassment, and the more bland clothing or whatever then the less I'll expect, but it still might happen. [FG 2]**

Some participants in the black trans women group felt that they experienced street harassment similar to what cis-gender women experienced. Others stated that being trans also made them a target - because of the marginalization of trans women, the stigma trans women face, and the association with sex workers.

Participants in the immigrant group largely agreed that they were more likely to experience harassment but did not have time to discuss their reasons. However, it was discussed earlier in the focus group that some members had noted being targeted for being Muslim (and the stereotype that connects Muslims with terrorism), for not speaking English, or for claims that immigrants had no right to be in the country and "stole" jobs from native born residents.

**In my case, this person knew that I didn't speak any English, so I guess he felt like he can continue harassing me after I told him that I didn't speak that much English. And then when he put his arm around my shoulder to kiss my face and he was going to do this on the street. And I feel like also because we're immigrants because they think that we're just criminals. Because they tell us go back to your country. You're not from here. You're worth nothing. And they feel like they have this power to harass and when we call the police, they come, and a lot of cases that you've heard, they don't do anything. [FG 7]**

Another participant recalled a time where a government employee assumed they did not speak English and began harassing them; they were able to deescalate the situation in part because they did speak English.

Many women participants felt that men took the way they dressed, the places they went, or whether they were not with a man who was their partner at the current moment, as proof of their sexual availability. Ignoring them, saying "I am not interested," or pointing out a man as their boyfriend often did not dissuade them. A theme was a male sense of entitlement to women's attention and that women who were the subject of their attention were obligated to react positively; failure to do this could lead to an angry response or even violence.

# PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

**I don't need your comments on my...**

*Gender Identity.  
Gender Expression.  
Sexual Orientation.*

Street Harassment is far too common and can happen in a **store**, at a **restaurant**, or even in **taxi** or **rideshare**.

If it's **unwanted**, it's **Street Harassment**.

**Learn more.**

For more information on the District's Street Harassment Prevention Act, scan the QR code or visit [nostreetharassment.dc.gov](http://nostreetharassment.dc.gov). #NoStreetHarassmentDC




Office of Human Rights  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

**SHPA**  
STREET HARASSMENT PREVENTION ACT

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
DC MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

According to the SHPA law, the Office of Human Rights shall:

**“No later than September 30, 2019, conduct a public information campaign about street harassment and resources available in the District for victims of street harassment.”**

In August 2019, OHR launched a public awareness campaign which included five ads and a website. The ads, seen below (and full-sized in Appendix E), feature:

- The words “I don't need your comments on my...” and then three items that correspond with the featured identity (sex, religious minority, homelessness, race, and LGBTQ)
- Various high-risk areas for street harassment, as outlined in SHPA
- Clarification that “if it's unwanted, it's street harassment”
- An invitation to learn more at our website (including a QR code that takes the viewer to the website) and our hashtag #NoStreetHarassmentDC

**I don't need your comments on my...**

*Homelessness.  
Appearance.  
Circumstance.*

Street Harassment is far too common and can happen in a **park**, on the **sidewalk**, or even at a **bus stop**.

If it's **unwanted**, it's **Street Harassment**.

**Learn more.**

For more information on the District's Street Harassment Prevention Act, scan the QR code or visit [nostreetharassment.dc.gov](http://nostreetharassment.dc.gov). #NoStreetHarassmentDC




Office of Human Rights  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

**SHPA**  
STREET HARASSMENT PREVENTION ACT

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
DC MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

The ads were placed inside buses, on Capital Bikeshare docks, at bus shelters, and also triggered as geofenced mobile ads when certain apps were opened in specific locations around the city. The ads were up for at least four weeks (sometimes they remained longer if the space was not purchased by another advertiser). The five versions were evenly and randomly distributed amongst the locations.

## Bikeshares, Interior Bus Ads, Geofence Mobile Ads

Campaign Run: 9/3-9/29

Company Used: Outfront Media

### 250 Interior Bus Ads

- 50: 22”x21” size – behind driver
- 200: 11” x 42” size – above seats

## 5 Bikeshare Locations

- Adams Morgan - NW-Adams Morgan/Columbia Rd & Belmont Rd
- U Street - NW-12th & U St
- Columbia Heights - W/L 14th Street S/O Girard St. NW
- Petworth - NW-Georgia & New Hampshire Ave
- Anacostia - S/L Mississippi 19th street SE

## 20 Bus Shelter Ads

Both static and digital ads

Campaign Run: 8/26-9/22

Company Used: Clear Channel

## 20 Shelters in “high-impressions” areas:

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| <b>Ward 1</b> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 16th St &amp; Spring Pl NW</li> <li>2. Columbia Rd &amp; Biltmore Rd NW</li> <li>3. 7th St &amp; S St NW</li> </ol>  |
| <b>Ward 2</b> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Connecticut Ave &amp; S St NW</li> <li>2. K St &amp; 18th St NW</li> <li>3. Pennsylvania Ave &amp; 10th St NW</li> <li>4. New York Ave &amp; 14th St NW</li> </ol> |
| <b>Ward 3</b> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Connecticut Ave &amp; Woodley Rd NW</li> <li>2. Wisconsin Ave &amp; Rodman St NW</li> </ol>  |
| <b>Ward 4</b> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Georgia Ave &amp; Upshur St NW</li> <li>2. 16th St &amp; Main Dr NW</li> </ol>   |
| <b>Ward 5</b> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Benning Rd &amp; 19th St NE</li> <li>2. Bladensburg Rd &amp; Queens Chapel Rd NE</li> </ol>  |
| <b>Ward 6</b> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pennsylvania Ave &amp; Potomac Ave SE</li> <li>2. M St &amp; 6th St SW</li> <li>3. North Capitol &amp; I St NE</li> </ol>  |
| <b>Ward 7</b> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Benning Rd &amp; 21st St NE</li> <li>2. Pennsylvania Ave &amp; 30th St SE</li> </ol>   |
| <b>Ward 8</b> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Wheeler Rd &amp; Varney St SE</li> <li>2. Alabama Ave &amp; Ainger Pl SE</li> </ol>  |

**I don't need your comments on my...**

*Outfit.  
Body.  
Smile.*

Street Harassment is far too common and can happen in a bar, at a concert, or even on the Metro.

If it's unwanted, it's **Street Harassment.**

**Learn more.**

For more information on the District's Street Harassment Prevention Act, scan the QR code or visit [nostreetharassment.dc.gov](http://nostreetharassment.dc.gov). #NoStreetHarassmentDC

Office of Human Rights  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA **SHPA** GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
DC MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

**I don't need your comments on my...**

*Hair.  
Body type.  
Skin color.*

Street Harassment is far too common and can happen at school, at a sports game, or even on the bus.

If it's unwanted, it's **Street Harassment.**

**Learn more.**

For more information on the District's Street Harassment Prevention Act, scan the QR code or visit [nostreetharassment.dc.gov](http://nostreetharassment.dc.gov). #NoStreetHarassmentDC

Office of Human Rights  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA **SHPA** GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
DC MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

**I don't need your comments on my...**

*Religion.  
Race.  
Ethnicity.*

Street Harassment is far too common and can happen in a library, at the movies, or even in the coffee shop.

If it's unwanted, it's **Street Harassment.**

**Learn more.**

For more information on the District's Street Harassment Prevention Act, scan the QR code or visit [nostreetharassment.dc.gov](http://nostreetharassment.dc.gov). #NoStreetHarassmentDC

Office of Human Rights  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA **SHPA** GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
DC MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

## Website

At the same time ads were displayed around the city, our website ([nostreetharassment.dc.gov](http://nostreetharassment.dc.gov)) launched. The top portion of the website can be found below:

The screenshot shows the top portion of the Office of Human Rights website. At the top is a navigation menu with links for Home, About OHR, File Discrimination Complaint, Services, Education & Awareness, The Commission, and Language Access. Below the menu is a header area with the Office of Human Rights logo and a 'Listen' button. The main content area features the title 'No Street Harassment DC Campaign' and a paragraph explaining the campaign's purpose: to reduce incidents of street harassment and increase understanding. A 'Share Your Story' graphic is prominently displayed on the right side, with the text 'Tell us about your experience with Street Harassment in DC!'. Below the main text, there is a call to action asking users to help spread the word about the campaign by sharing ads on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter using the hashtag #NoStreetHarassmentDC. The footer area includes 'Office Hours' (Monday to Friday, 8:30 am to 5 pm) and 'Connect With Us' information, including the address (441 4th Street NW, Suite 570), phone number (202) 727-4559, fax number (202) 727-9589, TTY: 711, and email address [ohr@dc.gov](mailto:ohr@dc.gov). Social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube are also present.

The website provides an explanation about the public awareness campaign and the SHPA definition of street harassment. There is a square graphic that reads “share your story”; if users click this graphic, they are prompted to anonymously share an incident of street harassment that they have experienced in the District. The link for anonymously sharing incidents of street harassment is still live and OHR continues to capture that data. The website then provides thumbnails of the five aforementioned ads and links to download PDFs of each ad.

**Following the ads, the website provides answers to two common questions:**

### 1. Is street harassment considered a crime in DC?

Though incidents of street harassment such as threatening statements or offensive gestures can often incite fear and escalate into violent acts or crime, these activities in themselves may or may not constitute as a criminal act under District law. If you believe you may be a victim of assault, stalking or a bias or hate motivated act in the District, contact the DC Victim Hotline for support at 1-844-4HELPDC (1-844-443-5732). The DC Victims Hotline service provides around-the-clock free, confidential information for victims of ALL crimes in DC. Visit [www.dcvictim.org](http://www.dcvictim.org) for more information.

### 2. How do I report street harassment that does not rise to the level of crime?

Currently there is no central reporting mechanism for street harassment incidents in public spaces in DC. However, for ANY incident of harassment or sexual misconduct on public transit, including WMATA Metro stations, trains and buses, you can report your experience by visiting [wmata.com/harassment](http://wmata.com/harassment).

The website ends with links to resources, including blogs about street harassment, local resources for victims and survivors, and national resources (outlining speciality help like the Trevor Project for victims of LGBTQ+ hate/bias and tinó for male survivors of sexual violence). And, lastly, a link to the SHPA webpage is provided. The SHPA webpage also lives on OHR’s website and provides the definition of street harassment, high-risk areas, links to a one-pager on SHPA and the actual legislation, and information about the Advisory Committee on Street Harassment (including meeting agendas and minutes).

# DATA-INFORMED RECOMMENDATIONS

It is important to revisit the victims' desired responses prior to recommending training, reporting, and policy. This is community-based evidence of what DC victims of street harassment, including our more vulnerable community members, would like to see happen in prevention of and response to street harassment in DC.

Survey respondents were asked, "When you have experienced street harassment, what would you want to happen?" and they could select all that apply.

The top three responses were:

1. 50% of respondents indicated that they prefer for someone to intervene while harassment is occurring (bystander intervention)
2. 32% of respondents saw value in a way to easily report it to the government for data collection (no enforcement)
3. 31% would like environmental changes, like more street lamps or larger sidewalks
4. 31% would like to use self-defense or self-assertion skills that they learned/improved through a free, accessible training

In addition to general consensus that agreed with the above recommendations, there were some actionable suggestions that came from focus group participants:

1. Canvassers on the street often assume someone is part of the gender binary and will say "Hi ma'am/sir, do you have a minute for \_\_\_?". Participants' whose gender is non-binary suggested canvassers just stop saying the "ma'am/sir".
2. Women experiencing homelessness explained that when UPO workers come out to respond to a hotline call and loudly declare someone is a woman, that puts them at risk of harassment from men experiencing homelessness around them. Many of the women are trying to hide their gender while sleeping outside to make themselves less vulnerable.

# TRAINING RECOMMENDATIONS

According to the SHPA law, this report:

**“Proposes model policies and training materials to be adopted by District agencies for preventing and responding to street harassment, including model policies and training materials for public-facing employees;”**

We recommend two types of training, and outline audiences, core curriculum elements, and trainers below.

## Types of Training

### 1. Bystander Intervention & Self-Assertion (BISA) Training

Bystander Intervention Training equips trainees with the skills to intervene when they witness harassment and to help the victim of harassment. Self-Assertion teaches participants various ways to assert themselves and respond to harassment. For the strongest efficacy, we recommend the training be in-person and between one to three hours long.

#### Crucial Curriculum Elements

- Definition of street harassment, as outlined in SHPA
- Stories and statistics from our own data collection (to build empathy)
  - Statistics to include frequency and impacts of street harassment
- Discussion on the role of power imbalances, systemic oppression, and the reason we focus on behaviors and not people
- The steps to bystander intervention (i.e., notice what’s happening)
- 5 Ds of bystander intervention: direct, distract, delegate, delay, document
- Ways to self-assert when participants deal with harassment directed at them
- Role-playing of intervening using some of the 5Ds and self-assertion tactics to develop intervention skills
- Local resources available to victims and ways to report street harassment

The BISA training should be required of all public-facing government employees,<sup>5</sup> the government contractors who work heavily with the public (e.g., violence interrupters, seasonal workers like lifeguards at DPR, etc.), and for DC Council staff who interact regularly with constituents. Agency leadership may also choose to add employees that interface with the public and are not included in the definitions here.

#### Public Trainings

Because Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) Commissioners are volunteers, but heavily involved in what happens in public spaces of their respective neighborhoods, they should not be required but rather highly encouraged to attend the public BISA workshops provided in their Ward.

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<sup>5</sup> A public-facing government employee is someone who interacts with the public as a regular part of their job at one of the agencies provided in the list below. Some examples of public-facing employees are librarians with DCPL, investigators with ABRA, traffic control officers with DDOT, and legal instrument examiners at the DMV. The full list of Agencies designated by the Language Access Act as having major public contact can be found on Appendix F.



## 2. Online Street Harassment Prevention for DC Government Employees Training

### Crucial Curriculum Elements

- Definition of street harassment, as outlined in SHPA
- Brief information about the law
  - Stories and statistics from our own data collection (to build empathy)
- Statistics to include frequency and impacts of street harassment
- Local resources available to victims
- Ways to report street harassment as either a witness or a victim

The online training should be required of all government employees to take on a yearly basis, similar to the “Sexual Harassment Prevention for Employees” training. Additionally, we recommend an automatic refresher be sent six months after an employee has completed the Online Training on Street Harassment & Reporting. This refresher should include the basic and main points of the online training.

### Justification

#### From our 2019 Survey on Street Harassment in DC:

When asked the question “When you have experienced an instance of street harassment, what would you want to happen?” 50% of respondents who have experienced street harassment in the last six months said they would like for “someone to intervene or help if they witness me being harassed.” The desire for bystander intervention was the most common response.

#### From our 2019 Focus Group Report:

As previously mentioned, “...many participants who did not have bystander intervention experiences emphasized how positive it would be to have someone intervene on their behalf, or how hurtful it was when people failed to intervene.”

#### From the Evidence Base:

While almost all of the evidence on the efficacy of bystander intervention focuses on college students and/or sexual assault, it remains to be one of the top interventions in violence prevention as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control. Additionally, Fileborn (2017) explains: “Bystander intervention often reduced the perceived harm of an incident of street harassment, and can form an important component of street harassment victims’ justice needs.” (p. 187)

### How to Deliver Trainings

We recommend experts in the field provide train-the-trainer trainings (these trainings usually take two to three full days) to about 80 selected government employees. These 80 trainers would be responsible for delivering the BISA workshops to public-facing government employees. There should be a nomination and application process for government employees to go through the Train-the-Trainer. It’s crucial that the government employees selected to be trainers have some group facilitation skills and experience in working with sensitive topics like street harassment.

The experts should also conduct BISA workshops for government contractors who work heavily with the public (e.g., violence interrupters, seasonal workers like lifeguards at DPR, etc.), and for City Council staff who interact regularly with constituents.

We also recommend that the experts create content for the online training and refresher that we believe all DC government employees should be required to take annually.

### **Public Trainings**

Ideally, the experts would also conduct 16 public BISA workshops (two per ward) to which ANC Commissioners would also be invited and highly encouraged to attend.

### **Pilot in FY2022 and Scale in FY2023**

Our recommendation is to pilot the BISA program in FY2022, using a few of the listed agencies from footnote 5 as a pool from which to nominate government employees to go through the train-the-trainer program. Those trained employees would be responsible for providing workshops to the public-facing employees in their agency. The selection process, train-the-trainer, and government employee trainer-led workshops should be evaluated; the data from these evaluations should be used to improve the BISA program and scale it government-wide in FY2023. Once the BISA workshops have occurred, we recommend assessing participants' skill usage in FY2024 - asking BISA participants if they have used the BISA skills they learned and, if they have, asking about their experiences using those skills.

We recommend that the pilot year of FY2022 also be used to create the online content and test the online training with a few other agencies (see Appendix F for agency listing). Like the BISA program, the online training should be evaluated and the evaluation results should be used to improve the training for scaling government-wide in FY2023.

We recommend that the field experts conduct training for the public, government contractors that work heavily with the public, City Council staff who interact regularly with constituents, and ANC Commissioners during the pilot year of FY2022. We recommend using FY2021 to develop the RFA for the field experts and working with that organization/group in developing the curricula.

Since the training curricula must include information about reporting street harassment, it should be noted that a reporting mechanism needs to be implemented prior to any of the trainings/workshops being delivered. Our recommendations for a reporting mechanism can be found in the next section of the report.

# REPORTING RECOMMENDATIONS

According to the SHPA law, this report shall:

**“[Discuss] the need, if any, for a process by which victims and witnesses of street harassment can report instances of street harassment to District agencies;”**

## Our Recommendation

We believe there is a need for victims and witnesses of street harassment to have the ability to report incidents to the District. While victims may report to the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) if they believe the harassment constitutes a crime, additional non-law enforcement options should be developed and implemented.

To increase accessibility, we recommend multiple ways to report; for example, victims and witnesses should be able to report through an online form, by calling a number and leaving a voicemail, by sending a text, or by mailing the report through the postal service. Additionally, the reporting forms should also be available in the six non-English languages outlined in the Language Access Act. It's important that the reporting form asks about the location, date, and time of the street harassment incident, the type of street harassment, and if there were bystanders present (if there were, the reporting form should also ask if the bystanders intervened). It might be helpful to collect a few demographics on the victim and perpetrator's identity as well. All of these questions should be voluntary - people reporting can choose to include as much or as little information as they'd like.

## Why

Reporting is an opportunity for street harassment victims' voices to be heard and for witnesses to express that street harassment is not okay. Reporting and receiving a trauma-informed response is one way to provide validation to DC residents who experience street harassment.

### From our 2019 Survey on Street Harassment in DC:

33% of the respondents who have experienced street harassment in the last six months said they would like “a way to easily report it to the government for data collection - no enforcement,” which was the **second most common** response to the question “When you have experienced an instance of street harassment, what would you want to happen?”

### From our 2019 Focus Group Report:

As previously mentioned, “...there was also considerable enthusiasm for such a reporting mechanism....Some participants expressed that it would be positive to be heard through such reporting. To tell their story would help reduce the impact of harassment.”

### From the Evidence Base:

Similar to the bystander intervention evidence, much of the research available focuses on disclosing sexual assault and not on reporting street harassment. Dr. Bianca Fileborn (2018) writes about the importance of allowing people to share their street harassment experiences: “Given the extent to which street harassment is trivialized and under-recognized as a form of harm, disclosure can function as an important means of challenging and disrupting the myths and misperceptions that all too readily fill the silences surrounding street harassment” (p. 22 - 23).

Additionally, this reporting mechanism can fill a gap that currently exists with reporting non-crimes to MPD. Currently, when someone reports harassment to MPD, it is up to the officer's discretion whether it constitutes a crime and it is up to the officer's discretion if they make a report for a non-crime. This reporting mechanism gives the power back to the victim and ensures they can tell their story.

If DC were to implement this reporting mechanism, we would be one of the first cities to have a government-backed way to show that street harassment is an important issue that we take seriously. We could provide a blueprint for other city and state governments on how to receive, understand, and potentially use reports of street harassment in a trauma-informed, victim-centered way.

## How

We recommend this reporting mechanism be achieved through a government-nonprofit partnership. The nonprofit would be responsible for receiving the reports, responding to the reports, and securely maintaining the data collected. The government would be responsible for marketing the reporting mechanism, collaborating on crafting any responses, funding the nonprofit (through a grant), and publishing aggregate data on an annual basis.

## Responses

The responses to the reports should be automatic, trauma-informed, and filled with options. The responses should inform the person reporting what will be done with the data, guarantee the confidentiality of the information provided, and provide options for what to do next. All reports should receive an automatic response thanking the person for reporting, validating their experience, providing local resources for victims, and delineating the differences between this report and reporting crimes to the police. Above the reporting form, there should be information explaining where the report will go and that specifics around the street harassment incident will be kept confidential.

## Privacy

The confidentiality of reports is of utmost importance. We do not want victims to be deterred from reporting because they have to share identifying information about themselves; therefore we recommend the reporting mechanism limit the questions collecting demographic information. Additionally, the reporting software or mechanism must securely maintain the records with strong firewalls to prevent infiltration.

## Data Use

The nonprofit collecting the data should report aggregate data to OHR quarterly and upon request. OHR would publish the data on an annual basis. It must be noted that this is different data collection from our survey of street harassment; this data is self-reported and therefore is not necessarily generalizable to the larger population.

### **Future Potential Uses of Data:**

Eventually, if multiple reports are received of street harassment happening in the same location (e.g., X bar or Y neighborhood), OHR could recommend bystander intervention training for staff at X bar and/or a restorative justice type of event for Y ANC (open to the affected communities) or suggest infrastructure changes that would make the location less intimidating, such as additional streetlights. Trends in data could also be used to justify environmental changes, such as establishing more streetlights in heavily reported areas that are also identified as being too dark.

## Funding

The funding would need to cover the costs of a secure software to be used for reporting, advertising the reporting option to the public, and the employment costs of someone responsible for responding and maintaining the reports at the nonprofit. Depending on staffing and capacity at OHR, funding may be needed to support OHR staff receiving the data and writing the annual report.

# MODEL POLICIES

According to the SHPA law, this report shall:

**“Proposes model policies and training materials to be adopted by District agencies for preventing and responding to street harassment, including model policies and training materials for public-facing employees;”**

Similar to the “Supporting Victims and Survivors of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking” Issuance (No. 2018-24), we recommend District Agencies use and follow this guidance to help address the challenges of street harassment. We recommend the model policies have the following seven components, with suggested language provided below:

1. Code of Conduct
2. Defining Street Harassment
3. Statement of Confidentiality
4. Reporting Street Harassment
5. Responding to Street Harassment
6. Resources
7. Training and Awareness

Street harassment could occur by community members towards District employees, by employees towards community members, by employees towards other employees, or in any other direction. People of all genders and identities can engage in harassing behaviors. The Street Harassment Prevention Act lists high-risk areas for street harassment, some of which include: buses, libraries, sidewalks, and any buildings owned by the District government. Therefore, many District employees may experience or witness street harassment while working.

## 1 | Code of Conduct

The District Government is committed to cultivating a safe, supportive and respectful environment for staff, DC residents, and everyone who interacts with its agencies. Through this policy, the District government is providing comprehensive guidance to help its agencies and employees address the challenges faced by District employees impacted by street harassment and improve employer response to such violence and its effects on employees. Recognizing that harmful actions may still occur in this environment, procedures have been implemented to ensure that those who are harmed have a dependable and supportive recourse.

## 2 | Street Harassment Definition

For the purposes of these policies and per the Street Harassment Prevention Act (SHPA) of 2017, street harassment is defined as “Disrespectful, offensive, or threatening statements, gestures, or other conduct directed at an individual in a high-risk area without the individual’s consent and based on the individual’s actual or perceived ethnicity or housing status, or a protected trait identified in the Human Rights Act of 1977.”

Verbal street harassment includes, but is not limited to: receiving unwanted comments, noises or signals (such as whistling, honking), explicit or rude comments (such as name calling, insults, slurs), gestures, commands, and/or being repeatedly asked for a date or one’s phone number when one has said no or ignored the harasser. These could be related to anything about an individual including, but not limited to: one’s gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, homelessness, race or skin color, religious affiliation, disability or mobility, immigration status, physical appearance, mental health or state of mind, class or income level, language, etc. Physical street harassment includes, but is not limited to: being followed without one’s permission, being purposely touched or brushed up against in an unwelcome way, someone exposing their genitals, and/or someone touching their genitals in front of someone else.

### 3 | Confidentiality

The District Government recognizes and respects the right to privacy and the need for confidentiality for staff and for individuals who interact with our organization. The Agency/Office commits to maintain the confidentiality of disclosures of street harassment incidences and violence to the extent possible without jeopardizing safety within the workplace. When information must be disclosed to protect the safety of individuals within the organizational environment, the Agency/Office will limit the breadth and content of such disclosure to information reasonably necessary to protect the safety of the disclosing person and others. The Agency/Office will also provide advance notice to the person who disclosed information, to the extent possible, if the disclosure must be shared with other parties in order to maintain safety in the workplace or a related setting.

### 4 | Reporting

Each agency shall develop a reporting procedure that provides an effective, confidential, and accessible way for employees who are victims of street harassment to request work-related assistance or report incidents and concerns. This procedure may require the formulation of reporting forms, confidential channels of communication, and whatever else may be necessary to effectuate swift and appropriate agency action in support of the victim/survivor. We recommend that each agency use a similar reporting procedure and the same point of contact (POC) outlined and determined in “Supporting Victims and Survivors of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking” Issuance (No. 2018-24).

District employees have an additional reporting option that is separate from their workplace. Through a nonprofit-government partnership, there is a reporting portal to which victims and witnesses of street harassment can submit incidences of street harassment. (More information on this reporting portal can be found in the previous section “Reporting Recommendations”). Submissions to the reporting portal can be made online, by text, through a voicemail, or by mail; the nonprofit collects, holds, and responds to reports. This reporting is done anonymously and while there will be trauma-informed responses to reports with various resources available, the purpose of the reporting is for data collection - no enforcement or employer-led action is expected.

### 5 | Responding to Street Harassment

If a District employee tells you, a colleague and/or manager, they’ve experienced street harassment, here are helpful ways you can respond:

- Believe them about their experience and only ask questions that reinforce your concerns
- Listen and let them direct the conversation. Acknowledge their experience is real and validate their feelings.
- Connect to the resources outlined below

If the street harassment has escalated to violence and/or has become a regular occurrence that is putting the government employee in fear for their safety, the agency point-person is encouraged to follow the “Workplace Safety and Support Plan” as outlined in the aforementioned Issuance No. 2018-24.

In determining whether a safety and support measure is reasonable, the agency shall consider such factors as: the likelihood and type of danger facing the employee; the permanency or length of time of a proposed measure; court orders and requirements; the availability of agency resources; the impact on the agency’s mission and work; and the impact on the safety and well-being of other employees and customers.

### 6 | Resources

If you believe that a District employee is the victim of street harassment, there are steps you can take to assist. These include making the employee aware of:

#### **Agency Support**

- The Agency’s point of contact for domestic violence, sexual harassment, and stalking matters, as

described above (and in Issuance No. 2018-24) may be helpful; and

- The option for developing a Workplace Safety Plan as described above may be indicated.

### **District Support**

- **The DC Victim Hotline**  
Available 24/7 by phone or text at 1-844-4HELPDC (1-844- 443-5732) and via chat at [www.dcvictim.org](http://www.dcvictim.org)
- **Metropolitan Police Department**  
[mpdc.dc.gov/page/domestic-violence-resources](http://mpdc.dc.gov/page/domestic-violence-resources)  
[mpdc.dc.gov/page/sexual-assault-resources](http://mpdc.dc.gov/page/sexual-assault-resources)  
Emergency Phone: 911  
Information Center: (202) 727-9099
- **The District's Employee Assistance Program: Inova Employee Assistance Program**  
[dchr.dc.gov/node/698882](http://dchr.dc.gov/node/698882) or (800) 346-0110.
- **Metro Harassment Reporting**  
To report harassment on Metro, please visit this website: [www.wmata.com/about/transit-police/harassment.cfm](http://www.wmata.com/about/transit-police/harassment.cfm)
- **DC Rape Crisis Center**  
Individual and group counseling for DC survivors  
24-hour crisis hotline at 202-333-RAPE

### **National Resources**

- **National Street Harassment Hotline**  
Call toll-free at (855) 897-5910 or visit [www.hotline.rainn.org](http://www.hotline.rainn.org)
- **The National Sexual Assault Hotline**  
Free and confidential  
Call 1-800-656-4673 or visit [www.rainn.org](http://www.rainn.org)
- **National Domestic Violence Hotline**  
24/7, anonymous, confidential help in situations of domestic violence  
Call at 1-800-799-7233 (SAFE) or 1-800-787-3224 (TTY)
- **Trevor Project**  
24/7 trained counselors to support victims of LGBTQ hate or violence  
Call at 1-866-488-7386.
- **1in6**  
For male survivors of sexual violence.  
Their website [www.1in6.org](http://www.1in6.org) has a 24/7 helpline chat.

## **7 | Training and Awareness**

District government managers and employees should be aware of the sources of support that exist in their agencies, as well as outside resources. As outlined in the report section “Training Recommendations,” all District employees shall take the yearly online course on street harassment that includes information on what street harassment is, how to report street harassment, and resources for support. Additionally, all public-facing District employees must take the Bystander Intervention & Self-Assertion (BISA) Training that is in-person and builds skills in responding to street harassment.

Supervisors, human resource personnel, agency EEO Counselors and Officers, and other employees are encouraged to familiarize themselves with available resources and to seek out training related to the effects of street harassment and the best methods for responding.

# CONCLUSION

In the first year of implementing the Street Harassment Prevention Act (SHPA), the Office of Human Rights (OHR) and the Advisory Committee on Street Harassment (ACSH) received and analyzed 1,621 responses on a city-wide survey, conducted ten focus groups, launched a public awareness campaign, and came together to recommend trainings, a reporting mechanism, and policies for District agencies. As the SHPA implementation continues, OHR and ACSH are preparing to implement the second public awareness event. We will continue to include diverse voices in our discussions and collaborate with other agencies and community-based organizations. As we move forward, we will still learn about street harassment in the District and use data and information to help inform future training, reporting, and policies. Protecting the human rights of all persons within the District of Columbia is OHR's highest priority and preventing street harassment in public spaces is ACSH's main goal. We are hopeful that our continued work, creative solutions, and thoughtful collaboration will eventually help decrease street harassment and make the District a safer place for everyone.



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# APPENDIX A

## SHPA Law

### ENROLLED ORIGINAL

#### **SUBTITLE E. STREET HARASSMENT PREVENTION**

Sec. 1041. Short title.

This subtitle may be cited as the “Street Harassment Prevention Act of 2018”.

Sec. 1042. Definitions.

For the purposes of this subtitle, the term:

(1) “ACSH” means the Advisory Committee on Street Harassment established by section 1043.

(2) “High-risk area” means:

(A) The enclosed area within any Metrorail car, Metrobus, MetroAccess vehicle, DC Circulator bus, DC Streetcar, or any other commercial vehicle capable of carrying more than 6 passengers;

(B) The area within 25 feet of any Metrorail station, Metrobus stop, DC Circulator stop, DC streetcar stop, or a location designated for the loading and unloading of a commercial vehicle capable of carrying more than 6 passengers;

(C) The enclosed area within any private vehicle-for-hire, as that term is defined in section 4(16A) of the Department of For-Hire Vehicles Establishment Act of 1985, effective March 25, 1985 (D.C. Law 6-97; D.C. Official Code § 50-301.03(16A)), or public vehicle-for-hire, as that term is defined in section 4(17) of the Department of For-Hire Vehicles Establishment Act of 1985, effective March 25, 1985 (D.C. Law 6-97; D.C. Official Code § 50-301.03(17));

(D) A food service entity, as that term is defined in section 401(4) of the Sustainable DC Omnibus Amendment Act of 2014, effective December 17, 2014 (D.C. Law 20-142; D.C. Official Code § 8-1531(4)), hotel, as that term is defined in D.C. Official Code § 25-101(25), nightclub, as that term is defined in D.C. Official Code § 25-101(33), tavern, as that term is defined in D.C. Official Code § 25-101(52), and any other establishment that serves food or alcohol;

(E) Any school, library, or other building primarily used for the instruction of students, including a day care center, nursery, elementary school, secondary school, college, and university;

(F) Any bank, health care facility, laundromat, retail store, shopping mall, sports arena, music venue, and theater;

(G) All the publicly owned property between property lines shown on the records of the District, including any roadway, sidewalk, or parking between such property lines; and

(H) All buildings or land that are owned, leased, or occupied by the District government.

(3) “OHR” means the Office of Human Rights established by section 202 of the Office of Human Rights Establishment Act of 1999, effective October 20, 1999 (D.C. Law 13-38; D.C. Official Code § 2-1411.01).

ENROLLED ORIGINAL

(4) "Street harassment" means disrespectful, offensive, or threatening statements, gestures, or other conduct directed at an individual in a high-risk area without the individual's consent and based on the individual's actual or perceived ethnicity or housing status, or a protected trait identified in the Human Rights Act of 1977, effective December 13, 1977 (D.C. Law 2-38; D.C. Official Code § 2-1401.01 *et seq.*).

Sec. 1043. Advisory Committee on Street Harassment.

(a) There is established an Advisory Committee on Street Harassment, which shall be composed of 17 members as follows:

- (1) The Director of OHR, or the Director's designee;
- (2) The Director of the Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants, or the Director's designee;
- (3) The Director of the Mayor's Office of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning Affairs, or the Director's designee;
- (4) The Director of the District Department of Transportation, or the Director's designee;
- (5) The Chief of the Metropolitan Police Department, or the Chief's designee;
- (6) The Chairman of the Council, or the Chairman's designee;
- (7) The General Manager of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, or the General Manager's designee;
- (8) The Director of the Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration, or the Director's designee; and
- (9) Nine community representatives, appointed by the Mayor pursuant to section 2(f) of the Confirmation Act of 1978, effective March 3, 1979 (D.C. Law 2-142; D.C. Official Code § 1-523.01(f)), who are District residents or members of organizations that engage in policy, advocacy, or direct service within the District related to:
  - (A) Street harassment;
  - (B) Gender-based violence;
  - (C) Gender equity;
  - (D) LGBTQ rights;
  - (E) Racial equity;
  - (F) Religious tolerance;
  - (G) Poverty or homelessness; or
  - (H) Immigrant rights.

(b) The Director of OHR, or the Director's designee, shall serve as the ACSH's chairperson.

(c) One community representative shall be selected by a majority vote of the community representatives of the ACSH to serve as vice-chairperson.

(d) The ACSH shall meet at least on a quarterly basis, at times to be determined by the chairperson at the ACSH's first meeting.

**ENROLLED ORIGINAL**

(e) Meetings of the ACSH shall be subject to the Open Meetings Act, effective March 31, 2011 (D.C. Law 18-350; D.C. Official Code § 2-571 *et seq.*).

**Sec. 1044. Survey.**

No later than April 1, 2019, OHR, in consultation with the ACSH, shall conduct a survey regarding the incidence of street harassment in the District. The specific data elements to be collected in the study shall be determined by the ACSH.

**Sec. 1045. Street harassment prevention report; model policies; public information campaign.**

(a) No later than September 30, 2019, the ACSH shall submit a report to the Mayor and Council that:

(1) Identifies categories of District employees and District residents most at risk of street harassment;

(2) Proposes model policies and training materials to be adopted by District agencies for preventing and responding to street harassment, including model policies and training materials for public-facing employees;

(3) Proposes strategies to improve public awareness and understanding of street harassment;

(4) Discusses the need, if any, for a process by which victims and witnesses of street harassment can report instances of street harassment to District agencies; and

(5) Summarizes any actions taken by the ACSH after the effective date of this subtitle.

(b) No later than April 1, 2020, all District agencies shall:

(1) Implement the model policies developed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section; and

(2) Integrate training materials developed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section into the training of District employees.

(c) OHR shall:

(1) Monitor District agencies' implementation of the model policies developed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section; and

(2) No later than September 30, 2019, conduct a public information campaign about street harassment and resources available in the District for victims of street harassment.

**Sec. 1046. Implementation report.**

No later than September 30, 2020, the ACSH shall submit a report to the Mayor and Council that:

(1) Summarizes the work of the ACSH after the effective date of this subtitle;

**ENROLLED ORIGINAL**

(2) Discusses District agencies' implementation of model policies developed pursuant to section 1045(a); and

(3) Summarizes elements of OHIR's public information campaign, required by section 1045(c)(2).

Sec. 1047. Section 2(f) of the Confirmation Act of 1978, effective March 3, 1979 (D.C. Law 2-142; D.C. Official Code § 1-523.01(f)), is amended by adding a new paragraph (64) to read as follows:

“(64) The Advisory Committee on Street Harassment, established by section 1043 of the Street Harassment Prevention Act of 2018, passed on 2nd reading on June 26, 2018 (Enrolled version of Bill 22-753).”.

Sec. 1048. Sunset.

This subtitle shall expire on October 1, 2020.

# APPENDIX B

## SHPA Survey Instrument

### In Email

This survey is being conducted on behalf of the Advisory Committee on Street Harassment and the DC Office of Human Rights.

The questions focus on your experiences with street harassment in DC.

**Street harassment is any unwanted statement, gesture, or conduct that is disrespectful, offensive, or threatening and happens in a public space, a place of business or any location that is not a private residence in DC.**

We are interested in your opinions on the subject whether or not you have experienced street harassment.

These issues are often difficult to talk about, so we thank you for sharing your experiences with us. The information that we gather will be used to help better understand how to address these issues, and make public places safer for everyone. This survey is part of the Street Harassment Prevention Act (SHPA) of 2017; you can learn more about SHPA at [nostreetharassment.dc.gov](http://nostreetharassment.dc.gov).

Your participation in this survey is voluntary, and you may decline to answer any question. Any information you provide is confidential, and we won't release any identifying information or specific circumstances you mention in any way.

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### ONE.

In the past 6 months, have you experienced any unwanted verbal street harassment in DC?

This includes, but not limited to: receiving unwanted comments, noises or signals (such as whistling, honking), explicit or rude comments (such as name calling, insults, slurs), gestures, commands, and/or being repeatedly asked for a date or your phone number when you've said no or ignored them. These could be related to anything about you including, but not limited to: your gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, homelessness, race or skin color, religious affiliation, disability or mobility, immigration status, physical appearance, mental health or state of mind, class or income level, language, etc.

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Unsure

#### ANSWER A. POP-UP

How often would you say you experience verbal street harassment?

Daily  Weekly  Monthly  Once Every Few Months

#### ANSWER C. POP-UP

Why are you unsure? Choose the best answer.

- I have experienced verbal street harassment but I am not sure if it was within the last 6 months
- I am not sure what I experienced was verbal street harassment.
- I have experienced street harassment but I am not sure if it was in DC.

**IF “I am not sure what I experienced...”:**

Can you briefly tell us why you chose unsure?  
(open text, short paragraph)

[If respondent answers yes or unsure for Q1, they are asked Q2-8; If respondent answers no for Q1, they skip Q2]

**TWO.**

In DC, do you experience verbal street harassment...

- a. While on the street or sidewalk, such as walking, standing, or waiting for a bus  
\_ Daily \_ Weekly \_ Monthly \_ Once Every Few Months \_ Not in the Last 6 Months \_ N/A (I’m never in this area)
- b. On public transportation (on a bus, at a bus stop, on metro, or in a metro station)  
\_ Daily \_ Weekly \_ Monthly \_ Once Every Few Months \_ Not in the Last 6 Months \_ N/A (I’m never in this area)
- c. Riding a bicycle, scooter, or skateboard  
\_ Daily \_ Weekly \_ Monthly \_ Once Every Few Months \_ Not in the Last 6 Months \_ N/A (I’m never in this area)
- d. In a car, taxi, or for-hire vehicle like Uber or Lyft (as the driver or as a passenger)  
\_ Daily \_ Weekly \_ Monthly \_ Once Every Few Months \_ Not in the Last 6 Months \_ N/A (I’m never in this area)
- e. Inside of a bar, club, or other nightlife venue  
\_ Daily \_ Weekly \_ Monthly \_ Once Every Few Months \_ Not in the Last 6 Months \_ N/A (I’m never in this area)
- f. Inside of a restaurant, coffee shop, or other food service entity  
\_ Daily \_ Weekly \_ Monthly \_ Once Every Few Months \_ Not in the Last 6 Months \_ N/A (I’m never in this area)
- g. Inside of a bank, healthcare facility, laundromat, retail store, shopping mall, or theater  
\_ Daily \_ Weekly \_ Monthly \_ Once Every Few Months \_ Not in the Last 6 Months \_ N/A (I’m never in this area)
- h. Inside of a school or library  
\_ Daily \_ Weekly \_ Monthly \_ Once Every Few Months \_ Not in the Last 6 Months \_ N/A (I’m never in this area)
- i. While working out (outside, in a gym or at park/rec center, etc.)  
\_ Daily \_ Weekly \_ Monthly \_ Once Every Few Months \_ Not in the Last 6 Months \_ N/A (I’m never in this area)
- j. Other public space where verbal street harassment often happens and is not listed above: please specify  
(open text, short paragraph)

**ANSWER B. POP-UP [only if answer is “Daily” ; “Weekly” ; “Monthly” ; or “Once Every Few Months”]**

Of the public transportation options, where would you say verbal street harassment happens most frequently?

- a. On the bus
- b. In the bus shelter or at the bus stop
- c. On the metro
- d. In the metro station
- e. Unsure
- f. It happens at these places equally

**THREE.**

In the past 6 months, have you experienced any unwanted physical street harassment in DC?

This includes, but not limited to: being followed without your permission, being purposely touched or brushed up against in an unwelcome way, someone exposing their genitals, and/or someone touching their genitals in front of you.

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Unsure

**ANSWER A. POP-UP**

How often would you say you experience physical street harassment?

Daily  Weekly  Monthly  Once Every Few Monthly

**ANSWER C. POP-UP**

Why are you unsure? Choose the best answer.

I have experienced physical street harassment but I am not sure if it was within the last 6 months

I am not sure what I experienced was street harassment.

I have experienced street harassment but I am not sure if it was in DC.

**IF “I am not sure what I experienced...”:**

Can you briefly tell us why you chose unsure?

(open text, short paragraph)

[If respondent answers yes or unsure for Q3, they are asked Q4-8; If respondent answers no for Q3 but yes or unsure for Q1, they skip Q4; If respondent answers no for Q3 and no for Q1, they skip to Q9]

**FOUR.**

Do you experience physical street harassment...

- a. While on the street or sidewalk, such as walking, standing, or waiting for a bus  
 Daily  Weekly  Monthly  Once Every Few Months  Not in the Last 6 Months  N/A (I'm never in this area)
- b. On public transportation (on a bus, at a bus stop, on metro, or in a metro station)  
 Daily  Weekly  Monthly  Once Every Few Months  Not in the Last 6 Months  N/A (I'm never in this area)
- c. Riding a bicycle, scooter, or skateboard  
 Daily  Weekly  Monthly  Once Every Few Months  Not in the Last 6 Months  N/A (I'm never in this area)
- d. In a car, taxi, or for-hire vehicle like Uber or Lyft (as the driver or as a passenger)  
 Daily  Weekly  Monthly  Once Every Few Months  Not in the Last 6 Months  N/A (I'm never in this area)
- e. Inside of a bar, club, or other nightlife venue (as an employee or customer)  
 Daily  Weekly  Monthly  Once Every Few Months  Not in the Last 6 Months  N/A (I'm never in this area)
- f. Inside of a restaurant, coffee shop, or other food service entity (as an employee or customer)  
 Daily  Weekly  Monthly  Once Every Few Months  Not in the Last 6 Months  N/A (I'm never in this area)
- g. Inside of a bank, healthcare facility, laundromat, retail store, shopping mall, or theater (as an employee or customer)  
 Daily  Weekly  Monthly  Once Every Few Months  Not in the Last 6 Months  N/A (I'm never in this area)
- h. Inside of a school or library (as an employee or student/user)  
 Daily  Weekly  Monthly  Once Every Few Months  Not in the Last 6 Months  N/A (I'm never in this area)
- i. While working out (outside, in a gym or at park/rec center, etc.)  
 Daily  Weekly  Monthly  Once Every Few Months  Not in the Last 6 Months  N/A (I'm never in this area)
- j. Other public space where physical street harassment often happens and is not listed above: please specify  
(open text, short paragraph)

**ANSWER B. POP-UP [only if answer is “Daily” ; “Weekly” ; “Monthly” ; or “Once Every Few Months”]**

Of the public transportation options, where would you say physical street harassment happens most frequently?

- g. On the bus
- h. In the bus shelter or at the bus stop
- i. On the metro
- j. In the metro station
- k. Unsure
- l. It happens at these places equally





## SIX.

[Only one response allowed]

As best you remember, at approximately what age did you first have these experience/s of street harassment?

- a. 12 years old and under
- b. 13 - 17 years old
- c. 18 - 24 years old
- d. 25 years old and older
- e. Unsure

### SIX B.

[follow-up]

Did your first experience with street harassment happen in DC?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Unsure

### If “No”:

Did you live in DC at the time of the first experience with street harassment?

Yes  No

## SEVEN.

While in DC, do you believe you’ve been harassed because of your actual or perceived identity? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- a. Sex
- b. Gender Identity or Expression
- c. Sexual Orientation
- d. Housing Status/ Homelessness
- e. Race, Ethnicity, or Skin Color
- f. Religious Affiliation
- g. Disability or Mobility
- h. Immigration Status
- i. Physical Appearance (includes body type, hair style, clothing or outfit, etc.)
- j. Mental Health/State of Mind
- k. Class or Income Level
- l. Language (including ASL)
- m. Age
- n. Other (open text)
- o. None of the above

## EIGHT.

What type of person is frequently harassing you in a public space in DC? (choose up to three)

- a. Police officer or other legal authority
- b. Public transportation employee (including bus drivers and metro station managers)
- c. Another passenger (on bus, metro, car-share, etc.)
- d. Taxi or car-share driver
- e. Someone driving a car that you are not in
- f. Another pedestrian, passerby, or person in a public space
- g. Employee at a retail, food service, or nightclub venue
- h. Employee at a bank, healthcare facility, laundromat, retail store, shopping mall, or theater

- i. Patrons or customers (if you work in the retail or service industries)
- j. Fellow patrons or customers
- k. Neighborhood people or people hanging around
- l. Other

**NINE.**

Because of the street harassment experience/s you've had while in DC, have you done any of the following?  
(Please select all that apply.)

- a. Changed your route or regular routine
- b. Stopped a hobby or activity or stopped participating in a community or religious group
- c. Stopped going to a restaurant, bar, or club
- d. Changed schools and/or universities or dropped out of school or university, or dropped a course
- e. Moved from a dorm, apartment, house or other form of residence
- f. Sought medical help, including mental health counselling
- g. Filed an official complaint with the police
- h. Reported the incident somewhere, including WMATA's online reporting system
- i. Felt anxiety or depression
- j. Other \_\_\_\_\_ (open text)
- k. None of the above

**TEN.**

When you have experienced an instance of street harassment, what would you want to happen? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- a. Someone to intervene or help if they witness me being harassed
- b. A way to easily report it to the government for data collection (no enforcement)
- c. Police intervention
- d. Non-police intervention by community members trained to de-escalate and process concerning situations
- e. Environmental changes, like more street lamps or larger sidewalks
- f. A way to process or express the effects of street harassment, like interactive public art or a speak-out
- g. None of these would be helpful
- h. Something else, please specify (short paragraph)

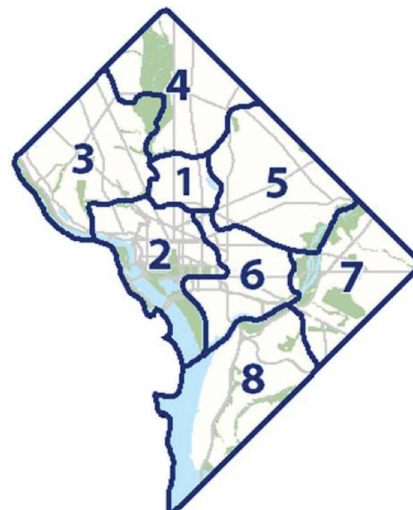
----- DEMOGRAPHICS -----

**ELEVEN.**

Which DC Ward do you currently live in?

If you're unsure, you can check using this website:  
[planning.dc.gov/page/neighborhood-planning-01](http://planning.dc.gov/page/neighborhood-planning-01)

- A. Ward 1
- B. Ward 2
- C. Ward 3
- D. Ward 4
- E. Ward 5
- F. Ward 6
- G. Ward 7
- H. Ward 8
- I. I don't live in DC



## TWELVE.

Although the choices listed below may not represent your full identity or use the language you prefer, for this survey please select the choice(s) that best describes your racial/ethnic identity. (Mark all that apply.)

- A. Alaska Native
- B. American Indian
- C. Asian/Asian American
- D. Biracial/Multiracial [respondents receive follow-up question]
- E. Black/African American
- F. Latino/a/x or Hispanic
- G. Middle Eastern/North African
- H. Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
- I. Sub-Saharan African
- J. White/European American
- K. A racial/ethnic identity not listed above (please specify)
- L. Prefer not to answer

### ANSWER. D ONLY POP UP

You said that you are biracial or multiracial. Please choose the racial/ethnic identities that best describe you.

(Mark all that apply.)

- A. Alaska Native
- B. American Indian
- C. Asian/Asian American
- D. Black/African American
- E. Sub-saharan African
- F. Middle Eastern/North African
- G. Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
- H. White/European American
- I. A racial/ethnic identity not listed above (please specify)

## THIRTEEN

What best describes your current sexual orientation?

- A. Asexual
- B. Bisexual
- C. Gay
- D. Heterosexual/Straight
- E. Lesbian
- F. Pansexual
- G. Queer
- H. Same-gender loving
- I. A sexual orientation not listed above (please specify)\_\_\_\_\_
- J. Prefer Not to Answer

## FOURTEEN

What is your best estimate of your yearly household income?

- a. Under \$25,000
- b. \$25,000 - \$49,999
- c. \$50,000 - \$99,999
- d. \$100,000 - \$199,999
- e. Above \$200,000

## FIFTEEN

What are your current living arrangements?

- a. House/apartment/condo
- b. Campus/university housing
- c. Nursing home, adult care facility, or hospital
- d. Homeless shelter, domestic violence shelter, transitional/halfway house, or in a hotel or motel with an emergency shelter voucher
- e. On the street, in a car, in an abandoned building, in a park, or a place that is NOT a house, apartment, shelter, or other housing
- f. A living arrangement not listed above; please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

## SIXTEEN

Do you have a physical disability or mobility issue that is visible to others?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Prefer not to answer

## SEVENTEEN

Do you practice or identify with any of the following religions? (Please choose one)

- a. Aethist/Agnostic
- b. Christian
- c. Hindu
- d. Jewish
- e. Muslim
- f. Sikh
- g. Other, please specify \_\_\_\_
- h. Prefer not to answer

## EIGHTEEN

Do you identify as an immigrant?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Unsure
- d. Prefer not to answer

## NINETEEN

How do you primarily identify

- A. Cisgender man (gender identity matches assigned-at-birth gender)
- B. Cisgender woman (gender identity matches assigned-at-birth gender)
- C. Transgender man- (gender identity differs from assigned-at-birth gender)
- D. Transgender woman- (gender identity differs from assigned-at-birth gender)
- E. Non-Binary/Gender Non-Conforming/Genderqueer
- F. Other Identity (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- G. Prefer Not to Answer

## (Submission Page)

Thank you for sharing your experiences with us. We know sharing these types of experiences can be upsetting and challenging.

The information you shared will help the furthering of the Street Harassment Prevention Act (SHPA). More information about SHPA, as well as the resources below, can be found at [www.nostreetharassment.dc.gov](http://www.nostreetharassment.dc.gov).

If you need assistance, support, or advice, please consider the following resources:

### Local Resources

- The DC Victim Hotline provides free, confidential information and referrals for victims of all crime in DC: 1-844-4HELPDC (1-844-443-5732). Their website is [www.dcvictim.org](http://www.dcvictim.org)
- To report harassment on Metro, please visit this website: [www.wmata.com/about/transit-police/harassment.cfm](http://www.wmata.com/about/transit-police/harassment.cfm)
- To report an anti-LGBTQ hate incident with the police (for data collection purposes), you may call the MPD LGBTQ Liaison Unit at 202-727-5427.
- You may also share your story with the Collective Action For Safe Spaces “My Streets, Too” Blog

### National Resources

- If you need assistance in coping with street harassment, call the National Street Harassment hotline toll-free at (855) 897-5910 or visit the online hotline.
- The National Sexual Assault Hotline is free and confidential. Call 1-800-656-4673 or visit [www.rainn.org](http://www.rainn.org)
- For anonymous, confidential help in situations of domestic violence, 24/7, please call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233 (SAFE) or 1-800-787-3224 (TTY)
- Are you a LGBTQ youth in need of support? The Trevor Project’s trained counselors are here to support you 24/7. If you are a young person in crisis, feeling suicidal, or in need of a safe and judgment-free place to talk, call the TrevorLifeline now at 1-866-488-7386.
- A specific resource tailored for men is the organization 1in6. Their website [www.1in6.org](http://www.1in6.org) has a 24/7 helpline chat.

# APPENDIX C

## Survey Responses Separated by Population

2019 Street Harassment in DC: Survey Responses, Separated by Population												
Q1.1 - In the past 6 months, have you experienced any unwanted verbal street harassment in DC? This includes, but not limited to: receiving unwanted comments, noises or signals (such as whistling, honking), explicit or rude comments (such as name												
	All Responses	General Population	Target Population (At Least One)	Non-White	Income < \$55k	Non-Christian	LGBTQ+	East of the River	Disability	Age 55+	Immigrant	
Yes	69%	68%	68%	68%	63%	67%	72%	61%	78%	37%	78%	
No	28%	28%	29%	29%	33%	29%	25%	36%	18%	57%	18%	
Unsure	3%	4%	3%	3%	3%	4%	2%	3%	4%	6%	4%	
Total	1621	800	1374	720	610	396	322	283	188	174	171	
Q1.2 - How often would you say you experience verbal street harassment?												
	All Responses	General Population	Target Population (At Least One)	Non-White	Income < \$55k	Non-Christian	LGBTQ+	East of the River	Disability	Age 55+	Immigrant	
Daily	22%	24%	22%	24%	19%	18%	26%	24%	44%	11%	40%	
Weekly	37%	38%	36%	35%	36%	39%	34%	38%	29%	20%	26%	
Monthly	17%	17%	15%	14%	18%	20%	13%	17%	13%	11%	15%	
Once every few months	24%	23%	24%	27%	27%	23%	20%	26%	17%	54%	21%	
Total	1119	546	928	490	387	266	233	174	147	65	133	
Q1.3 - Why are you unsure? Choose the best answer.												
	All Responses	General Population	Target Population (At Least One)	Non-White	Income < \$55k	Non-Christian	LGBTQ+	East of the River	Disability	Age 55+	Immigrant	
I have experienced verbal street harassment but I am not sure	33%	25%	36%	29%	43%	29%	63%	25%	25%	30%	57%	
I am not sure what I experienced was street harassment.	52%	57%	49%	52%	48%	43%	25%	50%	38%	70%	43%	
I have experienced street harassment, but I am not sure if it	15%	18%	15%	19%	10%	13%	13%	25%	38%	0%	0%	
Total	54	28	47	21	21	14	8	8	8	10	7	
Q2.1 - In DC, do you experience verbal street harassment: While on the street or sidewalk, such as walking, standing, or waiting for a bus												
	All Responses	General Population	Target Population (At Least One)	Non-White	Income < \$55k	Non-Christian	LGBTQ+	East of the River	Disability	Age 55+	Immigrant	
Daily	23%	24%	24%	26%	21%	19%	27%	26%	46%	12%	38%	
Weekly	34%	36%	33%	32%	33%	33%	33%	32%	31%	15%	29%	
Monthly	15%	14%	14%	12%	12%	19%	16%	14%	7%	14%	6%	
Once Every Few Months	18%	17%	19%	18%	20%	21%	17%	14%	11%	31%	16%	
Not in the Last 6 Months	6%	5%	7%	8%	7%	5%	6%	9%	6%	17%	6%	
Never	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	0%	2%	0%	6%	4%	
N/A (I'm never in this area)	2%	2%	2%	2%	4%	2%	1%	3%	0%	5%	1%	
Total	1119	546	928	490	387	266	233	174	147	65	133	
Q2.2 - In DC, do you experience verbal street harassment: On public transportation (on a bus, on metro, or in a metro station)												
	All Responses	General Population	Target Population (At Least One)	Non-White	Income < \$55k	Non-Christian	LGBTQ+	East of the River	Disability	Age 55+	Immigrant	
Daily	18%	19%	19%	20%	17%	14%	24%	23%	41%	3%	37%	
Weekly	27%	30%	27%	28%	28%	25%	25%	25%	31%	12%	26%	
Monthly	14%	16%	13%	11%	8%	17%	12%	11%	8%	12%	10%	
Once Every Few Months	19%	18%	19%	20%	20%	22%	14%	20%	10%	23%	13%	
Not in the Last 6 Months	12%	8%	12%	11%	11%	11%	12%	11%	7%	28%	10%	
Never	6%	6%	5%	6%	6%	6%	4%	6%	3%	15%	5%	

Q2.3 - In DC, do you experience verbal street harassment: riding a bicycle, scooter, or skateboard												
All Responses	General Population	Target Population (At Least One)	Non-White	Income < \$55k	Non-Christian	LGBTQ+	East of the River	Disability	Age 55+	Immigrant		
	4%	4%	4%	3%	6%	5%	2%	8%	1%	2%	6%	0%
N/A (I'm never in this area)												
Total	1119	546	928	490	387	266	233	174	147	65	133	
Q2.4 - In DC, do you experience verbal street harassment: In a car, taxi, or for-hire vehicle like Uber or Lyft (as the driver or as a passenger)												
All Responses	General Population	Target Population (At Least One)	Non-White	Income < \$55k	Non-Christian	LGBTQ+	East of the River	Disability	Age 55+	Immigrant		
	13%	13%	13%	14%	12%	16%	14%	35%	16%	3%	32%	
Daily	17%	14%	15%	13%	9%	13%	13%	19%	3%	3%	14%	
Weekly	12%	11%	10%	10%	11%	10%	12%	6%	8%	8%	8%	
Monthly	14%	14%	16%	13%	16%	20%	14%	12%	9%	14%	14%	
Once Every Few Months	14%	14%	13%	16%	18%	14%	11%	6%	12%	9%	9%	
Not in the Last 6 Months	28%	29%	28%	28%	30%	22%	30%	18%	22%	60%	23%	
Never	4%	5%	4%	6%	4%	3%	5%	3%	5%	2%	2%	
N/A (I'm never in this area)												
Total	1119	546	928	490	387	266	233	174	147	65	133	
Q2.5 - In DC, do you experience verbal street harassment: Inside of a bar, club, or other nightlife venue												
All Responses	General Population	Target Population (At Least One)	Non-White	Income < \$55k	Non-Christian	LGBTQ+	East of the River	Disability	Age 55+	Immigrant		
	14%	14%	15%	16%	12%	18%	14%	29%	2%	28%		
Daily	25%	25%	23%	24%	23%	28%	25%	30%	8%	27%		
Weekly	20%	19%	19%	14%	20%	18%	18%	13%	5%	13%		
Monthly	15%	15%	15%	18%	14%	14%	12%	10%	17%	13%		
Once Every Few Months	13%	14%	15%	13%	17%	15%	16%	8%	28%	11%		
Not in the Last 6 Months	8%	7%	8%	9%	9%	8%	8%	9%	5%	6%		
Never	5%	5%	5%	8%	5%	2%	7%	5%	9%	2%		
N/A (I'm never in this area)												
Total	1119	546	928	490	387	266	233	174	147	65	133	
Q2.6 - In DC, do you experience verbal street harassment: Inside of a restaurant, coffee shop, or other food service entity												
All Responses	General Population	Target Population (At Least One)	Non-White	Income < \$55k	Non-Christian	LGBTQ+	East of the River	Disability	Age 55+	Immigrant		
	14%	14%	14%	15%	10%	15%	13%	30%	3%	32%		
Daily	18%	17%	18%	13%	18%	17%	20%	26%	5%	19%		
Weekly	12%	13%	13%	14%	10%	16%	13%	12%	8%	9%		
Monthly	16%	17%	15%	17%	18%	18%	17%	8%	17%	9%		
Once Every Few Months	18%	18%	16%	18%	23%	16%	14%	10%	28%	15%		
Not in the Last 6 Months	19%	19%	20%	20%	19%	18%	19%	12%	32%	15%		
Never	3%	3%	2%	6%	1%	1%	4%	3%	8%	2%		
N/A (I'm never in this area)												



	1119	546	928	490	387	266	233	174	147	65	133
<i>Total</i>											
<b>Q2.7 - In DC, do you experience verbal street harassment: inside of a bank, healthcare facility, laundromat, retail store, shopping mall, or theater</b>											
	All Responses	General Population	Target Population (At Least One)	Non-White	Income < \$55k	Non-Christian	LGBTQ+	East of the River	Disability	Age 55+	Immigrant
Daily	12%	12%	11%	11%	10%	9%	13%	12%	29%	2%	26%
Weekly	16%	18%	17%	19%	15%	13%	20%	20%	27%	6%	21%
Monthly	12%	13%	12%	12%	14%	10%	12%	16%	14%	5%	11%
Once Every Few Months	15%	14%	15%	16%	15%	17%	16%	14%	5%	16%	6%
Not in the Last 6 Months	18%	16%	18%	16%	18%	24%	18%	14%	12%	23%	13%
Never	24%	24%	23%	23%	23%	26%	21%	21%	11%	45%	22%
N/A (I'm never in this area)	3%	3%	3%	2%	5%	2%	1%	4%	2%	6%	1%
<i>Total</i>	1119	546	928	490	387	266	233	174	147	65	133
<b>Q2.8 - In DC, do you experience verbal street harassment: inside of a school or library</b>											
	All Responses	General Population	Target Population (At Least One)	Non-White	Income < \$55k	Non-Christian	LGBTQ+	East of the River	Disability	Age 55+	Immigrant
Daily	12%	12%	12%	13%	10%	9%	15%	15%	28%	3%	27%
Weekly	12%	13%	13%	12%	10%	10%	14%	11%	24%	2%	18%
Monthly	7%	8%	7%	8%	7%	6%	9%	6%	8%	0%	7%
Once Every Few Months	10%	9%	10%	12%	10%	10%	9%	7%	9%	5%	9%
Not in the Last 6 Months	15%	16%	15%	15%	17%	17%	15%	14%	10%	17%	8%
Never	36%	35%	36%	36%	36%	40%	32%	36%	16%	58%	27%
N/A (I'm never in this area)	8%	7%	7%	5%	9%	8%	5%	9%	8%	15%	4%
<i>Total</i>	1119	546	928	490	387	266	233	174	147	65	133
<b>Q2.9 - In DC, do you experience verbal street harassment: while working out (outside, in a gym or at park/rec center, etc.)</b>											
	All Responses	General Population	Target Population (At Least One)	Non-White	Income < \$55k	Non-Christian	LGBTQ+	East of the River	Disability	Age 55+	Immigrant
Daily	14%	15%	14%	14%	11%	10%	18%	16%	30%	2%	31%
Weekly	19%	18%	18%	18%	17%	19%	19%	13%	20%	8%	17%
Monthly	12%	12%	12%	11%	11%	11%	11%	13%	12%	5%	13%
Once Every Few Months	14%	15%	14%	15%	13%	15%	14%	14%	14%	11%	14%
Not in the Last 6 Months	16%	13%	16%	16%	17%	20%	17%	18%	10%	25%	11%
Never	20%	21%	20%	21%	23%	20%	16%	18%	10%	38%	16%
N/A (I'm never in this area)	5%	5%	5%	4%	9%	5%	5%	7%	5%	12%	0%
<i>Total</i>	1119	546	928	490	387	266	233	174	147	65	133
<b>Q2.10 - Of the public transportation options, where would you say verbal street harassment happens most frequently?</b>											
	All Responses	General Population	Target Population (At Least One)	Non-White	Income < \$55k	Non-Christian	LGBTQ+	East of the River	Disability	Age 55+	Immigrant
On the bus	22%	21%	22%	21%	21%	16%	20%	22%	39%	18%	38%
in the bus shelter or at the bus stop	25%	26%	27%	24%	26%	29%	26%	23%	27%	15%	24%
On the metro	20%	20%	19%	20%	17%	23%	17%	17%	23%	17%	17%
in the metro station	16%	15%	15%	18%	14%	14%	17%	15%	11%	21%	10%
Unsure	3%	4%	4%	3%	4%	4%	5%	3%	4%	3%	2%
It happens at these places equally	14%	15%	14%	15%	19%	13%	15%	20%	13%	15%	10%
<i>Total</i>	878	450	723	388	296	207	190	130	132	33	113

Q2.11 - In the past 6 months, have you experienced any unwanted physical street harassment in DC? This includes, but not limited to: being followed without your permission, being purposely touched or brushed up against in an unwelcome way, some												
All Responses	General Population	Target Population (At Least One)	Non-White	Income < \$55k	Non-Christian	LGBTQ+	East of the River	Disability	Age 55+	Immigrant		
Yes	40%	43%	41%	35%	38%	49%	43%	61%	11%	54%		
No	57%	56%	56%	62%	60%	50%	55%	37%	86%	43%		
Unsure	3%	2%	2%	3%	2%	1%	2%	2%	3%	2%		
Total	1621	800	1374	610	396	322	283	188	174	171		
Q2.12 - How often would you say you experience physical street harassment?												
All Responses	General Population	Target Population (At Least One)	Non-White	Income < \$55k	Non-Christian	LGBTQ+	East of the River	Disability	Age 55+	Immigrant		
Daily	25%	27%	23%	24%	21%	23%	25%	49%	0%	45%		
Weekly	30%	33%	31%	26%	27%	32%	31%	28%	16%	26%		
Monthly	20%	17%	21%	21%	20%	20%	15%	11%	32%	15%		
Once Every Few Months	25%	23%	24%	29%	32%	24%	29%	12%	26%	14%		
Total	655	340	554	216	149	158	121	114	19	93		
Q2.13 - Why are you unsure? Choose the best answer.												
All Responses	General Population	Target Population (At Least One)	Non-White	Income < \$55k	Non-Christian	LGBTQ+	East of the River	Disability	Age 55+	Immigrant		
I have experienced verbal street harassment but I am not sure what I experienced was street harassment.	48%	47%	31%	39%	44%	25%	14%	0%	17%	75%		
I am not sure what I experienced was street harassment.	37%	47%	50%	50%	33%	50%	57%	75%	33%	25%		
I have experienced street harassment but I am not sure if it is	15%	7%	15%	11%	22%	19%	29%	22%	25%	0%		
Total	40	15	33	18	9	4	7	4	6	4		
Q3.1 - Do you experience physical street harassment...While on the street or sidewalk, such as walking, standing, or waiting for a bus												
All Responses	General Population	Target Population (At Least One)	Non-White	Income < \$55k	Non-Christian	LGBTQ+	East of the River	Disability	Age 55+	Immigrant		
Daily	23%	25%	23%	21%	21%	23%	27%	40%	11%	39%		
Weekly	28%	32%	27%	26%	24%	29%	21%	32%	21%	30%		
Monthly	17%	14%	16%	16%	17%	16%	17%	13%	5%	10%		
Once Every Few Months	21%	18%	19%	24%	25%	20%	25%	12%	53%	15%		
Not in the Last 6 Months	7%	7%	10%	6%	10%	8%	3%	2%	8%	5%		
Never	3%	3%	4%	5%	3%	3%	4%	1%	0%	1%		
N/A (I'm never in this area)	1%	1%	1%	2%	0%	0%	2%	0%	5%	0%		
Total	655	340	554	216	149	158	121	114	19	93		
Q3.2 - Do you experience physical street harassment...On public transportation (on a bus, on metro, or in metro station) while in DC												
All Responses	General Population	Target Population (At Least One)	Non-White	Income < \$55k	Non-Christian	LGBTQ+	East of the River	Disability	Age 55+	Immigrant		
Daily	21%	23%	22%	21%	18%	25%	22%	39%	11%	35%		
Weekly	25%	26%	25%	19%	20%	22%	21%	31%	5%	32%		
Monthly	17%	18%	14%	17%	16%	14%	21%	12%	16%	9%		
Once Every Few Months	17%	15%	19%	17%	19%	13%	15%	10%	32%	10%		
Not in the Last 6 Months	11%	10%	10%	12%	17%	16%	9%	4%	11%	11%		
Never	7%	7%	8%	8%	7%	4%	8%	4%	21%	3%		
N/A (I'm never in this area)	2%	1%	1%	2%	2%	3%	4%	1%	5%	0%		
Total	655	340	554	216	149	158	121	114	19	93		

Q3.3 - Do you experience physical street harassment...Riding a bicycle, scooter, or skateboard												
	All Responses	General Population	Target Population (At Least One)	Non-White	Income < \$55k	Non-Christian	LGBTQ+	East of the River	Disability	Age 55+	Immigrant	
Daily	16%	15%	16%	14%	15%	16%	15%	17%	33%	5%	32%	
Weekly	17%	19%	18%	19%	14%	17%	20%	11%	30%	5%	29%	
Monthly	11%	13%	11%	10%	9%	9%	10%	12%	7%	10%	5%	
Once Every Few Months	12%	9%	11%	12%	12%	9%	11%	12%	10%	0%	5%	
Not in the Last 6 Months	11%	9%	11%	11%	13%	13%	14%	8%	5%	16%	5%	
Never	25%	26%	26%	26%	30%	25%	21%	30%	12%	47%	16%	
N/A (I'm never in this area)	8%	7%	8%	7%	8%	10%	9%	10%	3%	21%	1%	
Total	655	340	554	298	216	149	158	121	114	19	93	
Q3.4 - Do you experience physical street harassment...in a car, taxi, or for-hire vehicle like Uber or Lyft (as the driver or as a passenger)												
	All Responses	General Population	Target Population (At Least One)	Non-White	Income < \$55k	Non-Christian	LGBTQ+	East of the River	Disability	Age 55+	Immigrant	
Daily	17%	17%	17%	14%	14%	16%	20%	15%	37%	5%	38%	
Weekly	16%	16%	16%	18%	13%	13%	15%	14%	26%	0%	23%	
Monthly	13%	14%	13%	12%	12%	11%	11%	15%	11%	0%	9%	
Once Every Few Months	13%	12%	13%	15%	13%	13%	16%	15%	9%	21%	12%	
Not in the Last 6 Months	11%	8%	11%	9%	15%	13%	13%	11%	8%	16%	5%	
Never	28%	29%	29%	29%	31%	32%	24%	29%	32%	53%	14%	
N/A (I'm never in this area)	2%	2%	2%	1%	2%	1%	1%	2%	2%	5%	0%	
Total	655	340	554	298	216	149	158	121	114	19	93	
Q3.5 - Do you experience physical street harassment...inside of a bar, club, or other nightlife venue (as an employee or customer)												
	All Responses	General Population	Target Population (At Least One)	Non-White	Income < \$55k	Non-Christian	LGBTQ+	East of the River	Disability	Age 55+	Immigrant	
Daily	17%	18%	17%	16%	16%	17%	16%	18%	36%	5%	38%	
Weekly	24%	26%	23%	22%	22%	21%	24%	17%	26%	0%	28%	
Monthly	20%	19%	19%	19%	18%	17%	23%	21%	17%	16%	13%	
Once Every Few Months	16%	14%	16%	17%	21%	18%	17%	15%	9%	32%	10%	
Not in the Last 6 Months	11%	12%	11%	11%	12%	12%	11%	10%	6%	21%	4%	
Never	10%	9%	11%	12%	8%	12%	8%	15%	4%	21%	8%	
N/A (I'm never in this area)	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	1%	4%	3%	5%	0%	
Total	655	340	554	298	216	149	158	121	114	19	93	
Q3.6 - Do you experience physical street harassment...inside of a restaurant, coffee shop, or other food service entity (as an employee or customer)												
	All Responses	General Population	Target Population (At Least One)	Non-White	Income < \$55k	Non-Christian	LGBTQ+	East of the River	Disability	Age 55+	Immigrant	
Daily	18%	18%	19%	18%	16%	17%	18%	17%	38%	5%	35%	
Weekly	19%	21%	18%	19%	13%	13%	20%	20%	28%	0%	28%	
Monthly	13%	12%	12%	13%	12%	13%	15%	12%	8%	5%	9%	
Once Every Few Months	11%	9%	11%	10%	12%	9%	9%	12%	10%	26%	5%	
Not in the Last 6 Months	17%	15%	17%	15%	19%	21%	18%	17%	7%	37%	10%	
Never	21%	24%	22%	24%	26%	26%	18%	21%	9%	26%	12%	
N/A (I'm never in this area)	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%	2%	1%	0%	1%	
Total	655	340	554	298	216	149	158	121	114	19	93	

Q3.7 - Do you experience physical street harassment...inside of a bank, healthcare facility, laundromat, retail store, shopping mall, or theater (as an employee or customer)												
	All Responses	General Population	Target Population (At Least One)	Non-White	Income < \$55k	Non-Christian	LGBTQ+	East of the River	Disability	Age 55+	Immigrant	
Daily	17%	17%	17%	16%	13%	19%	20%	14%	35%	5%	38%	
Weekly	19%	19%	19%	19%	15%	12%	20%	17%	28%	5%	25%	
Monthly	13%	14%	13%	12%	14%	10%	11%	17%	9%	0%	11%	
Once Every Few Months	11%	11%	10%	10%	8%	12%	11%	12%	8%	21%	3%	
Not in the Last 6 Months	16%	15%	16%	14%	17%	17%	16%	17%	11%	32%	8%	
Never	23%	23%	24%	26%	23%	28%	21%	23%	8%	37%	16%	
N/A (I'm never in this area)	1%	1%	1%	2%	2%	1%	1%	1%	2%	0%	0%	
Total	655	340	554	298	216	149	158	121	114	19	93	
Q3.8 - Do you experience physical street harassment...inside of a school or library (as an employee or student/user)												
	All Responses	General Population	Target Population (At Least One)	Non-White	Income < \$55k	Non-Christian	LGBTQ+	East of the River	Disability	Age 55+	Immigrant	
Daily	16%	14%	16%	15%	15%	14%	19%	13%	34%	11%	32%	
Weekly	18%	19%	18%	17%	12%	15%	17%	20%	30%	0%	26%	
Monthly	11%	13%	11%	11%	12%	11%	13%	12%	8%	0%	10%	
Once Every Few Months	9%	9%	9%	10%	8%	8%	8%	9%	9%	5%	5%	
Not in the Last 6 Months	15%	13%	16%	16%	19%	15%	15%	17%	10%	21%	9%	
Never	28%	30%	29%	29%	31%	34%	27%	27%	10%	63%	17%	
N/A (I'm never in this area)	3%	2%	2%	2%	2%	3%	1%	1%	0%	0%	1%	
Total	655	340	554	298	216	149	158	121	114	19	93	
Q3.9 - Do you experience physical street harassment...While working out (outside, in a gym, at a park/rec center, etc.)												
	All Responses	General Population	Target Population (At Least One)	Non-White	Income < \$55k	Non-Christian	LGBTQ+	East of the River	Disability	Age 55+	Immigrant	
Daily	18%	19%	18%	18%	18%	13%	19%	16%	36%	5%	35%	
Weekly	21%	19%	19%	18%	14%	17%	23%	16%	27%	16%	26%	
Monthly	15%	17%	15%	15%	15%	17%	14%	19%	14%	5%	11%	
Once Every Few Months	13%	12%	13%	13%	15%	11%	13%	14%	9%	21%	10%	
Not in the Last 6 Months	13%	12%	14%	12%	17%	18%	15%	15%	7%	21%	9%	
Never	18%	19%	19%	21%	18%	21%	15%	18%	7%	26%	10%	
N/A (I'm never in this area)	2%	2%	2%	2%	4%	2%	3%	2%	0%	5%	0%	
Total	655	340	554	298	216	149	158	121	114	19	93	
Q3.10 - Of the public transportation options, where would you say physical street harassment happens most frequently?												
	All Responses	General Population	Target Population (At Least One)	Non-White	Income < \$55k	Non-Christian	LGBTQ+	East of the River	Disability	Age 55+	Immigrant	
On the bus	22%	20%	24%	19%	23%	18%	22%	15%	35%	17%	38%	
In the bus shelter or at the bus stop	26%	27%	26%	26%	22%	29%	24%	22%	30%	33%	33%	
On the metro	22%	23%	22%	24%	21%	26%	19%	23%	19%	8%	13%	
In the metro station	14%	13%	11%	14%	14%	10%	14%	13%	8%	17%	6%	
Unsure	4%	4%	4%	5%	4%	6%	4%	4%	3%	8%	3%	
It happens at these places equally	12%	13%	12%	12%	17%	11%	17%	22%	11%	17%	9%	
Total	526	279	437	240	168	109	122	95	105	12	80	
Q4.1 - As best you remember, at approximately what age did you first have these experience/s of street harassment?												

	All Responses	General Population	Target Population (At Least One)	Non-White	Income < \$55k	Non-Christian	LGBTQ+	East of the River	Disability	Age 55+	Immigrant
0-12 years old	14%	14%	15%	16%	16%	17%	20%	15%	23%	12%	16%
13-17 years old	38%	36%	37%	39%	38%	39%	38%	43%	29%	11%	30%
18-24 years old	29%	30%	28%	29%	27%	26%	27%	19%	28%	29%	28%
25 years old and older	16%	16%	16%	13%	15%	15%	14%	18%	20%	35%	24%
Unsure	3%	3%	3%	3%	5%	2%	2%	4%	2%	1%	1%
Total	1148	564	954	505	399	274	240	181	151	66	136
<b>Q4.2 - Did your first experience with street harassment happen in DC?</b>											
	All Responses	General Population	Target Population (At Least One)	Non-White	Income < \$55k	Non-Christian	LGBTQ+	East of the River	Disability	Age 55+	Immigrant
Yes	58%	60%	57%	63%	55%	47%	59%	64%	79%	44%	73%
No	38%	35%	39%	33%	41%	50%	38%	30%	20%	48%	23%
Unsure	4%	4%	4%	4%	5%	4%	3%	6%	1%	8%	4%
Total	1148	564	954	505	399	274	240	181	151	66	136
<b>Q4.3 - Did you live in DC at the time of the first experience with street harassment? (only for those who answered "no" to Q4.1)</b>											
	All Responses	General Population	Target Population (At Least One)	Non-White	Income < \$55k	Non-Christian	LGBTQ+	East of the River	Disability	Age 55+	Immigrant
Yes	21%	22%	22%	29%	22%	15%	33%	33%	43%	13%	16%
No	79%	78%	78%	71%	78%	85%	67%	67%	57%	88%	84%
Total	437	197	368	169	162	136	91	55	30	32	31
<b>Q4.4 - While in DC, do you believe you've been harassed because of your actual or perceived identity? (select all that apply)</b>											
	All Responses	General Population	Target Population (At Least One)	Non-White	Income < \$55k	Non-Christian	LGBTQ+	East of the River	Disability	Age 55+	Immigrant
Sex	45%	44%	45%	42%	43%	53%	51%	48%	36%	35%	40%
Gender Identity or Expression	20%	20%	21%	19%	23%	19%	28%	19%	30%	8%	29%
Sexual Orientation	19%	18%	20%	19%	19%	20%	40%	17%	28%	11%	23%
Housing Status/ Homelessness	5%	3%	6%	7%	6%	4%	7%	7%	15%	8%	12%
Race, Ethnicity, or Skin Color	39%	43%	40%	49%	40%	35%	36%	36%	36%	41%	37%
Religious Affiliation	8%	9%	8%	7%	8%	8%	8%	9%	13%	2%	10%
Disability or Mobility	3%	4%	3%	3%	3%	1%	6%	5%	18%	3%	5%
Immigration Status	24%	3%	3%	3%	2%	3%	4%	2%	7%	0%	17%
Physical Appearance (includes body type, hair style, clothing)	40%	38%	40%	34%	40%	47%	43%	45%	25%	32%	24%
Mental Health/State of Mind	5%	5%	5%	4%	6%	6%	8%	7%	11%	0%	6%
Class or Income Level	13%	13%	12%	11%	11%	15%	14%	13%	13%	15%	10%
Language (including ASL)	4%	4%	4%	5%	5%	4%	8%	4%	9%	2%	10%
Age	21%	21%	21%	19%	21%	22%	27%	28%	15%	27%	15%
Other (please specify)	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%	2%	1%	2%	0%	1%
None of the above	3%	3%	3%	4%	5%	1%	1%	4%	2%	11%	2%
Total	1148	564	954	505	399	274	240	181	151	66	136
<b>Q4.5 - What type of person is frequently harassing you in a public space in DC? (choose up to three)</b>											
	All Responses	General Population	Target Population (At Least One)	Non-White	Income < \$55k	Non-Christian	LGBTQ+	East of the River	Disability	Age 55+	Immigrant
Police officer or other legal authority	17%	18%	17%	20%	19%	15%	17%	23%	30%	3%	29%

Q4.6 - Because of the street harassment experience/s you've had while in DC, have you done any of the following? (Please select all that apply.)													
	All Responses	General Population	Target Population (At Least One)	Non-White	Income < \$55k	Non-Christian	LGBTQ+	East of the River	Disability	Age 55+	Immigrant	Q4.7 - When you have experienced an instance of street harassment, what would you want to happen? (Please select all that apply.)	
												General Population	Target Population (At Least One)
Public transportation employee (including bus drivers and m	16%	16%	15%	17%	13%	11%	20%	17%	11%	29%	6%	21%	
Another passenger (on bus, metro, car-share, etc.)	48%	51%	47%	45%	46%	49%	53%	45%	47%	47%	33%	44%	
Taxi or car-share driver	13%	11%	12%	13%	11%	8%	15%	10%	8%	22%	3%	16%	
Someone driving in a car that you are not in	28%	27%	28%	28%	30%	29%	30%	31%	31%	23%	24%	22%	
Someone pedestrian, passerby, or person in a public space	52%	52%	51%	47%	51%	58%	56%	48%	48%	32%	56%	35%	
Employee at a retail, food service, or nightclub venue	9%	10%	10%	10%	10%	7%	10%	11%	11%	14%	0%	12%	
Employee at a bank, healthcare facility, laundromat, retail st	5%	5%	5%	5%	4%	5%	7%	6%	11%	11%	2%	9%	
Patrons or customers (if you work in the retail or service ind	10%	10%	10%	9%	17%	19%	19%	16%	16%	5%	3%	10%	
Fellow patrons or customers	16%	18%	16%	16%	17%	19%	19%	16%	11%	11%	14%	11%	
Neighborhood people or people hanging around	40%	39%	41%	37%	45%	42%	37%	46%	26%	40%	52%	21%	
Other (please specify)	2%	1%	2%	2%	1%	3%	2%	2%	3%	2%	5%	2%	
<b>Total</b>	1148	564	954	505	399	274	240	181	151	66	66	136	
Q4.7 - When you have experienced an instance of street harassment, what would you want to happen? (Please select all that apply.)													
	All Responses	General Population	Target Population (At Least One)	Non-White	Income < \$55k	Non-Christian	LGBTQ+	East of the River	Disability	Age 55+	Immigrant	Q6.1 - Which D.C. Ward do you currently live in? If you're unsure, you can check using this website: <a href="https://planning.dc.gov/page/neighborhood-planning-01">https://planning.dc.gov/page/neighborhood-planning-01</a>	
												General Population	Target Population (At Least One)
Someone to intervene or help if they witness me being hara:	50%	50%	49%	48%	49%	51%	52%	49%	51%	35%	55%		
A way to easily report it to the government for data collectio	32%	30%	32%	32%	26%	38%	39%	27%	33%	20%	37%		
Police intervention	30%	31%	30%	30%	28%	29%	33%	26%	34%	30%	38%		
Non-police intervention by community members trained to c	27%	26%	27%	26%	22%	33%	30%	26%	23%	23%	28%		
Environmental changes, like more street lamps or larger side	31%	30%	30%	31%	30%	34%	36%	29%	23%	27%	27%		
A way to process or express the effects of street harassment,	20%	18%	19%	21%	18%	18%	26%	19%	26%	15%	29%		
To use self-defense or self-assertion skills that I learned/impi	31%	30%	31%	31%	34%	32%	38%	35%	26%	23%	22%		
None of these would be helpful	8%	9%	8%	7%	9%	8%	8%	10%	4%	17%	4%		
Something else, please specify (short paragraph)	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	3%	2%	0%	1%	3%	1%		
<b>Total</b>	1148	564	954	505	399	274	240	181	151	66	66	136	
Q6.1 - Which D.C. Ward do you currently live in? If you're unsure, you can check using this website: <a href="https://planning.dc.gov/page/neighborhood-planning-01">https://planning.dc.gov/page/neighborhood-planning-01</a>													
	All Responses	General Population	Target Population (At Least One)	Non-White	Income < \$55k	Non-Christian	LGBTQ+	East of the River	Disability	Age 55+	Immigrant	Q6.1 - Which D.C. Ward do you currently live in? If you're unsure, you can check using this website: <a href="https://planning.dc.gov/page/neighborhood-planning-01">https://planning.dc.gov/page/neighborhood-planning-01</a>	
												General Population	Target Population (At Least One)
Ward 1	11%	13%	10%	10%	10%	12%	9%	0%	14%	7%	17%		
Ward 2	19%	13%	18%	14%	18%	22%	21%	0%	13%	16%	22%		
Ward 3	13%	13%	12%	10%	11%	15%	14%	0%	12%	16%	13%		
Ward 4	11%	13%	11%	12%	12%	11%	8%	0%	14%	13%	15%		

Q6.2 - How old are you?												
	All Responses		General Population	Target Population (At Least One)	Non-White	Income < \$55k	Non-Christian	LGBTQ+	East of the River	Disability	Age 55+	Immigrant
Ward 5	13%	13%	13%	13%	16%	13%	12%	15%	0%	12%	9%	11%
Ward 6	15%	13%	15%	15%	15%	15%	16%	16%	0%	12%	18%	11%
Ward 7	8%	13%	9%	11%	11%	10%	5%	11%	44%	5%	14%	7%
Ward 8	10%	13%	11%	13%	13%	12%	6%	8%	56%	12%	7%	5%
I don't live in D.C.	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total	1621	800	1374	720	610	396	322	188	283	174	171	
Q6.3 - Although the choices listed below may not represent your full identity or use the language you prefer, for this survey please select the choice(s) that best describes your racial/ethnic identity.												
	All Responses		General Population	Target Population (At Least One)	Non-White	Income < \$55k	Non-Christian	LGBTQ+	East of the River	Disability	Age 55+	Immigrant
Alaska Native	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	0%	1%	1%	1%
American Indian	2%	3%	2%	5%	3%	2%	2%	4%	3%	4%	1%	4%
Asian/Asian American	5%	5%	5%	10%	4%	9%	4%	4%	2%	5%	3%	15%
Biracial/Multiracial	4%	5%	5%	10%	5%	3%	3%	10%	6%	5%	1%	5%
Black/African American	24%	25%	28%	54%	34%	13%	22%	44%	44%	24%	32%	12%
Latino/a/x or Hispanic	6%	7%	7%	13%	7%	6%	7%	6%	7%	5%	7%	16%
Sub-Saharan African	1%	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%
Middle Eastern/North African	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%	2%	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%	3%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
White/European American	54%	49%	46%	0%	43%	62%	50%	37%	37%	51%	55%	40%
A racial/ethnic identity not listed above (please specify)	2%	2%	2%	4%	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%	3%	2%	2%
Prefer not to answer	1%	2%	2%	0%	3%	1%	2%	2%	3%	2%	3%	0%
Total	1621	800	1374	720	610	396	322	188	283	174	171	
Q6.4 - You said that you are biracial or multiracial. Please choose the racial/ethnic identities that best describe you. (Please select all that apply.)												
	All Responses		General Population	Target Population (At Least One)	Non-White	Income < \$55k	Non-Christian	LGBTQ+	East of the River	Disability	Age 55+	Immigrant
Alaska Native	1%	3%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	8%	0%	0%	0%
American Indian	6%	18%	13%	13%	16%	8%	11%	15%	15%	0%	0%	0%
Asian/Asian American	14%	20%	30%	30%	32%	62%	37%	23%	23%	44%	0%	33%
Black/African American	31%	70%	65%	65%	68%	46%	58%	69%	69%	67%	50%	56%
Sub-saharan African	2%	3%	4%	4%	0%	8%	11%	0%	0%	22%	0%	22%
Middle Eastern/North African	7%	13%	14%	14%	11%	15%	16%	16%	16%	22%	0%	22%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	5%	8%	10%	10%	5%	23%	16%	15%	15%	22%	0%	22%
White/European American	27%	53%	58%	58%	58%	85%	63%	38%	38%	67%	100%	22%
A racial/ethnic identity not listed above (please specify)	7%	20%	16%	16%	16%	8%	26%	23%	23%	22%	50%	33%
Total	147	40	69	69	19	13	19	13	13	9	2	9





Christian	59%	64%	55%	63%	62%	0%	49%	67%	66%	60%	57%
Hindu	1%	2%	1%	2%	1%	5%	2%	1%	1%	1%	2%
Jewish	5%	3%	6%	2%	3%	20%	5%	20%	8%	5%	4%
Muslim	3%	3%	4%	5%	3%	12%	4%	4%	2%	1%	8%
Sikh	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	1%	1%	0%	2%	0%	2%
Other, (please specify)	6%	5%	7%	7%	8%	0%	6%	6%	7%	11%	6%
Prefer not to answer	11%	10%	9%	9%	12%	0%	11%	11%	5%	7%	6%
<i>Total</i>	1621	800	1374	720	610	396	322	283	188	174	171
<b>Q6.10 - Do you identify as an immigrant?</b>											
	<b>All Responses</b>	<b>General Population</b>	<b>Target Population (At Least One)</b>	<b>Non-White</b>	<b>Income &lt; \$55k</b>	<b>Non-Christian</b>	<b>LGBTQ+</b>	<b>East of the River</b>	<b>Disability</b>	<b>Age 55+</b>	<b>Immigrant</b>
Yes	11%	10%	12%	14%	8%	13%	14%	7%	30%	6%	100%
No	88%	89%	86%	83%	90%	85%	82%	90%	68%	92%	0%
Unsure	1%	1%	1%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	1%	0%
Prefer not to answer	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	0%
<i>Total</i>	1621	800	1374	720	610	396	322	283	188	174	171
<b>Q6.11 - How do you primarily identify?</b>											
	<b>All Responses</b>	<b>General Population</b>	<b>Target Population (At Least One)</b>	<b>Non-White</b>	<b>Income &lt; \$55k</b>	<b>Non-Christian</b>	<b>LGBTQ+</b>	<b>East of the River</b>	<b>Disability</b>	<b>Age 55+</b>	<b>Immigrant</b>
Cisgender man (gender identity matches assigned-at-birth gender)	46%	47%	45%	46%	41%	50%	40%	39%	59%	45%	60%
Cisgender woman (gender identity matches assigned-at-birth gender)	51%	53%	52%	51%	55%	47%	57%	58%	37%	49%	36%
Transgender man (gender identity differs from assigned-at-birth gender)	1%	0%	1%	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%	2%	1%	2%
Transgender woman (gender identity differs from assigned-at-birth gender)	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	1%
Non-Binary/Gender Non-Conforming/Genderqueer	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	1%	0%	1%
Other Identity (please specify)	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	2%	0%
Prefer Not to Answer	1%	0%	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	2%	1%	2%	1%
<i>Total</i>	1621	800	1374	720	610	396	322	283	188	174	171

# APPENDIX D

## Focus Group Details

### Focus Group Introduction

We have now turned on the tape recorder. We'll ask you to wait to say anything until we go over this introduction. We will go over what this is all about, and at the end of that, we will give you the opportunity to leave if you do not wish to participate. If you stay with us, we will consider that your indication that you consent to participate.

### Why we are here

This research is being conducted on behalf of the DC Office of Human Rights in response to a law enacted by the DC City Council on street harassment. Street harassment for our purposes is defined as:

**Street harassment is any unwanted statement, gesture, or conduct that is disrespectful, offensive, or threatening and happens in a public space, a place of business or any location that is not a private residence in DC.**

Your participation here is voluntary, but it is greatly appreciated. Participating will provide you an opportunity to make your voice heard about this issue. The focus group will be audio recorded to ensure our report accurately reflects your views, but will be kept confidential. That means we do not connect what has been said here with anyone's name or other individually identifying information.

We ask that you respect each other's confidentiality as well—please do not reveal what anyone said during this sessions. We do this so that you can feel comfortable speaking frankly about your feelings and experiences.

This is one of 10 focus groups we are conducting. The results of these groups will be reported to an advisory committee for the Office of Human Rights and will inform recommendations to the city council about what to do about the issue of street harassment.

As a thank you for your time and thoughts, we will provide everyone a \$50 Visas gift card at the end of the session. The session will be completed by 8:30pm.

[Introduce the facilitators, Maya and the counselor.]

[Orient folks to the space, including where the bathrooms are.]

We know that for some people this topic could be difficult to talk about, or raise strong emotional reactions. If you find this is happening to you [the counselor] is here to help you and may step out of the room to talk with you.

### Introduction about Focus Groups

Also before we begin, I want to go over what you can expect and what our expectations are for you.

- We are interested in what everyone has to say but not in coming to a consensus. We are interested in the range of views, experiences and perspectives in the room.
- We want to hear from everyone but everyone doesn't have to weigh in on every topic or question.
- We ask that you focus on what you know and have observed, which is what you know best.
- Interaction with other participants is encouraged, but please be respectful and non-judgmental.
- You are not here as a stand in for a group or type of people. You are only here to speak on you own behalf.

- We'll do our best to let your views drive the conversation, but we will direct us to make sure we address the questions we need to.

Do you have any questions for us before we begin? If having heard all this, if you are no longer willing to participate, please raise your hand? (If yes, ask them to leave) Ok, let's begin.

### Focus group questions:

Street harassment is any unwanted statement, gesture, or conduct that is disrespectful, offensive, or threatening and happens in a public space, a place of business or any location that is not a private residence in DC.

1. What street harassment experiences do you commonly have?
2. Has experiencing street harassment affected your behavior?  
[Ask question 2 first; A-F are probes to be asked as follow ups if participants are needing some ideas and not all have to be asked]  
Probes:
  - A. Has street harassment affected your health and wellbeing, including mental health?
  - B. Has anyone ever changed their route or regular routine in response to street harassment (or to avoid SH)?
  - C. Has anyone ever changed or stopped a hobby or activity in response to street harassment (or to avoid SH)?
  - D. Has anyone ever left a community or religious group in response to street harassment (or to avoid SH)?
  - E. Has anyone ever changed their enrollment in a school or class in response to street harassment (or to avoid SH)?
  - F. Where you decide to live/stay/sleep?
3. Are there times or places when you feel especially likely to experience street harassment?  
Probe - why do you think those times (and/or places) are the ones where you are most likely to experience street harassment?
4. Was there ever a time when a bystander/witness (or other person that is not an authority figure) that intervened when you were being harassed? What happened?
  - What makes this sort of intervention helpful? Unhelpful?
5. Was there ever a time where an authority figure of some sort (like a teacher, police officer, manager) that intervened when you were being harassed? What happened?
  - What makes this sort of intervention helpful? Unhelpful?
6. When you have experienced an instance of street harassment What would make you feel safer? More supported? [In the moment? After the fact?]
7. When you are in a place where you are most likely to experience street harassment, what would make you feel safer? More supported?
  - Probe/Clarifier: Think about changes to your environment, like more street lamps.
8. Do you think it would be helpful if there was a way to report when you experience or see street harassment (other than calling the police)? Why or why not? What would make it useful?  
Probe - Would you want there to be a response to your report or would you just like information to be collected on the incident (to have a record of it)?
9. Do you think (target population) are more likely to experience street harassment than other people?  
[If yes] Why do you think that is?
10. (Pass around campaign ads) Here are the current public awareness campaign ads, which focuses on what street harassment is, where it happens, and who it happens to most frequently. The next phase of the public awareness campaign will come out next year.

What do you want people who might experience street harassment to know? What do you want others to know about the experience of street harassment?

### Interview 1

Date	Location	Time	Population
Thursday, August 22	Shaw Library	11:30 am -1:30 pm	Women Experiencing Homelessness

#### Recruitment

- Maya Vizvary sent flyers to Karen Malvorah & Amber Harding at Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless and Jesse Rabinowitz at Miriam's Kitchen on Friday, August 16th.
- Flyer was placed on the bulletin boards in library.
- Maya Vizvary went to N St. Village on 8-21 with flyers and emailed Carolyn Lewis (Bethany Program Manager) with information and flyers.
- One member was recruited the day-of, in the library

### Focus Group 2

Date	Location	Time	Population
Monday, August 26	Whitman Walker Health	6:00 - 8:00 pm	Trans, Gender Nonconforming, Gender Nonbinary People (general)

7 participants

#### Recruitment

- Flyer and blurb were sent out to folks at Whitman Walker, HIPS, DC Center, Casa Ruby.

### Focus Group 3

Date	Location	Time	Population
Wednesday, August 28	Miriam's Kitchen	11:30 am - 1:30 pm	People Experiencing Homelessness

7 participants

#### Recruitment

- Employees of Miriam's Kitchen (on the advocacy and case management teams) recruited their clients for participation.
- They had conversations with DCRCC on how to recruit in a trauma-informed way.

### Focus Group 4

Date	Location	Time	Population
Thursday, August 29	Benning Library	11:30 am - 1:30 pm	Black Trans Women

6 participants

#### Recruitment:

- Kisha Allure led a group for trans women on Tuesday night and brought the flyer to that group.
- Flyer and blurb were sent out to folks at Whitman Walker, HIPS, DC Center, Casa Ruby.

### Interview 5

Date	Location	Time	Population
Wednesday, September 4	Public Welfare Foundation	6:00 - 8:00 pm	Immigrant Community (religious minorities)

#### Recruitment

- Darakshan Raja sent out to south Asian rapid response and Justice for Muslims Collective listservs.
- America Indivisible sent out blurb and flyer to their listservs/network.

### Interview 6

Date	Location	Time	Population
Friday, September 6	DCRCC	6:30 - 8:30 pm	Sexual Violence Survivors

#### Recruitment

- Indira, ED of DCRCC, posted flyer and sent out to clients and therapists
- Ruby, Crisis Services Coordinator, sent email to client list
- Collective Action for Safe Spaces posted the recruitment information on its social media.

### Focus Group 7

Date	Location	Time	Population
Monday, September 9	Public Welfare Foundation	6:00 - 8:00 pm	Immigrant Community

13 participants

#### Recruitment

- Darakshan Raja circulated in South Asian Rapid Response group.
- Flyers passed out at Fiesta del Barrio on 9-7-19.
- Mayor's Office on Latino Affairs did recruitment on day-of: sent flyer to listserv and text messages to specific people.
- Flyer and blurb were translated into the six non-English languages (Spanish, French, Amharic, Vietnamese, Mandarin, and Korean) and sent to appropriate offices (i.e., Mayor's Office on African Affairs) and organizations (i.e., Many Languages One Voice) for them to distribute to their networks.

### Focus Group 8

Date	Location	Time	Population
Tuesday, September 10	American University HPAC Hughes Hall	6:30 - 8:30 pm	College Students (PWI)

10 Participants

#### Recruitment

- Posted from the Health Promotion & Advocacy Center social media accounts.
- Posted from the Greek Wellness Coalition social media accounts.
- Shared with Peer Health Educators, Diversity & Inclusion Peers, two AUx classes.

### Focus Group 9

Date	Location	Time	Population
Thursday, September 26	Martha's Table	11:30 am - 1:30 pm	Women Experiencing Homelessness

11 participants

#### Recruitment

- Dee Curry of Advisory Committee worked with Esther Ford of Miriam's Kitchen.
- Esther recruited the 10 participants and got them transportation to Martha's Table.

### Focus Group 10

Date	Location	Time	Population
Monday, October 7	Howard University, Inclusive Innovation Incubator	6:30 - 8:30 pm	College Students (HBCU)

5 Participants

#### Recruitment

- Emailed professors from the Women Studies department who sent info out to their listserv.
- Recruited student that requested training from DC SAFE.
- Tweeted by C.A.S.C.A.D.E., a student organization for queer Howard students .
- Emailed information to the Manager of the Interpersonal Violence Prevention Program.

### Focus Group Participants Demographics

Please select the choice(s) that best describes your racial/ethnic identity. (Circle all that apply.)	
Alaska Native	0
American Indian	5
Asian/ Asian American	3
Biracial/Multiracial	4
Black/African American	26
Latino/a/x or Hispanic	4
Middle Eastern / North African	2
Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander	0
Sub-Saharan African	0
White / European American	13
A racial /ethnic identity not listed above	2
Prefer not to answer	0
No answer given	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>

What best describes your sexual orientation?	
Asexual	4
Bisexual	11
Gay	2
Heterosexual/Straight	22
Lesbian	3
Pansexual	2
Queer	5
Same-gender loving	1
A sexual orientation not listed above	3
Prefer not to answer	2
No answer given	0
Total	55
No answer given	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>

What is your best estimate of your yearly household income?	
Under \$25,000	32
\$25,000-\$49,999	4
\$50,000-\$99,999	8
\$100,000-\$199,999	2
\$200,000 or above	3
No answer given	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>

What are your current living arrangements?	
House / apartment / condo	18
Campus / university housing	11
Nursing home, adult care facility, or hospital	0
Homeless shelter, domestic violence shelter, transitional housing / halfway house, or in a hotel or motel with an emergency voucher	13
On a street, in a car, in an abandoned building, in a park, or a place that is NOT a house, apartment, shelter, or other housing	6
A living arrangement not listed above	3
No answer given	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>

Do you have a physical disability or mobility issue that is visible to others?	
Yes	7
No	41
Prefer not to answer	2
No answer given	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>

Do you practice or identify with any of the following religions?	
Atheist / Agnostic	7
Christian	21
Hindu	0
Jewish	3
Muslim	8
Sikh	0
Other	7
Prefer not to answer	1
None	5
No answer given	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>

Do you identify as an immigrant?	
Yes	0
No	49
Unsure	2
Prefer not to answer	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>

*\*Note: the focus group with immigrant participants ran out of time to answer the confidential demographic questionnaires.*

How do you primarily identify?	
Cisgender man	5
Cisgender woman	30
Transgender man	1
Transgender woman	6
Non-Binary/Gender Non-conforming/Genderqueer	5
Other identity	2
Prefer not to answer	1
No answer given	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>

Demographic Information was collected from 51 participants. In some cases, more than one option was selected. No demographic information was collected for Focus Group 7. One additional participant did not provide information.



# APPENDIX E

Public Awareness Campaign Ads

I don't need your  
comments on my...

*Homelessness.*  
*Appearance.*  
*Circumstance.*

Street Harassment is far too common and can happen in a park, on the sidewalk, or even at a bus stop.

If it's unwanted,  
it's Street Harassment.

Learn more.

For more information on the District's Street Harassment Prevention Act, scan the QR code or visit [nostreetharassment.dc.gov](http://nostreetharassment.dc.gov).

#NoStreetHarassmentDC



I don't need your  
comments on my...

*Gender Identity.*  
*Gender Expression.*  
*Sexual Orientation.*

Street Harassment is far too common and can happen in a store, at a restaurant, or even in taxi or rideshare.

If it's unwanted,  
it's **Street Harassment**.

**Learn more.**

For more information on the District's Street Harassment Prevention Act, scan the QR code or visit [nostreetharassment.dc.gov](http://nostreetharassment.dc.gov).  
**#NoStreetHarassmentDC**



# I don't need your comments on my...

*Hair.*

*Body type.*

*Skin color.*

Street Harassment is far too common and can happen at school, at a sports game, or even on the bus.

If it's **unwanted**,  
it's **Street Harassment**.

**Learn more.**

For more information on the District's Street Harassment Prevention Act, scan the QR code or visit [nostreetharassment.dc.gov](http://nostreetharassment.dc.gov).  
**#NoStreetHarassmentDC**



# I don't need your comments on my...

*Religion.*

*Race.*

*Ethnicity.*

Street Harassment is far too common and can happen in a library, at the movies, or even in the coffee shop.

If it's unwanted,  
it's **Street Harassment**.

**Learn more.**

For more information on the District's Street Harassment Prevention Act, scan the QR code or visit [nostreetharassment.dc.gov](http://nostreetharassment.dc.gov).  
**#NoStreetHarassmentDC**



**I don't need your  
comments on my...**

*Outfit.  
Body.  
Smile.*

Street Harassment is far too common and can happen in a **bar**, at a **concert**, or even on the **Metro**.

If it's **unwanted**, it's **Street Harassment**.

**Learn more.**

*For more information on the District's Street Harassment Prevention Act, scan the QR code or visit [nostreetharassment.dc.gov](http://nostreetharassment.dc.gov).  
**#NoStreetharassmentDC***



# APPENDIX F

## Agencies Designated by the Language Access Act as Having Major Public Contact

1. *Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration (ABRA)*
2. *Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA)*
3. *Department of Behavioral Health (DOB)*
4. *Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA)*
5. *Department of Corrections (DOC)*
6. *Department of Employment Services (DOES)*
7. *Department of Energy & Environment (DOEE)*
8. *Department of General Services (DGS)*
9. *District of Columbia Health (DC Health)*
10. *Department of Health Care Finance (DHCF)*
11. *Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)*
12. *Department of Human Resources (DCHR)*
13. *Department of Human Services (DHS)*
14. *Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV)*
15. *Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR)*
16. *Department of Public Works (DPW)*
17. *Department of Small and Local Business Development (DSLBD)*
18. *Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS)*
19. *Department on Disability Services (DDS)*
20. *District Department of Transportation (DDOT)*
21. *District of Columbia Housing Authority (DCHA)*
22. *District of Columbia Lottery and Charitable Games Control Board (DCLB)*
23. *District of Columbia Office of Zoning (DCOZ)*
24. *District of Columbia Public Library (DCPL)*
25. *District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS)*
26. *Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department (FEMS)*
27. *Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (HSEMA)*
28. *Metropolitan Police Department (MPD)*
29. *Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH)*
30. *Office of Contracting and Procurement (OCP)*
31. *Office of Human Rights (OHR)*
32. *Office of Planning (OP)*
33. *Office of Tax and Revenue (OTR)*
34. *Office of Unified Communications (OUC)*
35. *Office of the Attorney General - Child Support Services Division (OAG - CSSD)*
36. *Office of the People's Counsel (OPC)*
37. *Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE)*
38. *Office of the Tenant Advocate (OTA)*
39. *Department of Aging and Community Living (DACL)*





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