

# SOUTHWEST PA SAYS

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# NO MORE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **New Poll Results: Southwestern PA Men and the #MeToo Movement**

*What do men in SWPA think about #MeToo? Majority believe they play a role in prevention.*

**PITTSBURGH** – Oct. 25, 2018 – The majority of southwestern Pennsylvania men say it is important to believe women who speak publicly about harassment or abuse, according to a recent public opinion poll released today by [Southwest PA Says No More](#). Yet, these same men are divided in how they feel about the #MeToo movement. Many (42%) are supportive, but 51% are concerned that #MeToo has or will go too far.

Southwest PA Says No More, an initiative working to prevent sexual assault and domestic violence, wanted to know what local men think about the #MeToo movement, gender-based violence and what can be done about it. The public poll was conducted Sept. 24 - 29 by [Change Research](#), a public benefit corporation. More than 1,300 men, 671 in a 10-county area of Southwestern Pennsylvania and 633 nationally, responded.

Major takeaways include:

- 81% of men in southwest PA say it's important to believe women who speak publicly about their experience with harassment and abuse.
- 77% believe that "expectations for men's behavior towards women have changed."
- 90% of men say schools, law enforcement and business leaders should do more to prevent abuse and harassment.

To see the full report, go to <http://southwestpasaysnomore.org/men-and-metoo/>.

Over the last year, Southwest PA Says No More has found that the #MeToo movement has impacted its work to engage men in prevention. "If the 90% of men who responded that "men like me have an important role to play in preventing violence and harassment against women," put their beliefs into action, it would profoundly change the culture," Kristy Trautmann, executive director, FISA Foundation said. "Sexual harassment, sexual assault and domestic violence could become rare."

While men believe they have a role to play, even talking about harassment and abuse is difficult for most men. “These findings underscore the importance of this work in creating opportunities for men to talk openly about these issues,” added Ms. Trautmann. “Fortunately, things are changing. Almost 60% of men age 18-35 say that when they were younger someone talked to them about how to recognize the warning signs of an unhealthy relationship; very few older men can say that.”

For resources and ways to get involved, check out <http://southwestpasaysnomore.org>.

### **About Southwest PA Says No More**

Southwest PA Says NO MORE is a regional effort focused on ending domestic and sexual violence. FISA Foundation, in partnership with The Heinz Endowments and United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania developed Southwest PA Says No More to scale up effective prevention efforts. More than 25 organizations across the region have partnered with Southwest PA Says No More, including the Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh Action Against Rape, and Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh.

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