

Abstract Submitted
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Sexual Harassment Reported Among a Sample of Undergraduate Women in Physics¹ LAUREN M. AYCOCK, Cornell University/Joint Quantum Institute, ERIC BREWE, Florida International University, KATHRYN B. H. CLANCY, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, RENEE MICHELLE GOERTZEN, American Physical Society, ZARHA HAZARI, Clemson University/Florida International University, THEODORE HODAPP, American Physical Society — The field of physics lags behind most other scientific fields in gender parity of students earning bachelor’s degrees. The transition from enrollment in high school physics to graduating with physics degree represents the biggest decrease in the proportion of female students for any step in physics educational attainment. Sexual harassment contributes to an unwelcome climate. It is unknown how prevalent sexual harassment is in the field of physics and whether it’s a contributing factor to the field’s inability to recruit and retain female students. Our goal was to measure a quantitative baseline for sexual harassment—associated with physics—observed and experienced by a sample of female undergraduate students. As part of a larger conference evaluation survey, we conducted an internet-based survey (n=632) of attendees of the APS Conference for Undergraduate Women in Physics to measure the extent to which they personally experienced or observed sexual harassment in a context associated with physics. We will present results from this survey. Opinions, findings, or conclusions expressed in this work do not necessarily reflect the views of the NSF, DOE, or APS.

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