

EXPERIENCES OF STREET HARASSMENT AND SOCIAL COHESION AMONG WOMEN IN MEXICO CITY

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Image credit: Jaina Pereyra, Women's March Mexico City 2016



On my way home, I want to be free, not brave.

In March 2013, the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women declared the importance of addressing sexual harassment against women and girls in public places.

Campos and colleagues surveyed 952 women who were seeking health care in 42 Mexico City's primary health care centers:

- **Over 60% (n=598) of women** reported experiencing at least **one form of street harassment** in the past month.
- Over **one-quarter (26.8%)** reported **experiencing physical street harassment**.
- Among all women, **75% reported** to have taken some **action to avoid street harassment** when in public.
- Experience of **non-physical street harassment was associated with a -0.47 reduction in perceived social cohesion** (95%CI: -0.66,-0.29) compared to women who did not report such harassment in the unadjusted model.
- Women reporting physical street harassment had a similar reduction in social cohesion (b=-0.46; 95%CI: -0.69-0.22).

ACTIONS TAKEN TO AVOID STREET HARASSMENT[†]

	N	%
DISRUPTED MOBILITY	662	69.5
Avoided going out alone or at night	543	82.0
Arrived late or missed work or school	51	7.7
Modified your daily route	437	66.0
Moved to another neighborhood	22	3.3
Changed job or school	20	3.0
SOUGHT PROTECTION	110	11.6
Pretended to have a boyfriend/partner/husband	101	91.8
Taken a gun	17	15.5
TRIED TO DETRACT ATTENTION	715	75.1
Worn inconspicuous/not flashy clothes	557	77.9
Worn headphones	201	28.1
Pretended to be talking on the phone	232	32.4
Avoided visual contact	551	77.1

[†] Denominator is all women participating in the survey, regardless of reported street harassment experiences.

UNADJUSTED AND ADJUSTED ASSOCIATIONS BETWEEN PAST-WEEK STREET HARASSMENT AND SOCIAL COHESION SCORE (N=952).

	Overall %N	Social Cohesion Score Mean (SD)	Unadjusted (95 % CI)	Adjusted (95 % CI) *
Social Cohesion Score Overall		2.69 (1.61)		
Street Harassment				
Non Physical Street Harassment	59.5% (566)	2.50 (1.60)	-0.47(95% CI: -0.66, -0.29) p<0.0001	-0.44 (95% CI: -0.63, -0.25) p<0.001
Physical Street Harassment	28.8% (255)	2.36 (1.54)	-0.46 (95% CI: -0.69, -0.22) p<0.001	-0.33 (95% CI: -0.57, -0.09) p<0.009
Any Type of Street Harassment	62.8% (598)	2.51 (1.60)	-0.49 (95% CI: -0.67, -0.32) p<0.001	-0.47 (95% CI: -0.66, -0.28) p<0.001

*Note that the social cohesion score was computed as the sum of the five cohesion items (people in this neighborhood generally don't get along with each other; people in this neighborhood do not share the same values; people around here are willing to help their neighbors; this is a close-knit neighborhood; people in this neighborhood can be trusted).