

NATIONAL ADULT TOBACCO SURVEY (NATS)

Years Survey Included Sexual and Gender Minority (SGM)- Related Questions

2009–Present

Survey Description

The National Adult Tobacco Survey (NATS) is conducted through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Office on Smoking and Health. The NATS establishes a comprehensive framework for evaluating both national and state-specific tobacco control programs. The survey was created to assess the prevalence of tobacco use among adults, as well as the factors promoting and impeding tobacco use.

The NATS questionnaire is built around key outcome indicators from each of the following four goal areas:

- Preventing initiation of tobacco use among young people.
- Eliminating nonsmokers' exposure to secondhand smoke.
- Promoting quitting among adults and young people.
- Identifying and eliminating tobacco-related disparities.

The NATS was designed to yield data representative and comparable at the national and state levels. The sample design also aims to provide national estimates for subgroups defined by gender, age, and race/ethnicity.

Survey Sample Population

The survey population for the NATS is noninstitutionalized adults ages 18 years and older residing in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The sample design is a dual-frame random digit dialing (RDD) sample, with independent samples drawn from landline and cellular phone frames.

The NATS 2013–2014 used a non-overlapping design where the cellular phone frame was used to find households that used cellular phone only (i.e., households that rely exclusively on cellular phones

because they do not have a landline to use for receiving calls). The samples from each frame were also disproportionately stratified by state to ensure adequate representation of each state, as well as higher numbers of completed surveys from states with larger populations. A total of 1,649,040 phone numbers were sampled through the RDD process, including 1,057,053 landline numbers and 591,987 cellular phone numbers. Interviews were not conducted with adults living in group quarters (GQ), which are places where people live or stay in a group living arrangement that is owned or managed by an entity or organization providing housing and/or services for the residents.

Survey Mode

The NATS is conducted annually, but this is dependent on funding. The mode for this survey is computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI). The survey is designed to be a stratified RDD telephone survey of adults, with interviews conducted in English and Spanish on both landlines and cellular phones. A respondent may answer up to 130 questions based on their tobacco use status. Interviewer monitoring is primarily conducted by Quality Assurance (QA) assistants, who monitor interviews by listening in on interviewers' telephone lines and using the CATI system's monitoring module to follow the course of the interview on a computer screen. In the 2013–2014 administration year of the survey, the QA monitoring team included the project manager, data collection manager, and call center supervisors and QA assistants.

SGM-Related Survey Questions

Survey

The questions below are asked of NATS respondents.

Category	Question	Question History
Sexual Identity	(142a) Do you think of yourself as...? 1. [If R is female then Lesbian or] Gay 2. Straight, that is, not [If R is female then Lesbian or] gay 3. Bisexual 4. Something else 5. Respondent does not understand responses -8. (Don't Know/Not Sure) -7. (Refused) -9. (Not ascertained)	In the 2012–2013 survey this question was labeled 126a. In the 2009–2010 survey, the following question was used: (130) Do you consider yourself to be...? 01. Heterosexual or straight 02. Gay or lesbian 03. Bisexual 04. Transgender 96. Other (specify) 06. Respondent does not understand responses 77. Don't Know/Not Sure 99. Refused

Category	Question	Question History
	<p>[If R selects “Something else” in 142a] (142b) By something else, do you mean that...</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. You are not straight, but identify with another label such as queer, trisexual, omnisexual or pansexual 2. You are transgender, transsexual or gender variant 3. You have not figured out your sexuality or are in the process of figuring it out 4. You do not think of yourself as having sexuality 5. You do not use labels to identify yourself 6. You made a mistake and did not mean to pick this answer 7. You mean something else -8. (Don't Know/Not Sure) -7. (Inapplicable) -9. (Not ascertained) 	<p>This is the only version of the question that has been used. This question was added to the 2012–2013 survey.</p> <p>In the 2012–2013 survey this question was labeled as 126b.</p>
	<p>[If R selects “You mean something else” in 142b.] (142c) You gave “Don't know” as an answer, Is that because...</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. You don't understand the words 2. You understand the words, but you have not figured out your sexuality or you are in the process of figuring it out 3. You mean something else -8. (Don't Know/Not Sure) -7. (Refused) -1. (Inapplicable) -9. (Not ascertained) 	<p>This is the only version of the question that has been used. This question was added to the 2012–2013 survey.</p> <p>In the 2012–2013 survey, this question was labeled as 126c.</p>
	<p>[If R selects “You mean something else” in SEXUALORIENT3] (SEXUALORIENT_OTH) Please tell me what you mean by “something else”? Open ended</p>	<p>This is the only version of the question that has been used. This question was added to the 2012–2013 survey.</p> <p>In the 2012–2013 version of the survey, this question was labeled 126d.</p>
Sexual Attraction	Currently no questions are asked in this category.	Not applicable.
Sexual Behavior	Currently no questions are asked in this category.	Not applicable.

Category	Question	Question History
Gender Identity	(90) What sex were you at birth? 1. Male 2. Female -8. (Don't know/Not sure) -7. (Refused) -9. (Not ascertained)	This is the current version of the question. This question was added to the 2013–2014 survey.
	(91) Do you currently consider yourself to be: 1. Male 2. Female -7. (Don't know/Not sure) -8. (Refused) -9. (Not ascertained)	In the 2012–2013, survey the following question was used: (100) Are you male or female? 1. Male 2. Female -8. Don't Know/Not Sure -7. Refused -9. Not Ascertained In the 2009–2010 survey, the following question was used: (104) Are you male or female? 1. Male 2. Female 96. Other (specify) 7. Don't Know/ Not Sure 9. Refused
Household Relationships	Currently no questions are asked in this category.	Not applicable.

Response Rates

In the 2013–2014 survey administration, there were 52,594 completed surveys in the landline sample and 22,639 completed surveys in the cellular phone sample. Complete surveys totaled 75,233. The overall response rate was 36.1 percent. The landline response rate was 47.6 percent and the cellular phone response rate was 17.1 percent.

Use the following link to find information on the response rates tables in the 2013–2014 NATS: Sample Design and Methodology Summary: https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/surveys/nats/pdfs/2012-2013-nats-methodology-final.pdf

The NATS reports response rates and cooperation rates by state and totals. Use the following link to access response rate tables, which can be found in the Sample Design and Methodology Reports under each survey year. https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/surveys/nats/

ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND

Organizations Involved

This survey is conducted through the CDC's Office on Smoking and Health. ICF International is the contractor company that aids in carrying out the survey using Virtual Genesys, an online sampling system provided by Marketing Systems Group (MSG).

Survey Links

Questionnaires

Questionnaires can be accessed on the NATS main page, organized by year. https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/surveys/nats/

Data

Data can be accessed on the NATS main page, organized by year. Datasets are in SAS format and can be downloaded in a zipped folder. https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/surveys/nats/

General Information

All information on the NATS can be found by using the link below, and under the CDC topic "Smoking & Tobacco Use" under "Data and Statistics" and "Surveys." https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/surveys/nats/

References

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 2013–2014 National Adult Tobacco Survey (NATS) Sample Design and Methodology Report. (2016). https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/surveys/nats/pdfs/2014-methodology-report-tag508.pdf