Online Harassment README file

A guide regarding the intricacies and nuances of the online harassment trend data

Relevant ATP waves

Online harassment questions have been asked in 2014 (W4), 2017 (W24) and 2020 (W74).

Types of harassment behaviors

More severe behaviors include physical threats (ON7b), stalking (ON7d), sexual harassment (ON7h), and harassment for a sustained period of time (ON7c). If a person says yes to any of these, they would be categorized as having faced more severe online harassment.

Less severe harassment consists of offensive name-calling (ON7a) and purposeful embarrassment (ON7e). If a person says yes to either of these and has not faced any severe harassment, they would be categorized as having faced only less severe online harassment.

 "Experienced multiple behaviors" is used to describe when people say yes to two or more behaviors.

Trend for multiple locations

In 2014 (W4), 2017 (W24) and 2020 (W74), participants were asked about where their most recent harassment experience occurred. However, each wave had a different number of locations (and as such different locations). Therefore, the multiple locations number cannot be trended from 2014-2020 but it can be reported in isolation. If the locations in future waves are fully identical to a previous wave, this comparison could be trended.

Location of most recent encounter

	2014	2017	2020
Social media sites	X	X	X
Online dating sites or apps	X	X	X
Comments section of a website	X	X	
Online gaming	X	X	X
Personal email account	X	X	X
Online forum or discussion site	X	X	X
A text or messaging app		X	X
Another type of mobile app		X	

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Calculating ON7REC

Calculating ON7REC scores involves some more elaborate coding due to how the questions are filtered. If someone has only experienced one type of harassment, that must be the behavior they experienced in their most recent encounter. We can code this in rather than waste their time

asking them to confirm this. However, this coding is elaborate to get accurate values for all response options. Below is the syntax for SPSS.

In SPSS:

COUNT ON7count=ON7_a_W74 ON7_b_W74 ON7_c_W74 ON7_d_W74 ON7_e_W74 ON7_h_W74(1).
EXECUTE.

Compute ON7any = 0.
if (ON7count > 0) ON7any = 1.
execute.

Compute ON7RECa = 0.
If (ON7count = 1 & ON7_a_W74 = 1) ON7RECa = 1.
If (ON7REC_a_W74 = 1) ON7RECa = 1.
If (ON7REC_a_W74 = 99) ON7RECa = 99.
If (ON7_a_W74 = 99 & ON7any = 1) ON7RECa = 99.
If (ON7count = 0) ON7RECa = $Sysmis.
EXECUTE.

Compute ON7RECb = 0.
If (ON7count = 1 & ON7_b_W74 = 1) ON7RECb = 1.
If (ON7REC_b_W74 = 1) ON7RECb = 1.
If (ON7REC_b_W74 = 99) ON7RECb = 99.
If (ON7_b_W74 = 99 & ON7any = 1) ON7RECb = 99.
If (ON7count = 0) ON7RECb = $Sysmis.
EXECUTE.

Compute ON7RECc = 0.
If (ON7count = 1 & ON7_c_W74 = 1) ON7RECc = 1.
If (ON7REC_c_W74 = 1) ON7RECc = 1.
If (ON7REC_c_W74 = 99) ON7RECc = 99.
If (ON7_c_W74 = 99 & ON7any = 1) ON7RECc = 99.

If (ON7count = 0) ON7RECc = $Sysmis.
EXECUTE.

Compute ON7RECd = 0.
If (ON7count = 1 & ON7_d_W74 = 1) ON7RECd = 1.
If (ON7REC_d_W74 = 1) ON7RECd = 1.
If (ON7REC_d_W74 = 99) ON7RECd = 99.
If (ON7_d_W74 = 99 & ON7any = 1) ON7RECd = 99.
If (ON7count = 0) ON7RECd = $Sysmis.
EXECUTE.

Compute ON7RECe = 0.
If (ON7count = 1 & ON7_e_W74 = 1) ON7RECe = 1.
If (ON7REC_e_W74 = 1) ON7RECe = 1.
If (ON7REC_e_W74 = 99) ON7RECe = 99.
If (ON7_e_W74 = 99 & ON7any = 1) ON7RECe = 99.
If (ON7count = 0) ON7RECe = $Sysmis.
EXECUTE.

Compute ON7RECh = 0.
If (ON7count = 1 & ON7_h_W74 = 1) ON7RECh = 1.
If (ON7REC_h_W74 = 1) ON7RECh = 1.
If (ON7REC_h_W74 = 99) ON7RECh = 99.
If (ON7_h_W74 = 99 & ON7any = 1) ON7RECh = 99.
If (ON7count = 0) ON7RECh = $Sysmis.
EXECUTE.

FREQUENCIES VARIABLES=ON7RECa ON7RECb ON7RECc ON7RECd ON7RECe ON7RECh
 /ORDER=ANALYSIS.

Types of recent harassment behaviors

The types of behaviors experienced in a respondent's most recent encounter should be calculated after back coding based on the coding listed above.

More severe behaviors include physical threats (ON7RECb), stalking (ON7RECd), sexual harassment (ON7RECh), and harassment for a sustained period of time (ON7RECc). If a person says yes to any of these, they would be categorized as having faced more severe online harassment in their most recent encounter.

Less severe harassment consists of offensive name-calling (ON7RECa) and purposeful embarrassment (ON7RECe). If a person says yes to either of these and did not face any severe harassment in their most recent encounter, they would be categorized as having faced only less severe online harassment in their most recent encounter.

"Experienced multiple behaviors" is used to describe when people say yes to two or more behaviors being involved their most recent encounter. Due to non-response, some people will have zero yeses for their most recent encounter. When making comparisons based on the severity of behaviors, you will only be able to use people with 1 or more behaviors listed. For differences by the number of behaviors experienced, only use the 1 and 2+ groups as the zero group is a byproduct of measurement error and non-response.