

Experience of sexual harassment among young Australians: Who, where and how?

Supplementary materials

December 2024

Study measures

In this study, LSAC data from Waves 6, 7 and 8 were used. Wave 6 data were collected in 2014, Wave 7 data in 2016 and Wave 8 data were collected in 2018. The following section includes details of all measures used in the analysis, except for the key outcome; that is, the experience of sexual harassment. Further information on the study design, questionnaires, statistical considerations, data files and other data resources is available via the LSAC Guide (growingupinaustralia.gov.au).

Trust and communication with parents

Drawing on the People in My Life measure (Ridenour, Greenberg, & Cook, 2006), at age 14–15 years (Wave 6; 2014) and 16–17 years (Wave 7; 2016), the LSAC K cohort respondents were provided with the following 8 statements about their relationship with their parents.

1. My parents accept me as I am.
2. My parents understand me.
3. I trust my parents.
4. I can count on my parents to help me when I have a problem.
5. My parents pay attention to me.
6. I talk with my parents when I have a problem.
7. If my parents know that something is bothering me, they ask me about it.
8. I share my thoughts and feelings with my parents.

For each statement the respondents were asked to choose the best answer from 1 = Almost never or never true; 2 = Sometimes true; 3 = Often true; 4 = Almost always or always true. The responses to the 8 items were summed to create a total score that ranged from 8 to 32, with higher scores indicating increased frequency of the application of each statement to study child.

Total scores were divided into quartiles where 1 = 0%–25%, 2 = 25%–50%; 3 = 50%–75% and 4 = 75%–100%. Respondents with scores in the first and fourth quartiles were interpreted as having 'lower' and 'higher' trust and communication with parents respectively.

Family members yelling at each other

At age 14–15 years (Wave 6; 2014) and 16–17 years (Wave 7; 2016), the LSAC K cohort respondents were asked ‘How often do people in your family yell at each other?’ Response options included 1 = Never; 2 = Hardly ever; 3 = Sometimes; 4 = Often; 5 = Always. A binary variable was created that combined ‘Never/hardly/sometimes’ (i.e. 1 to 3) = 0 and ‘Often/always’ (i.e. 4 and 5) = 1.

Supportive friendships

Respondent’s support from friends was examined at age 14–15 years (Wave 6, 2014) and 16–17 years (Wave 7; 2016) using an adapted version of the Peer Attachment Communication and Trust Sub-Scales from the Inventory of Peer and Parental Attachment (Armsden & Greenberg, 1987). Using the response scale, 1 = Almost always true; 2 = Often true; 3 = Sometimes true; 4 = Seldom true; 5 = Almost never true, respondents were instructed ‘The next questions are about how you get on with friends. For each statement, choose the number that best describes you and your friends.’ Items included:

1. My friends sense when I’m upset about something.
2. My friends encourage me to talk about my difficulties.
3. I tell my friends about my problems and troubles.
4. If my friends know something is bothering me, they ask me about it.
5. My friends listen to what I say.
6. I feel my friends are good friends.
7. I trust my friends.
8. My friends respect my feelings.

The responses to the 8 items were summed to create a total score where higher scores indicated that the respondent considers the statement to be less true of his/her peers.

Total scores were divided into quartiles. Respondents with scores in the top 25% of the distribution were coded as having low trust and communication, those with scores in the middle (i.e. from 25% to 75%) were coded as having moderate trust and communication, and those scoring in the lowest 25% of the distribution were coded as having high trust and communication.

Peer moral and risky behaviour

Peer group behaviours were measured in the LSAC K cohort at Wave 6 using items adapted from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) and the Australian Temperament Project (ATP). The items 1–8 are sourced from the What My Friends Are Like Questionnaire, the NICHD (Olivieri & Reiss, 1987). Items 9–11 are adapted from items used in the ATP (parent report). The original items were developed by Patterson, Reid, & Dishion (1992). Item 12 was developed for the LSAC study.

Respondents were asked to indicate whether a range of positive and negative attitudes (see below) reflected the kids they spent time with (from school, their neighbourhood or elsewhere) on a five-point scale where 1 = None of them; 2 = One or two of them; 3 = Some of them; 4 = Most of them and 5 = All of them.

Peer group moral behaviour (7 items):

1. Kids you know try to get away with things
2. get into trouble
3. get into trouble at school
4. are mean to other kids
5. cheat on tests
6. go to church or religious services
7. make you do things you're ashamed of.

Peer group risky behaviour (5 items):

8. Kids you know get into fights
9. smoke cigarettes
10. drink alcohol
11. have broken the law (e.g. shoplifts, vandalism, steals cars)
12. try drugs (e.g. marijuana, ecstasy).

The responses for item 6 of the peer group moral behaviour subscale were reverse coded. For both subscales, average scores were calculated by summing responses across items and dividing by the number of items in the subscale. The average scores were rounded to the nearest whole number. Finally, the average scores for both subscales were categorised as having 'some/most/all' peers with negative behaviours if average scores were more or equal to 3.

Social networking accounts use

At age 18-19 years (Wave 8; 2018), the LSAC K cohort respondents were asked:

- 'How many social network accounts do you use once a month or more? (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube.)' Response options 'Number'.
- Thinking about those social networking accounts, how often do you share/post on them? Response options included 1 = Hourly or more often; 2 = Several times a day; 3 = Every day; 4 = Almost every day; 5 = Once or twice a week; 6 = A few times a month; 7 = Once a month or less; 8 = Never.

Engagement in sexual harassment behaviour

At age 16-17 years (Wave 7; 2016), the LSAC K cohort respondents were asked about engaging in sexual harassment behaviour and whether they had sexually harassed someone else (adapted from Clear et al. 2014). More specifically, they were asked how often, in the 12 months prior to their LSAC interview, they had engaged in unwanted sexual behaviours towards someone else:

- I told, showed or sent sexual pictures, stories or jokes that made someone feel uncomfortable.
- I made sexual gestures, rude remarks, used body language, touched, or looked at someone in a way that embarrassed or upset them.
- I kept asking someone out on a date, or asking them to hook up, although they said 'No'.

The response options include 0 = Never; 1 = 1 to 2 times; 2 = 3 to 5 times; 3 = 6 to 10 times; 4 = More than 10 times. Binary indicator was created to measure if they engaged in any preparation behaviour (irrespective of how many times).

Data on engagement in and experience of sexual harassment behaviours in 2016 were combined to create a composite measure as follows:

1. Neither engaged in nor experienced sexual harassment in 2016
2. Engaged in and experienced sexual harassment in 2016
3. Engaged in but not experienced sexual harassment in 2016
4. Not engaged in but experienced sexual harassment in 2016.

Sex at birth

The study child's sex at birth was captured with a variable coded '0' for female and '1' for male.

Relationship status

At age 16-17 (Wave 7; 2016) and age 18-19 years (Wave 8; 2018), respondents who were in a relationship were asked questions about their relationships such as 'Is boyfriend/girlfriend male or female?' and 'How do you regard your relationship?'. Responses to these measures were used to identify whether the respondent was in a relationship or not.

Sexual identity

At age 18-19 years (Wave 8; 2018), respondents were asked about their sexual identity: 'Which of the following categories best describes how you think of yourself?' Response options included: -2 = Don't know, 1 = Heterosexual or straight; 2 = Gay or lesbian; 3 = Bisexual; 4 = Other.

Gender identity

Additionally, in Wave 8, respondents were asked their current gender identity (Yes/No) for the following options: Male; Female; Transgender, male to female; Transgender, female to male; Genderqueer/Gender non-conforming; and Other identity (specify). Based on these responses, a composite measure (i.e. Amalgamated Gender identity) is provided in the data that takes the values 1 = No conflict with Gender and 2 = Genderqueer/Transgender/Other/Conflicting.

LGBTQ+ identities

Based on information from sexual identity and amalgamated gender identity, a binary indicator was created to classify young people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and/or queer (LGBTQ+) (includes non-heterosexual and those who identify as 'Genderqueer/Transgender/Other/Conflicting') and Non-LGBTQ+ (includes heterosexual and those with no conflict with gender at birth). As no participants identified as asexual we have not included 'A' in the acronym used in this snapshot. A question asking if participants were born with a variation of sex characteristics (sometimes called intersex) had not been included and therefore we have also not used 'I' in the acronym when reporting the data.

Employment

At age 16-17 (Wave 7; 2016) and age 18-19 years (Wave 8; 2018), current employment status was classified as: 1 = Employed full-time (30+ hours/week); 2 = Employed part-time (or unknown hours); 3 = Looking for work; 4 = Currently not in the labour force. Adolescents were classified as currently employed if they were in full-time or part-time employment.

School sector

For school sector when LSAC K cohort adolescents were 16-17 (Wave 7; 2016), a parent or guardian indicated if their child attended: a government school; a Catholic school; an independent or private school; or was not in school.

Single parent household

The number and type of parents in the study child's household at the time of interview indicates family composition. For this, study household composition was coded 0 (Not a lone parent household) or 1 (lone parent household).

Indigenous status

In the first wave of LSAC, collected in 2004, a parent or guardian indicated if the study child was Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

Language other than English at home

At age 16–17 (Wave 7; 2016) and age 18–19 years (Wave 8; 2018), a parent or guardian indicated whether or not the study child spoke a language other than English at home. Language other than English at home was coded 0 (English only) or 1 (language other than English spoken at home).

Socio-Economic Index for Areas (SEIFA)

The SEIFA indicator used was the Index of relative socio-economic advantage and disadvantage (IRSAD). This indicator is created by the Australian Bureau of Statistics from social and economic census information. It ranks geographic areas across Australia in terms of their relative socio-economic advantage and disadvantage. Index scores (Wave 7; 2016) were classified into low (lowest 25% of the distribution), middle (middle 50%) and high (top 25%).

Remoteness area of residence

The remoteness area indicator used was the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) remoteness structure that divides Australia into 5 classes of remoteness on the basis of a measure of relative access to services. Categories for outer regional, remote and very remote were combined into a single category 'outer regional/remote'.

State

At age 16–17 (Wave 7; 2016) and age 18–19 years (Wave 8; 2018), state of residence was classified as 1 = NSW; 2 = VIC; 3 = QLD; 4 = SA; 5 = WA; 6 = TAS; 7 = NT; 8 = ACT. A categorical variable was created as follows: 1 = NSW, 2 = VIC, 3 = QLD and 4 = Other (SA, WA, TAS, NT, ACT).

Disability

In Wave 7 and 8 of LSAC, the primary parent of the study children was asked the following questions about disability for every member of the study child's household.

1. Does [person] have any medical conditions or disabilities that have lasted, or are likely to last, for 6 months or more?
 - a. Sight problems not corrected by glasses or contact lenses. Sensory
 - b. Hearing problems. Sensory
 - c. Speech problems
 - d. Blackouts, fits or loss of consciousness
 - e. Difficulty learning or understanding things. Intellectual or learning disability
 - f. Limited use of arms or fingers
 - g. Difficulty gripping things
 - h. Limited use of legs or feet
 - i. Any condition that restricts physical activity or physical work (e.g. back problems, migraines)

j. Any disfigurement or deformity.

A person is defined as having a disability if the respondent (usually the primary parent of the study child) answered 'yes' to the question above.

Characteristics of the study sample

The study sample consists of young people who reported their experience of sexual harassment and unwanted sexual behaviours in 2016 and 2018. Table S1 shows key socio-demographic characteristics of this sample.

Table S1: Personal characteristic of the sample in focus

Sample characteristics	Observation (Proportion %)	
	16-17 years (2016)	18-19 years (2018)
Sex at birth		
Male	1,486 (50.7)	1,330 (50.3)
Female	1,444 (49.3)	1,314 (49.7)
Currently in relationship		
Yes	535 (18.5)	1,015 (38.4)
No	2,355 (81.5)	1,629 (61.6)
Sexual identity		
Heterosexual or straight	Not asked	2,256 (85.5)
Gay or lesbian	Not asked	56 (2.1)
Bisexual		224 (8.5)
Other		38 (1.4)
Don't know		66 (2.5)
Gender identity		
No conflict with gender	Not asked	2,608 (98.6)
Genderqueer/Transgender/Other	Not asked	36 (1.36)
LGBTQ+		
No	Not asked	2,249 (85.2)
Yes	Not asked	391 (3.32)
Current employment status		
Currently employed	1,406 (48.8)	1,918 (72.7)
Unemployed and looking for work	287 (10.0)	308 (11.7)
Currently not in labour force	1,187 (41.2)	412 (15.6)
Ever employed since last interview		
Yes	1,767 (61.1)	2,269 (86.1)
No	1,123 (38.9)	366 (13.9)
School type		

Sample characteristics	Observation (Proportion %)	
	16-17 years (2016)	18-19 years (2018)
Government	1,280 (44.8)	Not asked
Catholic	665 (23.3)	Not asked
Independent	731 (25.6)	Not asked
Not in school	184 (6.4)	Not asked
Single parent household		
Yes	535 (18.5)	406 (18.2)
No	2,355 (81.5)	1,824 (81.8)
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander		
Yes	61 (2.1)	50 (1.9)
No	2,869 (97.9)	2,594 (98.1)
Language other than English at home		
Yes	285 (9.8)	265 (10.1)
No	2,633 (90.2)	2,368 (89.9)
SEIFA Index of Relative Socio-Economic Advantage and Disadvantage		
Lowest 25% - most disadvantaged	628 (21.4)	546 (20.7)
Middle 50%	1,466 (50.1)	1,300 (49.2)
Highest 25%	835 (28.5)	796 (30.1)
Remoteness area (ABS)		
Major city	1,886 (64.4)	1,866 (70.6)
Inner regional	655 (22.4)	506 (19.2)
Outer regional or remote	389 (13.3)	270 (10.2)
State of residence		
New South Wales	901 (30.8)	826 (31.2)
Victoria	639 (21.8)	628 (23.8)
Queensland	666 (22.7)	545 (20.6)
Other (SA, WA, TAS, NT, ACT)	724 (24.7)	645 (24.4)
Young person with disability		
Yes	171 (5.9)	281 (14.4)
No	2,733 (94.1)	1,677 (85.6)

Source: LSAC K cohort, Waves 7 and 8, unweighted

Characteristics of young people who experienced sexual harassment

Table S2 shows the key socio-demographic characteristics of young people who experienced any form of sexual harassment in the past 12 months at ages 16–17 and 18–19 years.

Table S2: Personal characteristic of young people who have experienced any form sexual harassment in past 12 months

Young people's characteristics	Young people who experienced sexual harassment	
	Weighted proportions ^a [95% CI]	
Age	16–17 years (2016)	18–19 years (2018)
Proportion experienced sexual harassment	39.5 [37.4, 41.6]	34.0 [32.1, 36.1]
Sex		
Male	30.7 [28.0, 33.6]	23.1 [20.3, 26.1]
Female	48.6 [45.6, 51.6]	45.4 [42.6, 48.2]
Currently have boyfriend/girlfriend		
Yes	41.9 [37.7, 46.1]	35.7 [32.3, 39.1]
No	37.3 [34.7, 39.9]	33.0 [30.4, 35.7]
Sexual identity		
Heterosexual or straight	Not asked	31.2 [29.2, 33.3]
Gay or lesbian	Not asked	50.3 [35.5, 65.0]
Bisexual		50.9 [43.3, 58.5]
Other		50.2 [34.1, 66.3]
Don't know		46.7 [32.7, 61.1]
Gender identity		
No conflict with gender		34.0 [32.0, 36.0]
Genderqueer/Transgender/Other		37.1 [21.0, 56.7]
LGBTQ+		
No		31.3 [29.3, 33.4]
Yes		49.2 [43.4, 55.0]
Current employment status		
Employed	40.4 [37.3, 43.6]	34.0 [31.7, 36.3]
Unemployed and looking for work	44.2 [37.5, 51.0]	40.9 [34.6, 47.5]
Currently not in labour force	36.6 [33.7, 39.6]	28.9 [24.2, 34.0]
Ever employed since last interview		
Yes	41.2 [38.4, 44.0]	34.1 [32.0, 36.3]
No	36.7 [33.6, 39.9]	34.0 [28.5, 40.1]

Young people's characteristics	Young people who experienced sexual harassment	
	Weighted proportions ^a [95% CI]	
School sector		
Government	38.7 [35.7, 41.9]	Not asked
Catholic	39.1 [34.9, 43.5]	Not asked
Independent	43.6 [39.2, 48.0]	Not asked
Not in school	34.8 [27.5, 42.8]	Not asked
Lone parent household		
Yes	41.4 [36.6, 46.4]	32.4 [26.8, 38.6]
No	38.9 [36.5, 41.2]	33.6 [31.1, 36.1]
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander		
Yes	42.1 [29.6, 55.7]	27.4 [15.7, 43.4]
No	39.4 [37.3, 41.6]	34.3 [32.3, 36.3]
Language other than English at home		
Yes	34.4 [28.7, 40.5]	31.1 [25.0, 37.9]
No	40.3 [38.1, 42.6]	34.5 [32.4, 36.6]
SEIFA Index of Relative Socio-economic Advantage and Disadvantage		
Lowest 25% - most disadvantaged	40.8 [36.2, 45.6]	32.5 [28.0, 37.3]
Middle 50%	38.7 [35.8, 41.6]	33.7 [31.0, 36.6]
Highest 25%	40.0 [36.2, 44.0]	36.2 [32.6, 40.0]
Remoteness area (ABS)		
Major city	39.7 [37.2, 42.2]	34.1 [31.8, 36.5]
Inner regional	38.5 [33.7, 43.6]	34.2 [30.2, 38.5]
Outer regional or remote	40.3 [34.5, 46.3]	33.4 [27.0, 40.4]
State of residence		
New South Wales	38.8 [35.2, 42.6]	36.3 [32.9, 39.9]
Victoria	41.7 [37.7, 45.9]	30.9 [26.5, 35.7]
Queensland	38.3 [33.9, 43.0]	33.6 [29.3, 38.2]
Other (SA, WA, TAS, NT, ACT)	39.3 [35.0, 43.8]	34.3 [30.6, 38.2]
Young person with disability		
Yes	44.9 [36.7, 53.4]	42.3 [35.7, 49.1]
No	39.3 [37.1, 41.5]	33.4 [31.0, 35.9]

Notes: a Cross-sectional population weights were used and estimates represent the number of children in the population, in corresponding age group and year.

Source: LSAC K cohort, Waves 7 and 8

Distribution of parent, peer, social media and engaging in and experiencing sexual harassment factors among young people in the sample

Tables S3 and S4 shows the distribution of parent, peer, social media and engaging in and experience sexual harassment factors examined in this study among young people included in the study sample at ages 16–17 and 18–19 years respectively.

Table S3: Distribution of parent and peer factors examined for the study sample at age 16–17

Predictors measured at 14–15 (Wave 6 in 2014)	Females %	Males %
Parent Adolescent Trust/communication scale (PACS)		
Top 25%	24.6	28.86
Third 25%	22.6	24.6
Second 25%	22.5	26.2
Bottom 25%	30.3	20.4
How often your family yell at each other		
Never/Hardly/Sometimes	82.7	88.6
Often/Always	17.3	11.4
Peer trust and communication (IPPA Inventory)		
Higher (75%–100%)	31.8	15.9
Middle (25%–75%)	47.0	51.2
Lower (0%–25%)	21.2	15.9
Peers with bad moral behaviour		
None/One or two	91.9	87.6
Some/Most/All	8.2	12.4
Peers with risky behaviour		
None/One or two	95.0	96.8
Some/Most/All	5.0	3.2
Total, <i>N</i>	1,350	1,400

Source: LSAC Waves 6 and 7. Unweighted proportions

Table S4: Prevalence of parent, peer, social media and engaging in and experience sexual harassment factors examined for the study sample at age 18-19

Factors measured	Females %	Males %	LGBTQ+ %	Non-LGBTQ+ %
Factors measured at age 16-17 years (Wave 7 in 2016)				
Parent Adolescent Trust/communication scale (PACS)				
Top 25%	29.3	33.61	17.84	33.8
Third 25%	17.3	17.8	11.7	18.6
Second 25%	22.0	23.6	22.51	22.8
Bottom 25%	31.4	25.0	47.95	24.8
How often your family yell at each other				
Never/Hardly/Sometimes	83.6	87.2	77.35	86.8
Often/Always	16.4	12.8	22.65	13.2
Peer trust and communication (IPPA Inventory)				
Higher (75%-100%)	27.7	15.7	22.74	22.2
Middle (25%-75%)	50.4	56.3	50.73	53.9
Lower (0%-25%)	21.9	28.0	26.53	23.9
Peers with bad moral behaviour				
None/One or two	87.3	85.7	92.13	88.6
Some/Most/All	12.7	14.3	7.87	11.4
Peers with risky behaviour				
None/One or two	92.5	85.7	84.26	86.9
Some/Most/All	7.5	14.3	15.74	13.1
Engaging in and experience of sexual harassment at 16-17 in 2016				
Neither engaged in nor experienced sexual harassment in 2016	50.3	65.2	51.31	58.9
Engaged in and experienced sexual harassment in 2016	7.3	9.4	9.33	8.1
Engaged in but not experienced sexual harassment in 2016	0.4	3.0	2.33	1.7
Not engaged in but experienced sexual harassment in 2016	41.9	22.4	37.03	31.3
Prevalence of engaging in sexual harassment behaviour in 2016				
Overall prevalence (Any perpetration)	7.7	12.4	11.7	9.8
I told, showed or sent sexual pictures, stories or jokes	6.7	8.7	10.2	7.2
I made sexual gestures/remarks/touched/looked at other	3.1	6.6	4.9	4.8
I kept asking out or to hook up although said 'no'	2.3	3.6	3.5	2.8

Factors measured	Females %	Males %	LGBTQ+ %	Non-LGBTQ+ %
Factors measured at 18-19 years (Wave 8 in 2018)				
How many social network accounts do you use once a month or more? (ref.= None)				
None	1.1	1.4	0.77	1.3
Use 1-3 social media platforms/ accounts	42.9	47.4	31.62	47.5
Use 4 or more social media platforms/ accounts	56.1	51.1	67.61	51.2
How often do you share/post on social networking accounts?				
Once a month or less	28.6	42.7	26.42	37.3
Once/twice a week or few times a month	42.8	29.9	38.34	35.9
Every day/Almost every day	14.5	13.9	20.47	13.1
Hourly/several times a day	14.2	13.5	14.77	13.7
Total, <i>N</i>	1,167	1,184	389	2,006

Source: LSAC K cohort, Waves 7 and 8. Unweighted proportions

Regression analysis

We investigated how family and peer relationships in the previous wave were associated with later experience of sexual harassment. In addition, we also examined the association between social media use and experience of sexual harassment at age 18-19 years. We used multivariate binary logistic regression with robust error variances (results shown in Tables S5 and S7). We adjusted for Indigenous status, language background, SEIFA, remoteness, state, respondent's age, household structure, employment, sexual identity and having boyfriend/girlfriend measured at the same time as outcome variable (i.e. experience of sexual harassment). We estimated these models separately by sex at birth (i.e. for females and males) and by LGBTQ+ identities (Table S10). The results tables show odds ratios and marginal probabilities estimated using fitted regression model and weighted by key socio-demographic factors.

Statistical significance

In the context of statistical analysis of survey data, a relationship can be considered statistically significant if we can reject the 'null hypothesis' that there is no relationship between 2 variables. Historically, the statistical level of significance was considered as $p < 0.05$ for a result to be statistically significant. However, considering the problems in relying only on statistical significance defined by $p < 0.05$ in reporting the results (i.e. arbitrary cut-off of 0.05 for the level of significance, sample size, reporting bias, etc.), in this report we have used a more nuanced approach such as effect size, 95% confidence interval, or practical significance in interpreting the results.

Factors associated with experience of sexual harassment for females and males

Table S5: Factors of sexual harassment for young males and females aged 18-19 years in 2018

Factors measured	Females				Males			
	N	Predicted margins ^a [95% CI]	OR ^a [95% CI]	p value	N	Predicted margins ^a [95% CI]	OR ^a [95% CI]	p value
Factors measured at 16-17 years (Wave 7, 2016)								
Parent Adolescent Trust/ communication scale (PACS)	971				1,019			
Top 25%		34.2 [28.3, 40.1]	Ref.			20.0 [15.2, 24.8]	Ref.	
Third 25%		43.6 [35.0, 52.1]	1.515 [0.966, 2.376]	0.070		27.2 [20.4, 33.9]	1.522 [0.953, 2.430]	0.079
Second 25%		49.6 [42.4, 56.9]	1.954 [1.298, 2.942]	0.001		21.9 [16.2, 27.6]	1.127 [0.703, 1.805]	0.620
Bottom 25%		53.3 [46.7, 59.8]	2.275 [1.539, 3.362]	0.000		26.6 [20.5, 32.7]	1.476 [0.936, 2.329]	0.094
How often your family yell at each other	971				1,017			
Never/Hardly/Sometimes		43.5 [39.8, 47.2]	Ref.			22.6 [19.5, 25.6]	Ref.	
Often/Always		52.3 [42.8, 61.7]	1.445 [0.939 - 2.224]	0.094		27.8 [19.4, 36.3]	1.342 [0.830, 2.170]	0.230
Peer trust and communication (IPPA Inventory)	969				1,018			
Higher (75%-100%)		35.2 [29.0, 41.4]	Ref.			22.3 [15.0, 29.7]	Ref.	
Middle (25%-75%)		50.3 [45.4, 55.1]	1.913 [1.349, 2.713]	0.000		22.9 [19.2, 26.7]	1.037 [0.632, 1.701]	0.885
Lower (0%-25%)		44.9 [37.3, 52.5]	1.529 [0.992, 2.356]	0.054		24.8 [19.1, 30.5]	1.155 [0.668 - 1.995]	0.606
Peers with negative moral behaviour	969				1,018			
None/One or two		44.0 [40.4, 47.5]	Ref.			21.8 [18.8, 24.7]	Ref.	
Some/Most/All		55.9 [43.4, 68.4]	1.651 [0.952, 2.862]	0.074		32.5 [23.9, 41.1]	1.783 [1.131, 2.810]	0.013
Peers with risky behaviour	970				1,021			
None/One or two		43.6 [40.0, 47.2]	Ref.			22.6 [19.6, 25.7]	Ref.	

Factors measured	Females				Males			
	N	Predicted margins ^a [95% CI]	OR ^a [95% CI]	p value	N	Predicted margins ^a [95% CI]	OR ^a [95% CI]	p value
Some/Most/All		55.9 [45.4, 66.4]	1.679 [1.052, 2.678]	0.030		27.6 [19.3, 35.8]	1.319 [0.824, 2.112]	0.249
Perpetration and victimisation experience in 2016								
Neither engaged in nor experienced sexual harassment in 2016	970	32.0 [27.4, 36.6]	Ref.		1,021	17.4 [14.1, 20.6]	Ref.	
Engaged in and experienced sexual harassment in 2016		66.6 [54.6, 78.6]	4.630 [2.515, 8.525]	0.000		34.3 [24.1, 44.4]	2.587 [1.523, 4.395]	0.000
Engaged in but not experienced sexual harassment in 2016		68.8 [23.2, 114]	5.137 [0.550, 47.963]	0.151		38.4 [18.1, 58.7]	3.116 [1.226, 7.922]	0.017
Not engaged in but experienced sexual harassment in 2016		57.6 [52.4, 62.70]	3.089 [2.246, 4.247]	0.000		33.2 [26.5, 39.8]	2.454 [1.651, 3.648]	0.000
Factors measured at age 18–19 years (Wave 8, 2018)								
How many social network accounts do you use once a month or more?	1,081				1,130			
None		44.9 [13.2, 76.6]	Ref.			21.3 [0.0, 43.4]	Ref.	
Use 1–3 social media platforms/ accounts		40.5 [35.5, 45.5]	0.830 [0.218, 3.161]	0.785		24.1 [19.9, 28.2]	1.179 [0.291, 4.779]	0.818
Use 4 or more social media platforms/ accounts		47.0 [42.5, 51.4]	1.091 [0.288, 4.136]	0.898		22.4 [18.7, 26.1]	1.068 [0.262, 4.356]	0.927
How often do you share/post on social networking accounts?	1,070				1,113			
Once a month or less		34.5 [28.5, 40.5]	Ref.			16.9 [13.2, 20.5]	Ref.	
Once/twice a week or few times a month		47.7 [42.7, 52.6]	1.763 [1.254, 2.478]	0.001		24.1 [19.1, 29.1]	1.595 [1.082, 2.351]	0.018
Every day/Almost every day		44.7 [35.5, 53.8]	1.557 [0.966, 2.510]	0.069		29.7 [21.7, 37.7]	2.149 [1.327, 3.480]	0.002
Hourly/Several times a day		52.8 [44.1, 61.5]	2.183 [1.383, 3.445]	0.001		33.4 [24.5, 42.2]	2.577 [1.566, 4.240]	0.000

Notes: a Binary logistic regression used to assess the association between the specific predictor/exposure and SHV (yes/no) adjusting for the effect of Indigenous status, language background, SEIFA, remoteness, state, respondent's age, household structure, employment, sexual identity, and having boyfriend/girlfriend. Marginal effects as difference in proportion were estimated using the fitted models and were weighted by key socio-demographic factors.

Source: LSAC K cohort, Waves 7 and 8

Table S6: Factors of sexual harassment for young males and females aged 16–17 years in 2016

Factors measured	Females				Males			
	N	Predicted margins ^a [95% CI]	OR ^a [95% CI]	p value	N	Predicted margins ^a [95% CI]	OR ^a [95% CI]	p value
Factors measured at 14–15 years (Wave 6, 2014)								
Parent Adolescent Trust/ communication scale (PACS)	1,176				1,220			
Top 25%		36.0 [30.0, 42.1]		Ref.		22.4 [17.7, 27.2]		Ref.
Third 25%		45.1 [38.5, 51.7]	1.468 [1.009, 2.135]	0.045		28.6 [23.2, 34.0]	1.397 [0.946, 2.063]	0.092
Second 25%		48.4 [41.5, 55.3]	1.681 [1.142, 2.473]	0.008		37.7 [31.6, 43.9]	2.140 [1.450, 3.158]	0.000
Bottom 25%		55.6 [49.8, 61.5]	2.259 [1.573, 3.243]	0.000		34.7 [28.1, 41.3]	1.870 [1.239, 2.821]	0.003
How often your family yell at each other	1,175				1,219			
Never/Hardly/Sometimes		44.2 [40.7, 47.7]		Ref.		30.0 [26.9, 33.0]		Ref.
Often/Always		59.7 [52.2, 67.3]	1.892 [1.331, 2.691]	0.000		33.7 [24.6, 42.7]	1.191 [0.765, 1.853]	0.439
Peer trust and communication (IPPA Inventory)	1,176				1,219			
Higher (75%–100%)		40.9 [35.5, 46.3]		Ref.		22.9 [15.8, 30.1]		Ref.
Middle (25%–75%)		48.1 [43.5, 52.8]	1.351 [1.003, 1.819]	0.048		29.6 [25.7, 33.6]	1.427 [0.903, 2.256]	0.128
Lower (0%–25%)		54.4 [47.5, 61.3]	1.743 [1.212, 2.507]	0.003		35.4 [30.2, 40.5]	1.871 [1.167, 2.999]	0.009
Peers with bad moral behaviour	1,173				1,211			
None/One or two		44.4 [41.1, 47.7]		Ref.		27.6 [24.6, 30.6]		Ref.
Some/Most/All		76.7 [66.6, 86.8]	4.236 [2.334, 7.691]	0.000		51.6 [42.4, 60.8]	2.883 [1.913, 4.345]	0.000
Peers with risky behaviour	1,175				1,219			
None/One or two		45.5 [42.3, 48.8]		Ref.		29.7 [26.8, 32.6]		Ref.
Some/Most/All		74.8 [61.5, 88.0]	3.621 [1.750, 7.493]	0.001		50.6 [32.0, 69.2]	2.495 [1.139, 5.466]	0.022

Notes: a Binary logistic regression used to assess the association between the specific predictor/exposure and SHV (yes/no) adjusting for the effect of Indigenous status, language background, SEIFA, remoteness, state, respondent's age, household structure, employment, and having boyfriend/girlfriend. Marginal probabilities were estimated using the fitted models.

Source: LSAC K cohort, Waves 6 and 7

Prevalence of sexual harassment among LGBTQ+ and non-LGBTQ+ young people

This section provides details on the experience of sexual harassment, types, place it happened and relationship to the perpetrator among young people who identified as LGBTQ+ compared to those who did not identify as LGBTQ+ (the group is defined as heterosexual, straight and cis gender in the report) at the age of 18-19 in 2018.

Table S7: Prevalence of sexual harassment for young LGBTQ+ and non-LGBTQ+ people aged 18-19 years in 2018

	LGBTQ+ weighted proportion ^a [95% CI]	NON-LGBTQ+ weighted proportion ^a [95% CI]
Prevalence of any form of sexual harassment	49.2 [43.4, 55.0]	31.3 [29.3, 33.4]
Females	58.7 [51.7,65.4]	41.9 [38.9,44.9]
Males	29.4 [21.5,38.7]	22.4 [19.5,25.5]
Forms		
Someone told, showed or sent sexual pictures, stories or jokes that made me feel uncomfortable	31.7 [26.7, 37.2]	19.5 [17.8, 21.3]
Someone made sexual gestures, rude remarks, used body language, touched or looked at me in a way that embarrassed or upset me	34.4 [29.0, 40.4]	21.5 [19.7, 23.5]
Someone kept asking me out on a date or asking me to hook up although I said 'No'	29.4 [24.5, 34.9]	18.0 [16.3, 19.8]
Someone requested or pressured me for sex or other sexual acts	23.2 [18.7, 28.3]	13.4 [11.7, 15.3]
Someone raped me, attempted to rape me or sexually assaulted me	17.7 [13.5, 22.8]	8.5 [7.1, 10.0]
Someone subjected me to other unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature	15.2 [11.6, 19.5]	7.6 [6.3, 9.1]
Experience of multiple forms of sexual harassment	36.2 [30.6, 42.1]	19.9 [18.1, 21.8]
Total, <i>N</i>	391	2,250

Notes: a Cross-sectional population weights were used and estimates represent the number of children in the population, in corresponding age group and year.

Source: LSAC K cohort Wave 8, weighted

Table S8: Place of sexual harassment for young LGBTQ+ and non-LGBTQ+ people aged 18-19 years in 2018

	LGBTQ+ weighted proportion ^a [95% CI]	Non-LGBTQ+ weighted proportion ^a [95% CI]
At place of study	9.215 [5.409, 15.27]	12.61 [9.894, 15.93]
At work	12.36 [7.749, 19.15]	19.96 [16.64, 23.76]
At a party, club or bar	45.86 [38.08, 53.85]	48.98 [44.66, 53.3]
Online	35.99 [28.92, 43.71]	23.97 [20.4, 27.94]
At your or someone known's house/home	9.138 [5.138, 15.74]	4.881 [3.422, 6.916]
At a public place	2.97 [1.209, 7.109]	3.146 [1.884, 5.209]
Other	13.48 [8.414, 20.9]	11.99 [9.199, 15.49]
Total, <i>N</i>	190	682

Notes: a Cross-sectional population weights were used, and estimates represent the number of children in the population, in corresponding age group and year.

Source: LSAC K cohort Wave 8, weighted

Table S9: Relationship to the perpetrator of sexual harassment for young LGBTQ+ and non-LGBTQ+ people aged 18-19 years in 2018

	LGBTQ+ weighted proportion ^a [95% CI]	Non-LGBTQ+ weighted proportion ^a [95% CI]
Stranger	50 [42.15, 57.85]	41.85 [37.36, 46.48]
Friend	29.23 [22.51, 37.01]	35.66 [31.79, 39.72]
Person at study	6.673 [3.86, 11.29]	14.08 [11.15, 17.61]
Other	15.82 [10.55, 23.04]	13.05 [10.34, 16.34]
Person related to work	4.684 [2.212, 9.646]	7.014 [5.06, 9.646]
Boy/girlfriend/partner	8.983 [5.327, 14.76]	4.141 [2.688, 6.328]
Person at work	6.158 [3.024, 12.14]	5.04 [3.471, 7.264]
Total, <i>N</i>	195	700

Notes: a Cross-sectional population weights were used, and estimates represent the number of children in the population, in corresponding age group and year.

Source: LSAC K cohort Wave 8, weighted

Factors associated with the experience of sexual harassment for LGBTQ+ and non-LGBTQ+ young people

Table S10: Factors of sexual harassment for young LGBTQ+ and non-LGBTQ+ people aged 18-19 years in 2018

	LGBTQ+				Non-LGBTQ+			
	<i>N</i>	Predicted margins ^a [95% CI]	OR ^a [95% CI]	<i>p</i> value	<i>N</i>	Predicted margins ^a [95% CI]	OR ^a [95% CI]	<i>p</i> value
Predictors measured at 16-17 years (Wave 7, 2016)								
Parent Adolescent Trust/communication scale (PACS)	273				1,717			
Top 25%		41.9 [25.3, 58.4]	Ref.			24.5 [20.7, 28.4]	Ref.	
Third 25%		58.1 [40.0, 76.1]	2.056 [0.679, 6.228]	0.202		32.3 [26.6, 38.0]	1.472 [1.051, 2.063]	0.025
Second 25%		43.7 [31.3, 56.1]	1.084 [0.430, 2.732]	0.864		33.0 [27.7, 38.3]	1.522 [1.102, 2.103]	0.011
Bottom 25%		59.6 [50.3, 68.9]	2.203 [0.923, 5.259]	0.075		35.7 [30.6, 40.9]	1.721 [1.261, 2.350]	0.001
How often your family yell at each other	271				1,717			
Never/Hardly/Sometimes		50.6 [43.0, 58.2]	Ref.			29.8 [27.2, 32.4]	Ref.	
Often/Always		59.4 [45.6, 73.2]	1.474 [0.714, 3.041]	0.294		35.5 [28.3, 42.6]	1.302 [0.926, 1.829]	0.129
Peer trust and communication (IPPA Inventory)	274				1,713			
Higher (75%-100%)		47.6 [32.8, 62.4]	Ref.			26.7 [21.8, 31.7]	Ref.	
Middle (25%-75%)		58.1 [49.1, 67.1]	1.597 [0.737, 3.460]	0.235		31.9 [28.5, 35.3]	1.286 [0.954, 1.734]	0.099
Lower (0%-25%)		45.3 [42.2, 62.4]	0.903 [0.398, 2.046]	0.806		31.2 [26.1, 36.3]	1.245 [0.878, 1.766]	0.219
Peers with bad moral behaviour	274				1,713			
None/One or two		51.7 [45.2, 58.2]	Ref.			29.8 [27.2, 32.3]	Ref.	
Some/Most/All		55.6 [29.5, 81.7]	1.191 [0.361, 3.929]	0.774		36.2 [28.4, 44.0]	1.342 [0.931, 1.934]	0.115
Peers with risky behaviour	274				1,717			
None/One or two		50.7 [43.9, 57.4]	Ref.			30.0 [27.4, 32.6]	Ref.	
Some/Most/All		65.2 [46.5, 83.9]	1.934 [0.754, 4.963]	0.170		34.8 [27.6, 41.9]	1.247 [0.886, 1.756]	0.206

	LGBTQ+				Non-LGBTQ+			
	N	Predicted margins ^a [95% CI]	OR ^a [95% CI]	p value	N	Predicted margins ^a [95% CI]	OR ^a [95% CI]	p value
Perpetration and victimisation experience in 2016	274				1,717			
Neither engaged in nor experienced sexual harassment in 2016		40.0 [31.3, 48.8]	Ref.			21.0 [18.2, 23.9]	Ref.	
Engaged in and experienced sexual harassment in 2016		74.0 [54.5, 93.6]	4.880 [1.553, 15.332]	0.007		41.8 [32.8, 50.8]	2.73 [1.803, 4.125]	0.000
Engaged in but not experienced sexual harassment in 2016		59.1 [22.4, 95.8]	2.341 [0.425, 12.889]	0.328		36.0 [15.7, 56.2]	2.131 [0.858, 5.290]	0.103
Not engaged in but experienced sexual harassment in 2016		66.9 [56.9, 76.9]	3.367 [1.777, 6.380]	0.000		45.3 [40.5, 50.0]	3.152 [2.426, 4.096]	0.000
Predictors measured at age 18–19 years (Wave 8, 2018)								
How many social network accounts do you use once a month or more (Ref. = None)	305				1,904			
None		No observations	Ref.			34.0 [13.26, 54.7]	Ref.	
Use 1–3 social media platforms/accounts		54.1 [42.6, 65.6]	1.221 [0.660, 2.257]	0.525		28.0 [24.7, 31.39]	0.754 [0.293, 1.944]	0.560
Use 4 or more social media platforms/accounts		49.6 [42.3, 56.9]	Omitted (no obs.)	N/A		32.6 [29.3, 35.9]	0.940 [0.365, 2.423]	0.898
How often do you share/post on social networking accounts	305				1,878			
Once a month or less		35.7 [24.0, 47.3]	Ref.			21.9 [18.6, 25.1]	Ref.	
Once/twice a week or few times a month		52.9 [42.7, 63.1]	2.178 [1.072, 4.424]	0.031		34.5 [30.5, 38.5]	1.893 [1.455, 2.461]	0.000
Every day/Almost every day		59.1 [45.9, 72.4]	2.871 [1.252, 6.585]	0.013		33.3 [26.5, 40.0]	1.792 [1.24, 2.58]	0.002
Hourly/Several times a day		59.6 [45.0, 74.2]	2.938 [1.242, 6.947]	0.014		39.7 [32.7, 46.7]	2.380 [1.669, 3.393]	0.000

Notes: a Binary logistic regression used to assess the association between the specific predictor/exposure and SHV (yes/no) adjusting for the effect of Indigenous status, language background, SEIFA, remoteness, state, respondent's age, household structure, employment, and having boyfriend/girlfriend). Marginal effects as difference in proportion was estimated using the fitted models and were weighted by key socio-demographic factors.

Source: LSAC K cohort, Waves 7 and 8

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