

# Gender Based Violence Consortium

*January 2022*

**Gender-Based Violence Consortium**

## **Utah State-Wide Needs Assessment: Community Presentation**

**January 31st  
12PM - 1:30PM MST**

**SPEAKER**

**Dr. Annie Isabel Fukushima**



**REGISTRATION LINK**

**<https://bit.ly/gbvccommunitypresentation>**

**[Register here](#)**

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Dear Gender-Based Violence Consortium,

The GBVC is so grateful to the community that took time out of their busy lives and advocacy to share with us about the needs for survivors of violence in the state of Utah. The community presentation on January 31st at 12PM – 1:30PM is an opportunity for the GBVC to present findings, receive feedback from the community, and also share with you some of our next steps. We want to thank all the participants in the study who provided invaluable expertise. This project was supported by the Utah Domestic Violence Coalition and was in partnership with Restoring Ancestral Winds, Utah Coalition Against Sexual Assault and DCFS. On January 31st the GBVC welcomes all community members in Utah to attend this community presentation. It will include launching of an infographic, a presentation providing an overview of the report and a draft white paper to receive community feedback. The community presentation will be recorded.

In solidarity,

Annie Isabel Fukushima, Ph.D

Project Lead and Co-Principal Investigator

Gender-Based Violence Consortium

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## Sexist Comments & Responses: Objectification

### Research & Policy Brief

January 6, 2022 | No. 40



#### Sexist Comments & Responses: Objectification

Although sexist comments and remarks are prevalent and normalized in everyday conversation, public discourse, and virtually every other social setting throughout the world, researchers at the Utah Women & Leadership Project (UWLP) wanted to understand how women experience these comments in Utah. This is the third of five briefs focused on the results of an extensive study on this topic (see [“Study Introduction and Overview”](#)<sup>1</sup> and [“Sexist Comments & Responses: Inequity and Bias”](#)<sup>2</sup> for the first two briefs in the series). The study was designed with the intent of collecting and analyzing a wide variety of sexist comments experienced by women across the state, in addition to the responses women made—or wish they had made—to such comments. The goal of this series is to educate men and women on the many forms that conscious and unconscious sexist comments can take, from egregious to more subtle statements. Additionally, we aim to equip women with the tools to confront more successfully the sexism they experience.

#### Study Background

During May–June of 2020, an online survey instrument was administered to a nonprobability sample of Utah women representing various settings, backgrounds, and situations (age, marital status, education, race/ethnicity, parenthood status, employment status, faith tradition, and county/region; see specific demographic details in the [first brief](#) in this series).<sup>3</sup> A call for participants was announced through the UWLP monthly newsletter, social media platforms, and website. UWLP partners, collaborators, and followers also distributed to their circles of influence. Overall, 1,115 respondents started the survey, and 839 Utah women participated to a degree that provided usable data. As each participant was allowed to submit as many as four comments, 1,750 unique scenarios were reported. From the original study analysis, four major themes emerged: Inequity and Bias, Objectification, Stereotypes, and Undervaluing Women. This research and policy brief focuses on the second: Objectification.

#### Findings – Comments and Remarks

In this study, the “Objectification” theme included comments in which women were viewed or treated more as objects than as human beings. Notably, many of the comments coded in this theme were much more explicit and vulgar than those included in this brief. Additionally, not all responses were limited strictly to sexist comments; some respondents also reported sexist situations and behaviors such as unwelcome touching, grabbing, or groping. The analysis of the responses within the Objectification theme produced seven specific categories:

1. *Focus on physical appearance/bodies:* Comments focused on women’s bodies as part of an interaction, whether positive or negative, sexual, or otherwise.
2. *Sexual harassment:* Remarks or behaviors toward women in workplace or similar settings that were sexual in nature.
3. *Sexualizing women:* Comments that focused on women as sexual objects, rather than as whole individuals.
4. *Unwanted sexual advances:* Solicitations or advances toward women that were unwelcome.
5. *Intersectional discrimination:* Comments directed at more than one dimension of an individual; for example, sexist comments that also included references to race, age, weight, religion, or other elements.
6. *Exclusion from work activities:* Statements specifically related to women being excluded at work because of their gender, with the implication that women are viewed as sex objects rather than as colleagues.
7. *Accusations of using sex to get ahead:* Comments centered on the idea that women use sexuality to gain an unfair advantage.

Table 1 shows the total number of mentions for each category, as well as the percentage representation of the total number of comments (N=1,750). Overall, 35.7% of all comments reported related to one of the categories under the Objectification theme. Importantly, many comments were included in several categories, as individual statements were often related to a variety of sexist themes and topics, and there is some overlap between categories within this theme.

**Table 1: Objectification Categories**

Categories	#	%
Focus on physical appearance/bodies	251	14.3
Sexual harassment	122	7.0
Sexualizing women	86	4.9
Unwanted sexual advances	79	4.5
Intersectional discrimination	43	2.5
Excluded from work activities	31	1.8
Accusations of using sex to get ahead	13	0.7
<i>Total Mentions</i>	<b>625</b>	<b>35.7</b>

Participants who shared comments related to this theme were most often white (90.%), married (67.8%) women with children (66.7%) who worked full time (77.9%), were 30–39 years old (27.1%), had a bachelor’s degree (35.2%), and were a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (56.0%). The vast majority of these women (89.7%) either agreed or strongly agreed with the statement that they felt people can behave in sexist ways without realizing it, and most of them (84.8%) agreed or strongly agreed that

# COMMUNITY EVENT

## Centering Black Survivors in the Fight for Health Equity & Violence Prevention



**WE SEE YOU SIS:**

Centering Black Survivors in  
the Fight for Health Equity  
and Violence Prevention

Monday, January 24, 2022  
11 AM PT/2 PM ET



[Register here](#)

# RESOURCE

## Life in the Pandemic



### The pandemic has touched on every aspect of people's well-being

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The COVID-19 pandemic is having far-reaching consequences for how we live, work and connect with one another, as well as for the economic, human, social and environmental systems that support well-being over time. Excess deaths in OECD countries averaged 16% between March 2020 and early May 2021, leading to a 7-month fall in OECD-average life expectancy in 2020 alone. Government support helped to sustain OECD average household income levels in 2020, and stemmed the tide of unemployment, even as average hours worked fell sharply, and nearly 1 in 3 people reported at least one financial difficulty. Data from 15 OECD countries suggest that over one-quarter of people were at risk of depression or anxiety in 2020. Confinement measures brought new challenges in terms of school closures, unpaid care work, and domestic violence. Some pressures on well-being eased in the earliest stages of the pandemic (e.g. carbon emissions fell, road deaths reduced, trust in government rallied, and gender-gaps in unpaid home and care work narrowed), but all now show strong signs of reverting back to business as usual. And as the pandemic has worn on, more people are feeling worn out. In early 2021, one-third of people reported feeling too tired after work to do necessary household chores, up from 22% in 2020. Feelings of loneliness, division and disconnection from society also grew between mid-2020 and the first half of 2021.

[Click here to continue reading](#)

# "Unstoppable" - Labor Trafficking Survivors Discuss What Gave Them Strength in Their Journey

**Survivors are more than their trafficking stories.  
They are resilient. They are unstoppable.**



**FRAMEWORK**  
tools to combat labor trafficking

Survivors discuss what gave them strength in their journey and what they hope you will take away in your work.

[Youtube video](#)



**Gender-based Violence Consortium**

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[gbvc.utah.edu](https://gbvc.utah.edu)



[gbvc@utah.edu](mailto:gbvc@utah.edu)



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